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SPEAKERS

Jimmy Carper, Dee McKellar, Gigi, Elizabeth Richards, Michelle

 Michelle 00:00

I focused on the mother. And in those cultures in those, which was a communal living, there wasn't like any sort of great amass amassing of wealth. You know, there wasn't rich people and poor people or anything like that. And-.

 Gigi 00:19

It was like a cool world to live in.

 Michelle 00:22

Because, or worse, depending on your point of view, but I think it's great that cross gender people, transgender people were not only seen as being natural, but often were revered as shamans or something like that. Like that. Yeah, the magical beings almost exclusively were transgendered, because they were seen to have a foot in both male and female worlds, they have a foot in the world of the here and now. And in the spirit world, this is really neat. Things never time.

 Gigi 01:04

Certainly, baby.

 Michelle 01:06

Once people started domesticating animals and planting crops and things like that, then they can store up food, then there was a storing up of wealth. And men generally did the animal work, you know, men, men were the hunters, women, the gatherers, basically. And again, you

know, there was some crossing of gender boundaries. It really doesn't matter who goes out and kills the woolly mammoth, you know, as long as we get to eat it, so no one really cared. Then there was a mass of wealth. And basically, it was the men who were doing it. They want to pass it down to their sons. Now, all of a sudden, they had to know a, who their children were. So it was very important to have this whole nuclear family family values back then. Yeah, it existed. And marriages, monogamous marriages, were very important. So the man could say, This is my woman. I'm the only one who's having sex with her. So all of our kids are mine. And then that's when transgendered people and transgender expressions start be frowned upon, because how could you pass your wealth onto your son if your sons actually a daughter, you know, and then there were issues about that. And so that's when Trent, you know, according to Feinberg, says, Feinberg's research that's when transgender people start being looked down upon, and, and then also, homosexuality and things like that, because you can tell have two men getting together and having a bunch of babies and then what do you do with their wealth? You know? So it's, you know, it's all kind of linked together. And-.

 Gigi 02:56

It's chasing after that almighty dollar.

 Michelle 03:00

However, you however you call it, it's money talks. So, so that's fine birds interpretation of how transgender people because we all know about the the shamans who used to be, you know, transgenders, and blah, blah, blah. And then, so if they were so Reverend, so highly honored, how did they get to be, you know, how is it that now, it's so looked down upon? And then now, you know, people have a stake in it, as Michelle said, you know, what, if some guys, hey, I'm a god, or I'm walking down the street, and I see it's hot babe. And I say they want you and he turns around and says, Okay, I want you to like, oh, that doesn't work, you know, thing on my arm, you know,

 Gigi 03:50

the make them babies.

 Michelle 03:53

So there's this this issue, we have to separate the genders and things like that.

 Gigi 03:59

Do you see it return maybe a trend towards that returns and more acceptance and, and more of a another bisexual groups are popping up all over the country. We see transgender groups popping up all over the country, we're all getting a voice more and more. And it's becoming more and more powerful. And for years, it's been laying dormant under the surface very hidden. That's starting to come in.

 Elizabeth Richards 04:32

And I also find that we see a lot of intermixing between the two groups. I mean, you see that in basically from being on the net and talking to people in all kinds of groups across the country. And most bisexual groups usually have transgender people who are part of the group it's very common also, in most transgender groups, a large portion of the group is going to be bisexual, like up to 50 60%.

 Michelle 04:56

Yeah, and one thing I noticed when you and I GG went to that A bisexual conference in North Carolina a year and a half ago, I can't believe it was that long.

 Gigi 05:05

It's been too long. Another conference.

 Michelle 05:09

But we went and there was it seemed to be a lot more gender fluidity there. And I know, you know, especially in drag queens sure do play with gender issues and things like that. And some people play with it or you know, deliberately cross and maybe deadly serious about it. But, um, and it goes on in the gay and lesbian communities as well. But I seem to notice in the BI community or maybe it was just to that conference. I don't know that people were a lot more accepting of gender fluidity. I mean, we ran around a little skirt all the whole time. And everybody thought it was the coolest thing. Nobody. I mean, I didn't meet anybody who was upset that women were getting out there getting booked men were out there getting fat and it was really cool and everything. And so I think you know, not to say like, bisexuals are real open to it, nobody else is, but I think maybe it's because bisexual people, you know, I love both men and women, I recognize the beauty inherent in both, I don't know.

 Gigi 06:21

I don't know if this is in the in Feinberg's book or not, but I've always felt that part of sex and part of gender both are part of our spiritual makeup. And I know that, you know, when I'm sleeping with a man, or sleeping with a woman, I can get in tune with that sexual energy. That spiritual energy of it. I mean, it's like, you know, I can sleep with a woman and she can use a belt I want to me and it just doesn't quite have that same feel as when I'm sleeping with a man. And vice versa. You know, I can sleep with a man just doesn't have quite the same energy that a woman has. And it's like-.

 Michelle 07:13

But you know, you say man you say woman but I think there are some-

But you know, you say man you say woman but I think there are some .

G

Gigi 07:17

That I sleep with some that have both energy. Oh, baby like me.

M

Michelle 07:27

So, yeah, there's a lot of the spiritual and that's, you know, I think some people can understand transsexual I know I was really confused about this at first. Okay, I understand transsexual right? woman trapped in a man's body okay, so you go and you do the deed and and next thing you know, okay, I'm a woman. Right? But what is this transgendered because and you know, these aren't really hard and fast rules here but basically that's the way it is transsexuals change their sex transgenders just act different. engender Leslie Feinberg is transgendered. She is a woman. She I say she tends to use she he as a pronoun. So awkward and hard to say. So what I tend to do is I just say she sometimes and he sometimes, but then it kind of confuses people. Oh, well, unless we talk with a better word for it. There you go. Um, Leslie has the body of a woman. Okay, um, a little bit of surgery, but not much. He did take hormones back in the 70s. I think it was, but did not go through with all the surgery. Leslie calls herself a transgendered woman. Which means, you know, I've still got the body of a woman, but I'm not I don't act like a woman, or like a woman. Kind of. And so that's where the spiritual thing comes in. And I think that's where a lot of people have problems. And that's why I used to have problems. But I mean, you don't feel like a woman. What's a woman feel like, you know, and especially the way I grew up? I mean, look at my family. You met my mom. Oh, my mother, you know, it's like, she taught me everything I know about power tools man. And my father. Just the sweetest dearest man in the world. He'd probably kill me if you heard this, but, you know, I mean, he's just he's a very sweet nurturing man. And in many ways, very feminine. I think. Well, I don't know. It doesn't really seem to fit my father. I can see I can see mask them for my mother, but I can't really see feminine for my father, but not he's definitely not masculine. Yeah. I don't know what he is, but he's very sweet and very good. So I never really quite understood what does this mean? I don't feel like a woman. Look, here's my mom using power tools and kicking city council but you know, what do you mean is she's obviously a woman and very proud of it. But the more I think about it, the more I feel myself, you know, I know what it is to be a woman and I'm there I'm proud to be a woman I don't want to change it especially since I can't stand surgery. But anyway guys, thank you very much No, but you know I feel sometimes I feel very male. Now the hard part is the male persona feel is is a drag queen but screwed up all the way around I don't know, baby. But anyway that's-.

G

Gigi 10:29

Well why don't we stop for music break.

J

Jimmy Carper 10:33

To tell people that they are listening to After Hours on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station.

G

Gigi 10:42

aAnd we will come back to more discussion on the-.

E

Elizabeth Richards 10:48

Feinberg's transgender why oh, my gosh, rowdy and all that good stuff.

J

Jimmy Carper 10:53

I want to play a piece that I haven't played in a very long time, but I happen to see an MTV concert lately with Melissa Etheridge. And she and our favorite favorite bisexual singer. Sophie B Hawkins. Damn, I wish I was your lover and you know, I'm a gay man. But the two of them together singing that song was a turn on for me. Ooh. They were singing it to each other. It was hot. So I want to I don't have that version. Of course. We can play stuff that has been played over TV or other medium you know we can all play CD and tape things. Yeah, but I haven't heard this in a long time. So it's time so we've been talking Damn, I wish I was your lover-. Oh yeah, Sophie B. Hawkins Damn, I wish your I was your lover and you're hearing it on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station. This is After Hours queer radio with attitude. I'm Jimmy Carper. And I want to tell you that we're going to do a QMZ later on in the show. full fledged QMZ say a good 30 to 45 minutes of good ol gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered music. And you know that during a QMX, we always take requests and dedications. That's right. All you have to do is call 5265738 To request your favorite queer music, or your dedication of core music and we'll do it that's coming up. Oh, around 1:30 ish or so. Right after J and Michelle and Gigi. But in the meantime, I want to tell you about lambda Roller Skating Club. And they meet every Wednesday night at Starlight skating rink from eight until 10. That's located at at 75 Cook road. Okay, I know it's a little out of the way but it's gay Skate Night roller skating. And that's that's either on the regular old fashioned skates or the inline every Wednesday night. So you don't have to worry about owns is the first and third or something and then it's just a little out there. Okay, I know that but eight to 10. Every Wednesday night, take your pick at 75 Cook road. And the prices are minimal, you know, the usual skating prices but you get the skate with queers, which is the exciting part. Okay, I'm getting back. J And Michelle. And they'll be alone.

M

Michelle 13:55

Yeah. Well, this is Jay. And we were talking about transgender issues and bisexual issues, things like that.

E

Elizabeth Richards 14:08

Your GM CD. Second is good old sweet time walking into the room.

G

Gigi 14:16

Mother Nature call me.

M

Michelle 14:18

Um, so we're talking about bisexuality and transgender issues and how they're linked? And how trans how both of them don't really fit in either of the prescribed norms of society. I mean, you know, no matter how much people talk about family values, and you know, whatnot, still, people are straight, or they're gay. I mean, society has pretty much accepted this. They may not like gay people, but it's kind of you know, you say, Okay, well, there it is. They don't-.

E

Elizabeth Richards 14:56

Because it's very, very rare. I mean, I've obviously I've never really heard any. When I say gay people don't exist. I mean, I've heard lots of people say, Oh, by people don't exist. You have to be gay straight.

M

Michelle 15:05

b yeah, okay, thanks. So that's a good way to put it. Yeah, they may not like it, but gay people exist. So you're there, you're straight. If you're not straight, you're gay. or lesbian. You're either a man or if you're not a man, you're a woman. And there's nothing in between. I had a friend who, who saw that everything in terms of black and white. And so transgender issues and bisexual issues. I mean, to a large extent, they are gay and lesbian issues as well. I mean, we're all fighting for acceptance here. And it's not a piecemeal process. You know? I mean, you can't say well, get rid of all those drag queens and get rid of those transsexuals man, and oh, yeah, Jesse Helms would just open up his arms, baby, I don't think so.

G

Gigi 15:53

One thing I'd like to throw in at this point, and I think it's, it comes from an old movie. And I've said this in the group the other night. Night of the Iguana, there's a touching scene where I forget the actresses name. But anyway, she she, she and this minister talking and while actually the fox, defrocked, Prime Minister, and the minister says, Well, have you had any mugs in your life? And she said, Yes, I've had three. And she tells about the first two and, you know, no intercourse or anything. Then she tells about the third one's about this man. And he is very gentle and very kind and, and asked her out, and so she put her father to bed and went out and they went out on a boat. And then he got real apologetic and said, Can I borrow your underwear? And she said, Well, if you promise not to have a can, she turned around and took them off and gave it to him. And then he did his thing and gave them back. And they wrote back in, and the minister because that's sick. And she goes, I don't know. No matter how you express it, love is love. And, you know, I think if you were to do a poll, and take a look at what people do in their bedrooms, everybody has some variation. And some form of kink, some form of cake. And no matter what, who you are, whether it's Republican or Democrat, no matter what walk of life you come from, everybody's got some variation. And that's what adds to the beauty of life. And we're all trying to love one another and express our love for each other. And it takes so many different forms. And I think that's part of the beauty of love is that there is

such a rich diversity. In our culture, we try to cut it up, cut out most of the diversity and call it a sickness. And it's like, you know, if you ever applied that to the cafeteria, it would be quite interesting. Yeah, what do you mean, you like tomatoes? You're sick. You know, you're only supposed to eat red meat.

 Michelle 18:31

Yeah, so that's the thing. That's, you know, we're talking about bisexual and transsexual and transgender issues. But, you know, as though they were separate from gay and lesbian issues, but they really aren't, you know, we're all fighting for inclusion. And unfortunately, what tends to happen is, you know, there's so much fragmentation and it's, it's a classic case find Bree actually does talk about this in transgender warriors that the upper class which is very small, very tiny, tiny portion of the people are the you know, upper class, the wealthy, but they control everything. And one way they do it is by fragmenting the lower classes, black people against white people against brown people against gays against lesbians against transsexuals against and-.

 Gigi 19:22

Even within the black community. They start in fighting. Yeah, there's a lot of gay community they start something.

 Michelle 19:29

Yeah, I'm just gonna say that, that. Um, and, you know, some people think, Well, if we just got rid of all the drag queens and got rid of all the obvious people, even gay people will say this, you'll hear you'll hear some, I think a few and far between. But you'll hear some people saying you know, well, if we discovered at all these drag queens or something, then you know, then they wouldn't mind they wouldn't be passing laws against us and blah, blah, blah.

 Gigi 19:55

Or the people on lower with-.

 Michelle 19:58

Or just, you know, whatever order Ever, or transgenders, or bisexuals or something like that. And so we're all fighting for inclusion. We're all saying, Hey, look at me, I am here, you know, we're all queer, we're all here. But all too often transgenders trans is and bisexuals tend to get marginalized in. And part of it is because still there is this dichotomy in Western thinking and European thinking there's male, female, black, white, good bad, as though they were opposites as though they were two sides of a coin or something like that. And you cannot have anything in between this.

 Elizabeth Richards 20:49

I think another part of it too, like you were saying is that, that when a gay person comes out of the closet, it's very, you know, it costs them a lot in terms of their social relationships in terms of, you know, oh, people aren't gonna accept me, they probably end up losing some friends or, you know, and they have to say, they have to feel like that they've, you know, separated themselves from society, oh, I'm gay, I'm different than the rest of everything else. And then it's like, if they're, you know, by and trans people tend to confuse the issue by like, blurring the boundary between between gay and straight, in a way, by either being like, the gay person always. Because if there's a world where there's just getting straight when someone's like, like, let's say, a woman's like, I'm attracted to women, the woman can say, Okay, I'm a lesbian, I don't have to worry about it anymore. But in a society where there's bisexuality, there's always the possibility still for questioning, which I think causes that might make that person uncomfortable as they've like, invested so much in making that identity-.

 Michelle 21:53

Nice meet packages, or anything like that.

 Gigi 21:56

I want to move on to our second topic. And then very briefly, and then a guest speaker that I've invited, just showed up, and said, We're gonna be doing a short interview with her. But I wanted to talk a little bit tonight about the bisexual community. We are here now. And we're here for the whole community. And I think y'all kind of, you know, it's kind of a natural progression of what we've been talking about online. Until you can really identify yourself as bisexual, there has to be some place in the community for you. And that's what BioNet is all about is providing a space where we are community. And that we can identify and join forces.

 Michelle 22:53

Yeah, there's already a thriving gay and lesbian community out there. Now, the bi and trans trans communities are trying to form as a place safe haven.

 Dee McKellar 23:06

Jump in here for a second. Yeah. I think the term bisexual is scary to a lot of people. Yeah. I mean, even people who are gay, and they, you know, once in a while, have sex with somebody of the opposite sex. And then, but you throw the term, bisexual at them, and they go, Oh, I don't like labels. But will proudly say I'm gay, but no, like labels when you throw the word bisexual around.

 Gigi 23:36

But I think the thing that I'd like to touch on a little bit is the sense of power that we could have if we were joined community. I know in San Francisco, the community join forces, the whole

If we were joined community, I know in San Francisco, the community joined forces, the whole community. And, you know, it showed up in the elections that showed up in market value, all of a sudden that somebody discriminated, and may quit going to that store, you know, because it was boycotted. And just think of the awesome power we could have is the whole community, whole queer community. If everybody joined forces, and said, Hey, we're here, we're queer. And, you know, we want our place in the world as legitimate citizens.

 D Dee McKellar 24:25

There's still a lot of people out there think we don't exist.

 G Gigi 24:29

Yeah. And that's part of why we're even more so why we need to be a community that's visible in the greater community. Because as long as we're hidden, then it's really easy to kind of point the finger and say, Wow, that's, that's something separate, you know, we're not separate. We are human beings just like everybody else. I mean, I've got two legs, two arms and something between my legs and And it's somewhat ill defined in some ways. As far as whether it's a boy or girl, and but, you know, I think the main point is that, you know, we can bring this community together and, and start becoming visible to the greater world. And let people know that, you know, it doesn't matter who you take to the prom.

 E Elizabeth Richards 25:30

-or how you dress-

 G Gigi 25:31

-or how you dress for the prom. It's just as legitimate as any other lifestyle. And that is the whole sense of power that I'm talking about. When we can see a day when you can take anybody you want. And where you can express love in the ways that you find-

 E Elizabeth Richards 25:53

-and express yourself to I mean, that's, you know, that's-

 G Gigi 25:56

-within your nature. And then all of a sudden, we've got a wholesome community. It's when you start all this fragmentation and, and pushing people out that all of a sudden, it's not a well community. I'd like to introduce our guest. We have a guest tonight. If we have time, I think we do. Yes. It's kind of switching gears a little bit that since we are a whole community, we want to throw everything in tonight. I want to talk about women that are into s&m, BNB, especially women of color. And we have a guest. And I'm supposing it's okay to use your name here.

Elizabeth, who is very much involved in the leather s&m BMD community. Can you tell us a little bit about your philosophies, your viewpoints? Just kind of give us an idea of what it's like to be a woman of color. And that's into s&m BNB.

 E Elizabeth Richards 27:29

-talk about another marginalized.

 27:34

The add to that list, I'm also a mother and I also work in corporate America. And I'm involved in a lesbian relationship.

 E Elizabeth Richards 27:48

What else can you do?

 27:56

Well, let's see. Philosophy. I don't know if I can really express what my philosophies are, I pretty much just do what I do. I think when my kids were younger, it was really important to protect them. So I was very careful about my lifestyle and tried to raise them in as much of a you know, wholesome lifestyle as I could. I was single for many of their young years, but they're older now. They're 17 and 18 years old, and so I'm more much more expressive than I've ever been.

 G Gigi 28:32

Alright, that's more wholesome as-.

 28:35

-well, I think what's happened now is I've fostered something in them that has allowed them to accept who I am and what I do, including VSM. They may not understand exactly what SM is for me, but they know what it is. And we accept that that's a part of my life. For you, as some for me is a very passionate way of expressing myself. I like single tail whips to be used on me and also to use on other people. I switch. I am a dominant female.

 G Gigi 29:18

Can you tell us what a switch?



29:22

Sure, I think when I was first introduced to SM I was introduced as a bottom. Typically what a bottom is is someone who submits to someone who's dominant, who is also a top and I learned a lot of what I do now as Mistress through bottoming.



Gigi 29:43

So the best tops come from bottoms.



29:46

Well, yeah, my experience has been that's true. I believe that and also I know a lot of women like me who learned the way that I did. A lot of men too, but mostly with women. I have more experience but that's true for them to know that they learned from being a bottom there are some tops out there who have never bottomed in don't have a bottom bone in their bodies. And I've learned a lot from them too, you know? So a switch is someone who like a bisexual goes both ways.



Gigi 30:27

Well tell me what kinds of philosophies what, you know, I know you came from California and you know, the scene is totally different there than it is here. And I know that you're trying to change some things here.



30:48

Right I think I think there's a lot more freedom and on the west coast to do what they do. Then we have here for example, there are there is a much bigger sex industry in San Francisco than there is in Houston although that's growing right now on a commercial level. You have a lot of companies out there right now that are making a lot of money from people coming in and paying to rent a room and dominatrix to go with it and submit and they pay by the hour or half hour however looking at the way it is so here in Houston has a growing industry but in San Francisco it's a well established one so what I learned while I was there from those industries is that it's possible to do it here it's just you know, there's a couple of laws that the called Black laws that are in our way right now.



Gigi 31:47

Yeah. As someone trying to dictate what we do.



31:54

My philosophy is that I believe I should be able to do what I want with my body and if there is someone out there who wants to do it with me that we should be able to do it together.

G

Gigi 32:06

I think that's the key word you know with s&m and BND is that it is consensual.

W

32:13

Safe sane and consensual. And don't forget to have fun;

G

Gigi 32:21

Like like Michelle one, just say something here. Whenever I give her my riding trot riding crop, the top comes out.

E

Elizabeth Richards 32:33

Yeah, there's something about that riding brings us to that.

G

Gigi 32:44

Which kind of brings me to another point. GTS started a new business Raven Slayer. And you can reach Raven Slayer by calling 6164297 It's my pager. And you can I will call you back very discreetly, of course.

E

Elizabeth Richards 33:05

And Gigi definitely make some fun goods.

M

Michelle 33:09

Ravens lairs, GG Leathercraft, by the way, yes. All sorts of items for whatever doesn't necessarily have to be SM if you just want or socks. I don't know.

W

33:25

If you have a leather fetish you know of any kind there are, you know, whether it's clothing, hat, wear or things that you use, tools that you play with or toys that you play with, depending on which Coast you're on. On the east coast. It's tools on the West Coast, it's toys. On the Gulf Coast, we tend to intermingle both words, but you have done really good work and it's-.

G

Gigi 33:51

Also detention equipment. But I'm back to tell me a little bit about what life is like in California. What are some of the things that are being done right now in the community? And what are some of the toys and some of the plating activities and-.

♀

34:16

Well, let's see, I think when you were talking earlier about transgender issues, and as I was flipping through Lesley Feinberg's book, I spotted a picture of a very good friend of mine. So that was a romance tweet just now, but it reminded me that there are some issues on the West Coast dealing with transgenders in clubs where it's, you know, all female only, or all male only. And so, what one of the things that I went out there to do was run a club, and it was a sex club for women. And I was manager of that club. And of course, then there was the owner of the club, the owner and I didn't agree on the policy about transgenders being allowed into the club, I believe that, you know, they shouldn't be allowed as long as they identify as female. And I also agree that there should be different events and different evenings so that, you know, we cater to everyone. But on the evenings that we cater to just female, it didn't matter to me whether or not they were transgendered, what mattered to me was that they identified as female. And so one of the things that's happening on the West Coast right now is addressing those issues.

G

Gigi 35:33

When you bring up something real important here, that is discrimination, no matter whether it's from outside the community, or inside the community, it's still devastating. And it still hurts at a very deep level.

♀

35:49

He's exactly I think it hurts on all different levels. But you know, on a personal level, the woman who was barred from the club, who happens to be one of the women in the transgender warriors, books, it was a friend of mine was no hurt. And there was an interview done with her. And she expressed her feelings during that interview about you know, what she thought of that policy. And I agree with her, and I was manager of the club that barter. So you know, needless to say, I'm no longer doing business. But I would like to open a business like that here in Houston. And one of the issues that I will address here is that it is open to transgenders, or anyone who identifies as female, because the club will be primarily for females, but there will be events, Rob, open up to anyone. It will be an SM club. Hopefully a little bit more than that.

E

Elizabeth Richards 36:40

But no, I need something like that, too. I mean, there's nothing like that here. Flying.

♀

36:49

Yeah, yeah. One of the things I'd like to bring, as I learned so much while I was out there about what's going on, and really participated in really was active in the community there. And so I want to bring some that in.

G

Gigi 37:04

Then, you know, I want to come touch for one more minute on the discrimination issue. Because two years ago, Gigi went to Pacific Street for leather fantasy night for the Stonewall celebrations. And was not allowed in because of the outfit I was wearing. I was told that it was too feminine, and that I couldn't come in in a skirt. That, um, the only leather fantasies, I recognize that and I was male. And, you know, here, I was all psyched to celebrate Stonewall. I couldn't believe my ears, you know, all of a sudden, you can't come in and we're celebrating, what crossdressers that rioted? And you know, just seem such you know, I just walked out at Pacific street going, this is the most crazy world we've ever seen. Because here we're celebrating non discrimination, and not just got discriminated against. And that hurts.

♀

38:17

And that particular club, I think is an icon here in Houston. So it's, you know, it's a shame that that happened. You know, some places you can kind of expect it from but that club, like I said, is an icon here in Houston. So it's kind of a black mark on their, on their reputation, I think, because I've got my own experiences with that club to in that respect. And the funny thing is, is I also owe an apology because they funded a funded my trip to New Orleans, where I was, I was Miss Gulf Coast leather, or I'm sorry, not miss Gulf Coast leather, I was missed out central Olympics. And I went on for the national title in New Orleans. But I was also discriminated against while I was in New Orleans in a club where it was leather. It was you know, Mardi Gras it was you know, all kinds of celebration going on. And I was a female who walk into a male clothed and even though I had won a title, a leather title, I was wearing a very feminine outfit. And I was discriminated against for my femininity. Not because it wasn't a leather person because I'm certainly that but but it wasn't enough to let me in the door even though it was a leather event it was weird. So yeah, I think it hurts everyone. Discrimination isn't good. Any way you look at-.

G

Gigi 39:46

I think, you know, once again, it's coming back to this sense of community. We are a big community here. That as long as we discriminate against ourselves we're really hurting ourselves? It's it's, it's a big impact, right?

♀

40:07

Like taking yourself seriously you know is is important and I do-.

E

Elizabeth Richards 40:12

talk about characters and the heteronormative but then those characters sexual needs. Yeah

-talk about stereotypes are in the heterosexual but then there's stereotype neural cells. Yeah, it's almost even more tragic to me. I think like when I see that if like straight people are prejudiced against gays or bisexual or transgender, it's like, I almost see if it upsets me, but I almost kind of, you know, expected maybe they're just ignorant or they just need to be educated. But when I see that, like from the gate in the gay community being discriminated against, like, bisexuals, transgender, whatever, s&m people, you know, I just feel like it's, you know, that they ought to know about it, because they know what it's like to be discriminated against for their sexual orientation. And it's just always amazes me. And I see when I see that people turn around and be prejudiced against who are going to be prejudiced against someone else for sexual orientation reasons.

 Gigi 41:05

You know, I think I'm not here to say anybody's bad in the community, what I'm here to say or point fingers or anything like that. But what I am to say is, let's examine what we're doing here in the community and open our arms up to each other because you know, united will stand divided we're gonna fall over really make a mark in this world unless we and I will never be a positive influence. And one thing I think about a lot of times is, is the teenagers growing up in the lonely world they're in when they have a difference, because they can't see a world where they can fit in and be accepted for who they are. And you know, teen suicide is highest among queer teens and just about any other group.

 Elizabeth Richards 42:03

I'll say like Jesse Helms out there he's Jesse Helms is not saying like, Oh, that's a gay that's a lesbian that's transgender. That's s&m to Jesse I mean, we're all in damn queers. And it's and it's like, you know,