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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

talking, chaser, fact, marriage, people, gay, society, men, years, convergence, houston, size, accept, life, married, work, clothing, recognize, coming, chub

## SPEAKERS

Chris Harrison, Jimmy Carper

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Jimmy Carper 00:07

The following program contains language or images of a frame or sensitive nature which may be considered objectionable by some listener discretion is advised. Oh yes, you've tuned in to after hours queer radio with attitude right here on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of after hours is ready to bring you news interviews, dialogue and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people and their friends. Hear it after hours. We may be diverse, but we have one thing in common. We are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closet. That means standing up for yourself taking responsibility for your own life and being proud of who you are. Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of age job or frame of mind. That's okay, we're here for you too. So sit back, relax and enjoy this week's edition of after hours.



02:21

Tell me means me. Tell me, Max me



Jimmy Carper 02:40

Hello Houston and welcome to after hours queer radio with attitude. I'm Jimmy Carper. I'll be your co producer for the evening. This is the Saturday March 20 show. And we've got a special live remote coming up in just a moment or two with Chris Arison, my co producer who is that the big men's convention and we're going to be talking to a whole bunch of big men about why they are having a convention and what they're doing and how much fun they're having. So sit back listen to a little music and we'll be.



Chris Harrison 04:20

Hello, and welcome to a special edition of after hours news and views magazine. We are coming to you live from the Houston Renaissance Hotel here in Greenway Plaza. And we're


coming to you part of East Coast Conference on the third coast. And we've got a small group in here now we're going to speak everyone coming in. You'll hear us you should be here. It's about 30 years, but I don't care. Okay, okay. We're coming to you. We're gonna hear from the Houston Renaissance Hotel. This is East Coast Conference on the third coast. It is one of the national events for the affiliated big men's clubs. And we're getting the chance to operate it here in Houston, we've had a great turnout here. Basically what this organization is all about is its large men, gay and bisexual, large men, and they're male admirers. And so it's kind of a fraternal class reunion coming together of people just having a good time and being in an accepting and warm place. And last August, we brought together some people from the Houston big men's club into our studios to talk about some of the issues that come up in our community. Today, we're going to expand it on to a larger audience with Okay, so we are going to be having some people talking, and finding out what it's like being big in society and some other things, we also have a very special thing we're gonna be talking about, you know, we've talked about gay marriage, so much here in the past couple of weeks, and months, on after hours. Well, we have someone who actually has one of those San Francisco, certificates of marriage. So we're going to be delving into gay marriage as well. And it's just gonna be a very interesting topic. And we hope you all enjoy it. Welcome UCC ears. You can talk loud. You don't have to be too quiet in here. It's just kind of a relaxed atmosphere. We are overlooking what was the Compaq center? Soon to be a church. And you know, let's That's right. It's, it's amazing thing. You go from basketballs to, to revival. So what would you like us when you start talking, just tell us where you who you are, where you're from, you can use as much information as you want. Don't be shy. But you know, let's let's just talk about the fact of you know, how many issues we have in society. With being gay, or being overweight, we're talking about, you know, the culture we're in nowadays. It's so many other it's obesity is so much in the news right now, everyone's talking about, you know, weight and issues along that, well, what's it like to be some of these bigger man who are also in the gay community? So let's start jumping in here. Go ahead. Don't be shy.



07:36

Okay, my name is Robert, from Dallas. This is my first event. I guess, for me, being a big man has always been an issue for me, especially being a teacher. One of the things that I've noticed, especially in the last like four to five years, is society has become so plastic and so facade. And just in, like, even something as simple as going shopping for you know, plates, you know, people are very uncomfortable with, with fries, we're constantly being shown that, you know, thin is and Slim is the way to be SlimFast, you want to be a loser. And we're constantly berating the larger man. And so somewhere in my life, I had to figure out that what I am and who I am both as a gay male, as a large male, that I am not a bad person. And I stopped, and I had to stop buying into society's view of what's popular, and what's right. You know, I like who I am, I am comfortable with being my size. It's people that have an issue with me. I don't know where we're gonna go. Especially like, just I know, my kids are students. And I laughed a couple of weeks ago, about airlines weighing people. And we're taking a trip in the next couple of months, and they'll go hey, or they're gonna wait you and it was a joke. And it was hahaha the first. But then seriously, their kids came in apologize after class. Because they know we didn't mean to be offensive when we said that. society truly is being offensive constantly to the larger man, with no sense of who we are our sense of feeling, our sense of emotion. We've got to stop that somewhere. We need to truly develop a sense of self worth. And fight back, pardon the pun, and let people know that you know, yes, this is a so culture of being gay. But we are human. We are alive and we are feeling being African American. You know, how many years ago can you know, it's always the thing as I tell my kids, you can replace a derogatory word fat,

black, gay, and you can change those words and they're interchangeable. Be real careful when you do that, because eventually, you know that finger is going to point back at you. So I need to be real careful about that. I don't know I'm just I'm tired of society. It sends the same what's right and dictating to me, you know who I can marry, who I can't marry, what size I can be, I can write into playing cat riding the plane, you know, I pay my taxes like everybody else, get off my back, let me live my life and get out of my bedroom.

 Chris Harrison 10:14

What grade school do you went to

 10:17

high school, suburban high school in Dallas, in Duncanville Texas. And so I truly I live my life as a beacon for my kids, I teach. And they're very comfortable with hugging a big man at the end of the day, as a thank you, you know, they truly don't think of me as big. They think of me as their teacher, I live my life as a sense of, it's okay to be my size, as long as I'm comfortable with who I am. If I weren't, then I make choices to diet, etc, etc. But I like me,

 Chris Harrison 10:47

because this is a big thing we were talking about in high school, it's all about image even more. So when they get older. I mean, it's one of those things that, you know, we still have in high school where you know, the worst thing you can call a person's a faggot, or a queer. And here, we're also talking about, you know, we've got this sucks to have to have an acceptance of a larger person. Exactly. And it's an amazing thing when you want it, some of the basic things of looking at size, and all that relate this to you, when I was part of the host committee, when we were getting set up for this host Hell, they were very interested in what they need to take care of with, for us being larger guys. And the one thing we never thought of that they did think of was the fact all the commodes in this entire hotel, are wall mounted, there's not the pedestal version. So on our last meeting, they took us into one of the restrooms, and they say, Do you think this is going to be a problem for your guys, we can go in and we can reinforce the business or and we didn't think of that sort of thing. They were willing to take down the privacy barriers on the urinals to accommodate us. And to sit there and think, you know, to think that far ahead, that you know, what, if you're sitting, if you're using one of these facilities, you know, there could be some problem there. And it's amazing how well accepting we're talking about a, a large hotel chain and to come in and just to even think just down to that saw that point of it. It's an amazing thing of what we're where we're coming with some sort of an acceptance with people. I mean, it's amazing seeing in high school, that we've got kids who

 12:30

are just dealing with, especially young girls, and in the last couple years, even boys, just that whole sense of, you know, thinking, I'm a bad person, because I'm a few pounds extra, and it's like, no, you're not, you know, you're a bad person if you don't turn your tests in on time. But but, you know, to be your size is to embrace who you are, love who you are, there's way too

many things that kids could be doing and are doing. I mean, let's be realistic, you know, instead of worrying about you know, I you know, too many carbs today, so now I've got to go home and not eat for days or be Bill playmaker throw up and it's we're putting way too many too much pressure on people. I don't know what just me growing up. I constantly had aunts who were just, you know, are you sure you should eat that? I mean, even now, if film reunions? Should you eat that? And my stock response is what you leave me the heck alone. You know, but yeah, we've put way too much pressure on. Awesome, you know, things that we shouldn't be, and things that we're just kind of going to ride, we just let them slide into like test scores. Looks like, you know, achievement, stop worrying about is, you know, Peggy or Johnny just a little bit too big.

C

Chris Harrison 13:47

So, it's, I mean, it's a great thing we're talking about the teenage group, I mean, that's some things, you know, some people I remember going through high school, and you know, they've got those horrible chairs now, where, basically, I think, Mark Markita saw creations as like, you know, the first day of school, I basically had to kind of just sit in the aisleway sort of thing until they they went out and they found that one this desk with a separate chair, and you know, you get up too fast and thing falls over. And it's really embarrassing sort of thing. And I mean, sadly that's the way they go with all this stuff is preform kind of

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14:31

a one size fits all you win. Yeah, one size fits all. And we've got to get that mindset. You know, even in the gay culture or the gay community, one size does not fit all. Yeah, I know when we've got to stop that, that mindset and that, you know, pigeonholing people into one size. We're not

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14:57

Well, honestly, yeah. The biggest problem I have, especially as we were saying, with desks and so forth, over a third of the population is considered obese. Why would any of them? Why would they think that? Well, everybody's going to fit inside these little chairs and desks, units that fit together? Not too many. And right now you can get the government not only worrying about what we're doing in our bedroom, but they're worrying about what fast food we're eating. At what point does it do they tell me when I have to go to the bathroom?

C

Chris Harrison 15:33

I mean, the cheeseburger bill just came out to help shield fast food restaurants, from lost from obesity lawsuits, kind of like how the, you know, the tobacco industry had all those lawsuits against them, because, you know, people were dying. And so they excuse us that, you know, I started smoking before you slap the Surgeon General's warning on you on the cigarettes, and that's why I'm continuing to smoke still, you hooked me on it. And now they're talking about fast food and killing people. And it's like, you know, if you think McDonald's is health food, then something's wrong. Even if you get the salads. I surprised something if you want to mention the

fact that you know, they're talking about getting rid of supersize on McDonald's. And here in Texas, we have what's called the humongous size, which they take a 44 ounce soda cup, and they fill that with french fries. So that's showing everything's bigger in Texas. And that's the sort of mentality they have is you know, supersize is not big enough here. We're going to extra supersize it. And that's where we're going with society. The fact of you know, we're hearing more and more of this, this study, here's telling you about obesity this study in here, so we'll see. But



16:52

doesn't that bother you, though, that it's okay, for business to make the extra buck and the humongous size, but then to turn around, and the labor isn't bad dress, because we took part in that isn't like a catch 22 It's like, you know, damned if I do damned if I don't fly, I support your company. But they didn't steal you then turn around go, Well, you're a bad you shouldn't have eaten that. So now you make the choice to take it away. Where's the sense of



Chris Harrison 17:25

it? I'll be honest with



17:27

you exactly. Where's the balance?



Chris Harrison 17:31

Keep talking. Okay.



17:36

You know, there is no balance.



Chris Harrison 17:39


So, come on. Guys, we brought in a lot of people come on, we got a lot more people came in, throw in your two cents, we're just step up closer to one of the microphones with a hand mic here.



17:49

My biggest worry was when they started with this whole obesity thing with the McDonald's and is that more hatred against us? You know, for being big? Yeah. You know, like, we have enough already. And now now the government is getting involved and, you know, everyone else, you

know, the minute you walk in a restaurant, my size, everyone looks at me, I'm the biggest person in the restaurant, usually. You know, I'm 450 pounds five, nine. And you know, it's like, you know, now, the government is also going to be against me, you know? And

 Chris Harrison 18:21

we talked about the fact that we've got what some people in this room may consider the great Satan of Jared from Subway. And you know, not not most of us in this room can go into a subway and sit down and eat one of those healthy sandwiches. Because the chairs are all the benches are all ergonomic like Clevedon designed for King chaser over here.

 18:48

It's not only it's not only subway, I mean, you go into a McDonald's and 90% of the chairs and there you can see there's a Burger

 Chris Harrison 18:55


King down by my work that I cannot go and eat at because of they all have the old the old style chairs where the the chair swivels like 15 degrees each way. And we look at that thing we would make the comment that you know, there's one subway that I found here in Houston where bigger people can eat and surprisingly enough is down in the Montrose area, which is our gayborhood

 19:18

I don't know what you people did when you when you went and look for hotels. But when we did this and as you know, my name is Rich, I'm from DC and we ran convergence last year, but half of the hotels in fact even more than half of the hotels. We knocked out immediately because of their pools. Most of the pools and most of the hotels do not have stepped stepped downs with with a rarely, you're expected to pull yourself up in the small little ladders on the side of the hotel. We had an East Coast Conference back a few years ago, which they had to actually get wooden steps to put in the pool Rule to allow us to get out. Because many of the people could not get out of the pool in the little stairways. And in fact, one person actually pulled the stairway off its hinges and into the pool, trying to get out.


 Chris Harrison 20:15

Because you're also going to be out of balance because you're losing that buoyancy. Of

 20:19

course, so, and looking at the pools of the hotels, more than half of the pools did not have steps and a railing that lead into a pool. They had ladders, we eliminated them completely,


immediately, just on that one thing, since we're gonna have a couple of pool parties.

 Chris Harrison 20:36

To be honest, I think we just lucked out, I don't think we even looked at the pools. I don't want to things that we that we knocked out of one hotel that we were looking at was the fact that the way the setup was is all of the hotel rooms were in a tower. And then like the convention or the conference areas, were on this edition on the other side. So it's basically, you know, you have the one bank of elevators was like, you know, all the way down the the hallway to get to the elevator, you go downstairs and you've got almost a quarter mile walk, to get to the banquet hall where they said we could be and it's like, we left out of that that place and we go, you know, this place is based on the record right now, even if they were to come in with great price. It's just that's too much walking for some

 21:20


Well, we weren't clairvoyant, or anything like that. We had, we found out from experience from the East Coast Conference where we had a pool, that they actually brought these wooden stairs into the pool to get people out, because we couldn't get them out any other way.

 Chris Harrison 21:33

But it was it was good that they were able to accommodate. And

 21:36

yes, the other people in the hotel were very nice. But you know, which is one

 Chris Harrison 21:40

thing I can say with the people we've we've met here, we've really had I mean, the support and that they gave even from the the waitstaff who have watched the contest after our dinner tonight. They seem to be enjoying themselves. I love the expression of the one woman who, who popped out of the one doorway during the content of the chub contest. I think it was when Jr was on. Sitting around on the floor, and the woman was like, I mean, her eyes were getting bigger and bigger. She's like, somebody stepped in front of her as she moved to elevate to get a better look.

 22:21

Not something you see every day. So I'm gonna

 Chris Harrison 22:22



Chris Harrison 22:23

be a little shameless self promotion. Here we one of the things with this event we have is I'm not sure if it's the first time for ECC, usually we do it with the the national event convergence, we had a chub and chase or contest. And you know, it's one of those things that when you're larger size, you don't think beauty pageant. You don't think of winning a contest based off of your looks when you're 500 pounds. And you've got a rack better than Miss America does. And the fact that we had a contest like this, and I'm teasing the fact we've got our King chaser over here in the corner hiding who is about his basketball is the king chub was those of you who didn't know I've won King Chubb of Ecco three. So watch out big Roy, when I get back next week, I'm bringing my crown. I put it on now. So I'm still wearing the metal. But you know, to get no context like that, or you know, some people would have been, okay, so unsure of doing something, I was nervous as hell. Going into something like that, because it was like, so unusual for me. And it's just you get up and you do something. And usually, that's what these events are about is being able to be accepted for who you are, how you are. And this is what I am. And you know, I think the best way of saying it was from the movie Love, valor and compassion, when I forget the character's name in the movie Jason Alexander played, but it's love me love my love handles. And that's what this whole thing is about isn't people coming together and being able to feel open and accepting with others who have similar interests. So come on in other people, let's, let's, I mean, let's let's bring out the people talking about what is back here. It's other chairs. We've got a roving mic we can talk about but let's talk about, you know, let's have some more people talking about, you know, what sort of issues you face. For the jobs in here. What issues do you face being a larger guy in society in general,



24:50

Walmart don't carry our clothes.



Chris Harrison 24:54

Some of us in here the big and tall shops don't carry our clothes.



24:58

Because half the people in Walmart needs our size. Somebody was figuring out



Chris Harrison 25:07

Okay, I gotta go, you gotta go you have you got to hand my kid with a little closer. Right? Walmart, they say they go the supersize and that's what 3x Yeah, 3x, maybe four 3x For X, the big and tall stop at 6x If you're lucky, if you happen to go in on the day that they've stocked the shelves, you might be able to walk out of there



25:29

with something because they only get one 6x of everything. Yeah,



 Chris Harrison 25:32

I mean, you've got to be lucky and hope no one else has got decided to go in on those days, I run into a situation of you know, I go looking for clothing. And I'm considered too big for the big and tall. And, you know, the only other option I have is it has direct is it catalog order. And, you know, unlike when you go to Walmart, you know, if you go in there and you buy a small, and you buy a large of the same exact outfit, you don't pay extra. But you know, with the catalogs, each, you start getting into those extra X's and you know, they charge you for the income putting that extra x on there. And I understand that it's extra cloth. But you don't see that when when you go from a large one extra large, you don't see a \$6 jump per item, like you do in some of the catalog sales.

 26:25

And like you did for your T shirts, I'm sure. Yes, we did for our T shirts when we bought ours. But convergence

 Chris Harrison 26:32

was one of the first places we called and got pricing on T shirt. Basically, he told me this is a set price for everything up to an XL. And then you pay a buck 50 Extra for each x.

 26:43

Oh, we paid like \$4 More for each x.

 Chris Harrison 26:46

And then the further you get along, the less color choice you have. That's right. It's like you might you get white, you might get gray, you don't get all the pretty pastel colors. I love the fact I mean, I've got I got a convergence shirts, I didn't get to go to convergence. But I got they brought me back one of the shirts, and it fits nicely. Now it's lavender lilac, we were

 27:10

able to get lavender, we were able to get a blue, sort of like a turquoise blue, and a white, the white with the cheapest, of course, the pastels were a little more if we wanted a heavy color, like a black or something like that it would have been astronomical.

 Chris Harrison 27:29

Yeah, I mean, that's some of the things you don't get to hear on us.



27:33

Go ahead. Yeah, I don't know, if you read recently in the paper, you know, change is slow to come. But I believe it'll be changing somewhat, you know, more widely. The group that studies, obesity, actually was closely followed by study of merchant that they gauge all their sizes. And they stated that it hadn't been done in I guess, 10 or 12 years. I don't know if you read this. But they said, all the merchants are now quickly reevaluating the sizes that they consider small, medium and large. So change may be on the horizon for but again, it will be slower. Oh,



Chris Harrison 28:15

yeah. What they're gonna do is they're gonna say what's what it was now a major what they're calling a medium now as a small and because of the way society is changing. But you know, I mean, it's the clothing industry is looking at? Well,



28:26

I think it's, they don't keep up as quick. Like they said the the change again, they don't make that steady, but once every 10 or 15 years, and the key manufacturers keep their eye on that, that specific gauge. And they I think they should take the responsibility and maybe perhaps listen to any feedback they get from their clientele directly. Because if they're too slow to change, I feel somebody could actually take advantage of that niche and say, Hey, listen, I feel a demand there. I could fill that niche and perhaps capitalize on that.



29:01

Well, honestly, I'm Chris from Baton Rouge. I manage a big and tall store. And even within the big and tall clothing community, there's been changes as to what sizes they carry forever. That I remember, you could only get 30 to 34 inseam up to oh maybe if you're lucky 52 waist. Well, I'm six foot three and close to 400 pounds. That ain't gonna cut it. You know, either I get to look like Michael Jackson or I get to not leave. But now, I know as far as far as our company, we carry a lot of the core stuff now all the way up to 60 to 34 at length. Do you think as they suddenly discovered, oh, you can be big and tall at the same time.



29:54

Do you think that was a result of their response? Oh, it was was seeing was it an immediate response. esto?



30:00

Well, it did. None of none of the of how the clothing industry has evolved has been immediate. I mean, let's face it, what I call the official fat man's uniform, which used to be banded bottom shirts and all polyester flat front. dress pants. Don't get me wrong, I still wear. But that's what

was considered the fat man's uniform for most of the 70s. And about half the ad, I thought it was a green flag.



30:34

But really, if you want to get anything higher than a 60, urine, urine a lot of trouble



Chris Harrison 30:40

end up going through one of the catalog. That's right. Okay.



30:42

I don't know about you, but I don't think 60 It's so big. I mean, I know people that are in the 70s. And even as high as as as an IV waste, unfortunately, what



30:53

they do is they buy what they know, they can turn around. And even even, and this is more for kin chaser over here, even to the small and tall stuff. I know our company is slowly getting small and tall stuff. Well, it used to be, you'd never find that you'd never be able to find anything with a 30 to 34 inch waist and 38 or 40 length without going through many hurdles. So it happens on both sides of the scale. And slowly they're trying to start to go, you know, we can actually sell this.



31:29

I think the problem is we're still a fringe market, I think the recognition that the recent studies indicate a third of the population, those fit into that obesity category. And you would think, as we grow there every rather common knowledge, we slow down, we become more sedentary, the majority of the population isn't going to stay 18 forever, that we would have more access to manufacturers that would you know, obviously recognize, you know, people do grew up. Also



Chris Harrison 31:58

I was thinking it sounds like what we have to do is the way this is going to come quickly is we have to look towards what like some of the African American community have done with like the product line FUBU. And things like that, like for us by us is the fact you know, they've decided right, instead of having white corporate America designed clothes for their community, we're gonna do our own design. And it looks like that's what's gonna have to take is a bunch of big guys just to get together and say, we're going to make clothing that we want to see that we know is just going to fit us well. We don't need to have pleats. We don't need to have the, the the waist bands that are Lastly, I mean, I remember spending when I was growing up there, I

had the sands about which is a wonderful thing. But as soon as you start getting that one point there, the thing flops over the end, yeah, it starts rolling down. It's like it's just not very fun. And I mean, that's what I wore, for the longest time, when I went to school, I was such a geek, I wore dress slacks to school. So you know, I got the SANS a belt. And you know those things, that it's just doesn't work for you?



33:07

Well, hopefully the message will be sent that, you know, we have, we definitely have enough talent in the big community as a whole, you know, gay or straight. Perhaps somebody can unite or, you know, kind of knit together a conglomerate that will say, Hey, listen, you know, this makes sense. A third of the population really needs something that, you know, that needs to be made available for them. Here is out there help.



Chris Harrison 33:29

And it's a growth market. I mean, let's let's look at the fuel



33:33

pun intended.



Chris Harrison 33:37

It is a growth industry. That's where we're getting within the society is the fact that you know, we're not getting smaller, the only people that are seem to think the world is getting smaller is the airlines, you want to pack everyone in as much as they can.



33:52

Can ask a question. Go ahead. Yeah, I'd like to ask, you know, you're talking about clothing for larger men and what have you. And I know, we're talking about availability and sizes and what have you. But what about sexy clothing? I mean, you know, I think that a lot of the clothing industry is oriented are geared toward really developing clothing that accentuates people's bodies really makes it sexy looking. And I think that larger men are really handsome, really sexy, what kind of clothing line what kind of lines in the design and what have you should be oriented, what would we look for?



Chris Harrison 34:28

Well, that's the thing. I mean, you look at what's happened now the I think one of the big help, what's going to help with that is the BB W movement, the big beautiful women. Were the fact that you know, they started there's the whole discipline things I always hate about the fact you know, in the straight, all the things that the gay community were so more fashionable about in

the straight community. It's big, beautiful women and big handsome men and admirers and in this in this community for Chubs and chasers and the fact that you know that they start Ready to go in with the big beautiful women that they're telling. They're teaching them that you can be voluptuous and seductive. And they've made the the lingerie lines for them. Victoria's Secret has the plus size thing. And I mean, they make very beautiful outfits for them. Unfortunately, I'm not a crossdresser.



35:25

So what, what kind of clothing then, for instance, on the Chubs that are here tonight? I mean, what would you say makes you feel sexy when you wear it?



Chris Harrison 35:34

That's a good question. I mean, because one of the things we're talking I mean, we talked about the functionality of clothing, in our size, the fact that I used to, I mean, I say, the SANS belt, because that's what fit.



35:50

I was gonna say, in the last couple of years, we've had some fashion shows at some of the East Coast conferences. And also at convergence, where we actually had clothes that were designed for big people. The only problem it seems even though they were nice, and they looked great, is the price of the clothes was so high in comparison to regular clothes, and almost makes it cost preventative because



36:13

it's the specialty market. Yeah, well,



36:15

and of course, that's a lot of sequence.



36:20

I'm really talking about nice sweaters, nice. Nice shirt blends, bear pads, right? We had people model and we had big people model them as they came out onto the onto the platform's we actually had fashion shows, right? Yeah, these things. I'm sure you've seen them.



36:35

I believe I've seen one where they had a bunch of sport jackets and other items professional

yes, there what jacket well tailored and



36:41

invests and everything, you know, that really, people look sharp, even though they were really big. But again, the cost of those items were were just too high.



36:54

I guess a response to your question about what makes you feel sexy. Okay, I confess, coming to this conference, I thought, you know, I want some fetish wear down on the internet, it's impossible to find, finding just a jockstrap and a four or 5x was like a mission. Impossible. I finally found one, it kingsize direct. And it feels great. And



37:21

it does make me feel sexy. Okay, this is turning into the Howard Stern Show now.



Chris Harrison 37:27

For those of you who are worried about that, you hear that, you know, just don't go too wild. We are in what's considered the FCC period. But there are certain things you can't say but you so if you were if you were to show that off even more thought and carry your camera.



37:46

But that's fine. I guess they don't think that large men, you know, are into enjoying themselves on a personal level. Or if



Chris Harrison 37:57

you're if you're that size, I mean, they think jockstrap, and they're, they're gonna look at it from a functionality point, they're gonna look at the different functionality or actual the finish type where of that, you know, either way, a fat guy is not going to using a jock strap, unless he's a football player. And they're gonna order that for you, especially. So



38:17

thing you said, Chris, but the big, beautiful women movement, they did grassroots work with fashions. They made their own stuff, they put in put it online, they made their own little boutiques that they sold stuff online. And that's how a lot of these fashions for them came about. You got a lot of a lot of small businesses that came up because of that. Because nobody was you know, yeah, Lane, Brian had some of the smaller end stuff and then how stresses, but

to actually get something that looks nice, you had to you actually had big women making the clothes for other big winner. Now, as far as the jockstraps fetish wear is concerned. It's there are places on the web where you can find stuff like that, but it's the same way I in fact, I know a couple I have a couple of friends that make stuff like harnesses, leather stuff and so forth. Up to 80 waist, you know, really big stuff, but you have it you do have to play needle in the haystack to find that so just so that



39:25

it's not readily available. Oh, no.



39:30

It's also an it's an unfortunate fact. Many big men are so self conscious about themselves. They're not going to look for something like that too. And I'm not saying gay men or straight men. I'm just saying big men in general. Too many of them are so self conscious about it. They don't think they're sexy. Okay, so



39:48

Mr. uptight finally makes up his mind at the almost the age of 40 to go search for that. That tells me there's a heck of a lot of more people out there willing and would purchase though As items, you know, I mean, I truly am Mister, you know, uptight about everything. And so if I'm looking, I know there has to be guys that I've met in the last couple of days, that would surely, you know, enjoy being able to purchase those items. I mean, they're, you know, you



40:17

know, I can hear the moans and groans out there all why don't you guys just, you know, buckle down and take the responsibility for yourselves and lose some weight. But this issue affects everybody. I'm sure everybody out there can think of somebody in their family, their mom, their dad, their sister, their brother, they face all the same issues as me, they were just voicing them for them. And I think you should take a deeper look before you start talking about an issue that can be somewhat humiliating to some of us.



40:46

And to be quite honest, not all of us want to lose weight. Not all of us. Yeah, some of us actually like the way we look, not all



40:54

of us want you to lose weight either.



Chris Harrison 41:00

I run in this situation. I mean, I admit I'm, I'm 500 pounds, you know, I go I look people look at me, and they go, Oh, my God, he's so unhealthy. And that I, I had this incident. I talked about a couple of weeks, a couple months ago, actually, about a month ago now. Somebody saw my Yahoo personal. And all he saw was this picture of me, you know, bust High School square in the face. He saw the picture. And he was like, Oh, I was so interested in it. He didn't read the ad. So he didn't see where the title of the ad said Houston Cheb for chaser. So he saw that and saw that I was online and started instant messaging me. And he started getting graphic and asking what he wanted. So I gave him visually the information he wanted to find out about me. And I received the most beautifully worded insult I have ever heard. If Emily Post wrote an insult book, this person would go straight for her. It was I could never get attracted someone like you, I could not get an erection. I wouldn't know where it was going blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. And I reamed this guy online. I ripped him a new hole. By the end of the conversation. He was apologizing and offering to take me out to dinner. My response was, do you think you can afford to take me out to dinner? This guy just the way he just kept going on and it's like, Oh, you're so unhealthy. You know, when I had my last physical, we talked about some of the guys at my dinner table. And when I had my last physical when my doctor looked at all the results, she goes, I wish I was as healthy as you are. Alright, my cholesterol count doctor was only worried that my good count was too low. I don't have high blood pressure. I don't have diabetes. And you know, I'll preface it with the fact that what some people say, I don't have that yet. But you know what? A lot of people get that who are healthy for that one commercial for the cholesterol medicine and they show the twin or the there's the twins walking down they go, you know their workout every day they do this, they do that? Well, this person has got a cholesterol count of 3 million. What does work good does that come from? If this person is doing all the right things, and they're still considered unhealthy? It's this tremendous ice. Yeah, don't ask me to climb a flight of stairs. When I go to work, I work on the second floor. There's no elevator. My coworkers know that you don't come up to me for a good three minutes after I get to work. Because I got to catch my breath. Because also I have to park far away from the building. So it's like a 40 minute drive than a quarter mile hike and then climb Mount Everest. And that sort of thing people they have to learn to accept. Don't ask me to climb a bunch of stairs. Don't ask me to carry a bunch of heavy stuff right now. Because you know, my back hurts. But that comes from a car accident, not just because of the fact of what size I am. Once you get all these people looking at you making that snap judgment of Oh, you're so unhealthy on that, and I mean, like my asthma doctor. I couldn't see her I saw the nurse practitioner and I had this cough. And basically she looked at me said, Well, the problem with your cough is your fat. That was her diagnosis, my cough. But the logic makes sense. But that was the short answer of it. You're coughing because you're fat. Because you're fat. You probably have acid reflux syndrome. Acid reflux syndrome triggers asthma which triggers your cough. The logic is there that But that's where the society jumps to. They see someone in my size, and they go, he's unhealthy. He can't do anything. We




45:08

all have inherent biases. That's why you know, and it's and it doesn't only relate to size, you know, we have biases, say you, you're playing a game of pickup basketball, you got several people that you want to pick from, you're going to pick all the youngest guys, because the older guy is not going to be able to perform as well. We have biases, with age biases, besides biases, but six, it doesn't matter. We need to recognize these biases within ourselves and try




to, you know, be more sensitive to others. If we ask ourselves this question, How have I had a bias today, you know, if you were truthful with yourself, you're going to recognize that you do have biases, the

 Chris Harrison 45:48

only time the fact that kid gets picked, and PE first is when the game is tug of war.

 45:56

That's the bias in itself. Exactly. And people often think think that way,

 Chris Harrison 46:00

I still remember back, it was third grade, I was in elementary school, they had the field day, and it was the one class versus another class and tug of war. And they had high school kids come in. And they were kind of here in the cheerleaders and band helping out with the stuff. And that guy said, you know, you need to be the anchor. And I go, Hey, finally, something in the competition, I can contribute to don't ask me to do the quarter mile run. But, I mean, who else wants to put in some information here on this? I mean, that the people who traveled you had another one? Well,

 46:34

you have a different question, though. That would kind of change the subject. I'm really, I mean, I, I really am interested in all this that we've been talking about. But I'm very curious from the perspective of the chasers that are here tonight. What it's like to be interested in large men. What it's like to find one, what it's like to be in relationship with someone. Certainly what it's like to find presents for them in the way of clothing. We've talked about that somewhat. But I'm real curious, you know, what, what position does that put you in, in society? And what do you feel about it?


 Chris Harrison 47:13

I mean, that's a valid point. I mean, like, we were saying, with the comment there, you know, it's difficult enough coming out that you're gay. But you know, what happens when you're bringing home? Someone who is bacon holder, who is larger, who may be hairier? And that's the sort of thing we have in there. Go on, you've got the crown, you got to talk. All

 47:37

right. Well, I'm actually what I found out was, I'm in college right now. And most people my age are accepting of it. However, when I get to the older group, like my parents, I've told them before, and they know, I like Biggers plus size guys. But they've always asked me why. Like,


they're not really understanding however, like, I have friends in college, I go club into the gay clubs with them. And I told him, I like chubby guys. Like, that's cool. That's cool. Like, they've helped me approach different different guys, since I'm not really one to speak much to break the ice or anything. They helped me a lot. So I noticed in the younger age group, it's a lot more accepting than the older group.

 Chris Harrison 48:33

Now, when was it a two step process? Did you come out to your parents as being gay? And then oh, by the way, or was it? Mom, dad? Here's Baba, my lover, sort of thing.

 48:46

It was a two step process, basically, there. My mom's a diehard Catholic. So first of all, she's really against gay people. She thinks we need to get we need to go get help and things like that. So first of all, she's not very accepting of it. And second of all, she just doesn't think she's entirely you know, to be good looking. You have to be fit. You have. She's into that look right now. But she just doesn't see where I'm coming from is I have certain tastes. And if I like a certain type of guy, I'm going to go look for that type of guy. I'm not going to try to try to change my opinion about who I am or anything like that.

 Chris Harrison 49:36

I'm gonna settle for second best.

 49:38

What did your mom say when you said hey, Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?

 49:42

Well, I haven't really done anything like that.

 Chris Harrison 49:47

Yeah, even even for all of us coming out when you're gay and that we're bringing bringing that that first. That first time I mean, my parents, my father, and depending on the week was either good or upset with it. And he, he started getting a lot better with it lately. And in fact, one time when I was in a relationship, he invited my friend at the time to come to dinner. And it floored me that, you know, going from, where, a year ago, he made a shouting comment to me of, well, at least I'm not queer, to inviting someone who I'm seeing, to family dinner. And, you know, that kind of transition. And it's an it's an amazing thing when you see parents starting to grow and accepting that. And I mean, hopefully with, I'm not gonna say my family was Catholic, I consider myself Catholic and recovery myself, but you know, I mean, but the fact that, you

know, they may not accept it, but they still love you for who you are. And, you know, I know somewhere deep down in my father's heart, if I come home and say, You know what I've decided that was just, you know, it's just a fling. It's just a experimentation. Well, you know, what's going on eight years of experimentation.



51:23

Chris, don't you think though, the, the attitude about big men, especially big man, society as a whole, or he or the TV media, for one seems to be putting more stuff about gay people on the TV? But have you seen any big gay men? Well, as far as, for example, Queer as Folk, Queer Eye for the Straight Guy. All the people in their their role slinky, skinny guys, there's no big men there. Well, I'm the idea. Of, of on any of the channels that you look at everybody is supposed to be fit.



Chris Harrison 52:03

I mean, with with a Queer as Folk. You know, I remember last year when they had the contest of someone to have a walk on roll. And I remember with some of the chub groups on with one of the guys was a guy from Dallas, who was the bearish type. And there was like a vote for this guy, we need to get our kind of person on this show. I think we're I for the straight guy. I think it's a hilarious show. But you know, they always joke about the guy who's got a little extra fat, right? And we're not talking about, we're not talking about, like the the fat we've gotten this room. No,



52:42

we're talking about somebody that might be a few pounds overweight. The other thing I want to mention is this type of setting. And I always warn people about this. This is a utopia that we're in right now. These East Coast conferences, the convergences, it's a utopia setting. We have to after this go out into the real world again. Because here, you're accepted. And whether you be chubby or chaser, you're accepted as you are, that ends when the conference ends. And you're gonna have to go back out into the real world and be discriminated against again. I



53:30

don't know if anybody remembers the show normal Ohio was with John Goodman. Goodman played a gay man who was married and had children and decided, you know, he couldn't hide the fact that he was gay anymore. And he got it. But he got a divorce. And then I went to the message board. So that show, you know, being a chaser, I was interested in it. And a lot of the straight people that made comments, were saying gay people aren't like that. There are no big gay people. And it's just amazing how they buy into the stereotypes that some of us helped to make in the first place, that they're only skinny people that go to bars like South Beach here in Houston. And that, you know, the big bearish gay types don't exist at all.



54:23

To go back to whatever gentleman was saying about tomorrow, or Tuesday, we go back to real world. The first day out of here is the most depressing day of our lives. So you go home, and suddenly it's like, ah, that weekend that was fantastic. When Everyone's looking at me because I was the man is gone. You're back into society. And it's not just big guys who have to face this, you know, me as a chaser. I'm 180 pounds. You know, I'm five foot 11 I could go and live a normal life now in stairs. I mean, when I go into a bar or restaurant, nobody looks at Near Broadway, you know, he's a big guy. But I still have to deal with the fact that I'm gay. So therefore, I'm shunned a little bit by society. And secondly, I'm a chaser. Okay, I don't I go to a bar. I go and see wonderful, skinny guys who can hit on me. But I'm not interested, he do nothing for me absolutely nothing. And then when I try and explain it to them, they get upset, they get offended. They go, why? Well, it just doesn't do it for me, I'm sorry. You know, that's the way it is. I didn't choose one to be gay. And I didn't choose what I liked. My body chose it for me. And I know, in my heart, what I want. And my parents, it took a long time, but they did accept. So you know, for me, I was very truly blessed that way. I really was. But it's it's a big world, you know, and the world needs to recognize that we are who we are. You know, if there was a diet pill that was introduced tomorrow, who would take it? Would you all just suddenly go, Okay, I'm gonna take this diet pill, I'm going to be 120 pounds like everyone else. I'm going to be accepted by everyone. But is that what you want? Or are you comfortable? Where you are? Because to me, You guys are the most beautiful people in the world.

C

Chris Harrison 56:21

For me, it was I mean, I, I spent, probably, I was 29 when I finally decided, you know, I bought into the stereotype for my first 29 years of life ago, you know, I know I'm gay. But you know, I've got to fit this certain mold. I mean, I've got to I've got to look the certain part and all that, well, I'm not going to find somebody. And what happened for me is finally got to a point of ego. You know, this is the vessel I'm in now. And you know, what, I want to be in a different sort of different vessel. Yeah. There's part of me that would, but the fact this is who I am now, and there is somebody out there who would be interested in someone who looks like me, who can find that thing. The first couple times when I was into a bar and had some guy hit on me, I was I was school girl toe in the sand. Oh, gee. That's how it was for the longest times. And I really, I started working on my self esteem, within the past year of going, learning to accept who I am, and figuring it out. I mean, just the basic things. I mean, it wasn't that a year ago that, you know, I didn't like looking at myself in the mirror. Going in and take a shower. It's like, okay, let me walk quickly past the mirror. And now the scary buddy out there who my railroad I've almost become quasi nudist.

U

58:02

doesn't scare anybody in this room.

C

Chris Harrison 58:08

Yeah. That's, that's how, that's how much I've changed. With my mindset of, you know, this is who I am. This is how I look. And you know, what, if you don't like it, then FCCU. But that's what it is, as far as I'm concerned. Go ahead. I



58:35

know you want to, I have two questions, one for you. And so this has been a process of working on yourself a statement such as that for yourself. Was there any involvement and I'm curious about asking some of the larger guys here about the involvement of any of the chasers with them having a lover and the attitude of your lover toward you, kind of in developing your self esteem. I'm just curious about that.



Jimmy Carper 59:01

You're listening to KPFT Houston.



Chris Harrison 59:05

Okay.



59:09

You don't have the only one to answer thank



Chris Harrison 59:10

God. Well, yeah, I'm gonna throw it in here. You know, I want to turn bright red on this



59:19

you already rising nice rosy pink.



Chris Harrison 59:23

I'm gonna say yes, it was. I found someone and you know, it turned my life around. And things happen, things change. And what happens happens, and that changed my life. You know, if it wasn't I was gonna say this even before. If it wasn't for that relationship. Let me put it this way. If it wasn't for fun Finding someone for that brief time. The people in this room wouldn't be here right now. Okay, we wouldn't be doing this radio remote. Because I wouldn't have found out about the big men's club. Okay. And you know, I wouldn't be a part of the big men's club, I wouldn't we wouldn't be here. And that's one of the things that really did help change me in a lot of different ways. And



1:00:31

what I was going to say is, I can't tell you the number of couples who have met at East Coast

conferences at convergences, and have had lives together. I will support the GnM movement or the big man's move until I die. And the reason is, is because it made me feel like a person really did this, this movement has just rejuvenated so many people who were depressed because of their weight and other things that they were actually loved by somebody. And they met at these convergences and at the East Coast conferences, and they've been together 20 years 30 years. It's amazing what has happened by people meeting at these things and and the actual affection that somebody gives somebody who doesn't feel that they could ever get affection like that, from



Chris Harrison 1:01:36

wanting to step in and let you know that you are listening to after hours queer radio with attitude. Here on Pacifica radio for the Gulf Coast. KPFT 90.1 FM Houston 89.5 Galveston, always check out the World Wide Web at KPFT dot O R G. This is after hours news and views magazine coming to you live and direct from East Coast Conference on the third Coast being held here in Houston, Texas. We are here with the is one of the three annual events of the affiliated big men's clubs. And we've got east coast here West Coast is going to be the July 4 weekend out in Long Beach and convergences over Labor Day weekend up in White Plains, New York. It's a basically, the way I feel i describe to people is it's a class reunion for a bunch of people who have met online and chatted. And it gives you a chance to get together and be fraternal with people of similar size, similar belief. And we're just trying to let people know that you know, when you're queer, you can always talk about being pigeon holed. But you know, there's some of us that don't fit into pigeon holes period, let alone the small little pigeon holes. And that's the difference of what we are in a society had a comment over here. Hi,



1:02:56

my name is Deus. And I'm from Oklahoma City. And I just this is my first event. And I kind of was encouraged by a lot of the guys that are in this room that I've talked to, over the last maybe year. We were talking about relationships and my first relationship I stumbled upon, and I was very fortunate. And I was with him for two and a half years. And I've been he's been gone for me for five years, he was killed in a car accident. I think finally learning that there was someone somewhere, people like me, that understood my same feelings. You know, I mean, we all got in the pool today and had a pool party. And you know, that was awesome for me just to be out there and laugh and people enjoying themselves. You know, and you know, a lot of us, you know, a lot of you everyone took off their shirt except for me. I'm from a very small town in Oklahoma. I work for a university system. I don't, I don't go out. And I don't usually visit people within my own area, just for the university reasons. And this being my first time to be able to come somewhere. Find people that just wanted to say hello and be my friend. And I think that's made a big difference thus far for me in the last two days, you know, people that not necessarily, you know, that I would have ever met anywhere else because I would have never given any of you guys the opportunity to get to know me and because of the fact that I do or for the university system. And you know, we I'm from Oklahoma and we're the Bible Belt and that's just how things are. And, you know, I appreciate the fact that there's something like this where we can all come together and be as one in Know and be together and listen to each other, close to each other and be there for one another. And, you know, when we go home, I mean, like, I mean, I've met people here that I know, we, my friends, the rest of my life, you know, I feel that way. Not only chasers, but you know, Chubs as well, because I'm, uh, you

know, we can, you know, be friends and, and carry on and help help me through my situations of being so, you know, absolutely scared to be who I want to be. I mean, like, I know, one of the biggest, one of the big events is in the town that I'm from. But I would never go to for the fact that it's too close to home for you close to home, you know, and this was close enough to home that I could come and enjoy. And at the same time, meet people that I really wanted to me for a long time. So



1:05:58

I think that's beautiful. And I really appreciate your sharing that with us tonight. That's really nice. And it really there really is a nice camaraderie here. That was very unexpected for, for me to find when I came here, I want to ask a question, again, of the chasers. I mean, we're talking a lot about the jobs and the feelings and things here. And you've shared so poignantly. But I'd like to hear from several in terms of the notion of self esteem. You know, I think that when we look at movies and other areas, I think that chasers are portrayed as kind of comic characters, you know, almost clowns. And I, I'm just speaking of the media in general. And I want to know, you know, when you fall in love with somebody that really is your kind of intellectual and spiritual and certainly physical love of your life. I mean, that's a very special thing. And I don't, I think it must be very difficult with people make fun of that, or poke fun at you for that, or what have you. Now, I know that gentleman who spoke earlier, is much younger, and I think that there's a much more liberal attitude toward a lot of these things today. But some of us from my generation, it's not quite that way. But I want to hear what you have to say, Please, and I really want to hear from you guys. Both of you.



Chris Harrison 1:07:27

And make sure you hold on that mic because we're going to we're going to your special thing here next.



1:07:32

My name is Fernando The accent is Italian and I define myself as a chaser and I all my life I've been attracted to big men I guess I fell in love three times I guess in my life so I had really three lovers. And I never really thought about big men or I just, they just were the ones that I happen to fall in love and and for me when I looked at a beautiful large man that's that's what it is for me it is the person is beautiful. I did have in in some occasions you know we did run into the problems of of having to be in a society that does not really accept large men and the society that unfortunately just thinks about stereotypes. But I I never thought of them as as I just I always thought about them as the person that I love and and talk about gay marriages. Just last month I had the pleasure to look in the eyes on my chubby partner now spouse for 17 years and tell him I do a city hall in San Francisco and get a beautiful marriage license thank you



Chris Harrison 1:09:13

I mean that's not hold on that because that's the we're gonna go into is we the big debate now in all society I mean everyone I mean all the right wing has got their nannies in a knot the the

in an society, I mean, everyone I mean, on the right wing has got their panties in a knot and the the Christian coalition's they've got their panties in a knot, because, you know, we're talking about same sex couples getting the benefits of marriage, that we're going to destroy marriage. Well, you know, we haven't had it for 2000 years and you know, it's the starting to get to the point where the divorce rate is outpacing the the staying together portion. I mean, you're gonna have more, more marriages that end in divorce. Senator staying together, I come from the strange fact of you know, I make the joke that I come from an unbroken home. Back when my, my father was coaching soccer teams, and we did the lists of the kids in the roster. And the phone number is like, here's the kid. And then here's the father into the stet, and his new wife and the mother and her new husband, and this sort of thing. And we were really the only ones on there, that it was, you know, Dave and Mark, David and Margaret, there was no, they stayed together for all those years. And here we have someone, we're talking about gay marriage. And you know, we've talked about it a lot. And you know, we've had people who've been couples for months, years. But you know, here's a couple you've worked together for 17 years. And now finally, you have the piece of paper that says you are married and have the legal rights and all that.



1:10:56

While we do have a piece of paper that says we are married, and we do have all the rights of a married person married, married couple in the city of San Francisco. Unfortunately, when you go like to the federal government, I'm not really sure that is recognized yet there are, there are many, many questions that still need to be answered. I think, and I think the battle has just begun. There are going to be many other lawsuits, and many other debates and, and, and decision by judges. And, but you know, so but for the time being, you know, it really feels wonderful to have that great feeling.



Chris Harrison 1:11:45

After 17 years that you can, you know, the you can use the term does this is my spouse? And you know, this is legitimate, but I mean, how scary is the thought that you know, that here in a couple of weeks, you know, there's going to be a man and a black dress? Who's gonna say, no, no, no, that's not it, you can't do that, because you're the judge. And then then you got to go through a panel, you move all the way up. And you've got these people who are going to sit there and say, you know, what you have had for 17 years is nothing. But what you have is nothing, it's nothing to say. But, you know, a rockstar can get drunk in Las Vegas, and marry her childhood friend for 86 hours. And you know, that's legal.




1:12:45

It, you know, it is I don't know really how to describe the feeling sometimes it makes you even cry, just the thought of a word what the might happen. Like to my to my spouse, is something with the fire had to die and and the in the society does recognize our marriage, and he will not be taking care of because like my retirement is not going to be passing on to him like it will if we would if we were another sexual couple. It for instance, at work, I have health insurance for him as domestic partner, but the way he works and the moment that they died, that that health insurance will will be dropped immediately if he were my spouse, that that will not happen. So it's really frightening. What what what, what what the situation would be, actually is because




we cannot get married. Many people say, Why don't you use? Why don't you accept civil unions, and they will give so the issue is you call a civil union, and you had to pass 1000s of laws to get the rights or marriage to civil unions. You call it marriage, and you have all the rights. And that's so that's, that's that's basically

 Chris Harrison 1:14:33

let's see this thing is your certificate. It's all I mean, it sounds strange to say but the way it works is your certificate is valid only in the city limits of San Francisco. Well, right. Well, there's only recognized is recognized

 1:14:46

in the city of San Francisco, but in in in we already know what the effect is going to have beyond that. Like for instance the CDs And Jose has just decided to accept the the the marriage certificate from San Francisco for gay couples and give all the rights. But they don't know like, well my company is going to do. I just approached them. And I told them that I that bill is my spouse now. But I haven't heard from them whether the same benefits that are given to spouse in terms of pension, they're going to be given to Bill. So I don't know, I don't know what is going to happen next year, I had to file income taxes, and we're going to file joint return, I see contacts is what the IRS is going to say. So I mean, so that's the, as I said, you know, this is just a bubble that has just begun really, is going to be

 Chris Harrison 1:15:49

we're also seeing that a lot more with even in the straight community. I know for a fact, my brother, his he had, he was in a common law marriage for five years and the company he was in, that he was working for they accepted a common law marriage, under their terms for medical insurance. Well, she became pregnant again, and he had changed jobs. And the new the new companies working for didn't accept common law marriage. So basically, the test came back on Friday, Monday, they went down and got a marriage certificate, and I got a phone call saying, Hey, would you like to come to our wedding on Saturday? And it's like, I can't tell you what I said. Are you blanking nuts, and it because it's and but they had to go through that because of the stuff that we're talking about in our society here. You know, the part that that worries me when something like that, as you know, you've got a certificate that says is only valid in San Francisco, you drive over to Oakland and say, there's an accident, and one of you goes to the hospital. You know, just because you were taken to the Oakland hot General Hospital, they may not recognize you where you know, San Francisco,

 1:17:05

what a piece of paper the marriage license does, as long as it's still valid. And as long as the judge doesn't come and say says that it's not it's not it's not valid, because whatever reason, as long as the death certificate is still valid, you can try to get you know, you can you can sue,

whoever doesn't recognize it. So, and and hopefully, you know, I'm sure that is going to happen. And probably slowly, I hope that maybe in several years, it's going to be recognized everywhere in the United States.



1:17:43

is yeah, there's a full faith in marriage has been transacted. Everybody has to recognize and that's why everybody's so crazy. That's why



Chris Harrison 1:17:53

That's why they said Oklahoma.



1:17:57

But there is the so called Family production last act that Congress passed at the time that Clinton was President basically says that the state does not have to recognize marriage from another state. Now many people think that it's unconstitutional, that's the issue is you had to go to court and have a judge say, this is unconstitutional,



Chris Harrison 1:18:20

that it also comes down to the fact that, you know, no one is issued a marriage certificate, a certificate of marriage, but that has a same sex couple on there for this to be challenged. Right. And that's why in the



1:18:32

beauty world it does actually puts the burden on on our force to prove why we shouldn't get married. So that's the beauty what is happening. And by the way, you probably know that in in Oregon now. 1000s of marriage, marriage licenses are being issued to



Chris Harrison 1:18:47

the Oregon I'm in New York state some of the villages in there were doing it, even though I remember I forget what city was the mayor of some town in New York who was gay, went down. And it was rejected by his own county clerk for getting a marriage license. And when we had freedom to marry week here in Houston, I remember the first people who walked up and there was about a dozen couples that went to the County Clerk's Office. And they knew what the answer was going to be. But they went through the formality in front of the cameras and said, I'm here with my wife, or I was a lesbian couple say, we're here to get a marriage certificate. And the Catholic the clerk on there, basically said this bill under current Texas law, I cannot issue it. And her response was, I knew that was the answer that was I was going to get, but it's still hurt. Did you want to talk about your situation, wonders if it could be handled.

Here's another situation of what we got when we're talking about marriage and the fact of the benefits you get from marriage. And what here's here's a perfect situation of why some of the thing, you need that piece of paper sometimes? Well



1:20:08

in my particular situation I have three children. And I have a partner. And I own a home. And I personally know of situations where people who have been together for dozens of years decades have had their families come in and take everything when one partner the other die, and nothing can be done. If you do win in court 1000s of dollars of legal expenses are incurred. And my years have passed, and, and the hurt, of having something you've built for your entire life, come apart at the seams for no reason. There's people who have a partner that has one, one or the other gets ill. And you happen to be in some town or locality in a place like Oklahoma City, for example. And, and the hospital has you thrown out, you can't even go in the hospital. Because you objected to the fact that you cannot see your loved one in intensive care. Now I have a I have a person who is my partner. And I'd like to get married to that person. And I can't do it. And I am prevented from doing that by the laws of the state of Texas. And there's no reason for it. And so, one of the things that that we're planning to do is when we go to convergence in New York next year, is we're planning deal contingent on what happens in Massachusetts, we're planning on having a side trip. And hopefully, it'll be the best time.



Chris Harrison 1:22:20

No, I think I think the best man is actually in the next room. Is there Chihuahua? Fours likes the ring bearer. That's



1:22:27

our fourth child.



1:22:28

Are you sure? Are you sure? I mean, I really want to ask, Are you are you sure that gay marriage, actual marriage is something that you really want? Yes. I mean, and I know that yes, might be the immediate answer, you know, but there are a lot of implications to marriage. I understand what you were saying earlier about civil unions and the requirements for many laws and things to be changed and what have you. But you know, in the community, I mean, we've enjoyed such freedom and laws, a fair kind of approach. I recognize that there have been disasters, when it comes to loss of a spouse or of a lover, and a lot of minimal rights and what have you. But wouldn't we be better served to create a kind of separate approach for ourselves, that would not be as limiting. And as encumbered as marriage, straight marriage is that we could create for ourselves, that would give us the opportunity to provide stability for ourselves and our spouses, yet, sustain some of the freedoms that we currently enjoy. Yeah, I



Chris Harrison 1:23:52



Chris Harrison 1:24:02

can jump on that. You know, I understand where you're coming from. And you know, a lot of times I've kind of waffled back and forth on this. But when you set up something like that you're putting us in as a second class citizen?



1:24:03

Not necessarily No, but



Chris Harrison 1:24:05

the fact is this, you're talking about separate, but equal, but we're not talking equal. We're talking about even if you don't have to worry about all those laws,



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I'm talking about separate but better off that



1:24:20

I agree with you. The marriage is not right for everybody. I don't want to put down any other kinds of relationships, you know, in our community that are people that like maybe like three group three people together and maybe or whatever it is. I don't want to doubt absolutely any other relationship and those are valid relationships. The issue is civil rights. Marriage is fine for some of us. Like me, I think it's the right thing to do. You know, the way I say it, all relationships are equally valid. And and maybe I'm a dreamer, and it probably would not happen in my lifetime lifetime, but I will Waiting for society to honor all kinds of relationships, all kinds of families. And so I kind of agree with you, but at the same time that



1:25:11

the Chihuahua was waiting to



1:25:12

Yeah, anyway, here are



1:25:16

some of the people in the right wing with Have you have you think so? Listen, you know, I'm



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I'm not trying to be nasty or mean, you know, by any means I'm just asking that we fully think through what we're talking about and what would be optimal in terms of the community? Well,

1:25:37

I want to say something that I think was gonna it's gonna freak a lot of people out. But I kind of think that that what you're saying is a valid point. And I don't think it just applies to gay people. I think it applies to straight marriages, too. I think that that 219 year old kids that have no idea what they want out of life, have no idea what they're getting into. entering into a contract, like a like a civil marriage, at its present form, is just absolutely ridiculous. Now, I've been married, I was married for 14 years. I had three children. I know what I'm talking about. That is not a small commitment. And it's it has huge legal implications. And financial. Absolutely. But

1:26:31

the issue is not marriage, per se issue is responsibility. Again, you know, I agree. The issue, again, is we are not the responsibility, the institution of marriage is not the problem is the problem is how we use it. And I can agree even if if say, you know, the same time, the President calls it the sanctity of marriage, you know, it gives you a religious connotation to it. I don't think we'll have any problem if we call it a civil union for everybody. And then marriage may be something that the church is going to do. But yeah, but but, again, I agree with what you're saying. But in my mind is still an issue of civil right. If a man and a woman can go to City Hall and get a Marriage Marriage license, I don't know why two men or two women cannot. That's discrimination. And we had to be responsible. I

1:27:27

differ here.


**C** Chris Harrison 1:27:29


Okay, hold on. This is so good. This is the downside, we should have gotten to this debate before. The problem is we're running out of time. And so what I want to do is, I know you had a point back there, that unfortunate we're gonna have to wrap it up. So we need to have the mic pass back this way on that. So


1:27:46


the main point, I thought was the seriousness and the commitment of marriage. The way you were talking about, it's just that somebody runs and gets a piece of paper. I mean, this is a serious commitment that has to be made there. And it's not for everybody. It's only for the people who really want this. Just like in regular life. There are many people live together. Very few get married, a lot of people do not get married today. Now, does that mean that that's is


that a better type of thing? No, I don't think so. I think the people who get married are making the commitment. And I think it's more so in the gay community, that if we make the commitment, we really mean it. We really want to be married.

 Chris Harrison 1:28:28  
Okay, last point here. I

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think we need to remember that hell hath no fury as a woman scorned. Doesn't matter whether it's a chaser or chub

 Chris Harrison 1:28:38  
All right, well, I want to thank everyone for being a part of our roundtable discussion here we've had a really appreciate everyone coming out here we certainly hope you've enjoyed your time here in Houston all of our visitors we hope that you've been listening that who've been listening to the show you've enjoyed the discussion here. I'm really sorry that we didn't get into the discussion the marriage is there earlier one because it is something we can really go into detail on that. Unfortunately, the two people were talking the most about that here are Houston people so I'm gonna have to drag them in some other time here. Well, until you move up to Pasadena you're gonna die. But this has been after hours news and views magazine coming to you live and direct from East Coast Conference on the third coast. We're gonna be kicking it back here to the studios. The music you heard leading into us and are going to be leading us out of here is the world infamous there it's but boy headquarters in the city playing a little dungeon music it's also playing down the hall here for those are rarely going afterwards. That's the artists name so don't get after me, Michael Powell. We're gonna kick back in the studio coming up here in a few minutes should probably be emperor Dean, who will be calling in with the cultural baggage report. So we're Thank you for listening and oh my god, you wanted to we've got

 1:29:59  
one more thing Guys, everybody's listening. We've got a major announcement coming up soon as we get back to the studio. I'm talking this is a major announcement for KPFT. So, if anybody wants to guess what that is, give me a call at the station 713526 KPFT. Do you know what it is? I'll give you a free T shirt and a gift certificate 7135 to six KPFT. That's 5738 Give me a call right now if y'all know what this major announcement is.

 Chris Harrison 1:30:23  
I also want to thank od Otisville play our program director for the station, Michael Williams. They've had his day with March 20 events going on. Thank you for coming out here and setting up for here. Thank you all for for participating and listening. And we're back in studio next

week. i

 Jimmy Carper 1:30:48

And there you have it, folks live from the East Coast Conference that's being held right here in Houston. Big men's conference. Now we have Dean Becker on line one if we can get him on the air Dean. Hello, can

 1:31:04

you hear me Emperor Dean? How

 Jimmy Carper 1:31:05

you doing?

 1:31:06

I'm good man. name gets around fast. Okay, yeah, fair enough. Yeah. Interesting. Interestingly, some people have already told me that the website gives them the creeps. But Jimmy, the march today I thought was very important. I felt really privileged just to participate in the walk. It was I think a great day for all of us. And I think it important to focus on the one fact I wanted so bad to get on stage. I wanted one minute I bet. You know, it was all pre arranged, and well done. I want to commend that was very