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colorado, denver, amendment, people, montrose, colorado springs, gay, gay lesbian, sexual orientation, work, day, diane, courage, houston, law, called, transgender community, avondale, state, question

## SPEAKERS

Sarah DePalma, Jimmy Carper, [Advertisements]

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 Sarah DePalma 00:02

For follows right up with that. I consider you as much a woman as any of my friends. Is that kind of like some of my best friends are black?

 Jimmy Carper 00:11

That's exactly right.

 Sarah DePalma 00:12

That's how that sounds come back.

 Jimmy Carper 00:14

Some of my best friends are gay. Yes.

 Sarah DePalma 00:15

Yeah. Um, I it's to me this like fingernails on a chalkboard I've learned, you know that people mean, well, when they see these kinds of things, whether they're not trying to be offensive, but it's a slap in the head. What it is, you know, they're wearing a velvet glove, but it's a slap all the same. Number six, when did you decide to become a woman? Well, when did you decide to become stupid? You know, I'm sorry. I didn't wake up one morning and say, I think I'm gonna go through a sex change. I told my mother that first time I told my mother, I wanted to be a girl. I was five. Okay, you don't just wake up one morning and say I want to change checks. When did you decide to become a woman? Well, you know, gee, when did you decide to become one? I've had that question put to me several times. And I usually answer it just about in those

terms, because it strikes me as being just plain dumb. Yeah. Well, it really does. And here's the one that makes me crazy. Can you have an orgasm? That's none of your damn business. I'm sorry. I was telling Jimmy when I go and speak to classes. And as I do, I usually there are usually two questions that I can count on. The only question is which order they will current? One is what bathroom do you use? Oh, yes, the old bathroom crap. Like it's a place for tourism. Honey, why would you care?

J Jimmy Carper 01:43

It's a stall. Who cares? What goes on in it? And who's in it in?

S Sarah DePalma 01:47

The second question is, can you have an orgasm? And I told Jamie, the last time this got asked me, I turned to the people in the class and said, All right, everybody in this row described your orgasms to me. And when you're through that, I'll describe mine. And there wasn't another discussion about that word. And our whole class ended up it's the most offensive, it's a personal thing. I would no more answer that question than I would tell you the number of my bank account, so don't ask me. Just forget it. It is it's just offensive. Number 11. You must have had a lot of courage to face surgery. Pardon my French but no shit. You know, yes, it took courage. But you fought you know, you work up to it. You work up to it. And again, it's that thing. People mean well, and they're trying and and I always take that as a way of they're saying they respect the courage. The thing you understand that it did take some courage. The same, but

J Jimmy Carper 02:47

the courage happened a long time ago, because you're going against what society tells everybody they should do.

S Sarah DePalma 02:56

I have argued before the real courage is not what I do. So real courage is not the people who go to have the surgery. The real courage is not what Phyllis Frey does. The real courage is the person who gets out of bed as they're going through their transition, sees the changes that are taking place within their bodies, and doesn't lose their mind. That's where the real courage is. It's the person who starts this process manages to find their place of comfort, whatever that turns out to be, and doesn't slip their wrist. Yeah, that's where the real courage is. Surgery isn't courageous, you build up to it. It takes years and years and years. The most courage it takes by the time you get to that point is the courage to count toward starting from 100 Going backwards exactly

J Jimmy Carper 03:41

what Ricky and says what they say give you anaesthetic. Nothing.

S

Sarah DePalma 03:46

By that time, it's like old news. Right? The real courage in the people that I most admire in my in the transgender community are not necessarily the so called leaders. It's the people who show up to lick the envelopes. I mean, to me, that's where the real courage is. So I understand the idea behind this question. I just don't agree with it. Was what was the next one here? I don't think it's I don't think it's anyone's concern. What's between your legs and Leslie sleeping with you? Well, it was never really anybody's concern to start with. So but thank you very much. Again, that's one of those things. I've learned that people mean, well, you know, they're not trying to insult you. But it's kind of like, it always reminds me of the sort of thing when somebody says to you, you know, you've had a fight with your with your sister and your mom says, apologize that you say, Well, I'm apologizing but she's still ugly. It's that sort of a thing. And I know people mean well, but at the same time, I think that's really sort of not a smart thing to say. I don't get offended by it. It's just the no one needs to know. You want to make me mad. That's how you do it. No one needs to no one needs to know. Do not point my way back to the closet. Do not make my way tougher than it is because I promise you I will run over your butt. In anybody who knows me they know I'm five, three, but I'm a bulldog and I will run over your butt. It is the most I get told this all the time. I get told this by transgendered people are living in the closet and say to me, no one needs to know. Why is it called the closet? Because it's dark in there. It's scary. And it has cobwebs. All alone? All alone in it. Yeah. Is there a worse place to be? I get told this by Republicans who think that the things that I say will lead the destruction of the family forever. I mean, just don't ever just that. I know Ricky had other things is her number one. That's my number one. Don't ever say me. No one needs to know because I'm going to rip your heart out and give it back to you in a plate. I promise. Whoa, dang, she's serious. I mean, that one? Yeah. How did you know you're a woman? Again? How did you know you're dumb? It's not like you just wake up one morning, you know? How did you know you're gay? You You know you it comes to you over time. Why did you say you were heterosexual? Yeah, when you have a lack of comfort with who you are, regardless whether it's sexual orientation or gender identity or because you're, you know, you're you're short or tall or fat or skinny, or whatever it is? How did you know? It's a silly question. That's all. I think transsexuals are just men in drag. Oh, brother. I know some drag queens that would kill over this one. They don't like to be called drag queens as I'm gonna have to learn to stop saying that they're female impersonator? That's right. Right. And Bodie cloud comes to mind immediately. Well, I got corrected by it by somebody on the internet the other day, and I thought, you know, they're really right. If it's an offensive term that I need to learn, stop using it. Right. So so but they're correcting without-.

J

Jimmy Carper 06:55

It gets complicated, because there is a core of people out there who like being called drag queen, so-.

S

Sarah DePalma 07:01

Yeah, I don't know. But um, I'll go with and female impersonator as much as I hate PC being politically correct. I'll go with this word. I think transsexual is just men and drag. I think you need to read my article in Houston voice this week. And we can correct that for you.

J Jimmy Carper 07:17

Yes, you have. In fact, I have to say that No, go ahead. Let's finish. Okay.

S Sarah DePalma 07:24

Well, I want you to know, I respect your choices. Thank you very much. I didn't ask for permission. I don't need your permission.

J Jimmy Carper 07:31

And what do you make very much and what do you mean by choice?

S Sarah DePalma 07:33

Yeah, I don't think it was a choice. If it was a choice. Who would willfully subject themselves to the kind of stuff transsexuals have children who would do it voluntarily? You'd have to be beyond masochism, you'd have to be almost insane. You don't do it willfully. Do it? Because it's a matter of your survival. Yes. I mean, really? And number 17. You look, you look just like a real woman. That's number two on my list. Okay. That's number two. I look just like a real woman. Thank you so much. And now I'm going to tear your heart out again. Oh, my. And finally, isn't it amazing? You're the only transsexual I know, ah, key phrase here, the only one, you know. But you do know one, and you're going to get to know a lot more before through. I've I've actually never had anyone say that to me. Again, I think that's one of those things that people know better than safe. And it's a funny thing. A Phyllis and I have talked about this Ray Hill and I have talked about this. When your reputation precedes you. Oftentimes, people will not say things to you that they will say to other people. Yeah. And I have developed something of a reputation for biting people's heads off if they really say stupid thing. And so I'm educating people. I try for the most part. But I am a redhead and by choice and very proud of it, and I do have a temper. And I have occasionally rip people's tongues out. And so when your reputation precedes you, I think there are some things people don't say to me, or won't say it Ray won't say Phyllis that they would say elsewhere. And I suspect that this is one of them. So, anyway, I think Ricky has is right on target with most of these. Yeah, my number one is How did you know you're a woman? I mean, that's just right up there. That's in the ultimate dumb question category.

J Jimmy Carper 09:39

Well, 18 things you do not say to a transsexual? Well, I was gonna say when I nearly interrupted you that was you have a wonderful article in the voice this week.

S Sarah DePalma 09:52

Thank you. It's certainly not anything we haven't discussed and-.

J

Jimmy Carper 09:56

I read it and it was like a synopsis of every show that you've ever done. Yeah, it was really great. Let's see, Nancy Ford has a column that's going to be going weekly. I was reading the voice this week. And I thought, you know, why don't I just open up the mics and just start on page one and read everything because there's so much good stuff in the voice.

S

Sarah DePalma 10:19

Since it never has taken over the voice. I thought it was. The voice was good before. It was good. The phone since every bell has taken it over it has gotten better. Yes, absolutely. And that's not just because I'm writing for him. I mean that sincerely. As I was looking through the article, they're looking through the the voice, I was really struck at the level of writing in this newspaper. It has really come up.

J

Jimmy Carper 10:41

The level of writing and plus different viewpoints. Larry Lingle and Kurt Morrison. You know, you have intern Yeah. Carpenter was even praising the voice. I never thought it lived to hear that right. We had a caller call in a little while ago and wanted to know what happened with that HPD raid on stone soup and what was the outcome? And if there's an answer, it is in the voice. In the letters column, there was a letter from someone who lives in the Avondale area, but wants not to be associated with the Avondale association because they were horrified that because of the Avondale associations, conduct that that's great on stone soup even occurred, and thought it was just an abhorrent thing and wanted wish that everyone who was in that association would just move out to the suburbs where they would really like to live. And there was a Wayne Dyer from the Voice Interview judge Sylvia Garcia about the police action. And for the most part, she said she was not in possession of all the facts of the matter. She said, however, that she considered targeting individuals in any food line, bad public policy. And so I think the police are going to be taken to task by judges on this.

S

Sarah DePalma 12:04

This is not the first time that the Avondale Association has created a problem. Last year there was a problem with police officers wearing ski masks, as you may recall, yes. And what they were doing as they were stopping people in drag for the most part is they were on their way going into the bars right intimidating them in several cases actually hauling them downtown, telling them things that were not true. And it turned out the Avondale association was behind that. Yes. So I want to know the person who wrote in and said, you know that the Avondale Association really needs to go to the suburbs. Well, they didn't they didn't sign it. But you know, I'm getting to agree with them. Yeah. I it's funny. I was just talking to Lori, my life partner about this the other day because we were we were into the pot pie and we were having dinner. And I was mentioning to Lori. In some one sense. I'm glad to see Montrose get cleaned up. I remember what Montrose looked like when I came here in the early 80s.

J Jimmy Carper 12:56

That Friday and Saturday nights it was wall to wall travel the wall traffic was throwing beer cans out that I mentioned minute. Yeah.

S Sarah DePalma 13:03

So on one hand, I'm glad to see Montrose cleared up cleaned up. On the other hand, I am really very sorry to see the gentrification of Montrose in some respects because it is losing its personality. And I'm especially disappointed to see the Avondale Association oppose the new M bar that's coming. Open, for example, this has always even if the bar area honey, even if it's not really true that Montrose is the gay community anymore. It is still I think, the heart of the gay community in the sense that in that this is sort of the home, the home base is where people come.

J Jimmy Carper 13:41

Yeah, that's right. This is the bar area. This is where gay businesses flourish. And like any town, any city, I mean, there is the gay ghetto. And you can't deny that this is the gay ghetto. But for the most part, gay lesbian people live outside of the gay ghetto in south in the suburbs. And that's true not only of Houston, but New York and, and San Francisco. Not all gay people live in the Castro number one, it's too small. Number two, they couldn't afford it.

S Sarah DePalma 14:11

Yeah. And I'm not wishing that we should become the Castro or we should become the East Village or right or some of the other things. I just think that the Avondale association needs to reevaluate itself and say, What are we doing here? Are we stripping this neighborhood of its personality? Because if their goal is to make this another homogenized community,

J Jimmy Carper 14:31

And it has never been that it has, it's only you know, we expect that it's about 30%. Gay here in the Montrose I think it's probably right. And we have a wide diversity of people in colors, and in religions and races, you name it. We've got the diversity right here. And it's all in a nice small town. And you were just talking about being at the pot pie and those are the kinds of voices that I think exemplify. A small place that we operate. That's right a mom and pop restaurant. It's what I what I hate about coming into the Montrose are the big Jack in the Box and Burger Kings.

S Sarah DePalma 15:12

Well, unfortunately that's America. I know it's gonna happen. I know he's go to Europe. You're gonna run into that now. Oh, I know. But at the same time, the point that I want to make is to I don't know these people in the Avondale Association. What if their if their objective is to make

Montrose just like any other neighborhood in Houston? I would vehemently opposed Oh, absolutely. I really wouldn't.

J

Jimmy Carper 15:32

I like the idea that my neighbors are of different cultures, because I can learn more about them that way.

S

Sarah DePalma 15:39

Before we go to the interview. Let's-. Oh yeah, go ahead.

J

Jimmy Carper 15:43

Oh, yes, you are listening to after hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station. I'm Jimmy Carper. And my co host tonight is the one the only Sara DePalma.

S

Sarah DePalma 15:57

Well, thank you very much again, I guess I am one. Before we go to the interview with Diane second. Hello, I want to talk a little bit about Colorado. Okay. Colorado is a very interesting state. You have some very sophisticated areas. In Colorado. You have Aspen, for example, the big tourist area, home plates play place for the rich and the wealthy. Yeah. Oh, absolutely. It's a beautiful place. Oh, yeah. You've got Denver, which is a gorgeous city when the pollution hasn't killed it. It is a big tourist state. And anyone who's ever gone skiing Colorado can tell you that's true. But Colorado is also a big tourist place, even in the summer with hiking, camping and hunting and all sorts of things. So Colorado is very eclectic state. In that sense. It's also a battleground state. Because it is very eclectic. Now the people who actually live in Colorado, actually very similar to that in Texas, in that Colorado has two or three large cities, but it's predominantly rural. Very much like Texas, where you have Dallas and Houston. In probably Fort Worth. Uh, yes, sir. Antonio, no, San Antonio. But most of you, Houston, most of the Texas is going to be cut and shoot. Yeah, you know, we're all state. Yeah, it's gonna be a lot of small towns, it's gonna be Madisonville and Caldwell, places like that. So Colorado is a very interesting, it's a battleground. Now, when amendment two started, I think most people felt like it was such an idiotic bill that had no chance. And I don't want to feel dying in six hellos, thunder, I just want to make a point before we go to this interview now. There is a cautionary tale in what Diane has to tell us what happened in Colorado. And I'm not going to harp on it. Everyone knows where we stand with the Lesbian Gay rights lobby. And they know that we're, I guess my fear is that the cautionary tale and what's being told by Diane tonight is coming to the state. And it's coming to this state because we are looks like we are going to end up doing exactly what I said in the field. Grl is going to present its bills, we're going to oppose bills, and we're going to end up competing to the same legislators for the same bills. Dumb as it may be. I think all of that's unnecessary. And if we're not careful, we're going to end up in the situation Colorado had. So with that, let's go to the interview and Diane Zicatela.

J

Jimmy Carper 18:34

Oops, why radio wrong day? Sorry.

S

Sarah DePalma 18:38

That's what I get for not labeling.

J

Jimmy Carper 18:40

Okay. Let's try it.

S

Sarah DePalma 18:42

Let's try again next time.

J

Jimmy Carper 18:44

Okay, this is Diane Zicatela. Okay.

S

Sarah DePalma 18:48

After Hours for any length of time, have heard us talk about the issue of amendment to and how it came out of Colorado. And from time to time, you've heard me talk about a person named Diane, I can tell. We've used some of her intranet material on our program, and we've talked about her as an author. And we've talked about the fact that in Colorado, every gay lesbian, bisexual and transgendered organization in the state had learned to use T word is T inclusive. And we'll talk about the fact that they were they had do that, because the heat in Colorado was in their face. It's not the those of us who live in Texas. It's always been my contention that that's one of the reasons there's so much infighting, we feel the freedom to do it. And we often wondered whether we would continue to have this infighting if the Christian right decided not to start reading the bars next week. And so at long last, we get an opportunity to do it. The interview with Diane zicatela welcomed After Hours.

o

19:48

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to be part of what you're doing down here. This is really incredible.

S

Sarah DePalma 19:53

Well, I'm glad to finally get you on the show because we've talked about this so much. Let's let's start at the beginning. You're always looking this was We're going to do this interview in

two segments. Let's start by talking about the amendment to issue. How did all this issue come

two segments. Let's start by talking about the amendment to issue. How did all this issue come up button? How did this all happen in Colorado?



20:08

Well all of this started in 1988 Boulder, Colorado, which is a little bit north of Denver and is a city that a lot of people describe as 40 square miles surrounded by reality. Boulder did an unusual thing. They passed a new civil rights law that included the word sexual orientation. Shortly behind that Aspen, Colorado where all of the people from California and all over the country come to ski the people that have a lot of money also passed a civil rights ordinance that protected also based on sexual orientation. In 1990, the city of Denver passed a civil rights ordinance that protect protected inclusively, and then in the normal list included the word sexual orientation. Denver's ordinance also included the word gender in the list of protected groups. And I don't necessarily like to use those two words together, but the words sex, sexual orientation and gender were all in Denver slot. And then shortly behind that Colorado, Governor Romer made a proclamation that in all of the Colorado government offices, there would be protection based on sexual orientation. As this sort of movement grew across the state. There were people in Colorado Springs, Colorado, which is 70 miles south of Denver, who were moving their headquarters to Colorado Springs, a lot of radical right fundamentalist organizations. I think the current count is at six major right wing radical Christian organizations have moved their world headquarters to Colorado Springs, the largest of those is focused on the family headed by James Dobson. They have about 1500 employees and about \$150 million a year currently that they're working with, to use their programs. With all of those organizations being in Colorado Springs, now they don't have to travel to talk to each other, they just have to walk across the street. A group that grew out of Colorado Springs was called Colorado for family values. It was headed by Kevin Tibideaux, a 37 year old single man who still lives with his mother, who is Maryann Tibideaux, a Colorado State Senator from Colorado Springs, also will Perkins who's one of the top automobile businessmen in the Colorado Springs area. Kevin Tibideaux, will Perkins came together formed a group called Colorado for family values. The primary goal of Colorado for family values was to stop this homosexual agenda that was sweeping across Colorado and, and threatening to just destroy the family according to their words and destroy everything that America held sacred according to their words. They came up with wording that passed the petition muster, they got enough signatures from all over the state and got on the ballot in November of 1992. As the infamous amendment to it was real clear to us in the gay, lesbian, bisexual transgender community right away that if you read between the commas as attorneys do, that what the law said specifically that was harmful to us the law from the Christian perspective was, it would have made the sexual orientation part of the boulder law, Aspen, Denver, and Colorado government laws would have made the sexual orientation parts of those laws null and void, and would have prevented any other city from passing a law that said sexual orientation. From our perspective and the gay lesbian, bisexual transgender community between the commas what the law said was that if you were gay, lesbian or bisexual, you would have no access to the judicial system. If you were discriminated against, you would have no access. What the law so clearly said was that the way that we read it was that if you were accused of being gay, lesbian or bisexual, even if you were falsely accused, that you would have no access to the judicial system. So in other words, a straight person who is completely normal heterosexual two and a half kids and all of that stuff, if their boss wanted to get rid of them easily, instead of going through all of the current climate of firing someone, they could just say, I'm firing you because you're gay, that person would have no access to the judicial system. And clearly the American Constitution does not allow for that the American Constitution says, if you're a citizen, you have access to the judicial system for

redress of grievances. The problem that happened in Colorado was that because the gay lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities were fragmented across the state, we did a really bad job of campaigning against amendment to during the summer in the fall of 1992. We told ourselves all through the front range the cities, from from Pueblo to Denver to Boulder, to Fort Collins to all of those cities, we told ourselves this is a bad law this will never pass and all of us shook our heads and said yes, this is a bad law. This will never pass. We sort of preach to the choir. Unfortunately, Colorado for family values was preaching to their choir and all of the small towns in the plains of eastern Colorado, and the small towns in the mountains of Colorado. And when we got to Election Day, November of 1992, they clearly had done their homework, way better than we had the amendment to passed by almost 53% to 47%. Right away, there was an incredible outcry from the gay and lesbian community of how could this have happened one week after the election day in 1992, in the Metropolitan Community Church in Denver, between 11 and 1200, gay, lesbian and bisexual people and one transgender person for certain came together to do wailing and gnashing of the teeth. And what can we do now? And what can we do next? And it became real clear that the core challenge had to happen. In fact, one small group and the gay and lesbian community and predominantly in the lesbian community, one small group had had the foresight to say, There's no way this law will pass. But if it does, what should we do? So they had already written court orders, challenges. And immediately the day after it passed, they went into the court and filed suit to make an amendment to go away and start this very lengthy process. We received an injunction against amendment two from this from Denver. Denver, Judge Jeffrey Bayless receipt received an injunction, the Colorado Supreme Court upheld the injunction to keep them in the two from going into effect. And then it has taken the last four years of just working its way through the court system. And finally to the United States Supreme Court where it was argued last October. Finally, on May 20, of this year, the Supreme Court released its decision six to three that said, No amendment to does keep people out of the judicial system. And that is not okay, our initial analysis was correct. But because we did not do the work, instead of taking one summers worth of work, it took us four years worth of work to make that log go away.

S

Sarah DePalma 27:03

So right away, the first lesson to be learned here is complacency. And it's something that we've talked about in this show so many times, in our complacency. We allow the opposition, however you define that we allow them time to organize, and we make them feel confident. And if we don't pay attention, we lose.

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27:25

And you may have heard something in what I just talked about. And some of you would have caught it and many of you would not have the amendment to law itself kept gay, lesbian and bisexual people away from the judicial system. Even the transgender community caller in Colorado still stayed complacent because some of the people were willing to say, our word is not in there. It doesn't say transgendered. So we don't have to worry about this. What a horrible concept that people who additional people who could have helped chose not to because they didn't think that it would come into their homes and affects them.

S

Sarah DePalma 27:59

Well, then, at what point did the transgender community get involved? Or did they finally get involved?



28:04

The transgender community through me was involved all the way through, I worked, I worked what I could in the summer of 1992, on phone banks on education. But, again, even the leadership in the gay community being based in Denver, and everyone in Denver saying this has no chance. And actually Denver said no to amendment two, and a huge proportion said no to Denver to amendment two, it was the rest of the state that said yes, in numbers even greater than Denver said no. So the complacency even for the people who fought against it. The leadership that was fighting against amendment two was blind, they were so certainly would not pass, they really didn't put the effort into fighting it that they should have.



Sarah DePalma 28:48

And let's talk about Colorado Springs for a second. We have often I have often fold materials in the Christian right off of the internet and use it on our show, because I want people to understand what's being said. And I have had the I'm not sure it's quite the honor. I've had the opportunity to debate, Dr. Paul Cameron, who I consider to be one of the great all time right wing nuts of history. You have a real unusual situation, because you have so many of these right wing groups within close proximity to you. Have you seen has that contributed to bringing these four communities together?



29:25

Actually, the biggest thing that brought the entire gay lesbian bisexual community really together was the fact that we lost amendment to it became real clear, and I know that sir has probably antagonize people with it. But it became real clear that we were not working together and we were all in deep trouble because we did not work together. It became real clear actually, the first six months after amendment two passed Well, well, a few people were shepherding it through the local court system the to make amendment to go away to communities of gay and lesbian people that the gay people of color the lesbian people The Law of color that all of these subgroups that had sprung up all around the gay and lesbian community, it was real clear that these groups of five people, 10 people, 20, people, were not going to be able to accomplish anything against what had happened, they were not going to be able to raise the money, they were not going to be able to find the attorneys, we had to find a way to come together. And in that first six months, what most of the major meetings were about, were about each of those groups, educating each of the other groups about what they were about, and about what their issues were about. And we learned about ourselves through those meetings, that we had no choice and having we learned about ourselves. And we learned that we all did have the same issues and and people in the gay community, listen to my issues as a transgender woman, and learn that, yes, my issues are exactly the same as their issues. And what we all looked at also was what do we bring to the table? You know, it's not just there was there was no demands that you have to include me or you have to accept me, we all

looked at what we had in common. And we all looked at what we can bring to the table, to work together to build a coalition big enough to make amendment to really go away since we had botched it the first time.

S

Sarah DePalma 31:18

So one of the real lessons of law amendment two is it's really a cautionary tale, and in a lesson in the importance of coalition building.

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31:26

Absolutely. You know, I, Sarah had asked about in Colorado Springs, the coalition's building that the religious right is doing is just, it's a thing of odd to see the buildings that they're building and the amount of money that they have at their disposal and the kinds of resources that they have. If you realize that the Christian right in the past few years has purchased over 1600 radio stations across the United States, to propagate their message to put out their message to the world of reach into the smallest communities. And it shows like Sarah's that are 30 minutes here and shows that we have on a television in Denver called lambda report that's 30 minutes there. We have no media presence, and certainly nothing that begins to approach what the Christian right can do to us in terms of 1600 full time, 24 hour a day Christian broadcasting stations, and organizations like focus on the family who have an entire building a huge building, dedicated to generating videotapes and audio tapes and syndicated radio programs and syndicated radio newscasts that are broadcast on some stations 10 to 12 times a day.

S

Sarah DePalma 32:44

One of the things, one of my great heroes has always been Winston Churchill. And when I was much younger, I had a severe knee injuries. So I spent the entire summer reading all six volumes of Winston Churchill's history of World War Two. And I was really especially fascinated with the early days when Winston Churchill was out of office. And he was like a lone wolf crying in the woods, saying pay attention. Hitler's building an army, pay attention, it was building an army, pay attention. It was building an army and they basically said, Why don't you shut the hell up. And one day they found themselves on the beaches of Dunkirk and during the Winston Churchill's that, did you know, Hitler's building an army? And I often I often feel that say, when I keep trying to tell people listen to this, you know, trouble is coming. It's coming. It's coming from a victory one day, they're going to turn to me and say, Hey, why didn't you want a couple was coming.

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33:38

To give you an idea. An article that appeared in the Denver papers a few weeks ago, showed that James Dobson's Focus on the Family at this point controls potentially 4 million votes across the United States. He sends out a monthly newsletter to over 2 million people around the world. He sends out monthly magazines and then that are essentially free. And I am on the mailing list and I see what he's sending through those. He also has paid subscription magazines, but to have one man, one organization who can control 4 million votes. He also was one of the places

that fundamentalist organizations in Colorado Springs are also the source of the mailing of the horrendous videotape called the gay agenda. And that type of propaganda, whether you like it or not, that type of propaganda has gone into 10s of millions of homes across the United States. And we have nothing to counter the effects of those kinds of videos. We have a group in Colorado Springs called Ground Zero. And the cooperation between Colorado Springs and Denver is such that for example, ground zero in Colorado Springs pride fest is one week earlier than Denver's pride fest so that people from each city can participate in each city. We can show our solidarity, we don't know that we can no longer be exclusionary. We know that we don't have the luxury of saying, Oh, that group over there shame and we have to work together, we know that from here out, we will have to work together?

S

Sarah DePalma 35:14

Well, it's one of the things that I've wanted to get across to people for so long, is that I know there's an attitude people would like to say when you know, Texas is virtually a country unto itself. But of course, that's not true. And Colorado is not that far away. More importantly, these people are national groups. I remember reading a few weeks ago, a couple of months back about one of these, right where they had a right wing convention in Miami, they raised a million dollars a day for three days. You know, I mean, their potential is incredible. And so I sit here and say to people, listen, we need to include supplies, we need to include supplies, we need to protect ourselves. This, this is coming. People just look at me as if I'm completely I have my mind.

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35:55

And this inclusivity in Colorado, and I guess is that as I'm learning more about the country, around the community, around the country, about the community around the country, here we go. I know that we have something unique in Denver, too. We did. Although we did not do a good job of working together, we still had some common roots. For example, the transgender community in Denver grew out of the gay and lesbian community center when it was formed in 1977. So the transgender community and the gay and lesbian community center in Denver, which is now called the Gay Lesbian, Bisexual services Community Center, those two groups have been very closely allied since 1977. I personally do a lot of educational work inside of the gay lesbian bisexual community services center, I speak to outright the gay lesbian, bisexual, transgender youth group, I speak to that group a couple of times a year. I am always invited to do training for the phone volunteer staff when they have those training sessions. And I do a lot of work just one on one with the directors. We've always had a close relationship and there was never a question whether the T would be on the end of the names of the groups. The GLBT term is just not even questioned in Colorado. Of course, we're all in this together. And that feels really good. And especially since amendment to the GLBT term, or LGBT when the women do it. That's it's expected. It's anticipated it's expected. And yes, there are some pockets of resistance. There's a speaker's bureau that I'm part of in Denver that really took off after amendment two was, was passed. And we go all over the state and up into Wyoming and do diversity training. But we also do awareness training for GLBT issues. About a year after amendment to several of the women in that group came to me one afternoon and apologized. They said they realized suddenly, that they were doing to me exactly what they were doing as a transgender woman they were doing to me exactly what they were asking the rest of the world not to do to them. They were saying we don't, they were saying to themselves, we don't

want you along because we think your image is like sort of hurting us. But just they had this. So I stayed in I was nice. And I was never rabble rousing. I was never demanding. I just kept showing up and working. And they came to this on their own. And they've been very inclusive ever since it was not a nasty problem. But education is education. And we are all in this together.

S

Sarah DePalma 38:23

Boy, it's a breath of fresh air to hear somebody else they'd have to cite me. I think people could second hearing vilifying myself or say this over and over. But I'm glad the message is finally getting through. That's all the time that we've got for this segment. We come back in a few minutes. We want to talk about I want to talk about your career as a transgender activist and some of the materials you're super. Thank you. And we'll be back in just a few minutes.

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[Advertisements] 38:48

Hey, this is Kate Clinton on KPFK in Houston Pacifica radio, you gotta listen. Hi, this is Pete Anderson and you're listening to KPFT Houston 90.1 FM, and KEOS College Station in Bryan a 9.1 FM, thanks for listening.

S

Sarah DePalma 39:26

You are listening to KPFT in Houston, and KEOS College Station. Now those of you who have met me in person know that I have a rather unusual sense of humor. And from time to time, I like to kind of make fun of some of the political parties and particularly of the right wing. And I just couldn't resist doing this since the Republican Convention and Republican national convention begins I think it's Monday, it seemed like it was a good time to do a kind of a salute to the Republican to the right wing in, you know, to the general fanatics out there who just basically wish for all the queries would go away and dropped it. And so I thought that perhaps we would start out with a little bit of humor. This is from a CD that was sent to me, I guess because they thought I was the radio station. I'm not quite sure why. But I have been having more fun with this compact is this group is called the foreman in this first song is called Hidden Agenda.

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[Advertisements] 40:43

Good evening, Young Republicans. And welcome to the first annual Scorched Earth Day celebration, sponsored by the sons of conservatism in cooperation with no one actually. couple of announcements before we get going with the entertainment. There's a white Ford Fairlane in the Lexus only section of the parking lot. Don't get up you've already been told. Covert Operations is having a bake sale. They don't say where and and there's a meeting Sunday of the elitist club, exclusionary chapter, xenophobic subcommittee, and no one is invited. Okay, then, is the band ready? Good. Let's give a warm reactionary Welcome to the foreman.