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00:01

Automatically, I'm transsexual, that's not true at all, there are a host of options. Before you ever get to the point of saying, I'm transsexual, it's like being on a train. You don't go directly to the front of the train and say, I'm going to be the conductor, I'm going to run this train. You need to stop in every car and learn what's in that, and then find out if that's the right car for you to be in before you move to another one.



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Okay, we all know the answer to this, I think, but let me bring it up, because we're talking about male men who crossed dress, right? Isn't that would not be the same for women.



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Again, it's especially early on, it's true for women. But yes, it is true. The thing is cross dressing. Women Oh, sure. There, but they're not nearly as common. Because they can do it anytime they want. Without social stigma. Haha, that's the difference. Okay, that's the differences. There's not the social stigma attached. But the point I wanted to make is for those of you who send me letters and say, Well, I know I guarantee I'm a transsexual, maybe you are. And maybe you're not. Take your time and learn what is in each one of those cars and that train before you reach the decisions like, Oh, yes, I immediately need a mid surgery. That is permanent, hello, permanent. As I told the young person today in Galveston, take your time, you don't get a refund if you're wrong. True, you cannot go back and say, I changed my mind. Put it back. Because they can't do it. No reattaching it with a decision you make. This is how you are going to live for the rest of your life. So check out the intermediate steps first. Yes, try those before you go immediately to the surgical and



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don't you think that maybe that it's a good thing that there are intermediate steps before surgery can take place? Yeah, because of that



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Phyllis, and Phyllis especially has been very, very outspoken about a non surgical option now for decades. And it's only been recently that people have begun to get it. It's just the surgical option is so expensive. And there are there are potentially so many different complications to come out of it. For heaven's sakes, you really need to make that your last vote your last resort. And I know when you're 16 or 17 off, I'm speaking from my own background, it always seemed like the most drastic things seemed like the most reasonable solution. But that's not that's not the real world. And that's not how it is. So take your time. It may be that you're a crossdresser and I can hear people saying out there Well, I'm not just a crossdresser What's this just stuff. I didn't say that was an easy life. Talk to the cross dressers who are now married and have decided they have to tell their wives or have to deal with it with their kids. I didn't say that you can pick out some easy life work out how to work or get out or lost your job or out by the police in some backwater town.



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Yeah, yeah, as far as you know the steps along the way. Think think about the steps you can take that are in some ways permanent but don't are not a drastic effect on your life. The one thing which some people don't realize actually cost almost as much as surgery is electrolysis. Go now if you go if you do all the electrolysis that's possible on your body. What's the worst thing? You don't have a beard anymore?



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Yeah, wow. Often thought about doing my own stuff.



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Well, I know I know. In in coming out several people from from my old life, I found out several of them have had electronics that I may not cross dressers, transsexuals calls it or anything. A couple of them said, Well, you know, I always had the unibrow Oh, yeah. And, you know, eventually somebody said, Well, why don't you go go to electrologist and get have that taken care of. And when I told him what I was going through with electrolysis, sewn the whole face, they said, Yeah, I know how much of a pitch it was just on that little place it between you between my eyebrows, I can imagine what it was like, you know, and there's there's a dialogue there. And but the bottom line is, even if you're you think you're transsexual, and eventually decide not to go through with the surgery, and you've had all the hair down on your face. What's the worst thing that's happened? You don't you don't have to. You don't have to shave anymore. And except for a very, very few occupations, perhaps if you're a bartender at a bar that requires its bartenders to have beers. And I've heard there are a couple like really? I've I've heard the



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70s come around again. Well, no,



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some somebody wants told me that. I don't even know if the bar was here in town, but it was it was somebody who was a male who did I think drag with was was in The court or I had held some title in the court. But the bar instituted a policy where all the male bartenders had to have beards, no brother, and he had to give up his his place in the court. Because of that, that's about the only thing I can think of that would go in reverse on that bottom line is you get rid of the hair on your face, you don't have to shave anymore big deal, you get rid of something downstairs. Yeah, and if you do do that, do it with a surgeon, do not self help on that. That is not something you want to self help on. Can't I



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want to introduce a new term here want to talk about the term gender dysphoria, okay. And this is very important to gay teenagers as well. And we want to talk about this gender dysphoria is is a psychological term, essentially, it's used to describe the feelings of pain, anguish, and anxiety that arise from the mismatch between your physical sex and your gender identity. Now that there's a big argument in the transgender community about this, there is a book book used by psychologists and psychiatrists, called a diagnostic and statisticians manual, I think it's for now that DSM for DSM four and transgendered people have got a diagnosis in there that essentially, it the wording is soften, but essentially says that, that there's a mental illness of sorts, or an emotional imbalance at the very least, a disorder. Thank you. There are a lot of transgendered activists that want us out of there, like yesterday would be good. Because there are many of us who are going to say we are not disordered, stop telling us where disorder, I don't want to hear any of this carbon. However, if that was removed, it would mean that some people who are able to get their surgery paid for by surgery, insurance, rather, would no longer be able to do it. So it's one thing to say I want this gender dysphoria taken out of the DSM, it's another thing to find a replacement, so that people don't get left out. The other



07:06

thing is, you're going to you, if they took that out, I can see cheap clinics springing up all over, you know, hey, come have your surgery done. And I actually found the early 70s without any kind of psychological testing or or, or waiting or living it as the opposite gender.



07:28

Well, that actually happened in the early 70s When he had surgery on demand, which was not what we're going to talk about the Benjamin it. Now the reason I say this is important to gender Trent to gay youth. There's their it's called Gender, I want to make sure you get this right it gender identity disorder is actually what it's called GRD that GID there are psychologists and psychiatrists out there that use that as a form as a way of saying, all bring your gay your child in, they have gender identity disorder, and we can cure them of their homosexuality. And we'll



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do so until the insurance money runs out. Yes,



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there have been some horrible abuses of gender identity disorder. In the diagnostic this, this DSM on gay you and gay and lesbian youth, you know, one of



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the best, best documentations of that was Daphne Szalinski. His book called The last time I wore



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it last time I wore a dress, but there have been a number of incidents, especially in Utah. For some reason, Utah seems to be the hotbed of this where there's pure gay and lesbian youth. Yeah, quote unquote, cure. So I would so this is a new one another area where transgender and gay and lesbian issues really overlap.



08:48

Yeah, because from what what I've read about about some of those is some some of these alleged good psychologist psychiatrist effectively ignore the fact that homosexuality was removed from the DSM, what happened about 25 years ago, and some of them will go ahead and try to do curative therapy anyway, those who won't just flat out ignore that will use the GID as a substitute and try to inflict the curative therapy reparative therapy, there are various names for their use. GID as an excuse



09:28

now is because of these kinds of abuses of the surgery on demand hormones on demand, that they that there was the creation of what was called the Harry Benjamin society. The Harry Benjamin society essentially is the organization that sets the standards of care for transsexual. It sets the standards for surgery and for post operative care and that sort of thing. I read through the dairy Benjamin society things twice, and the words of transgendered youth don't exist in there anywhere. To Nowhere in the standards of care is the issue of transgendered youth addressed. Now, why, why am I telling you this, because if you are out there right now and you're a transgendered youth, chances are, you're if your parents find this out, and you just chose not to discuss it first, the first thing they're going to do is they're going to go drag you to a psychologist or psychiatrist. And they're going to attempt to, quote, cure you. You need to know about the standards of care. If for no other reason, then you need to be knowledgeable about what's involved. in case somebody drags you to one of these things to be cured. It helps a lot to build, say, women I know about the standards of care. I know what the things human society is. I've done my homework. You can get copies of it, it's available on the

net. But if you decide that you're going to say something to your parents, and you're going to come out to your parents have this information about the standards of care ready because sooner or later this discussion is going to come up.



11:04

Okay, we need to take a little break here and let you know where you are and what's going on here. Just a moment.



11:12

Commercial Free and listener sponsored Houston's, 90.1 KPFT, the sound of Texas of Pacifica network station KPFT Houston que yo s College Station,



11:22

and you're listening to after hours queer radio with attitude on Jimmy Carper, Sara dipalma, is here. And we've got Katrina rows, and all sorts of folks.



11:34

Okay, now, let's get to the tough issue. Yes, I've been kind of bouncing around this. At some point, you need to make a decision, you will have to make a decision. Am I going to tell my parents? Or am I not? This is the hard one. Yeah, you're, you're you're you. First of all, you have to know your parents, or you have to think you do. If you decide that you are not going to tell your parents, I certainly can understand that. If you are going to get thrown out of the house, if you're fairly sure that it's going to be the reaction, if you are sure that they are absolutely going to go ballistic, or that you are going to be in some physical danger, I would say that my advice to you is then don't tell them. But I would also say to you, it's going to make your life far more complicated. And that brings us back to the issue we started talking about earlier about your gender expression. It's very, very hard to express your gender. If your parents have no clue of what's going on in your life, and you run the risk that your parents are going to find out in such a way that you did not that you did not want basically when you least expect it when you expect expect it, they're going to learn it in the worst possible way. They're going to jump to the worst possible conclusions. And you're going to have to live with the consequences. That's not what I recommend.



13:04

Many parents will try and do the record in therapy themselves. And we'll try and enforce this on their kids as well.



13:12

Yeah, come on over because they can't hear you from there.



13:16

Many parents will try and enforce repartee repetitive therapy on their children, if indeed they feel that this is not something that they can deal with. I kind of went through a situation like that myself, my dad was not accepting of this whatsoever, and was going to find ways to make me the little man, quote, unquote, at a very early age. And so yes, indeed, this is something that everyone needs to be, I guess, kind of cognizant of whenever they try and approach their parents be ready for this response? Number one, and should they respond that way? Again, you have to weigh your options, you don't want to end up on the street. So if indeed, it's something that's going to, I guess, end up not benefiting you in the least then you kind of have to repress at least you know, for the time being until you can get out and do it safely.



14:16

In the best of all possible worlds, you would be able to tell your parents. But as Jimmy can tell you sometimes telling your parents is not a viable option. And the consequences can be terrible.



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Yeah. So I'm a throwaway kid, actually, at age 17, my parents found out I was gay and kicked me out of the house. And you haven't



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seen your parents and how long 30 years are okay? So the point that I'm making to you is, don't take the decision to tell your parents lightly right. And in from really, this comes down to it. You have to be very honest with this about yourself. You have to honestly understand what your relationship is with your parents. If you that that's that's the first step. And the second step is you have to understand something about their history, their background, and often their religious beliefs. Now, I hate to say that, but Christian, Big C or little c can be used both for you and against you. And you have to know what your parents religious beliefs are. In the best of all possible worlds, you should be able to go to your parents and sit them down and say, Mom, Dad, something I need to say, the reality of it is, and probably 30% of the cases, I would think as a minimum, that's going to get you booted out of the house, you got it. So I'm not I want to be very careful about the way in explaining this. I'm not trying to steer you one way or the other. Because to each one of you that are out there right now, I don't know what your personal situation is. I don't know your family. I don't know your parents. I don't know your brothers and your sisters and your aunts and your uncles or your cousins. I do know this. That a transgendered person telling their family is different than a gay and lesbian person telling their family when a gay or lesbian person tells their family that they are gay and lesbian. They still have a son or daughter. When a transgendered person says, I'm going to come out and tell them that I'm transgendered, it says if you died, you are a different person to them. They

thought they will all live live live to this point believing they had a son or a daughter. And now you are going to sit down and tell them Well, I know you thought you had a son. I know you thought you had a daughter. But surprise. The



16:48

the best piece of advice I can give before finally coming to a decision to tell if telling them or not, would be do do you do your homework on your parents? Pay attention to them. Anytime the subject homosexuality, transsexuality specific homosexuals specific transsexuals are mentioned say on the news, anytime something's mentioned, pay attention to how they react. The reason I came to the conclusion when I was in high school, that there wasn't any way that I could ever broach the subject with them back then. I remember some very, very specific situations. When Renee Richards was mentioned on the news. I saw my father's reaction. Yeah, mine too. And I knew what would happen. Yeah, not father months, same way.



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My father was the same way. Because



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Because of that, I mean, I owe Renee Richards a debt just for the fact that her her news broke. Because of that, I was able to get a read on my father. And I knew that there was not No way. No way that I could I could I could say anything about that. And because of that, I didn't do something that got me that would get me thrown out on the street.



18:08

On the other hand, there have been many instances I know with gay and lesbian children, where they thought their parents would just go ballistic, throw them out of the house, and it turned out to be just the opposite.



18:20

Yeah, that's right. So okay, so I'm going to present some questions here that are suggested by PFLAG, the National chapter of PFLAG and helping you to decide whether you should or shouldn't discuss this with your parents. And this is some of the best material that I've come across, I think, from PFLAG from from the National, very transgender openly, we're not gonna discuss the local PFLAG. That's an old argument. But the national PFLAG is very open. The first question they suggest is, Are you clear, in your own mind? Are you sure about your gender identity or sexual orientation?



19:00

That's very important.



19:01

Are you sure? You posed a question and one of the shows that I thought was even better? What is your motivation for telling them? Yeah? Why do you feel they have to know? What are you motivated by? Are you doing it because you want it? You think it'll make you feel better? Are you doing it because you have some other aim? Why? What's your motivation? Are you driven out of necessity out of desperation? In Are you sure? I don't know. How would you know if you were short? 16 I don't know.



19:33

You know, I knew at 15 I knew at 12 I was gay. However, I didn't have a word for it. I didn't know. There wasn't any there wasn't anything. And if he 15 I heard the word homosexual for the first time the word gay for the first time, and I knew that's what I was. I also knew I didn't tell anybody.



19:59

Yeah. I was in my early 30s, before I ever I ever heard the word transsexual or realize what it was very ago. So the point that I'm trying to make is this, if you decide that you're going, usually I would say to you don't raise the issue unless you are able to respond with confidence to their questions. Now that what does that mean? It means Do your homework, before you decide to say anything to your parents, do your homework,



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because I know I know, in in the gay and lesbian situation, you need to read up, you need to have answers to all the questions that are going to be asked because the first thing your parents are going to want to do is say it's just the phase



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where they're going to do it, you know, there are different phases, there'll be anger to the denial, there'll be self blame. And



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they're gonna say, Are you sure?



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Are you sure?



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And how do you know? Do your homework,



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they're going to have a billion questions. And if you can't, don't know the answer, you should be honest and say, I don't know. But I'll find out. And you should do your homework.



21:11

Find out before you do any of that.



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If you're not sure of your gender identity, if you're not sure of your sexual orientation, don't say anything until you are



21:24

okay, now. Where can I get information?



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Actually, that's a tough issue if you're if you're a transgendered youth, if you're a gay and lesbian person, there are organizations like hatch, another things but libraries for all libraries. Yeah, but you won't find a lot of information for transgender youth anywhere, even on the net. I searched the net like crazy. There's a lot of very good information. I'm going to give some web information in a few minutes. Okay, good. But as far as if you're 16, for example, and you decided to call tats, the Texas, Texas sociation, for transsexual support. If you're 16, they're not going to be able to call you back, you bet. They're not going to be able to talk to you. If you're 16, and you want to talk about cross dressing issues, you can't call the triads because Troy is isn't going to call you back. That's the real heart issue there for transgendered youth. And it's one of the problems that we face right now. Mirror for years and years, the gay community wouldn't go near its own youth for fear that they were going to be charged with being molesting or you know, the old thing about the gay gay people recruit and all that crap. Still



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a lot of that today. Yeah, very much. Well,



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they're in my transgender community has all of that right now. There's really nowhere for transgender youth to go. That's one of the reasons we're doing this show tonight, is because we want you to have the facts. But in the end, we can't make your decision to make there should be



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a P flag, or there should be a space in especially the Houston P flag. Well, there's more engendered you.



23:00

There's work going on about that. And I don't want to say too much because I don't want to jeopardize anything. But there's some, but there's a chance that some of that may change. At the national level, it already has changed the national organs, the National PFLAG level, a group is now asking that we be included in that. So things have changed the national level. And there's one very, very good website called PFLAG Ohio. That has sound for transgendered. It's a PFLAG chapter aimed at transgenders, which is just terrific. That PFLAG son, I think, is actually called. But that's just terrific. So their information is slowly beginning to develop her I



23:41

think the one you're talking about is called T sub



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t son. But the point is it before you decide to go to your parents, be sure you can answer this question. Are you sure about your gender identity? can remember, if you're confused about it, you're only going to make your parents more confused. You're going to make the situation worse, not better. Yes. So you've really got to know what you're talking about. The next thing is, are you comfortable with your gender identity or sexuality? If you're not comfortable, don't expect your parents to be your parents are not stupid. They're going to read your body language. They're going to hear the tone in your voice. They're going to see the look on your face. If you're not comfortable with it, then don't say anything until you are. That's not an easy thing to say to somebody that's 15 or 16 or 17. Or what is it? Oh, I wasn't comfortable with my sexuality until I was



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35. Well, so what's the what's the answer here?



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I don't know. I'd like to tell you I have that answer. But I'd be lying if I said I knew I don't. That's one of those really hard issues. Sometimes the answer the honest answer just has to be that I don't know. And that's one of those. But at the same time, if you're not sure you're gay. Why would you go tell your parents use your word. Yes. And if you're not comfortable with it, then how do you expect your parents to be comfortable? You



25:06

know? Well, and and that's that's a problem too, because there are there are grown men and women who are gay and lesbian who are still not comfortable, never get comfortable and never get it. Yeah. My lover is one who will never be totally comfortable. Found gay



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tons and tons of transgendered people. We heard from somebody today, who calls and said, Why never get involved with any the transgender organizations, because that's just an opportunity have stones thrown at you. I have no idea what organization she was talking about. Because the organizations that I know in the city, there's the path the advantage of being a member of those organizations, is to have a support group. Yeah, yeah. So I can't imagine where they came from. Maybe she's had a bad experience.



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And within T gain all Aren't they all support,



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they're all support groups in one form or another. Whether it's tats or cross dressers anonymous, or or the triads group or the Gulf Coast transgender community, they're all support groups of one kind or another. Yeah. So I don't know, I have no idea what this person was talking about. The thing is this, if you feel guilty, or if you're feeling depressed about your sexuality, or your gender identity, how do you expect your parents to feel if you decide to tell them in that situation?



26:20

Okay, so what are they do?



26:22

Read, get educated? And if you're transgendered, I don't know where you find the support group. You listen to shows like this, I think, I think so i That's the only thing I can search, search the web, thank God for the web

the web, thank God for the web.



26:36

And perhaps, due to do some reading in gay and lesbian literature about, about coming to grips and some of the problems because they are 70 hours.



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And the second half of the show, we're gonna have an interview with Quinn Smith. Quinn, runs, runs, runs the gazebo on AOL, which is one of the largest transgender forums on the internet. And part of what when I talked about was if you're transgender youth, how do you separate fact from fiction on the internet? How do you know what you're being told is good information in Gwayne, he has some excellent advice about that we're going to, we'll hit in the second half of the show. And just



27:11

in case you don't, if you're not around for the second half, if you're on AOL, the transgender community forum, you can get to it by keyword, tes, TCF, or keyword, gazebo, we'll get you into the gazebo. I believe if you just type in keyword transgender, you'll get into the transgender form as well. But just prowl around on AOL, you'll find the transgender forum. It's an excellent resource.



27:37

Here's the next question. Do you have a support? Do you have support? If you tell your parents and your parents decide to throw you out? Do you have somewhere to go? If you don't, you may want to reconsider whether you're going to tell them because that happens. It it happens less and less, I think with gay and lesbian youth. But it's still a major problem with the transgender youth because there's still so little information out there about us if you don't have somewhere to go. And if you're can if think about that before you said anything. What happens if it just goes terribly wrong? Sometimes you tell your parents and things, there's anger and hurt and there's tears, but eventually it works out? But what if it doesn't? Do you have some support somewhere? Cousins, nephews, aunts, uncles, whatever? Do you have somewhere to go? If you decide to disclose to your parents? If you don't, then maybe you ought not to say anything until you do? Because I can promise you, we can take you on the streets of Montrose tonight. And we can show you where the transgendered youth are sleeping on the streets. That's not where you want to end up. So one of the reasons that I when I go to talk groups, a lot of times people will say, Well aren't transgendered people, mostly just hookers? No, but a lot of transgender youth are. And the reason is, they're throwaways. And they have no other means of supporting themselves. They didn't finish high school, they have no education. They're living on the street. Sometimes there are drug habits involved. It's not the life that you want, and it's not the way you want things to go. So I would strongly, strongly emphasize this. Before you decide to say anything, make sure you have somewhere to go. Jimmy when you told your parents did you have anywhere to go?



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No, actually, I didn't tell my parents they found out. I was outed. And fortunately fortunately, fortunately, right at that time I had. I had some friends who were from New York, and they were living in the New Jersey area where I grew up and they had friends in Manhattan and so I went to Manhattan.



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But at least you think You've gotten the streets in hook, you did have somewhere whether, however remotely, somebody took care of you.



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Not only that, but the first, the first thing I did was get a job as a as a waiter. And that didn't really bring in a whole lot of money. And I didn't have a whole lot of experience. And it's really kind of strange. The one thing that happened in high school, I took a year of typing on a whim. And that's how I supported myself. I was an office worker, because I could type very well.



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Well, fortunately, yes, it's a living. It's not, you know, necessarily the highest paying, but at least you're not sleeping on the street. That's



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right, because I didn't have a high school education. While I was in the middle of my senior year, when all this happened,



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immediately, did you finally get a GED? Or do you go back to high school



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actually, where I went to college? College, I went, I had a high SATs and I just went straight into college. That's when I at that, but that was much later after I was in Houston.



31:02

Here's another important thing. Can you be patient? Tell your parents



31:07

what I did hook as a kid? Yes. I



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didn't know that. Yes, I did not have to five years I finally find that out. I didn't know



31:13

that. Yes, I did. Yes, I did. And that's what taught me to get more education and to be I mean, to place more emphasis on the day job. Yeah, I didn't want I didn't you know, boy, when you have to go to bed with people, you don't even you don't even want to talk to Yeah, and you have to have money. That's really, really creepy. That gives me that gives me the crib she's talking about. Yeah. There's a reason these people have to buy it. Yeah, that's right. That's right.



31:51

The next thing is, can you be patient with your parents? Once you tell them? You have to remember, you've been dealing with this perhaps all of your life? You've got it? And how do you really think your parents are going to accept this in a week? Or



32:06

two years? Yeah, took more than two years just to get to the level where I am with my family took them two years to



32:13

say, Can my father when my when my father died, he still had never come to complete terms with it. And then it was seven years later, and he still hadn't. So the so this is really an important issue. Can you be patient? Are you willing to give your parents the time to work through it? Now I know, my backup, there's there was when I was growing up, there was a saying about the three stages of a mother. The first stage is my mom is prettier than your mom. Oh, yes. The second stage, which is when your teenager seems to be my old lady doesn't know shit. And the third stage is, and my mother used to say, now that's the stage. I'm at the older I get the smarter my mother looks.



33:03

Not only that, but you become your mother. Yeah, yes. Frighteningly,



33:06

yes. Okay. However, from the teenage point of view, I know you think your parents are dumber than dirt? That's understandable. It's part of being a teenager. I understand that. So that's why we come back to this issue. If you decide you're going to tell your parents as a teenager, can you fight your own urges here? And can you be patient? Tough, really, really tough. And I'm not trying to discourage people from telling their parents. I think it's important though, that they understand what's involved. That it's not that it's not a matter for y'all to simply sit down and sit face to face across the kitchen table, and look at your mom and say, here's something I want to tell me. I'm going to tell you about me. And by the way, I expect you to get over it.



33:55

Yeah, that isn't reality, that won't happen. That's that's not the reality. It's not going to happen that way. It may eventually happen that way, it may get to that point, but it's not going to happen right away.



34:06

It's not, it's not going to happen, you know, and there's there's a lot of bad things that can happen. And one of the things they don't ask and this but I'm going to ask it. And that is can you uh, have you prepared yourself for the possibility that they will never accept it?



34:23

It took me quite a quite a few years to realize that that was that they weren't going to change their minds. And they never did.



34:31

What cost? Are you willing to accept? What's what price is too high? When when I started my transition, the one thing I said was, I can deal with not with if my parents don't understand, I can deal with it. The one thing I don't want to have happen is I don't want to lose my daughter. Ironically, my parents eventually came to terms with it. And the one thing I did lose was my daughter. Yeah. So you have to that's an important thing to ask. I think upfront, what price are you willing to pay when One at what point is the price become too high to disclose? It? Are you prepared to accept that as a possibility up front,



35:09

and we're not just talking about parents, we're talking about all your relatives, your brothers and sisters, your friend, we'll



35:14

just come out to your mom and dad, if you come out to your parents, they're gonna go to your friends, they may go to trusted relatives to ask questions. And that's another thing that's not in here, but I think it should be. And that is, are you prepared to walk your entire family through this process? Brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, uncles, nephews, are you prepared to go through this to odd several times over so that everyone in the family begins to understand it? And are you prepared for the idea they may reject it?



35:45

And in some cases, years down the line, because I have found reunion I have coming up in next month. And the last time some of my relatives in Florida saw me? It was definitely not as Monica. Oops. Well, so that's going to be a very interesting



36:04

do that union do they know about Monica?



36:07

Um, they probably do through some of my relatives here in Houston, so you're not sure. So I'm really not sure. So it's going to be a very interesting Wow, situation. Wow. When? Coming up next month?



36:23

Yeah. You know, when you're talking about the whole family, even some people I've bumped into who the you know, the parents might not have gotten it initially. And but they've come around, but there's, you know, the brothers and sisters, cousins, invariably, even in the best situations, there'll be one somewhere.



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In my case, they haven't even my brother. Yeah.



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So just the the odds are, there'll be someone somewhere along the



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line. Vanessa, what's your experience there?



36:52

Um, actually,



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you have to pick up the drooping mic.



36:58

Give her my hear me actually all the mics around



37:00

No. Oh, well, nice to know now. I'm actually yes, my mother has come around. Her first words were actually not something I can put on the air. But she was not supportive of this at all. And when my dad found out very early, he was not supportive. Until I told him most recently, all of a sudden, he did a complete 180. And now he is very supportive. He still has difficult times trying to deal with the pronouns. But as for members of the family individually, my sisters are both supportive. But my brother, I will never tell because I know for a fact, he is not one that will support it. And in fact, I stand probably, at the very least threats of physical harm, if not actual following through on his God, I didn't know that. Well, he's not exactly the most stable of people. He kind of tends to live homeless about half the time. He's had a bit of a checkered past. And that includes the family as well. There's a reason why my mother wanted to sell the house and get away from Corpus and one of them packed, the primary one was to get away from our brother. Wow. So he basically couldn't find her, and she stays with me. But if he ever calls the house, she does not want to let him know that. She's down in staying with me. And to be truthful with you neither do I, because I'm afraid he'll show up lock stock and barrel on my doorstep. And there's no telling what he will do, especially if he finds out those. This is a potential stack of old dynamite that you don't know how to handle because if you handle it just the wrong way, all of a sudden, I've got some major problems. I don't want to deal I'm



39:02

interested in your dad. I wonder if it's, I mean, he's You said he's come around he is it the idea that, you know, if I don't, then I've lost everything?



39:14

Well, I, I kind of think a lot of it probably was helped. Well, initially, I guess I need to back up a little bit when he initially did not support this was when I was 14 years old. And they found out about it. And I was still you know, a youth. Sure. They still had designs on what I was going to

be in, you know how I was going to live my life. And it wasn't well alcohol also played a big portion of that as well. He was pretty heavy into the alcohol at the time. When they found out when I was about 26 or so that I cross dressed. He remained rather silent but did not want to talk about it and just wanting to avoid the subject completely. And when I told him a couple of years years ago, that I planned on going full time changing my name and going through the hormone therapy. He listened. He didn't really say too much during the conversation. It was very dry. Just kind of Yeah, yeah. Yeah. And I thought, well, this isn't going too well. I was expecting yours. But at the very end, he shocked me. I mean, my jaw literally hit the floor. He said that he supported me 100% And realize that I wasn't the kind of person that made just impetuous decisions. On a whim, he knew that it was something that I'd considered long and hard before I'm entered into it. And again, a lot of the benefit kind of comes from having my brother and my sister being rather basket cases, if you will. So even though



40:52

No, I think that's, that's a very, very good point that your father when you when you matured, and your father realized that this was a mature decision, technically, then he was behind it.



41:04

And with close examples, such as my brother and my sister that, obviously were not the best examples in the world, there was a lot worse things that I could have turned out to be transgendered was not the end of the world now had everyone my family been, oh, God, these wildly successful people, suddenly, it would have been a much different perspective. But this I think, kind of helped my case out a little bit, I come



41:31

from that kind of background. Because I've got sisters in college. Now. My brother holds a degree, my mother holds a master's degree. And so of course, I mentioned I'm, I'm the ex Cougar in the family, but and with all the education that my folks had, I still went through, I still went through that period, where I said, family, with the exception of the baby sister, who, ironically, as a psychology major, you know, was the only one talking to me for that two year period?



42:05

Well, one thing I will say, it is much more difficult for someone such as yourself, because of the fact that you have a much higher standard to live up to, I was the first one my family to actually go through all 12 years of high school and graduate. So it was rather low standards, as far as



42:22

we, we had Monica on the show one night, and we're gonna have to do this again, because Monica had one of the most compelling stories to think I've heard about the high standards that

monica had one of the most compelling stories to think i've heard about the high standards that she had to live up to, yeah, and what it was like to try it, they have to come out. And I mean, she's showing herself with the story, she's gotten worse,



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you're, you're saying this as if being transgendered is a low standard, which, obviously, is not unusual



42:48

pressures upon or unusual. In addition to being a person of color, she had the problems with her family, in the community around her, I mean, she's a story of herself, and how she survived all of it.



43:00

Even though even though I, you know, being transgendered is not a, quote, unquote, low standard. But bottom line is, sometimes when you're presenting this to somebody, like a parent, or friend, what are they may, they may think of it as such



43:15

in their minds. And



43:17

just bottom line is, you have to deal with that. And if you're, like it, or not comparing yourself to somebody, it helps you know, if you in every other respect, are higher up, I mean,



43:30

in spring, by the,



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by the time I gotta I gotta run down my mom a little over a year ago, I was on the verge of graduating from law school. And by that time, I figured out, still no way I'm ever going to tell my dad, but my mom, I figured pretty much that she could probably deal with it, and she has. But I have one sister, who I don't want to say is a total screw up. But she, she's, she's had her problems. She's she's she's very, very good person. But she she's just had her problems

compared compared to me. And one, once I explained everything to my mom, the bottom line is, here's, here's this person, my child, college graduates and be law graduate, that all of that factors in person did not go through law school without a brain or had



44:31

the other Yeah, that's and that brings up another point with parents and friends and people who care for you is that they realize that they're they're afraid for you because it being transgender and being gay being lesbian. It's a much tougher lie and



44:49

also add being a person of color to that. Yes. That was one of the first thing that was expressed to me when I sat my parents down and told them how if felt what was going to happen, you know, and one of the comments that came out of my mom's mouth was, you know how hard it is for African Americans to get along in a society. And now you're going to make your life even harder.



45:16

But when they realize this is you,



45:18

but you know, and the even rule, Paul's name came up in a conversation, and I was like, Well, the difference between me and RuPaul is this RuPaul doesn't want to be a woman full time. And RuPaul was rich and RuPaul. Good example. Yeah. wasn't a very good example either. So



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I think on that note, if your break for the news,



45:45

when we come back, we're gonna talk about the parents reaction. Okay. And we're gonna talk about what all this means to the parents, and the stages of shock and denial that parents go through and how to cope with it if you decide that you want to tell them. And then the last portion we want to talk about, okay, you've gone through all this stuff. So how do you end up feeling good about yourself? How do you come out of this feeling some pride in who you are.



46:11

Very important. Okay. We'll be back in just a little bit. We're going to take time out for big Roy

and Chris, for after hours, news and views