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SPEAKERS

Glenn Holt, Sarah DePalma, Jimmy Carper

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Jimmy Carper 00:07

The following program contains language or images of the brain or a sensitive nature which may be considered objectionable by some listener discretion is advised. Oh yes, you've tuned into after hours a continuing tradition on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of after hours is ready to bring you news, interviews and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. 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 closets. 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 a 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 our.

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Sarah DePalma 02:06

Welcome to After hours, a continuing tradition in Houston, queer radio. I am Sarah dipalma. I am sitting in tonight for Jimmy Carter, who is under the weather. And with me tonight is a person that is certainly not a stranger to the audience of after hours. And her name is de McKellar. Well, welcome to the show with you. Thank you. Dee has been here many times as a guest. She's been on with with me and with Jimmy and so tonight she gets to sit in the co host seat. How's it feel over there?

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02:41

I don't believe I've been in this chair before he even when I've borrowed it. I don't know what to ask me in three hours.

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Sarah DePalma 02:49

Yeah, I'll ask you about 230 When we're drooping in your hands about right. Well, we have a

terrific show planned tonight. First off, we have an end, I have taped an interview today with a very interesting man by the name of Gary Bowen. Now Gary is a female to male transsexual. And right off the bat, there may be some of you out there who will say what do you mean female to male transsexual is actually exist? Well, yes, we do. And Dee Dee knows Gary. Gary is one of those people who says what's on his mind. And if you don't like it, then stop listening. That's about right. And so you will be hearing Gary tonight. And he'll be talking about a two part interview and the first part of the interview he talks about the issues that are involved with transgendered men, which is somewhat different from those of the women I think he might be surprised. And in the second part of the interview, you'll hear him talking about the political side of being a female to male transsexual, and it conference that he is organizing called the true spirit conference. And D is here tonight. And she's going to be talking about all kinds of stuff, aren't you?



04:04

I suppose. You told me it'd be pretty pretty broad ranging tonight.



Sarah DePalma 04:09

Yeah, I d is has become a world traveler of late. He's been all over the country at this conference, that conference. And



04:18

well, this last year, I've been to six out of town conferences. Oh, let's see. Where were they? Dallas. That's no big deal. Minneapolis, Detroit. Golly, Washington DC.



Sarah DePalma 04:41

We aren't nd we'll be talking about that tonight. She has been to all sorts of different conferences discussing transgendered issues. And so tonight we're going to be talking about some of the various conferences and some of the places that she has been, and we'll be talking about transgender inclusion, of course into the gay and lesbian community. We'll also be talking about an event that's coming up in February in conjunction with true spirit, which is part of the reason that Dee is here tonight. And she'll be talking about the some lobbying that will be done that was



05:14

education on personal education.



Sarah DePalma 05:18

Isn't that an oxymoron congressional and that's like military intelligence.



05:23

No. So some of those folks are pretty pretty savvy. Yes, they are. Yeah. Well, some of them are one or two of them on.



S Sarah DePalma 05:31

And so as usual, we have a five hours worth of material packed into a three hour show. And we wouldn't really have it any other way. Now, as we get started here tonight, I wanted to the last time I was here, we got a phone call from somebody and I had made a comment that I was amazed how much Melissa Etheridge sounds like Janis Joplin. And someone called here and said, I have never heard Janis Joplin in my entire life. It was flabbergasted. And then I went home and realized not everyone is as old as I am. And then it's quite very conceivable there is a whole or maybe a couple of generations of people who have never heard Janis Joplin ever. So with that in mind, we're going to do some music and get ourselves settled in. The first cut that you'll hear is Melissa Etheridge. And right behind it, I'm going to play a piece by Janis Joplin from a very, very rare CD. Called them old cosmic blues again, Mama. For those of you who don't know, Janis Joplin, it is hotly argued whether she was bisexual or lesbian, take your pitch. She was members of queer community, whether she would have used those words that time or not. And so we're gonna go directly to that we'll get herself settled. And be back. Stick around, folks. We got a good show for you. Janis Joplin, my lucky my little girl blue. You listen to the end of that song and you wonder exactly who it is she's talking about. She talks he says, I know how you feel and given the way her life turned out. You wonder, just who was she singing that to? Anyway, for those of you who have never heard Janis Joplin before, now you can say that you have. And Jan was just telling me here that he read somewhere where Melissa Etheridge is going to be playing Janis Joplin in a movie. And it makes perfect sense to me. Okay, yeah. Sitting with me now is Glenn Hall. And he is here to talk about one of our favorite things Q patrol. How're you doing, Glenn?



G Glenn Holt 07:39

That's right. I'm doing good. Thank you. I think I finally managed to get past the dying slowly ease that have been going around this week that I had Thursday evening. Although it did give me that wonderful resonant base. Broadcaster just loves but anyway, well, I realized, you know, it's kind of a cold evening and threatening freezing rain, not really an evening that one would think about getting out of patrolling with cue patrols. But I wanted to stop by anyway and, and put the bug in your ear. We always have room for more people on cue patrol, we're doing more things than ever before. We have people on bicycles and rollerblades. That's a great idea. A lot of people come out and just you know, enjoy getting the exercise and rollerblading around. And it's always fun to go out there and do it. But then it's even more fun when you go out there and do it for a purpose. And you got radios and talk to everybody. And hey, we just saw something suspicious. And you know, you really feel like you're really getting something done. As well as just, you know, roller right. We're rollerblading around and having fun.



S Sarah DePalma 08:45

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You look great on television when I saw you do. I did? Yeah, you You look great. I thought I watched it say hey, I know him.

 Glenn Holt 08:53

I was surprised at how much I had aged you know, because I mean, the last time that I really saw myself on television was when I was doing television news, but that was 1520 years ago. And I just you know I had this sort of mental image in the back of my mind of what I looked like and then to see yourself age 20 years in a moment that was scary.

 Sarah DePalma 09:15

I've been going through a real strange thing is suddenly hit me that middle age. And I know that sounds really dumb. But somehow it had never occurred to me that I'm 45 all of a sudden it was like oh my god I'm 20 years from retirement. Ah, it changed my whole thinking pattern is just in a linear way it has nothing to do with with Q Patrol was just off on a tangent. Tell me something about about the Q Patrol having kind of curious about this. How were you received by the folks out there? Do they know who you are? When they see you there? Are they appreciative? I mean, they come shake your hand or they just are you

 Glenn Holt 09:54

know, always when we walk along the street we get thumbs up again. Hey, thank you Q patrol. People on the balconies are standing around the clubs, wave and yo and say hey, queue patrol and I was turn around, look at some of them. I say, Hey, throw, throw money or sexual favors.

 Sarah DePalma 10:13

Which would you prefer? No, no. Last time I was here. You were in an outfit that was defied description. Yes, yes. And we will not use it on the air. But it was interesting. I had to say.

 Glenn Holt 10:26

And I went off looking for that party that that you told me about it Tantra?

 Sarah DePalma 10:29

Yeah, you find it?

 Glenn Holt 10:31

Well, I did. But I misunderstood what I was seeing. I eventually found the place tucked in behind something else, which was tucked in behind something else. But there was a large

crowd and no parking. And there was a big crowd of people standing up front. And I thought that was a line waiting to get in. And none of those people looked like s&m kind of people. Well, it turns out after talking to somebody else on cue patrol, who actually went and got him that that was a line of people waiting for valet parking at one of the other clubs. I didn't, I didn't I was in that outfit.

S Sarah DePalma 11:04

Yeah, we will not just grab one here.

G Glenn Holt 11:08

And there, we're paid rent a cops patrolling around the area. And I didn't know if, if my outfit would be considered socially acceptable on the street. Certainly inside, it wouldn't have been a problem. So considering the lateness of the hour, and the fact that there was no parking for five miles, and I just went on my way. But let me give you the the cue patrol phone number. For anyone who's interested in joining. If you if for some reason, you feel like you just absolutely cannot participate. We do accept money. We have operating expenses, like any other organization. And we have just about zero overhead. In the way we've set that up. So I mean, every dollar donated to Q Patrol goes to putting patrols out on the street.

S Sarah DePalma 12:06

Is there an organization out there who would not like to have zero overhead? Really?

G Glenn Holt 12:12

Anyway, the number to call is 528. Safe. That's 5287233. And we also have a website www.surf.com/capital Q, capital P, A TR O L, which spells Q patrol, but you have to capitalize the Q in the P and no spaces.

S Sarah DePalma 12:34

Okay. Well, you know, it's one of those things, the Q patrol is one of those organizations, there are several loons city like this, who don't get a lot of publicity, they just do a lot of good work. And I would say to anybody that's out there, no matter where you are, as a member of the queer community, here's an opportunity to fight back a little bit. That's right. I know I've had friends who've been victimized from hate by hate crimes. And I knew Paul Broussard. And you know, you could easily be you that's out there. And I think you would like to have que patrol out there watching out for you. Well, if you expect others to be watching out for you, you need to get up off your duff and participate in that. You know, the the key here is that we all look out for each other.



Glenn Holt 13:22

That's right. And Q patrol is a proactive response to hate crime. We don't get involved in the sense that you don't need any physical training, no special physical abilities. We've even had people in wheelchair out on to patrol. All that we do is we our eyes and ears for the police. We carry our radios and our cell phone. And we log the things we see we call the police if we need to. And that's all that we need to do and just being a visible presence out there is enough. And we're fairly well known in the street community too. So when the bad boys come into town with a CQ patrol they normally take off again. Is it

Sarah DePalma 14:03

is it largely true that a lot of a lot of the people who are perpetrating the hate crimes are predominantly very young? Like they're teenagers, early 20s. And mostly they are not from our area. They're imported more or less?

Glenn Holt 14:17

Well, yeah, definitely not from our area. It seems to be I mean, the busiest time for Q patrol is always in the fall, late August and early September, when the college kids have come back and school hasn't really started up yet. And they don't really have girlfriends yet and their loose ends and they've been out drinking and now what do we do?

Sarah DePalma 14:39

Yeah, out looking for a quote good time. We go let's go wax and Fang.

Glenn Holt 14:43

Yeah. And then of course, there's always the criminal element which which figures that conversation homosexuals are easy targets, you know, being pansies and fairies and all like that. So of course they haven't really met up with an angry Queen before having

Sarah DePalma 14:58

one of the funniest experiences I ever had years ago, I was in a bar with with some friends. And one of the guys was bought my room fairly short seller. In this one, this one person got really drunk and kept picking on this little guy and finally said to him, you know, I really don't want to hurt you. So you ought to just leave now. And he, the guy was good and drunk, and of course, took that as a challenge took a swing, and it was over in a second. Turns out that my friend was a instructor for the US Marines, and in self defense, and it was real over real quick and I thought there's a lesson here about underestimating people. I wouldn't want to be the person take on an angry queen, train, steal this girl's purse, honey, and you don't know it can even fight. She spent good money on that she's gonna fight back.

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Glenn Holt 15:45

That's right. And, and, you know, there are a few things you can do to protect yourself. When you're walking back to your car, don't walk alone. If you have to ask somebody to escort you back to your car, and then drive them back to the bar. Say I'm not I'm not trying to get you into my bed tonight. Just you know, walk me back to my car, and I'll give you a ride back to the to the door of the bar.

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Sarah DePalma 16:06

Don't walk like a victim walk with purpose. That's right, and walk with your head up looking around, don't you know,

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Glenn Holt 16:11

have your keys in your hand? Yeah, show everybody that that you have a weapon handy. You know, keys make a very good weapon right across the face.

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Sarah DePalma 16:19

It's one of the things that I've mentioned before. But one of the things that about my transition that I noticed right away was how vulnerable I felt as a female that I never felt as a male. And as a male, I never would have said to the guy at the door, please walk me through my car. Now I don't think anything about it. And it leads me to ask the question, again, whether the men might not be more easy to victimize, because they are sort of proud or not afraid to go walk alone. Maybe the audit using more sense.

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Glenn Holt 16:50

Well, I don't know. I think of the, of the guys that I've talked to out there. I think it's more either it doesn't occur to them. Or they think well, it can't happen to me or it won't happen to me or it hasn't happened to me. But the thing to realize there is that the being gay bashed or being beaten up or being robbed, is not just an inconvenience can really ruin your day.

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Sarah DePalma 17:18

Yeah, I can see we're being robbed. Your banks could ruin your day. Yeah, that doesn't make sense. Well, okay, that's fine. Well, I'm always glad to have you on the show. I was actually a member of query nation when they spun off Q patrol. And so it's been an organization that I've had an opportunity to watch grow over the years and evolve. And it's interesting coordination is no longer here. But you patrol is in so I'm glad to see that. Thank you. It's nice to know that something evolved out of that that has had some some impact.

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Glenn Holt 17:51

QUESTION AND

Right, right. And for any Q patrol people that are listening tonight, remember that we have our meeting tomorrow evening at five

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Sarah DePalma 17:58

and stay warm, folks. Stay warm. We have a piece of music that I want to go to next and this is a person that I like very much you name is a Nona Hendryx. And the song is called women who fly Jimmy turned me on to this piece of music and the minute I heard it, I knew right away this was a song out the trigger chance I was gonna play it. So with further no further ado, let's go to Nona. Hendryx. Hindu women who I have I have a Jimmy turned me on to that piece of music. In the minute I heard it. I knew I liked it. That's something that if if there's a goal that I want to set out for myself, for this year, I want to be a woman who flies the way that she means it in that song. I just Jimmy, thanks for turning us on to the piece of music. I love that. We're now we've got de McKellar is back in. Now that you've been following Glen hold gorgeous. Glen. It's kind of let's talk a little bit about some of the activities that you've been involved with. You've done traveling. Oh, yeah. Where do you want to start?

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19:16

Well, I found I dug out the list of conferences I went to and had took some part in this year. In February, I went to Dallas March, Minneapolis. April, San Francisco, June, Detroit. July was the conference here. August went to Seattle, October New Orleans, November, Washington DC.

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Sarah DePalma 19:45

So you now have enough frequent flyer miles five miles to send me to Hawaii. Well, you

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19:49

might consider me a woman who flies.

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Sarah DePalma 19:53

Very good, very good. See this woman sharp. Okay, well, let's start with let's start with January. What It was January that

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okay, January, January didn't do anything. There were three, what I'm gonna call Crosstrek? Well, there were three crossdresser conventions, which I sometimes describe as parties for rich white guys who like to dress funny on weekends. Now, you know that you're gonna light I know that sounds a little negative. But we know these conferences. For years were the only conferences in the gender community. That's true. And and what they did they, they serve an

extremely valuable purpose. They give the CrossDresser a safe environment. Typically, the convention takes over hotel completely. But it's a safe place where a guy can wear a dress for three or four days in a row. Sometimes they were three or four dresses a day. That's true. That's true. Some of the individuals it's it's a very important outlet for these folks. They have a lot of seminars, predictably, a lot of seminars on makeup, how to walk, how to talk, how to behave so that you convince people you're, you're actually a woman,

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Sarah DePalma 21:26

you remind them to keep their legs together.

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Yeah, all sorts of stuff. They also have serious workshops and seminars, they've had medical seminars for a long, long time. Starting a few years ago, they started having legal seminars. Shortly, in fact, shortly after the Transgender Law conference got going, funny thing, they started realizing there are some legal issues here that people need to be aware of. So what I do what fellas does, what we as an organization do at these conferences, is we'll give one or more workshops, telling people what their rights are, what their rights are not. And this is very important, because the people who come to these conferences really are the rich white guys, because you're talking about three or four days in a nice hotel, at \$70 a night up, you've got hotel meals all those days, it's very easy to drop \$1,000. Without, with only modest travel,

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Sarah DePalma 22:44

it is true this I have been to these conventions. And it is true that some of them will go three or four out through three or four outfits in a day. So the money that was invested in being prepared for this so called conference is sometimes staggering. I mean, these people were outfits that I would kill to have oh, yeah, I could never afford anything like that.

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23:04

But what it is, these are the people who have never experienced discrimination

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Sarah DePalma 23:09

in honestly don't believe it happens. That's right. Yeah. And

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one of the things we do is say, Look, if you're out in public wearing a dress, you don't have the same privilege. And if you're thinking about transitioning to living full time, and maybe eventually even having surgery, you're gonna give up a heck of a lot of social privilege. And

you sometimes you see the lights come on, and sometimes you reach these people, sometimes the seminar is nothing more than if you get stopped by a cop. Don't dare give him false ID. You know, it's it goes all the way from a murder to what do you do to keep your kids in a divorce?

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Sarah DePalma 24:01

That's always a big issue. It's it's a terrible issue. One of the things that always amazes me about when I go to these crossdressing conventions, and I think perhaps some of our audience might be surprised to find out that there are conventions for cross dressers. But one of the things that always surprises me is that it turns out that a lot of the people who go there, they never really stop thinking like a man. I mean, they may be women's clothes. But they're they don't really have any sense of thinking like a woman or feeling the the stigma that suddenly is going to become attached to you as a second class citizen. In many cases, they don't realize that there's some danger attached. They don't realize that they could be at risk for some legal issues, if something should suddenly turn up against them at their job. It's amazing to me that some of these folks who go out and do these cross dressing anti conventions, do so with no sense whatsoever of what the potential risks to them

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could be, except for one thing, the reason that Go to the convention is that they're scared to do this at home because they know they'll get fired. So they figured they're

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Sarah DePalma 25:05

safe in and in most of the time they are. Yeah. Most of the time. Of

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course, everybody's nightmares that his boss walks into the same conference.

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Sarah DePalma 25:16

Well, if the boss turns up the same conference, they're probably dressed and wouldn't recognize them anyway.

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But anyhow, I went to three of those. Those were the Dallas, Minneapolis and Detroit conference in Dallas was the Texas tea party. Dallas was Texas tea party has Linden Sunday Phillips were on the show before Okay. Minneapolis was the national convention of the AFGE explain what if that is the International Foundation for gender education. They are an international organization based in the Boston area. They produce a very fine magazine called

transgender tapestry. They provide a lot of other information, they've got a bookstore, they have published a variety of books and pamphlets. They've been doing a lot of service to the community for over 10 years now.

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Sarah DePalma 26:10

Right? Okay, I just wanna make sure the audience they may not have been brought up by FTE

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here, right. And then in June, was was a very well, none of these conventions are typical. But it was in Detroit, it was put together by a coalition of Midwestern local groups. And this year's convention is going to be in Chicago, they've had them in Cleveland, it's it's basically the Midwest Regional Conference,

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Sarah DePalma 26:42

let me explain a little bit about what D is talking about here. Some of the gender or the cross dressing groups, I guess, as moved to be more specific, are quite large. And some of them perhaps have, in some cases, a couple of 100 members. And so they may organize a three day convention, combination party education was a little bit of everything. And there are a number of these around the country. There's one called Southern Comfort. There's another one that's in St. Louis, there's one that's in Chicago, I know, there's one that's coming up. I believe it's in January, in California, it's gonna be held on the Queen Mary. That's in April. It's an April, yeah. Okay. And so there are a number of these things that come up throughout the country. And when these when these get togethers are held, they often turn out to be regional. Let's say for example, the guest could one use for examples once in St. Louis. The ones in St. Louis may drop people from 12 states, because St. Louis will bring bring people in from Nebraska and Kansas and Arkansas. Well,

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that conference also rotates from city to city this year, it was in Cedar Rapids. Now, in 97, it's going to be in Omaha.

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Sarah DePalma 27:55

But the point is that people coming from all over the place because it's safe to do it out of state. And it's safe to do at this convention. Exactly. Now, and that's actually the reason they're attending. It's an it's a really

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safe place. Sure. Okay. Okay. In April in San Francisco, we went to a very interesting

conference sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, dealing with employment issues. And we did a lot of outreach to major employers. We did a lot of coalition building with the gay and lesbian movement stressed that our employment issues are if anything worse than theirs. And

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Sarah DePalma 28:39

what do you mean, let's snap. We mean, our employer Irish is worse than theirs, that are your gay and lesbian people out there now saying, What the heck is she talking about? What What are transgendered people have anything? Why should they have to worry about their jobs? Well, because

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a gay person really is interested. Again, a gay person doesn't have to look gay. You can, you can stay in the closet. And as long as you don't talk too much about what you and your partner did over the weekend, and you don't have your partner's picture on your desk. Nobody needs to know. It's only when you come out and say, yes, my partner is the same sex as I am. And we have Yes, I'm gay. And this is a picture of my partner that I'm going to keep on my desk. Now.

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Sarah DePalma 29:26

I'm proud to say I have a picture of my partner on my desk. Yes, and no one has ever once asked me about it ever.

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And with us, once, once you make the decision that you have to transition, it's all over. There's no more hiding. And there just aren't any options. And if it doesn't work, you can't go back in the closet.

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Sarah DePalma 29:52

We will the point they want to make is that we don't is that transgenders have no job protection. Just as gays and lesbians do not have any job protection against discrimination. And I think a lot of gay and lesbian people are surprised to find that out. Yeah, they may feel like we're covered under some other clause. But for example, the people Disabilities Act specifically left us out. Thanks to Jesse Helms,

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you specifically excluded us. Yeah.

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Sarah DePalma 30:17

So a lot. So for those of you who are sitting out there saying, Well, I didn't know the transgenders were discriminated against

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surprise. It's, it's pretty serious.

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Sarah DePalma 30:28

Let's talk about the nglt F and then for we leave that, okay. There are the running joke in our community now is is the National Gay, lesbian, transgender force.

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year, they are far and away the most inclusive organization. It goes along with their basic philosophy, those they are cutting edge activists. They are not establishment, movers and shakers. They understand our issues. They have embraced our issues. And it's it's very, very heartening to work with them. In fact, the executive director of the task force, Carrie Labelle is going to be one of the three featured speakers at the 97 Transgender Law conference. Yeah, we'll

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Sarah DePalma 31:14

get to that later. Right. Great news about that, we'll get the

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right there. There are other interesting speakers, but she's coming to the entire conference. We've been to two of their national conferences, the creating change. And it's it's just a it's a love fest. We don't have to argue the issue at all it, people come up and say how can we help?

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Sarah DePalma 31:41

Here's a good spot to stop and talk about this. I guess. If you're a regular listener to the show, you have certainly heard me talk about the idea of transgender inclusion into gay and lesbian political activities. And every time we bring this topic up, the phone start lighting up and people say, well, transgenders don't belong in it, and this and that. But that's interesting, because that seems to be more and more and uniquely Texas argument. Nationally, that's not so true. And especially it's not to the National Gay Lesbian Taskforce, who seems to have come to realize that transgenders not only do we belong in the gay and lesbian, a political movement, but there are a lot of us who are quite capable of being leaders and very good, capable leaders in this. Yes.



32:37

But the kind of people that were coming up, what I did at that conference was what I do at a lot of conferences is I handle the our information table, while Phyllis goes and does her thing to rattle



S Sarah DePalma 32:50

around. Well,



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you want to give legal advice or or talk about legal issues, it helps to be a licensed attorney. He said that, so, but that's completely independent of her status as an icon. Oh, boy. Okay. But people would come up to meet directors of gay lesbian senators on college campuses. And they would say, we want to add services to the transgender community. How do we learn? How do we go about opening it up?



S Sarah DePalma 33:32

Which is very interesting. Attitude is the exact opposite of what you hear in many places. Yeah.



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But they understand that particularly college kids who are struggling with their their basic identities, may have gender issues in addition to sexual orientation issues.