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SPEAKERS

Jimmy Carper, Sarah Dipalma

J

Jimmy Carper 00:08

The following program contains language or images of a frank or 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.

S

Sarah Dipalma 02:06

Well, hello, Houston and Bryan College Station.

J

Jimmy Carper 02:10

Well, hello, you have tuned into after hours queer radio with attitude, which is heard every week. Saturdays at midnight, right here on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station Bryan. I'm Jimmy Carper.

S

Sarah Dipalma 02:26

And I'm Sarah dipalma.

J

Jimmy Carper 02:28

And tonight we've got what we have a five hours worth of material packed into a three hour

show. Do this well, I one thing you can say I always come prepared. Yes, I always do. First of all, I want to say hello to two friends in College Station. Tom Johnson and Tom Edwards. Oh, the time this two times he showed me it was possible to have long lasting relationships. Yeah. And so hello, they are folks in College Station may well recognize their names. You told that great story last time we were here about Yeah. How they got together and stuff.

 Sarah Dipalma 03:04

Yeah, well, I really respect them. And they we just had the they had their annual Fourth of July Carmen Miranda picnic and college station. And it was evidently a ball. Low College Station or Hey, an Aggie saying hi. And this is typically the case we get a bunch of stuff to do. Yeah, this has been a this has been probably one of the 40 the busiest 45 day periods I've ever experienced as an activist. What's the deal? There's just been you name it. It's happened? Oh, yeah. We've got a bunch of it. First of all, we had the transgender walk on. So we had lots of stuff to talk about that. Yeah. Then there was the town hall meeting spectrum, which isn't mixed bag and we'll talk about that. Yeah, I

 Jimmy Carper 03:46

know why. Two,

 Sarah Dipalma 03:48

we've got interviews with Jessica Xavier, who is on the National Board of Directors of its time America. And Ricky Wilkins, who is the founder of transsexual minutes.

 Jimmy Carper 03:57

Yeah, I was gonna ask you about this t shirt. You've got on it kind of it. It looks very Rocky Horror. Like

 Sarah Dipalma 04:04

You mean the one that says transsexual minutes New York. Yes. Yes. That's funny. I wore this a couple of days ago, and somebody asked me what it was about. And so I'm confirming what people say about me. And they just sort of looked at me and walked off like what were they asked, so I told them and we're gonna talk about there's so much stuff going on nationally, the last 40 days. In addition to the law conference, we've got we've got a major statement from the Trius sorority, the one of the largest cross dressing groups in America. Very, very powerful and important statement coming from them. We have got a a nationwide broke GPA protests going on involving the Human Rights Campaign fund. Yes, we have some some fallout from something that we talked about in a previous show involving PFLAG. We have a a very interesting suggestion for On the Transgender Law conference on Labor Day, for involving

transgender. So don't you can't go to bed until we say you can't. Oh, that's how much we've got. We've got a five hour show packed into three hours. So Gee, folks, if you don't like being bored, you came to the right show. That's

J Jimmy Carper 05:19

right. That's right. I mean, one thing about Sarah show, there's always a lot going on always.

S Sarah Dipalma 05:25

Well, there's really been an explosion of stuff going on with the transgender community across the country. It's really It's very exciting. We'll talk about that. So folks, stick around. And I know we've got some music we're going to do tonight we've got some Melissa Etheridge, because I know she's been down. Yeah, that's right. I unfortunately could not afford to go. But hey, you know, Melissa Etheridge. And we understand that the Q patrol didn't have enough people to actually form and go tonight and I think that's a shame

J Jimmy Carper 05:55

that you know, this happened about two or three weeks ago, that not enough volunteers showed up to make a group outing because they don't know what the number is I think it's like five or seven people in a group Yeah, so the road safety they will not do it with with less than that. Well, I

S Sarah Dipalma 06:17

really think that's a shame we talk about Q patrol on this show all the time. It is one of the best organizations around I mean, they're they are in existence to protect any and all of you who are out in the Montrose area tonight. They will they will absolutely and positively be glad to accept you as a volunteer so we're gonna give their number in later in the show but folks,

J Jimmy Carper 06:37

and we had this wonderful woman here tonight Cindy who stopped by because she she showed up to volunteer for for cute patrol and there just wasn't enough people. Yeah, for a patrol.

S Sarah Dipalma 06:49

Yeah. So I just thought I would mention that in passing if you'd like why don't we go to some some music we'll get ourselves settled in and we can come back and do some chatting

J Jimmy Carper 06:57

or Yeah, okay. This is one of my favorite all time Melissa Etheridge songs and it's it's probably the only time tonight yet. You're gonna find it restful on after hours. That's the truth. This is a nice slow ballad, and it's a favorite of women everywhere. It's called. You can sleep while I drive. Oh, isn't that nice stuff.

 Sarah Dipalma 07:30

That is pretty stuff. You're just holding up a CD and has something to do with rock and roll

 Jimmy Carper 07:36

Sex, drugs and rock and roll it live at the Squeezebox. This is a bunch of drag queens that did a show at the Squeezebox bar I guess in New York City. They're also people who star in a new movie that's out called wigs stock.

 Sarah Dipalma 07:56

Oh, well, I'm gonna have to check that wanting to go when I keep saying wow, I don't know. Yeah, I hate to spend \$7 on it and we'll go early and it's cheaper. I don't know. Yeah, save some money. You know, I promised Laurie I'm gonna do this. There is one of my favorite disc jockeys in the whole world just passed away.

 Jimmy Carper 08:15

Oh, I know who that is. Well, man, Jack.

 Sarah Dipalma 08:19

Now I'm of the generation. I remember listening to Wolfman Jack on the X coming out of Juarez, Mexico, right? That's a million pure Watts covered 40 Something states at night. And, you know, I was telling telling Laurie I also old enough to remember a disc jockey in New York named Murray the K who was

 Jimmy Carper 08:42

Oh yeah, I grew up in New Jersey. So I remember Marino

 Sarah Dipalma 08:46

Murray, the K in his submarine race watching our. And it took me a long time to figure out what the heck he was Salford, that wealth man, baby, I just want to say hey, we're gonna miss white man was a good guy.

J Jimmy Carper 08:59

I was just so shocked that he was only 57 years old.

S Sarah Dipalma 09:03

Well, I understand he was about 150 pounds overweight and smoked. Which, you know, doesn't help. No, but I just thought I would pass that along. Because hey, Wolfman was one of my Oh, radio. He was somebody that I would like to have been, you know,

J Jimmy Carper 09:17

but I mean, he was always old. You know, I've I kind of imagined he was about 70 or 80. And I was surprised to find out he was as young as he

S Sarah Dipalma 09:26

was. Somebody asked him once how he got started doing this this Wolfman? How old have ya radio? Yeah. He said, You work in some of the radio stations and sat on some of the chairs I did. You'd how to. So we thought we'd pass that along. Okay, let's talk about some of the stuff we got here. Yeah, what what do we have? Okay, first of all, I want to talk about the Transgender Law conference, which was just held here in Houston on June 14, through the 18th. It was the largest and most successful ever Hmm. We had attendees, more attendees this time than ever before. And they were here from literally all over the world. We had them from Great Britain and France from Canada. The international law conference became truly international this year, we had more female to male transsexuals attend this year than ever. Oh, great. It has been a concerted effort on the part of law conference to bring in the men, we have the chance to stay in transgenders have the opposite problem that the gay community has, yes, the gay community works like crazy to get the women involved in issues and to get them feel like they're part of it. We have the opposite problem here in trying to get the transgendered men to come in. That's right. They have this sense in many cases that what the transgender women do is some frivolous and we've had to convince them otherwise. Well, I

J Jimmy Carper 10:55

think there are other factors too, because it seems to me now this is just someone on the outside looking in, that transgendered men can pass a lot easier than a lot of different transgendered women. That's true. Testosterone is

S Sarah Dipalma 11:11

an amazing hormone, it will lower their voices. It will, it does a lot of things for them that like facial hair. Yeah, it will do a lot of things for them that the hormones will not do for those of us who are transgendered women. And I think also there is a sense of for a long time that they

had been so far outnumbered, that they felt uncomfortable. Sure, it was like coming to a women's store,

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Jimmy Carper 11:32

and everything, everything written all of everything, all the groups focused on the women's aspect of it rather than the man's aspects, right.

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Sarah Dipalma 11:42

And so we had more man attendance here than ever, including James Green, who was the one of the principal authors of the transgender protection ordinance in San Francisco. Yes,

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Jimmy Carper 11:53

he talked at great length about that very, very interesting, man.

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Sarah Dipalma 11:56

I tried to get an interview with him while he was here, and we just couldn't get our time together. So I'm going to end up doing a phone interview with him in the future. Great. So that's, that's somebody I really want to get to. We had a very nice award ceremony. Our Jimmy was, Oh, I was so thrilled. Jimmy won the It's Time Texas transgender inclusion award, the first one ever, and he shook a lot. But

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Jimmy Carper 12:22

yeah, I know, people are amazed that I can sit here every Saturday night and talk to that 1000s of people on the radio, and then you get a group of a couple of 100 people in a room and I'm, I'm a mess. I mean, talking to real people. It's, it's and when you're on the radio, it's I'm not talking to 1000s of people. I'm talking to one person you out there, the studio

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Sarah Dipalma 12:42

is like a living room and you get used to you know where everything is used to. When there are faces out there with expectations. It's a lot tougher. But Jimmy Carper was given an award Ray Hill was one a woman named sissy Connelly, who I'm going to speak about in a minute and also Jain fee, we're award winners,

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Jimmy Carper 13:03

I would say is an amazing woman. Oh,

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Sarah Dipalma 13:04

Jane fee. I'm going to be talking about gene and a couple of minutes. And I was selected to become a member of the National Board of it's time America. Hey, which is quite an honor. And I thank you very much. Apparently they were impressed with what we did in Texas. You've done a lot, Sarah. Well, yeah. And sometimes like if you get tired enough that I feel but also was able to take several interviews in the we'll talk more and talk about some of these upcoming guests. First of all, we taped an interview with man named Arman. Oh, Tim ski, Armand is the leading transgender activist in France. Oh, very interesting, man. And he talks about it chief transgenders think we have a tough here in America. One of the leading transgender activists in France had the secret police bust into his home. And he was found dead in the field a couple of days later. And of course, the secret police says they know nothing about it. So if you think transgenders are going to tough here, that's an interview. In fact, I will probably do that show next month, with Arman. Oh, Tim ski, and also another person that I interviewed named Steven Whittle. Steven was a law professor in Great Britain, a female to male transsexual, very happily married. He has, I believe three children through artificial insemination, and has a small problem. The British refuse to recognize them as His children. Because in Britain, they'll pay for your surgery, but grant you know rights. Oh, they are technically not his kids. So He is suing them to the World Court. Yeah, very interesting. Very interesting, man. We'll probably do that as the next show to talk about transsexuals, and transgenders throughout the world. We'll talk and be in a much wider show. We did an interview with Dallas Denny Dallas, Danny runs Aegis, which is one of the most factual fact based organizations they do terrific work, overseeing the therapists more or less, and making sure the therapists are telling the transsexuals the truth, they just put out a warning about a surge in Mexico, for example, he has had six patients die on the table in less than a year. It turns out that this is a surgeon who had his license revoked in this country. So he simply gone to Mexico and is now doing surgeries there. He has literally had people get up off the table, so you're out of money. So Aegis is a very important organization. We talk about surgeons and you wonder why I say some of the things I do, this is why, and we'll have Dallas Denny on the show. We're going to have person on named Sharon and Stuart. And we're going to introduce a new concept. And that concept is called being by gendered

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Jimmy Carper 15:39

by gender, gender. Oh, wait. Just kidding. Use the old term. Well, I'm

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Sarah Dipalma 15:44

not sure I understand this one myself. That's why we're doing it. That's why we're going to have her on. As best I understand this. This means that you can be equally male or female and switching to one rule or another. Anytime you choose. Oh, okay. Now I My question is why do you have to leave it? Why isn't all that called human?

J

Jimmy Carper 16:02

Isn't? Most gay men. Men I know are that way? Yeah, that's what I thought

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Sarah Dipalma 16:07

too. But it's but Sharon's very interesting parameter. That's just taking it another step further, the former librarian at the Baseball Hall of Fame, oh, so very interesting person. And we'll have that on. And we're going to do a show about cross dressers. But from a very different perspective. One of our guests is going to be one of the award winners named sissy Connelly, since he commonly was a crossdresser. Still is, since he was cross dressed, and was seen going up an elevator by one of her work, one of her co workers is the Afghanistan since he was a civilian worker, doing some things for the military. Had her security clearance revoked on the basis that she was cross dressing in her own time. What's that got

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Jimmy Carper 16:49

to do with anything?

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Sarah Dipalma 16:50

Well, let's illegal according to the military. And she, she took them to the court, and one good for her. And so we'll be we'll be chronicling her story that the military had crossdressing class with like bestiality and other good things.

J

Jimmy Carper 17:08

Well, that just goes to show you that that's really the case. So I am here. I wanted to talk about this one of the one of these art one of the articles in the voice this week was talking about gays in the military, how cool it's becoming, as long as you're quiet about it, almost kind of a Catholic thing. And I'm thinking here we're making we're starting to make some progress. And then you tell me about this. Well, the important

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Sarah Dipalma 17:34

one. Well, that's true, since he's a very interesting person, because typically crossdressers will simply say, Well, you know, I'm out of here and I'll be quiet. Yeah. But since he said, Wait a minute. I'm three years from retirement. You're not taking my pension for me, right. I don't blame her. Yeah. And she fought them in one. So very interesting. We talked a little bit about Jane FY in Jane Fy is a national director of its time America, primarily responsible for getting the transgender protection ordinance in the state of Minnesota pass. She won the Pioneer Award. This is her second major award. I plan to do an interview with Jane by telephone in the near future. Wonderful, gracious lady. You would you believe that woman is 70 years old?

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Jimmy Carper 18:16

sound amazing,

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Sarah Dipalma 18:19

medal winning combat pilot and fascinating lady. So. Okay, let's talk a little bit about spectrum.

J

Jimmy Carper 18:26

Okay. First of all, when was a gig? The voice this week is just was just phenomenal in the coverage that they had. There was a great letter from Alan bourgeois about about spectrum and what's been said and what's been reported, and he just gives the straight skinny about that really what happened?

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Sarah Dipalma 18:49

I tell you the truth. I feel sorry for Alan. Well, he's had a tough road to hoe. I feel sorry for Alan, because he got very little cooperation. In fact, I guess, well, I don't want to get ahead of myself. When we Amelia wifited part of the part of Spectrum was that they were going to have what was called a town hall meeting. And this was based on the town hall meeting concept that Ray Hill had introduced here. I guess about 15 years ago.

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Jimmy Carper 19:17

It was around 7978 or 79. someplace

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Sarah Dipalma 19:24

in there. Yes. And that came the Montrose clinic and many other agencies that are still on board. Right. So the transgender community, so this is a terrific opportunity. And for the first time ever, we put together something called the transgender caucus. And the members of that caucus included the Gulf Coast transgender community, which is a a cross dressing organization open to both gay and non gay cross dressers. We had the Transgender Law conference. It's Time Texas, the imperial court of the single store. Oh yes, the tri yes sorority which is which is A heterosexual crossdressing group and the Texas area transsexual support tats. It's the first time ever that every group transgender group in this city got together and agreed to cooperate on something.

J

Jimmy Carper 20:11

That's amazing, isn't it?

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Sarah Dipalma 20:13

It is amazing. We

J Jimmy Carper 20:13

worked on we just imagine all spectrums of gay people getting together and agreeing on anything.

S Sarah Dipalma 20:21

Well, we have, you know, behind closed doors, there were some pretty interesting conversations. But the fact of the matter was everybody really wanted to cooperate. I think there was a sense among us that this was something special. And so we worked for a period of, I guess, actually, we started on this, I guess, in November of last year, to start putting our resolutions together. And Dima Keller, who is our secretary for us, worked her little, you know, what off to put our stuff together. And so we showed up at this town hall meeting with 35 other people, yes. Now, I can't explain this. I really can't, here's an opportunity for the entire community to meet the entire community, everybody, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered something in between, take your pick, here's your chance to show up. And based on prior town halls, the prior town hall experience, you would have thought that this was important. Ray Hill showed up and he had three resolutions. We showed up and we had about six or seven. And we were the only ones who did not the Gay Lesbian caucus, not any other organization in the city. What gives?

J Jimmy Carper 21:36

I don't understand that.

S Sarah Dipalma 21:37

I don't understand that either. We

J Jimmy Carper 21:38

what was going on? In addition to that, I mean, well,

S Sarah Dipalma 21:43

I understand. For example, the Gay Lesbian Political Caucus didn't show up because they were supposed to be at the Pride Parade in Austin. So they couldn't find anybody to show up and present anything in spectrum. That gives that seems a little odd. It does to me. Yes. And I'm not just picking on them, because that's true for a lot of other organizations in the city. Where were you?

J Jimmy Carper 22:01

Well, yes, yeah, I know that the switchboard was not participating. Because we were involved in Pride Week, we're involved in PFLAG and we were stretched too thin. We did not have the people to do it. Maybe it was true of other organizations, too. Now, I know, maybe that was true. Yeah, I'm getting the impression that spectrum 96 is going to be held a little bit earlier, like the beginning of a month?

 Sarah Dipalma 22:29

Well, I think they probably learned some things. For example, I understand that their entertainment on Sunday night didn't do well. But there's some thought that they probably should have held on Saturday night instead of Sunday night, because the entertainment ran late, and people had to give them good work the next day, right. So maybe that was not the greatest planning. But it's still hard for me to understand how that again, people turn up at a town hall. It's supposed to be for the entire community. And furthermore, the transgender groups, we sent out ours, we sent out information to every major group in the city asking for feedback. I think we got it back in two or three. And so the general feeling I guess, I don't know how else to interpret this is that people didn't care.

 Jimmy Carper 23:07

Maybe it's not, you know, a lot of people maybe you're sitting doing a sitting, let's let's let's kind of sit back and see what happens. But why?

 Sarah Dipalma 23:17

Know why I mean, I would, maybe it's just me, but it was my impression that this was something or this could have been something really big. This could have been a terrific opportunity for businesses and individuals

 Jimmy Carper 23:30

and their will do something. And it will be because Alan is going to learn from what happened this year, and he's going to make changes in it. And next year is going to be better. And the year after is going to be even better than that. I think you know, the first Pride March was down Main Street. Is that right in the mid 70s. And there was probably about 2025 people in that in that parade. Now.

 Sarah Dipalma 24:02

Yeah. And now where we aren't well, well, I hope you're right, because I know I if if what I read in the papers is right. Apparently they've just lost a ton of money. And I don't guess you probably went into money can be made. But I think you know, at least breakeven. Well, it seems like the expo part did very well. The business expo

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Jimmy Carper 24:26

and maybe we don't need to have six hours worth of entertainment.

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Sarah Dipalma 24:30

Well, that's right. Well, let me talk about one of the positives that came out of that. Yes, please. Okay, one of the things that came out of the transgender caucus, I want to talk about the Trius sorority for a minute. Now, historically, the Trius sorority only backup. The Trius sorority was started by a woman named Virginia Prince, Virginia Prince was a major pioneer. She started talking about transgendered issues when the word transgender didn't exist yet. Wow. Oh, And when she was the only one who would be willing to do it. So So Virginia Prince is one of the is the grandmother of the transgender rights movement, really. But she did wasn't really thinking about it in terms of transgender rights at that point simply of acceptance in her and in her primary, her primary group of interests at the time was heterosexual crossdressers. And their wives. She saw it as a support group. And so for many, many years after that the Triassic sorority has been a group strictly for heterosexual crossdressers and their wives with no focus anywhere else. Well, okay, that's fine. But times have changed. Yes, it's no longer I don't think it's in today's world. It's realistic for any group to be able to just be that inward focused. And try Yes, has figured that out to Jane Ellen Fairfax, who is one of the national directors from the triads, has been attending these meetings of the transgender caucus. And I think there's there was a lot of learning both ways. I learned I guarantee you I learned as much from Jane Ellen she ever learned from us. But what came out of this was a statement from Trulia sorority that I just can't say enough good things about this. I'm going to read you part of their statement. Triassic is firmly committed to ending intolerance, disrespect, harassment, intimidation, bigotry, racism, hatred and bias in society, and strongly encourages its members to work toward the elimination of such discrimination. wherever it exists. Cool. They just did a 180. Yeah. And they did it almost overnight. They go on to say that they that they believe that such crimes should be punished by hate crimes. Sure, let me tell you, that makes me feel really good. Yeah, because I went to Austin without any support from cross dressers. The next time I go, I've got their support and do and finally, they went on to talk about job discrimination. And they've joined us in the fight for end. So overnight, we went from having no cross dressing interests, or support at all, to major support. Now, try us is a pretty big organization, the largest cross dressing organization in the United States, and one of the largest in the world. So I can't, I can't say enough about this. Because this is a major, major step on their part, this incredible guts, and I just, you know, I'm

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Jimmy Carper 27:35

glad to see them looking more out. I mean, there's, there's always you need that support for the coming out process, or that or the well coming out to yourself process, you know, you need that. But but But you, but you need to look outward also, I think a lot of groups. transgendered community is learning this, the bisexual group is just, you know, they're, they're starting out to the buy groups are mostly for supportive themselves. But But little by little, I see people in these groups that are looking out in the political field.

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Sarah Dipalma 28:11

We're also going to talk about it a little bit later, a little bit later. But we I just had a very interesting, very good conversation with the National Director for BiNet, and I'll talk about that later. But it looks like the bisexual group and the transgender groups are going to forge an alliance Hey, so it'd be wonderful coming along things things are good things are happening. Okay, so I wanted to pass that along about triads because there have been a lot of people who have come over to me in last Oh, four or five months and said, Well, what about the heterosexual crossdressers? What about them? Well, yeah, what about what about them? What about that we now have an answer. And for the first time they're joining us, in India, I'll tell you a funny thing has happened since we did the protest in Austin, transgender crossdressers got it. Good. They got it. They find when we started talking to them about hate crimes and said, You know what, you ain't covered. They got it. And when we began to see incidences of hate crimes here in the city, and they weren't covered, then they really got it. In his carried over and all of a sudden, they see that they do have a stake in the political process, even if they're just part time. crossdressers. Right. So this economy is proof, for example, that yes, and so they're getting in and I'm real pleased. More importantly, this came without any prodding from any of us. They did this on their own. And this is not the product of Phyllis and I going to the train yes group and beating them over the head is nothing so they produce this on their own. Wow.

J

Jimmy Carper 29:42

That's the best way. Yeah, yeah.

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Sarah Dipalma 29:44

So I'm real proud of them. Alright, let's talk about PFLAG. Okay, okay, now then. Get ready, folks. We're getting to some controversy. Here we go. We're gonna bash pizza. No, I'm not gonna bash people. Okay. I am trying to figure out how to go about isn't the best way? Maybe Maybe a better give some history about this? If you remember on the show some time ago, we talked about how Phyllis Frey and I went to the PFLAG the healing to free conference. Yes.

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Jimmy Carper 30:11

Well, it was on homophobia. Well, that's right. It was on homophobia is on the healing

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Sarah Dipalma 30:15

the current conference. And we felt like we had been not treated very well, we felt like maybe the ball had been intentionally dropped. And we didn't, there was why we didn't get included in some of the things when we had been told we would fit. Well, I have said very little about that, because there was some behind the scene communication going on between Phyllis fry. And Don Sinclair, who is the president of P flat, okay. In is my understanding that there was going to be some dialogue back and forth. Unfortunately, we got a letter from Don Sinclair, in which he says that, well, the transgenders are not going to be invited to the board, are not going to be invited to discuss. And he goes on to say, among other things, that we are, quote, weird. This is a quote, We are not trying to take up for every group is treated unfairly in our society. anyone participating in people actually do so because of their interest in promoting the health and well

being of Gay Lesbian, Bisexual persons, their families and friends. You know, I thought that's what we were doing all this time. That was news to me that we weren't. And I didn't take it. Well,

J Jimmy Carper 31:25

I'll bet you did.

S Sarah Dipalma 31:26

I didn't take it well at all. He then goes on to say transgendered persons would come under the subjective, whenever they identify themselves as homosexual. You know, haven't I said on the show? They're about 60% of the winner of the male to female transsexual end up in lesbian relationships, right? Where has he been? This person was on this show not long ago. I wasn't happy, especially when I discovered that we weren't even going to be invited to present our side of this. And that's a that's not right. So I decided that's kind of not fair. Well, that's what I thought. So I decided to get on the unknown. And I, you know, I'm

J Jimmy Carper 32:03

a little unhappy to see a great institution like PFLAG. Do that.

S Sarah Dipalma 32:09

Well, you know, this is not typical of Texas. So I want to be very careful here. We have had several situations in the past few months. Were transgender organizations and PFLAG swap meetings. It's happened in Lubbock happened in Waco, what's happened in Dallas. So I don't want anybody think I'm on the air bashing PFLAG because that's not true. Okay, that's that's not true at all. PFLAG is very good organization. I think we have a unique situation here. Okay, having said that, I decided that it was time for me to get into the act. I had been sitting on the scenes. So I got on the internet and I started asking some questions. Lo and behold, PFLAG picks up my stuff on the internet and they ran a very big computer rage I'm left behind. They ran a press conference, which says PFLAG welcomes families and friends of transgender people to our meetings, nationally and locally. Well, okay, I guess not in Houston. We have already included transgendered people in their families and friends in our work. PFLAG nationals provided local PFLAG affiliates with resources and referrals about transgendered issues. We offer work, we will offer workshops that are annual International Conference on transgender issues, and will offer transgender caucus for families. So clearly, PFLAG national can say the word transgender. Yes. And I didn't quite understand the gap between what their national press release said, and what was being done locally. So I called Jessica Xavier in Washington, DC and said, Can you get me on the phone with the director of PFLAG? She did. Ah, so I had a chance to actually speak with this woman. Her name is Mitzi Henderson. She is the national executor of PFLAG. And you know what? She's real nice, lady. Hi, she really is very nice. I would imagine

J Jimmy Carper 33:53

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I would be surprised if it was anywhere else.

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Sarah Dipalma 33:57

We had a very nice, we had a very nice conversation. And the upshot of this is we're going to have more dialogue. I don't know whether that's going to change the situation in Houston or not. Because, as I understand it, each individual group can make its own rules, essentially. And PFLAG national can't really do a lot about that. Having said that, simply because you get one, one group in one spot, chooses not to go with flow. That doesn't mean you choose throughout the whole organization. Well, that's right. So we're going to continue to have dialogue and back, various likely that within probably the next 45 days, we'll end up having a face to face meeting. Okay. And so it's very interesting. I'm just calling to people's attention. And I am because I've had a couple of phone calls in the last couple days from people saying, well, can I refer my parents defeat PFLAG? And the answer is, it depends on where you are. But in Houston, I wouldn't do it.

J

Jimmy Carper 34:51

Not right.

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Sarah Dipalma 34:51

Not right now. This red hot not until this settles down. Yeah. So I I, you know, I thought I'd pass that along. It's not a case. Going after PFLAG because hey, people like this good work. Yes, they

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Jimmy Carper 35:03

do very good work very well respected, and in many times has been the bridge between the heterosexual community and the queer community.

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Sarah Dipalma 35:13

Well, and you know, our experience when Phyllis and I were at the peak of the Healing Hurt conference was wonderful. So I'm beginning to wonder what the deal is about Houston is there's something in the drinking water?

J

Jimmy Carper 35:26

I don't know, I know, you know, we're, we're so progressive in some areas, and so backward and others, it's, it's amazing. It's just amazing. You know, to be a transgender person, Houston is a great place to live.

S

Sarah Dipalma 35:39

It is is one of the best in the country. And yet, we've got pockets and strange things going on. Yes. I have a hunch about this. I think part of the problem here is that we can't we are an unusual city, because we do have so many open vocal activists. We're not just activists in the sense of going to people and saying, Well, we're here and we wanted to let you know it. We're activists in the sense of saying we're here. And

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Jimmy Carper 36:05

I'm looking at me Goddamnit with coffee. Well,

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Sarah Dipalma 36:08

it's more than that. It's a case of like, for example, the case of PFLAG, we've been talking to them for two years. And now we're saying to them, how long do you think we're going to wait? Two years is sufficient? Okay. That's a different attitude than they have other places. Yeah. And maybe that's maybe that's part of the problem here that the there are groups here are not used to transgender people come and say, I've been talking to you. Now I want your attention. So so maybe that's it. It's like the

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Jimmy Carper 36:33

old magazine society in the 50s. That went around saying, Hello, we're homosexuals. And we're very nice people and all of that. And then Stonewall came around and a bunch of other people said, Hey, we're, hey, I

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Sarah Dipalma 36:47

tried being polite, and he hasn't worked. Right. So Okay, one more odd piece, little piece of stuff. And then we can go to some music and come back a little more. Okay. Okay. But this is a real unusual situation. Wendy Allen, who is a transgender activist here in the city, a open, very open transsexual, went to donate blood at the local blood bank. And the last time that she was there, she voluntarily noted on her application, that she was a transsexual. Now I want you to note your folks, the when you go to donate blood, it does not ask if you're transsexual, she volunteered the information, as did her roommate. When she went to donate blood, this time, she discovered she was on a do not accept list. And Wendy said, What will okay. Is she she had to do some prodding. And after a while she was said, Well, you noted on your last form, that you are a transsexual, yeah. So it's you in the high risk category. Well, that's what we want. Because this was certainly news to us. And so the doctor said to her, Well, if you are transsexual, you are homosexual. Oh, brother. Now I, you know, I have to point this out. This has been a very interesting week for me. On one hand, I got a letter from Johnson clear that says that transsexuals and transgender people are mostly heterosexual. So we're not welcome there. On the other hand, we get things from blood bank, this is we're all homosexuals. We're not welcome there. Which is it when somebody make up their mind? It's very interesting. So I said, Well, hmm. So I get on the phone and I call this this doctor. And I'm not going to use his

name on the year because I think the guy is basically trying to do his job here. He informed me that the Center for Disease Control for Atlanta from Atlanta, had sent out a statement saying the transsexuals were high risk and should not be accepted. But then I said to him, named me the report. And he couldn't. I said, well give me the number of the CDC report. And he couldn't. And then I said to him, Well, what study is it that shows the transsexual or a high risk factor, and he couldn't name it? I like that. You're gonna start telling me that there are reports that say this and that, then you better be able to produce the report? Yes, that's it. Doesn't sound right. Okay. So, and last couple of days, I have been on the phone, and I have been talking to the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta. We have talked to the National Institutes of Health, and we are currently talking to the Red Cross and the National Red Cross. You know what, we're nobody knows a single thing about this report. Nobody, really nobody can produce it. I spoke to I just this afternoon, I spoke to the Assistant Director in Charge of the AIDS groups in San Francisco. He's never heard of intersex and he's not aware of any study anywhere that says transsexuals are any risk of any Time. What he did find was a study that was done of transsexuals in prison, in prison in prison, many of whom were there because they were street prostitutes. And they were they had a very high rate of HIV. Well, what a surprise. I'm shocked. So on that basis, apparently all transsexuals are high risk, is that what I'm hearing? So I decided I would call the drought.

J

Jimmy Carper 40:30

That stereotype what's crazy, you know, all transsexuals are street hawkers.

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Sarah Dipalma 40:37

Well, the I have put in a phone call to Dr. Cole. And I'll probably I'll going to try and speak to him on Monday, because they just recently did a study on transgender on transsexuals in HIV, and if I'm not mistaken, I think their study found just the opposite of what the stalker said, I'm sure they did. Now, the thing that's, that's ironic to me about this, is that he said, one of the doctors that I spoke to said, Well, you know, transsexuals sleep with a lot of same sex partners. What? Oh, really? Okay. Yeah, they probably do.

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Jimmy Carper 41:12

And then my question may be some do some don't it depends on the person. Well, my question to

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Sarah Dipalma 41:17

him, I said, Well, you know, but the highest growing risk right now is in heterosexual single women. Are you going to stop taking blood from them, too? Yeah, really? He said, Well, we don't have studies to back that. There's interesting, very interesting. So I'm just bringing this up. I'm not trying to draw any conclusions, because I don't know that these doctors are wrong. You know, I, one of the doctors, I thought pretty very honestly, he said, Look, he said the fact of the matter is, this is a liability issue. We don't want to be sued. Fine, produce the study. Yeah. So we're in contact with the National Institutes of Health, we're talking to the CDC. And we're

going to try and find out where the information came from, who issued it, and I'll try and report back to you in the next show about it. But it's one of the most bizarre things have ever come across.

J

Jimmy Carper 42:07

Amazing, amazing.

S

Sarah Dipalma 42:09

People ask me all the time and they say what is it like to be an activist? Well, this is what it's like. It's it's schizophrenic in you know, within a day of each other within 24 hours, you get two letters, each making precisely the opposite claims and both convinced the right boys it's it's it's an interesting job and I sometimes wonder why did I ever volunteer for this? What would you say? Let's do

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Jimmy Carper 42:35

some music now. Okay, this is a piece of music that was in Woodstock. Okay. It's not it's not the the album isn't out yet. But this is the album that I was, we were talking about earlier. Yes, Squeezebox thing. It's mistress for Mica. Go I like that sound already. And she's doing this is a take off from an old Beastie Boys tune. You've got to fight for the right to be clear. Ready? Go for it.