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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

umpire, gay, book, people, baseball, major league, years, gay community, major league baseball, life, feel, game, minor leagues, dave, story, change, man, buy, written, reasons

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00:06

Afternoon as Dave Pallone who's written a book called behind the mask. My double life in baseball day was a former National League umpire, who was dismissed from the National League in 1988. Basically, for being gay, there were some other reasons that were given to Dave for while he was dismissed, but basically it boiled down to to being gay once you said this, right?



00:26

No question, Major League Baseball discriminated against me. And they, although they didn't come out and say that you are dismissed because you're gay, because they could not, they could not do that under the law. They dismissed me. They gave other other reasons that never held water. And I and I proved that in my book. And it's unfortunate because Major League Baseball has always discriminated, they've always been a middle class, upper class, white male game. And it's time that they face up to the fact that they're not the All American game that they profess to be.



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Let's talk about the book itself to begin with. I think it's it's amazing that a book like this has been written, and you were just telling me a few minutes ago, it's number nine on the New York Times bestseller list.



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I think. I think one of the big reasons that the book is so successful is that it's hitting all types of people, and all different ways. It hits the 14 year old looking for the role model and hits the 5560 year old that is as bigoted in some ways, but then an ends up really finding out more about human nature and the human soul and that there are compassionate people out there that are gay, and that he just hated them because they were gay. And he didn't really know why. So I'm getting to change those type of people and getting this book is, is a big reason why I think that we have a chance to to change the attitude of some of the people that are out there today.



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And you were you were telling me before, before that, um, you've gotten actually gotten a letter from a 14 year old boy.



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Yeah, I've been receiving lots of letters and phone calls. And it's been incredible people calling up other radio stations that have been on and giving their insight. And I had 115 year old call up and say to me that he scraped up enough money to buy my book, and he read it. And he thanked me for being his role model with the lowest Polonius out there that that are trying to be role models. I'm so glad that I have you. And if, if, in fact, I have I do have some gay friends, I will be able to look at them in a different different light now be able to understand them better. And I think you know, here's a 15 year old that that needed to go out and buy this book, because it was a baseball book and he learned something. And I couldn't ask for anything more. I couldn't ask for an endorsement. That would be anything more than that.



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Did you have the impression this boy was gay or that he might turn out to be gay or I had any idea I had



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the impression that he was a straight boy that just wanted to read a baseball book and found out something more about his fellow human man.



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And you've heard from you've heard from older people, too. You've heard you've heard from people who are basically baseball fans who bought the book for reasons related to baseball as opposed to related to anything else. Sure



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I had recently heard from. I had recently heard from a man from Philadelphia that said that he bought the book, simply because he was looking for more things to dislike me. He more reasons to dislike me, I should say. He had his wife go out and buy the book for him. I started reading the book. And he said by the time I got through the book, I I was almost like I was your friend for the rest of your life. I learned so much about you said I learned how terrible I've how terrible he had felt about why he hated me for so long. Because he didn't even know me. And when he found out that I was gay before he went out and bought the book, he hated me even more. He said, This is now I learned about my fellow man from this book. I'm so glad that I

bought it and read it. And I'm so glad that now I see you in a different light. And I feel disgusted with myself for hating you for all these years, for no reason. And I thank you for helping me see the light and I am definitely telling my friends to buy this book.



04:56

That's great. That's amazing. How did you go about right During the book, the book is CO written with Alan Steinberg, who I believe lives in Chicago. How did how did you go to write the book? What's the procedure when you write code when somebody co writes a book with somebody else? Or what did you do?



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Yeah, well with Alan, first we were put together by our agent who had, he's an agent for both of us just turned out that way.



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Okay, so you didn't seek him out. I



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didn't seek him out myself. He was delivered to me by my agent. And we sat down and we did 51 hours worth taping. He asked me all these questions. And that's difficult process, simply because, excuse me, simply because it's, I didn't know Alan, first time I met him, and I'm telling them my whole life story. Some innermost secrets. And I think it was, it was it was a catharsis for me to do it really helped me a lot.



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Things come to your mind, did you think of things that you put things together that you hadn't put together before, while you were doing all this narration?



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I say no, I mean, I knew everything was there. It just helped me get all these, all the stress all the inner inner problems that I had within out an ad that helped me quite a, quite a bit. And once we once we finished all the taping, then we started writing the book, he would do the writing. And then I would edit it. And now if he happened to said that, something was beige, and I thought it was brown, and he would have to change it to brown, because those are my words. You know, we didn't put any of his words in the book, they're all my words. You know, he just put it in there. He just made it so that it was readable. He made it into what it is today, the best seller that it is,



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Well, it certainly is a readable book. I know after I've read the book, and I know that sounds like a cliché, but it's not a cliché for me to say that after I read the book, I felt like I had known you for my whole life or for your whole life.



07:01

And it's so funny that I go out and I do book signings, and I've been meeting a lot of a lot of people and there's never fails, where someone will come up and says, How do you feel that I know all about you? And you don't know anything about me? I've been in it is kind of strange the first few times, but I'm used to it now. And like I said before, there's always a few things that you keep within yourself that you know that that nobody else knows. And that will always stay that way.



07:35

Well, your story is very moving one and very, it's a very wonderful book i I almost wrote it in one sitting, you know, if I had the time to spare, I could have read it in one sitting because whenever I had two minutes to spare, I was grabbing the book again, reading the next few paragraphs going through it like that.



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And that's that's Allen's expertise again, I mean, I've had more people comment on such as that, you know, they get to sit down and they read the book, and they read it in one sitting. They read it in two days. There are people that say no, I read this book in a week. And I said, Well, that's good. And they said, but you don't understand a week for me to read a book no matter what it is. I mean, that's incredible for me, so I guess it doesn't, it keeps people's interest. And that makes it readable. And it's enjoyable. You know, it's a type of work thing, it will definitely make you laugh. You know, there's some wonderful baseball stories in there. Scott, if you have feelings, it makes you cry and think. And it just gives you a better insight on the gay community and baseball that they can interact. And they've always and and, and it's there. You know, it's wonderful.



08:48

Yeah, the balance, there's really three stories, the way obviously, there's really three stories being told in here this the baseball story, there's your personal story as what you went through as being somebody who crossed the picket lines to get into the major leagues. And then there's a story of you're coming out as a gay man. And the balance between the three is so wonderful. You don't really it's so seamless that you don't really notice when you're going from one to another. They sort of went so well together.



09:16

Yeah. My whole life has been full of full of controversy, and it's been a roller coaster ride for me. There's been a lot of highs and a lot of lows. Just like I'm sure in everybody's life. The scabbard should took took over 10 years. The gay issue was there ever since I realized that I was gay. I mean, I'm really even before that. And so it was, it was a tough ordeal for me to blend being gay and professional baseball at that time.



09:55

Well, I want to I want to definitely talk about the scab issue and the gay issue but let's get For our listeners, a little bit of background, how did you how did you get into being an umpire as opposed to being a player or something along those lines?



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Well as all, as all little kids, they always dream to play Major League Baseball, and I went to bed at night with the transistor radio under the pillow listening to the Red Sox lose, I was breaking my heart. And in high school, I was pretty, pretty decent player, and then I hurt my arm couldn't pitch anymore. So the dream of getting into the major leagues as a player went out the window. And then one day, I saw an advertisement for Major League Baseball, to become a major league umpire. And so I decided, that's for me. So I went to the umpire school, there were 1200 applicants and 60 people got chosen. And out of those 6030 of us got jobs in pro ball in the minor leagues, which wasn't the greatest place in the world to be. I mean, in my final year, in 1978, I made less than \$5,000.



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That's incredible that the salary for a job like that was so low



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as a little anecdote, in 1971. On I've got my first job, it would go to spring training. And they would give you \$40 A week for work. And 1978, they gave you \$40 a week to work. So I didn't even raise in spring training for all the years it was there. That's an incredible



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statistic that doesn't go throughout the season, you're talking about just for spring train, spring



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training, but even still, I mean, after eight years is still the same some somewhere along the line, I'm pretty sure that the cost of inflation went



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up, oh, you're you were you were losing money. You were losing money during spring training. That is something I got.



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So then, so then I got, you know, I got lucky and made it to the major leagues, it was only three of us that made it to the majors from the 1971 class. So that's kind of a big, big ratio between 1200 people and three people making it to the majors.



12:08

Your dad wasn't too crazy about the idea of you going into baseball and being an umpire wasn't.



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I know, I remember him saying you want to be a what? And then sustain that,



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were you. you'd gone to computer school. Yeah,



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computer school, and I just couldn't see myself sitting behind a desk. And he had spent all that money into him. It was a lot of money. And he was upset about it. But however, he finally agreed that I should go or that I went. And my mom was very happy. And they were very supportive, and was unfortunate that neither one of them saw me working the Major League, my mom died very young, my dad was around up to 1982. But he never was at a game physically. I'm sure he saw the games on TV, but he never went to the National League cities because we lived in Boston. And I talked about that in the book, I talk about my relationship with my dad in the book. And the regrets I had. That's an interesting, interesting story. I think a lot of people can relate to that



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with your dad was actually at least what was still around when you hit the majors,



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right? He was he was the big influence that I needed to make up my decision meant to make my decision whether or not to cross the picket line or not. He was a union man his whole life up until the last three, four years of his life when he was management. And he told me that if I didn't take the job, then then to go and get myself another career because I would never be asked to second time to go to the major leagues. And so I had I had a way, the possibilities of me going into the major leagues of me going back to the minor leagues, I mean, not even just having a job. And I just felt that, you know, I spent eight long years in the minor leagues making no money. And I finally had a chance to reach my goal. I finally had the opportunity to say that, hey, if I stay there the two years and I work hard, I know I belong there, and I'll stay there. So I did. And that's what happened. I ended up staying there for 10 years had a lot ostracism though.



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Dave, your dilemma was actually a little bit greater than that, because you had the choice of either being a major league umpire or not being an umpire at all, because you had been let go from the minor league, there was something that wasn't even roll your fault.



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Right. Another controversy plaguing my career and which I explained in the book about being fired from the Puerto Rican winter League and having that whole mess started and then I was without a job, not just in Puerto Rico, but I didn't have a job in the minor leagues. So I mean, I had to figure out what I was going to do. And then and all of a sudden this, this opportunity knocks on my door and I just could not let They go by, I just felt that I would have been wrong to do that. And I feel that any of our putting my position would have done it. Now, if I had, if I had been if I had been in the Union, which minor league umpires are not, they're not in the Major League, umpires union, they have no union at all. They have no benefits. They have some now, but when I was there, they didn't. If I had been guaranteed by the Major League umpires Association, that they would guarantee me a job or something to that effect once they can't. But, you know, I knew I needed something. And I didn't have anything. And so it was, it was the only decision that I could make. And I'm sure there were a lot of people out there that say that's, you know, you, you took away someone's job, or you took away some money for somebody. Well, I just didn't think it was the right thing to do. So let to let my career and my life go by the boards, just so that other people can have a great life. And it's always important to remember that nobody lost their job in Major League Baseball because of the umpire strike. They ended up getting a two week vacation that they still enjoy, because they had eight extra hours. And each leg, I mean foreign prize in each leg. And that floating him on par As everyone gets a vacation two weeks, and it's something that benefited everybody. And although the umpires last 45 days of work and 45 days of pay. They put all the blame on the umpires that came up during the site. But yet they should have put the blame on major league baseball, because they're the ones that hired us the other ones that stopped them from working, they could have settled the strike a lot sooner. But they don't want to realize that. So unfortunately. The Empire The umpires that came up during this time to so called scabs, but the ones that had had all the all the problems.



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One of the ironies one of the many ironies about about your story is that your dad told you well, they'll be mad for a year or two and then we'll be forgotten. But that's not quite what happened is

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no major league baseball. The Empire has lasted 10 years, the exorcism lasted 10 years.

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And the long one of the longest grudges in history.

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Well, I know that we can forgive the Japanese a lot quicker than they've forgiven me, man. Frankly, I don't think they've ever they haven't forgiven me. And I know there are still three umpires up there and one of the national to the American. And I know they still had the problem.

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There were a few of the umpires in the in that you got along with, there was a couple of them that you were fortunate enough to be teamed with for several years that you got along real well,

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Paul run game Bob angle. And the irony to that is Bob Engel was a past president of the Union. And Paul ranky is and was then the president of the Union. And here are two men that have seen the union struggles, we've seen all the tough, tough and rough times that everyone has had. And yet they were able to open up their their mind and open up their vision of what people are, and not have tunnel vision on on my situation. And not only did they accept me as an umpire, but they accepted me as a person, because they gave me the opportunity to show them that I was a decent human being. And that's all they cared about. You know, and then once they once they had that, then they saw that I mean, they saw that I can hamper and that's what was killing them. And they and as I talked about it in the book, as documented, they've said it, they've said it to anyone's face. And they say that, you know, the de Pologne is on par with the best of them. And I think I think that's what's important to realize that if in fact I wasn't good at what I did, there's no way that I could have stayed 10 years and no matter how much I tried. You cannot camouflage your ability for 10 years,

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you would have washed out at some point probably earlier. There would have

you would have washed out at some point probably early on. I here would have



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been no question that I would have washed out before my end of the second year. But I love that I was fired at the end of the 1980s season they rehired me again, because it made a big fuss, simply because I wouldn't take it sit down. I mean, I must have you know I must have nine lives because you know I've been fired so many times and they finally got me in 1988 But tell you I was a fighter my whole life and I consider myself a fighter now it took



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took a real effort to get you out of there.



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I think it took a plot



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um What will certainly if you, you know, I think you've realized yourself that if you'd been more open about yourself or along, people wouldn't have been in a position where they would have been able to set you up. The way, the way that happened several times,



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there's no question that if I didn't have the fear of the unknown, if I didn't have the, strike the ostracism from that. And I might have been able to come out of the closet earlier, and I'd still be working today. But the unfortunate part is, is that, you know, hindsight is 2020. And everybody seems to know what's best to do after it's all over.



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It's easy to be a Monday morning quarterback, pardon me mixing my metaphors.



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But the problem is, is that I know that they're right, I know that baseball would not have been able to do that to me, if in fact, I was openly gay back in 1980, or 81, or 82, when nothing was going wrong, they couldn't abuse that against me, if I had just called the news conference. But the other problem is this. Why should a gay man or lesbian have to profess his sexual have to profess his or her sexuality? heterosexuals don't have to do



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that? No, you don't have to go out every day and wear a badge or some



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price. So I mean, I just feel that it's no one's business, but my own. And I've been getting some, I've been getting some criticism that I am, you know, going out and telling everybody about my sexuality, they don't want to hear it. I didn't want anybody to hear it. I wanted to keep it to myself for all these years, it's mainstream society that brought it out is everybody else



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who wanted to keep bringing out to join the bandwagon you're getting,



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we're now getting criticized. So mean, again, double standard. However, I think it's important that somebody like myself steps forward. I mean, I'm in the public eye. I mean, I've been in the public eye my whole life since I was 18 years old, whether it's whether we're just in a little town in Geneva, New York, or whether it's a big town of New York City, I've been in the public eye, I'll always be in the public eye, because I'll never go away. And so I might as well use it to help the people that can help such as gay people, the gay community society itself, the young people of today, it's important for them to have somebody to look up to



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something I wanted to ask you, Dave. Immediately following one to three, we run a program, a network program called fresh air. And they have interviews and news and music reviews and book reviews and TV reviews, and so forth. A week or so ago, they interviewed Eric Greg, who was also a national league umpire. And he was also written a book. And one of the things he mentioned, which struck me because I just read it in your book, was that his code for tossing people out of the game? You know, if somebody would say, well, bleep, you know, that was okay. But if they said, Well, you bleep, then that's different. In other words, if they directed it towards you, the cuss word, if they directed that towards you, then they would be tossed out of the game and he basically said the same thing is this pretty much standard throughout?



23:11

Its you know, what, most empires, you know, they they know, when to throw someone out of the game. We have umpires that close your eyes to a lot of things, you know, and that's unfortunate because they ended up not being professional. But it's not the I don't know, I guess the noun or I don't know, what would that be? An adjective? I don't know. I don't they use bad language. It's not too bad. Maybe it's not the bad language that makes it bad. It's the you are

because you can say that call was a bad word. But you can't say you are a bad word because then you're directing it right at me. So then you have to talk about so you can basically say the magic words are not the expert. But it's you are and then you never touch an umpire never you I mean, you never touch him. You never kicked dirt on him. We're the only major sport that allows the manager a coach to come onto the field. Football doesn't allow them to come on the field basketball, hockey, you do that? Yeah, you're either ejected right away. Penalty, whatever it may be. So So amazing baseball, let's it's coaches come on to the field. And it's okay. But you have to you have to be able to stand your ground and you have to draw a line and what's what's good and what's not good.



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You there's an insistence I see what you're saying is there is an insistence that the players and managers show respect for you as an umpire



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I absolutely I think respect is part of the game. But in order to get the respect from the players and managers, you've got it as an umpire you should try to respect the managers and players as well. We have a lot of maths shouldn't say a lot, but we have some umpires out there that feel that they're bigger than life bigger than God and that they can do no wrong. Now I am an umpire as umpire, I believe that you should stand up to the players and managers, I think that you should always hold your ground, I think that you should be able to talk to them, I don't think you have to yell all the time, I think you should be able to let some things roll off your back, look the other way once in a while, but not not to the point where it's embarrassing, and not to the point where you close your eyes to controversy. I mean, anybody can get rated in the top five as an umpire, if you close your eyes, all the all the box and all the interference calls and all the obstruction calls and all the controversial calls. But if you want to be an umpire is on par If you want to do your job professionally, you have to look at this when you see a bike you got to call it when you see an interference call, you got to call it when you see an obstruction call, you have to call it when you see an obvious an obvious play that to everybody looks out. But but you know, because of something that you saw, he looks safe, you got to contact and then let let the chips fall where they may, but you will always feel good about yourself. And he also as a professional umpire have got to be able to realize that you are a human being and you are going to make mistakes. And if you can accept that and be able to admit that, then you become not only a better umpire, but a better person. We have umpires out there that we could never admit that they were wrong. Never. I mean, there are times where it's okay to tell people that you're wrong. Certain managers, certain players, depending on the situation, and depending on who you're talking to anyone who the player is right. But you pick me as an umpire you grow, you learn, and you find out who these people are to chuck Tanner's of the worlds you could tell, these aren't how the Houston Astros, you could tell them, No problem if you and they respect you for it. However, you know, if you can't always do that, you can at least admit it to yourself and your fellow crew mates. They can't even do that. And that's the sign of a bad empire. Because they can't admit their mistakes. And they've got a lot of people in the National League that does that do that. And



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I want to spend this last 1520 minutes we have talking about, or at least part of the time talking about the gay issue. A lot of people who are anti gay or or don't know much about being gay or whatever, will sit there and tell anybody that well, this is a personal choice, and nobody has to be gay. It's something to just choose for whatever reason, but reading your book, I mean, if anybody has ever tried harder to be heterosexual than you, I don't know who they are.



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Well, first of all, I mean, to, to even think that this is a preference or a choice is ludicrous. I consider myself a very intelligent man. And knowing what mainstream society has to offer a gay man out there today, why would I ever want to choose to be gay, I mean, I am proud of who I am. And I take pride of being gay. But I certainly didn't choose it. I was born this way. And it took me a while to accept it. And now that I've accepted it, and now that I'm proud of who I am, now, I live a better life, I'm happier. And I think it's just a myth out there for the mainstream society to, to think that gay people choose it. And that gay people are out there trying to seduce people into choosing their lifestyle, you can't do that you cannot change something that cannot be changed. That's all there is to it. It's just like the color of your hair and the color of your eyes, and how many years you're gonna have, how many arms you're gonna be born with, you have no choice. It's just the way it happens. That's all there is to it. And as soon as they understand that, then maybe they will understand the gay community even more or a little better. Anyways,



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I think your book is gonna go a long ways toward that, because you're reaching an audience that ordinarily wouldn't read the so called gay literature that, you know, gotten to be real prevalent nowadays. Absolutely.



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You know, there were, from what I understand there were three books that have made New York Times bestseller lists that were gay oriented. And Randy Schultz, his book in the band played on, which was a tremendous book. And the fact that it reached so many people, because of the AIDS epidemic,



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right, the end of banned plates, plays on faces the history of the AIDS epidemic back to 1977.



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And also, Dave copays book, which he was a he was a national football league player, and he wrote a book in 1975 when he came out of the closet then, and it seems to say that ever since since then, no one has come out of the closet and I wrote a book about it. And then myself. I think that the difference between Deb COEs copays book and my book are two basic things.

One timing. I think timing now, for my type of book is right. I think it's there. I think it's time it was needed back in 1975. And Dave Capades book helped, certainly a groundbreaking book. But without question, the timing of his book was might have been a little off, you know, it was just six years, maybe seven years after the Stonewall incident. Now, the riots in New York with gay people and, and police. And then now it's me 1990. And I think people have more of the younger people today have more of an open mind. And society itself has a little bit more of an open mind, mind that the normally did. And the second, and I think the big difference is that although football is a very macho sport, although football is known to be great love of many, many people in our country. No other sport is love more than baseball, no other sport is loved. More for its American heritage, as part of America has always been part of America,



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when you say mom and apple pie, you say baseball, football.



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And I think it's important for people to understand that this, these two can interact us, like we said before, can coexist. And I think this book proves it without a shadow of a doubt. And it also proves that there are people that that fans idolize idolize in the game that are gay. I mean, I've said before, that you can feel the major league team and have extras. And you can also have a general manager to run the club. That's it, those are just the gay people that I know. And there are more. And until such time, as one of them will have enough strength. And it does take strength, it takes guts to but strength to stand up and profess that he is gay, then, you know, our society is going to hurt. But when he does it, he's going to help let him set not just himself and not just the gay community, but he's going to help everybody he's going to help the whole society. When



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you're talking about not somebody who's actually still active in the game,



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I am talking about someone that is actively in the game that has the has the power to come out. I think that might happen. I just was recently told from a very reliable source and one of the people that I talk about in the book as making some decisions about coming out of the closet. It would be tremendous if it happened. Personally, I don't feel that it will happen.



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But you think it's just rumors right now?



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No, it wasn't even a rumor. I mean, it was it came from a very reliable source. I don't believe in rumors mainroom was destroyed my life. And I don't believe in rumors. So I mean, if I felt that this was a rumor, or if I felt this wasn't from a reliable source, I wouldn't even mention it. But I believe so much in the source and know where it's coming from? That I think it's there. However, I would I would I really would question that this person would do it simply because he had he had made strides years ago to do this. And he changed his mind. And sometimes, yes, I certainly can't look down upon him. Because I know what it's like. It's not the easiest thing in the world to do.

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What do you think that, um, if it does happen, that you will have had any sort of small role in that without him out?

34:10

I think so. I think that he is seeing how well I am being accepted by mostly by mainstream. I think that he has the opportunity to change the face of Major League Baseball to a point where they will never be able to discriminate again. No matter whom it is, whether it be black or white, male or female or Jewish or Gentile, rich or poor, gay or straight. They will be he will be able to make such an impact and baseball that they will definitely have to start looking to change their ways. And I think that's what that's what I'm that's what I'm hoping for because you just can't do it alone. However you I have, in some way made a challenge to the gay community. And the challenge is a simple one. One that I might be wrong, maybe it may be, this has happened and I didn't even notice it. But I don't think so. I have told the gay community, we've always gone after things, we've always fought for many things. We fight the politicians, we've, we've fought big businesses, we fight discrimination with insurances, and so forth and so on. I've never seen any. And I'm not talking violently either. But I've never seen the gay community go after professional sports. You know, taxes are paid by everybody in this country. And if we think about it, just about every major stadium built in our country today, is paid with tax dollars subsidized by tax dollars. Those taxes are paid by gay Americans as well as heterosexual Americans. Why can't we be a part of that stadium? Why can't we play within that stadium? If we're having, we're using my money to build it, our money to build it, our taxes. So I believe that if in fact, I just had to take it off just a little bit. And just to try to make you understand what how I feel. The very first gay pride walk I was in was this year. I've been to one before, but I never walked in it. And I walked into one this year in New York City. And I have never in my life seen anything more powerful of a statement. When I was walking down Fifth Avenue, from top of Columbus Avenue, walking down Fifth Avenue, and there were 300,000 people all walking down on Fifth Avenue. And at the very same moment, they all stopped. Quiet, everybody bowing their heads for a moment of silence. For the people that have died of AIDS. Two minutes, you couldn't get 300,000 people in New York City to be quiet anytime in your life for two seconds, let alone two minutes. And you get these people to do it. To me, that's a sign of, of camaraderie. This is a sign of unity. And I think that if that can be used towards professional sports, but not in a violent way, but to let them know, Hey, we get 20,000 People at the giant stadium and 20,000 people at Yankee Stadium or Shea Stadium or the Astrodome, they all get tickets, and they all go instead of buying \$10 worth close to \$10 worth of beer or whatever you buy \$10 worth by buying a ticket to a baseball game. Yes, you putting money into their pocket? Yes, I agree with that. But on the same token, you make a

point to let them know that we come to these games 55 million Americans went to baseball games in 1989. If we use the old adage of 10%, which I hate, I think it's 15%. But if we use 10% 6 million people went to the games that were gay, or lesbian.



38:12

There's certainly a misconception that gays were not into sports at all. That's something you hear



38:17

a lot of people, that's a lot of money. I mean, we're talking about an average of \$10 a person you're talking \$50 million, it's a lot of money. Why can't we let them know that we do go to the games, we do want to be accepted. We do love baseball, and we want to participate in the games without any discrimination. And I believe that it can be done, I am going to go to every activist group, non violently asked them to do this, to do it non violently, to do it to a point where we make an impact so that newspaper, people will see it. Baseball, people will see it and it gets covered by the media. And not that we're trying to make it into a circus, but to let them know what they're doing is wrong. And I think it can be done.



39:06

We may be having everybody go wearing a pink triangle possibly, or something,



39:09

something, anything that will let them know that we're still there. And the only reason we have to do that is because they take away our rights. Because we're a silent minority. Unless we speak up. We won't be heard. I walked down the street. If I was black, you would know that my rights have been abrogated at some point in my life. If I was a female, the same thing, but when but when you're a white male, and very masculine looking and walking down the street, no one's gonna think that your rights have been abrogated. Now if you're gay, you're very silent. You're a minority and then until such time as you speak up, no one knows.



39:52

They let me ask you something. Um, one of the most moving parts of your book to me is after you've been let go and you decide well, I need to Do something to stay in baseball so I'm gonna go to the game. And you went there and you felt what the umpires were feeling and all this and you after about two innings? You couldn't take it and you left. What? What's your relationship to baseball now? Do you watch it all? Do you go to the games you see it on TV?



40:17

I went to opening day at Dodger Stadium this year. And then I went with friends. And if I hadn't gotten with friends number one, I wouldn't have gone never would have been able to stay through the seven innings that I did stay at. It's still tough for me to go to the games. I still love the game of baseball. I just, you know, I have a distaste for the people that run the game on but I have a hard time watching baseball on TV. I still take us little sneak look at when the Red Sox play on TV. Because they are my that's where I'm from. And that's where my heart lies. However, the game has lost a little for me. Definitely, definitely, I would never want to umpire baseball again. But the game is a great game, and all and everybody should be able to enjoy it. As it's a super game. It's a game that little kid should play and should play forever. And nobody. Nobody should miss the chance to go to Fenway Park or Wrigley Field.



41:27

Other things? If you had no this is a cliched question, I realize but there are things in your past you could do over again. Is there anything you would change? Would you do it all the exact same? How would you handle? How would you handle it? Have you ever thought about that?



41:39

Oh, sure. I think about a lot of things. First of all, I would have given the given my parents the chance to know their real son, letting them know that I was gay. would have come out baseball out earlier. I would have definitely crossed the picket line. If I had it all over to do all over again in the same situation. If you take everything exactly the same, would have definitely crossed the picket line. Never would have never would change the fact that I got into baseball. I love the game I always did. And



42:22

you'll be glad for your nearly 20 years in



42:24

various Oh, absolutely. I mean, and I talked about who wouldn't want to be an umpire. You know, you get to meet four to five living presidents I came. I came from Watertown little little small town outside of Boston, I grew up in a project ended up going and my parents bought their first home for \$16,000. And it's the only home they owned. I remember getting, I remember writing the letter to the president United States when I was I don't know, I must have been 13 years old about the Vietnam War. It was to President Johnson at the time. I remember receiving a letter back from him and how excited I was. Wow. And now I've met for the five living presidents, whether whether you like their politics or not, it is still an awesome feeling, to me thrilled to meet the president, and to have a conversation with him. And not just to shake hands. To be able to meet some of the people that I've met because of baseball. I'll never throw that dream away. And here I am. I'm 38 years old. I came from a project. I've met four to five living presidents have been in baseball for almost 20 years. I've had I've written a book. I've had some wonderful memories. I've had some sad memories, just like all of us do. But when I

look back, and I say to myself, well, Boy, I've had a lot of tragedies. Forget it. I've had a great life so far. And it will be better because of some of the things that I've done in my past, especially the ones that I've recently done.



44:03

Yeah, you know, you talk about a number of your tragedies in the book, but they don't come across as tragedies per se. They're just stories of somebody who was strong enough to keep going through them.



44:12

Well, I don't know where I don't know where I get my inner strength at times. I really don't there are times where I believe that I should either have an ulcer or I should have cracked up I don't know. But I guess that that voice of Scott is up there somewhere in that voice of my mother up there. And the voice of my dad, just keep telling me to keep keep plugging, because you're going to make it.



44:36

Well, what's in de Pologne future? What do you have planned? Have you given me probably give me some thought what you're going to do when you're finished promoting the book and so forth. Yeah,



44:44

I'm definitely going to be going on a lecture tour to colleges in high school. So I hope to come back to Texas.



44:53

I'm definitely going to be available for that. I'm going to be more active in the gay community. I



45:00

do not want to be labeled an activist, I will not be labeled an activist, I do not like labels. And I will be active as an adjective, or as a verb rather, and the gay community where I'm going to set my priorities, I don't know yet. aids will always be a part of my life as far as I will always help them. I was always do everything I can to help find a way to cure this disease and raise money. And gay rights will always be a part of my life, to fight for them. I also want to be there for as many people as I can, just for inspiration only if that's the best I can do. But I also see my future as being a broadcaster, I have always wanted that I feel that I can do it, I feel that I will

do it. And I don't think anything right now can stop me from doing it. I think that I've proven without a shadow of a doubt that I can speak on radio when I'm not tired. Don't mumble my words, and that I can articulate and that TV is TV is a possibility as well,



46:12

well, then that means your career would have come full full circle, because what got you into Empire was watching Curt Gowdy lay down, and that's where you'll wind up.



46:20

And I hope so because that's where I want to be. And I have my sights set on it. And I have some influential people on my side that want to help me that happy to help me. And with their help, and with a little luck. Maybe in a year from now, you'll be seeing me on TV broadcasting something while I sure hope



46:41

so. Well, Dave, it's been a real pleasure having you here. You know, despite what you say, you've been extremely articulate and extremely well wide awake. I know. You're on an exhausting, grueling tour. And I'm real glad you were able to take time to come by KPFT and talk to us for a while.



46:55

My thanks for having me and hope next time we come in. I'll be fresh and full of vinegar and let's get going. I hope so. Yeah.



47:03

So you'll be back through again, to back through again. You



47:05

never know. We'll just come back and next year when the paperback comes out. We'll do it again.



47:10

I hope so. I really do. Okay, okay, David, thanks. Lawful law. You're listening to one to three on KPFT Houston. We'll be back in just a second after this break.

