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SPEAKERS

Harvey Milk, Jimmy Carper, Sarah Dipalma

 Sarah Dipalma 00:00

Do you know why they do that? Because they're tolerated in the bars.

 Jimmy Carper 00:05

That's right. Or Charlie's at two and three o'clock in the morning after the bars closed, there's gonna be a very high percentage of people dressed differently.

 Sarah Dipalma 00:16

Yeah, so the point that I'm trying to make here is your is to suggest that that because as percentage of our community is straight, that we should somehow that somehow changes. Our relationship with the gay and lesbian community is absurd. Or there's it's very, it's really absurd, even worse. For example, I had somebody say to me the other day, well, what about straight transsexuals? Well, let's talk about St. transsexuals. You know what they suffer? They suffer employment discrimination, discrimination and housing. There are they have they suffer 40% Cut and pay if they find jobs at all. They suffer violence? Is any the sound at all like anything gays and lesbians people suffer? You bet chi at night almost identical, isn't it? Yes. So

 Jimmy Carper 00:59

it's all it's all those isms. We're all in this together, baby.

 Sarah Dipalma 01:04

Now, here's, here's how all of this has come together. This, we need to go back several years ago, back in in 1983. If you remember, there was the famous March on Washington. And the original March was supposed to include transgenderers in it in the title. Oh, and at the last

second, we were told, Well, no, we're not going to do that. We'll put you in the platform and in the preamble, but we're not going to put you in the title. We thought that was kind of interesting. And our ears sort of perked up and thought, What's going on here? A year later, the employment non discrimination act came up in Washington DC. Guess what? The words gender and gender identity weren't in it? Why were we not in it? Well, it wasn't Newt Gingrich. It was some gay and lesbian activists who decided they didn't want transgenders in it. How about that? We didn't get sold out by the right. We had our rights bargained away by gay and lesbian people. Mm hmm. Now comes the Lesbian Gay rights lobby in Texas. And guess what transgender people aren't included in the hate crimes bill either. You know what, we're sick of it. And we're really, really sick of it. So what has happened is that throughout the country, we now have a transgender political rights movement. And it has been largely developed out of self defense. And it has become very clear to us that if we are not included in trend in gay lesbian groups, we are then viewed as outsiders, and it makes it easy to bargain our rights away. You don't bargain away the rights of your family, if you're included, as family. That's right, if you're isolated is seen as outsiders, and it's pretty easy to sell. Yeah. Now, here's what's happened. In case you think, Well, so what we can keep doing this? No, you can't. Just within the last few weeks, transgender activists went up to Washington DC, and they have secured the votes of 20. Legislators who have said they will not vote for ended or we support it, and let's transgender people are included. And that has come out because a gay lesbian group up there said including transgenders was going to cost 20 votes, the right, it is going to cost 20 votes, and it's gonna cost 20 votes if you don't include us. Now, I don't know how the hate crimes bill is going to go in Austin. Last I heard it was dead in the House of Representatives. That's at least that's what I understood from Denver, Denver last as last night. If for some reason the hate crimes bill passes. My group, It's Time Texas plans to immediately start working on a hate crimes bill. We're going to invite the Lesbian Gay rights lobby to join us on it. But if they don't, then we're going to fight them on the Capitol. Vote for vote in a duel of duel of hate crime spills,

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Jimmy Carper 04:01

right? Just just I hate to see that happen.

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Sarah Dipalma 04:04

I don't want to do it. No, I hate the concept. I would read I would give anything to be able to say, Listen, you know, I was at Texas a&m, I gaze to resources on campus. I've been I've been in gay rights groups all my life. I don't want to do this. But we're going to, because what has happened in our community is we've reached the point of saying, we waited 10 years, include us, or fight us, take your pick. Now, it should never ever, ever have to come to that. And I want to draw a distinction here between gay and lesbian individuals and gay and lesbian political organizations. The end there are many, many, many individuals in this community are friends of the transgender people. And they have worked for us for years and years and years. And I'm sure they will continue to do so. It's not the individuals we're having problems with. It is a few people who are assimilationist. These are the people who are saying, we're going to this vegan Street Community and saying, you know, we're really just like you except for one little thing that happens in the privacy of the bedrooms. So give us our rights. And we'll keep these other freaks away. Sorry, folks, we're not just like you, and we're not going to let you sell us out. So this where we are on the, on this the issue of transgender political inclusion. We want to be

included, we hope to be included. We are begging to be included. If we are in the inside. It is better for all of us. Why? Well, just last month, the political right, had a convention in Florida, in which they raised \$2,000,000.24 hours. Whoa. And it was raised expressly for the purpose of fighting the Gay Lesbian transgender agenda.

J Jimmy Carper 06:00

Ci the agenda was like we have one. Yeah. Like, like we can agree on anything for more than a minute. Right.

S Sarah Dipalma 06:06

Like, like, the point is, our enemies can work together. Yes. Oh, so what's really going on here? Well, I here's my, here's my feeling about this. I think there are a few people in our community that have a conservative agenda. And this conservative agenda is, it's very similar to the conservative agenda that you've heard everywhere else. It's a contract for gay lesbian, gays and lesbians, so to speak. And this gender is, let's become assimilationist. Let's go out and convince the world that gays and lesbians are just like three people, except for one little thing. In a few other people have to get sold out. You sell out a few people for the greater good. Gee, you know what? I think that's I think that's, I think that sucks. Yeah, me too.

J Jimmy Carper 07:00

And let me tell you something. Back in the 70s. That's the way the gay and lesbian political groups in San Francisco felt, right. Harvey Milk in 1977, had tried to run twice as the first openly gay. He was running for supervisor as an openly gay man. Did he get the backing of the gay and lesbian political machine in the 70s? No. What did he do? He looked around the Castro area and decided, well, yes, there's gays and lesbians here. But there's also a lot of Asians in this area. So we talked with the Asian people. And he said, he thought, well, there's there's a whole lot of trade unionists here too. And they need, they need support. So we talked to them. And he talked to other disenfranchised people. And those were the people in 1977, who elected Harvey Milk as the first openly gay supervisor in San Francisco. And in 1978, Harvey Milk was in Dallas to give a speech and he got the wrong thing playing here. Anyway. He was talking about how important it was to form coalition's and work together. And I have this piece right at the end of his speech that I want to play in response to this article. And then we're gonna go on to some other things.

H Harvey Milk 09:04

Somebody once asked me, Why do you run the office so often, and I used to say, some ways in Des Moines or San Antonio, because a young gay person 1314 All of a sudden realizes that she or he is gay, knows that if the parents find out to be tossed out of the house. The classmates would taunt the child. The police would harass that child. The Minister says the child is sinful. The state law says the child is a criminal. And the need of Brian's and John brings are doing their bit on TV and that child had several options, staying in a closet. suicide, depression and then one day that child might open a paper it says homosexual up to San Francisco and your

two options. Option is to go to California stay in San Antonio and fight with mean hope. Two days after I was elected, I got a phone call. The boy was quite young. And it wasn't from San Antonio, the moorings was from Altoona, Pennsylvania. The person said, thanks. And I said, What are you gonna go with a state? Yeah. And I know of a case because of the phone calls of a youngster, Richmond, Minnesota whose parents want to commit him because he's gay. And I said, call your doctor, family doctor. That's who suggested it. And I said, How old are you? 17. I said, Well, you're too young to run away from home because you could be sent back. But if you go to the major cities, they can't find you. So pack your bag and get he said, I can't. That's why not said I'm handicapped. And you've got to let gay people so that that young child and 1000s upon 1000s, like a child, know that there's a better world that there's hope for a better world. There's hope for a better tomorrow. Hope for a place to go if things get too tough at home. Without hope, they only gave it those blocks. The Asians, disabled seniors, the essence, the essence without hope, the essence give up. I know that you cannot live on hope alone. Without it, life is not worth living. And if you help elect some of your fellow sisters and brothers, it would be given a green light not just to those young gay people. But it'd be given a green light. All the disenfranchised. And you and you knew you got to give them hope.

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Jimmy Carper 12:45

Thank you. Richard odd, with the east pacific. What's the official name here at the east pacific symphony, which is electronic music by a career is what it boils down to as background for the end, very end of a speech that Harvey Milk did in 1978 in Dallas, Texas, talking about inclusion and hope and why it is so incredibly necessary. And what is so incredibly necessary for you right now is to pick up your phone and dial 5265738 to give financial support to this station KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station, Bryan.

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Sarah Dipalma 13:50

You know, I want to do this happens to be a story from today's Houston Chronicle. If you want to know why KPFT is necessary. Seems there is a congressman named Randy Duke Cunningham, who is a Republican from California. And he caused quite a debate that you may have read about. It seems that during a debate on water pollution of all things, he objected to a pro environment amendment and said it was championed by the same people that would quote put homos in the military's now, let me see in the course of one sentence he managed to be anti environment. Anti homosexual, I'm G I bet he'd be anti public broadcasting to you know why? You know why conservatives don't like Public Broadcasting. Why? Because for the most part, Rush Limbaugh's can't get a place on public broadcasting. You have to be intelligent. Well,

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Jimmy Carper 14:50

we don't give. We don't give airtime to bigots on public on public community radio.

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Sarah Dipalma 14:58

Oliver North can't get it. Place a public broadcasting he's a convicted felon. G Gordon Liddy can't get a place in public broadcasting. He's a convicted felon. And you know what? We're open stations like KPFT and others like us around the country, where a threat we can point out

PREP STATIONS LIKE KPFT and others like us around the country, where a threat we can point out the lies and the poison that these people's view. We are threat. Yes, on that basis, folks. KPFT in stations like us, we deserve your support. Listen for \$35 you can get a program gun. All right. So maybe you don't really care about the program guy. So contribute the 35 hours. Contribute a drink for KPFT if you're going to spend seven to \$10 and drink tonight, say that last seven \$10 and donate it to the station. Think of it this way. The \$10 that you donate today think of it as a slap in the face of Newt Gingrich and you're doing pretty good very good feel better about it. Okay. I mean that's the truth. I think that's

J Jimmy Carper 16:01

true you can't possibly go to Washington get an audience with them and give them a good slap although you know if that was possible there you know the line would be you know, going if you don't like thinking

S Sarah Dipalma 16:15

negatively that's the way you can do it. If you don't like thinking negatively think of it is it donation on behalf of his sister Candice, who is working on behalf of gay lesbian people make yourself feel better positively. But listen from any work from from \$10 to \$150 We'll take the money Yes, it's keeping us on the air.

J Jimmy Carper 16:34

That's and that's the whole point of it. So give us a call 5265738 or five to six KPFT we've got people sitting by I say standing by but they're sitting around the table waiting for the phone to ring have we

S Sarah Dipalma 16:50

received any anything so far? We have we've we've had

J Jimmy Carper 16:53

some some very generous donations. And let's see from Tom good old Tom is always in there for after hours and lesbian and gay voices. He just likes the gay programming here at KPFT. And wants wants to show his support to the management to keep it going.

S Sarah Dipalma 17:17

Yay. Tom, good for you.

J Jimmy Carper 17:19

And see what else do we have L Paul, I'm just on after hours I've just leave off last names

 Sarah Dipalma 17:41

it's probably a pretty good idea to leave off last name.

 Jimmy Carper 17:44

Yeah. enjoys the programming and likes the opposing views that that are given on KPFT I kind of liked that. And Rainbow de clown. Good ol rainbow rainbow the clown. Well, Rainbow the clown is kind of well, I'm going to talk about somebody else who's not with us anymore. I'm going to talk about about him a little later on. But rainbow to clam reminds me of this person a lot because you don't you know rainbow was always there for the gay for the queer community. But you may not always agree.

 Sarah Dipalma 18:28

Yes, I know.

 Jimmy Carper 18:32

Rainbow has some comments. It says I am not a transgendered person. Even though I do drag our Dustin Hoffman Mrs. Doubtfire Milton Berle, Bob Hope and others transgendered most of us drag queens do not like the transgender term, I would like to hear a response. Well, I've heard from a lot of drag queens, who hate the drag queen term. And like, like female impersonator, and really don't like drag queen. So there's, there's a lot of a lot of feelings.

 Sarah Dipalma 19:08

Oh, my answer then is it all depends on how you self identify, I guess. So. If you don't want to identify with the term, then don't. But I will stand by the definition given by the San Francisco Human Rights Foundation, because I happen to believe it's true. I also know for a fact that many drag organizations are working with us for spectrum 95 And they do like the term transgender. So if, you know it all depends on how you self identify if you feel like the term applies to you. Good. And if you don't, that's your right.

 Jimmy Carper 19:40

Yeah. I'd also like to comment on or just mention the support that we get every week. The moral and financial support that we have received from Q Patrol .

 Sarah Dipalma 19:55

It just so happens we know someone from Q patrol there Perfect.

J Jimmy Carper 20:03

They weren't the guys were here a little a little earlier. They were right here and we were in the middle of the Harvey Milk thing. Okay?

S Sarah Dipalma 20:12

Some of the chickens, they were in progress. They were at the Kroger's. Westheimer,

J Jimmy Carper 20:16

I do want to push them because they're here every week they come by and shine that light when I call him flipping me off every week. I'd really love it. And, you know, come in and push what's going on and tell us what's going on. And then in the Montrose in the neighborhood, you know, if they've seen anybody any suspicious cars or what's going on, the past few weeks have been very, very quiet. And that's good. But, you know, you got to gear up for the summer summers coming. And when the kids get out of school, it picks up they do. And as a matter of fact, I noticed that the notice last night I was starting to see where were people who looked like they were not from the neighborhood. We're just kind of with their cars parked alongside because road and parking lots and stuff, kind of I don't know, just kind of

S Sarah Dipalma 21:10

generally looking for trouble. Well, what

J Jimmy Carper 21:14

what happens is they kind of stake out territories and that that's always a problem.

S Sarah Dipalma 21:20

Well, I can remember a time when it was not that long ago when Westheimer was wall to wall traffic. Oh, yeah, with beer bottles and beer cans being tossed in every direction. And it has improved a great deal from that. But we are glad for the q patrol. And you bet they do good. They do really good work.

J Jimmy Carper 21:35

And they wanted to remind me that rainbow day at AstroWorld is coming up. What is that? The United Methodist man are sponsoring and AstroWorld fundraiser on Sunday, May 14. That's like tomorrow. It's like Yes. The project is to earn hearing money for church and grounds

beautification projects, community togetherness and fellowship, individual tickets for Rainbow day at AstroWorld cost 25 bucks. And checks can be made payable to bearing Memorial, United Methodist man, call. Here's a number 6090112 For more information or see Don Daniel, on Sunday, May 14, the day of the event tickets will be available from nine to 10am before services in front of the church, and from 12 to 1245. Afterwards, tickets purchased in advance of the AstroWorld gates will be at a savings of five bucks or something. So I think that's a great idea. Yes, it is have a fun day at AstroWorld. And and proceeds will help out baring who does a lot for this community.

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Sarah Dipalma 22:55

Well, it's kind of like the gay dating habit at Disney World. Yes. Which I think is a great idea to do too. Well, before we go to some music and then to the interview with Phyllis, I'd like to go here and in in. Let's introduce Phyllis now and then we can go to some music. Okay. And then we'll go back to the Phyllis. We'll start with the Phyllis fry interview. Okay. And as I said, as I think I've mentioned earlier, Phyllis Frey has been in the gay lesbian community in one way or another, been involved with gay lesbian community for more than 20 years. And when you are an activist, particularly if you're a very public activist, if you're a person who's been on television, if you're a person who has been quoted in the newspaper, you often stop being seen as a person. You're something more or less than a person. You're either or role model, where you're the scores are the Earth, but either way, you're not a person. That's right. And so the first part of this interview that you'll hear with Phyllis Frey, you'll hear her talking about her background. But those of you who know her, I have to I have to point this out. You know that she's a very hard driving person, and you know that she's extremely dedicated. I would ask you this. If you were blackball and you couldn't work for more than 12 years. Wouldn't you have a fire in your belly to try and make sure that nothing ever happened to anyone else? Like happened to you? Well, I think you'll hear that when you hear Phyllis, so I don't know if you

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Jimmy Carper 24:32

Yeah, I do have a piece of music that I want to play. It's to introduce fillers and it's it's kind of an overall thing. It's Holly Johnson, who was the lead singer for Frankie Goes to Hollywood. And he's talking about legendary children, all of them queer, and he likes to use the queer term. And so we're talking about gay lesbian bisexual transgender people from the past all together and see if you can pick them out, then we'll go to kill us. Okay Holly Johnston, legendary children, all of them queer. I have some comments, some one of the guys who's answering the phone tonight, a gay man wrote down some thoughts that he had after listening to us. The transgendered and Nelly guys are heroes. They are the first to take a stand against police harassment. They are the first ones who received the brunt of homophobia and gay bashing on a daily basis. The community owes them a debt that can never be repaid. They earned front place with their blood. transgendered persons are great. Thanks. All right.

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Sarah Dipalma 25:59

Well, thank you very much. That was kind of the point that I was trying to make. Think of think of the people that you know, who are masculine, appearing in acting women, and feminine appearing in acting men. Now, how many derogatory names have you heard them call from

within the gay, lesbian community? How many? How many derogatory things have you heard said about them? From the strike community? It is absolutely true. That the people who are most obvious whether they intend to be or not, and many times they don't intend to be those people who are the most obvious are the ones most likely to be bashed. They're the ones most likely to take abuse from both within and without the community. They're damned if they do they're damned if they don't, they are the heroes and heroines and is always been a mystery to me. Why the so called straight acting number we have a song by Roman ASCII Phillips about the straight acting straight appearing guys. How straight do they appear when they're down on me is exactly well, it's always been a mystery to me and all those people. How, how they've got the gall to somehow put down their brothers and sisters in the gay lesbian community and the transgender community. Because those Nellie queens are usually the first ones to take get the stones and teeth. It's usually the Butch dykes who are on the front lines fighting against discrimination. I think we do I agree, we owe those people that

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Jimmy Carper 27:34

when you make friends, or only have friends with people because of their appearance, you know, you don't talk to somebody unless they look a certain way. You're not friends with people because they don't look like you. You get into trouble. It's when you look beyond the facade of the person and what's inside. That's That's what matters, isn't it? People are on the

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Sarah Dipalma 28:00

show for the last few months. I thought that was the whole point. Yeah. Is that is that gender is just an outside facade. If you take a look at the kind of relationships that you see from people around you, are they attracted to they may notice person first for their looks? But relationships don't develop out of looks? They develop out of character?

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Jimmy Carper 28:20

That's right. That's right. That's right.

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Sarah Dipalma 28:22

You know, you there was a saying about us about beauty being Skin Deep is true. relationships don't develop out of beauty. You may have sex out of beauty, you lost beauty love after you love after something deeper and more important than that. Jimmy and I have been talking but I have been talking this over in whip and getting some very interesting comments out of the phone off the phone. Oh, yes. So we're going to go to this interview with Phyllis Frey right now. When we come out of the interview, we're gonna go ahead and start taking some phone calls. Because it's clear people want to talk about this issue of transgender inclusion. And we want to give you the chance to do that.

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Jimmy Carper 28:59

And we're still taking your pledges of support for after hours at 202-720-4444. And now, Phyllis

And we're still taking your pledges or support for after hours at 5205/58. And now, Phyllis Randolph Frey.

 Sarah Dipalma 29:11

One of the nice things about doing a radio show, besides working with Jimmy is that sometimes you get an opportunity to interview friends. Now, I've been lucky enough to have Linda and Cynthia Phillips on the show. But tonight we're going to introduce you to a person that you've heard a great deal about, what you probably don't know a lot about. And that brings us to Phyllis Frey. Phyllis, welcome to the show.

 29:36

Thank you very much, sir. Glad to be here.

 Sarah Dipalma 29:39

Now, I know a little bit about you. I know that you're originally from San Antonio and that you went to a&m. But beyond that people probably don't know a lot about you. So why don't you tell us some of your background?

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Well, I'm a middle child. Older brother, younger sister. Neither one of them talked to me. My parents stayed married, still are married. They don't have anything to do with me. I was an Eagle Scout, went through school making good grades, played softball shot on the rifle team, were ROTC commander in high school, went to a&m on several scholarships, got two degrees at a&m. Did the military was married, had a child that marriage went bad, got remarried. And then I went back to school and got two more degrees. And that marriage is still intact 22, almost 22 years now, I've been Phyllis for almost 19 of those 22 years. And my son's now 25 and married and we were invited to the wedding. And in two weeks, he'll graduate from college and we've been invited to that.

 Sarah Dipalma 30:49

Well, now that's that's the short version. Now we're going to go into this a little bit more in depth. Now, for those of you who don't know, Phyllis Frey is what is what is called a transgender activists. And now you've been listening to the show for several months, you know that I also am a transgender activist. But I think Phyllis comes at it from a slightly different background. For example, you went through the Corps of Cadets at a&m Right?

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Yes, it did more senior boots and the whole nine yards.

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Sarah Dipalma 31:17

Did you realize at that point that you might be transgender drew now? Oh, yes,

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I knew that I knew. And I knew since I was eight years old that I was transgendered. Actually, I probably knew it beforehand. But I first crossed dressed when I was about eight. And all the times I was in Cub Scouts, I really wanted to be in the brownies.

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Sarah Dipalma 31:36

Well, let's see. Okay. Now our listeners are probably saying, Well, no, if you knew that you were transgendered. Why the Corps of Cadets? Why would you do that?

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31:43

Well, there's several reasons I wanted to please my family also was dealing with an awful lot of guilt. Just because I knew I was transgender didn't mean that I didn't carry a lot of guilt, and feel a lot of guilt about it. I was terrified at verbalizing that to my family, because I feared as it turns out correctly, so I feared that I would be rejected by them. And so I figured if I did a lot of these masculine Butch type things that I was very good at, by the way, that it might Purge me or cleanse me, this need to be the feminine person that I am.

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Sarah Dipalma 32:33

So you graduated from a&m and you get your degree in engineering? Is that right? Got a civil

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engineering and then I got a master's in mechanical engineering,

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Sarah Dipalma 32:42

okay, and you got married after you graduated a&m or junior year at a&m. Okay, so now you're a married person, and you have a degree in engineering and you want to get a job. And at some point, you decide to transition. Now what happens?

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32:56

Well, in between, there was the army, I did my stint with the army. And I came out to my ~~and she made me do it again~~ And as I always to never do it again. And

spouse, and she made me swear to never do it again. And so I swore to never do it again. And that lasted about a week. But when she left, she made a lot of, well, she made some noise about it. The point is, is the military started processing me out. So I left the military with an honorable discharge. And then I began to practice engineering. And I practiced engineering in one, two in three different places. And each place that I practiced engineering, this was back in the early and mid 70s. After a while, I would get tired of being secretive about who I was, I got tired of all the lies, everybody would talk about what they did on the weekend, and I had to make up stories. Everybody talks about what they got for their birthday for Christmas, I had to make up a lie. You know, talk about the fishing tackle, or God or the hunting rifle, or something like that, instead of the negligee I got or the, or the shoes that I got or the beautiful dress that I got. And so I told, you know, I started confiding in people and he would lose a job. And it was interesting. One of the people I remember very, very graphically, one of the people that fired me, because he knew I cross dressed in the privacy of my own home. He was married, and a secretary I was married but they weren't married each other and it turned out about three minutes after I left their affair they've been going on for about three years finally came out but of course we both know that's okay. Because that's heterosexual.

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Sarah Dipalma 34:45

So you, you you've gone through everything that the other transgender people have gone through in losing jobs,

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gone through losing jobs gone through the Depression gone through the suicide attempts, I had the scars on my wrists gone through the gate. Alt, and but I've survived.

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Sarah Dipalma 35:06

The reason I point that out for the listeners is I know I've talked to people in our own community who don't believe it. I think they think that you were born this hard driving attorney and that you never went through any of the things they went through.

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35:18

No, no, I was very frightened, frightened. Child, I was very terrified of my transgendered nature, nature. And yet, I cross dressed, oh, at least four or five times a week, it might be just something as secretive as going into my mother's bedroom and sneaking out a small article of underwear and putting it on. But golly, I was a very frightened child. And I was very frightened teenager, I put on a good facade. But I knew what was inside. And I knew that I was dealing with an awful lot of guilt I was I was just carrying so much guilt and fear. I remember, I remember all through my teenage years, dreaming at least once a week, if not once every two weeks, sometimes twice a week of being caught, cross dressed. You know, that's that's how much that fear was in me. I have a dream that quite regularly being a being caught.

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Sarah Dipalma 36:28

Now, after you'd lost several jobs, at what point did you decide that you had enough of this and you wanted to be more public?

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36:35

Well, I'd always wanted to be public, but I was obviously afraid of what my spouse's reaction would be. And I was also afraid of what my employer's reaction v. And I was also afraid of what my family's reaction is gonna be. But after I got married, it wasn't so much my family's it was my spouse. And when she was my second spouse, when she married me, she knew that I cross dressed, and she knew and she'd seen me cross dress. And she knew that somewhere down the road, I might become this transsexual person that I am. But she also knew that that might be a remote thing, because I really didn't understand who I was. I didn't know what I know about transsexualism. Now, I didn't know what I knew about a lot of the stuff that I know, now, I was dealing with the same myths that everyone else, even the transgendered people deal with, whenever they're, you know, still kind of coming out, not only to the world, but coming out to them so. And so I was carrying a lot of baggage, but I'll let my spouse know. And after I lost my third job, we decided that what we would do is I would begin, I would apply for jobs, still as a guy, but when I was interviewed, I would make sure they knew that I was a crossdresser. And I cross dressed in the privacy of my home so that once I got a job, I might be turned down for several interviews. But once I got a job, then I wouldn't have to worry about losing it. And so during the summer of 1976, I went through a couple of days, interviews with engineering companies, and we're sales companies. And with telemarketing companies, with any anything to get a job, and no one would hire me knowing that I crossdress. And so finally, in desperation, in September, my spouse was very angry, because it looked like a job, a job that I did have, when they found out that I crossed dress, they took it back. She was furious. She said, if they're not going to hire you, because they think you are, you may as well be who you are. Then that was I think, the 13th of September of 1976. And so from that day, with the exception of one day, in November of that year with that one day exception, I've been Phyllis full time ever since.

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Sarah Dipalma 39:10

So we're talking 1976. And you're going to employers, and you're telling them, Look, I'm a qualified engineer, but there's something you need to know about me. They're saying, Thank you very much. And goodbye.

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39:21

In the privacy of my home. I cross dress. Oh, oh, what does that mean? And I explained it to him. Oh, well, we'll call you back. And I never got called back.

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Sarah Dipalma 39:30

Well, now some people might wonder why did you tell them if you're just doing it in your own bedroom? Why tell them



39:34

because I was tired of hiding, tired of hiding who I was, and tired of all the guilt that was associated with.



Sarah Dipalma 39:42

Now it's interesting. I hear gay and lesbian people say, Well, I don't think transgender people have a lot in common with us. And if you've been listening to what's just been said in the last few minutes, ask yourself that question again. I think you'll find out. Yes, we do have a lot in common Now how long did it How long did it go for before you were able to find a job?



40:03

I never did find a job actually. Far, couple of years I was unemployed or radically under employed. What I mean by that is I tried to build my own engineering company. And I had a couple of friends who were liberal, very liberal, and they tried to feed me some work. And they did feed me some work, but it wasn't enough.