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SPEAKERS

Michelle Meyers, Jimmy Carper, Sarah DePalma



00:01

programs in same language or images have a frank or sensitive nature that may be considered objectionable by some listener discretion is advised.



00:11

The sound of Texas KPFT Houston, a Pacifica radio network station 90.1 FM 89.1k e os College Station



Jimmy Carper 00:43

Oh yes, you've tuned into after hours queer radio with attitude right here on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of after ours is ready to bring you news interviews, dialogue and music geared for gay lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and their friends. 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 classes. 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 age 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 hours.



02:08

Hello, Houston, and welcome to after hours queer radio with attitude heard every Saturday night at midnight right here on KPFT Houston, and ke O 's College Station. I'm Jimmy Carper. And with me tonight is



02:28

the person who brings the attitude Sarah



02:32

worked on that line.



02:34

Well, I hadn't actually thought about it. But I have to say that was probably true. We have all just come from the Unity dinner, we have unity banquet, which is a annual event, I believe this was the fifth annual and it is a a banquet in which all of the various transgender organizations in the city and they seem to be growing more all the time. I



02:58

know when Vanessa said six, I thought gee, I only know of three or four.



03:02

Well, we seem to be adding more. And they got together and had a dinner and help to bring the various organizations together. And you know, I've been around the community long enough I can remember when unity was It was beyond a dream. I mean, it just wasn't possible.



03:19

For our audience, you may want to explain, you know, for the casual listener who just dropped in when they said all the different groups of friends. What does that mean?



03:29

Well to this to Houston crossdressers anonymous, which is not quite the way it sounds it is not intended to cure anyone being a crossdresser is intended to help people deal with the guilt and shame that sometimes comes with being a crossdresser. Right. And then there is the Triassic sorority, which is an organization primarily made up of heterosexual cross dressers and their wife. Okay,



Jimmy Carper 03:51

so this is more of a support group for straight men and their wives. Right. And really a emphasis on the wives and and the coupling. Yeah, keeping the couples together keeping couples



04:03

together. Yeah, that's a good way to explain it. Yeah, that's exactly right. And then there's the Gulf Coast transgender community, which is made up of anybody who wants to show up. It doesn't matter whether you're transsexual Troy crossdresser makes no difference. It is primarily a social group. And as Andy support group as well. There's a Texas area transsexual support, which Michelle talks about every week. Oh, yes. And what am I missing Vanessa



04:29

crossdresser Social Club



04:30

Houston cross dressers, social clubs. See that's a new organization tonight was first time I'd ever heard of them. But they are apparently as the name sounds, they are a social club for cross dressers. Okay, and but I can remember when I first started in this community, oh, I guess eight or 10 years ago, there was not one single organization that spoke to any other organization. It was, in essence, open warfare.



J Jimmy Carper 04:56

Well, you see, I don't know what's happened in the trenches. Under community, but I sure wish a lot of that would happen more in the gay and lesbian community.



05:06

I'll tell you what happened. And



05:10

I don't mean to separate the community knows we're all one community. But



05:14

what happened to the community? Were two words. Phyllis Frye. Ah, very honestly, Phyllis, got the group's together and said, This is a bunch of BS, cut it out. Yes.



05:24

Well, of course. And why can't you know we have people Ray Hill says that all the time, and nobody listens. So what's the deal



05:31

when we get with that one of the things that really helped us was when we got together to do the town meeting, which was I guess, a few years ago. And we all got together. And the intent was to put together an agenda that we could all agree on. And that we would be able to follow as a as a blueprint for social change brought on by the transgender community and transgender activists. And that that worked, it was the first time that a lot of us had actually sat in one room and discovered how much it was that we all had in common. Hmm. And that I think, was really the turning point in this community. That and also the fact that people like Jane, Ellen Fairfax, the Trius, were already and Phyllis in myself in a couple of other people were having bi weekly lunches. And we would just sit down with these lunches and work things out among ourselves. Well, this group will do this, and this group is going to do that. And this group is going to do this. And it meant that, that the leaders all got to know one another. We have, we have really been blessed in Houston. Because we have, I think some of the most amazing leaders leadership anywhere. I agree. I can't think of another transgender or community anywhere in the United States that has more national leaders in one spot. I have often said that Houston is the transgender capital of the world. And I think we sort of prove that tonight. No kidding. It was really nice. Some of the awards several people want awards tonight and people that I thought were really overdue for over Yes. And they really deserved it rod who has been a long time author in worker on behalf of cross dressers and their families in particularly the spouses of cross dressers and author and just an all around terrific person, a genuine pioneer. One One of the wards tonight, Susanna Anderson, one way Oh, yeah. And I couldn't really think of anybody in the community who deserves more than Suzanne and she made



J Jimmy Carper 07:30

a fantastic announcement about lib. Will you go ahead and tell him that lib has opened its doors to the transgender community, Liz lips standing for lesbians in business.



07:42

And somewhere I hear Dean McKellar saying I had to bow time, because he was really one of the very first people I think, who went to live and she really pioneered it. And I kind of think there's someone else who won an award tonight to Oh, yes, that's right. And nice. Parker won the apogee award right Apogee Award, which is the first is first time the award has been given out apogee, Apogee is premier Vanessa, you explain this, you're better at this than I am.



08:08

Apogee is defined in Webster's is the furthest or the highest point. And I named it that basically because I wanted this to represent an individual who has gone the furthest, and thus represented the high point for the transgendered community during the past year. And that includes all the different groups.



08:29

And Noah's villas gave a terrific talk about about the relationship that she has had with a nice Parker as a friend, and as a co worker, and as a leader. And it was just it was really I thought terrific. I had heard and Phyllis tell that story before, but it was nice to hear it but I don't think most people did had heard that before. Right. And so it was just an all around great evening. It is wonderful to see the transgender community work as a group, Vanessa said, and I happen to think it's true that in many ways, Houston is the envy of other transgender communities throughout the country. And I know I also had people say, How are y'all doing it down there? You know, in my city where everybody's killing one another, you know, the transsexuals are more transgender than now, when we never we just don't have that here period. It's really nice to me to bring up the



09:23

Elise Lanier slogan that she had with the city of Houston for quite some time, but a lot of people kind of ridiculed it, but it really did fit in a lot of fashions. And it also fits for the transgendered community is expect the unexpected. You bet. And a lot of people around the country do not expect this kind of thing from Houston, they still think of us as a bit of a redneck backwater and not exactly a hotbed of liberal or progressive thinking. And actually, we've done everything we can to dispel that myth and And actually, it's even surprised me as well. I wasn't even aware that we had as much progress as we did, until actually talking with these people from places on the East Coast such as Philadelphia, Chicago, even a friend of mine from San Francisco, had mentioned that he was very impressed with the way Houston's community was very cohesive. And we all work together, there was none of the antagonism between the transsexual community in the cross dressing community, and we work well with the gay lesbian bisexual community. It was just, we had everything clicking on all cylinders, and we're very fortunate, very unique in having them.



10:40

Well, that's really true. And it was it was really fun tonight, Vanessa really put in I God knows how many hours of work to put this together. But this was just fabulous. Let's talk about the show tonight. I mean, I know it's marathon. We're gonna get to that a minute. We have to but I do want to reinforce our opening cart tonight for a minute. Okay. Our opening card says that this is essentially this is an adult program. And some things that we say may be offensive. And I am going to tell you that because tonight we are going to be spending an evening with Pat Khalifa. Now many of you and many of you are aware of who Pat Khalifa is but if you're not I'm going to tell you the tag Khalifa for 10 years. For 10 years she did the advice column in the advocate



11:26

right she wrote the advice column for gay boys for Gable well but no lots of other people wrote into Yeah, mostly gay men calling in writing in with with problems about sex, about relationships about life.



11:40

She has written sex manuals for lesbians called sophistry, which I believe is probably one of her first books. I know I have a book of hers that she edited at home, which is called macho slats macho slots about about lesbian s&m.



11:55

She was a member of Sam Wah, which was one of the first lesbian s&m groups. She also



12:04

writes for saying utopian guardian, which is one of the leading SNMP magazines in the country. And I will tell you now that tonight, I have no intention of censoring anything Pat said, or censoring anything that's in the book. And some of what she says is graphic. So if you're offended by words like penis, or vagina, you probably should be listening to a different chat.



12:26

Oh, gosh, that's kind of team action. You



12:28

know that. And I know that but when the cool stuff here and we're after midnight, right, and so the disclaimers out there. Now, having said that, I am well aware that we have lots and lots of folks listening tonight, from the s&m community and listening to us from the very first time, we had been on webpages all over the place. I made the announcement at the last pep meeting that we were going to be having Pat cliffie on airborne. Oh. And so tonight, we are going to be spending an evening with Pat Calafia. And I've told Jimmy this earlier, but I want the audience to know, sometimes you do go to do an interview with someone who has achieved some notoriety. And you're a little bit leery about it. You don't know whether they're going to be a snot? Or are they going to be think of, you know, just be rude? Or what will they be like? Pat Khalifa is just every bit as warm and as genuine. And as honest, as you'd expect her to be after reading her material.



13:31

I certainly hope so. Because that's the impression I have from her reading. And after reading her stuff.



13:37

Yeah. And she is it turns out, she really is just like that. In fact, it was really funny. After we had done the first half of the interview, she was apologizing and saying, Well, you know, she sort of

goes on. And I'm playing myself. But this is some of the best material I've had in a long time. There you go. And she's she's just as warm in his gin is genuine. So I really encourage you to stick around tonight. Now lest you think this is going to be the an s&m show. Let me tell you that that is one very small part of an extended conversation that we had with that I had with Pat Khalifa. The name of the book that we're actually we're discussing is called sex changes the politics of transgenderism. And a lot of people are going to hear politics and think Oh, Sara is going to talk about HRC and all that kind of stuff. That's not what she's doing. This is actually as much of a history book on the on who's how the transgender community got to be the transgender community as it is anything else. And there is some of her analysis of of various leaders over the years. It is there is some advice. There is some political discussion. This is a book I very highly recommend. I talk to the folks down at book stop. Ask them where they order some copies and of course as is usually the case with books stop the answer was sure how many do you want Well, numbers always operative, and they were certainly cooperative in this case. So we're gonna be talking with Pat Khalifa about her book. We'll be talking about some of the issues that she raises. She will. Somebody asked me to say, are you going to talk about deal carpenter and his comment and outsmart and my answer is no, I'm not. Oh, I don't need to because Pat Kilifi more than answers, because I haven't even read it. Well, it's just a usual as usual stuff. So



15:29

the other thing is, this is merit, not membership drive. Although we have Summer Fest,



15:35

we're not calling it marathon anymore. Now. We need your money. Okay. You can call it what you want. We're gonna we're gonna



15:43

talk about that. We're gonna be talking about that in just right now. And after that, I have some special. I have a very, very special announcement to make something. I just I've been waiting to announce for a very long time. Go. Okay. And it happens to be about one of our listeners. Oh, cool. So stay tuned for that. Stay tuned for pack Olivia. Stay tuned for Summerfest



16:16

Houstons 90.1k P F T presents swingin tunes, featuring music from Todd Snyder. Jenny Wayne Shepherd. Sarah McLachlan.



16:34

Plus an unreleased live track from Jonny Lang you won't find anywhere else. It's all on our swing. Intune CD yours for becoming a member of KPFT at the \$60 pledge level thanks to a Whole Foods Market for making swing into and sponsible Whole Foods Market with locations

itself shepherded West Alabama would Wigan boss and Westheimer it will Chris So become a member of Kp ft. and reserve your copy of Swindon tunes today call 713-526-5738 that's 7135 to 6k P F T from Houston's 90.1k P F T. The sound of Texas



17:15

it certainly is it's the sound of Texas and we are proud to be the sound of Texas here at after hours of course we're the sound of Texas were included in that.



17:26

You know when I get ready for work in the morning I turned on KPFT and I turned it on in large part because KPFT does not play the same 20 songs 20 times a day with until you're



17:37

sick to your stomach and mixing and all those commercials.



17:41

I love Mary in the morning. I really did rate I really do. I listened to Mary in the morning.



17:46

Unfortunately I don't get to listen to or very often me being the night owl that I am. But there are times when I'm filling in, but I get to talk with her as she's coming into the morning and I'm leaving.



17:58

I love to listen to the World Cafe Oh yes. It KPFT is just loaded with great material and with a great music. But as you might expect, we do have bills to pay. And that's where you come in as the listener. The fact of the matter is we raise the tower, I guess now it's been about six months ago. And that was not cheap to do. If your sound is better than it was it's because you the listeners helped to make



18:25

itself or if you can hear us now and you couldn't be for it's because of that and because you helped us do that.



18:32

You know I've been I get letters now from places that we never did before. I've been I get emails from folks who have heard us in Galveston and in some of the small towns I had to go find them to map the other day find out where the heck Woodville was because we got a I got a letter from someone in Woodville, Texas. If you are hearing us better, it's because of you the listener. Our listenership Jimmy tells me is higher now than it has ever been in the history of the states.



18:59

Yes, it is it is we just got a memo that our weekly listenership is 97,000 People 101 102 years ago it was 70,000.



19:11

And again, that's because you the listener have been have been good to this station. But the fact of the matter is, if you want us to continue doing what the station does, we need your help. I mean, there's just no simple way to put this. We need your help. And we need your help in terms of dollars. Lots of them but we'll settle for a few



19:33

and and by the way, while you're contributing your dollars, be it 3560 7590 150 And at those at those those level those levels you have thank you gifts, and also at those levels. Michelle has something to say to you about what's what It's gonna happen.



Michelle Meyers 20:01

Yes, what I'd like to do is make a personal challenge to all those people listening to this program tonight that if you contribute at the 35 or at the \$60 level or above and and activate your membership, to pay PFT and support after hours clear radio with attitude, I will match that contribution with \$25 a



20:29

way to go. Now,



Michelle Meyers 20:31

in addition to that, when I give \$25, I can get the company that I work for to match my contribution with \$25. So, a \$35 membership will grow to \$85. And a \$60 membership will grow to 110. This is 10 to KPFT. That's,



20:54

that is incredible. Yes, that is so your money really makes a difference tonight on after.



21:01

And there are many people out there who work for corporations very much like Michelle's where they will make matching donations as well.



Michelle Meyers 21:07

So all you have to do is just call me code 713-526-5738. That's five to six APFT This is my challenge to you, and where you can make a difference in our community. So just call the number 526 KPFA. And join the membership of KPFA that supports after hours queer radio with attitude.



21:32

And let me say something about the show for a minute to the last show that we did. We had Carol Chait Cheryl chase on the program. Now Cheryl Chase is the director of the North American intersect society. We drew national attention on that. It turned up on the internet. I didn't send it and I don't know who did. But someone did in it ended up we drew national attention because it turns out we were the first radio station in the country to air a full interview with Cheryl Chase.



21:58

Well, you know, to listeners on this show in the last three years, we have done a three and a half years we've done a



22:05

lot of firsts. We've done a lot of firsts. And that's exactly right. We have almost always been ahead of the curve on all sorts of issues gay lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, it really hasn't made a difference as a general rule. We have been ahead of the curve. I I'm not aware of another station in the city that would err in interview with Pat Khalifa because it takes some guts to start winning



22:25

bet. And this station is behind us all the way in that



22:28

Yeah. Oh, yeah. They're absolutely glad to do it. Next month, our program is going to be with Sylvia Rivera. Sylvia is one of the was actually one of the transgendered leaders who created the Stonewall riot.



22:40

Yes. And if you're a longtime listener to after hours, you know that right around Pride Week, I always play a half hour tape that was done several years ago called Remembering Stonewall. And it's interviews with people who were there one of those people is Sylvia.



22:59

That's right, there were actually two other transgendered radio hosts in the country are one of them does a one hour show, once a week. One of them does what amounts to a shock jock sort of a thing, sort of a Howard Stern type. So we truly are the only transgendered radio program in the nation that presents the kind of programs that we do. We've attracted national attention in the show of attacking international attention. The point that I'm trying to make here is that we are only one small example of the kind of program that's worth supporting. Ray Hill has been in his present program. There's nothing like it anywhere else on the United States.



23:36

BBC TV has has filmed him and done a special on it. I mean, this radio station is really doing things.



23:45

It's doing things that matter to them, in addition to the great music they play, I love picking and swing. Oh, yeah. And if you list get up on Sunday morning to listen to the blues program, you already know the station's worth, man, it's worth it's worth supporting for that.



23:58

Yes. And that's why we feel especially here at after hours that we deserve your support. We really do. And as far as the dollar amounts go, you know, the minimum that they're out there looking at his \$35 that they're asking for, right? We would certainly accept \$10 \$15. And we would accept \$500, which is our leadership circle. And we actually had that happen once before. We have a leadership circle member. It's right. And that goes to show you that we have listeners who believe in this show, and believe it should stay on and continue. We've been on the air 10 and a half years. That's right. And we're looking to be here, another 10 and a half.



24:42

Yes, you're right. And then of course, there is Michelle's challenge of matching \$25 to every donation, plus the corporation that she works for matching another \$5 so that your money it's like a good investment, your money in the bank and it grows for KPFA



24:59

you bet now Now, I told you I had a special announcement to make. And here it comes. Get ready



25:19

I'm very proud to announce the senior class of Eisenhower High School announces its commencement exercises. Friday evening, May 22 1987 at the MO Campbell Education Center. 1865 all Dean Bender, Houston, Texas, and one of the graduates is Adrienne, Geraldo and Donna, who is our Angel. Angel has been calling and writing to us now for several years, openly gay in his high school. Wow, so proud of him. Wait, go, Hey, good for you. Yes.



26:09

Congratulations. And that's the way to do it. You know, we had a show one here at one show we did here one night, and we asked if you are transgendered, or if you are gay and lesbian, what's the most important thing that you need to do? And the answer was education, education, education. It's right. Yep. That's, that's terrific stuff.



26:28

Isn't that great to hear? Yeah, that's really love to hear happy news. There's so much bad news. That happy news is what I like to portray.



26:36

You know, I have a theory about that. This is Sarah's theory of the media for a minute, okay. As somebody who has actually made a living as a journalist at one time or another, it really is true, that the old adage that if a dog bites a guy, it's not news, but if a guy bites a dog, it is new, right? The fact of the matter is that despite everything that you hear about the youth of this country, and this is going downhill, and that is going downhill, the economy has never been better. Yes, there are more people employed today than have ever been more people are graduating from high schools and colleges than ever in the history of the United States. How bad can it really be? You know, I get tired of these purveyors of doom. And it really is nice to hear some good news. I agree.



27:28

Since you were talking about the journalists thing I want to talk about very quickly. Yeah, a new

publication. Well, new publication to to me, and it's another one of those ziens. No, actually, it's local. It's called click, CLI. KQUE. Click magazine. And it is a if I had to say it very succinctly, it's a black twit. Okay. And it's it has been needed for a very long time. It's a beautiful magazine. I'm looking at the May 1998. Issue, Volume Two number one. So I don't imagine this is the premier issue. No, but it hasn't been out very long, either. Yes, it comes. I believe it comes out monthly, it's or maybe even weekly. I'm not sure yet. Because I haven't. I haven't had a chance to read it. I just picked up the copy. But it's it's slick. It's beautiful. And it's talking about Houston splash, which happened last weekend. But it also has really great articles. Surviving the circuit.



28:38

And I think twit basically gave up on that. It's a bar rag.



28:41

You know, here we are. We're talking about the black perspective of circuit and the circuit parties. Which, you know, and there's a whole page of news.



28:51

Educate me. What's a circuit party?



28:55

It's, it's where the pretty boys, the muscle boys and the rich men go for a weekend. Have fun. And it's usually a big moneymaker for the AIDS community. The White Party, the Black Party, the grey party. Okay, and I'd never heard of it. And they go there all over the country. Palm Springs, New York, Miami, Ia.



29:20

Not that I could handle that right. Now I can handle



29:23

it, but it's almost exclusively confined to rich white people. Not so good. No, no. So I'm really interested in reading about the black perspective of circuit parties. Yeah. Great gossip section.



29:40

What would it be a gay publication if it didn't have a gossip section



29:44

right calendar. An article on Randy Rochelle making of a legend. Gosh, this is really a very, very nice magazine. Yeah, live



29:59

to you. Why steamy salivate over magazine?



30:03

Well, you know, I have this thing about literature, gay, lesbian, queer literature, because when I grew up, it didn't exist and I treasure each and every one. Also, you know, kind of working on a newsletter here and there. I know the work that goes into it. Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. It's it's pretty much a thankless job. You know, I don't hear our phones ringing. Well, the doors closed, but I think we're getting called. Okay, Michelle came running in here and she had a smile on her face.



30:34

I'm just just just checking here because I haven't heard our phones bringing in that kind of bothers me. And I don't see any phone lines lit up. Well, that's right. But you're not gonna don't get them during right there during marathon. They reroute the phones and reroute the phone. So we know that's the point for marathon here. This station has made a lot of improvements. And that's because of the listeners. One thing we really could use here though, is a good phone system. Oh, God, we need a phone system that works in an email system would be such as Korean, so please send in your money we could choose what do you say you get you got some music you want to go? I've



31:10

got three pieces of music we can go to one is a heavy metal by Rob Halford, who used to be the lead singer, singer of Judas Priest who just came out of the closet Judas Priest did or this guy this guy that's gonna lead singer and the he wrote most of the material for Judas Priest.



31:31

So this ought to be a head banging. This should be a hitte saying



31:35

gay headbanging, honey, hey, gay, gay like queer. I also,



31:42

that's just in case.



31:45

I'm very excited about this. Because it's important to have have queer members of music from all the different types of music. I mean, we know that there's a lot of queers in classical music. We know the big rock stars that are queer, but you know, there's never been anybody big and metal come out of the closet. So I'm very excited about that. We also have I played this couple of times before, there's a new album called Legacy A Tribute to Fleetwood Mac's rumours. It's the rumors album done by other people.



32:23

And I didn't care for Fleetwood Mac and



32:25

myself. And it's Elton John doing don't stop which is when you think about it, it's a good message for the queer community. Also, thinking about Pat cliffie, I've got Tracy doing a number called beautiful boy, which is a little on the s&m side. So it would be appropriate for PAC Leafy. Yeah. So I mean, do we want metal or, or Elton or



32:49

let's do, let's do the head bang. And while we're still awake enough to stay,



32:53

oh, this will keep you awake. This is from his new group called to the name of the album is for years. And it's the song that he they made a video of music video. And it was directed by Sheila roux, who directs a whole lot of male adult films. Oh, really? So queers all over this place. So it's called, especially for gay men. And it's very appropriate. It's called I Am a pig and you're listening to it. After hours on your radio with attitude on KPFT Houston, and ke O 's College Station. We are the sound of Texas. Rob Hillforts new group to and that was I am a pig from the album warriors.



33:59

I'm not even going to touch I love it's almost it's almost it's well, it is it's self explanatory. There's no nothing needed from me.



34:05

You don't need Yeah, that's right. Now we've got pack Lithia coming up.



34:10

Yes, we do. And I wanted to do a little reading from the first from the front part of her book, okay. And people have several people asked me tonight they said, Well, are you going to do an answer to do Dale carpenter? And I said, No, I'm not because we have Pat Khalifa tonight and Pat Khalifa can do a better answer than I can. And I don't even know what he said. And so I'm going to read you part of her answer. Okay. She says the topic of gender is relevant to everyone. But lesbians and gay men should be especially sensitive to the way transsexuality has been positioned as the property of medical and psychiatric experts. It was not so very long ago that the similar condition existed for us through the cultural and legal activism. We have very nearly managed to extricate ourselves from the grip of science. Test. Unlike the transgendered person who seeks hormonal therapy or surgery to facilitate living in his or her gender preference, homosexuals do not need to seek out doctors or therapists to obtain prescriptions or letters of approval before we can go out into our world and try to mold it a little closer to our heart's desire. But we do share a common history with them of being viewed as mentally ill people who require treatment. And we've often shared public space with one another. freaks of all sorts thrown together and crowded away from the mainstream into the margins. The oppression of gay men and lesbians overlaps that of transsexuals. To the extent that homosexuals are viewed as men and women who do not conform to sex roles, stereotypes, we are also gender outlaws. That's right. And of course, there are many transsexuals who are gay men, lesbians, or bisexuals. This book was written in part to bolster an alliance between gay and transgender activists, and community organizers. I spent a week trying to write it I couldn't have done any better. There you go. That's it right. With that introduction. We are very pleased to bring you pat Khalifa. Okay, regular listeners of after hours have heard us talk about the book by Pat Khalifa. We have used it on the air many times, we've been talking about some of the various issues in it. If you're at all familiar with the s&m world, of course, the name pat Khalifa is very well known in In fact, I'm aware that there's a large audience of people listening in tonight from the s&m community. And so I'm very honored to have as our guest this evening, Pat Khalifa. Welcome to set after hours. Well,



36:52

thank you for inviting me.



Sarah DePalma 36:54

I want to start at the beginning of this book that I'm looking at right now is called sex changes the politics of transgenderism. But you've actually written a number of books, haven't you? I have about



37:05

a dozen books in print. I write fiction and nonfiction. And I also edit anthologies. So I'm, I think one of the things that happens is if you're making a living as a writer, you either have to be prolific or you don't pay your bills.

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Sarah DePalma 37:21

You're saying our publisher perish? Yeah, exactly. Well, I know, I know. That's true. I guess the first time I read any of your material was in the advocate. So that shows you how far back I was going, Oh, yes,

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37:35

I wrote the advisor column for the advocate for about 10 years. So that was a, that was a wonderful experience. I really like writing advice columns, because of the letters that I get from readers. You know, frequently, people will tell you things that they haven't told anyone else in their life. And I just really valued that communication.

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37:57

It's a funny thing about writing, you never know who your fans are going to end up being.

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38:05

Yeah, I'm always surprised when I go do readings in different cities to see exactly who shows up. And it's really fun for me to see that it is such a cross section because I have found sewer, heterosexual I have gay and bisexual fans, I have people who read my stuff in the transgender community. And you know, is just, that is really great to me, because it means that my work is going out to the people who I've done it for.

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38:31

Well, let's talk about this. This book, the politics of transgenderism offers to uh, what brought you to this subject?

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Well, I've been writing about transsexuality ever since I published my first book, which was sophistry, sophistry was a sex manual for gay women. And in that book, there's a chapter explaining what the sex reassignment process is for someone who's moving in a male to female direction. And in that book, I took the position that some transsexual women are lesbian identified, and they ought to have a right to participate in our community without being harassed or excluded in any way. And that book, of course, was very controversial. It was published in the late 70s. When the FX wars and feminism were just starting to get really hot.

You know, over the years and advice columns and in various articles and magazines and things I've I've been an advocate of transsexual rights. Just because I think it's part of a larger politic I have around sexuality, which is, I guess, based on the idea that sexual variation is normal. And that as a species, we don't understand a whole lot about our sexuality largely because sexual exploration is the stigmatize that we we tend to censor ourselves before we can even be aware really of our own desires and that What we ought to do if we want to live in a better world is to support each other for reaching that point of sexual truth, whether it's about our gender identities, or what we might desire when it comes to sex with a partner, or what our fantasies might be. And so, yeah, this book is actually the result of many, many years of research thinking about the topic talking to folks in the community. And it's, you can probably tell that by the number of



40:33

say, this book, do you didn't put this book together in a week, this thing is just loaded with footnotes from everywhere. Actually,



40:39

it took about two years to put the actual text together. And that clears press was very patient because it did come in quite late. But they were accommodating because of the they understood that it was a quasi academic work that did take a great deal of research.



40:56

When I was really interested early in the book, you were telling the story about your Barbie dolls. Yeah, in I just thought that was wonderful. Want to tell the audience a little bit about that?



41:07

Well, it's one of those moments in childhood that you look back on when you are an adult, and you develop a somewhat deviant identity. And you're kind of looking for where did this all begin? I figured out when I was a little kid that Barbie and Ken could wear each other's clothes. And this was a really important moment for me, I can still remember sort of the moment when the light went on in my head, and I said, do the same size. One of Barbies formals and tied him up with this scratchy twine that my mother had for time packages, and put him back in the box, and then dress Barbie Epping Ken's clothes and gave her a little haircut so that she was ready for adventure. And since my mother refused to buy me a second Barbie doll, so that the two of them could have adventures with each other. I paired Barbie up with my troll doll whose name was shamrock because he had a she had like green wild hair. And so they ran around. And the games that I played with them had to do with them trying to rescue Ken, because he had been kidnapped by evil people who were torturing him. And Ken never did get rescued. But Barbie and her little sidekick had a lot of fun. I think it's it actually points out something that's more serious, which is that there is a pretty strong connection or an overlap for some of us between gender dysphoria and living in the world as gay people, and certainly not everyone has

transsexual or who's a crossdresser is also gay. But I do think that that connection has kind of been weakened in the last five or six years by a more mainstreaming trend, and gay and lesbian politics. So another reason for writing this book was to try to build a bridge between those two communities and say, you know, we have some experiences in common that we really didn't need to talk about more.



42:56

You also mentioned that at one point, you actually gave a little thought maybe to being a female to male transsexual and then decided against it. And I thought that was really interesting. Well,



43:06

yeah, I mean, I do identify as someone who is transgendered I have, I have my own gender issues, and I continue to crossdress mostly as a kind of a gratification for sexual fantasies is not so much a thing that I want to do out in public, although that has also happened.