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Fri, Feb 24, 2023 9:30AM 26:09

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

gender, people, book, called, gay, interview, station, s&m, support, person, transgenderism, houston, world, jimmy, nice, music, pat, easy, week, cindy

SPEAKERS

Jimmy Carper, Sarah DePalma



00:01

I really think any quest to eliminate gender entirely is doomed to failure, in large part because genders erotic, you know, people are invested in it, because it is a way to organize the world around them into people they're attracted to people they're not the polarization that's involved in gender creates a way to build sexual tension. Yeah, I just I don't think that gender is even close to being dead.



00:35

As a political issue, and as a practical matter, I don't really think it's possible. I mean, I hit the I had the the It's Time Texas group here. And you know, we're going and talking to Texas politicians, I guarantee you that in my lifetime, gender is here to stay in while it might be a nice idea to think you're going to live in a genderless world as a reality, I just don't believe it. In in it for that matter, even in my involvement in s&m colleagues, gender expression, takes on so many different kinds of forms, I just don't believe it's possible to do with gender.



01:13

Well, what I would like to see as a world where gender became more of a source of pleasure for people and less of a set of rigid categories that people were penalized really harshly for, for violating, you know, I think the gender has a lot of value as a sex toy, I don't think it has very much value as, as a way to hand out privilege or decide who's going to do certain jobs, you know, and I think that we can attack sexism. And we can create a lot more personal freedom for people have really changed the way that gender gender is expressed in our society without endorsing some kind of absurdity, you know, around around saying there's no such thing as gender. I mean, the fact is that for most people, their gender identity is completely consistent with the gender they were assigned at birth, the majority of people are not gender dysphoric. They're not going to support that platform in the first place. And there are sex differences, you know, we can't ignore the fact that there are X X chromosomes and X Y chromosomes, there really is such a thing as a uterus, you know. There will always be a lot of debate about how

much of our gender expression is biologically determined, and how much of it is socially constructed. And I happen to favor social construction, for the most part, but you cannot ignore the fact that gender does have a physical genetic, biological component. I mean, it is a real thing. It exists in our bodies.



02:52

In a subject that's, that's off the book from something I was kind of curious about not being familiar with your work in various arenas now for some time. How are you perceived in the feminist community? I mean, you're pretty outspoken on some of these issues. How do they view you



03:11

outspoken is a really tactful way to put it. So I think that there are probably a few people in the in the feminist theory hierarchy, who really wish I would dropped out of a stroke, all my books would experience spontaneous combustion, and I would be written out of the record of the women's movement. But that's just not going to happen, you know, because I'm going to live to be 102. And I will finish my last book on my deathbed. out myself, but I think that actually the women's movement is much more diverse than than the media gives it credit for. And that I feel like I have lots of friends and allies in the women's movement and that I'm in really good company, you know that there are many prominent feminists who are sex positive and who are, you know, not willing to toe that hard line of being anti porn, anti male, anti transsexual, anti gay man, you know. And I actually think that's where the really exciting work in feminism is going on. Because the work of liberating women is very crucial to our survival as a species. And we're not going to do it by closing down adult bookstores. It's just absurd.



04:26

We have a a activists here by the name of Ray Hill, who is quite a legend in Houston. I think you'd probably agree with him that one of the things is going to ask us what's next for you. Now?



04:37

What's next? Well, let's see I'm working on I'm editing an anthology of lesbian erotic poetry. I'm working on the novel about a very old fashioned old guard of some relationship between a gay leather man and a woman, which takes place in the 70s in San Francisco. That should be interesting. I'm working on a vampire novel. Hi, I'm trying to sell a short story collection. And I've also got a book proposal floating around about the gay male sex wars that are going on right now around public facts. So I'm just a busy little beaver. And I also work as an intern therapist, I'm working toward getting licensed here in California. And at some point, I would like to go back to school and get my PhD.



05:25

05:15
So in your spare time, exactly.

05:28
spare time, what I do is I have fibromyalgia actually, which is a chronic illness that causes severe joint and muscle pain. So in addition to the other things I do I wrestle with this physical disability. Yeah,

05:42
I just amazing. Well, I'm really pleased that we get the chance to, to to get you on the air, there has been a lot of anticipation about this. And, and I really have enjoyed your book very much. We have used it, and I'm gonna continue to recommend it because I think it's loaded with good material. Well, I'd

05:58
love to come back sometime. And this has been really fun. Thank you. Well, thank

06:02
you very much. This is Sarah dipalma. And we've been speaking with Pat Khalifa about her book called sex changes the politics of transgenderism, and a whole host of topics not necessarily related to that. But thank you very much.

06:17
You're welcome.

06:20
Ah, that was good.

06:22
She's a great interview, you asked one question, and she talks for four minutes. And I don't mean that as a dig at all. I

06:30
know, that's a perfect interview.



06:32

That's a great interview. And it also to me, it was also a sign that she really knew her topic, which of course, she did. And was interesting, I read a review of this book in transgender tapestry, which for many folks out there probably know, is a magazine put out by International Federation of general gender educators. And the review was very mixed. And it was written by one of the other on the other transgender co host, her name is Nancy ninja, Roni. Oh, yeah. And Nancy's basically said, Well, you know, what is Pat khalifate ever done for the transgender community? I guess she didn't read the book all the way through. Um, because there were a lot of explanation what Pat had done and why she had written the book. And she was very open about the fact that she had had some transphobia of her own at one point that she had to work her way through and



07:27

who hasn't? Yeah,



07:29

hell, I had it, you know, in the course Nancy's entitled to her own opinion, but I highly recommend this book. For anyone out there who thinks they know a transgender history or thinks they understand how the transgender community relates to gay lesbian community, even how they relate to one another, the female to male and the male to female communities. I really recommend this book is a very easy read, although it's very heavily footnoted, it's a very easy read. She's very concise in what she says. And of course, she is pet clypeus. As you'd probably expect, she's going to say something that will make you crazy. On the other hand, that's what makes pet Kilifi what she is, and if I read a book in which I agree with every single word, I would be horribly disappointed and wondered why I read it. No kidding. So I highly recommend it. The book is called sex changes the politics of transgenderism, by Pat Khalifa. And you heard her say at the end here, she's preparing to do a novel. Yeah, she's preparing to do a vampire book. I'm trying to sell a book of lesbian s&m poetry. In short, little peck leaf is a busy woman. Yes, she



08:42

is. And a prolific writer. Well, she



08:45

said it early in the book early in this interview that of course, if you don't publish you perish. And she was also saying if you notice at the end, she has some sort of disease that's debilitating to her muscle control, which must be awful tough to somebody that's hilltop in the s&m world. No kidding. But if you know, I just don't picture that stopping her from doing anything she wanted to do when she wants to do it. It has been interesting, Jimmy, we have

had all kinds of authors on this show with all sorts of different interviews. But Pat, I would say next to Kate Bornstein pet cliff, he was probably the easiest to interview really, because one subject just sort of led naturally into another in and she knew she knew her stuff. She knew what she was saying was controversial and she didn't care. She was just just stating what she felt. I like that. Give me an interview like that anytime. Give me person like that anytime. That's great stuff. Okay, I thought it was good radio. So and our phones are still not ringing. We'll be back in a minute. Okay,



09:48

the sound of Texas KPFT Houston of Pacifica radio network station 90.1 FM 89.1k e os College Station, Houston's 90.1 KPFT presents swingin tunes featuring music from Todd Snyder. Kenny Wayne Shepherd Sarah McLachlan.



10:16

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10:55

Yeah, yes, the sound of Texas and you're hearing it right here on after hours. Queer radio with attitude. I'm Jimmy Carper and Sara dipalma is with me. We just had a fabulous, fabulous and I I seldom use that term interview with Pat clivia,



11:15

yeah, this is where it's just saying that we've had all sorts of authors on this program and in the past, and, and we've had all sorts of luminaries in in folks of all stripes, and this this program. But it was really a pleasure to do this interview, I had a lot of fun just talking to her. She was she was a very easy person to speak to. And you don't always get that when you talk to people that have a little notoriety, right. And I would say to, you know, we've been talking about about the fundraising in Marathon in the spring fast and all that kind of stuff. But realistically, there's nowhere else that you're going to go and be able to hear the sort of things that we have presented not only on this show, but on lesbian gay voices. when really we go out of our way to get this stuff done. And lest you think, Well, you know, what, if what becomes my money, let me tell you that all the interviews that I have done, I have done on my own phone at my own expense. The station doesn't pay a nickel, this is all volunteer here all volunteer. So I put that out of my own pocket. And your hosts do the same thing. Yeah. And I do it gladly, because I understand the station needs the money. So I try very hard not to be a financial drain. I'm sure

the station is glad to have me do the interviews and all that. But you bet still long distances. You know, I mean, this was a 40 minute interview that we did almost an hour. And I paid for it. You know,

 Jimmy Carper 12:44

because a lot of your interviews, well, a lot of the things on this show from the different co hosts put this show and the station on the map because we're cutting edge here, we really

 12:55

are at a lot of what we have done has been picked up on the internet, some of that has ended up becoming very well known throughout the country, for a small station, and a show that we only do we only run once every four weeks, basically, we've had quite an impact. And we are known far and wide throughout the transgender community. And I'm very proud of that. We're becoming very well known on the internet, we begin to pick up a lot of publicity, which I don't know where it's coming from, because frankly, I haven't been doing it but somebody had well good I don't know how to put this any other way that the I just think the shows that we're supporting, whether it's ours is somebody else's.

 Jimmy Carper 13:37

These shows this this after hours and KPFT are all worth supporting with your pledge of support at 526-573-8526 KPFT

 13:50

in and you know we we'd like to leave the air being able to say we raised a whole bunch of money and there's still time. There's like oh yeah, you need to get on the phone and start calling us

 Jimmy Carper 14:01

and you can do that right now while we go to a piece of music. I've got these Raizy song ready. It's and it's kind of a nice thing for PAC Lithia it's called beautiful boy and you're listening to it right here on the sound of Texas KPFT Houston ke O 's College Station

 14:29

sweet mama cotton to tell you why I love KPFT I love the diversity. All the music from Mary in the morning to after hours and of course the blues on Sunday. So support your listener sponsored radio KPFT 90.1 FM



14:54

well guess what I did have that sweet mama cotton CD with me. It's called X Becht delays sweet mama cotton and the sugar daddies were just telling



15:05

Jimmy I have a cocoa Taylor CD at the house. And she has a song on the CD called too much sugar for a dime. And it's about a relationship she has with this man who turns out she marries him only discovered that he's gay and I would guess maybe a drag queen as well because at one point, she said she noticed that he shaving his legs. Oh, she said she had no problem with that. But she liked his her clothes. She and her husband liked her clothes as much as she did. As in he'd like to wear them as much as she which is not the kind of sowing you normally would expect to find in a blues. But



Jimmy Carper 15:39

that's right. That's right. That's right. But I'm really happy to find that. And sweet mama cotton plays once a week at the briar patch of all place of all places. I'm not sure the day so give him a call and find out which day it's one of the days of the week.



15:57

It's a really nice place by the way for him and it's a fun place. i



16:01

It's a nice kind of neighborhood tavern type bar.



16:06

Yeah, it has a good feel to I'm very comfortable. It has a feel to to being a neighborhood.



16:10

It also is like the only Piano Bar gay Piano Bar.



16:15

Yeah. And they do these sing alongs and stuff. It's really nice. It really is.





16:18

I want to thank Cindy for her pledge of support. And Cindy has been listening to this show, as long as I've been on it. Thank you, Cindy, for well, over to you 10 years ago. And she had a point. You know, I used to play a lot more music. Now. I had a que MZ. I used to play like a half hour, at least a week. Yeah, of gay music. And one of her comments was Sarah is very informative, and I love her show. But she remembers when there was more music. And she remembers when there was more music like this from Romanovsky and Phillips. Oh, yeah, that was for Cindy.



17:09

I've always thought that if God, you know, if if, you know, God guy would probably be a queen. It was really funny. I made a comment at work the other day, I forget exactly how it came about now. But I had made a comment say, Well, you know, this has been around since God was a little girl in shorts. And this person looked at me and said, What? And I said, Oh, sure. He said they haven't eaten your grandmother ever used that phrase with you? And she said, No. And God was never a girl. And



17:36

I thought why not? And I thought, how would you know?



17:40

Exactly if God is God, God probably have no gender. Who the hell cares? Anyway. But anyway, I digress. I just thought it was an interesting comment. We got a phone call from someone and I'm not going to use the name. Okay. Um, so he has a friend who is gay, but playing it straight. Well, that happens a lot. And he's having difficulty piecing, I guess, dealing with his orientation, and wanted us to talk about that on the air.



18:10

That's always a tough subject, because it has to come from inside. And it has to come in from inside first. First, before it can go anywhere else. I mean, you have to know yourself inside. And sometimes it takes years. And this, this can be for orientation. This can be for transgenderism, that doesn't matter where this isn't easy for anything in your life.



Sarah DePalma 18:41

My philosophy about that has actually changed a lot. I used to be a person who believed that everyone should come out, you know, like Harvey Milk would say, Come out, come out wherever you are. But actually, I've changed my philosophy on that a lot. And that's because I have asked, I have seen people who have come out with horrible consequences. That's right. And one of the things that we have talked about in the show and that I really agree with is that you have to take a look at your own circumstances. First of all, if you're a teenager, and you're

dependent on your parents income, I wouldn't recommend it. No, absolutely not. I mean, I really wouldn't. I do a lot of work with transgendered street kids. Many of them are transgendered street kids because they came out and I completely agree with Jimmy the decision as to whether you should come out or whether you shouldn't, has to be a pragmatic decision. First of all, you have to look at what I mean it's sometimes it's hard to be realistic about what will happen because I think you tend many people tend to think in catastrophic terms. You know, if I come out the world's going to stop will of course not that's not gonna



19:49

happen. However, you know, if you're in a sensitive job, I mean, that can make a big difference.



Sarah DePalma 19:56

You're if I was a school teacher, I wouldn't do exactly you want example that pops into mind. If you are a teenager, and you're dependent on your parents. There are some other circumstances where it might literally be dangerous to you. There are,



Jimmy Carper 20:11

there are, when I talked about Angel graduating right? Earlier man made the big announcement angel is out is out to his parents, and everything is fine. And that's a good story about coming out. I think coming out is easier. parents found out I was gay and kicked me out of the house long ago, and have never talked to me since that's the other side of it.



Sarah DePalma 20:39

I do think that coming out is easier than it used to be. There's so much more knowledge and information about gay and lesbian issues. There are even school therapists now tend to be much more knowledgeable. I do you think in that respect, it's easier? Or



20:57

do you think that the this question is more about inner coming out? Facing being gay yourself?



21:07

Yeah, I agree with the Jimmy, I think the first thing you have to do, the hardest thing in the world I ever had to do was to look myself in the eye in the mirror and say I'm transgender.



21:17

Yes. And that's, that's, and I'm telling you that it's different for every person and is there are

people who will go through their entire lives and never be able to come to that real life realization,



21:32

which is sad, because they're because they are stifling a very important part of their personality. Yes.



21:37

So if you know that this person is gay, and is is has trouble coming out, the best thing you can do is just be a support. Be a good friend, be there for this person, let this person know that no matter what, yeah, you will be there for them. That's incredibly important, no matter



Sarah DePalma 21:59

what the decision is. Yeah, via friend. In I have seen circumstances where that hasn't happened to but I really have changed my attitude a lot about this. And, and I've I've told people in the transgender community the same thing. We do not need 50 Phyllis fries, we don't need 50 of me. We don't need 50 Ricky Wilkins. There are plenty of us to go around, you know, one or two of us will go a long way. You bet. We actually need 50 people who will lick envelopes? Yes, we need the 50 people who will stuff who will do the so called grunt work. And that's that kind of nice. Parker elected? You know? I guess what I'm saying is that, for the person who called us and they were concerned about their friend, I think no matter how the friend sorts this out, or how long it takes, give them the time, give them the space and support the decision and let them know you will be there. Yeah. And if they decide that they cannot come out now, then don't force the issue. They may do it. 10 years from now, they may do it never. But I guess when I guess what mom really saying is that my attitude is Who am I to tell other people how to live? I mean, basically, that's just it.



Jimmy Carper 23:18

Yeah, but you know, it being the support system really helps because that person is going to be tortured until they can come to terms with their sexuality with themselves, because it's going to be a hindrance.



Sarah DePalma 23:34

On the other side of the coin. Being gay or transgendered is not a death sentence. It's not the it's not the end of the world. And for the person that that the for the friend here that is having a difficult time dealing with it. Maybe professional therapy would be one answer. Just being out in the community getting to meet other people. And I will say this, don't allow yourself to be so closeted that you don't get a support group within the community. That's right. There are plenty of good places for you to go. Going from Metropolitan Community Church from ranging

from there all the way to the bars to the Unitarian Church to I mean, there are support groups everywhere. Don't be so closeted, reached that you hide from your own community. That does not necessarily imply you have to come out on on Jerry Springer.



24:25

I want to remind everyone that they can still call in with their pledge of support for after hours and KPFT at 5265738. We have operators sitting by waiting to hear from you. You've been listening to after hours queer radio with attitude hurt every week right here on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station. I'm Jimmy Carper. I'm here every week for you with different guest hosts every week.



25:00

Um, I'm sorry. Go ahead. Go ahead. No. And now I'm Sarah dipalma. And I always like to leave with this quote from Abby Hoff and people have written me, he asked me where this quote came from from Abbie Hoffman. When decorum becomes repression, the only dignity free people have is to speak out. No, oh, Jimmy's pointing me like,



25:21

no, no, no. No, because I need to tell everybody that Big Daddy Dre is here. And so you're going to have their red eyes special in about three minutes. In the meantime, you get to listen to Veronica Klaus with blind hearts and knowing she's gorgeous. She's gorgeous. And she sings like a dream. And so we're gonna shut up and let people hear. Good night. Good night, y'all.



25:54

Welcome to the Red Eye special though. I'm your host Big Daddy J. And this is KPFT 90.1 In Houston, ke o s 89.1. And College Station, the sound of Texas