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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

people, parents, coming, good, gay, hatch, xena, society, point, talking, gigi, heterosexual, adolescents, homosexual, children, sexuality, supportive, bit, socialization, lesbian

## SPEAKERS

Jay, Gigi, Kirk Keevert, Jimmy Carper

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♀ 00:00

Oh, absolutely.

G Gigi 00:04

I wanted to kind of throw a few things that few questions at y'all. First of all, when do you think is a good time to come out? per person? Not just age wise, but

J Jay 00:21

in their kind of development of their sexual identity, maybe and also a psychic or a psyche, psychiatric, New Age, psyche, in the sense that spiritual balance or

♀ 00:41

I think there needs to be some of that. I think that there, I mean, there are different things to consider. I think when you're coming out, I think a lot of adolescents want to come out in order to maybe bridge a gap between themselves and their family. But I think before you do that the circumstances sort of need to be laid out. And I think there needs to be some thought put into that. I mean, I think it's important to sort of ask yourself, why are you choosing to come out at this time? Is it because you're angry at your mom or and you want to, you know, use it as a, as a weapon, I don't think that would be a good time to come out. I think it's important to have some resources to perhaps offer other people that you're coming out to books, organizations, of which there are a couple in Houston, that they so that they can sort of educate them. So there are some

G Gigi 01:34

organizations that can help.



01:37

Um, specifically for adolescents, there's Hatch, which is the Houston area teen coalition and homosexuals. Hatch provides a lot of different types of services, specifically to teens between the ages of 15 and 21. It provides peer support positive role models, which are very important. That volunteer you know, they have volunteers, they're working with adolescents that are gay, and lesbian and bisexual. Do you have a? I sure do. As a matter of fact, yes. Um, and I'm really glad you asked me that question. The number for Hatch is 942770029427002. And if you're wanting to call that number, the way that it works is you call and leave a message as to when is a good time for somebody else to get back with you. It's my understanding that there will be no one there to actually answer the phone. So that's important to know. So leave a time when when an individual can call you back and your call will definitely be returned.



Gigi 02:46

Okay. I know a lot of young people especially living at home with the parents don't always have that luxury, or that safety to receive a call back. Is there an address that I could



03:00

write to? Yes, and the address for Hatch is PO Box 667053 Houston, Texas 77226. Dash 7053.



Gigi 03:20

Also, I know that PFLAG does a lot to help, right.



03:28

Well, PFLAG is an organization that sort of its focus is a little bit different from Hatch in that it's more for parents and friends. PFLAG stands for Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, this support seems to be more aimed towards parents, if you go to a typical meeting, more often than not, you're going to see a whole room full of parents, and even some gay and lesbian people who just want to go and feel what it's like to be around parents who are actually supportive,



Jay 04:04

would be really nice, I think, right?

G

Gigi 04:06

Because that came out in a hostile environment, had some serious repercussions, to put it mildly. And, you know, I came out knowing that, you know, I knew it wasn't going to be an easy road. In fact, I knew it's gonna be producer. And, in some ways, you know, my story may be a little bit more unique, and a little different from a lot of people's but looking back, I wish I'd come out much sooner, even though I knew that what I was going to lose was big. But I would have rather lost it early on, then to try to play this game for the years that I had to play it and for me, it was So, you know, I know in my heart where I belong. I know for some people coming out, it's coming out. And like I say, first of all, is something that's different for every person and every yet to take a lot into account. And then some kids come out and they become throwaway kids, and wind up on the streets. And we're not advocating that people do that.

Ω

05:30

Right. And some of there are considerations. You know, like Christina was saying earlier, where are you in your life? Why are you coming out? Can you afford to come out at this time? Well, you receive such a negative response, that you could possibly become a throwaway kid, it may be more prudent to wait.

J

Jimmy Carper 05:51

We do stress that on the show, because there there are times that it's probably not a good idea, right? Especially if you rely on people who have the authority to throw you out into the example.

Ω

06:02

And another thing to remember, too, is that it's legally it's permissible in the state of Texas to become fired because of your sexual orientation. Right. So one needs to be very cautious and coming out in the workplace, unfortunately, ended was not passed, as we know. So there can be you know, repercussions can

J

Jimmy Carper 06:24

be, but we're finding more and more companies and even large corporations are openly soliciting diversity. Right. And that's encouraging. We have a transgender person on the show, who was hired by a major bank because of her transgenderism. Right? Yes.

G

Gigi 06:45

I mean, things are changing. As you look at the history, and it's like things always haven't been this way. It's like the world is, and I think is more and more people coming up, like you're saying, and the point is, our numbers grow, people start recognizing that, hey, this isn't just something over there. Got a brother came out I've got a sister that came in I've got an uncle or an aunt, you know, sudden it starts hitting them. More people.



Jay 07:20

Them it's now



07:22

research shows too, that heterosexual people that know a gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered individual are going to be more accepting of others. So



Jimmy Carper 07:37

you're only afraid of what you don't know.



Gigi 07:42

And Miss G cheese so sweet. I mean, I can't scare anybody.



Jay 07:49

Sure, harmless.



Gigi 07:51

I can sure like it good and do all kinds of nice warm. Scary, I don't think



08:02

in here to fly.



08:04

If we could just go back to PFLAG for just one second, please do. I would like to give a number for PFLAG. And when the next meeting is which is actually today, Sunday, from 2pm to 430. at Christ Church Cathedral. And it's the first Sunday of every month. So and there's a phone got a phone number, the phone number is 8679020. Right. And



08:33

if you need to know where Christ Church Cathedral is at, that's on Texas at San Jacinto College on the north side of downtown.

G

Gigi 08:40

And understand Montrose counseling also helps people that are having some problems in the coming out process.

Ω

08:49

Right? Since we address gay and lesbian issues, this is a big piece of that. And certainly we have it's a big part of what we do in our individual counseling.

G

Gigi 09:07

I'd like to kind of go to break in a minute music break. When we come back, I want to talk a little bit about some different issues. For people who are coming out that are transgendered versus someone coming out as bisexual versus someone coming out as lesbian versus someone coming out as gay and in kind of look also at what are some of the things that we have in common, some of the things are going to be different and some of the things that we can do to prepare ourselves. I know that I realized early on in my process of coming out when I came out from a posture of this is a deep dark secret and I'm really feel guilty about telling you this and then I'm going to tell you anyway, it came out bad. But when I came from a position of being proud of who I am, and knowing that, you know, I have something really wonderful to give to people, and then I have a lot of love in my heart, and then it's a very good thing. That makes a big difference. And now it's received. Good point. So why don't we go to Dana?

J

Jimmy Carper 10:26

Okay, this is something new that you've come across, haven't you? Yeah. Because I know you're involved in Xena fast. Oh, we

G

Gigi 10:32

have babies. Every Thursday night at Miss Gigi. We get together and camping out. Watch the warrior princess.

J

Jay 10:41

Actually, what's kind of funny is my sister, my straight sister. The minister is the one who found the Xena soundtrack for us. No kidding. And oh, she loves she loves you know much more than we do. I think we want to play the title song from from the soundtrack.

K

Kirk Keevert 10:59

— So I just want to know what happened. What happened to watch and friends and Seinfeld on Thursday night.

J Jay 11:04

That's all that doesn't even begin to compare.

K Kirk Keevert 11:07

Excuse me, old hat. Maybe in that the coma kettle black

G Gigi 11:13

woman dresses and leather and kisses Gabrielle once in a while. I mean, you just can't get better than that on TV.

J Jimmy Carper 11:21

Absolutely. Absolutely. Even gay men love that

G Gigi 11:26

they even throw in more comments. It's like, what was that comment about the chains and the leather? Oh, yeah.

J Jay 11:37

Xena had some guy following her around. Oh, well, I think it's the leather says Gabrielle maybe you should switch to wearing chainmail and Xena says that that just attracted kinky or sword. I tell you, these people and the problem with this is, oh, he was a man. That's what the problem was.

J Jimmy Carper 11:55

Okay, well, let's go to the music and we'll be back in just a few minutes.

∅ 12:02

We parents wants to persuade society that our gate children are not acting out of defiance or self indulgence. They're being true to their own nature. Our children are fine men and women. And we say to society, that the parents and friends of lesbians and gay men will support their

children.



12:30

Number one incident four years ago when I was walking through an amusement park, holding hands with my lover and what's called queer by a child, six years old. And from that day forward, I've been all too aware of who the child molesters in this society are gay and lesbian people hanging out here. What's your reaction to that? I have a little boy and



12:44

I would hate for my little boy to be like that. Those are animals. I



12:47

think it's terrible how to rock and



12:57

all the queers want equal rights? Why



12:59

don't the way God made us



13:01

do it your mother father led



13:03

any person who was gay. Children learn to hate from their parents to hate other people and themselves. Which is why as a lesbian and gay public awareness project wanted you to hear and think about this message. For more information, write us at Post Office Box 65603 Los Angeles, California 90065.



Jimmy Carper 13:31

And we're back with after hours queer radio with attitude. And Gigi



 G

Gigi 13:36

and you know, coming out is it's a difficult decision for anyone to make. And I know that there's a time when you when you're ready. And there's a time when you're not. Can you talk about some of the indicators, some of the things that you know, because I know when when I first came to terms with my sexuality, which was very early. I played with babysitters a bit gender. And they'd loved it. I came back for more. But I didn't come out until much much later but but something in me was screaming too. And I was so confused about it all. I mean, I was just in a quandary. You know who cannot tell and I remember I'd already done it. But I didn't know what I was doing when I've heard the word homosexual. I couldn't believe people connected bad with homosexual. I mean, I was stunned by hadn't at least enough sense. In my little dyslexic brain to say, don't tell anybody right now. When is a good time to start? Talking about things and in start preparing. I don't order some cues.

 O

15:07

I think it's different for everybody. I think it sounds like for you that maybe your inner Nellie child was screaming to get out, oh mistake

 G

Gigi 15:23

my father kept trying to butcher fire me. Or my fifth birthday, he built this humongous towering thing in the driveway and wanted me to throw a ball through this thing. With my hand coordination, I can throw a ball in the driveway.

 J

Jay 15:43

Daddy name is Shay hack.

 O

15:47

I think we can talk about that in jest, but I think it can also be very hurtful.

 G

Gigi 15:52

Oh, it was I mean, I just but part of the just are saying hey, yeah. And it is, uh, you know, and I'm bringing it up as a difficult time, because there's times when I really question and I thought, God, I'm the only one I've never seen anybody quite liked me. And, you know, from a child's point of view, while I had a lot of things that's different than being dyslexic, ADHD, hyper and, you know, struggled and made D's and F's and all my siblings made straight A's without barely cracking and beg. And yes, different, more wise than one.

 O

16:38

And I think that brings up the point that everybody's going to be a little bit different in the

process, and what kind of to set this whole thing up, you have to think in terms of what's happening. And the way I think about it is that, you know, we all kind of develop this life image of ourselves, it puts our, you know, our personalities and our humanity into some kind of a context that I kind of have this idea of how my life is gonna go. And for an, your average heterosexual American, that's kind of a prescribed thing. There's a job, there's marriage, there's maybe a house, these kinds of things, and 2.5 kids, right, and these images are in place. And so the Life Image become something pretty defined. Well, if that doesn't fit for you, you have to redefine some of them. And I think as that defining or redefining process, tracks along, eventually, the original Life Image of this sort of heterosexual American Dream kind of thing, it shatters. And that's a lot like a death. It's a major loss. And while that's happening inside, I don't think that's the time to come out. I think that's, you know, it's a really unstable fluid, ever changing, chaotic mess. And since it's like a death, there's a lot of grief going on. And that's a whole lot of feelings. It's not just sadness, it's a whole lot of stuff.

G

Gigi 18:25

You know, I had some help along the way. I had a, this came a little later, it was, like, in my early adulthood, I had a woman pull me aside, friend, some friends, straight friends, nobody knew as well, supposedly, nobody knew. And she kind of pulled me aside and she said, You know, it's too bad that they don't have a score for people that are different, where it doesn't matter who you take to the senior prom, that would be a wonderful, you know, I just don't get how someone like you can grow up in our society. And, and fit anywhere. And, you know, that hit me, the, you know, all of a sudden, I realize, hey, you know, she's right, our social structure isn't set up for us. And that's

W

19:18

such a good point. Because I think a lot of times, it's really easy to pathologize the individual. And as Shane was talking about the beginning of the show, we really have to remember the context in which we are living, which is a very heterosexism very homophobic society. And so we have, there are a lot of barriers to overcome with regard to that.

W

19:42

And they really are meant to coin a phrase, it sucks, because what happens is, is that we are socialized into this society. before we're even we even know what our sexuality is. And so we get a good dose of homophobia programmed into us long before we even start to recognize that we might be different. And they tried so

G

Gigi 20:09

hard with me. Unfortunately, I was playing with dolls and, and going back in the sandbox and then kind of hit all the GI Joe things that they kept going at me and we got out the Barbie stuff. And then I had Barbie stand on top of the hill and Barry Amol



20:34

Thank you, but it was part of



Gigi 20:35

the creative process to healing process for me to play those games. And part of making light of it. You know, I know there's, it's a very serious thing. But it's also can be, you know, learn how to laugh at myself. And then laughter was very hard. You were about to jump in? Well, I was just gonna



Jay 20:57

say that. Socialization is key, you know, part of the, I mean, a big part of that, of course, is like your parents and your family and stuff like that. Because in my family, my mother, my, both my parents actually are such big feminists, you know, they gave me Barbie, and they gave me trucks to play with. So I went over Barbie Barbie, anyway, um, you know, so growing up, and I don't really recall ever getting like specific positive homosexual messages, you know, like, Hey, it's okay to be gay. But I sure don't recall any, any negative messages. And I do recall many instances when my parents said, you know, celebrate diversity, and it's okay to be different. And so as a result when I was coming out and coming to the process, yeah, I didn't have to go through a lot of that, I think because I knew that my parents were really supportive of diversity, of course, I mean, there was still less fear, and barely get the words out, I was so bad, but I didn't have to go through a lot of that, because I had such supportive parents so that the socialization, or your parents that can either I can kind of make you or break you. And if you don't have that support, I think it can just be deadly.



22:20

My experience was a little bit like yours. I was also fortunate enough to have pretty progressive parents. So my coming out process with my family was pretty much a non issue. However, coming out is a process and we come out every day, you know, to various people as we choose to do so. Oh, yeah. And it's not it's an ongoing process. And I think that's a really important point to highlight that it doesn't just stop at one point. I mean, it's a continuing thing.



22:51

There's no one event that says, You've come out you graduated, you never have to do this again.



Jimmy Carper 22:57

If that's right, it's actually a lifetime thing.

G

Gigi 23:01

I'd like to, before we jump into this,

J

Jimmy Carper 23:04

and before we jump into that, I'd like to tell everybody that they're listening to after hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT, Houston, and ke O 's College Station.

J

Jay 23:15

Okay. Don't forget that don't wait.

G

Gigi 23:19

We get so wrapped up in this coming out that

♀

23:27

what are some

G

Gigi 23:27

of the signs to say, Hey, I'm ready to come out? What are some of the messages we can look for within ourselves to say, now's the time.

♀

23:37

Um, one of the things is, Are you absolutely sure about your sexual orientation? You know, if you're having some questions, if you're a little uncertain, it's probably not the best time to come out. Are you comfortable with your sexuality? Shane was talking a little bit about the struggle that happens internally. If you're wrestling with guilt and periods of depression, you're better off waiting to, you know, to better off waiting. Those are a couple of signs also, do you have support? Do you have supportive networks in place?

♀

24:14

In case things don't go well?

G

Gigi 24:17

What are some of the ways that you can

J Jimmy Carper 24:18

use it? Because let me interrupt here. When you're talking about being comfortable with yourself, why? Why? What can happen if you're not entirely comfortable with yourself?

♀ 24:33

I think if you're not entirely comfortable with yourself, you're very vulnerable at that point. So if the person that you're coming out to is rejecting it can be extremely traumatic.

♀ 24:44

The wounds can cut a lot deeper if you're not ready for the cut. You may run if you get

J Jimmy Carper 24:54

Are you sure? Or maybe it's a phase or

G Gigi 24:59

two That's kind of, I didn't mean to cut you off.

♀ 25:05

interject anytime.

G Gigi 25:07

Oh, we always love to hear from you, Jim.

J Jay 25:10

It goes back to what Gigi was saying about the coming out from a position of strength. And when you're strong with yourself, I mean, part of that is if you're coming as a oh, excuse me, Please don't hate me. I know this is really disgusting and gross, but I'm gay. What are people gonna say? You're right, it is gross. Whereas if you say, Hey, I'm happy, I'm proud of it. This is who I am. Then they can see it more as a positive thing because as you said, shame that this society is so homophobic. I'm

G

Gigi 25:41

not wondering drop to a point you brought up you know, I think one thing we get it by net is a lot of people calling up and saying, Well, I'm not quite sure what I am. You know, like boys, and I know I like girls, but I think I like guys more or this or that, but I'm really not sure. And well, that's

J

Jimmy Carper 26:04

exactly right. You're not sure yet.

G

Gigi 26:07

Yeah. Well, do you feel that