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Wed, Mar 22, 2023 1:58PM 26:58

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

lesbian, gay, coming, transgendered, books, lesbian community, homosexual, transgender, closet, people, friends, homosexuality, montrose, woman, sexuality, interesting, understand, called, important, christian

SPEAKERS

Jay, Gigi, Jimmy Carper



Gigi 00:01

Yeah, well, do you feel that you really have to be that sure of your orientation before you come out? Because there are a lot of bisexuals on there. And this might be a difference between being gay and right. And



00:12

I think that that is an important issue, the issue of bisexuality is that sexuality is on a continuum. And there are some people who identify as bisexual. And that doesn't mean that they're not, they're not, they haven't come out yet, or the coming out process for them has been forwarded in some way. That's another option.



00:38

And we were talking earlier tonight, before we got on air, about sexuality being fluid, that changing for different people right? Over time.



Gigi 00:52

That's an important key because, you know, we see that a lot and Bimat where, and I think the gay community seen a lot, where someone gets married and lives very happily for X number of years. And then all of a sudden, out of the closet and gay, nor out of the closet and buy or buy, or any number of things in between, like you said, the fluidity



Jimmy Carper 01:16

of sexuality

of sexuality,



01:18

and its dynamic.



Gigi 01:21

And, and even, you know, I know that this is something I'm bringing up a lot, and by still kind of gives me strange legs. Sometimes we're not even sure what gender we are. I know the the more I discover, the more I find that I'm probably a little bit about. It's not just what I'm attracted to, but it's also what's the plumbing, you know. And not just the physical plumbing, but some spiritual plumbing, as well. I'm a little bit now I'm a little bit female.



Jimmy Carper 01:58

Sounds like you're edging into transgendered territory. And



Gigi 02:04

when also a new term for you. Or at least for this show, the hermaphrodite new potentially me but Well, no, it's not new, but



Jimmy Carper 02:18

there are there are closet problems specific to the transgendered population. In that, first, there's the problem of coming out of the closet as trans and transgendered. And then dealing with that, and then what happens is many transgender people go back in after the transition. And that's, that's also a hard thing to deal with. Do you, you find that I don't know if you've had experience with transgendered people.



02:52

I personally don't have a whole lot of experience with transgender people. But I do understand the concept of anybody trying to come out of the closet a little way and then retreating.



Jimmy Carper 03:03

It's not exactly that it's after the transition after changing, right, then going back into the closet, as the gender that you are, and like erasing your past,



03:15



03:15

right. That's what else Oh, okay,



Jimmy Carper 03:17

I'm sorry,



03:18

that, you know, for some people, you can make it so far. Yeah, and then that's a little bit too scary. And maybe I need to pull back for a while, and, you know, get comfortable with my new life image before I take it farther out. You know, I don't, it's been my experience as a therapist, that people, people do the work that they feel safe enough to do. And sometimes you have to move a little and establish some new safety and then move a little more



Jimmy Carper 03:49

and what does it take to to give them that push? Or anybody that push time?



03:58

Support connection? You know, I don't think that these are the kinds of things that you these are not the kinds of changes that really thrive in isolation. I think they can I think you can certainly move forward some in isolation, but I really think it takes connection with other people. We're social animals.



Gigi 04:22

And there are a lot of resources out there to help people in this process. You know, there's a lot of even an ominously there's gays and lesbians switchboard you can call and not even you can call from phone booth and you know if you're really paranoid and and talk to them.



04:42

There's also the internet now wide web. I mean,



Gigi 04:45

there are all sorts of ways you can get some of that nurturing support, and meet and identify with people who have been in your shoes. Right.



04:52

 04:50

They're all in I think there are a lot of people out there that are, you know, ready and willing to be available to individuals who are just starting the process, which is really exciting. I mean, it's kind of a, it's an empowerment for both people. It's an empowerment for the individual that's, that's there for the person just coming out. And it's empowerment for the person coming out as well. I'd like

 Gigi 05:22

to kind of touch on a few differences between coming out as lesbian coming out as transgender coming out as bisexual coming out as gay.

 Jay 05:33

Other categories, you can cover anything

 Gigi 05:35

else you wanted.

 05:39

In terms of coming out as a lesbian, and some of the reading that I was doing in preparation for this, one of the things that struck me it's kind of interesting. And, and, you know, this is certainly is not true for everybody. And I certainly want to make that clear before I talk about it is that the for lesbians, sexuality tends to be a little more fluid and a little more dynamic. And this is what the literature is saying then for men, where some women might identify as heterosexual, but yet had, you know, having intimate relationships with with women's sexual relationships with women, even though you know, they're identifying as heterosexual they might be identifying as lesbian, and maybe it's more of a political identification. And perhaps they're having sexual relationships with men. So there tends to be a bit more of a continuum.

 Gigi 06:38

I think that happens with bisexuals a lot.

 06:41

Yeah. It's interesting, unfortunately, I know in the lesbian community, bisexual women, a lot of times aren't met with a lot of acceptance,

 06:54

there will sign for the gay male community,



06:58

there tends to be some of the same rigidity, perhaps, that we might see in the heterosexual population in terms of what one is supposed to do. And



Gigi 07:11

there are standards.



Jay 07:13

Because the lesbian community also tends to be really tied in with politics, and you get a lot of feminism. And then with all the problems there were in the early days of feminism, you know, with all lesbian baiting and stuff like that, that I think a lot of lesbians have kind of really banded together in this tight group. And this is what it means to be a lesbian,



07:32

right? And to do anything that's a shade of grey might mean to diffuse the power.



Jay 07:37

Yeah, well, I used to hear all the time, you know, for my lesbian friends, well, there's nothing wrong with bisexuality, but I've never dated biceps, right? I'd say why? Cuz she might leave me for a man. And so I got, you know, went after my soul. Well, she might leave you for a woman to what is that about? Got them to admit that what they were worried about is not so much that the woman would leave them that the woman would leave the lesbian community. And they were really, you know, while she comes in, she says, she's a lesbian. And then she leaves and goes back to the straight community. And it was really like a political thing. That was really interesting. But so it's, you know, the personal was the political, I guess, I don't know.



Gigi 08:17

So you brought some books? Are there some books and resources that can help prepare someone for coming in?



08:26

There are a lot of books currently out on coming out and these kinds of issues, I did pick up three or four, that I saying to be positive, uplifting, and focus not only on what it's like to come out, but how it's going to impact your other people, like most specifically, parents tends to be

work, people focus, because that's such an intense and important relationship in anybody's life. The one the book that I read the quote out of earlier is called coming home to America, a roadmap to gay and lesbian empowerment. And that's by Tori Osborn, that's a really recent book. It was just published last year. Some of the more basic books concrete to the issues of coming out for gay and lesbian people not so much about bisexuality are coming out to parents but Mary Bor, heck, it's subtitled a two way Survival Guide for lesbians and guys and their parents. Also, there's a good one by Betty Fairchild and Nancy Hayward, that it's really written for parents but in my own comic, my personal coming out experience, it was really important for me to read it so that I knew what the other side was. And that's called now that you know that one



09:57

I have a whole list of resources here. I can't really speak to them because I haven't read them. But I can certainly, you know, name off a few.



Gigi 10:06

And before you do that they spoke she mentioned Do you know if they're available?



10:12

Yes, these are actually widely available at this point either at some place like crossroads, which are Inklings, which are two gay bookstores, feminist bookstores in here locally.



Jimmy Carper 10:29

Crossroads located at about the 1200 block of Westheimer, and a Hollywood Video and 1846 Richmond Avenue



10:40

at hazard. Borders Books, Barnes and Noble bookstore, they all have fairly large gay and lesbian sections now and you can find them there. I think those more public places depend on how safe and comfortable you feel to be standing in front of the gay and lesbian section in a bookstore.



Jimmy Carper 11:01

Also, if you're a bargain hunter, you may find some of these at Half Price Books or have a very large gay and lesbian section.



Gigi 11:00



Gigi 11:09

And the one in one the one in the Montrose. Yeah. And the one in the Montrose area on Wall drive is a little more discreet. It's a little bit, lots and lots of shelves, so you can kind of Jack around



Jimmy Carper 11:24

like you need to at the Montrose store. Right, right.



Gigi 11:30

You have some books Yeah,



11:32

I can read off some understanding sexual identity a book for gay teens and their friends. It's by je ranch ra n ch. Here's one read this before coming out to your parents. This one's actually put out by PFLAG, or Federation of parents PFLAG



11:55

and it's accessible by PFLAG homepage on the net.



12:00

And that's by TH Saurman. S A U M A N. Those are a couple



Gigi 12:10

I think we're gonna go to some music for a few minutes. And when we come back, we're going to have someone give a talk on her coming out story. I understand. I haven't heard this yet. But I understand it's a very unique and interesting story. And I'd also like stories unique.



Jay 12:34

Yeah, actually, I just want to interject just because you're coming out stories but it was just interesting. I went to this party. I'm not yesterday, but last Friday. And it was it was some co workers and I found out you know a couple of them were gay and so we just sat there and started at one point to start swapping coming out stories and I thought that's really interesting that I mean, almost all the time that's something that





12:58

it's almost like a rite of passage everyone



Jay 13:00

has in common Yeah, so what happened and you're coming here we were at this party we're all talking about coming out and it was just kind of an interesting little thing that everyone has a little coming out



13:11

stories timely that you're doing the show tonight yeah.



Gigi 13:18

So when we will get to some music and then come back and hear interesting coming out story.



Jimmy Carper 13:29

Okay, well speaking of that, how about my group is raising my favorite lesbian group with their song come out everybody arrives



13:46

smooth



13:47

jazz sounds crazy.



Jimmy Carper 13:51

I'm gonna slap you so hard



13:54

kill me I'm sorry. That was raising Yeah, every year just play the hell out of that whenever we get a chance to read I will have to do I like that's pretty and I like the smooth sounds crazy is like a cup of latte. It's like a grande latte. You'll pay for that outside on the patio. We had a call

we did and they wanted they wanted this to they want to ask you guys a question here in this last session before we wrap it up about coming out in corporate America and and what a danger that can can be and and how best to handle that.

 Jimmy Carper 14:37

how best to handle that carefully. You know it because it can go so many different ways. Like I was saying earlier about my transgendered friend who was hired because she's transgender. I mean, there's there's nothing to it. But But then again, I worked for tenneco for 19 years and

 14:58

nobody knew you were gay. I wasn't

 Jimmy Carper 15:01

I was so point blank, I'd never make it the manager.

 15:04

Yeah. The I had I had a real good friend in Atlanta, one of the guys in my group actually. Like my shrinking group. And and he worked for he also worked for a phone company. And I don't want mentioning the names. But Candice Bergen is a name. No, it's not a name and phone companies just a name anyway. Um, and he started a gay and lesbian employees. thing there and and it was sort of tolerated but not not really looked well upon at all.

 Gigi 15:43

Is there anything?

 Jimmy Carper 15:44

So what about corporate America coming out? Other than being very careful?

 15:51

I think, you know, you really have to assess who are you working for? Because we're not protected.

 Gigi 15:58

Attackers? Just there are some states that offer a little bit more protection than others.



16:07

Yeah, I'm sure there are. Do you know which ones they are? I wish I did.



Gigi 16:12

Well, as I understand California,



Jimmy Carper 16:15

fires while San Francisco,



16:18

large, large parts of Colorado, large I mean, I mean, but say what you want about the hate state thing, but large parts of Colorado because because amendment two was struck down. Many, many cities in Colorado has have sexual orientation and their non discrimination



Jimmy Carper 16:35

policies. There's also a double edged sword here, because you may be really fine for you to come out at the job you're at. But what if they merge with somebody else? Yeah, taken over? Or are your job gets discontinued or something and like



16:55

you said, okay, to be out at a certain level. But not at higher level,



17:00

I think an important point that an important point here is to assess the situation. I mean, we're raising a lot of questions right now. And I think before you come out at your job, it's very important to be cognizant of all the different things that could happen, you know, and to ask yourself these questions What, ask yourself these what if questions, you know,



Jimmy Carper 17:26

I think coming out in the corporate world is still in the infant stage? Oh, absolutely. Totally, I would be extremely cautious. We don't have any experience or very limited experience, and there's no recourse if you're fired. That's right.

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Gigi 17:39

I'd like to throw something else out too. And that is that part of the process could also involve shopping around for more gay friendly or diverse, friendly companies, before you come out and making some lateral changes. And those numbers are growing. And yeah. Oh, yeah, absolutely. And there's a lot of ways you can kind of shop around and get a feel for it. Just look at what different companies are giving to you. I mean, we've been doing a show on community first, and in talking a little bit about, you know, like, who owns Randalls and where the money goes, like, what Kroger's doing with the money. Kroger spits a lot back into this community with the share cards. You know, if I was in the grocery business, I know who I was, which store would work for.



18:42

And something to know about those cars. And I'll just kind of plug the Counseling Center is that we actually have cards and codes, both for Randalls at the Montrose Counseling Center, both for Randalls and Kroger. Oh, wow. And I'll be damned if I brought those numbers. We do have them at the counseling center,

G

Gigi 19:01

though. And what's the number at the counseling center?



19:05

It's 5290037. And if you have any questions, and you want to direct them to somebody specific, you can ask for myself. And that's Shane Hennessy.

G

Gigi 19:17

And now I think it's time we come out with a story. Oh, I'd like to introduce our next guest star guest star. And I name is Kim Dylan. And from what I understand, you have quite a story to share.



19:41

The pressure, the pressure.

G

Gigi 19:43

I don't mean to be making. I don't want to make you nervous.



19:49

Before I share my story, I want to tell you my favorite coming out story is a guy that I heard actually at Texas a&m or went to college, and I went to a panel and he said that he was just doing it in a normal way to pretty much everybody. And he was mowing this person's yard. And she came out and kind of an older lady and said, Oh, honey, I want to introduce you. The neighbor's daughter is so cute. And he said, Well, I'm gay. And she just, she didn't blink an eye. She said, Well, they have a son, and he's really cute.



20:32

I think that's the best response I've ever heard.



Gigi 20:36

My grandmother always said, I look better in a dress as a girl than as a boy.



20:46

Basically, I was brought up in a pretty liberal home, and I have two older brothers. And so we weren't treated really gender specific, which, which was really nice, really. When I got into college, I became a fundamental Christian kind of did a 180 and spent five years being very fundamental Christian. And when I went to graduate school in counseling, I met some people who kind of blew me away and did not fit the stereotypes I had of gays and lesbians. And it was actually a gay man and a lesbian who were both Christian. And, you know, that just didn't go together, you couldn't. And they were so genuine in their spirituality, and yet very genuine in their homosexuality. I had this one summer I called my homosexual summer, every person I came into contact was homosexual. I rode with a homosexual man, I studied with a homosexual woman, I was hanging out with these two people, and I don't think



Gigi 21:59

we're in Kansas anymore.



22:04

It was pretty amazing. And so I finally everything I had done was very deliberate in my coming out. So I decided finally decided that God was okay with homosexuality, which was a real far leap. And I didn't tell my Christian friends this, that's for sure. And when I finally accepted that, in my heart, I had started having all these little fantasies about women. And so I started having to face my own homosexuality. And so I had a very deliberate process of coming out to myself, which is the first in the stages. And then I went back and forth with God, well, I'm not sure if God's okay with me. Homosexual. But finally, I said, I don't care. I'm going to try it anyway. So I began to date around, move to Houston, got a job and kind of got involved with the community.

And finally, just, you know, tried it out, and it was wonderful. And, and so, through a lot of struggle, I finally came out to myself. And so then I started coming out to my Christian friends. And let's just say I, I no longer am in contact with any of my Christian friends, any of them. That was a very of them, none of them. There was just one woman who I was very close with for seven years. And we'd always talked about that I would be the maid of honor in her wedding. And well, she called me one day telling me all her bridesmaids and I was not one of them. Oh. And it was

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Gigi 24:04

her fiance car yet to be best man.

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24:10

And let me tell you, I like greatness. But that was that was really hurtful, because then I realized that her love was really conditional. And she tried to let me I don't want to blame her. But she just, she could not accept that. And it was a very close minded way of thinking. And I'm very lucky that I had a wonderful group of friends that that I was beginning to know in the community that were very accepting and I had a great support group and I want to stress that I made sure I was in a good place before I told my friends and I had a new support group around me before I told my friends and I had a lot If I prepared in my heart in my mind that I was gonna get rejection, I knew them well enough that that was probably going to happen. And it was hard because I had to do a lot of defending

G

Gigi 25:11

that went through a lot of that because when I came out, I was coming out to father who was a minister. Four years before, when my aunt came out as a reformed, born again used to be homosexual, but now only months, Jesus was totally an ex gay excommunicated from the family. My father has nothing to do. That's a whole Yeah, she was supposedly a reformed one. And here I'm coming out as an act of wife one.

U

25:56

Gay and glad of it. Well, it was, it was very difficult because they had been my support group for five to seven years through, you know, from losing my mother through death. And so they had been an important part of my life. It was hard to lose them. But it came down to the fact that who I am and who I choose to love is more important than than what they think. And so that was that. The neat part of it is is I had determined before 1997 was going to come around, I was going to come out to my entire family. And I think my brother, one of my brothers gave the best response, because he said no, Kim, I understand that. If you ever choose to have a life, mate