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 Fri, Feb 24, 2023 9:42AM  44:02

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

coming, transgendered, texas a&m, transsexual, houston, gay, music, police, cd, station, pflag, parents, group, minneapolis, hear, transgender, falling, jail, halloween, listening

## SPEAKERS

Michelle Meyers, Roy, Jimmy Carper, Sarah DePalma

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00:01

The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature that may be considered objectionable by some listener discretion is advised



00:10

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



J Jimmy Carper 00:45

Oh yes, you've tuned into after hours queer radio with attitude right here on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of after hours is ready to bring you news, interviews, dialogue and music geared for gay lesbian, bisexual and transgendered 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 closet. 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. Hello, Houston and welcome to after hours. And this is the October 10 edition of after hours. We're here every Saturday night at midnight. Bringing you three hours of queer life on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station. I'm Julie Carper. And with me tonight,



S Sarah DePalma 02:30

Sara de pomme Hello Houston.



J Jimmy Carper 02:33

No kidding. Hello College Station. Oh, and she knows about college station shirt because she's been there.

S Sarah DePalma 02:40

Yeah, I want to say hello to all the Aggies who are listening in to us on ke o s in College Station. had the privilege in the honor to be at Texas a&m This past Thursday. That's right. It was Thursday. That's right and to speak to the now called gay lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Student Association surprise and I was invited to come up there we can went up with Phyllis Frye and Katrina Rose and April Lopper.

J Jimmy Carper 03:14

Oh, Katrina went with you.

S Sarah DePalma 03:16

Four Aggies. There are four different classes. I

J Jimmy Carper 03:19

don't think I know what April. I don't

S Sarah DePalma 03:21

know. I don't think it's mid April. But it was a absolutely a wonderful experience. If you're a regular listener to the show, you know that I had a very rough time while I was there, to put it mildly. And why? Well, because I was one of the major players in getting gay student services on the campus of Texas a&m, which made me target number one no kidding. Head

J Jimmy Carper 03:43

fag. Yeah, that's me. For the old day. Oh, yeah.

S Sarah DePalma 03:47

In I have to be honest, and saying that I was very ambivalent about going. And in fact, all the way up all the way go up. With my talking my life partner, I kept saying, Well, I just don't know about this. I'm not so sure. Is it turned out? They are absolutely delightful. People are Yeah, it is the that the services group has grown incredibly. And I kind of came away with the feeling that

I had given birth to something that has now become very, very special. And, you know, it's it isn't often that you can do something that's really very difficult. And then come back years later to see what has become of your effort.

J Jimmy Carper 04:32

Well, it's nice to see that it at least it survived. You know, I would be thrilled to know that, you

S Sarah DePalma 04:37

know, we went to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and we fought Texas a&m to the mat, because we wanted to get a telephone in the student center. That's all we wanted. This day and we were able to go up there and take a look and they had their own little cubicle in the in the Student Services area in there pretty well accepted. That's not to say they don't still have cases of home phobia. But it was a really delightful experience. And I really would like to thank the folks from Texas a&m for inviting us up. I've already we've been extended another invitation to go perhaps in the spring. And if the invitation is extended, I will go. Good. So thank you very much Aggies. We are going to be premiering a. We are going to be world premiere in a piece of music tonight. Wow. There is a group from Minneapolis called All the Pretty Horses and they have a only transgendered singer by the name of Steven grand Dell. I'm there I am there. Yeah. And Steven is caught he post even wants to be known as he slash chi at the moment. Although he slept she is on hormones. And then you wonder the if one of the music critics describe this group as they cry if you took the love child of Jim Morrison, and

J Jimmy Carper 06:01

I forgot who it was that Marlena, Marlena Dietrich, right.

S Sarah DePalma 06:04

You would end up with all the Pretty Horses. Well, I think that's not quite right. I think if you took Jane County and Jim Morrison, you would have all the Pretty Horses.

J Jimmy Carper 06:15

For those out there who don't know Jane county is like the grand mother of punk music

S Sarah DePalma 06:20

in this group even sounds a little bit like her. Later in the show. We're going I want to we'll play the first cut. In fact, they're doing you Marlena Dietrich song no kid in it is just wonderful. Is this the cut? I know that the first cut we're doing is a Steven Grandville original piece. Oh, okay. That's cut number nine. Yeah,

J Jimmy Carper 06:40

yeah, yeah. Well, we've got a lot of things tonight, including fall harvest. Oh, harvest. Yeah. Fall Harvest. This right now is what we are returning our last marathon of the year. And what we want to do is harvest new members and old ones.

S Sarah DePalma 06:58

Yeah, and you know, this time, I can tell you how much we really, really, really need the money.

J Jimmy Carper 07:04

Last month, you were here and during that rainstorm,

S Sarah DePalma 07:09

we had literally we are on the first floor of a two storey building, right. The water had come down through the ceiling, came through the upper floor and was dripping onto the equipment and onto the carpet in the studio. We were really doing the show and dodging the water we were that was in the studio

J Jimmy Carper 07:32

and half the carpet was wet. And my stay transmitter was

S Sarah DePalma 07:35

underwater. So we were on a backup transmitter. I think they're probably 11 people that were able to hear

J Jimmy Carper 07:42

five of them clearly

S Sarah DePalma 07:43

five of them were in the studio with us, I think. And all in all, I mean, you know sometimes you hear people say, all please, you know we need money or you can't imagine. I'm looking around the studio right now we still have ceiling tile that is literally falling down around our ears. We have plastic over the equipment.

J Jimmy Carper 08:01

And I'll tell you what, because that is way down low on the list because what we're interested in is getting that sound out.

S Sarah DePalma 08:09

We need to get the sound out that's why I believe they have the transmitter back to play. Sure do. But folks, honest to goodness, when we say that we need your money. We are not joking. We are not joke we really honest to god need I sound like Jerry Lewis, I promise you I promise not to cry if you send the money

J Jimmy Carper 08:28

or not play that song. I will not do it. No, please don't. And the number is 5265738. And that's 713-526-5738.

S Sarah DePalma 08:41

Now I gotta tell you, I just saw the new T shirt. They've got Yeah, dollars. Yeah. That's pretty cool. Okay. Yes, it is. It's red, white and blue. And it's got KPFT all over it. And you know, that's for 60 bucks. When you also get your choice of a mousepad in a mug.

J Jimmy Carper 08:56

Well, you know, not only that, but I've got some special offers tonight. Oh, yes, I do. And it's gonna be a really special offer. I've decided because

S Sarah DePalma 09:08

I know you auctioning yourself. Well,

J Jimmy Carper 09:12

I tried that once and we didn't do well. Anyway. I am on the internet now. And I am on a queer music digest. And I put out the word and I asked the artists if they would send in music to give away for this marathon and two artists responded. Robert Urban and God. Dave Hall, Dave Hall you we play that all the time playing the man, Dave Hall and we'll be giving those CDs away. Specially these two CD I've got. I've got two of each. Robert Urban Dave Hall. I'll be giving them away for a pledge of 30 \$85 on plastic. Now that's the cheapest you're ever going to get it all the CDs here are for a \$60 pledge, but for after hours, folks I'm willing to do and big Roy's here, listening to me right now. Dave Hall, Robert Urban CDs \$35 on plastic and you can have them.

S

Sarah DePalma 10:22

That's gonna be That's what you call a deal. That's the deal. That's the deal. That's the

J

Jimmy Carper 10:26

deal. I'm making a deal. Deal we're gonna make for you. And here's big ROI. Big ROI.

R

Roy 10:32

Yes. And there's another CD that the station is put out. So KPFT music, Sam? Oh, yes. It's wonderful. And that's \$60. We'll send that out to you. You're well, and this CD sampler is kind of special. outsell because, well, it's a it's a very up upbeat and very happy. sampler. Yes. And it also on one of the cuts on there. I was listening to it has Paul McCartney doing the song on there. One of his new songs. And guess what, why? Ringo Starr is a feature drummer. Why is that particularly You are kidding me know not? Anybody who is anybody who knows. I know.

J

Jimmy Carper 11:17

Domain. Yeah, here we go. People. That stuff gets worth lots of money once a lot. I mean, when's the last time the two of them got together? And let's make this

R

Roy 11:28

when they will be together. I know that this CD will be worth way more than

J

Jimmy Carper 11:34

and so you can get that with the \$60 pledge on plastic.

R

Roy 11:37

And it's a fantastic. It's not gay music. But most most of the people out there like me listen to all kinds of music.

S

Sarah DePalma 11:46

That's right. Hey, this is KPFT. Yes. And listen to all kinds of music on this station, and we will do a little bit of everything. That's right.

J

Jimmy Carper 11:53

And speaking of doing a little bit of everything, I want to do a couple of announcements before we go to our first piece of music and the big announcement. Is that, Tara, What's tomorrow? Sunday? National Coming Out? Oh, yes, yes. Yeah.

 Sarah DePalma 12:11

In fact, I plan to talk about that tonight. After going up to Texas a&m and hearing some of the coming out stories. I thought this would be a good time to talk about some of that tonight, you know,

 Jimmy Carper 12:20

coming out is not only for queers. No, it's not No, it isn't. It's whatever closet you happen to be in. I recall that one of the programmers here at KPFT came out of the closet after listening to the show about coming out of the closet came out of the closet about being an act door. And because of what people thought of actors,

 Sarah DePalma 12:45

were you also have a excellent interview tonight. Diane Hardy Garcia Oh, who is the director of the Lesbian Gay rights lobby. And Clarence Bagby, who is the director of gay lesbian Political Caucus, I love Clarence. And so if we have if we don't have a little bit of everything here, then no show every day now. Right. I know. I need to tell you. We've got new music. We've got interviews. We've got Jimmy about falling over. Ceiling tiles falling bass, and friends. We're asking for your money.

 Jimmy Carper 13:18

Yes, we are. And not only is tomorrow National Coming Out Day but the bad boy of gay comedy Scott Kennedy is playing tomorrow night 730 At the laughs stop what makes him the bad boy? Because he and his deceased partner Kevin started the gay Comedy Jam, the first group of gay comedy to travel all over the US. Oh, all right. Well, it makes sense to me then. And well, Scott, if you if you've ever seen him in his shows he he doesn't pick on people. Exactly. But he gets the idea of cross about the difference between gay and straight.

 Sarah DePalma 13:58

What does he like the Don Rickles of gay comedy.

 Jimmy Carper 14:01

Don Don Rickles. Only nicer. Oh, thank

S Sarah DePalma 14:03

god. Yeah. Okay. Oh, he's

J Jimmy Carper 14:06

a nice guy. He really is a nice guy. And that's 730 At the last stop on West grey. It'd be a great place to go. And I want to say hello to Terry and Roger and the T man. The TV T man. Yeah, okay. Yes. They are not able to come to the studio. They are not even able to go to Kroger's, because there's bars where they are. Uh huh. Right. But they listen,

S Sarah DePalma 14:33

well. We have a lot of listeners who are in prison or in jail or wherever. So yes, and somebody

J Jimmy Carper 14:37

else I want to say hi to is Tom Zito. He is doing better. I didn't know that. Well, anytime every weekend in the Bubba's? Yeah, they were here for the Veterans Day show. Right. Well, you know, Tom was he talked about being HIV positive. Oh, that's right. I remember you telling me about them. They got very sick and he went into the hospital. He's been in there for About three, four weeks now. Wow. And room 782 By the way of the Bayou City Medical Center, that's the old 12 oaks. Okay? If you'd like to send a card or best good wishes, he is doing better. You know, it's kind of a touch and go but it's let me only put it to you this way when he first went in the hospital, their best friend, Tom and Doug the Bubba's right. Their best friend, Brian Keever. canceled his trip to southern decadence. Wow, it was that serious? Wow. This weekend, Brian Keever is in Dallas for some pageant. So Tom's doing better good. The other thing I wanted to mention before we got to music, which we're going to pick Yes, we

S Sarah DePalma 15:52

are in the phones are not ringing. No, they

J Jimmy Carper 15:54

aren't damaged. And that's 713-526-5738 or five to six

S Sarah DePalma 15:59

KPFT. If you write if you remember letters better than numbers.

J Jimmy Carper 16:05

Yes. And oh, I did. I did have a request to play deli boy.

**S** Sarah DePalma 16:11

I'm not even going there.

**J** Jimmy Carper 16:14

I'll be playing that later. Okay. Velvet mafia. I've had a request to play that song for the last four weeks, then I guess we should play it song. Yeah. Have you seen the new breast cancer stamps? No. Oh, man. This is so fun. They are the the peel and stick guy. Yeah. But here's the deal. How much does it cost to mail a letter 32 cents, the stamps cost for 40 cents. And the rest of it goes? eight cents is going to breast cancer research.

**S** Sarah DePalma 16:47

Oh, then it's worth doing for that I'd pay 40 cents. If they sell all of the stamps

**J** Jimmy Carper 16:51

that have been printed. Breast Cancer Research will get \$16 million.

**S** Sarah DePalma 16:58

And they say that if you're going postal, you should be ducking for cover Hey,

**J** Jimmy Carper 17:02

hey, eight cents. Anybody can do that. That's right, asked for those breast cancer stamps next time you go to the post office. Now, why don't you introduce

**S** Sarah DePalma 17:13

and now we're actually gonna go some way. I wanted to talk a little bit about this group for a minute. This group is from Minneapolis and they have been together now about a year. They just came off of a tour where they ran through New York City in cities along the east coast and this is from their first CD. Okay. Steven Grandville is the lead songwriter and also the lead singer on this group. And if you saw the picture, Steven, if you thought of the person from Rocky Horror, yeah, sort of has that look kind of a Goth look to it. The group describes itself as being crossed between David Bowie in in punk rock. Okay, which is kind of interesting. Gotcha. They're a little bit different. Having said that, they are now going on a 16 city tour. Whoa, unfortunately, they're not coming to Houston. These are all through long Menorca. Well, but we

are getting a world premiere on this. This CD has not even been released to his home city of Minneapolis. Oh kidding. How did you get it up and talking to on the internet did an interview with him for the Nick show there. And this was my reward for doing the interview. That is so cool. And so without further ado, we give you all the Pretty Horses.

J Jimmy Carper 18:33

Okay, I like that. I like that all the Pretty Horses

S Sarah DePalma 18:39

in the lead singer of this group is going to be our guest on the next show. And I wanted to I wanted to read a little piece here. This was on any interview that was done with a paper in Minneapolis. And the question was asked of him. What kind of obstacles have you faced as a transgender performer? And here's his answer. As far as acceptance. Whoa, this is terrible print there. As far as acceptance of the trans things go. Minneapolis is a pretty cool place to be. There's always trouble around the corner whenever wherever you are, but that's just part of being transgender. Sure, touring is a real pain on the road. I'm just another faggot. It's really very scary. There's a lot of hate and suspicion out there. When I don't have the stage to define myself. It's risky. Especially since I'm in between rather than crossing over the fence to one gender or another. It makes people very uncomfortable. I was in London recently and had gawkers everywhere I went you would hope that it would be a little bit better in one of the biggest cities in Europe. But it isn't it isn't.

J Jimmy Carper 19:44

It is not anywhere.

S Sarah DePalma 19:46

Very Steven Granville very interesting person. We had a terrific interview. I know gives you good reason to tune in next month. I think you'll enjoy this

J Jimmy Carper 19:53

for them the group all the Pretty Horses the name of the album queens and Angel

S Sarah DePalma 20:00

This is their second CD, but they're first on a major label. Oh, okay. And later on, we're going to play the first cut,

 **Jimmy Carper 20:06**

which I'm looking forward to this one.

 **Sarah DePalma 20:09**

Yeah, this is Marlena Dietrich. This

 **Jimmy Carper 20:11**

is Marlena de Trix theme song Falling in love again,

 **Sarah DePalma 20:15**

it is very, very good. So stick around, I think you'll really enjoy. That's

 **Jimmy Carper 20:19**

right. And we still have marathon go, fall harvest. Okay, and we are we've got special after hours, gifts for you, as well as the regular ones, because we have a nice goal to meet. And we'd like to show management that this show is worthy of being on.

 **Sarah DePalma 20:41**

And we want to point out to you that although they talk about a minimum donation of \$35. The fact is that we would certainly accept the donation for far less than that. If you would like to make a donation of \$5 \$10 \$20. Whatever the case may be, we would absolutely be thrilled to have it.

 **Jimmy Carper 20:59**

What we want is \$100, though actually we would like another I would love to have another leadership circle member

 **Sarah DePalma 21:07**

yet my games explained with it. You know what this well,

 **Jimmy Carper 21:11**

okay, a leadership circle member is \$500 \$500. Right? Yeah, that's pretty special. Yeah. for that. I can't read that. It says leadership circle. And there are benefits. The benefits include circle circle

S Sarah DePalma 21:27

newspaper, a one year gift subscription for a friend, Breakfast Club and tour of KPFT. Studio. Well, KPFT, navy blue golf show that's special invites to events without the year right. And other benefits. Yeah,

J Jimmy Carper 21:41

I have a special party special you get special invites, with what they're doing now is having artists come and play in the backyard of KPFT. And is by invitation only. You can only you can win tickets on the air. But if you're a leadership circle member, you get tickets automatically. This is this is a great deal. Plus, Plus, you're supporting KPFT you're supporting this show. Now. I'm greedy. I know I'm greedy. But we're kind of in competition with lesbian and gay voices, which is on Friday nights at eight o'clock because they got a leadership circle. They did they did. They got a leadership circle member. Now we have to, and I believe they have to.

S Sarah DePalma 22:28

So this is a pretty tight race. Now we're racing. Yeah, we want another one. And the fact of the matter is when we were talking about the condition of the studio and the condition of the transmitter, those the everything we've said there, this is absolutely true. What you may not know is that this station is virtually no paid staff. Oh, I

J Jimmy Carper 22:47

know it. No, five or six or five and a half. I don't know what it is.

S Sarah DePalma 22:52

Most of the repairs that are done here are often done on a volunteer basis. Totally. I mean, people come in here even some of the gardener

J Jimmy Carper 22:58

Rick gardener, like keeps this place for falling down.

S Sarah DePalma 23:02

Yeah, I mean even lumber and off stuff is often donated to us. But the fact of the matter is that the station really needs the money if for no other reason than just to do basic maintenance. And I want you to know that any money that you that you donate here or that you pledge is not

going into somebody's pocket and now with every last penny of this is going into the maintenance and upkeep of the station and keeping the station on the air

J Jimmy Carper 23:28

and bringing you to the programs you like like democracy now. And if you know we get if we get enough money we can get more programs

S Sarah DePalma 23:35

like that. Yeah, that's right in you know, I like Mary in the morning and everybody's got some I love the blue shows.

J Jimmy Carper 23:42

Oh yeah, I gotta I took a pledge last night when I was here and you know somebody was talking about how they loved Mary in the morning was just like they didn't know how they could live without Mary in the morning. Yeah, to get them to work

S Sarah DePalma 23:54

and you know, if you want to keep this sort of thing on the air then quite honestly, we need to start hearing phones ring Yes, that's it. I mean, that's just the fact of the matter.

J Jimmy Carper 24:02

Five to 6573852 6k p f t now we've got more music coming your way more new music more music you haven't heard more music from the album's that we are going to give away for that \$35 pledge on plastic that Dave Hall and Robert Urban will be playing those later and yes, I'll be playing Delhi boy and and because this is a special request, dedication.

S Sarah DePalma 24:32

Well, you want to do like a piece of music or you want to chat for a bit. We need to chat for a bit. Okay. I wanted to talk a little bit we have National Coming Out Day coming out. Sure do. And going up to Texas a&m, then within the last few days reminded me once again, of the dangers involved of coming out. If you are still dependent upon your parents for financial income that is

J Jimmy Carper 24:58

exactly one of the two topics that Joan was talking about last night on lesbian and gay voices.

S Sarah DePalma 25:05

I you know, sometimes I mean, I'm 47 now, and I came out a long time ago. And so sometimes I kind of forget how much danger really is involved.

J Jimmy Carper 25:15

Well, listen, I know you came out in several different ways. Yeah.

S Sarah DePalma 25:20

Come up more than once. And sometimes I'm sure I'm not sure it's a process that ever completely ends. I know it. But fact of the matter is, sometimes I you know, it's easy for me to sit up here and say, oh, yeah, come out, come out, wherever you are. But the fact of the matter is, that may not always be the smartest move. Right? We

J Jimmy Carper 25:39

say that in the in the very beginning of this show. Yeah. I was talking about those people who can't come out

S Sarah DePalma 25:44

talk for some of the students up there. They're totally dependent on their parents for income. Sure. Their parents are paying the way through college. And many of them told me flatly that if they came out to their parents, they'd be out in the street. Sure. And I believe them.

J Jimmy Carper 25:57

I was, yeah,

S Sarah DePalma 25:58

I mean, I know there are. There are a great number of transgender people on the streets right now, for the same rate for exactly the same reason that come up to the parents. And the parents said, Fine, you're out of here. Yeah. And that was it no matter what age Yeah. Oh, yeah, he has nothing to do with it, they're going to be 14 or 15 years old. Now, the reason I wanted to bring this up is that once again, as I was going through my email, I received an email from a, from a transgendered youth out there, 14 years old, listens, listens to us on the Walkman, and wanted to know what this case he should do about coming out. Well, let me talk about that a minute. We get quite a few letters from folks who are 1314 15 years old, listening to us on the Walkman, though, I know it. And I want you to know that we are aware that you exist. We talk about you often, we think about you, we try to find ways to speak to you directly.

But we are between a hard place and Iraq with this. We received the letters we receive the emails, but we cannot respond to you. Personally, I know there are all kinds of legal ramifications. If we, if we respond to you personally. We don't need your parents coming in here in suing us or suing the station, or suing me personally. So but at the same time, in reading this person's email, I could feel the loneliness and the desperation. Yeah. And for whatever this is worth, yes, we know you're out there. And to answer your question directly. If I were 14 years old, would I come out? Not on my or your life? Who got it? Absolutely not. Now, I know, it's really, really hard to say, Wait, especially when you are sure that you are transgendered, or you're fairly sure that you want to start a transition to have some adult say, hey, look, this is not a smart move. is I know is not the answer that you want. But it is the truth. And so I want to emphasize that yes, National Coming Out Day is coming. If you're an adult, by that, I mean, you are no longer dependent upon your parents for your financial income. So that they can no longer control you, then by all means, do what you think is right. But until then, if I were you, I would sit tight,

J

Jimmy Carper 28:40

okay. And that if you are in that position, you you're on your own and all of that. The purpose of coming out, the reality of coming out is that the people that who you know and love don't know you. They only know a part of you. They don't know the whole you. They know this facade. And it's kind of living a lie. No, it is living a

S

Sarah DePalma 29:09

lie. Well, it is living a lie. Yes. You know, and the excuses that I hear for not coming out. Let me back up the way it is. If I was going to get draw your roadmap to come out, I would say start with friends. Oh, yeah, absolutely. Don't start with the family necessarily. Start with friends. Do it in increments. I mean, don't decide, hey, I'm gonna come out all in one day. And we're gonna go on Dan, rather and do this. No, no, no, no, no, no. The way to do it is to start off slowly. Yeah. Start with friends that you think will be accepted. You

J

Jimmy Carper 29:40

have a close sister. You have a close brother. try that first. Right. You're very close to your mom, very close to your dad. Try that.

S

Sarah DePalma 29:47

Yeah. Build up to the idea of bit of coming out to your parents. Yes. If I if I could give you some advice on this. I will say do some preparation work. Make sure you've got information on PFLAG in hand

J

Jimmy Carper 30:00

You know, the biggest thing about coming out is you have to be all the way out to yourself. You have to really have to be secure in your own community. And the first things the first things

have, you really have to be secure in your own sexuality. And the first thing, the first thing that's going to happen is Oh, it's a phase.

 Sarah DePalma 30:21

It's a phase. Yeah.

 Jimmy Carper 30:23

Are you sure? Yeah. Have you tried the other side?

 Sarah DePalma 30:26

All you need is one good woman or man, take care of pig, and you'll be cured?

 Jimmy Carper 30:32

No. And you need to be able to answer those questions honestly and forthright and saying no, no, no, no, no, no, it's not a phase. It's not a phase, and have the information in hand to tell them you know, psychiatrist information, Doctor information. I don't know. There's some there's lots of good books at the library or Lobo, or Crossroads about coming out.

 Sarah DePalma 30:54

If you have access to the internet. You are. Oh, yeah, you turn about reams and reams of information. How much information would you like, I visited the parent the PFLAG web page the other day that would be perfect. They have added transgenders to their webpage and genders are now part of the mission statement for PFLAG. They have a separate group to help transgenders now,

 Jimmy Carper 31:18

go go to the PFLAG and just print everything up and

 Sarah DePalma 31:22

hand it to your mom. But don't go to the Houston PFLAG group, because they still don't like us. Oh, they don't like transgender. No, they still don't like transgenders. We're not welcome there. What the national group does.

 Jimmy Carper 31:31

.....

Okay. That's, that's kind of crazy.

S

Sarah DePalma 31:34

Well, it's a long story. I'm not gonna go into that. But the point that I wanted to make about this is do your homework. Yeah. Do your homework. And this is the hard part. Be prepared to be rejected.

J

Jimmy Carper 31:47

Yes, it might happen. I mean, after all, how long did it take you to be able to look in the mirror and say, I am queer? Or I am, you know, whatever you are? Yeah. You know, it doesn't the we're not we're, we're encompassing everything here. I am an actor, I'm an I Am, whatever you are, how long did it take you to do that you knew inside for a very long time. But it took you a long time to be able to look in the mirror and say, and say that and be secure. Your parents have to have this coming out your family, your friends have to have this coming out. Time to it may take six months or a year.

S

Sarah DePalma 32:23

Now if you're transgendered, we're talking about two different types of coming out. So I want to address those separately. Yeah. Okay, if you're a crossdresser. Oh, that's right. In many cases, the coming out you're talking about is coming out to your wife. No kidding. If you're a transsexual, when you discuss this with your parents, you need to understand that it's not exactly the same as being gay man or woman. When a gay man or a woman says to the parents, I'm gay, when it's all said and done, the family still has a brother or sister. If you are transgendered, or especially if you are transsexual, when you say to your parents, you know, I mean, you come out to your parents about this. It is as if you died, and a new person has taken your place. Yes, this is a real serious matter, you should be prepared to have counseling, to be able to tell your parents where counseling could be obtained, you should be ready to go yourself to get with them. You should have pictures that you can show them of what you look like. And you should be prepared to be in this for the long haul. It is not going to be an easy step. No, I can tell you from my own experience that my brother has chosen, for example, not to speak to me ever again. You have to be prepared when you start the process for the idea that you may lose your friends, and you may lose your family. And you may need to start over. I had to do that. Yeah, lots of people do. And it doesn't matter whether you're gay or lesbian, or transgender or whatever. But the coming out process is not exactly the same. And I wanted you to know that. Now, if you're talking about coming out to your wife, if you're a crossdresser. My advice here is don't do this at home. I mean that sincerely. Take your wife out to dinner, take her out someplace private, have pictures, sit down and go through it slowly. If she wants to cry, scream, whatever, it's better not to do this with the kids around. Oh, I

J

Jimmy Carper 34:33

see what you mean.

S

Sarah DePalma 34:34

Let's say you want to do this out of sight of the children's point I'm trying to make if the children are away for the weekend or whatever, that's probably the time to do it. Okay, and you've got to be prepared to answer the questions. Oh, your wife is going to want to know, am I a lesbian? Are you gay? Are you gonna go into change your sec, right, all of those kinds of questions. And yet once again, you need to have that knowledge and the information in here. And remember that coming out is not just an individual process. It affects not only you, but everyone you know, and everyone you love and everyone around them.

J

Jimmy Carper 35:11

But then they know the real you. Yes. And that that's the that's the biggest point of all.

S

Sarah DePalma 35:18

I have to say, just speaking from my own experience here, I'm free. You know, I and out to everybody in anybody, there was nothing that anyone could ever do to me. They could call me and threatened to blackmail me nuts. It will be my guess here was the numbers call?

J

Jimmy Carper 35:35

Well, you know, that's what I was saying on National Coming Out. They I am so out. I'm like that professional career. I have to go out and the cost perfect a cost perfect strangers and tell them

S

Sarah DePalma 35:51

you know, it's funny, I wear my transsexual t shirt all over the place. We were here at the street festival today. No one looked no one cared. When we went into the 59 Diner, no one looked no one cares. You knew this. Sometimes I think you know that this fear process deal is really overrated. Phyllis was so disappointed. She wore her transsexual minister to Texas a&m. And no one noticed. I told her I said well, it Phyllis need to realize, of course that people only see you to the extent to which they will keep from bumping into you. And she says, Well, I guess that's true. But I did want to talk about the coming out process. Now. One other thing. Halloween is coming. Okay. And yeah, go ahead. Yeah, Halloween is coming in for those of you who are transgendered people who are going to be out here and Halloween, and you're coming out for the first time, some pieces of advice. stay sober. Repeat after me. stay sober. The Houston police have no sense of humor about a drunk. And trust me, you don't want to go to jail. cross dressed. Now Oh, no,

J

Jimmy Carper 37:01

you don't no, no, no. Now,

S

Sarah DePalma 37:03

the Houston jail. Thanks to Ray Hill in a nice Parker is much more liberal than many other jails in the area. But trust me, you don't want to end up in jail. My advice to you would be and it's probably a little late this stage would be to go to DPS and have a picture taken of you in your female attire. Not that you would have a second license, but you would have an ID with your picture on it. So that if you were stopped by the police, they would no you are not trying to hide. You're not some criminal who is out there trying to evade the police. And I do want to mention something about Houston police for a minute. There was an incident this past week in Clear Lake where a transsexual by the name of Stephanie Ryan was shot of the Houston Police. And I have heard several rumors going around out there about how the police did this, or the police did that, and how I let me set the record straight. I don't know the exact circumstances which led Stephanie to take the actions that she took. But the fact of the matter is the police were called by the people within the home where Stephanie resides because they were in fear for their life. Stephanie was armed. She was drunk, and she was despondent. When the police came, they saw that she was armed. They could have shot her them. But they did not. Instead they tried to reason with her. They tried to talk to her. Stephanie responded by shooting into the ground. Oh my god, the police could have shot her then and did not. Instead they retreated and they called for backup. I mean they follow this thing to the letter. For all the stories that you hear about Trigger Happy police. This is not one of those incidents. Finally, Stephanie pursued the police through the gate coming toward the front yard. She picked up her pistol and she aimed at the officer and the officer did the only thing that he could do at that point. He discharged his weapon. And let me say discharge the weapon only once Oh, this is not a Pedro Oregon kind of incident. I when I say that extreme caution and care was taken in this I really mean it. I immediately contacted the City Council one in East Parker and asked her to look into this incident for us. And she did and in fact called back the same day with the results Wow. And so I want to set this the record straight and let's bring the rumors and other stories that about heard floating around to the rest. This is not a case of police brutality. This is not a case of the police stepping over the line. On the contrary, this is a case of the replace, showing remarkable restraint. And I can tell you is is Sarah, the activists here for a minute and is the director of a statewide transgender political organization, that I have no intention of pursuing this matter any further. I know I heard from transsexual menace and heard from other groups who were had some interest in coming into town to do a protest or whatever. I have told him exactly what I've told you, there will be no protest. There is no reason for one, good for you. But I did want to get that information out, because there's been a lot of questions about it. And I bring this This brings the full circle back to the discussion about coming out if you're going to be out in Halloween for the first time. Yeah. If you get stopped by a policeman, be honest. Tell the officer you're out for Halloween. Yeah, I mean, they're not going to be surprised. Do not back tuck them. Don't SAS. Keep your hands where they can see it. Yes. Now, I know, every time that this is Halloween, I ended up getting phone calls from people within a few days. I'm in jail because I did this. And I'm in jail because I did that. And it's like, why did you do that? And I'm gonna tell you the same thing. Gee, I'm really sorry that you're in jail, who's your lawyer? If you behave and you just go out and have fun, and you stay sober, polite, the police in Houston will leave you alone. We

J

Jimmy Carper 41:32

have been talking about some of the bad sides. Yep. Of coming out and the police thing and Halloween. But we do have some good side to coming out.

S

Sarah DePalma 41:47

Oh, there's a lot of good sides.

M

Michelle Meyers 41:49

Yeah. Michelle,

J

Jimmy Carper 41:51

Michelle Myers is here to tell you about it.

M

Michelle Meyers 41:53

Before we talk about the good experiences that I was fortunate enough to go through. I would like to mention that if you're transgendered, if you're a crossdresser, or if you are a transsexual, if you're going to come out, I highly recommend that you get in touch with a support group that can sit you down. And where you can talk to five or six or eight or 10 or 20 different people and find out how different people have gone about the coming out process with their families.

J

Jimmy Carper 42:36

That's very important.

M

Michelle Meyers 42:38

And you can get a lot of good information from the individuals, you'll have to put together your own plan. Oh, yeah, based on that information, but that is one of the best ways that you can do it. So I just wanted to mention this. Did you do that? Oh, yes. Yes. I mean, I talked to well, to come out to my mom. I talked to my sister. Because I had already come out to my sister. Gah, okay, I actually came out to my sister before I found a support group and all that other good stuff.

J

Jimmy Carper 43:18

How did she react? My mom, no, your sister. Oh,

M

Michelle Meyers 43:23

well, my sister reacted in the way that she normally does. It's, and it's not the usual way. We started about seven o'clock in the morning on a Sunday morning. And she was correcting

papers. She goes in English composition class at UTSA. University of Texas San Antonio. So I had written an article for a transgendered newsletter, which had been published, which had my picture in it. I see and she was complaining about the poor writing. No, I hand him