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📅 Thu, Dec 22, 2022 3:46PM ⌚ 40:28

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

transgendered, people, transgender, talk, transsexual, tonight, human rights campaign, congress, elizabeth, listening, call, crossdresser, meeting, fund, pickets, burch, hate crimes, started, flew, woman



00:07

The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature, which may be considered objectionable by some listener discretion is advised. Oh yes, you've tuned into after hours a continuing tradition on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of after hours is ready to bring you news, interviews and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. 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 closets. 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 a 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 our. Hello, Houston and welcome to after hours career radio with attitude. I'm Jimmy Carper. And with me tonight is



02:15

Sarah dipalma. Well, folks, if I sound like a dying frog to you, it is allergy it is allergy season. So if I dissolve into a a fear of sneezing, you'll know why. Wow, wow, honey, we you know with puffed eyes, I just. But Laurie, I feel better than when I left the house and stop worrying. Oh. We have got we've got a



02:45

full show. We did. What a surprise.



02:48

You know, it's funny, I was listening to a tape of one of the shows we did not I came in and said that he had been one of the busiest periods that I had ever been involved with. The last 30 days have doubled or triple that, oh, it has been one of the busiest and also one of the most fulfilling months of my entire career. Wow. Well, I know you went to Washington, we've been Washington DC twice in the last five weeks. Wow. My body doesn't know if it's on a plane or off a plane. It's still trying to figure out whether we're on the ground. But we have we've just had incredible successes. Tonight we're going to talk about the Human Rights Campaign fund. Now people who are regular listeners to this program are going to sink think, Oh, he's going to blast

those people again. Wrong stick around. This is not going to be a show of whining. No kid is a show about victories and successes. Oh, we're also going to talk about national transgender lobby days, picture 105 transgendered people standing on the steps of Congress in front of the major networks and saying, We are here to lobby our legislators openly. And they're going to listen, yo,



04:06

yay for you,



04:07

we a for you. We did that. And we'll be talking about what that was like We will give some wonderful stories about going into the offices of congress people and what they had to say to us. They're interesting, I'll bet we're going to talk about the Lesbian Gay rights lobby of Texas. Now again, before you start taking off, oh, this is another success story. Oh, we had a very, very successful meeting with Diane Hardy Garcia this past Thursday. And some good things came out of it. And we're, we've agreed not to sink continue sinking our fangs into each other's neck for a



04:44

while where you're trying to say is nobody lost their lunch. And it



04:47

was pretty close to Bobby Hagen. But the truth is, I think we're, we've at least found the start for solution. Uh huh. So we've got some great things to talk about that we're going unveil It's Time Texas legislative agenda tonight. We'll talk about what that about that is. We'll talk about some articles, three articles that I have coming out in the next couple of weeks. One outsmart which ought to be on the stand in the next few days. Good. We'll talk about public news interview that we did. And an article that I've written for tapestry, which is the National transgender magazine. And in between, we're going to play some cuts of the best of the best. Tonight, we've got some great cuts. We've got some of the cuts from Dr. Cole. We've got some cuts from Phyllis Frey. So there's going to be just, you know, it was we say it's the fastest three hours in radio, so don't leave.



05:38

That's right. And I want to mention a couple of things. But first of all, and something I didn't even tell you about. So get ready. Last week, we got a call from a woman whose husband is a crossdresser. Hmm. And she said in a note that I received from from Roy, he talked with her on the phone that her support group told her to listen to after hours. Oh, how cool. Isn't that cool.



06:13

I hope you are listening in if you feel comfortable, please call in. We'd love to talk to



06:17

you. That's right, because Sarah is a transgendered person.



06:21

And very proud of it.



06:23

There you go.



06:24

I had a thought coming in, share a little personal moment, I guess. I can remember listening in bed at night to radio programs and trying to figure out what I was. I stood on the steps of the Capitol with 105 other people and other other transgender people look around and said, look at where I've come from. Yeah. You know, I've come from saying, What the hell am I to? My god, I'm gonna go tell Congress. And there are some wonderful stories about that. But I want to say something because I've also received some letters from people. I get a lot of call, I get a lot of calls, particularly from young people. They're 16 17 18 years old. They are listening to us on their Walkmans in bed at night. Yeah, they're scared to death, the parents are gonna find out. And if you're one of those people, you're listening to this show tonight, I want you to pay attention. Because I hear you calling me and I hear you talking to me. And I hear you saying that you have no self esteem, that you are afraid for yourself, and you're afraid for your future. If you listen to this show tonight, we're going to show you that there's no reason to be that way. You can hear the future. And we're going to show you how it can happen.



07:46

Oh, you have any words for that? crossdresser and his wife?



07:50

Well, first of all, I don't know which group she spoke with. But thank you very much. Yeah. But also yes, if you're the wife of a crossdresser, it's very interesting. Writing in our I just wrote an article for tapestry, I am going to start writing a series of columns for them. Now, if you don't know tapestry is the national magazine for transgendered people. And they have asked me to write a series of articles and the first one is going to deal with divorce in cross dressing. And they may be surprised when they finally get it because I'm going to tell them that divorce is not

a necessity. No, of course not. It's not a necessity no 1000s of people work their way through that. Yes. And it is not in an A given that because your spouse is a crossdresser that it means the end of your marriage. So if you're out there, tonight, we're going to address that we're going to have a cut from Linda and Cynthia Phillips



08:40

to no good Oh, my favorite, my favorite couple



08:44

there are going to be they will address that exact issue. But we also have lots of resource material here. And later on when we're talking about human rights campaign fun, and we're talking about national transgender lobby days. I really want to invite people to call in tonight and to talk about this. Because we really have some very, very positive things to talk about. The the future for the transgender movement is just so bright. It's amazing. Yeah. We have just had 30 days of incredible successes. And it was it's really wonderful to come back home and to have people say, you know, I never thought it was possible. And smile MCC I told you. So yeah, please stick around. If you're out there, and you're please feel free to call us tonight. The show is for you. We want to hear from you.



09:34

That's right. That's right. We're gonna go to a piece of music now. And I want to say two things. First of all, I can only assume that Tom Richards is back home out of the hospital now. He had a terrible industrial accident, but he's fine. He was supposed to go home Tuesday or Wednesday. I haven't haven't talked with him. But I'm if he's home, I know he's listening. And I have the piece of music I'm going to play is for Edmundo Resendez, who is on the staff here at KPFT. But well, Friday was his last day he and his wife are moving up to Illinois, she's going back to school, get her Master's. And at moonbot is probably the primo person people here I agree with always talk to at moonbot no matter what the problem was, and he always listened he had an ear, and I'm sure gonna miss that.



10:41

It moonbow treated me with amazing respect. It might have to come as a shock to him at first to have met this, this redheaded transsexual come and say, Hi, I'm a new member of your staff. But to his credit, he handled it with absolute grace, He has treated me with AP wonderful respect. And on top of that, he's a good guy.



11:01

He is a good guy. And I'm sorry to see him that I really, really, really going to miss him. So Friday afternoon, he did the music portion of sounds of Texas in the world. And he ended with this song that I'm going to play for him right now. It's eraser. It's the piano song. For it Moon

dough. And now let's pick it up a little bit with a song from our favorite transgendered artist, Jane county who started out being as Wayne County. But there's been a lot of music on available by Jane counting here recently, and she has a new album out called rock'n'roll, Cleopatra. And there's a lot of great music that I cannot play on the air. But there's a few that I can and here's a favorite one of mine. It's called man enough to be a woman. Ooh, yeah. Chain county man enough to be a woman.



12:12

You telling me she transitioned when? Between 79 and 81? Wow, that's a lot. That's quite a long time. She



12:20

did some of it in England, I believe and the rest of it here.



12:25

Well, and if you could see the picture of this woman? Yeah. She's interesting. She's interesting.



12:30

That's right. She Yeah, she is looked up to in some circles as one of the originators of the punk movement. Because her music was not quite rock and roll. It's kind of rock but but ventured into the punk, especially in a lot of the lyrics. Interest. Yeah.



12:50

Let me start by giving out the phone number. Our phone number here is 526573805 6k PFT. C. That's easy. That's really easy. We're giving out the number because we want to invite you to call in as we talked about this tonight. We have on this this show. For the last several months, we have been talking about different issues, some of the political some of the personal. And tonight we get to share victory with the audience. Yeah, we get this. This is something I really liked doing. And I want to start this at a very basic level and workup. Okay. I want to talk to somebody out there that maybe maybe you're a starting crossdresser or perhaps you're a transsexual, and you're at the very start of your transition. You might not even be on hormones yet. Now, I'm talking to you because I've been where you are. I've been in your shoes. And I remember the fear. I remember what it was like to think my god, I'm losing my mind. Yeah, I remember what it was like, because it wasn't that long ago. That's true. It really wasn't. Because I



14:04

remember you before you transitioned.



14:06

You shocked me when you told me. I had no idea. So, okay, you're maybe maybe you're a crossdresser and you only dress at home. Yeah. Or maybe you're you're one of the cross dressers who coat goes to a group meeting, dresses at the meeting, then takes the clothes off and goes home. Or maybe you're one of the people who are in the bars in Montrose tonight. Yeah. Maybe you're a transsexual sitting at home, because you don't have the money to do anything else. Right? That's right. I'm talking to you now. So please listen, I want to I want to reach through the microphone tonight and get your attention. Good things have happened. This is a different world than it was three years ago. Oh yes. Then it was two years ago. And you do not have to live in fear anymore. living in fear is a choice. And you can choose to do otherwise. And tonight we're going to talk about that. So that's good news. I want to start with that that level. Okay, I want the person out there who's scared to death to know that when I talk about transgender politics, but I'm not talking about some elitist. I'm not talking about some fat cat someplace. I'm talking about you who fear for your job. And that's where we begin. Yeah, those of you who have been listening to this show for a while, have been listening to me talk about the Human Rights Campaign fund. Now, you may or may not know that they are a gay, lesbian, and soon to say transgender Ha, a lobbying organization. transgenders generally held the Human Rights Campaign fund responsible for the fact that we were not included in the employment non discrimination act and rear ended and we had good reason to think they held a response. Oh, yours. Oh, yeah. And they admitted to us at the meeting, that they were responsible. Sure. Now, let me explain something. The meeting, this meeting came about, after transsexual minutes transgender nation. In its time, America picketed these people all over the country. The first pick, in fact took place. It's it's Lincoln Center in New York. Oh, and followed up in Atlanta, in San Francisco. And we had several in Houston or Yes. And it was very interesting, because we were picketing them. Every place. They were looking for money. You want to get in remember how you do it. Remember that? Yes. So we've been we've been after them, and after them after them, and there had been a couple of conversations between the transgender groups and human rights campaign fund. But they had really been been going nowhere. No word off. But the Human Rights Campaign fund has a new director, and her name is Elizabeth birch. Oh, yes. Now, Elizabeth has not been on the job very long. So she inherited this mess. Yeah, she was not there. When when transgenders were excluded from Endo. She didn't direct it. And so she was in a unique position. She was able to say, I come in with a clean slate. I'm willing to talk to you. And so the Human Rights Campaign fun, paid to have seven of us fly flown to Washington, DC. And they paid for our hotel rooms. Wow. And most people aren't, they wanted to talk to you. They did want to talk to us. Elizabeth Burch was on holiday, and left her grandkids to come in and be part of a conference with us. Wow.



17:47

So this is this is big stuff. This is



17:49

very big stuff. And it indicates to me that this woman serious. Yeah. Now whether her staff is serious is another question we'll get and we'll get to that in a minute. Okay. But I want to start out by telling people that Elizabeth Burch is, is a breath of fresh air. And the gay lesbian

community can be very proud and having selected this woman, I was genuinely impressed with



18:12

her. Good, good. I do feel proud. Yeah,



18:15

I mean, she really was. There were nine transgendered people who attended this meeting, I'm proud to say that I was one of the nine. I'm also proud to say that we had two men who came with us to transgendered men who Oh really is terrific. It's funny what happened. We had been begging for weeks and weeks in advance of this, please, transgendered men, please. We don't want it to be an all woman affair,



18:39

please. Yeah.



18:40

And at the last minute, the night before the meeting took place. Two of them showed up at a meeting that we were holding and said, we'd like to go Wow. And we said, we don't even know who you are. But hey, let's go. And so in fact, to transgendered men did, were able to attend. Now, I've been an activist for almost 30 years now. First time I went south is a freedom runner. I was 14 years old. And I'm now 45. So I've been doing this a long time. This was without a doubt the most intense meeting I have ever participated in. I mean, ever. This meeting started out on the wrong foot from the word go. It started out as essentially a shouting match. And I promise you there were charges and counter charges. And it was ugly. The main drafter of the bill of the employment non discrimination act. Her name is Hi Feldblum. Hi Feldblum as a professor of law at Georgetown University, a brilliant woman. And apparently the HRC F had it in mind that since they flew us up there, they weren't going to lecture us for several hours and we were going to sit there and smile say, well, thank you for the input they don't



20:02

know you or Phyllis, do they are Ricky Well, Ricky,



20:06

Ricky Wilkins and I sat next to each other. And Phil sat across the table from him and I was determined, I was not going to lose my temper. I promised myself I was going to be cool about this. You have red hair? Yeah, honey, I don't hold my temper. God knows I really tried. But I'd be damned if I flew 1500 miles and have a law professor lecture.



20:32

I know. That's right.



20:33

I already knew it ended was I knew what it did. I knew how it got there. And I wasn't gonna let her explain it to me. And quite frankly, we get to the point where we threatened to walk out. No, our attitude finally got to be we don't need this. You're not serious. Thank you very much. was nice to have some coffee, and we'll see you at the picket line. So after about two and a half hours of this, Elizabeth Burke said, I think it's time to take a caucus. let's each take a half hour. And they disappeared. But oh, they disappeared. With Where did it go? Well, wherever they went, Elizabeth Burch must have worked some magic someplace. I would love to have been a fly in there. Because they came back to the end of a half hour and said, you know, we think you have a legitimate point. We would like to work with you. Whoa. And I looked at Phyllis almost as if to say are we willing to take yes as an answer? Because honestly, we would never consider that. I guarantee you when when we flew up the flight I flew up on the plane with Phyllis Frey and Terry Fredrickson. And I guarantee you that nope, no point in that conversation. Did we ever discuss what do we do? If they say yes, because you knew what was gonna be? No, we we expect four hours of screaming and thank you very much. Yeah. But Elizabeth Burch started out the meeting by saying her staff, I want you to open your hearts and listen. And apparently she did. Good. Now, I don't know what she said to the staff. And I'll be honest, when they came back out, it was my distinct impression that not all staff members were on board with this deal. Oops. So, but she said some very interesting things. And I want to talk about that. For one thing, she admitted that yes, indeed, the Human Rights Campaign fund is primarily white. Yes, it is. And it is primarily male. Yeah. And she's not happy with that. Well, well, but you know, it's nice to hear somebody say that, because we had been, you have been harping on that point for longest time. Yeah. And she actually she, I believe she seriously is after diversity. Good. So it's nice to come across somebody who isn't just talking it, but apparently really means it. Now the question is how much support you get from the membership. If your membership is primarily male, and primarily white and like it that way? How open to diversity will they be in my distinct impression is that Elizabeth has one hell of a job ahead of her, but I believe she's sincere. She also has has an aide named Elizabeth Bure Meyer, who was absolutely Nancy Bure Meyer, I'm sorry, who was wonderful. She was alleged she's the legislative aide and came out and talked about what it was the Human Rights Campaign fund was willing to do. So here is the agreement that we have with human rights campaign fund. Okay. Number one, the Human Rights Campaign fund will actively he phrase actively support a transgender inclusive amendment to end good. I can tell you I was about ready to fall over i i actually asked her to repeat it. I didn't believe it.



23:49

Well, I mean, yeah, cuz the door has been shut so much. And so often, all these months with the end of thing.



23:56

Yeah. Now, let's stop and think about that for a minute because I said I wanted to talk. Very basic. If you're a transgendered person out there tonight, and you fear for your job, yes. Let's see, let's talk about what it could mean for you. Okay, first of all, it does not cover small employers. If you're an employer, if your employer has 25 employees or less, you're not going to be included into if you work for a religious employer. For example, if you work for the Mormon Church, where you merge work for the Catholic Church or any church for that matter, you're not going to be covered. However, let's say you work for one of the oil companies Downtown. Yes, this is a different deal. If in the past, it means they could not fire you because you wanted to transition. That's right. If you are a crossdresser and you are accidentally discovered or read as we say yes, in an elevator somewhere. Your boss cannot fire you because you crossdress privately. Good. Okay. Big deal.



24:58

This is a business a big deal. This is the difference



25:00

between having to be a hooker on the streets Montrose tonight and being able to hold down a job. That's right. So for those of you who are out there, you're listening to us through headphones, or you're a crossdresser. And all this time you've said yourself, will transgender politics doesn't have anything to do with me. Think again, honey, right? Think again. And I want you to know, because I'm very proud of this. Phyllis fry, and I fought like, hell for crossdressers Sure, from the opening word that was, well, you know, we can deal with transsexuals because they have a medical model. We can always go to the legislators and say, Well, you know, transsexual something can be cured. All they need is surgery. And they'll be perfectly nice. No, by crossdressers they're kinky. You know, they're freaky.



25:46

I keep keep going back to that phrase, or that that sentence that is foremost in my mind, for freedom for all people. None of us are free until all of us



26:00

are free. That's right. We're all part of this. Now, we are going to we there are two people who are going to be working with human rights campaign fund on the drafting language. one's name is Sharon Stewart and Sharon Stewart will be a guest on this show in the future. She is a representative of the Transgender Law conference, extremely articulate. I mean, extremely articulate. And the other is Jessica Xavier, who has already been a guest on the show. Jessica knows politics inside out and sideways. I think I know politics. Jessica really does. Politics. So we have two excellent people who are going to be working with the HRC F on the drafting of ENDA. Good. Now, let's be honest for here for a second, and is not going anywhere. Yeah, well, it's sitting in a committee, which is headed by Nancy Kassebaum. Nancy Kassebaum. Is the Senate mate of Bob Dole. Oh,



26:59

okay. Okay,



27:00

therefore, that bill is going nowhere. So what's the importance of this? If it's going nowhere? What's all the fuss about? The FOSS is about once the language is in it makes it harder to take you out? Yes, it's symbolic language. Let's say we can only hope that in the next election. Some moderate people are elected, then in the next election, it could be brought out of committee where you're gonna be brought to the floor. That's right. You could be included. That's right. Okay. That's the big deal. So that's what the end is about. And that's the first agreement that we had with human rights campaign fund. Now, a subject that has been near and dear to my heart has been hate crime. I have talked in the show till I'm blue in the face about hate crime. Well, there is a law called the hate crimes reporting Statistics Act that was passed several years ago. It's the reason that if you are a victim of a hate crime, you should call the gay and lesbian switchboard Right? Or if you should call



28:01

the hate crimes hotline crimes, which is part of it. Yes. And that's 5299615.



28:08

Now, what happens with this information is, first of all, it's all kept confidential. But it gets compiled and reported and reported in at the end of the year, the FBI reports, statistics that show what the hate crimes are. We just there was an article in the paper just last week that hate crimes in Houston, in particular, are far above the national average. Oh, yes. Okay. The reporting of such though is far below. Well, which is which is sad. Yes. It is a sad commentary. Now, the fact of the matter is that right now transgenders are not separate. So often what happens is if a transgender reports a hate crime, it gets lumped in with gays and lesbians. That's, I have no problem with that other than it makes my job difficult. When I go to Austin, and I saw I talked to a legislator, and I say to them, we need hate crimes legislation. They say to me produce the numbers. As long as we're lumped in with gays and lesbians. I can't do it. That's right. And so that's the reason that we would like to have transgenders broken out as a separate statistic. We are also going to work with women with women's groups, feminist organizations. It came as a shock to me to learn that women are not included in the hate crimes reporting Statistics Act, what gender is not in there. I don't know how that happened. I don't know who's responsible for it. But I was flabbergasted. No kidding. So the Human Rights Campaign fun, it's time America have decided that they will work together, reach out to feminist organizations. Sure. And the three of three groups, the three, three groups of people are going to go back to Congress and try and get that law rewritten to include gender and transgender Yes,



29:49

okay. I can't believe that.



29:53

I was shocked. So now again, if you're if you're a person out there tonight, let's say you're a transaction Well, you've already had your operation. Okay, so legally, you're that's in this. In this case, you're illegally female. You're you are female. You know, either way you wouldn't be recorded.



30:10

Right, right. Right.



30:14

You lose both ways. Wow. I



30:17

never thought of it that way. Yeah, yeah,



30:19

this is a big deal.



30:20

This is a big deal. Now whether we can go if you're in the closet, I mean, if you have gone back into the closet, and you think of yourself as a female only and not a transgender, you're still not covered.



30:32

That's right. So for all of you transsexuals out there tonight who are woodworking as we say, woodworking like that, who have disappeared into the woodwork. You don't want any part of your of a transgender community. Honey, we haven't forgotten you. You may be gone. But we know you were there. Right? And we're still working for you, even if you've given up on us. Good. Okay. So that's another part. Now there's one other thing that we were going to do and that is, we have agreed that is the Human Rights Campaign fun. And it's time America, we're going to start reaching out to people of color, something I think should have been done, like years and years ago. Yeah, we're going to start reaching out to minorities, we're going to see if we can't jointly work together to build a more inclusive coalition.



31:16

I saw a lot of transgendered people of color. Today at the Westheimer art festival. There are a lot of transgender people Westheimer street fest, actually, there are a lot of transgendered men. And it is one really, there really are.



31:32

I'll talk about that when we talk about national lobby day. But a huge number of transgendered men turned up for transgender lobby days in Washington, DC, I was really, I was really



31:43

flabbergasted, because it's always so hard to get transgendered men to anything.



31:47

Well, I think our begging has finally hit home, they finally figured out that after two years of begging, we mean it, we really want their participation. Thank you very much. And people of color turned up good. For the first time, we had a we had a good sized number of transgendered people of color. One of my biggest frustrations as a political leader, as I keep asking these people, please come out, come out, come to a meeting, come and talk me call me on the phone, something, let me know you're there. But they don't. And I hear from them over and over again. And it's because they feel like being a person of color is a bigger issue than being transgender. And it may be and it may be Yeah, I'm certainly not going to be the person argued the point. But you are transgendered, too. So please, we you know, we really do want you to be part of it. Now, one thing we did not get, and that is that the employment non discrimination act will have to be re entered in the Congress in 1997. Okay, and then in the Human Rights Campaign fund, has not agreed to put us into that. Oh, at least not yet. Okay. Now, here's my here's my own. My own take on this. Human Rights campaign fund doesn't know us from holes in the wall. Well, that's true. They have never worked with transgenders before. That's right. We, we told them, we could do a lot of thing. They don't know if we can do it. My own guess is if they get to know us, and we're able to work together. And they are they are able to see us as we are beginning from the 97 ended probably won't be that big problem. Yeah. So I think of this two year period that we have coming between now in 1997, as they get to know one another period. And I think there's real hope for the future. With a leader like Elizabeth Berg, the good things are going to happen. So consequently, all pickets on the Human Rights Campaign Fund had been called off. Good. We have a truce. And that's, that's a good step.



33:54

Yes, it is a good step. I'm really happy to hear it because as a gay male, I've been torn. Because, you know, I have good friends in the transgender community and good friends in the

gay community. And what do you do? Hell, a



34:09

lot of transgender people are queer. There you go.



34:12

There you go.



34:13

It Yeah. It was tough for you imagine being a transgender dyke.



34:17

Yeah. Yeah. What do you do? What do you root for on that? Struggle? Kidding.



34:23

So that's, I'm glad to have it over frankly. Yeah. Yes. Now, two weeks later, on October 2 105 of us turned up in Washington, DC. Yeah, lobby Congress. And this was so cool. I can't tell you how good this was. I never thought I would live long enough to see it. I mean, really, I didn't really. Sometimes in being an activist, you begin to feel like you're a lone wolf out there. Oh, yes. I mean, there have been times I thought I was crying in the wilderness, and there was not a soul Listening. Well, now let's talk about this a minute. How courageous do you have to be to show up on the steps of the Capitol? In front of national networks? CNN was there? And 2020 was there. 2020 We'll be doing his film the show, which will air probably in the next few weeks, about our lobbying of Congress. How, how courageous do you have to be? Well, the answer was these were people who had had it. I can't tell you how many of the people I talked to who were there because they'd lost their jobs. Yes. I can't tell. I asked the question the night before. How many of you in that room had attempted suicide or knew someone who attempted suicide because they'd lost their job and had gone broke? Every hand in the room went up? Yeah, every. Absolutely. That's why we were there. Yeah. And it was so cool to go with some of these people and to hear them tell their stories. Let me talk about Congress. What what, how, what lat lobbying is like, for a minute. Most congress people have never met a transgendered person not knowingly, true. And they and they're just like everybody else. All they know about us is what they've seen on Geraldo.



36:18

And that isn't good. No, that's a bunch of bull.



36:22

So I told everybody the night before we went, we will have something going for us called the fascination factor. That's what I've called it. The staff will be fascinated with Oh, yes. Oh, yeah. They've never seen anybody like us novelty act. Exactly. And while we've got their attention, make use of it. Sure. And they did. It was so cool. We got to meet with Senator Graham's staff, which was interesting. It turned out all bad it was. I have to tell the story. Just as an aside, when I was at the campus of Texas a&m as a male, I debated Phil Gramm, the first year that he ran for Congress. I remember the story. And I ended up getting headlines stole his show. So Phil Gramm didn't like me. Well, as it turns out, I graduated with his press secretary. Oh, who, and the whole time we're sitting there, he kept saying, Where do I know that name? And finally, I said, Well, you know, I graduated with you. My name is it used to be Neil De Palma. And I graduated with you. It was a long pause, and you can almost see like, Oh, shit. He's still looking for his dentures. It was one of the funniest times I've had. We talked to virtually every Congress person, every major Congress person from from Texas, except for my own congressman, by the way. I live in time delays district, he wouldn't meet with me. No, they turned me down three times. I finally showed up in person and they still wouldn't meet with me. So I guess I have not represented in Congress. Wow. You live in Tom delay's district, if you're a gay or lesbian or transgendered person, do not vote for this clown. He doesn't want to talk to you. He doesn't represent



38:12

you. Wow, I'm really, I'm really shocked. Well,



38:16

I wasn't he second in command to Newt Gingrich. Okay, this is a guy who wants to completely destroy the Environmental Protection Agency because he thinks there's too much regulation. So that ought to sell you some burqa. The other person who would who was very interesting was Dick armies office. Now if that name rings a bell, yeah, army is the guy who did the Barney fag. Yeah, yes, yes. You talk about a chilly reception. I felt like we were rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic when we got to his office. I mean, we were even out of that office in five minutes. They did not want us there. They did not like us. They didn't appreciate us and get the hell out of town. On the other side of the coin, we met with Bill archers office. Yeah, Bill Archer is one of the most powerful people in Congress. They met with us with a half hour. Wow. We will. We're in Kay Bailey Hutchison's office, we talked to Bill Graham's office, and as a general rule, they were very receptive. That does not mean they're gonna vote for us or why No, I know there's a big there's a big difference there. But it does mean that they were willing to listen. And we're starting dialogues with them. And that's a good start. Let's see, what do we have here? Okay, we had a caller who and he wants to know what a transsexual dyke is. Yes. It's a legitimate question. Yes, it is. I forget sometimes, because I'm so used to tossing these terms. And thank you for bringing that up. One of the things that we talked to the Congress we talked to congress people about is the distinction between sex, gender, and sexual orientations, right. So let's go back and cover some basic ground for a minute. Sex is your biology. It's the equipment you're born with gender or it's all the behaviors that's expected of you because of your biology. That's right.



40:11

Okay. How are you supposed to act? How you have a penis? Yeah, you



40:14

know girls wear dresses and they play with dolls and they wear pink right boys played football in their rough and tumble and they were blue rats. chinder Yes, that's our top