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One of the things that I hear from people who call her show is the desperate loneliness that they have out there. And I'm people will say to me, Well, how would I ever get started in a relationship? And I think you've given the first answer. The answer is, you're honest with one another. So right off the start that from the very beginning, your relationship was based on honesty. The next thing the next thing I gotta ask is now you got you go through a period of time into a transition. I know what's involved transition. I've been through the hormones. I've been through the bitchiness, I've been through the throwing the plates, all all of those things where you feel like your body is on fire. You know, all of that stuff. How in the world? Did y'all ever survive that as a couple? I don't know.



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Well, I'll answer that. Let me play a play here. For one thing, her personality has always been even before hormones, a very laid back nonvolatile type of personality, and I thought this would change maybe drastically when she started to take the hormones. It did a little bit, but if anything, it made her a more open, loving, caring person because she was starting to come to life, she was starting to blossom and become the person she should be. Now I have seen her older, especially in the last couple of years, experienced those hormone highs and lows. And I'll be truthful with you. I like it. I like to see her turned on, turned up, charged up. But it just is not part of her personality. I don't think no matter how many hormones they gave her,



01:49

Oh, it is.



01:55

It's my life partner has. She learns that when I get this look in my eyes, that it's time to sit me down and say, You do not move until you are through this. It saves a lot of furniture. I have to ask about family and friends. I can't imagine. Well, yes, I can too, because I've gone through some of it with my family. But I can't imagine explaining these kinds of changes. What did y'all tell family?



02:22

I didn't. My parents were pretty much into guilt. As far as this is concerned, you know, why are you doing this to me? How could you possibly what are the neighbors gonna think? What's the family gonna think so that was part of the reason that we eventually ended up 800 miles away from my parents. There were other things that contributed to that. But that was a major portion of it was that I had to get away from them to do what I needed to do. And I simply didn't think that, since they were getting on in age, that really in a small town that they lived in that it was fair to them to, to cause a disruption. I mean, I could come I could be in Dallas, I could be what I wanted to be who I wanted to be. And if I had to go back to Illinois, that was just a small portion of what my life was going to be for a while. As far as my friends, and really what became our friends. We have had a couple that. You know, you tell them and you think everything's fine. And then you never hear from him again. And those are the people that have called you, your best, their best friend that have shared food with you and slept in your house and, and you have told him just about everything else. But when that one issue comes up, that's yet. And on the other hands, we have some friends that they go do that. That's cool. Yeah, yeah, there's no problem. So you never know what's gonna happen with with friends. I don't see my sister, she and she and I grew up in the same household and spent 20 years in the same household and we still don't even know each other. So that was a relationship that really didn't even exist to begin with. And then she just told part of her family last year, and that went pretty well, apparently.



04:22

Yeah, I told my brother and sister together. I'm the oldest of the three. I'm 46 and my brother's 41 and my sister's 38. And it was interesting because their first comment their first question, the very first question after they pick their jaws up was, well, now we're talking college educated people here. All right. Their first question was, well, does that mean then that you're going to have a sex change and you're going to become a male slapped me down and paint me blue the thought never entered my head and I have sitting there with my jaw on the floor. We asked He looked at each other and just burst into laughter. I mean, there was no other. It just never entered my mind going. I just want to know, there wasn't even an explanation you can come up with for that one. It just wasn't in my mind. But I could see how that could be their first question. And one of the best advice why I told them was I said, Now I want you to guide me on how to tell mom and dad because they do need to know. So after we got through the questioning, period, my brother in law, bless his heart was the one who came up with the way to do it. He said, Well, you do need to tell him, he said, please don't do it the way you did with us, we'd been on a trip to Reno, I waited till like the last day, they're ready to head back for Sacramento, they're ready to walk out the door. And I tell him, he said, I wish you to told us somewhere mid trip so that we could have thought about it and ask more intelligent questions. And don't have to stop on the way back to Sacramento for a drink to regroup. So that's the that is the only advice he gave me. And I thought it was really good advice. Get home, talk to them. Get back into the swing of being a family again, tell them and then stick around for the question and answer period. That's only fair. And it's it's really more fair to the person you're telling, you got to give them time to absorb this, you got to let them have an opportunity to exhale to exhale to shout and scream if they want to. And not to get all upset about that they've got to deal with it. You don't, you're already living it, you're already doing it. That's not going to change. But how they deal with it is really important. Only they can work it through.

But you can help them if you give a kind of United Front, you've got your act together, you're explaining this as this is informational purposes only people, it isn't open for discussion. It's not up for debate. This is life. These are the facts. And I'm telling this to you because I want you to know I want you to love this person as much as I



07:10

do. This is not a vote in this is not a true false test. This is what we are telling you, we hope you enjoy but if you don't, that's really too



07:19

I don't have any regret regrets about not telling my parents or to me that that was the right decision for them. Because my mother couldn't have dealt with this very well. And my father, I don't know what he would have done. But whatever the course is, I had made up my mind, I was the only person that I had to please. She has stayed with me, and it's wonderful. And I'm very happy that she has but quite honestly, you know, if she had gone away, it was still this is my life. I'm not living it for you. I'm living this life for me. And I'm just happy that you're along for the ride.



08:00

I think that's one of the hardest things that transition is so intensely personal. And I I think it would be easy to shut my life partner out. And I have to be forever conscience, conscious of saying, no, she deserves to know what's going on. And she wants to know, how was that? How's that been for you let it happen. It has? Have you felt left out?



08:24

In some ways, yes. But it's only momentary, because this experience is it's so intertwined with who we are as individuals and also as a couple. And I I wouldn't miss it for the world. How could I have been with it from the beginning or from the beginning of our relationships, and I cared so much about her that whether we'd stayed in and as a relationship as two people full time living together, or whether we had parted, we just still stayed friends, I just don't see how I could not have stayed with her. I felt that whatever needs I had. This was so so overwhelming for her she needed to get everything in place for her. And I knew the time would come when it would be a more equal footing. But no relationship is 5050. And if you go into it thinking it's going to be your one partner is going to give you all your knees. That's not true. It's I had one thing I've always kept in mind to this relationship is a teaching that I had when I was in high school for my family living teacher, that life partner suits your personality needs. This person suits my personality needs and I hope I suit hers. So if there are some times when I have to give 98% There will be times when she gives me 98% So sometimes you just got to put your own feelings on the backburner and decide what's important. And there are times when it's more important to be there for her that 100 percent, she's gonna be there for me.



10:02

One last thing before we wind up this interview, I've told everybody that part of our program is that we are an outreach program. A lot of our folks are, they're dressing in their bedrooms. They they call the show they're scared to death. And now here you are, you've made it through this process. You're a couple, you bought a home together, life is finally settling out for you. What words of advice could you give? Well, if there's any one thing that you can say to these people out there that are they're frightened in at the beginning? What What would you what would you say to them to let them know they're going to survive?



10:39

The tough one. Okay, go ahead.



10:43

I say put your high heels on, put on your makeup. Get yourself out there, the more you practice, and the more you do it, there's no difference. Then my mother telling me this as a teenager, when I didn't want to leave the house or I was down or I was blue, this, it's the same advice, it's very simple. Get up, take a bath, put on a nice dress, put on your makeup and get out there and stretch your stuff. Because you're not going to do it at home, you're never going to progress, you're never going to make the next step, you may get some looks, something ugly may happen. But you got to do what you have to do. And you cannot do it behind closed doors. And it's a lot easier now in 1994 than it was in 1974. I'll tell you that.



11:30

I guess if I have any kind of advice, which I'm I don't think I'm a person that gives advice is that for someone who wants to do a transition, you really don't really don't start to talk like a woman till you think like a woman. You don't start to think like a woman until you start thinking of yourself as a person. I never found that much difference, really, between being a man and a woman in terms of just life. I'm in a profession where it's mostly male dominated. And most of the customers that I run into are man. And they bring in to a sales situation now where I'm a woman, I'm selling them something that they're not used to a woman selling them, this particular product I've worked with, with expensive products where I've had to really sell the product, I really had to know my product very well. And I've had to present it very well. I can walk rings around a lot of the people that I have worked with in certain areas of what I do. Now, as a female, I work with a male as a counterpart in the department. And I'll be talking to a customer and simply because now I am a female, they'll turn to Him and ask Him for answers. And just totally ignore the fact that I'm standing there. Until I start thinking, you know, you're doing this because I'm a woman. But because I'm a person, I'm going to I'm going to make you pay attention to me. I think that was important for me to decide, you start to see the things that women have to go through every day. But then again, you have to kind of overcome that and simply say, I'm just a person. You can't treat me as an object. And until you think of yourself as nothing but another person marching along in file. I don't think you can really quite make that transition as long as you think of yourself as I am a girl and I have to be paid like a girl I have to behave the way a woman wouldn't behave in this in this particular situation. Really, that's just I think you're putting yourself in the wrong mindset myself. Just be yourself.

Just Just do what you think you need to do. And you'll be better off than if you try to do something that looks fake or, or sounds fake or is fake just because you're trying to be something that maybe you're not quite because you never had a mother who told you to get up, get a bath, put your makeup on. Just be yourself. That's really my advice.



14:58

And that will was Frank the folk singer? The butch woman with a crew cut? Who sings I enjoy being a girl. So a little gender confusion here.



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We were just talking about this. If you want to know about gender, you really got to see this picture. The name is spelled p h r a n See, Frank Frank? Yeah, a a butch woman



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with a crew cut



15:26

singing a song about I enjoy



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being a girl. I love it. When I first heard this song, I was waiting for the punch line and it never came. And I thought well, that's that is the punch line, isn't it?



15:36

And you know, you know who would really love this is Kate Bornstein because she does this all the time. This is her idea what gender ought to be is you find your place, and that's whatever it is, honey, if it feels good, do it.



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And Frank found Frank has found hers Good for her. And more power to her too.



15:53

Now she's got her own CD. That can't be all bad. Yeah.



15:56

I'm Jimmy Carper. And with me is Sarah dipalma. And you're listening to after hours.



16:03

This is a special edition of after hours. You weren't you were listening to our interviews with transsexuals. These were interviews that were done in December, thanks to an were arranged by a Dr. Collier Cole. By the way I want I guess I want to clarify that he didn't go out and handpick these women. He simply asked them would they do it? Oh, okay. So I don't want somebody to get the impression that Dr. Koh went out and handpick these people to kind of stack the deck. That's not the way it happened. He asked people that he that he thought might consider doing it. Because after all talking to someone you don't know, when it's going to be recorded for Radio,



16:39

I'm intimidated. Yeah, I can imagine. Yeah, it really is.



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So I was amazed that many people were willing to come forward and talk as they did.



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I guess you can be pretty persuasive. Sarah,



16:51

I can also be really intimidating. And I have to be careful because because, you know, sometimes that's not the right way to go. Well, let me talk about this next, this next interview, Martine Rothblatt, says in her book, the apartheid of sex, today we go about the matter of sex asked backwards, that seems clear enough. A male or female label is first imposed upon us without choice. We are then trained to adopt a set of appropriate gender behaviors, whether we like them or not, right, that's right, and have nothing to do about. No, you don't get to negotiate your gender, even if you want to, nor do we get to define it. And you know, the sad part about it is your entire life is sometimes defined by your genitals. Yeah. Which is it's crazy, you know, you get put on this life track and they say, okay, because you're born with a vagina, you're going to be a second class citizen the rest of your life. Give me a break. It's y'all. Well, anyway,



17:49

it is crazy. I sometimes think with my lover that that we kind of have it made as gay man. Because he can take the lead sometimes I can take the lead other times because in some areas, he is a leader and other areas. I am the leader.

18:06

I'm very interested I can I get have on more than one occasion been called a bitch. And at so happened, I heard and Richards give a definition of that one says yes, yes. It's what was that bitch is bold, independent, tough, considerate, and honest. There you go. There we go. So the next time you get called that word, give it back. She took it as a badge of honor work for me to the person that you're about to hear her name is Lauren. And Lauren made a tremendous impression on me. She had the American dream. And she found that due to the gender label that was imposed upon her, the dream had become a nightmare. She re achieved the dream on her own terms. How many people ever get the chance to do that, and she's living proof that every day really can be a better day. And you're listening

19:01

to KPFT Houston.

19:06

If you happen to hear the sound of trolley cars going by, that's because we're outside the gender clinic, the Rosenberg clinic, actually in Galveston, Texas. And we're talking to Lauren and Lauren is AKA, a California and so she has some fascinating answers. Lauren, I know you've had your surgery a long time ago, but

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how long was that was nine years ago, almost exactly nine years. So it's been a while and you know, one of the things that I found is that everything keeps getting better it every day that goes by is a better day. It's a much happier day. So the surgery is just sort of almost like a union card. You just got to get past that because it does keep getting better every day. You had

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one of the you had one of the most inspiring stories that I've heard, you've gone through a couple of businesses, and you've found happiness in life. Talk to people who have been about the process that you went through to get to where you are

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now I guess Uh, I guess you got to start at the beginning. And I was a college professor. And when I and I was married and children and the whole nine yards and I guess outwardly. Every

anybody who is looking, you would have said, Gee, this person really hasn't made but but I was really very, very unhappy and unhappy to the point of, of snapping at people and being unpleasant at social gatherings. Walking out of parties, it was a, I was a very unhappy person. And then I discovered the respite clinic here and began to deal with my gender orientation problems. And I know you're a year after being a very unhappy person, I found myself in a situation of having no job being in the process of getting a divorce. Very scared, and yet much happier, surprisingly enough. And as time went on, and I became, who I really became me and I began to understand who I was, the I became happier and happier, I eventually found a job in San Francisco. I've worked there. I've been there now for 10 years. And I had a very good job, I enjoyed it. And after a few years, I met someone and developed a stable, caring relationship with that person. And now I've, I watched the job that I was with what I started with in San Francisco to start my own business, which has been very successful. And I wake up every day thanking God for the wonderful things he's given me.



22:00

There was a week, my wife partner, I ended up starting two businesses simply because we decided we were tired of people telling us how to what to live, how to live and what to live in. So I was really intrigued by that. And you work in investments from banking, is that right? That's right.



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How are you? I do consulting for banks. And it's a great business. I enjoy it. It's, it's very exciting. It's very challenging, and it's very rewarding.



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I the reason I bring that up is because when we hear we have callers to the show, and they say to us, all well, transsexuals they're mostly unemployed people. And yet, as we've done these interviews today, we have talked to people who work in retail, we've talked to engineers, we've talked to attorneys, we've talked to people in banking. So anybody who thinks that transsexuals are just mostly unemployed people don't really know very many transsexuals.



22:49

I think that's true. And I think that almost every transsexual at some point goes through a period where they're unemployed, that almost has to happen that you, you know, you've made, you've been employed, and all of a sudden, you tell your employer that you're going to do this, and most employers are not very sympathetic, I guess, for lack of a better word. So you probably are going to go through a period of unemployment, but most of us are ordinary people, and basically want to just live our lives, get up in the morning, go to work, come home, and have dinner and go back to bed and started all over again. So the you eventually find a job, particularly as you become more comfortable with yourself and and you progress through the transition. You know, people appreciate you for what you can bring, and you find your job. And I

certainly everyone that I've, I know, is a productive member of society. I don't know anyone, except for a couple of people today that we're just at the very early stages that is unemployed, that is not a long term condition. It's just a temporary thing.



23:58

And I would point out to most of our listeners in Texas, that the reason they're unemployed in most cases is because the employer refuses to go along with the idea of transition, or because the name change process is made so difficult. It's not unemployment by choice.



24:11

Exactly. Yeah. Nobody's you don't want to be unemployed. You want to be employed, you want to work. I mean, everybody I know wants to be employed. I mean, to be a little bit cynical about it. If you're not employed, how do you pay for this?



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One thing I've asked everybody on our show was Why is very much aimed at people at the start of the process. We get a lot of calls from people who are scared to death. They're addressing in their bedrooms, they're not sure where they're going. And the Lauren is shaking her head saying I've been there. I've done that. She understands that. So for those folks out there who are scared to death, don't know where they're going and start. What words of advice would you have to give them maybe?



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Well get involved with a reputable program. That's number one. And number two, is when you think it can't get any worse. You're right. That does get better. but



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it's really true. I've said that in but now you've heard this from many people that we've interviewed today, if you're still depressed, if you hear this shows, because you're working, if that's all I can say, Lauren, thank you very much.



25:14

It's been my pleasure, really, if you, you know, you're having a hard time. But if you know in your heart, it's right. It will get better it will get to the point where you get up in the morning, you go, thank God, this is an other wonderful day.



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Meg, Christian, the road I took to you, that's a beautiful song with a whole lot of different meanings for a whole lot of different people.



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You know, we're just talking about that there. It's funny how music takes on a different meaning for you. Absolutely. I have as a child of the 60s, I guess I grew up with the side, Simon and Garfunkel is the sounds of silence.



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Even today, when I hear that song, it brings back specific memories of what I was doing in 1966.



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It does for me, too, but we're just talking about it is how over the years, the meaning of that song has changes. Yes, it took on a whole new meaning to me. When I started losing friends to AIDS, and all of a sudden decide the meaning of the sounds of silence had a new definition. You bet. I'm sure I know. Simon Paul Simon didn't mean it when he wrote the song at the time. But it certainly does take that he wrote a song called a boxer, which means the witch has done the same thing to me. Sure. Anyway, we have one more interview that we want to do. Yeah. And I want to talk about this one for a minute. I intentionally say it Margo, for last. She, to me is a remarkable person. I know people who say, Oh, I'm I'm 30 now it's too it's too late in my life to do anything. Or I'm 40 now, so it's too late in my life. You know, The die is cast, and I'm stuck with what's here. And that's it. At age 50. Margo is now coming to terms with her gender identity. Yes, I did say ah 50. Most people would be angry about this loss of time, and some would be bitter. But that's not the way Margo works. Because Marcos is a driver. I was really, I can't tell you how impressed I was. I was so impressed with Margo that we did this conversation on the front porch of the Rosenberg clinic after it closed. And you'll hear the sound of the trolley going by us. It sounds like it was conducting the front porch. It was but Margo has she just had so much to say that and I really wanted to save her for last because hers is a message of hope. For people who think it's too late in life. Margo is going to tell you don't don't buy into that. And now and I'm a great lover of Adrienne Rich, the poet. Oh yeah. And listening to Margo. I found this poem and it seemed like it sort of summarized Margo and maybe the maybe the the women that we've heard tonight as a whole. This is just part of a poem. It's called a letter from the land of the sinners. I said there are blasted places, we have kept their nakedness intact. No marble to commemorate an act superhuman are merely rash. We know why they are there. Why the seed that falls there is certain not to grow. We keep these places as we keep the time scarred on our recollection. When we broke when some we'd love broke from us and defection or we ourselves Harry to death too soon what we could least forego our memories recur like the old moon. But we have made another kind of peace and walk where the bowser green forgiven by the selves that we have been. And learning to forgive. Our apples tastes sweeter this year. Our gates are falling down and need not be replaced. When I was speaking with Margo, and Margo is from Arizona, Arizona. From from from Phoenix. Yeah. And you were showing me you write for a magazine?



29:23

Yeah, right for Echo magazine, which is a gay and lesbian publication. Principally a freebie it said about I think they're quoting about 48,000 circulation now. Mostly Arizona that we get into New Mexico parts in Nevada parts of California. So comes out every two weeks. And it's been I read a thing called the transgender line, which is about transgendered people. And to quite an extent about my experience is as I go through the change, and it's been a hoot writing it and I've brought a lot of the gay and lesbian community kind of under the wing of just starting to understand that they had seen the crowd stressors in their bars and some transsexuals in their bars what they never really understood about us, we've always been welcomed, but they were always considered very odd ducks. And they're starting to understand us a bit now and know that it's a bit complicated. And it's not just all fun and games. So it's, I'm happy to be writing for him. And it's good practice for what I wrote my book.



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So Margo was kind enough to show me a copy of echo. And for you folks in Houston, if you have seen outsmart, it looks very much like that. It's that same sort of format. It's got the glossy cover, and it is predominantly gay and lesbian. But obviously, as Mark was saying, she writes a transgendered column for them. I was very interested in what you had to say, when you're talking about the political groups, or the gay lesbian groups. One of the main objects of the show has been to educate people. And we're found that we're educating the gay lesbian community as much as we are the straight community.



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Oh, yeah. And it's, it's actually I have a duality. Now in communities I am, I am a transsexual, but I'm also a lesbian. I'm a male to female, transsexual and sexually oriented towards women. So I'm worked. I live in both communities and watching the interaction between the two and the lack of understanding between the two communities. Sometimes it's kind of kind of interesting. And people will forget when I'm in one community, that I'm actually a member of the other. And they'll start these sometimes strange conversations, and then they go like, Oh, wait a minute. That's right, you know, but I'm also a message carrier, I work between the two communities. And I've have members of one come and ask me about the other and what's really going on and, and it's helped it's all communities have their own little bigotries, and hang ups and lack of information in that. And so much of what the gays and lesbians deal with, and the transactions deal with are all the same issues, that coming out issues, the class setting issues, the lack of public respect, the fear, the suicidal tendencies, all those sorts of things that you deal with, until you really come to understand yourself and accept yourself. And that's boys, it's it's the same thing in both of those communities. And it's where they really ought to understand that my help try to teach them that that they have more in common than they don't have in common.



32:09

the coming out process is coming out process. And it's every bit as hard, whether you're gay and lesbian, or transgendered, or whatever, it's every bit as hard.

and lesbian as to or as the way whether you're transgenaered. I was interested in you talk about your transition a little bit, you get some interesting stories, talk a little bit about what transition has been like for you.



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Well, my transition, I've done it in Phoenix, the company I work for as close to 1000 people now, I got to keep my job, I had an employer, that was very understanding. In fact, I lucked out, I found somebody in human resources, who's been my guardian angel, she had worked with transsexualism at a previous employer. So I didn't have to bring her up to speed. But it's, it's been interesting. And of course, that first day that I had to go to work, having worked there as for five years, as Frank, walking in that first day, in a skirt, as Margot Lucy, it was kind of scary, but the reaction has been generally very good. There's some people who can't deal with it, there are a few people that I pass it in the hallway, they're suddenly checking out the wallpaper or something, they don't want to deal with me. We went through the bathroom issue, you know where she got to make number one. That kind of silliness. We finally worked at all that out. And then we've had a bit of a dust up again about that. Echo did a nice article on me and a bunch of people at work got a hold of it. And within the article, I talked about being a lesbian, just one line, I am a lesbian. And all of a sudden people, some people just start getting sweaty about that. But that's kind of died down again. But this chunk of the world doesn't really know what to make of me. And I guess part of what has worked for me is I'm basically kind of a low key person, I'm 50. I walk on a crutch. I'm the least threatening sort of person you'd never want to meet. And I blow probably a whole lot of stereotypes of what either lesbians or transsexuals are about. And so it's I consider my life kind of an outreach sort of thing of educating people. And ultimately, they find out that I've just Margo and that I actually do my job fairly well. And the trolley just went by again, and that's at the workplace, that's essentially all that it's supposed to be about. Does a person do their job well, and what they do in their off time is kind of their own business, because I don't make an issue of being a transsexual or lesbian at work. It's just that people know, and I'm kind of in the spotlight, but the spotlight is giving again, and that's cool. That's the way it should be.



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Just just a curiosity question, I guess. But where did they give you more trouble about being a transsexual or being lesbian when it came to using the restroom?



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Actually, I suspect that there's more homophobia than transphobia out there. I can't tell you that for sure. But I think I think the lesbian thing is probably even more disconcerting to some folks in the US. The transsexual thing again, those are the kinds of issues though I think that they died down with time when they realized that you're not hiding behind copying machines and leaping on people. You know, you're just kind of going about your job. Oh, you know, and you become, you become yesterday's news, I think fairly quickly. I have, and I hope to continue that way.



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Yes, we really are in Galveston, that really is the trolley.



35:27

At this point, I mentally I guess, and socially and emotionally in that I met, my wife now is much more about being Margo the female, and probably Margo the lesbian, about being Margo, the transsexual that I've gotten by most of that I'm waiting to do the surgery and, you know, settle the plumbing issue. But I don't really think of myself as being transsexual that much anymore. It's just just me. And I've been living this way for a year now. And I've become fairly active in the lesbian community. And I've joined a group and working on some other groups in that. And that's kind of where my life is now. And that's been kind of an interesting change to, because eventually, you are no longer a transsexual, transsexual is it's a temporary sort of thing. Sometimes it feels like it goes on for a million years. But it really is a trend, you know, a temporary sort of thing. I don't think it's a bad choice. I think when we finally get to this point, it's more like survival. It's like being at the mall, when somebody opens up with the gunfire breaks out, and you die for cover. I suppose on some level, that's about choice. But mostly, that's about survival, you don't even have to think about it that much. I got to the point where I had already mapped out my suicide and written the script for it, if you will, because it had to appear to be an accidental death for insurance purposes, I'd already worked it all out. My shrink was so shook up about it, he was talking about putting me on a heavy, heavy drugs, to cure my manic depression and to make me less suicidal. So I was looking at either killing myself or being so wound up on drugs that I would go through the motions of a life I didn't want to live, or taking a shot at a new life. And that's what choice was about for me. And I don't really think that's about choice. I think it's about survival choices, deciding what color Corvette to buy. And this is not about that.



37:22

Now, I want the folks who are out there who have been listening, and they're feeling scared, and they're feeling frightened, I want them to think over what's just been said, because I've talked about this on the year before, and I want you to understand that to choice is a choice of whether to dress in the bedroom, or whether taking into the hallway, being a transsexual is a matter of do I change my gender? Or do I no longer exist as a human being in many cases,



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do I do I die? And do I die at my own hand, that it's that the self destructive part of our society of our community is just terrible. And it shouldn't have to be that way, you know, on one level, or doubt that it is only gender for crying out loud, people shouldn't have to die over it. You know, it's it's not all that big a deal in some ways. And but yet, we've allowed it as a society to take on such such a big deal that when somebody announces that they're going to change that it's all hell breaks loose sometimes. And it shouldn't have to be that way. We should be able to just say, Hey, this is what I need to do in order to survive. And it's it shouldn't be too much more complicated than that. And maybe someday there will be a you know, sitting here today, I'm 50. And there was a couple of girls here announcing that they're starting to change at 18 and 19. Oh, my God, I would have loved to have started back then. Of course, in my day, if I'd

have announced that, you know, they didn't have any locked up. I'd be sitting here drooling from the electroshock therapy. But I think it's marvelous that things are starting to change enough that there are young kids out there now who can deal with these issues, and find some help, even if they don't find family support, and that they find a counselor or somebody who knows something about it, who gets them some help somewhere else, and they can get on because I lost a life. You know, I didn't start till I was 49. And so that's that's the better part of a lifetime is a half a century almost went down the tubes, living the wrong life. And that's that's such a waste. It really is. You know,



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I've asked everybody that same question. I'll a major part of our audience are people who are new, they're scared, they're frightened. They really are dressing in the bedrooms, or they're calling us on the phone and saying, Well, how did you know how did you get started? What did you do? What advice can you give to these people who were scared? What can you say didn't help them understand they're going to make it