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Thu, Dec 22, 2022 3:31PM 34:14

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

people, gender, surgery, gay, lesbian, lesbian community, transsexual, transgendered, listening, geraldo, cole, talk, life, interview, issue, thought, bisexuals, heard, transgender community, bisexual



00:02

Well, I suppose it's to some extent fear should be coming your friend, you need to have enough fear of this that you think it out and that you don't go off half cocked and do do silly things. It's quite possible to do this and to do it very well and to have things work out, just cram my life is absolutely fantastic now, but you do need to exercise some caution and think about what you're going to do and how to slow down enough, take your time to really think it out. And you have a right to be scared, we were all scared at one time. But you can get a new life, it can really, really happen. It's it's, I just I one time, I thought it was unbelievable that I had, there was no way I could ever do this. You know, and here I am 50 years old of high mileage, I live on a crutch. I've had multiple surgeries for all sorts of other things. The idea that I could change gender and have a new life, that was impossible, but I've done it. So it can be done. Just get yourself some help find. Find somebody who can help you, a counselor or a shrink or a group or something and, and then open up your open up your eyes and your ears and learn learn from the others. And start setting your course and finding out who you really are. And learning to accept yourself. And then your life can get grand



01:26

that interview really, really touched me. Mm hmm. I was telling Jimmy off the air and I've been kind of debating I think I'm gonna go ahead and repeat the story now. Sure. One, one of the key reasons that I finally started my transition is that I had a close friend with age who was dying, he knew he was dying. And several of us were taking care of him. He was staying with me. But I used to listen to him talk and he would talk about if he had to do over again. He'd do this. If he had to do over again, he would do that. And it suddenly dawned on me one day listening to him that I didn't have forever, either. If I was going to start my transition, I better get it in gear. I was 40 years old. There was no guarantee that I had forever. There's no guarantee I had as much time as he did. So if I was going to do it, I'd better go. When you heard Margo talk, you heard her, say, of last lifetime. Now it would be easy for her to say. And I give up. Yeah, that's right. And instead what you heard Margo, say is I'm building a life for myself. And it's grant. Yeah, it's



02:53

Grant. Can you see that difference in the frame of mind? It's how many people do you know

that would say, Oh, I've wasted my life. And it's over. It's too late now. Yeah.

03:07

Yeah. And instead that that's just not, that's not in her repertoire, I promise you. I sat there. And I looked at this at this woman. And she's exactly as she described herself. She's 50 years old, she sits there, she's got she walks on a cane. She's the least threatening sort of she's the sort of person that purse snatchers would be targeting, you know. And yet the strength in this person is to was just stunning to me. I walked away from the interview saying, See, and I thought I had a bad day, you know, she just amaze me. I hope that you've enjoyed the interviews that you heard here. These folks. I don't know, I guess there are some things in every life, there are challenges they have to be faced, whether it's the loss of a loved one, maybe four, maybe it was loss of a child. Or sometimes it's the loss of yourself. These people started out not knowing themselves. They grew up feeling lost, and have found themselves. And I think there's something inspiring in that. You know, these are people, these are people who said, I'm not going to let life keep me down. I'm going to fight until I find the answer. And the half. Yeah. And there's a lot to be said for that. Absolutely. A lot to be said for that.

04:29

And I know there's there's a lot of people out there tonight listening and they're in the same boat, and they don't know what to do with their life and they they may have been suicidal and I am really glad to be able to present this program on the airwaves. And I think with that in mind, we're going to come full circle to and go back to Nona Hendryx. And another song that she's done to wrap this up And it's the power of radio the power of the media.

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Isn't it nice not to hit Geraldo here tonight. Yeah.

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So those those of you who've been affected by this show, this is the reason that that you were affected Nona. Hendryx through the wire.

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Nona Hendryx through the wire. I'm Jimmy Carper. And with me is Sarah dipalma. And you're listening to a special version of after hours,

05:40

I have to say, I really enjoyed putting that show together. We had hours and hours of interviews. And it was, it was it was really stunning to me to let me back up. I can't describe the experience of sitting in a room with 60 transsexuals and their parents ranging in age from 10

experience of sitting in a room with 50 transsexuals and their parents, ranging in age from 15 to 50, something. Every one of those people coming from very different backgrounds. We heard stories of people coming from the macho Hispanic background. And there was one young lady 19 years old from Macau, and I believe she was, who got up and said, I'm going to fight for my rights. Nobody's going to take them away from me at 19. And I thought, my God, what would I have given you have had that kind of that kind of stuff when I was 19? There's our future. It is exactly right. Exactly. Right. I once again, I want to thank Dr. Cole. I



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like these, you may not always agree with him, but



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well, but I admire his work. Yeah. And I respect him a great deal. And,



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and he's one of the reasons I think you've made mention that. If you're going to be a transgendered person, Houston is the place to do it. And it's because of people like I think Dr. Cole and the clinic. Well,



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I know that I can refer people to that clinic in confidence and know that they're going to be well treated, and that they're going to be they're going to be told the truth. One thing I can say for Dr. Cole is he's not a purse. He's not one of those doctors who rushes people into surgery. I know people who have been going to him for well over two years and are still undecided. He doesn't make the decision for them.



07:28

They make it isn't that the way it should be?



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Well, yeah, but you'd be surprised. You know, there are a lot of Doc, there are there are people out there who say Oh, hey, you know, surgery while profit. Let's get him in. He's not one of those people. So I respect that. Let's talk about some other news here. First of all, we're talking about the gay and lesbian community in the transgender community. We got a wonderful resolution that was passed on January 15. It was passed by the Board of Directors of the national lesbian and gay Law Association, and they are urging the inclusion of the transgender community in the employment non discrimination act when talking about and in other statutes, ordinances and regulations, along with lesbians, gays and bisexuals. That's a very positive step.

Yes, it is. The these are gay and lesbian lawyers saying hey, listen, if there's a hate crimes law, if there are some other kinds of legislation in it, it positively affects the gay and lesbian community. Let's make sure transgendered people are included. Sure. And so once again, sometimes people hear me talk and I think that sometimes they think I'm declaring war on the gay and lesbian community. That's not true. And I'm going to tell you that because I'm going to talk about Diane Hardy Garcia, the Lesbian Gay rights lobby next.

08:46

Well, it is we're kind of it seems like we're constantly redefining ourselves or doing PC things. I don't even like that, that PC term I'd rather than be politically correct, I'd like to think that we just have respect for each other. And so I've toyed around with the idea of using the word queer, it's offensive to some people. But you know, because of how it's been used against us, but I agree with the black community. When you take a word that is offensive to you, and you reclaim it, then it becomes your word. And, and other people can't use it against you anymore. Well, so So queer is one word we can use. I'm starting to maybe favor using the the term GLBT community Yeah, like for Gay Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender just use the initials GLBT.

09:48

Yeah. You know, it's. For somebody who committed came out of queer nation, one guy did Yeah. Of course, that was the whole point of us using the word queer was that we were taking a hate words and and making it ours you bet I use the queer community by in the sense that we are different from what is expected. You know, we're queer as in, we're different. And by God, we're proud of it.

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Bad we're at Route and I don't want, you know, I don't wear T shirts that say, you know, it's Mr. fagot to you, right? But I, I dress and I mean, I make sure I wear enough jewelry and stuff. I want people to know, I am a gay man. I don't want any question about it when I walked down the street, and I don't want to do it by wearing the MR faggot t shirt. But I just just in the way I look, I take great pride in looking queer.

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And it's one of the things about being transgendered. And it's an issue is the whole issue of passing. Mm hmm. You know, the whole issue of passing. I like to do selective passing. In other words, when I go to the grocery store, I want to be left alone, you know, I mean, let's face it, you're going to the movies or something, you know, you're not there to make a political statement. You just want to watch them. That's it. That's it, you know, but there are times when coming out can just shock the hell out of people. And it is so much fun. Oh, yes. I just absolutely love to be in the middle of conversations. It's happened in a store recently where somebody was making comments about something they had seen on Geraldo, and I turned to him said, you ever met a transsexual? And they kind of looked at me said you have now and walked up. It just made me feel good. Yeah. And I didn't even look like a person to Geraldo.



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That's the thing. I think I mentioned that earlier in the show with or maybe we were talking together. I forget that. Jim from esoteric adventure ventures, I was listening to some tapes and, and someone was confused about who was in the lobby, and somebody said, Sarah De Palma. And, and Jen, just right off the top of the set. Now, Sarah, Sarah dipalma. She's, she's that short redhead woman you know, and that's, that's his version of you. Right?



12:21

And of course, that's that's what you hope for me? Yeah. God knows I spend



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from day one. I said, from day one, when when I met you, it's like, Jay, you don't look like a man in a dress.



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Well, it's funny. We have a que I have occasionally gone and watch people who were jobs might be in jeopardy. And I always keep I always tell them before you fire anybody, at least meet me. At least meet me. Sure. And invariably, they'll take one look at me and they say what you're just a short little woman and equilibrium was it Yeah. And you're expecting what



12:53

it all been? Yeah. And and address what what did What were you expecting?



12:57

Well, they were expecting the six foot four drag queen and five inch heels is what they were expecting. And of course, that's not what the yet that we just did a phone call from from somebody in our community that was talking about, about their parents. And I think it's tough because parents don't know any better either. That's true. Absolutely. You don't know any better.



13:20

We're talking about same thing. Gays and lesbians coming out the parents and then the time it takes for parents to get used to their, their their child being gay and lesbian. It's the same thing, isn't it? With transgender? Not



13:33

exactly. We I think we've talked about this a little bit before. If a person has a son or daughter and the son or daughter says to them, I'm gay or lesbian, they're still a son or daughter. Hmm, if a transgendered person says to them, I had been your son, but now I'm your daughter. It's as if they've killed that's okay. It's that's a much different issue. Okay. I didn't even think about and, and that's, that's a frankly, it's a problem that my parents do. My father in particular is dealing with he's, he's from an Italian background, you know, men are men or women or women that can be tough. And, and his son isn't. Right. And so that's pretty it's that's a hard issue. He feels like his son died. And in a sense, he's right. Except that I would argue and well, you never exactly had a son. Well, yeah, that's



14:22

That's hard. That's hard for him. Because yeah. And that's he bought into the gender thing.



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Well, most people, his generation, a lot of people of this generation do too, or I was watching the news last night and they you know, they were so thrilled with the new Miss I don't know Miss World or all universe or whatever it is, who's from Houston, Texas. Oh, and I thought, That's just great. You know, here we've got one more example of how gender is stamped on our brain. See, this is the example of womanhood. See what we're all supposed to live up to? Well, give me a break.



14:56

That's true, but look at the gay and lesbian community we have Miss this Miss Montrose Miss, you know, which is usually drag queens



15:08

Miss Westheimer hooker look like?



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Yeah. And then we have the Royal and imperial court of the single star, right? And lots of times the Empress is a man and the Emperor is a woman. Right? So what does that say?



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Actually, I liked that idea.



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I do too.



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I do too. I want to lose people who thinks that the whole concept of gender is just all wrong. I mean, really, it is all wrong. I brought along a book by Martine Rothblatt. And I'm gonna see if I can find this here as I'm quickly thumbing through because she talks about that whole issue. I want to make sure that I've got



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just a couple of weeks ago, along the same line, so I went to the Mardi Gras celebration, and it was the crew of Olympus, and they had a king and the queen, the Queen was male, and the Queen was male, the king was female.



16:18

Here we go. That's what I'm looking for from this is from, we're going to have Martine Rothblatt on the show. And here's what she says she says sex should really be the sum of behaviors we call gender. It should be an adjective, not a noun. People should explore genders, and when they settle on a set of gender behaviors, the name for that would describe their sex. Okay, well, that makes perfect sense to me. It does. And she says, The important point is that gender exploration should come first, through free choice. And sex is just the label that one chooses for one's gender, you bet it doesn't get labeled on you, you get to choose it. Well, that makes a lot of sense to me, you know, you see



17:02

a little bit about about that in the game lesbian community with leather men and people who are doing drag and all the things in between. People are saying, I want to be this macho, I want to be this feminine. And this is how I'm going to act. And this is the way I'm comfortable acting and I dress for the part, or I don't dress for the part.



17:29

i One of the things I was at this class at the University of Houston, and I was listening to their discussion about sexual orientation and about gender. And it struck me that as this class was going on how much they were reinforcing the current stereotypes. Some of the information that I heard being given in that class, I would have strongly objected to, it was not my place to do that I was there as a guest. But some of what I heard, I felt was just flat wrong. Some of the women, a couple of the women asked some questions about it, but no one in the class. I guess it really hadn't occurred to them. No one in the class had actually stopped this professor say,

wait a minute, how do we know this stuff? Who made up these rules? And I want it so badly. In one point when he was talking about, particularly about bisexuals, I really wanted to stop them to say, No, that's wrong. That's really wrong. I know lots and lots of bisexuals. And this isn't true. And it makes me wonder when I hear the fact that this is being taught in universities, how are we ever going to change it? I don't know. How does it ever get? I mean, I you know, I couldn't very well sit there and say to this professor, you know, I know that's what the books tell you. But the books apparently haven't come out and talk to us. Because if they did would tell him that's baloney. I don't know I don't have the answer that there are there is a whole there's a growing movement that says, Wait a minute, we don't buy this stuff anymore.



18:59

Exactly. Somebody has to stand up some some time and say this is not right. Some, some ancestor of mine as a as a gay man stood up and said, I'm not sick.



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There you go. Well, that's one of the things that I have objected to, and that is the medicalization of transsexualism. I strongly object to that to the entire concept.



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That's that's the thing I objected to with Dr. Cole's interview. I can say that because I'm the producer of the show.



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There we go. That's called freedom of speech.



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But you know, it got me to thinking you know, gosh, 20 years ago, they the American Psychiatric Association D diseased gays and lesbians. And isn't it time we did this for bisexuals, transgenders, everyone else



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lets a hot argument in our community. And here's the Claire's. I



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mean, why is it? Why is that I am not diseased, and technically you are? I don't get it. There are.



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There's a large number of people in the transgender community, who like the fact that we are labeled as an illness in a sense, because they think it it we obtain more sympathy that way, that it's easier for people to understand and say, Oh, this is a problem that we can correct medically, and then you'll become just like one of us. No. And why would you want to be like one of them?



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Yeah, the thing of it is, who wants who wants to live a life of pity?



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Exactly. Yeah. And so that's, it's a hot argument in our community, right? Because the



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thing is, when you're thought of as a diseased person, then the other side of the coin is, well, if you do this, this and this, you can be cured, cured of what this is the way I am. There's a,



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there's a book that we've that I've talked about before, called *Transsexual Nation*, by Jen by Gordon McKenzie. And one of the things that she says in the book, she says, we treat put that in quotes, we treat individuals who do not fulfill cultural stereotypes of sex and gender, while culturally obsolete, sex and gender stereotypes are left untreated. That's a frightening aspect of American gender attitude. Yes. My question is, what does that say about us? What does that say? You know, I think there's, I guess I have essentially decided I'm not going to have the surgery more and more, I've decided that I am not. And it's because I object to. I'm not, I'm not going to get into that kind of pressure. You know, I'm just not



22:02

back in 1988. I heard Phyllis Frey speak to the gay and lesbian switchboard. And at the time, I was a pretty new member. 8788, I forget exactly when. And Phyllis announced that she was not having the surgery. And I was shocked. I thought, Well, isn't that the whole idea? That, you know, you have the surgery and you're cured? I'm still in that mindset, you know, and I'm just getting out of that mindset now. But yeah, why? Why is that the whole? That shouldn't be? The whole answer.



...



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Well, and Dr. Cole was very careful about saying that he didn't think it was the whole answer either. In the interview, he talked about that and said, that one of the things that he was most concerned about was that people didn't go off and get surgery, and then decide they had a mistake. And so I know there are people who object to going through some of the hoops and rings of fires that you have to go through in order to do surgery. On the flip side of the coin, suppose I had gone to have a year ago, if you'd asked me if I was going to have surgery, I was said, Absolutely. And if I had had the money, I would have gone to have done it. Now that I'm a little further down the line, and I've done a lot more research into this. I look at this, and I think, Mike, thank God, I haven't done it, I would really be kicking myself. Because the more I've looked into the issue, the more I've said to myself, What would surgery have given me? I don't already have okay. And I don't have a good answer for that, frankly. Not only that,



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but because of your particular lifestyle. Right. Okay.



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But also, there's a part of me that says, Wait a minute, I don't have to give into this gender pressure. Why do I have to have surgery to conform to somebody else's idea of what's right? Yes, that's, I'll live my own life. Thank you very much. And if you don't like it, that's really tough. I realize not everybody wants to say that. You know, and so for those people surgery may be is the right answer. But I just I I'm just not willing to give into that pressure. You know, it's expensive. If, but more you're and that surgery. Well, but you know, there's another anytime you have an operation, there is risk. Well, this is major surgery. Yeah, this is a month recuperation. Or you go and I start looking at this. And I think to myself, no, wait a minute. I'm 43 years old. 65 is not that far off. You know, I have no money saved for retirement. I have no medical insurance. I don't even know what a car. Oh, so if I go run off and I spend 1012 \$15,000 for surgery, how much better off am I when it's all said and done? Not very darn much. Suppose I use that money that that I was saving for surgery. And I actually used it to build a life and continued living as I am right now. Wouldn't I be better Have you bet you? Yeah, I think so to bet you. And so that's, that's, that's the switch. That's where I'm looking at it. And I would say to others out there who might be in similar situations if surgery is the right answer for you, then by all means, go for it.



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Yeah. And but and that's going to take counseling sure is,



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but don't think of it as being the only answer. It is in answer the two occasions when



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you um, yes, because it because it, just like, homosexuality, bisexuality, we're finding out it's not one specific place. It's a continuum of different feelings and ranges of emotions.

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I was pleased to hear Dr. Cole say that in the interview, too, because he talked about that, that, that that the there learning, there are different kinds of transsexuality that to be a transsexual does not necessarily mean that you have to have surgery is one of the things that so that was the first worried me when I first started going to GCTC, several years ago, there was an implied pressure from some of the women, that a transect that to be a full transsexual, you, you can only be a real transsexual if he had surgery. And then if you didn't have the surgery, that will then you know, you were just, you really weren't quite up to snuff. And I'm glad to hear that that's changing. And I'm not suggesting that people shouldn't have surgery. On the contrary, if surgery is right for you, then that's what you should do. But I'm glad to think I'm glad to hear that people are reaching that now and saying, if I'm having the surgery, it isn't going to be because I got pushed into it by the medical community, or I get pushed into it by my peers, or even I got pushed into it by friends, family or relatives, if I have surgeries, because it's what I wanted. Exactly. And that's really good. Let me talk a little bit about let me talk a little bit about the hate crimes legislation with the LG ARL. I don't want to paint LG IRL as being a bunch of bad people there are, there are that LG iRL is lesbian gay rights lobby. There are some fine folks in it. And the fact is, though the transgendered people have been left out of the hate crimes bill, and we are still in negotiations with El Grl, to try and get ourselves included. My own impression quite honestly, is that they are stalling until the deadline and it's too late to file another bill. So

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what's the deal? Do they think if they exclude transgendered people that they can get the bill through easier?

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That's why no one has wanted to come right out and say that I think they're afraid I'll jump through the phone and kill them. But that's the implication. Yeah. Okay. It's the same stuff that we heard when endo was turned down.

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Yeah. I mean, I mean, that's what that's what it looks like. So let's, let's name it. Yeah.

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I think the fact of the matter is that Diane Hardy Garcia is a good person, who she's basically ignorant of transgendered issues,



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or either that or she just wants, maybe she feels that if we can get this through. Then later on, we can incorporate



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everybody first. The problem is that never happens. You're right. You're right. It never happens.



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It's the old, the old. The old story of except me. I'm the suited. Gay. I'm the skirted lesbian. I'm just like you.



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I'm just like you exactly right. And that's, uh, but



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we're not like, we're no, nobody is just like anybody else. That's the problem. They're in that thinking, we are all different.



28:35

I'm hoping she'll get a chance to meet me because I don't know what she thinks transgender people are. But if she gets a chance to meet Phyllis ri, we're going to probably blow most stereotypes. So I don't know how this is all going to turn out. I don't know whether we will finally be included or not. I just wanted to make you aware that that we're trying. And if it doesn't happen this time, we'll be back again. Okay, and we'll keep knocking on the door. On a more positive note, our organization or organization, which I run called, it's time, Texas, has been sponsoring a name slash gender change law, the whole idea of which would be when you go to get your name change, a gender change would be automatically granted. So that you don't have these mixed messages that we've been getting from courts, where they say, Sure, it will change your name to Susie but you're licensed as male, right? Right. So in the



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end, you have to go around, then you have to go and apply for a second ID in face and then carry around to different IDs.



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Well, a lot of people simply drop their curling iron on the part where it says male doctorate, okay, which is not legal, and you can get in trouble for it. Anyway, the name gender change law is doing fairly well. We are now in the juvenile justice and Family Issues Committee. Um, it looks like we're gonna get a hearing in there. Okay, good. Well, that's more progress right now. than any trends Gender group has ever had. And so that's that's a real good, that's another step forward. See, good things can happen if you just really dig in your teeth and say, Hey, I refuse to be backed



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down. That's right. That's what it takes. Somebody has to stand up. And it's a scary proposition.



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You know, it's funny you say that I'm going to be speaking at the Tea Party, which is being held in San Antonio. It's the largest gathering of transgendered people in the country.



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Okay, now is that really Texas? T T EA or the Texas tea now as in letter T



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as in letters, okay. Everybody in our communities, it's transgender, transsexual transvestite. So there's a T community.



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That's strange, because, you know, in the in the gay and lesbian community, I did that. This week in Texas, it's the T and, and yeah, it's, we just have a lot in common here with that letter.



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Well, the topic, although I'm there to talk about it's time taxes and talking about politics, and of course, our teas, right? The topic of my talk is going to be the religion of fear. What? That's right. In Of course, I'm using religion, not in the sense of going to church, but religion as in the sense of enforced conformity, that sort of thing. So if you're going to be coming to the tea party in San Antonio, be V ready to, to hear about it. That's what I'm gonna be talking about the religion of fear, which also brings up the next show. Oh, our next show, and we're going to have which will be which will first of all, what will be the what? The second weekend of next month?



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Okay, yeah, that's right. Second Saturday,



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we're going to feature an interview with John J. McNeil, John McNeil is a fascinating man, a gay priest who was kicked out of the church because he refused to stop ministering to gays and lesbians. Mm hmm. And that's a terrific interview. Oh, and we will also be having Reverend guild MCC. Oh, yes.



31:57

Yeah. And you're gonna get him here on a Saturday night?



32:01

He volunteered Nola. Wow. I will have windy Brent Meyer here who is a lay person from the transgender community and to other people.



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We've had Carolyn Mobley here before, but not for very long.



32:14

And we're going to be talking about religion in the queer community. Yes.



32:17

Yeah. And one last thing. It's very important for a lot of gay and lesbians and most people here to death of the bisexual and transgenders. GLBT.



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And most people are scared to death of the subject. Isn't that odd? Yeah. And it's sad. So we're going to talk about that. Okay. And before we go, I want to pass out some bouquets. And I want to pass that law bouquet for the folks at spectrum 95 Oh, yes, they have been catching a lot of heat, because they have been standing by the transgender community, good for them. And they absolutely made it their job to keep us involved. And I want to say, thank you. Thank you, and we hurt we know that you're showing courage. Thank you. And us. This has been a fun show.



33:04

It has been it's stay tuned. Next week, we'll be back with the bisexual folks. We'll be back with QM z. We didn't do it this weekend because of because of the special show. And also stay tuned for the carbon dating gay with Eric. Coming up next in just a couple of minutes. Anyway, this has been Jimmy



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and this has been Sarah dipalma. And thank you very much for listening. I hope you've enjoyed this tonight. I hope you had as much fun as we did.



33:38

Yes. And with your newfound knowledge of gender. Listen to this song and see if it changes its meaning. I am what I am. KPFT Houston



34:00

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