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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

people, drugs, talking, phyllis, transgendered, problem, community, alcohol, drinking, thought, gay, call, bars, passed, dee, night, years, beer, subject, hear

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00:02

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



00:34

Oh yes, you've tuned into after hours queer radio with attitude right here on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of after hours is ready to bring you news interviews, dialogue and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people and their friends. Hear it after hours. We may be diverse, but we have one thing in common. We are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their 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 age job or frame of mind. That's okay, we're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of after hours.



01:57

Hello, Houston and welcome to after hours queer radio with attitude heard every Saturday night at midnight right here on KPFT Houston, and ke O 's College Station. I'm Jimmy Carper. And with me tonight is Sarah



02:12

dipalma. Hello Houston. How you be great.



02:19

You know, I like this second Saturday of the month. Because cuz I get to rest.



02:27

Well, as is usually the case, and this year, we have like a nine hour shows we're gonna try and get into like three hours, which is like nothing new.



02:34

Nothing new.



02:35

You know, it's this is the three year anniversary. We did this of this show. Wow, have you Yeah. 10 year anniversary of the show. It doesn't feel like three years honest to God.



02:44

And I know what I'm thinking it was two and a couple just a couple of months ago. Oh, we're coming on to about two years. And it's no, it's three,



02:54

it's year. And it's funny because I've been listening to some of the tapes for the last few days for reasons we'll be talking about in a minute. And this show has really become a repository for transgendered history in Houston. When I look, when I look back at some of the early shows that we did with people like Martine Rothblatt, and Kate Bornstein, and Linda and Cynthia Phillips, it goes on and on and on the names of the people, both local and national, that we've had on this show.



03:27

And the call is really amazing, really culminating with one of the best shows after hours has ever done, if not the best show, as the panel discussion we had on your show. I call it the ABCs of transgendered law. We've really done some very good shows wonderful, an hour and a half of just the basics. We did



03:51

that show on guilt and shame that do this do this tremendous reaction. We had the show in here where we had all these national transgendered leaders that we were shuffling in and out of here. And it was really funny what you read, the audience couldn't have seen it because we literally were shuffled and



04:06

everybody was nervous, you know, we wanted to get everybody on it. Everybody was really

tired that night,



04:14

if they had dropped the bomb in here that could have wiped out a major portion of transgendered Legion leadership across the country. It was really something. And then we had the show that we did last time, which I think is probably in the top one or two shows that we've done on the year. I have always thought the show that we did with Tim Keller and Ray Hill was toward the top two, talking about what happens if you get your butt arrested. Yeah, and and how not to get arrested. What happens if you go to jail? I always thought that was one of it probably in the top three or four shows, but it really has become a repository of transgendered history in Houston. I was listening to Wendy Yellin And Denise Caputo since we've gone to Arizona, and the interview that we did with Phyllis Frey talking about her own personal background In the history that Phyllis has gone through some of the comments and shows that you and I have done with the discussions back and forth between us. And it's it's a funny thing how the show has evolved. But it does seem like it just gets a lot better. Yeah. And it doesn't feel like three years to me, it hasn't felt like three years,



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it doesn't seem like 10 years to me.



05:23

Know, you sort of look around and say, how that happened. Where did this time go? Exactly



05:27

decade? Yeah,



05:29

yeah. But, but you know, it's a funny thing now, because I'm getting into the stage that you're in, where people are coming up to me and say, I started my transition, because it's something that you said, or I've been listening to you for years and using you as a guideline for how to do things, which in some ways I find a little bit scary. And yet, it's kind of nice.



05:53

Because of the responsibility it is, when we



05:55

when I started doing the show, I honestly that never really occurred to me, it's only been lately when talking to some of the transgender youth, that it's really begun to come home to me that maybe this show does serve as a role model. I've been hearing from transgendered kids, that they that they listen in, they're paying attention. Some of the things that we've said in this show about street level hormones, for example, have talked some kids out. I hope so. And it's that's that's been one of the things about the show that I didn't expect. And some of the reaction that we've had people driving, turning do u turns on Interstate 45. And driving back That's right. They have done that. And people stopping in full face to pick off some payphones at two o'clock in the morning for something that we said getting some strippers really angry one night and they wanted my head because I smell some comments about topless bars.



06:49

They will somebody off every week



06:52

if you don't piss off somebody least show you then you didn't show right supposed to be radical radio, isn't it? But it doesn't feel like three years it really has been. It seems like it's been? I don't know. Sure hasn't three years. It's like I know. And yet it has been. It's been an alert. I think it's probably been as much a learning experience for me as it has been for the audience. But I'm I'm sure enjoying doing it. It's a it's a this we have had a very difficult month on after hours. We had an incident. Jimmy, I don't know if you want to talk about what happened with skip or not.



07:31

Oh, we have talked about you have talked about it about skip. Yeah,



07:34

yeah, that was a very wait little when Jimmy was playing that we did not know that the nurse was holding the radio to skip here. And that was maybe the last thing he heard. Before he passed away.



07:46

This skip provided me with some wonderful music that that that I've played on the air. And in skip and Jessica were a couple and I just met them recently as a matter of fact, and then and skip, got ill and died. It really gave me goosebumps when we found out before he died. I played a special request from Jessica. And he was really in a coma. But a little smile came across his face when when the nurse played this form. And so he passed away the next day. It's it's we learned that we don't like to lose people but that that's a warm feeling.



08:28

We've been learning the power of radio on this show. Yes. I used to hear Ray he'll talk about the power radio and how it went through prison walls and such and, and I always thought well, you know, little closet walls to their closet walls. And I used to hear gray say this stuff and think well, yeah, maybe until it began happening to us. And we've had letters from folks in prisons and from other places. We even got a phone a letter from someone once he told us they were they were that something that we said here one night kept them from killing themselves. That's very important. And it's the power of radio has really



09:02

we take that serious? Yeah, we do. We take the responsibility that we have here seriously. Yeah, we



09:07

have a lot of fun. But we but we don't we do take it seriously because we're aware that that maybe we're serving as role models that this might be one of the only places that people get to hear it. And so we try to try to do that. Well. And I if you have seen the triangle, or if you watch saw the Houston Chronicle in the last couple days, then you know that we have lost one of our own from this, shall we sure her. We have lost Dima Keller. And today we had her funeral. And we have all known about this for a week. And I think for most of us now we've cried it out, you know, it was a shock to all of us. D passed away. Very suddenly she had a massive heart attack we believe in simply simply passed away almost instantly. I'm in so we have lost one of our own. And tonight, we are going to do a celebration of Dima Keller's life. And we've been talking about how best to go about this. And there were some people who came up to us at the funeral today and asked if we would do talk about ds ds tribute very early in the show. And my initial reaction was to say, Yeah, let's go ahead and do that. But I started started thinking about it. I've been thinking about it all night long of what's what's the best way to do this. And we have a lot of people from the community who would like to be able to say, to talk about D and how D has affected them. We have other guests that were scheduled and it doesn't seem fair to me the Ask them to come back another Dan. Oh, really? Doesn't seem quite right. And so what we're going to do is as the course of the as the show progresses, tonight, we're going to be playing snippets or sound bites of D while she has been on the show. Oh, nice. And I've tried to highlight these sense of humor. She had a really weird sense of humor. It was fabulous.



11:07

It was a thinking, a thinking sense of humor she has she just didn't, you know, just wash over you. Your brain had to work.



11:17

She would say things and, and it would go you know, she'd sit and go 1000 1002 is because I'm thinking it all through saying what the heck did she just tell me? And then when I finally did get it it was like oh Dee I can't believe you said that. In we've got a couple of cuts like that

it, it was like, oh, Dee, I can't believe you said that. In we've got a couple of cuts like that, where we're just groaning and stuff, something that she said. So if you think that you're tuning in, and this is going to be modeling or depressing, forget it, that's not what we're gonna do. We've all had our chances to get her to, to cry over this and to grieve. But D would not want us to have kept on grieving forever and ever and ever, life would go on, and she would want it to go on. And so we're going to do it as a tribute. I do want to take a couple of minutes. And I want to talk directly to the transgender community for a minute. I very rarely will ever you get a chance to talk to the community, as a community. It's something I've very rarely done in the show. But I think this is important. I want to first of all, thank the people who were there with Dee. When she passed away. Yes, they reacted calmly. They reacted correctly, and professionally and professionally and with love. There was nothing anyone could have done to have saved her. But they didn't know that and they did their best. I want to thank the people who call me and right away and said, Listen, this is something you need to know, how do we get a hold of Phyllis, I want to thank everyone for for reacting properly. We know this is a crisis, we need to handle it now. And I cannot begin to tell you how proud I have been of the transgender community in this past week. They have reacted with shock as you'd expect, sure. And with a lot of grief. But mostly they've reacted is people, human beings, just good folks. And this has been one of the things that has come out of these passes for a lot of us have really gotten to know each other. For the first time. Some of us have only gotten to know each other. Some of us knew each other but not well. And it has brought the entire community together. And I'd like want to talk for a second about what can possibly come out of the death of somebody. If you were at the funeral today, you saw that D was loved by everybody whether it was gay, straight bisexual, transgender, they were all there. They were all there members of her Writers Group, people from from the gay community and peer from the transgender community. I think if there's anything that we can come out that can commodities, is we can take a look at what D did as a pattern for success for us. If we are ever going to get anywhere as a community, Dee showed us the way and that is to get out and do it one on one in the ways that she did it in the lives that she touched was all one on one. Yeah, sure. Dee and I d participate in a lot of demonstrations and we raised a lot of hell together. But in truth what Dee did best was just intrapersonal stuff. And she did but she did it openly. And that's what we've always we've always advocated on this show. I don't know how many times we've said we don't need a million people to go on television. You know one Phyllis and one Sarah and one Ricky religions is plenty. What we need one Kate Bornstein will do it. Thank you. What we need is a lot of people to look envelopes or to do a one on one basis. And we can learn a lot from that. The other thing that I want to point out to people is that, yes, D is gone, but she isn't forgotten. And one of the things that I wanted to tell people tonight on the year is that I mentioned in the last show that I was going to come back in the state politics and talking it over the last few days. We are We of course had already decided we were going to bring forward a hate crimes bill. But we are going to call it the de McKellar legislation. Ooh, that's good. And because D had been a victim of hate crime, and she discussed it on this show,



15:36

she wrote a she wrote a short story about it, too.



15:39

Yeah. And, and we felt it, we felt like that was what D would want. And it's the best, I think the best tribute that we could possibly do for D is to pass a hate crime bill with her name on it. I agree in so that's what we're going to do. Or at least researchers heck gonna make the effort to

agree in so that's what we're going to do. Or at least researchers need gonna make the effort to do it anyway. But I've really been extremely proud of this community. And I want to say this today, there were some wonderful eulogies. But I want to pass along something Suzanne Anderson said, I thought her eulogy, her little, three minute speech was right on. Suzanne said it is time for the gay lesbian community to get over itself. That when you saw the funeral today, and you saw people from all walks, whether they would leather people, or drag people, they were all there. And she asked, why can't it be this way? All the time? Right? And her answer was, it can. And her her comment was to the effect that it was time for the gay lesbian community to stop patting itself on the back for its tolerance. And to get serious about its acceptance. I couldn't have said that better. That's exactly it. I couldn't have said it any better.



16:56

And I was really proud that it came from the gay and lesbian community.



17:00

Well, Suzanne, you know, how's the zine is I mean, she wants to kick butt, you're gonna bounce. So she didn't even need her little doggie to do it today.



17:13

So I really admire her. Yeah, I



17:15

do too, very much. And I want to say publicly how much we we as a community all owe to Phyllis fry for this past week that Phyllis was in a very difficult situation. She's talked very openly that she and D did not park on real friendly terms. And it might it probably would have been easy for Phyllis to say, look, you know, I loved her. But, you know, we didn't y'all handle this. This is not my problem. But that's not that's not Phyllis his style. No. And we as a community, oh, Phyllis, a real debt of gratitude for the way that she's handled this. And for the fact that she that she knew that this was a community event that this wasn't the Phyllis show that she came to us and she asked for advice. And she got her feedback. And she wanted to know what we thought and that she went to the family and talked it over with the family and she really handled it well. And so I thought it was that we should see him publicly say in the air that we really owe this a lot to Phyllis for this because this was very well handled. The service today was I thought was terrific. And we owe a lot of that to Phyllis for her planning. It sure was so I think that's about it for now. Why don't we go to some music



18:35

I have a special song as always sounds good to me for what we've been talking to and for our next guests, too. It's been a requested song for several weeks now. It's by David Sarita and it's called powerful. Oh, yeah. Oh, won't be scared too long. Don't worry nothing. Humbled this

power



19:09

powerful love by David Sarita and you're listening to it on after hours career radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station. I'm Jimmy Carper. And Sara dipalma is back. And we've got a crew of folks in here.



19:27

We have a a panel a and a motley looking crew it is if I couldn't say so. I don't think a motley crew does but but we do we have a panel of folks. And we had planned this panel before before D passed away and I have been talking with Laurie my life partner all night about what to do with this about do we do this show? Do we not do it? What do we do? And it first of all, it didn't seem fair to me. as people come back another day, and secondly, I don't think he would have wanted, and I think he would want life to go on. And so what will. And what I'd like to do is clue the audience in about this, this was big Roy's idea. And it's a subject, frankly, that I have thought of a couple of times, but have never really known exactly how to approach it. And that is the subject of substance abuse and addiction in the queer community, the tea community in particular, but but the queer community in general, and you can go into any bar any night of the week, and find anything that you want as far as substance abuse. And I know I have been in bars where I have seen cocaine passed hand to hand along the wall and gotten soaked. So this is certainly a relevant subject. And Roy, why don't you start out? Why don't you tell us? What made you What made you come to this subject in the first place?



20:54

Well, just that I've seen so many people within the community who were drugged out and alcoholic, and I, myself went through two relationships. One very recently, when which alcoholism was a major, major part of it. And I had two questions. One, why is substance abuse, whether it's alcohol or drugs? Why is substance abuse so predominant within the gay and transgender community? And to? Why do people like me keep going to people who are alcoholic?



21:41

It's a subject that I think gets swept under the rug a lot, because we want to present ourselves as a unified for us, and we don't, you know, we have enough problems with the strike community. Tearing down, I think, but it's a huge problem, this community.



21:58

And as, as Jimmy can know, this is something that has been on my mind for at least a year. I've been talking to Jimmy about this for for about a year. And it was, I guess, about a month or two ago when I approached you, Sarah, because I felt you're the only one that that I know of that



could really do this job do this properly.



22:20

Well, I thought about when you said that, and honestly, I don't know much about this subject. And and it's because we gave a little bit of background. I've never been a person that drinks. I'm the kind of person that has one beer, I nurse it all night. So I make bartenders nuts. They make no money on me whatsoever. I did. I did some drugs back in the 60s. But then I got like who didn't? Well, yeah. I did not inhale. But then actually, I began to be I get began to be frightened by some of what I was seeing around me and said, This is maybe not the smartest thing to do. Yeah, and so I quit. But, so I'm not never been a big drug user or a large, big drinker. I've certainly seen a lot of it in the bars, or in the last few years, especially since we purchased our own home. Frankly, I hadn't been to the bars very much. Saturday nights, typically, we would go to see a movie or something. And, and that's about it. So this is not a subject that, frankly, I felt like I really knew a lot about and that's why I wanted to have a panel here that would know if the rest of the folks that are on the panel here. Come on up to the microphones, and everybody introduce yourselves, if you would explain to the audience what brings you to this subject, what your expertise is, or, or what you know about this. Let's start with



23:46

Well, I'm Jennifer. And I've been clean and sober now for nine and a half years. I was a drug, drugs and alcohol were my addiction. And it's as far as expertise is concerned. You know, I've had to live it. I lived a lifetime for almost 30 years drinking and when I discovered drugs, it just made it that much easier that I had something else that would make me feel differently. And that's what it's that's what it's about for me is it helped change the way I felt. And that's part of it.



24:32

You may like feel better about yourself, or just being



24:37

it just made it was a different I didn't like if I was in a if it was in a place or my mind where I was not feeling good about myself or about a situation. It was some other way to make it change. I couldn't change the facts, but I could change the way I felt about the facts with drugs and alcohol. At least for a little while. Yes. And it's a black hole that you fall into quickly. Yeah.



25:08

I am Brenda and



25:11

Brenda, your microphone just disappeared? Yep. Let's Yeah, there we go. Just been working. Yeah, that was working. That's better.



25:18

I'm Brenda and I have done my share drugs. I've been fortunately off drugs for 27 years. I'm also a licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor. So I deal with this problem on a daily basis. What Jennifer said is absolutely right. It's alcohol and drugs are mind altering chemicals, and we take them to alter our mind because we don't like what's going on at the time. And that's where I'm at right now.



25:48

Okay. Now, Edward, I've not met you before, tell us a little bit about yourself.



25:54

I'm at work. And I have nine half years of sobriety. Good for you. They're using, excuse me, the reason I used alcohol was to cover up my feelings. It was illusion. I had a lot of anger towards my family, and my own self, one of the biggest things was accepting mine. Being gay, and being accepting life and my parents. I used it to put myself in illusion, to cover my feelings and to make myself false pride. That ego. It gave me that extra boost. I thought I needed to feel accepted with the community mostly with myself. That's fine with being inhale. Thank you. Okay.



26:37

In Katrina.



26:39

Hi. I'm Katrina. I've been sober for almost exactly four years. Four years in a week. My drug of choice was beer 100%. And that's kind of a dangerous thing, because it's one of those things you can lull yourself into this little sense of security.



26:59

You betcha. Maybe it's only beer. Everybody drinks beer, what's a six pack?



27:04

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Quite a lot of it for 11 and a half years. I know the exact date that it became let stopped being fun and became a problem and the exact date it stopped. And you would not see me sitting here in this room. I was still doing it. My problem was it was combination of what Jennifer? And this gentleman said, Edward, Edward sorry.



27:31

That's radio they can't see you point.



27:38

up all day, yeah.



27:42

Well, part of it was to lose, to lose the lose part of reality in something else, which obviously wasn't reality and to avoid dealing with my transgender notice. It wasn't too long after the haze went away that I really started dealing with this much better person because of it.



28:05

You know, Katrina, just because we were getting ready to come down here tonight, we started to pick up some gasoline. And Lori wanted to pay for some gas and a guy that already stunk of alcohol was buying a six pack to stick in his cars he drove off and it scared the living you know what out of me to think this guy was on the road. I lost a lover of seven years to a drunk driver kissed him goodbye he got on the road. He was killed by a drunk driver going the wrong way in the freeway. He never had a chance. The drunk never even knew he was in a wreck. So I don't have a lot of leaves for for drunk drivers or drunks in general.



28:43

I was one of those major major closet drinkers I was closeted about many things but I hardly ever did it outside that outside the home which was it's one of those other things I can call yourself into a false sense of security that oh, I've never I don't cause anybody any problems except myself Okay, cuz I was just did not cause myself some problems



29:02

I was just gonna bring up at kind of the genesis of a lot of drinking problems in the queer community is that the first gathering place we have our bars right now now, I don't want to tear down bars because they have been the places where we can meet each other and they have given back to the community in a lot of ways but also they've caused a lot of problems because

this is up until a few years ago this is the only place we could meet each other was in bars I mean now with it's a little bit different we have social clubs and that type of thing but still the main place is a bar



29:47

where that you know part of that Jamie's at the bars serve is information clearing house. Sure. It's how you get to meet other people. Let's face it, it's been the sex pickup place for since the dawn of gay bars since



29:59

the cool The community has not been able to meet each other anywhere else. We can't meet each other in malls we can't meet meet each other. It's just not accepted. It's your right.



30:11

In transgenders I want to, there's something I thought about in the last few days, transgenders go to go to the bars, because they think they don't have anywhere else to go. So they go to the bars to be accepted, it's a place to be able to wear clothes, party a little bit and go home. At least that's the theory, they started out saying they're gonna party a little bit. But I have known an awful lot of people who went to party a little bit and ended up partying a lot. And then we ended up going on bail them out of jail.



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Because they got there and absolutely such an accepting environment, which is unknown, and you just feel really good and you want to stay and you want to enjoy as long as possible. And before you know it, you're drunk on your butt. Yeah. Yeah.



30:54

And it well, there's also another thing too, which is, like, a lot of the younger people, especially the teenagers, and people, like in their first year of college, to really young, gay, bisexual, transgendered persons. They'll turn to drugs or alcohol, more than likely drugs because they're too young to go get alcohol. So they'll go to drugs. And because there is such a high school is such a homophobic environment, and very on gay friendly, very on transgender or transsexual, friendly environment, and there's so much pain involved in that, that they try to escape that pain through the drugs. And I know and I know insurance, I'm sitting here right now there's people



31:49

and guilt here it is. Yeah. Oh, yeah. Yeah. Shame and guilt. Yeah, I see everybody in the tape

sitting in your head. So here we are, with that subject, shame and guilt.



31:59

I was gonna say, you know, we we talk about, and we will talk about all the negative things that occurred with us in our own lives with other people through drugs and alcohol. But I have to say one thing, it did make it possible for me to live day in day out until I was old enough and mature enough to deal with



32:20

my life. Yeah, but you don't recommend it now? No,



32:23

absolutely not.



32:25

But you know, at that age,



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that's, that was the other part of it. I was just lucky, I lived long enough to know better than to continue. Because, you know, it started off with a few beers. And then the beers weren't enough, and it had to be hard liquor, and then what hard liquor wasn't enough, and then the drugs and you end it's, it's a spiral that you don't get out of? And if you do get out if you're lucky,



32:50

it was it. It was a way of trying to avoid dealing with shame and guilt, or was it because of shame and guilt? Or doesn't matter? Really,



32:58

it doesn't really matter. But in my case, and I can only speak from my own. It was the fact that I could not deal with the pain, the the shame and the guilt that I was feeling. Just what he was saying.



33:13

And where are you? I heard you say something about dealing with the pain. Was it was it problem caused by family community.



33:21

The problem was mostly within myself, I had a lot of issues I did not want to deal with a lot. It was built up pain, anger, one of the biggest things for me was abandonment issue. In recovery, I have learned that I used alcohol to feel accepted by people. I had a lot of issues being my father being a recovering alcoholic now but being an alcoholic, and my favorite same when I was drinking is I never ended up like that. Or like Kim Famous last words, I'm never going to end up in my camp. Now in recovery, I have learned I have stuffed a lot of anger, feelings. And I have learned that being in recovery that it takes about a deep inner soul work. Everybody knows on the power panel what I'm talking about. At 716 I was getting beer, Roy. Oh, you know, it started out with beer here. If I want to drink, I could find a beer. I had fake IDs and that mostly my drug was alcohol. And it happened in high school when I really got addicted in high school in high school. I would skip school and go to the bar with a fake ID and drink. And I well okay.



34:36

I don't even need that because I'm old enough to where the age was 19 Back when I was in high school and I looked at I don't even need the fake ID they would just sell it to me and I didn't bother skipping school. I just get some on the way home. Keep that



34:51

locker that button



34:56

my father didn't have any problems with my actually drinking and didn't want me to confront Don't go all the time, except on the weekends getting drunk with him. But that's how it started and that and when I said, I know the specific day that it started for me, it was Super Bowl Sunday 1982 It was the first day that he told me that I did not have to ask his permission to go get a refrigerator. And I was downhill from there.



35:21

Now. I'm, I was my father, my father when my father when I guess I must be like, 1617. And I think my father must have known that like most teenagers, I was sneaking booze somewhere along line, you know, my father was real smart about it. I thought he took me downstairs and refrigerators filled with alcohol, beer wine, you name it and said, If you want it, you can have it. But you have to have it here. If you ever leave the house with it, I'll kill you. And it took all the

fun out of it. Because I you know, I G half the fun was getting to sneak it past you, dad. Well, when you took it and so I you know, and it was like, Well, hell, there's no point to this. I can do it anytime I want.



36:09

Now, I would like to ask you, which is okay, you say that in both of you have said that? You know, your dad, you know, so this is here. It's here, do here. How much of that was dad saying? This is the macho man heterosexual thing. Have a beer Fiat man. I wonder if there wasn't an undercurrent in there because women don't drink bear.



36:37

No, my father was making a threat. And I knew it was a threat. But he was also embarrassing me. He knew me. And he knew that for me half the fun was sneaking past. Well, if he takes the fun way. It says you don't even need bothered strength is to sneak here it is he knew I'd never do it. It was great psychology, I gotta say is that as as a dad, this was pretty swift in his part.



36:59

But like you would like you said, you you are not the kind of drinkers that we were? No, because a similar story that my father, you know, did with me, he says, you know, you can have your friends. I don't want y'all driving and drinking. So therefore I want y'all can drink all you want here at the house. So we did. And we would write his liquor cabinet to do it.



37:21

Oh, not good. Yeah. and opposite reaction that I had?



37:25

Absolutely. It was it was like giving us a blank check to be abusive to it.



37:32

Interesting.



37:34

I'm sure there was some kind of undercurrent of this being the macho thing to do with my dad getting me started. But I think the reason I did it as much as I did was to kill him pain, that a lot of problems. And I did it to access for over for almost 12 years.



37:55

When did you realize that you are transgender? Katrina?



37:58

I knew, to some extent, probably when I was four or five,



38:03

four or five? And when did it first began to dawn on you that you wanted to do something more about it that you wanted to be active about or serious about it? Did that? Well guess what I'm asking in a roundabout way is did the drinking coset coincide with the knowledge?



38:22

I don't I don't think so. The stopping of the drinking pretty much coincided with my finally getting the courage to do something about it. But there was there were lots of issues going on during my junior high high school days, which necessitated by finding something to kill the pain with Not that again, not that I'm advocating it. With me just it just happened.



38:50

An aspect that people listening out there don't seem to realize is that we have a very varied age difference here. I'm bringing in Scott from hatch, who's going to tell you a little bit about himself, but I kinda like try to get kind of people's different ages if that. If we can do



39:13

that. Yeah. Okay. I'll start off. I'm 45.



39:17

Scott, I'm 21.



39:20

I'm 3233 47.



39:22



Well,



39:27

the old lady at 5548. What do you carry?



39:33

So what we're talking about here is is not just old folks, or middle aged folks. I mean, we've got young folks, we've got all ages. This This does not strike anyone.



39:48

No. Well, part of the community that I was in, when I was going to high school, I was at the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts or hspva gay as we like to call I



40:02

wonder why.



40:06

And it was, it was a nice safe haven to be in for the gay youth because the arts community has always been so tolerant of the gay population. And one of the strange things about it, though, even though there were so many gay people that you could speak to, and it wasn't necessarily an unacceptable place to be, there was a lot of drug use and drug abuse. at that school, you could go to one of the dances and get just about everything you could want. I'm not sure what the climate is around there now, because most of my friends that I had, who are younger than I have graduated. But there was a proliferation of different drugs. And for a good part of my first two years, I spent, I spent in a haze of coke, acid and pot and different other things,



41:07

the light stuff.



41:10

We didn't have all the nifty things like G, H, B. But yeah, a lot of the stuff that's around today was not as prevalent as it was. And plus, we were high school students. So a lot of us didn't have quite the money to spend on you know, crack and glass, crystal meth. So, but it was, you know, we'd go to parties, and a lot of the really heavy stuff would be there. But Coke was always seen as sort of like this party drug, you go to a party, you do coke. And there were a few

of us who got caught up. And it's so much you know, you'd go to school, dead tired from watching the sunrise because you were speeding on coke all night, and you take your little bullet with you and you do a bump in between classes to stay awake. And I knew a lot of kids who are like that. And it's really shocking. The drug problems that are in high school.



42:06

You know, actually, it's, it's interesting, because as a person who grew up in the 60s, I was quite as quite the hippie. And actually my sophomore year in high school, we had a girl who jumped off the roof believing she could fly on an LSD trip. And it's interesting, because it sounds like the drugs of choice have changed. But actually, the problem is not that different when I went to high school, because the drugs were everywhere. I mean, and I'm not just talking brass, I mean, you know, marijuana you could find hanging out in the street corner. I'm talking about some really serious stuff. I mean, LSD tabs, beatable sorts, yeah, uppers, downers, in between your take your pick, and MERS and inhalants. Oh, yeah. And, you know, I actually heard Johnny Cash, the country western singer talking about this once that he had a terrible, terrible drug problem. He was taking opera so he could come down on downer so he you back up. And he said that he got to the point where one night he was doing a song on stage and B's nose began to bleed. And he didn't know where he was. And I'm in serious trouble here. And so it seems like this is not so much a generational thing. It's more personal one. What does it say about us? What where are we running from? Is that it that