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00:07

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



00:42

Oh yes, you've tuned into after hours a continuing tradition on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of after hours is ready to bring you news, interviews and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. Hear it after hours, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common. We are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closets. That means standing up for yourself, taking responsibility for your own life and being proud of who you are. Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of a job or frame of mind. That's okay. We're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of after hours.



02:05

Well, that song is not a statement on the show this evening. Welcome to After hours, a continuing tradition in Houston. I'm Sara dipalma. And with me tonight is a coughing and wheezing



02:18

Jim Carper. Yes, I've got a cold.



02:22

If you find if you suddenly hear Jimmy get up and run. Don't worry about it. It's just a coughing fit.



02:29

We started out with music tonight just to kind of throw you off a little bit. That was a an album I have been looking for for six months. And it just happened to show up here at the studio and was loaned to me it's the important sea snakes. It's a it's a group of undetermined it's sexuality.



02:52

Yes, indeed, I find the picture.



02:53

transgendered would be a good, good, good term. Yeah, this group. And that is one of the few songs on the album that I can play on the air. We



03:03

can't even say the titles of the songs. For the most part,



03:07

it was worth it. If you can find it anywhere I know I've been looking for six months I haven't been able to find it. It's the group is called the important sea snakes. They've been around quite a while but I think this is their first CD.



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The picture is very interesting. They sort of look like the peep the trains, the the transvestites on the Miller commercial. And



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if you remember their so called the New York Dolls. This group does the one better. Yeah,



03:37

yeah. Looking at the picture. I'd say that's true. Well, I really been looking forward to doing the show. We're going to take a little bit of a different tack than we have in the past, you know. Today I got a glimpse of what the world could be. If gays, lesbians, transgendered people all got over themselves. And how did that occur? Well, I had a chance to go to a holy union today. Oh, no kidding. And in fact, these folks are our guests on the show this evening. Their name is Vivian and Donna. But Vivian and Donna are they were they're here from Great Britain and I've

been a whole unions before but I've never been to one where one of the participants was a male to female transsexual postoperative. The other is a genetic women, genetic woman, they consider themselves a lesbian couple. Okay, now right away. That's something we've been talking about on the show for I think, as long as I've probably been on the show, but it's the first time I've had a chance to actually be just watch a whole union like this. More interesting to me, though, was that the participants in the wedding and the people who came to be involved with this wedding, some were straight. Yeah, some were gay. So we're transgendered. And, and the entire attitude was yes. And, and, and it was just it was just wonderful. It showed me what the world could be. If If we could all just get over. It is



05:04

I do know,



05:04

I do know, it was really nice, I have to say, Viv and Donna, I, I'm sure you're probably listening to this thing. First of all, thank you for inviting us. We had a great time. But thank you for letting us sit in and watch this today. This was really fun. We all went to Landry's on the sea wall. Oh, and it was great. I mean, we didn't make any particular pains to hide the fact that we were here transgender, and no one in that restaurant much. Give A Damn.



05:31

Why should you have to?



05:33

Well, yeah, there are lots of people who were like, Oh, God, somebody's gonna come back. And we were not like that at all. And it was really nice. And so I'm gonna have this nice. The interview that we'll be doing tonight is a two part interview with Vivian and Donna. And we'll get into that a little bit more when we get ready to do it. But it's just, it's just nice to see that it's possible, and it sort of gave me some hope for the future. Good. You know, yeah, so we're gonna take a little bit of a different tack than we usually do. And



06:03

then finally, I'm not a religious person. But every time I feel that way, that that feeling that you've got right now is how people can get together. And I think the last time I felt that way is when I went to a holy union of two men. Yeah. And that was gay and straight people together. It's hard



06:22

for me to understand what the big deal is, to be honest, it was obvious to me that these were two people who love each other.



06:31

And what else matters nothing. Absolutely nothing matters when, when, when it's about love.



06:38

They don't want to give the whole interview away, but they came to this country to get to have their holy union. Because in Great Britain, the Church says that the vows that they would have to take have to be specifically male and female. And so of course, that doesn't apply to them. And so they came to this country in order to have a holy union. Now, the interesting thing about this, they Okay, Kurt churches and England. Well, apparently, the law says you have to has to be male, female specific vows. Wow. And I that was news to me. I hadn't heard that before. And now the interesting thing about this is because Great Britain refuses to change the birth certificate of a transsexual, right? Vivian is still technically male. Sure. So they could go back to Britain, and probably will go back to Britain and become legally married. They can do that they can do that. And so we'll talk about that more the vagaries of the law, isn't it and the A and the flip side of this is they tried to get a marriage license here in Houston. Yeah, and got turned down. And the end of the interview will explain why they got turned down. But it I like this interview because this illuminates things that we've been talking about on this show. For months and months and months. In here. This couple just came in and innocently walk right into a business. Wow. It's very interesting. If you remember, we had Steven widdle on the show from Great Britain. And Steven Whittle talked about the vagaries of the British law. Well, these folks are here because of exactly what he said. And they want they went on to Harris County and ran into problems in just exactly those long lines. What Phyllis Frey has been preaching for 10 years. And it's it's fascinating. We'll get into that a little bit more. So stick around that. It's very interesting interview. We're also going to talk about the Lesbian Gay rights lobby.



08:33

Oh, what's been going on with those folks?



08:35

We're in, in sort of a negotiation stage with the LG Jarrell? Are we mad at



08:39

them again?



08:40

This last word at those. This was disconnected. Oh, okay. Mad angry is too strong a word. The

I'm not mad at them. I'm more disappointed. Um, okay. Mad angry is too strong a word. I'm disappointed.

08:48

Well, it had it's gonna happen. Yeah, it's gonna happen.

08:53

But it's not it's not all was not lost. And we'll talk about that. It's, it's it's not a situation of animosity. We'll also going to talk about the Tea Party, which just recently took place in Dallas, in the last Tea Party that they're going to have for a couple of years. What it's going to go on hiatus, and we'll talk about that. And we'll talk about why. And for folks that are cross dressers, I know this is awful news. Well, it looks like their sons.

09:20

It's a Texas tradition.

09:23

Yes, it is. But Linda and Cynthia Phillips have run it for so long. They no longer have a life. And they'd like to get their own life back. Yeah, I can understand that. And so it appears that a couple of groups here in Houston may pick that tradition up and hold the next one here in Houston. So we'll talk about that. We're also going to start introduce some some stuff about the law conference. Now the Transgender Law conference is taking place over the Fourth of July weekend this year, which I think is a much better idea. Because they're the attendance has been off because people can't get off of work, right? Well, if you have it over the holiday weekend, sure it's not a problem. And they're going to do some new Oh, I'm going to do some new things this year including specifically they're going to have a couple of seminars aimed to transgendered people of color. First time they've ever attempted that good in we'll talk about that, which I think is really a good thing. Yes, it is. Um, we'll also talk about the Houston Gay Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. Oh, those folks. Yeah. And again, I'm not it's not a situation being angry. In this case, I feel I actually feel more hurt and we'll talk about why that's okay. So there's lots of stuff as as is always the case, we have five hours with material packed into three hours, always always. Which is not new for this show. It's the best, fastest three hour show and radio. And so I'm looking at did we used to clock

10:44

up there long time ago. Now it's a digital one right in front of your eyes.

10:48

Okay. I'll just look up and realize the clock is gone. Okay. Shows you how swift I am. Okay. what

Okay, I just look up and realize the clock is gone. Okay, shows you how swift I am. Okay, what do you say let's go to a piece of music in Jimmy you have something queued up here and I forgot what it was

11:00

from that free album. From out music headed up by Jeff crasner out of New York. And it's a song called Why

11:11

Okay, away we go when that song ends, it genuinely ends

11:19

because it does. This is about why by Andrea cats.

11:24

This is profit free CD that we got and there are so much good music on and if it really it's

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really secure. Number seven does it say there that she has an album out?

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Yeah, the album's called painted dreams. But it doesn't add course we don't know whether any of these are actually for sale anywhere.

11:40

No it which is unfortunate. It's of course hard to find. But if you hang out at Inklings or crossroads, or Lobo Lobos carrying a lot more music now these days too, I mean, those three stores carry gay and lesbian music.

11:56

There's one song on here that unfortunately, we cannot play on air, but I like it a lot called Angry Young fag. Oh, yes. That's few words in it that we can't use on the year but it's an excellent song, you get this, you get the CD, you get to hear the song, you'll find out what we're telling you. Okay, I want to start out by talking about the Lesbian Gay rights lobby and

transgender people. On December the 10th of last year, several of us went to a board meeting of lesbian gay rights lobbying Austin, I remember that, okay. And we made a presentation to the to the board of directors. And we had three specific requests that we wanted from the first thing that we wanted, we asked for a written statement from the LG ARL, stating the gays lesbians and transgenders share many common allies and enemies, and thus the LG ARL and ITT degree to work on common issues. And we said specifically, the issues that we were looking at, were things like family law, such as divorce, child custody, the right to adopt same sex marriages, hate crimes legislation, the treatment of sexual and gender minorities and jail in prison situations. And the repeal of 2106. We've been turned down. What they did agree to do is they have their apparently they have been working on an employment non discrimination bill.

13:22

They don't they don't agree on these things.

13:25

And we've they just flat parents down. I don't know why. i I can only tell you what I know. And that is that they've said no. The board apparently just doesn't want to or doesn't think we they should or coalition building. Apparently not I say, which is considering Pat Buchanan's in town tonight or what has been the last few days. You think they might be more interested in that, but they're not. What they did agree to do is they agreed that there is an employment non discrimination bill that they have been trying to get passed. And they agreed to amend us into that bill. But flatly said they absolutely would not include us in hate crimes legislation. Period, just flat out right now, my reading of this and I've run this pass several of the legislators who agree with me, my reading of this is they've agreed to amend this into a bill that doesn't have a snowball's chance in hell of passing. And it refused to clued us into a bill which missed by two votes. Now, I'm dumb, but I ain't stupid. Okay. So, okay, just leave that where that is for a minute. The second thing we asked for it was recognition that transgender inclusion includes adding the words gender identity or perceived gender identity, wherever the words sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation may exist. The answer that's No, they're not going to do that. And finally, we asked for transgender person on the lgfl board.

14:58

Yeah, well, I know what the answer to that is.

14:59

What they decided to do, which is very interesting, they said what they would do is they the board passed a resolution which said they would not discriminate against anyone who chose to run for the board. However we sent have since asked for what rules there are, what do you have to do to qualify? Because I've got three people right now who said, no problem. Let's run for the board and test it. Okay. And we have never been furnished with any rules, or the

information that would actually allow us to have anyone run for the board. Strangest thing. Funny thing about that. Now, I'm not going to draw any conclusions about that I think the audience and pretty much draw it for themselves. But I want to read part, I'm



15:37

sure will think twice when I get all of those letters from LG RL asking me for money.



15:42

You know, ironic thing about this, as the as the LG Jarrell had come to us and said, wanted to know if we would indeed, if it's time taxes would add its name to the list of organizations who endorse the hate crimes legislation they're proposing. My response was, Well, let's see what happens if we get included into the Igfl. Now, needless to say, That's by the board's while I'm still talking with Diane Hardy Garcia, there are still some things that I think we could do, where we might be able to work together. If if they're willing, for example, I, I work for two attorneys who specialize in family law. And there are some things I think we could probably do with family code involving, say, for example, child custody, in divorce cases, I think there's some things that we could do for adoption, that would be mutually beneficial for all of us. Now, if they're willing to work with us on that, that's fine. If they're not, then we'll do it on our own. So I'm still hopeful that we can find some common ground. What I don't want to do is I don't want to go back to where we were a year ago, where we picketing one another.



16:46

I know, I know it. I hate that. I hate it. I hate it.



16:49

Yeah. And I really don't want to do it. So we're really trying to do is I'm trying to find some common ground. And hopefully we will, the we had been discussing the idea of doing a a series of educational talks around the state of Texas. And I still want to do them. I have not heard back from Guyana on what the oil Grl is, what their take is on it. And I'm still waiting to hear what they decide. But I'm hopeful that that will still happen. I don't think it's necessary for us to become enemies. But it's clear to me that they're not necessarily friends either. So I didn't. So it's kind of an in between territory. I want to read just part of facts that I sent to the LG ARL, after they turn this down. I'm not going to read the whole thing as as much too long. Okay. But it partly it says what I just said that, yes, we would still like to work with them on family law issues. And yes, we still want to do these educational seminars. But I want to read the last part of it says, As you can see, we do want to work with the El Grl. However, I also do not want any misunderstandings to exist. Since the board has voted not to include us in hate crimes legislation, we fully intend to go forward with our own hate crimes bill. Now, I want to stop there for a second because this is something I was hoping to avoid. I know I've said this a zillion times. I'm going to say it again but work. What it's going to do is confuse our friends it already has. I've been talking to legislators in Houston, for example. And I've been going to them and saying Now look, I realized they had this bill. But if you notice it's not it's not transgender

inclusive. So we want to add the words gender identity, and people are saying to us, you mean, it didn't already say that? Surprise. And so we say well, no. And then when they look at and say, Well, why would they refuse to put you in? To watch my responses? Ask them? Yeah. So right away, we're already causing confusion among allies. I think it's thoroughly unnecessary. It wasn't our choice. That's all I can say. So let's go with the facts. It says it was the unanimous vote of my board. And that's Believe me if you knew the people on my board, unanimous anything is rare. Because our my board of directors runs from cross dressers and filed with the trial. We're already two transsexual minutes. Wow. Okay. And they voted on the same page on this. That what they have decided to do is that they've reached agreement that in its time, Texas should work with the LG ARL when agreement can be reached. But move on its own. We're no agreement is possible, right? I don't think we have any choice. No. And then I went on this this last paragraph says I recognize that we've made considerable progress in some things and I thank you for that. But what needs to be understood is that I will never again have a transgendered hate crime victim sitting in my house and being able to explain why i t t did not do more to have them included in hate crimes. That's the bottom line. Sure. So I'm passing this out right now is just general information. It is a funny situation where I'm still hoping to work with the LG IRL and I will To the extent they're willing to work with us, but at this point, it's it's the balls in their court saying, I think it's really unfortunate. I think it's thoroughly unnecessary. But it's not my decision. Now there is one other thing about the vote of Board of the board of directors that I find very interesting. It seems that a lot of the people on the board of directors were from Houston, didn't know the reason was a board meeting. Oh, which I am going to just put this out there, and then you can decide about this. It seems that there was the original meeting was supposed to have been a weekend retreat for the board of directors and they were going to get a whole lot of things done. Somewhere along the line, the ball got dropped, and it turned out not to be a retreat. So then the word went out. And there was some confusion about whether meeting was going to happen or was not. The result of that is that lots of people thought the meeting had been cancelled. Which makes me wonder who was present the day the board who took this vote do not include



21:00

us? Yeah, no kidding. Yeah. Yeah.



21:03

Just curious. Now, no one in the guild Grl has been willing to come to me and say, who was there? and who wasn't? Why I just, I'm not. Yes, I am. I'm questioning the integrity, though. I was trying not to put it that way. But yes, I am questioning the integrity of the vote. So there it is. Take that for what it's worth. One other thing that I wanted to talk about, and this is the flip side of how things are getting better. That is that the the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is going to be holding a couple of different seminars, which is going to be in California. They're being held in April 20. And 21st. One of them's called out in equal in the 90s. Folks, I'm going to read this language right off the front page of the pamphlet says is the National Conference on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender workplace issues. Yeah, apparently, the National Gay Lesbian taskforce can say transgender, I say, but the LGPL cannot do interesting. They're also going to be holding a seminar on human resource on human resource issues that you know,

employment and that sort of thing. And by golly, it's the National Conference on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender workplace issues. So I would be very curious, maybe some of the listeners out there can explain it to me. Why is Texas such a tough nut to crack on this issue,



22:28

and not only with LG RL, but with PFLAG as well.



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I talked to a Jessica Xavier, who's one of the National Board members, it's time America. They made a presentation in Maryland, on just within the last few days. It's the first time any transgender group in the country has attempted to present a non discrimination employment non discrimination bill on a statewide basis, and is a standalone. In other words, they were not trying to get on the coattails of a lesbian or gay organization. They did this on their own work. They managed to get it into committee. They managed to get it up to a vote in the vote, deadlocked at 10 to 10. No it 10 to 10, which meant the vote which meant the bill failed. If they could have gotten an 11 to nine, it would have passed. Now, so of course, they're going to be back.



23:23

Yes. But that's it's hopeful. It is it is very hopeful.



23:27

Now, what's interesting to me, is that Maryland, I don't think intellectually Maryland's that far ahead of Texas. I mean, it could have been 19 to one. Yeah. And it had the backing of gay lesbian groups, even though they were not actually involved with doing any of the work. Why can't we get that done here? What's the problem here? I'm just posing as a question.



23:47

Probably if you did all the work you'd get cracking.



23:50

Well, yeah, the one of the things that I want to point out to the to our audience is this. There isn't. There has never been a piece of legislation legislation that any transgender group in the country has ever presented. That did not include gays, lesbians and bisexuals. It is always inclusive of all I'd be very hard pressed to name one piece of legislation that has been proposed by a gay lesbian organization that was inclusive of transgenders and bisexuals, what does that

say? Just, I'm just putting it out there. I mean, you make your own choice. It just clearly something's wrong. And hey, it's not up to me. I sit here on the show once a month and I give the same speech sooner or later folks will get it I guess. It's just just telling you the way it is.



24:41

I guess it just takes time. It just takes time. Well, Texas, are we that backwards in Texas? No, It's Time Texas.



24:48

It is Texas. Before we go to the interview, I thought I would tell something a little bit lighter and talk about something a little bit lighter and as we'll see if I can find it. This was a story that took place in Egypt if I can find it. Yes. Now, I complain about Texas being a difficult place for transgenders. This is a story I this came out of the Cairo time, Egypt must be incredible. This came this came out of the Cairo times I happened to pick it up off the internet. As the lead story says, Al has har Al, which I guess is approved sex change surgeries. Seven years after throwing a woman, a throw after throwing out a medical student who changed from a man to a woman. Al Azhar, the highest Sunni Islam authority in Egypt has permitted transsexuality under some conditions. Egypt, can you believe it? A man can undergo an operation to become a woman and a woman can do the reverse. If a doctor deems the intervention necessary to bring out the signs of femininity, or masculinity, which are present but hidden, according to a new Fatah or religious decision. Since 1988, about 26 Change cases have been registered in Egypt. Frankly, I wouldn't have guessed there were two. Wow. So that was a surprise to me. And most of them involve men who become women. According to the head of their civil status bureau. sex change operations are authorized by Egypt doctors Union, but are doing quietly due to the sarcasm they raised from the public. I would imagine so in in Egypt, Saeed Abdullah, the first known case in Egypt, ran into more than just sneers. She got thrown out of medical school in 1988 after he underwent the operation and emerged as a female. At the time, the university condemned the transsexual as a disgusting imitation of a wooden woman forbidden by Islam. The administrative court later overturned the university ruling animal and ordered her allowed into the medical school for women. Now, that's pretty liberal. I mean, for forever, and if



27:12

they had to get it, get it around through the religious end of it through the religious entity here, here. You have to do it through a psychiatrist. Yeah.



27:21

What's interesting says she had no problem avoiding military service. She also succeeded in changing her identity card. Wow. After a surprise Ministry of the Interior committee, assigned with reviewing changes the document called doctors and who said yes, they ought to go ahead and do it. She also married after working as a belly dancer in a Cairo cabaret, where she attracted numerous clients, not to mention the interest of the press in which her photo apparently was everywhere. When she turned down, she listens turned down interviews saying

my husband is jealous, and has forbidden me to speak to the press. I obey Him to preserve our happiness. Oh, boy. Well, now this is a Muslim country now. But it makes you wonder, given the status of women in Muslim countries, transsexuals are not. Why in hell would you really want to be? I guess? I guess so. Well, let's go to a piece of music. And when we come back, we'll set up to do the interview. And I'll see if I can remember what button I'm supposed to push here. And okay, here we go.

28:33

I think why are you going to music first? Yeah, we're

28:36

gonna go to music first. Okay, okay. Your girlfriend get over it. By God, I like that. Okay, I want to talk about the interview that we're preparing to do. As I explained, this is a two part interview and will when the first section runs about 1517 minutes, something along that line. Now the interview is being done with two folks. Net one, Vivian and Donna. Vivian and Donna are here visiting from Great Britain. And they were here to have their holy union, which in fact they had today. But understand this interview you need to know a little bit about British law as relates to transgenders. In Britain, they have a nationalized health care system. And as a general rule, if the money is available in their health care system, people who are changing gender and gender pay transsexuals who are getting ready to have the operation usually can have their surgery paid for by the national healthcare system. So in that sense, Great Britain is ahead of the United States because in the United States, no insurance company will pay for transsexual surgery. On the flip side, in Britain, a transsexual has no rights whatsoever. The problem is that in Great Britain They will not change a birth certificate. Now there are some states in the United States that will not change them either, but they will amend it, which is nearly as good. In Great Britain, they will not even do that. Consequently, you develop a situation where this person is a postoperative transsexual. She, in fact, she's post operative by about 15 years, but is still considered a male. In Great Britain, it's a very strange situation. Now, we're going to present this interview to you. And when we come back, we'll talk about some of the issues they have been involved, because it touches a lot of things. It touches the issue of gay marriage in the United States, that touches the issue of transgender rights anywhere in the world, for that matter, but specifically in the United States and in England. And it does one other thing. It brings up the question, I think, as if a if two people are clearly in love, were is it the right of the state, or the government or anyone else, to deny people the right to marry regardless of gender? So I think those are fairly interesting subjects to do. With that I present you, Vivian and Donna, from Great Britain, regular listeners to after hours, may remember the several shows back we had a guest here from Great Britain by the name of Stephen woudl. Stephen woudl, runs an organization in Great Britain called pressed for change, which is a transgender rights activist organization very similar to it's time, America. On that same show, we introduced you to Jane Langley, who is from Australia, and also to Armand Oh, Tim ski, who is a transgender rights activist in France. The folks that are with me tonight are not activist per se, but they are British, and they have a very interesting story to tell. So with that, I would like to introduce Viv, and Donna and if you would each say something into the mic, please give your name so your audience knows which of you is which.



31:59

Hi, I'm Vivian Hi.



32:03

Okay, it will become more clear as we go along. On let's begin, let's start. And we'll start right from the very beginning. Vivian, tell the audience a little bit about yourself, get and tell them a little bit about your background.



32:20

I have fame, I am male to female, transsexual. And I had surgery in London, and 90 and 80. And through our wonderful health service I had to pay because they weren't prepared to help in any way. Through work and everything else. I've actually now achieved a very good job where it's been a very, very long, hard slog to, to find employment and to get a job does I have at the moment.



33:00

Okay, now, I was under the impression that the British that in Britain, the National Health Insurance always paid for the transsexual surgeries that not sell