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00:02

She's mail. She has not pleaded guilty. But all the same, this is a tough situation. And so we're going to be watching this case in Washington. Wheatley, the person that has gone on their way to present here is going to have a very hard case. Because there is not only there not been a discussion by having a sex change surgery, which is we know after having female to males in the show is debatable in itself. But in this case, also there is no name change. So it's going to be kind of hard for this person to make this case they are female to male transactional, even so it's an interesting case to watch. This is in the state of Washington. And another in another case that I've been watching very closely. This is in Orange, California. Now if you know Orange, orange is conservative Republican country. Yes, it is. One Oh, yes. It's one of the most conservative counties in the United States, probably. So this comes from Orange County, California, a woman should get sole custody of her daughter, because the child's father was born a woman and had surgery to become a man making the Union a same sex marriage. Her lawyer argues in court. Now, run that one by again. Yeah, let's Yeah, let's have that one more time. A woman should get sole custody of the daughter. Okay, because the child's father was born a woman and had surgery to become a man.



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So ever that laid the the woman was artificially inseminated,



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I guess, I guess what they're contending is a person born with a certain gender is a person born with a certain identity. And nothing can be done by cosmetics that would change that.



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On the contrary, yeah. Yeah. Because if she has had the surgery, and now is a male, and is legally a male. That is the only way she that he would be able to marry



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02:06

her. Yeah, this is a fascinating case. Christine visit



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they're trying to they, they use that to get married. But now the wife is trying to to turn that around to get custody of the child and the



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lawyer is arguing that if you're born with one sack, and that's what you are, whether you go and have surgery or not.



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Yeah, well, that's not the story she was putting out when she wanted to get married.



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Well, in in his in what's happened, actually, well, I own both ways, honey. Now here's here's the way the story goes here person's name. The wife's name is Christine Vecchione. And she's seeking an annulment from her husband, Joshua, who was born Janine, 40 years ago, and has custody a three year old daughter, I read the story. Yeah. And the judge actually has since ruled in the transsexuals. Favor. So but but it was an interesting case, because the lawyer was arguing, well, if you're born female, you are always female, whether you have a sex change or not. If you're born male, you're always male, whether you have sex change or not, and gender identity has nothing to do with it. And the judge said, you don't know what the hell you're talking to. In essence, in essence, judge said, so here's an interesting case in Orange County, California, very conservative Republican country, where transsexual gets to win child custody case. That's great, interesting stuff. The time they are changing is Bob Dylan would say we got a call



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from Brian Keever. Subject Yes, you who is president of NLA national leather associate Yeah, this year. And he wanted to report that they raised over \$1,000 for the NLA children's toy drive at the venture in tonight. Oh, cool.



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That fabulous. Brian is another one of those people came in and put in a lot of time for you needs to You bet.



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We talked about the NLA toy drive last week in that there there are there are drop offs all over town well all over the Montrose in most of the bars, rip card marries you name it, and also at copy calm. Right over there next to Hollywood.



04:18

Oh, okay. Next to Hollywood Video. Okay.



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All right. Yes. Thanks. So through, I guess through this weekend. Wait a minute. I don't have your mic on.



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It was through December the 12th. Ah, so ended on Friday. But um, okay. So



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if you have bars can if you've got money, and if you've got toys and you want to contribute to the children's toy drive, drop them off at Oh, he's got to love me for this at the twit offices. Right there on Westheimer 811 Westheimer. That will work. You bet. You bet because that's where Brian works, but never on Wednesday.



05:00

Well, Brian has been around this community long time you bet he's been around



05:04

you that is just just that it's Brian Keefer will bring in in the box. Because he has served our community for years in many different capacities. Yeah. Man, we



05:15

did a show about transgenders in Europe and transgenders in other places around the world. Yeah. Well, here's a story out of Israel that I thought was kind of interesting. A selection committee appointed by the Israeli Broadcasting Authority, chose male to female transsexual, Dana International to represent their nation at the 1998 Eurovision Song Contest, to the dismay of Orthodox Jewish leaders of the far right party. According to the judges, Dana's song diva was

far and away the best to 33 entries considers and believes your transsexual status might even be an edge in the contest that Israel has lost every year is never entered. Say we should be seen as a liberal free country that chooses songs on their merits, not on the basis of the body of the man or woman. Not nonetheless, the far right Republicans on the Israeli broadcast fed, they are going to try and intervene because they feel the data is not a good example of Israeli youth. Interesting that the you know, we think we have troubles with the far right. You need to have far right Orthodox Jewish rabbis down.



06:33

They really are. Because, well, I want to break in. Yeah, go ahead. Brian called back. Okay. Brian evidently is listening good. Because he said there's still plenty of time to drop off those toys. Oh, good. So we're happy to hear that because some of us, you know, wait till the last minute to do these things when 1010 1010. So drop them off plenty of time. On the on the subject of the Jewish Orthodox, there's a group of Orthodox rabbis that are trying to stop the Holocaust Museum in New York from opening. Why? Because they are talking about gay prisoners in the camp.



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Oh, for Christ's sake. Yes. Oh. Oh,



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is you off, right?



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Oh, yes. This nonsense.



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It's pissing everyone off. So they're losing big time on this drive to get an injunction to to stop the opening of the Holocaust Museum? No, this was I'm sorry, this. Yeah, this was an I guess, in New York.



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What judge is going to issue that?



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No one did? No one did. I



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was gonna say it's a historical fact. That's right. They may not like it. It's still Where the hell do they think your pink triangle came



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from? Say, and, you know, we talk about how even in the camps, that the pink triangle was the lowest there was, there was a, you know, people looked down on each other. And they're still doing it today. In the name of religion.



08:13

You know, there was a big controversy up on the run the Rice University campus, apparently they ran an ad for some group, some screwball group to claim the Holocaust never happened. Oh, I know. You know, and I saw that story. And I read and I thought at the time, What idiot would actually argue that the Holocaust didn't occur? Well, apparently, there are a lot of them some group, it's just, I don't know, I don't understand think



08:40

of all of the, the the religious zealots who tell lies about us and say, It's the truth. You know, well, you can say anything you want and present it as the truth and somebody's gonna believe it. And that's what they hope to do. No matter how ridiculous it sounds.



08:59

I think I have a little bit of a different take it Christmas about Christmas. Every year at this time, I always like to think of it I always like to talk about the things that I'm thankful for. Because, you know, I've got a home and I've got a wonderful life partner and I'm employed and you know, things you could do worse, you know, one of the things that I think gay lesbian people and transgendered people have proven and that is that family can be who you choose it to be. Yep. My my first year after I was divorced, at Christmas was just just truly awful. But I got invited over to some friend's house to spend Christmas Day with them. And it turned out to be not so bad. The family was if if you find family is people Who know who you are, and love you for what you are. Then then then then then gays and lesbians have a lot to teach.



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I learned that about 25 years ago, when, when I found when I was my family divorced me, as a matter of fact, yeah, kick me out, literally. Yeah. And I found people who loved me. Because I was gay. To them, it was an asset.



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Well, it just seems to me that because we're you're talking about the religious groups, it seems to me that at Christmas time, if they read the story, the way it in the Bible. Family was, if you look at that, as you look at the story, there, the three wise men and people were coming in from all over and they were sort of family, you know, they were the family, to the person to to the child in the manger at the time. Yes, he didn't know any of those people. That's exactly right. And it seems to me that gays and lesbians are pretty much along that same category. Gays and lesbians have a lot to teach about family and family values, and about caring and taking care of one another as a community setting. And it just seems, it just seems to me that we have a lot to teach. And there's a lot that we can do. And I think Christian people are Christian, right. I think they're missing the boat here. Or do too. By persecuting us. They're missing all the things that the gay and lesbian community community could communicate to them and show them yes. And that's, that's their loss.



11:54

Unfortunately, I



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think you're right. That's their loss. I was thinking about this, about the way this year has gone, this past year has gone. We've lost some wonderful people. But we've also gained many new friends and many new many new acquaintances. And I guess that's typically the Vegas that's typical of any year you're going to you'll gain some and lose some. And that's kind of the way life is when you



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have a family of choice. People come in and out of your life a



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lot. Yeah,



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it happens because they move away, they die. They get involved in a relationship that doesn't include you anymore. It's part of life, people come and go. And it's it's amazing that that you can surround yourself with with people who love you. And it may change from year to year. But still, they're there for you. Yeah, right now, right now, someone who used to work here at the radio station has been through a divorce. And now is in another state far away from home. In

fact, as far away from home as you can get just about and still be in the United States. And it's going to be alone for this Christmas. I've been in contact with him and it's it's rough for him. But you know, we've all been there. Oh, yeah.



13:15

Oh, yeah. This thing this Thanksgiving was was kind of it was different. Because because we had lost D. Yeah. And we really and we missed it.



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It was very different. Wasn't it was very different. But



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you know, part of it. We had different people here this year. Yeah. And it was it was fine. It was just fine. Because we made new family.



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Yes. And that's it's, it's the rebirth.



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Yeah, we made new family and and I thought about it during the course of the day how how it is that life seems to go like that. And I



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think that's why we're happier in our into our old age. Because when you stick with your blood relatives, you can end up when you're old, not having anybody close to you. But when you have a family of choice, like we've been talking about people coming in and out of your lives, it life and and that happens your entire life.



14:11

Yeah, it happens your entire life. Yeah, I really do think that the Christians, right, the people who are out there who are after us, for whatever reason, they're missing it. Oh, yeah, they're there. They're missing what we have to teach. And it's to their loss. It really is. I hear a lot of gay and lesbian, even transgender people say well, you know, they're persecuting us. Turn that around. Yeah, they're attempting to persecute us but think of what they're missing. And it that that changes the whole perspective on or changes the whole perspective. Anyway, I maybe just all how you look at he turned the class around and all of a sudden, it's what half it's



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things instead of half full, or half



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empty. There you go. Yeah. You got some music you want to



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do let's go to A couple of pieces of music because this is December and I like to play queer Christmas music. And this is the south coast chorale from Florida I believe. And this is a good number for for queer Christmas. It's called coming out for Christmas. Oh, I like and you're hearing it on after hours. Queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and ke O 's college Ah yeah, the late great Syd Spencer. That's a great version of that song, please come home for Christmas. That's on his family ties album of mostly Christmas music. It's really pretty well,



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we were just talking about I was just saying that there really was such thing as a gay sensibility. Yeah, and a gay sense of humor. Maybe there's such a thing as a gay Christmas.



16:02

Well, if you came to my house, you'd think so. For that, we had Venus and V with Rhonda, the lesbo reindeer. And we started that off with of course, the South Coast corral. With coming out for Christmas.



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Nice stuff.



16:20

Nice stuff. I do like it. Well, plenty more where that came from.



16:27

I wanted to take a little time in kind of sum up where I thought the transgender what had happened to the transgender community, both nationally at the state level this year, and even at the local level a little bit. Okay, talk about where how things have changed. There was a

wonderful story, it's actually in this week's edition of the Washington blade in the headline says more gay groups adding transgender to their mission statements. And it's a very wonderful article. I'm not going to sit here and read it, but it talks about how the different gay and lesbian groups have finally gotten yet. Finally, they figured out that you can't really talk about gay lesbian rights without including transgenders. Because, you know what? They're pretty much so intertwined. You can't separate them. Absolutely.



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It's part of the big community. Okay. Yeah. It's, yeah, it's the queer community.



17:21

In this. This is about a three page article. And they talk about transgender civil rights and gay lesbian civil rights, in the article basically says, and you know, really, they are one in the same? Yes. Well, that's pretty big time when the Washington blade, which I think is one of the more conservative of the gay lesbian newspapers, finally comes out and says they get it well, isn't it about time? Well, it is. And that's why I think this has been the breakout year for transgenders across the country. And it's the result of work that was started. I think, really, several years ago, when Karen Karen, Phyllis fry went up to Congress in we're not allowed to sit in and hearing and came back home and got angry. Yeah. And the next thing you knew we had transsexual minutes, and we had, it's time America. And for the first time ever, the various transgender organizations from across the country banded together and put together their own political group called Gender PAC. This has been the breakout year for us. The Gay and Lesbian Task Force has included transgenders in their mission statement, I just got a solicitation the other day for money from them. And they're using the word transgender all over the place. But it's not just the end glTF there are other organizations that are finally getting with it. Lavender law is has come up very strongly in favor of transgenders. I think the best thing that has happened to all of us this year, is the fact that we are finally learning what community is and community is an inclusive nonexclusive word you bet. It's really been this has been a very important year for transgenders, we're going to we've come finally realized that no matter what happens, we're not going to be included in in death. And yet, despite that the transgender community has not run away from the gay lesbian community.



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And I'm glad I'm really glad.



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I think that's the mature thing. Yes. And I also think it's the right thing to do. And that's been important. At the state level, we're seeing the return of its time, Texas. We're we're coming back. We're already drafting pieces of legislation to bring forward our in just the short time after I made the announcement, I started getting emails from people across the state, saying, Hey, I'm glad you're back. What can I do? That's a big change when I left a year ago, a year and a half ago and so that's enough. I've had an burned out Part of the reason that I left is because

I couldn't get any help from anywhere. I had pretty much had to do the whole thing on myself. Now I'm getting letters and phone calls people saying, hey, we want to help. That's another change in another. It's a sign that the transgender community growing up. Yes. sign of maturity. Yeah. They're not expecting others to do it for them. They want to be part of doing it themselves.



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Expect factionalism as you grow. I mean, oh, yeah. It's happened to the to the gay and lesbian community. Oh,



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yeah. Well, there already is. I mean, there already is at the national level, especially, it's one of the reasons that was true from the national level, and don't have any desire to go back.



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It happens. It just happens. Because I liken it to, you know, when you're in a small town, and there's one gay bar, everybody goes to it. Yeah. And you're all one big family. But the bigger the town you go to the more than okay, now we've got men's bars and women's bars, and now we've got leather bars, and we've got cowboy bars, and we've got preppy bars and and then your whole community gets a little fractionalized, and it takes something like a disaster to bring you together.



21:11

Yeah, it's a national level, there already is a lot of fractionalize. And going on, it's one of the reasons that was Drew and said, Look, I don't have time for this. In the national level east for transgenders, it's an ego thing. I don't have time for that. It always is, you know,



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I don't work with anybody in any group.



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A lot. Yeah, it's one of the reasons I got out of the national stuff and said, Look, leave me out of this, when you all go kill each other. In the meantime, I'd rather actually take some legislations that were that mattered, but



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you know, you're, you're in, you're part of a community, you have a community when a disaster strikes, and everybody bands together, or something like an East Parker runs for, for city council, and you everyone bands together, when you see things like that happening, you know, you're a true community.



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I actually think that these passing, oh, probably probably has done more to bring the local community together. Then any event that has happened in a long time,



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I saw that funeral was the most amazing thing ever, because there were people from all walks of life there.



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Were there were a lot of people in this community who knew each other tangentially, but not, not well. And one of the things that's happened since then is well, many of us have gotten to know each other much better. Yes, and have developed new respect for one another. And I think, in its own way, actually, it's been a unifying event in our in the city. And that's good. Mm, that's the wait. That's, that's that's another sign of maturity. Phyllis Frey has essentially decided that she is retiring from many of her national things. The law conference is going to California, Phyllis is going to be participating with this time, Texas, but at a very much reduced level. And that's going to be another change because it means our community now was going to have to grow up and do it on its own. They can't count on Phyllis to be there for every minute of every day. And and you know what? Our community has grown up and say we can do it. Yeah. And that's another good sign. One of the big one of the best things that I think has happened to us this year is that this show has become a community program. Yes, it's one of the very best things that's happened here.



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And I'm very proud of that. Yeah,



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I am, too. There was a time when it seemed like we were doing this show in a vacuum. And as sometimes left here wondering who we broadcasting to exactly.



23:45

And you know, and over, over the last couple of years, we've been hearing from straight people who say, Wow, that was really good. And for gay and lesbian people saying, you know, I really

didn't understand, but I get it now.



23:59

Yeah. Yeah. It's been very gratifying to me from



24:02

tonight, when we when everybody was talking about Christmas and coming, you know, and how and what it's like with the family and how difficult it is coming out. The people that called in and said, Yeah, back I mean, yeah, we understand we understand they were gay and lesbian. There you go. It wasn't the transgendered that will call right.



24:22

You know, and I have to tell you, sir, when when I first started having you on three years ago, the calls I was getting was I thought this was a game that's being shared. Why do you have those damn transgenders on? Why do you have those damn bisexuals on



24:37

Oh, I knew that because I was hearing him in while we were here while I was here. I was hearing that and I knew that, but I figured I'll just stick with this.



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It's a queer community. Yeah. It's a community show. It's not a gay and lesbian show anymore.



24:51

No, no and but, but I'm really been very pleased. Last few shows we've had panels that have come in and talked about different things. Yeah. And that's been one of the best things that happened, actually for this program, I think. Because it gets other viewpoints. Well, yeah, it's one of the it's funny when I first started the show with this program, one of my concerns was that people would think that mine was like the voice of God. And what I said it was what the whole community believed in, I always knew that wasn't true. But no one else was coming out and saying that now. We're doing shows and we're getting, we're getting community involvement. Now, I think it's one of the best things that's happened to this program. And I really did. I've been real pleased with that. I'm pleased we're still here for another year. You know, this program is for a small station, and a small program, we've really had a lot of influence. And it's really been very interesting and gratifying this to have this year to have people come up to me and say, I started my transition, because it's something you said, isn't that great? Or, you know, my transition was going poorly. And I listened to the show this this second such a show that you you did, and I turned it around.



26:03

And that's been, I think it was the last month on the hat show. They mentioned that they had two new members, because Because folks out there, teenagers had heard hatch on the air. And that led them to make the call.



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Dr. Cole told me that he's had to he's learned he's had to either listen to her tape or program now. Because things that we say on the air are turning up in somebody's his sessions. Which is, which is interesting, but it's a sign that that people are in fact listening. Yeah. And it's, I know, even in my sessions with him, he's question for you. Did you say such and such? Because you said hell yes. Yeah. Which is, which is kind of funny, you know. But But I'm glad because it means people are out there listening, and they're paying attention, and they're getting it and we're doing some good. And that's good stuff. We've had letters from transgenders in prisons, this in the prison. Yeah. So we know that our get we're getting out through prison walls. Um, all in all, I think this is probably been one of the most productive overall productive years for transgenders at the National. And even at the state and local level. We've seen a mat, a maturity, a maturation process this year, like nothing I have ever seen. I was talking to Nancy Bure Meyer from the Human Rights Campaign. And pass this along Nancy Bureau, your Martos said that she has never seen a community developed so fast is ours has in the what we have accomplished in the last three, four or five years. And I've Oh, and my response to her was, we've been here but we never had a reason to grow up. And last few years we've had we've learned if we didn't speak up for ourselves, no one else would. You got it in? I think that's a very wonderful thing that's happened to us. I really do. Well, we got some nice Christmas music.



28:06

In the background. Yeah. In the background, we've got a new light. Christmas by Richard odd. He conducts the east pacific symphony, which is Richard odd doing electronic music.



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Oh, interesting.



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But he does very, very nice music he does. I've got another album that I that I use music underneath some poetry that we play.



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I gotta tell you, I had somebody call me recently wanting to know what the sign off to our show means. Okay, and the sign off for the show says when decorum becomes repression the only

means. Okay, and the sign on for the show says when decorum becomes repression, the only dignity free people have is to speak out. And they want it to know what does that mean? Let me rephrase it. When good behavior is misunderstood and is allowed to become a put down of you. The only day the only dignity you have as human being is to fight back. You got it. Okay. That I mean that that's retranslation of it. That's pretty good, you know, but that's, that's what it means. So for those of you who have heard, are heard or sign off and say, What the hell does that mean? Now, you know, the quote is from Abbie Hoffman is from Abby Hoff and one of my great heroes. I was with Abbie Hoffman in Washington, DC. We tried to levitate the Pentagon and I was with him and several other demonstrations and he's one of my great heroes, as one is a living example. He was proved to me that one person could make a difference.



29:38

Well, Sara, have a wonderful Christmas.



29:41

Thank you. You too. Happy holidays to everybody out there, no matter how it is that you celebrate it. Whether you're alone, or whether you are with family of choice or with relatives, whatever the case may be. Stay safe.



29:53

Yes. You've been listening to after hours right here on KPFT, Houston and ke O 's College Station coming up at the top of the hour will be the return of the sons of musical chairs with Billy Gilbert, Randy and Elmo and right now I leave you to the last 30 seconds. Richard on. See you next week.