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00:01

Read each other as people not as sex, sex objects, yes. And decided that their relationships and the friendship and love that they felt for one another and life that they have for one another will survive it no matter what. But for most people, this is this is a key time. This is a time often when people begin think about committing suicide. Yes, the battle is raging, what do I do? I've got these incredibly strong feelings in oh my god, I start to feel like I'm losing my mind. And so I really debated long and hard about which pieces of music to use for this. Because this is a a, a key time for a transgendered person. And I finally settled on Jeff crasner. Out of all the songs that we've played on this show over the years, I mean, this one's my favorite. And he is gay. Yes, he is. He is gay and quite proud of it. I Sentinel and Jeff crasner is how long do I have to be strong? And then a piece of rock and roll that I know you've heard in commercial radio, and you've probably never thought about the song in these terms. But this is Arios be wagons can't fight the feeling Ah, now think about this in terms of your war with yourself. What am I going to do? I've got these feelings What do I do with all these? Will my spouse leave me what about my kids? Is it going to cost me my job? You get the picture this this is all out war in lots of people don't survive it. So with that in mind would go to two pieces of music, the Jeff crasner in REO Speedwagon.



01:41

Listener sponsored Houston's 90.1 KPFT, the sound of Texas of Pacifica network station KPFT. Houston, KOLs. College Station. And



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we are back. Yes, we are.



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We were just having the interesting discussion in here. We received a a call.



02:00



02:03

Well, we've received quite a few calls. Yeah, well,



02:05

yeah, this one in particular from a listener, who apparently doesn't like well, I don't know what we don't we were trying to figure out exactly what this person meant. But he said, this type of gay programming is unacceptable. Now, I don't know what that means. Yeah, I don't know what it means either. I find that kind of interesting.



02:27

I mean, normally, I play all gay music. And so we're not doing that because we're playing music that means something to you, during the different stages that you've been through throughout your life.



02:38

You know, since the day that I first started on the air, one of the things that has been consistent is that we can almost always count on at least one or perhaps more callers per show, calling to complain saying what's that god damn transsexual do and on the air. I know those damn people. They're not gay. They're not lesbian. They're just troublemakers. And, and I don't know, whether that's what the what this color meant. Or whether they're objecting to the music tonight, because it's not not really queer music, or if they object to the fact that we're so incredibly out and refer to ourselves as queers. And yeah, and we've always used the term queer on this show, because we thought it was more inclusive.



03:23

Yes, because we can say gay lesbian, bisexual, transgender, but you know, somebody's going to be left out.



03:28

Well, yeah. And in



03:32

because somebody is not of the above and, and but they're still queer.



03:36

You know, what's,



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what's interesting to me. And the fact is, this is not a gay show. This is a queer show. This is



03:42

a queer show. If this if the caller is objecting because of the fact that this you know, this is the transgendered portion of the show. First of all, you're five years too late. Yeah. That's, it's not like this is a new show here. But interesting, you know, it's interesting to me, because so much has happened here in Houston last few months, transgenders have finally been accepted into the Gay Lesbian Political Caucus, and written into the mission statement. And we've been written into the mission statement of the Chamber of Commerce. The Gay Lesbian taskforce became transgender inclusive, I guess a year and a half ago now least, I'm the only group organization that isn't is the Human Rights Campaign. And you all have heard me harp on them for five years, so I'm not going there. But it's, it's I saw, I'm not quite sure what the column means when he says this type of gay Probert gramming is unexcited.



04:39

Now if he's if he's referring to the music, because I make it a point to focus my music on gay, lesbian, bisexual queer artists. I think it's important for people to know and recognize queer artists and to give queer artists airtime because they're not getting it very But hardly anywhere else unless you were Elton John or Melissa Etheridge. That's right. But we have all grown up with music and music has meant a lot to us throughout our lives. And we've got to, I've got to face the fact that, that a lot of music that means something to us is not necessarily gay and lesbian music.



05:23

I mean,



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I've got a lot there's, there's a couple on your list that are kind of my favorites and Mark kind of graduation in life for me.



05:34

You know, I've got a friend who's he likes to say that life exists outside of Montrose. And that is, what he what he means is that there's more to life than just gay or lesbian or bisexual or transgender. Yeah, you know, there's art, there's, there's, I mean, there's life, just life generally. And I'm using that we're playing tonight comes from life. In the generic sense, new life generally you bet. In this show, you're right with Wipfli. To to all kinds of music on this

program over the years, lord knows 99% of which has been queer music. It just happens that the one night this purse this collar is called, we're not doing that. We're not doing it. Okay. Sorry. So in for those of you who just tuned in, you're wondering, What the heck are we talking about? I guess we got to introduce ourselves,



06:24

Jeremy Carper, and I produced this show. And Sarah dipalma Is my co host. He's been here for five years on the second Saturday of every month doing a show about transgenders.



06:38

And this is KPFT radio 90.1 FM in Houston. And we've been doing this kind of a show now for this is the fifth year anniversary. And we're doing tonight I read the transgendered portions right in the 12 year anniversary for this show. 12 years for the show. And so this is a unique show tonight, we're doing a celebration. And and a little education both tonight.



07:01

And for that listener, that what it means is that this marks, the last full show that Sara is going to do the transgender shows in the future will only cover half the first half of the show. And I'm going to as a matter of fact, I haven't said it before tonight, but Francisco Sanchez is going to be here next month to talk about Office. And I want to take that second half of the show and devote it to the latin community.



07:31

It's interesting, I don't know if you realize it, but this month is Latin Heritage Month, is it if and so that timing is just perfect. All right. Um, but for listener, bear with it. This is this is a different kind of show that we're doing tonight. And hanging around and maybe you learn something or



07:51

learn something next week, you'll have a dike here and the week after that. Peters here with lots of jokes and carrying on and, and and all that stuff and news in between and all of that.



08:01

Yeah, I've had a lot of people in the transgender community asked me why I'm why I asked us to back off of this. And I guess this is good a place as any to talk about that for a second. I guess for those of you who are in your late 40s, you will understand what I'm talking about, because I'm told this is sort of a life passage at this stage. But my dad passed away a few months ago. And I have been kind of undergoing a, how can I put this, I'm looking for ways to simplify my life, basically. And I'm also looking for some ways to get back to some basics that

are important to me. And one of those is spending more time with my lovely lorry. And in spending more time with the reprioritized my life, I guess that's the easiest way to put it back out of some of the political activities that I had been in in the past. That's not to say I'm leaving politics, by the way. I'm still running the statewide transgender organization. But I'm no longer doing local politics, state politics and national politics. Yeah, I narrowed it down to one theme, one area that I feel particularly comfortable with, and that I completely understand. And I'm concentrating in that one area, instead of attempting to be a national leader in the state leader and a local leader all at once. Frankly, I don't need to do all that anymore. There are plenty of competent people. It doesn't need to be a one person show. And part of growing up was for me to realize that.



09:21

Wow. Wow. Okay.



09:24

You know, just quite a statement.



09:25

It really is when I don't mean anything bad about it towards you. No, no, but I know that for a very long time. You had the feeling that you had to do all of this because nobody else would.



09:36

Well actually it wasn't just a feeling it was the truth. Honestly, there was a period there were Phyllis began backing out of things, and no one moved in to pick it up. And I there was Dima Keller. Pretty much D and I pretty much held the fort for about three and a half or four years. Yeah. And it's been about the last year year and a half that all of a sudden sends Vanessa actually since Vanessa Edwards to became the president of tats, the tats really began becoming more politically focused. And



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a lot of that happened to with Katrina rose Katrina doing her writings in the gay press. And that kind of brought things to, you know, kind of put, put some focus on it for a lot of people,



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which reminds me of Katrina, I talked to you I've talked to Katrina rose about three times in the last week, because there's a court case going on that she's involved with, and I'm not going to go into that tonight. But Katrina says she says that she really misses the show. She's living in a little place in Minnesota called Albert Lee. And I had to go and dig up a map to see if I could find

it. And it is apparently a wide spot in the road. And as you she is clerking for a judge up there as what she's doing. But she this place is near the border of Iowa. And she explains it to me, it's basically the middle of nowhere surrounded by farmland. They do not even have cable where she's at. Ouch. And so she was telling me that they spend a lot of their time listening to right wing, you know, Focus on the Family and these groups coming out of the religious bases of Iowa. Oh, joy. So for those of you who, who, as far as I was just thinking about that, for this caller, who says this kind of gate, this kind of a program is unacceptable. Move to Albert Lee, Minnesota, and you will learn to appreciate this stuff. You know, I mean, there's a lot to be said for being in Houston. Oh, yes. He has a lot to be said, you



11:42

have two gay programs in this town, which we are blessed. We have this one and lesbian and gay voices, which now will be heard Monday nights at eight o'clock instead of Friday. This is



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just about the most inclusive program you're ever going to come across. Yeah, I mean,



11:59

that's not want it to be. And I mean, I make plans to do that and make weight and open up doors, that I think that's the way to do it.



12:09

If there's a section of the community we're missing here, I'm not sure what that is



12:12

it, I don't know it, and they haven't come forth. And when they do, they'll get a spot.



12:19

I'm really looking forward to getting Monica Roberts on the year. You bet. And because I want to my concerns, when we first started the show is that people would begin to think that this was the Sarah show, and that my views represented all transgenders. And I'll be the first to tell you that ain't true at all. Believe me, go go to Assam go to a local or national convention and listen to the diversity of views. And you find out that mine is one voice among hundreds in their lives, lots of difference of opinion in that. But I'm looking forward to getting Monica on for example, because we're finally get a transgendered person of color on the air. Yeah, I would love to have found one of the guys that would if they would have been willing to do the shell, but I couldn't find any way to do it.



13:01

Yeah, they may want to kind of guest for every now and then. Well, yeah, they may come on as guests because we've had wonderful panel discussions with the man. Yes, we have



13:11

went in and you know, we've been very lucky to get the guys on because is you know, there is rare as hen's teeth, at least publicly. Yes. That yes, they do exist, but the female to male people are really hard to get on the air. They are. I'll never forget having Shane, who I was, I think was the first FTM that we had on the show very first one, his explanation of being transgender of trying to live straight or not show that you being transgendered is living in a Halloween costume you



13:40

could never get out of yeah, that that really hammered it home to me. Yeah,



13:44

that was the best explanation I think we ever had on the show Saturday. Anyway, let's get back to the theme of the program. Okay, I just thought it needs it. We answered that thing from the caller. Where it's talking about earlier about how the battle rages in that brings us to the next subject in the in the, I guess in the progress or the stage here. And that is therapy. Now then this becomes an interesting issue. In Houston as to the best of my knowledge, we only have three people that are qualified therapists your kids do with the transgendered issue even today. Oh, I didn't know that. That's all we had when we started the show five years ago, and as far as I know, that's still true. You can go to a therapist, any therapist. The problem is if you go to a therapist that has no clue what transgenders are about, you could end up in much worse shape than when you start. Oh, yeah. And one of the one of my favorite shows that we did was show the show that we taped in Galveston at the Rosenberg clinic, and we did an entire show of nothing but transsexuals talking about their lives and what their lives were like. If you missed that show, that was I always thought was one of the high shows for us. Unlike the Jerry's Bring your show or some of these other programs to here was an opportunity for the for for transsexuals to actually talk about their lives the way it really is. And and it was just a wonderful,



15:11

very, very ordinary women and women living their lives.



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These were people and who had managed to to fight their way through and come out the other side. They had successful careers, they hit families

side. They had successful careers, they had families,



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you know, not prostitutes.



15:27

Yeah. And you know, it's funny, Jamie. And for all these years, I still get that question, war and transgendered people just prostitutes, while the unemployed ones are the ones who are suffering from employment discrimination are the ones you see on Jerry Springer. Well, of course, they don't let regular people on Jerry Springer. They don't want regular people on there. So therapy is a real issue. Now, we're fairly lucky in that the Montrose clinic does have some folks who are qualified to handle transgendered issues, but they are they cannot write prescriptions for hormones. Oh, oh, that's not good. Well, for that matter, Dr. Cole couldn't either but he has a psychiatrist on staff who can do that. Now for those who if you end up going to what say, for example, the Montrose clinic, they will probably refer you to a doctor who might be able to write the hormones for you. But even with that therapy is a big issue. And I would encourage anybody if they're ever considering going into therapy, if, if their battle has been raging and they decide they want to bring it to an end, be very, very careful about the choice of a therapist. They can do you a lot more harm than good. Especially if you end up with one of these people, these so called Christian therapists, do not walk, run, get the hell out of there. You know, the people who are going to cure you ex gay movement, you know, yeah, if there's an ex gay, I know it please. Name a different subject. I just I bring that up. Because the other day I saw they had one of the new shows I was watching had this guy on from Exodus, you know, and he was talking about their success and bringing people out of the bondage of guilt of homosexuality. Well in first of all, as a person since s&m I like the bondage so that was the wrong thing to say. Go girl, lost me right out of the chute. in abundance you homosexuality, you know, most key people I know have pretty much come to terms with it, or on the way to coming to terms with it. You bet in I listen to this guy, and I thought I know who's mentally ill. But it isn't does it's this clown. You're right. And anyway,



17:53

I always say yeah, there's, there's a lot of people who think they have changed their sex and actually, when you'll get right down to it, they are repressed bisexual, who, you know, they they've just been forced to only go with opposite sex members.



18:17

I'm looking forward I Vanessa Edwards and I will be speaking at its bisexual conference next month. And I'm really looking forward to that Gigi recruited me and I said yes, I'll do it. And I'm really looking forward to that. I've often thought that most transgendered people if they were honest about it would tell you the truthfully they really are bisexual. In you know, not to confuse the issue here because being transgender, gender identity and sexual orientation are two different things



18:47

entirely different two very different subjects are not even in the same ballpark.



18:51

But I've often thought that most transgender people really are



18:56

more on the bisexual bisexual side at least the fluid sexuality you know, where do you get to? Well because your your your holes, you're thinking about gender and whole different ways and so you end up falling in love with a person and then you work out the plumbing later.



19:13

You know, I'm a prime example that I'm a person that had a male lover for seven years Yeah. Now been together with Laurie for seven years Laurie? For seven years, Sal and in between managed to change my knee I you know, I it's funny. I don't like to say that I changed genders. I think what I did is I finally became the real gender to religion, I confirmed what should have been in the place the first place There you go. Now it's a different way of looking at it. In any case, I wanted to go to this next section in this is about two songs having to do with therapy. And the first one is kind of tongue in cheek. It may be how can put his too obvious, but I couldn't resist. I had a good laugh doing this one. So I went ahead and did it. And then I think The second song you'll probably recognize is Stevie Ray Vaughn wall of denial. And but let's do this first one in the hope you'll have some fun with this. This is the Beatles help



20:19

Whoa, baby. I am Stevie Ray Vaughn. You don't wall of denial comes tumbling down. Whoa. That was wonderful. Well, two songs, two songs about therapy, one sort of tongue in cheek and the other just to make sure you stayed awake.



20:41

A couple of words about music. We had someone who called in and wanted something by Judas Priest, right? Because of Bob Helford. Well, Bob Helford has his new his own group now called Two, T wo two. And I have that CD at home. I'll bring it next week and play something off with it. He's not with Judas Priest anymore. They replaced him. And sweet mama cotton called in and she is starting a new gig on Friday and Saturday nights in Galveston at the Hollywood hotel, which is really really cool. That's the gay guest house. And and sweet mama cotton. Boy, can she saying? Yes She Can.



21:24

Sweet mama cotton is one of those people who's been seems to be around for years and years and years. And she's not that old. And the longer she's around, the better she gets.



21:34

Yes, yes. She played for a long time at the briar patch. And she'll do that again. But for you folks in Galveston, run over to that the Hollywood hotel and see her.



21:45

Yep, yep, yep. Yep. Well, it's funny that we were just we were just talking in studio, we're talking about being from New York. And I was saying That's right. I've passed a milestone. I have now lived in Texas longer than I've lived and lived in Connecticut. Wow.



22:01

Yeah. I remember when that happened to me too, because I came here a long time ago. And I've lived much more my life here than anywhere else. I've lived a whole life here. No, I moved here in 1966. I was 18 years old. And you know, that's been quite a while that's been over 30 years. And so life up there is just kind of vague to me. This is home.



22:30

I moved. I moved to Texas. Yeah, I moved to Texas in 77. I was working for JC Penney and as you know the 70s with boom times here in Texas,



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they were yes and we you know we just got tired of all you northerners coming down here Yeah. Oh,



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you know, Jimmy I moved here and there they were bumper stickers that said things like Welcome to Texas now go home. In another one was freezing Yankee in the dark shut off their electricity.



23:02

That's right. Yeah. Yeah, it was an incredible time because people were pouring into this down hundreds per day. We're coming into this town from the North.



23:13

You know the difference between a Yankee and a damn Yankee what a Yankee comes in visits, a damn Yankee comes and stays. It's the I got to hear all those things. Because when they went when I moved, I moved from a suburb of Hartford, which is a very large city, to Bryan, Texas. Oh, and with the JC Penney, and Brian was still located in their old downtown area, had a wooden staircase that went from the ground floor to their second floor out. You talk about culture shock? Yeah, no kidding. You know, I was was I was living within 75 miles in New York City, and moved to Brian. I was not prepared.



23:56

I bet your life a lot of your life changed. You were probably one because your your family is in Connecticut, right? Yeah. And so you were kind of one way up there. And I bet you changed a lot. Once you came down here.



24:13

I didn't start growing up until I moved away from my family really. But I was a married married person with the two year old child in trying real hard to find out a find a way to survive and frankly, was doing a terrible job of it. And it really wasn't until I came to terms with my gender issues, that life began to turn around for me. It's really hard to have anything, a career, a family, anything if you're a war with yourself. You bet. I mean, that's just me. If you're at war with yourself and you don't much like yourself, it shows and honestly the best thing that ever happened to me, was finally saying that's it. I've got to do this. I have to make this decision or I'd rather be dead. You know, that's all there is to it. And that's kind of what this next segment is about. This this next two pieces of music there are I call them, Virtus, the decision. Oops, the big decision decision, the big decision. That's it, I'm going to start my transition process.



25:22

How many times did you start and stop and go back? And, you know, I'm



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one of those people that purged my wardrobe burn my wardrobe several times,



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I hear this from, from so many people that, that they all did this, you know, it got to be kind of pricey, because, you know, they'd go out and, and get the clothes and really feel good, you know, and then all of a sudden the guilt feelings from whatever crap they were brought up

with, seeped in, and they went and purged and burned everything. And I'm never going to do this again. And I



26:00

lost track of how many times I said, I'll never do this anymore. You know, and my wife came home and asked to cut me in her clothes after I promised her I wasn't going to do that. And, you know, you know, repression can kill you. Well, you know, you're talking to somebody to attempted suicide twice. Yeah. Phil, even Phyllis fries, strong she is, is got the scars on her wrist to show. It happens. If you come to a point where you say, Okay, that's it, I have to make a decision here am I going to transition. And that's what these next two pieces are about. And let me tell you, I intentionally chose two pieces of music, they're a little more quiet. And that's because for most people, that decision transition, sort of sneaks up on them, really, it's not something where you wake up one morning and say, That's it, I'm gonna take all my clothes, I'm gonna throw everything out the door, I'm going to transition and I'm going to do it right. As of today, it tends to be more of something that can accumulates and one day you what you end up saying to yourself is, I don't want to exist here. I've got to make the decision. I've got to decide what to do. And that battle may go on for several months, until you finally reach the point of saying that's it for me, sink or swim. And that's exactly what I did. I took all of my male clothes, pack them up, took them to the Salvation Army, came back home and realized, great, I have three blouses, two skirts and a pair of heels. I'm going to transition in this



27:27

oops. Well, you know, all of this the way you've described, it is very similar to a coming out process.



27:34

Oh, very. Yeah. Except that you hear you're coming out to yourself. And of course, if you're if you're a married person, now you've got all these other issues. If you're not a married person, you start wondering what happens now with my job. And they know there's a whole host of issues that start to come up now. It might get a transition on the job. How How will I do that? Yeah. Am I going to live full time for how am I going to do that? How am I going to support myself? That's, I mean, they just huge issues, huge issues. And then the two pieces of music that we've got for this one was selected by Jessica Redman. And this is Mariah Carey doing the hero, which I just love. I think it's a great piece of music songs. And another piece that will probably be new to most folks. This is from a CD that hasn't been released yet. I received it at the house heard it and immediately said, this song is going to get on the air somehow. Wow. This is by Mary Chapin Carpenter, and it's called Why walk when you can fly? Yes. And if there's anything I think I've tried to convey in the five years that we've been on the year, that's the one Why walk on you can fly. Why be in your prison when you can walk away and do and have your life? Yes. Never said it was gonna be easy. I just said if you found the courage, you could do it. You can do it. And these two pieces of music, I think really epitomize that. So Mariah Carey and Mary Chapin Carpenter.