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SPEAKERS

Michelle Meyers, Sarah DePalma



00:01

Okay, very, very, I thought were just terrific stuff. Gender roles. She says, Oh, those are the roles.



00:08

I hate that this is the part I really well, they



00:11

don't make any sense. These are the role, the rules, the stereotypes that govern how people are supposed to act based on your apparent genitalia or birth. And I point this out because this pretty sick, we put you in the same camp with Martine Rothblatt. And yet, when I talk to Cheryl Chase, and you'll hear review later, she disagrees with some of that. Well, let's, let's



00:33

say that again,



00:34

okay. She says, the gender role, those are the rules, the stereotype that govern how people are supposed to act, based on their apparent genitalia at birth.



00:46

And don't leave it at that because when you're a gay man society expects you to act a certain

and don't leave it at that, because when you're a gay man, society expects you to act a certain way, kind of nally and flamboyant. That's right. They don't expect a gay man to be interested in sports and watch



00:59

football. Is that belief you pointed out? If you're a guy, that's a gender role,



01:05

say, you know,



01:07

she's repeated several times in the book if you're an elite guy, that's a general, right. If you know if you are the theory of to others in karyotype.



01:15

When you think of lesbians society thinks about, this is a very butch woman. Not necessarily



01:22

lesbians go with picking up trash, right? Yeah,



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flannel, flannel shirts. Well, and ain't right. No, no, no, no. And then going even further, what does it mean to be a man period?



01:37

Well, as Keith Bornstein says, If you could define men or women, maybe I could answer that question radically. Exactly. Yeah. Yeah. Which I thought was very interesting. She says,



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we all have our books, sides, and we all have our femme sides,



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gender roles, she says, those are the character roles we're forced to play in the game of life, whether we like the game or not.



02:00

And I'll bet 90% of us don't like the game, for one reason or another. You know, the



02:06

funny thing about all about gender and



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90% of all people, straight, gay, whatever,



02:15

letting go of these gender roles would free us so much. It we would be so free. You wonder what are people afraid of with us? Are they really afraid to be free? Is that the bottom line here? Makes me sort of wonder, I suppose you could eventually behave as you want to behave? As long as you did No, no harm to anyone else. It was okay. Wow, what? Whoa. So why are we being formed? It's a little hard for me to understand. He says in boys. Gender, is the masculine behavior, as well as the feminine behaviors with boys does what it says we're talking about. She says gender exists for each and every human being somewhere on the continuum between warrior and caregiver. For each and every human being. Some people are born with indoor plumbing with female genitalia, and some are born with outdoor plumbing. With love. Every person exists along the continuum between those extremes, some where she says but gender is never, never, never the polite, or the politically correct word, or a substitute word for SAP, gender, and sex are different. Yes. You know, and these are the definitions that he distributed to legislators in Colorado. And I thought pretty good. If they understand that there may be bliss time, Texas, we use this, this is good stuff. He says, in society, sex, the noun, those are the rules that cause problems in the interaction between other people. And I agree with that. And she goes on and she talks about a whole lot of other things, various issues, gender variant definitions of masculine, but I wanted to bring this up because a little bit we're gonna be going through the interview with Cheryl Chase, and we're gonna be talking about pathway for you tonight. I wanted to make sure the audience was on the same page because we start talking about gender, and, and transgender in sex. Because I think on this show, I'm, I am fairly guilty of tossing those terms around on the assumption that everyone knows what I'm talking about. Forgetting that what I mean by gender and what the rest of the world means by it is not anywhere near close, especially if



04:46

somebody just tunes in. Whoa, what's going on here?



04:49

I got an interesting story about that. Yeah, I got an email the other day from somebody who said that they tune into our show for the first time and they were driving up. They were driving up the Gulf freeway and and they said that for a long time, they had no idea who the hell we were. It was nothing like that ever



05:04

heard before. I know. And you know, it's not in radio, well, regular radio every five or 10 minutes people are, the announcers are telling you who they are.



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It's sunny 99.10. And,



05:17

you know, and it's Jimmy Carper. And yeah. I think most people who listen to this show, listen to this show, the whole show.



05:29

You know, I'm hearing if that's the case, yeah,



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I know, I say at the beginning. But we really do need to identify a little bit more often. I think we do I get you get involved in what we're talking about. Because we get, we want to talk about something on a deeper level. And when you're doing that you get think about announcing who you are



05:51

and stuff like that. So I showed you and I had discussion, we were talking I was talking about the difficult part of being in politics and what a dirty business it is. And it's a thankless job. And this person wrote back and said, they sat there in the garage listening, just to find out what's the two we'll run through? They can tune in Yeah.



06:12

Oh, yeah, that's right. And I'll be saying that in just a



06:16

minute. And I thought, Well, okay, a first of all, I want to thank you. I'm glad that you found the show. Interesting. Yes, we really did it more often. So if you're tuning into this for the first time you have some clue who the heck we are.



06:32

And we are after hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM, and ke O 's, College Station, 89.1 FM, and I want to put something in your ear. Very quickly. We'll be right back.



06:54

Join KPFT at the chase row music stage for an exciting Afro pop and Caribbean music. April 17 through the 26th. Here Ricky Jai from Trinidad, Burning Spear from Jamaica, Baja mall from Senegal and more tickets available at all bank united and Supercuts locations. Tickets are also available online@sidewalk.com So join KPFT at the chase row music stage, April 17 through April 26.



07:33

We're back to Georgia in our department okay, I'm guilty again got



07:41

and you can give us a call at 5265738 and that's seven. It's 526



07:47

K PFT is great is breakout like say if you can spell better than you can count. We're about to go through an interview with Cheryl Chase. And before we do I want to read a little bit from Pat Cleef. He is book talking about Cheryl changed, because I think this will help you to understand what the interview is about. This is Pat Khalifa now talking she says one, she said at the age of 21. Cheryl face asked her doctor to help her obtain her medical records pertaining to a hospitalization that occurred and she was a year and a half old. The records showed diagnosis true hermaphrodite operation. flitter ectomy. Cheryl Chase has been assigned a male gender at birth and named Charlie when they thought she was a boy chases patient cases. Parents were deeply ashamed of her small penis. But when the doctors decided the child was a daughter, suddenly the small penis became monstrously large clitoris, which of course had to be removed. chases parents followed every dictate the psychologist had given them. They changed her name, burned old baby pictures, got rid of all the baby blue clothes, and consistently began to treat her as and speak of her as a girl and only a girl. According to the

psychologist, this shouldn't have resulted in a feminine little girl growing up to be a heterosexual married woman who could adopt children. Well, surprise cases adult gender orientations not perfect. She identifies as a lesbian. Chase is understandably outraged about the fact that functional genitals were removed from her body without her consent. Today she is unable to have an orgasm. He is also angry about the inability about almost everyone to accept the existence of intersex people and support her attempts to get doctors and parents to stop authorizing the mutilation of your quote, different children's genitals. He asks what our genitals for. It is my position that my genitals are for my pleasure and insect repressive culture with a heavy investment in the fiction of sexual dichotomy. Infants genitals are for discriminating male from female infants. It is very hard to get parents or physicians to everything that their infant will be an adult sexual child. I resent this being done to me. And with that, I bring you case. regular listeners of after hours have heard us make a discussion about issues involving intersex people. We've talked about Pat Kilifi, his book. In it some length, we have discussed some of the issues that Pat Khalifa has brought up surrounding gender in gender issues. We've had Kate Bornstein on the program. And so I am very honored to have Cheryl chase with us. Cheryl is the director of the intersex Society of North America. Cheryl, welcome to after hours.



11:13

I'm pleased to be on with you.



11:15

Thank you. I always like to start out with very basic kinds of things so we can bring the audience up to speed. For those who are not familiar with this issue, explain what intersex is.



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Intersex refers to people who are born with sexual anatomy that doesn't meet cultural expectations of what girls look like and boys look like. So oftentimes, that means that a child is pretty much a girl with a large clitoris, or a boy with a small penis, or a penis that doesn't see at the end. But it can also mean bigger differences, like the genitals might look something in between male and female. But it's hard to say whether it is a very small penis or very large clitoris. What doesn't happen is that people are not born with two separate genitals.



12:09

So they're born with genitals that have an abnormal appearance, I guess for lack of a better description,



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we like to say unusual or atypical. Okay.



12:19

Now what happens then they're born with with genitalia, and it doesn't fit this societal norm. So what happens next is that doctors go to the parents or, or how is that get handled now?



12:31

Well, since the late 50s, it's been medical policy to say that having a child with an unusual genitalia is just simply unacceptable and that parents could not accept or love as a child. And that in order for the parents to take the child home, the child has to be made to quote normal as fast as possible. And doctors treat this as a psychiatric emergency. And of course, the psychiatric emergencies on the part of doctors and parents, the child is not in any distress. And they actually compound the parents distress significantly, the parents are likely to be upset when their child is born with something unusual, but then the doctors by making it into an emergency really compound their confusion. And essentially, they say that every child has to have, quote, normal looking genitals. And in order for for that to happen, they're going to perform surgery. The other policy that they have, they claim that they can make any child into any sense, but that they're not able to surgically create a convincing penis. So they create they turn almost all the children with ambiguous genitals that they meet into girls and they remove their clitoris.



13:56

Okay, now women, they can turn any child into any sex. That's the claim. That's the claim in so so so basically, they they choose the sex this person is going to be



14:11

they tell the parents that, in fact, they use scientific techniques to discover the child's true sense. But when they speak to each other, they make it clear that they're choosing effects based on surgical convenience.



14:28

They can choose the child's true sex. Now there must be a million transsexuals all over the country who are living proof that's a bunch of nonsense. True, I don't understand it. Okay, so All right. So I'm trying to get make sure they get to understand this so the child is born with with mixed genitalia or, or a genitalia that doesn't present in the usual fashion. And the doctors go to the parents say we're going to turn this child into a girl.



14:56

And they don't say it that way. Because then the parents would say what are you crazy? Yeah. To tell the parents, okay, this is basically a disaster. And if we leave your child like this, they will never have a happy life. And no one will love them and all the children will tease them. And

for instance, if you raise this child with a small penis, as a boy, he won't be able to pee standing up, and everybody will tease him and I'll commit suicide. So your child isn't really a boy, your child is really a girl. And we just need to do a little bit of minor plastic surgery to make the genitals look more normal. And your child will grow up to be a normal, heterosexual female, actually functional and it's probably entirely felt like surgery.

 15:44

Wow. That is very open transsexual that whole concept is blows my mind.

 15:51

Not only that, they also tell the parents that they didn't really tell anybody this and they they teach the parents how to lie to their family and to their friends about what's going on with the baby.

 16:02

There's I understand a lot of this theory comes from research done by John Money, is that right? Yeah. In in his theory, his theory was, as I understand it, that abnormal genitalia, regardless of what it was, was so disastrous, that it just required absolute immediate attention. In his I understand, I read through some of his research, he's basically talent doing, as you just described, he's telling parents, not only do you lie, but you lied to the child attempt to convince the child even even Safar is doing away with them with baby pictures that conflict, is that basically

 16:43

right? That's true. But I think I'd like to point out that there's a since since the intervention has become controversial in the past two years, there's a lot of momentum to blame John Money for everything. And although I think John Money bears a lot of responsibility for how much harm has been done, to intersex children and their families in the past 40 years. It's not all his fault, he could not have feared the entire culture and direction it didn't want to go. Somebody told me that they think that John Mooney is sort of like a man who stands next to a huge river and yells, flow downhill replication for doing these intervention, but it was a very popular agenda.

 17:34

Now, let me ask them, What harm would there would there be to allowing the child to become 4567 years old, and allowing the child to develop according to his or her own gender before any operation is taken or any operation takes place?

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Well, not to say that we actually say this, they say that you can't have that every time somebody changes the diapers, it goes, Oh my god. So they're really worried about the parents being upset when they look at the child's genital. And in fact, the parents are going to be upset. And that's why we advise parents should have professional mental health support and peer counseling.



18:14

But there is there's actually no physical harm to it. This is this is gender. It's gender phobia.



18:20

Yeah, either completely medically unnecessary surgery. I also like to clarify that when the intersex movement are not advocating that children not be labeled with effects, we think children should be labeled. Boy or girl, I think it would be very difficult. You know, for instance, transsexual don't know that. It causes friction in it, and it's a personal battle to, to go against sex and gender norms. And as an adult, one can choose to fight those battles, and when and where one wants to choose to fight them. But I don't think as caretakers of infants we have the right to impose that fight on a baby. So what we say is that children who have mixed sexual anatomy should be labeled boy or girl and we have there are some guidelines now for how to do that in a much less conservative way than then was done in the past. But that child is old enough to express their identity and their wishes should be respected.



19:34

Okay, well, at least that makes a whole lot more sense. The the whole idea of, it seems to me that if a surgeon is going to make this decision, his birth, there's at least 50% Chance The surgery will be wrong.



19:49

Well, actually, I think that the chance is much higher than 50%. Because these surgeries are mutilating, they're based. They're emotionally and physically mutilating. They're based on the idea that your body is unlovable and unacceptable. And once you have performed surgery on that basis, the child knows forever that I wasn't lovable. That the emotional harm and the physical harm is these are horrible, invasive surgeries that cut up the genitals and remove parts forever, and you can never get that back. So if the surgeon chooses Brill and removes your clitoris, and you've continued to live as a woman, you're still mutilated. your clitoris and your sexual function. It's not wrong 50% of the time, it's wrong all the time when it's imposed on someone who can't chew



20:37

sugar? Well, it's surgery imposed against without the consent of the person being operated on. It's the whole the whole theory behind it. He knows as I've been doing my research for this is it appears to me that the whole thing is based in almost entirely on gender phobia

appears to me that the whole thing is based in almost entirely on gender phobia.

 20:54

That's exactly right. It's based on fear of difference and loathing of difference.

 21:01

To sad statement in our society, we have had Martine Rothblatt on the program, and we've had Kate Bornstein on the program, and we talked about the whole issue of gender. And I know Martine Rothblatt is of the opinion that when a person when a child is born, she believes you ought not to label a person as male or female, simply label him a person and let their own behavior as they grow. Decide, which sounds like a good theory, but I'm not so sure how that works out in practice,

 21:29

we know everyday day in the US, five children are subjected to these harmful surgery. And I in the root practically minded person, and I believe that we can change these surgeries very quickly. And I don't think that we can stop labeling children, male or female anytime soon. So I am in a hurry to get help for these children, and to stop the hunt for intervention on a much faster schedule than the kind of social change and marketing Rothblatt is talking about could possibly happen.

 22:01

Well, let's talk about that a little bit. What kind of help can the intersects with society? What kind of help can it bring to these people?

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Well, you know, until about five years ago, there wasn't any information available about what it is really like human term to be intersex or any way for intersex people to connect to other people, or even to talk about the situation that was considered so freakish that people wouldn't even believe you. Now, there's a whole lot of literature available, intersex people have been writing their stories, a lot of that is available to the intersex society and from other related intersex support groups. Peer Support is available. We have a video available, it's been shown worldwide and it's available from the intersex society it's called hermaphrodites. And this is just been revolutionary. Their support groups for parents now parents can meet other parents and, and feel less isolated and freakish. They don't have to just listen to what the doctors say blindly.

 23:03

Now, how are doctors receiving this? I mean, at least many of the doctors that I've met seem to

have almost a god complex. And so I'm kind of curious how the doctors are receiving this information in in some of your advocacy. Well, unfortunately,

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most of the doctors who actually do these interventions have characterized us as delegates and insisted that anybody who has wants to talk about the intersectionality with bad apple, and failure, and that they don't have to listen to us. It's also the case that lots of intersex people wind up with a sexual orientation other than heterosexual if your sex isn't clear, it's not so obvious that homosexual lives, but a lot of different people do not come off as straight. And doctors view that as a failure. So they have largely wanted to utterly discount what we have to say, and they haven't been willing to read what we have written or look at the videos that we've produced. But it's just beginning to come around. Now. We have a number of clinicians who have actually been doing these interventions who have changed their mind in our on our side now. Surgery has stopped in Rhode Island as far as we know. And we expect that it'll stop a little bit of a time in in localized centers. legal pressure is going to be brought to bear over the next few years. So we're we're really optimistic that a big shift is just about happening in medical thinking.

 24:42

While I was kind of curious about the legal end of it is possible for an intersex person to go back and sue the doctor or sue the clinic and say, Listen, you know you screwed up my life. No, that's

 24:53

not possible because as an adult, if you want flew over something that happened when you were a child that's sort of like, legally like taking a time trip back 20 or 30 years. And things were more conservative in the past than they are now. So you're making, you're making the legal case that much more difficult. The statute of limitations on medical malpractice is three years, your parents signed permission, and it was standard medical practice. So adults who have these things done to them are probably never going to be able to sue and also what we tell people is that lawsuits are immensely difficult and emotionally damaging things and are unlikely to produce healing or, or satisfaction and individual people. Will we hope to have happen is as we bring some legal resources to bear on this is that the first kind of suits that might happen is that parents will be able to sue if surgery was done on the child within less than three years, and not for medical malpractice, but for fraud because doctors are telling parents that these surgeries are necessary and that they are risk free. And if they were actually telling the truth, they would tell parents that these surgeries are experimental, they're medically unnecessary. They're done only for cosmetic reasons, based on a theory that is controversial and untested. And that there are huge reported with all of the adults who've had these surgeries done to them who are willing to speak about them, are very angry and unhappy with them.

 26:46



26:19

Well, let's talk about the parents of intersex child for a moment. I mean, they're being they're being given this information by by doctors in there basically given this guideline of how to raise an intersex child. Now what happens at some point, the intersex child says hey, look, you know this, this isn't working for me. And then then what happens?



27:06

Well, doctors don't actually tell parents that a child is intersex, they totally avoid using that word. In fact, medical literature insists that they should never tell the parents that their child is intersex. So they'll tell the parents for instance, that their child is grown hasn't overdeveloped but not intersex or their child is a boy who has a underdeveloped penis, but not intersex. And they tell the parents that if, for instance, doctors have chosen to find the child, the girls usually do, they'll say, as long as you treat her, like if we don't believe that she's a girl, she will be a girl. And we actually actually create a situation where if the child develops a male identity, the parents are going to resist that and the doctors are going to resist that. And if the child says, I don't feel like a girl, they'll say that, Oh, don't worry about everybody feels like that. And if a child says, I don't want to take these hormones that are given me breast, they'll say, Oh, you have to and nobody will love you. If you don't take these.



28:08

Oh my god.



28:10

You know, they really are Compounding the problem at every turn.



28:16

You know, that's mind blowing. You know, I mean, I was raised as a boy and I was told I was a boy. I was conditioned as boy none of it tuck. I mean, what hotspot? True I'm sorry that it's just mind blowing to me. Have they never heard of transsexuals? And transsexualism has never occurred to them that that kind of theory is nonsense.



28:41

You know, the people who do this are extremely sexually conservative or even ignorant. They only deal with children. And they're not. They don't have a lot of experience with adults. Matter of fact, they refuse to see adults who've had these things done to them. So they basically are just doing what they've what they learned in medical school and what they've always done. And it's hard for them to come to the realization that what they're doing is wrong. If they if they understood that what they're doing it wrong, they would have to face up to how much harm they've done to people over years and maybe decades in their career.



29:22

Well, it sounds like a long way to go if they're being told these kinds of things in medical schools, and they won't meet with the adults who are now now dealing with, you know, the issues that the doctors created. How do you make a dent in that where we start? Well,



29:39

we first started by trying to talk to doctors, and like if we were naive, we thought they would be anxious to talk to us but they absolutely did not want to speak with us. And ultimately, we addressed the popular media instead. And for the past year or so. We've had pretty good coverage on national TV and magazines and local programs like your Sarah. And that is increasing our visibility and it's making the issue known to parents and other intersex people. And it's also one of a number of allies among the medical profession who have actually changed their mind. So, even though resistance is is deep and entrenched now that we have a few allies, we believe that that that's sort of a break in the dam and publications are coming out. There's a book coming from Harvard this month, there's another book from rat purchases summer, emphasis are on the case, there's a big review article coming out in in, in the most prominent ethics journal in the US. And it's gonna make it possible now that there are professional publications that denounce the the old fashioned model for clinicians to change their mind, and there will be holdouts, but those people will be addressed by legal pressure.



31:11

Well, and I know politically, you're starting to make some progress as well. I know people like Ricky Wilkins and Jessica Xavier and Gary Bowen and James Green and many other people are really speaking out on behalf of intersex people in the organization, but transgender organizations have really begun to take up the cause. And I found so I'm not mistaken the intersex group. Are they also members? They're also members of gender pack? I believe? No, it



31:37

certainly are. We've had just excellent synergy with with other transgender organizations. A lot of the success we've had over the past year comes from working in coalition with transgendered groups.



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Well, it just seems like a such a natural thing. You know, it's a it's kind of funny. The whole issue of gender is just beyond people's comprehension. I told the story, I think once before, but I do a lot of work with legislators here in Texas. And there may be some place in the country lot more backwards than Texas, but I have a hard time finding you to thank. And when you go and you talk to them about gender issues, they will click you've come to them from another planet, and we start turning into legal issues, then their eyes just really glaze over. Are you having any success anywhere and locally or, or nationally in getting some legislation to work on your behalf?



32:30

No, we haven't really had any legislation work on their behalf because we don't have enough power. In 1996, Congress passed federal legislation that prohibits clitoridectomy, but it was specifically worded in such a way as to permit corrective surgery to continue to be performed on intersex children. And we, a team of intersex lobbyists went to Washington last year to ask our elected officials to extend that same protection to American girls. That corrective surgery is not done only by African immigrants, but it is widely practiced that the standard practice on the intersection and we didn't succeed in getting any legislative motion, but we did get some media coverage out of that



33:19

video, do they not understand that doing the performing clitoris dummies in this case was no different than the genital mutilation is taking place in third world countries.



33:31

You know, in our country and our culture, we accord the actions of doctors scientific authority, so if doctors say it, or doctors do it, it's considered scientific. And that certainly isn't always the case. And it's not the case in their model of managing and hiding intersexuality. But it's sort of I like to call it the civil religion you know, the the criticism of African female genital mutilation has depicted Africans as irrational in acting out of sort of irrational, cultural or religious beliefs. But it's a lot easier to see how someone else's culture irrational than it is to look at how your own culture is irrational. Yeah,



34:18

well, there are a lot of transsexuals who understand that I'm one of those people who has been fighting. been fighting with the Benjamins society to try and become more open to transsexuals into transgendered people generally. And we've had some success in that regard. We finally do have some transgendered people working with the Benjamins society. But, I mean, it took you know, an earthquake in an act of God to get their attention.



34:43

That's true, but but I am very pleased with the kinds of successes that transgender movement has had recently. You know, just looking at Dallas Benney's new anthology of articles about transsexual treatment and The most amazing thing about that book is that it's authored by a transsexual person.



35:04

Yes. Yes. Well, I would like to talk about the... Yes, I would like to talk about the... I think I'll... And

We're easily available on the web, you can search for AI, F N A, or you can go to www.is NA dot o RG. Or you can write to us at Post Office Box 31791 San Francisco, California 94131.

 37:25

Well, I am currently the director of It's Time Texas, in if you have any chapters in Texas, please get them in touch with me because I would absolutely welcome them into its time Texas with open arms.

 37:38

Thank you.

 37:41

Certainly a cause that needs to be taken up and I wanted to ask you to I know we were just talking a little bit about a pack cliffie his book. I'm always curious what a person is portrayed in the book was it was her depiction of what was written here. Is this accurate?

 37:58

I think you have to refresh my memory on that.

 38:00

While she talks about your own personal history in she talks about your own the fact that you had a clitoris to me and she accurate on that.

 38:09

I was born with what's called ambiguous genitals and doctors and my parents completely freaked out. My mother was kept dated for three days while the doctors decided what they're going to do with me. After three days, they decided to call me a boy but a congenital deformed boy who was a freak and sent my parents home and wouldn't speak with them again after that. A year and a half later, my parents found their way to a different set of doctors who specialize in fixing intersex children. Most doctors decided that it wasn't truly boy but I was truly a girl. And the only problem was this large clitoris sticking out and so they removed that and told my parents that I was actually a girl that my parents should change my name from a boy named to grow up in it sounded similar so that I wouldn't notice they had done that to keep diapers on nice, I wouldn't notice they had removed my clitoris and that they should move to another town and not telling me when where they went and that they should come through all their possessions and eliminate the evidence that their son had ever existed. Oh



39:13

my goodness. And so how did you come to learn about what actually transpired? Well,



39:19

I'm the newer more hospitalizations when I was eight years old with abdominal surgery and genital inspections and fingers in my rectum and in my vagina and X rays and general photograph and as I came to understand a little bit about human sexuality in my adolescence, I also understood that my genitals mutilated I have no clitoris and no inner labia. genitals that look like African Women's genitals that have been corrected. You And when I tried to figure out who had done that doctors asked for help, actually tried to prevent me from figuring it out. It took me three years to overcome that obstruction. And when I finally obtained a little bit of the medical records from my hospitalization of an infant, I learned by reading it on record that I had been a boy. And my sex and name had been changed, and everyone had hidden it from me.



40:27

Oh, my, well, that couldn't have helped your family relations, any.



40:32

I wasn't able to speak about that until almost 15 years after I discovered it. Oh, my emotional breakdown. And when I did speak about it, my family just essentially rejected me and stopped talking with me.



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Forgive me for saying this. But this sounds like sort of thing that Hitler's doctors would have done. You know, it's just, it's just beyond my comprehension. Well,



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I think that the difference is that these doctors although they wreaked incredible pain on me and on my family, that wasn't their intention, they actually thought that they were hoping



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their intentions were good, but the results were not. It's important



41:21

for us not to demonize them too much. Because these are the people whose minds we have to

change and they're not out to hurt people. When intersex people come back and say you hurt me, and they refused to listen to us what they're doing then is very, very wrong. But it's not because they their goal is to hurt people. Where you are, I believe that before very long this is going to be turned around and doctors are going to be on our side we actually do need medical consultation in order to diagnose intersex children and help make a decision about what sex to label them for instance, and understand medical issues that are associated with intersectionality.

S Sarah DePalma 42:08

You are a quite an eloquent spokesperson for the intersex society. And I think your story here today has just been absolutely remarkable. And once one more time, why don't you people in the dress where they can contact you.

 42:21

They can contact us at that i s n a post office box 31791 San Francisco, California 94131 Or on the internet@www.if N dot o RG

 42:41

Cheryl, this has been absolutely a quite an educational experience for me. And I really want to thank you and if our listeners I have mail or theater questions, we'll forward that along to you.

 42:51

Thank you. It's been a pleasure to talk with you. Sure. Thank

 42:54

you very much.

 43:25

You're listening to after hours on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station. It's time for the news with big Roy and Michelle.

M Michelle Meyers 43:37

Hi, Roy. Oh, pretty good.

 43:41

45:41

Let's see. Here's this week's edition of after hours. Houston Mayor Lee Brown is going to continue his legal fight over this two month old executive order banning discrimination against gays, lesbians and the government in spite of judges reasons junction that rendered Apollo. Now according to city attorney Anthony halls, it said that Justice judge Patrick Mozelle refuses to reconsider his march to temporary injunction grounds will appeal the decision to a higher court. Now last week, Cole filed a motion from his cell to reconsider his injunction. After city councilman Rob Todd filed suit in February to contest grounds executive order. You know, ruling was said that brown lacks the authority to impose an executive order creating rules regarding discrimination against Rob Todd is a conservative and this was part of a conservative backlash, led in part by Todd and activist Richard K. Host and host his brother Steven hosts he remembers back in the mid 80s When he tried to have a similar app Bringing the Houston Houston, Houston host to pop out. Now this is a right wing grassroots campaign, you know, help flooded city hall with phone calls lodged your opposition against three rounds anti discrimination. Later on live better than a week later time caught and holds he filed suit to change bounds order. In issue. The temporary injunction was also done on scene from the court case, ruling that hope that Pelosi lacked standing in the matter. Now, Robert Humphries, student Richard House has said that he will appeal that ruling in May 1979. Then mayor, Jim makan signed a similar Executive Order, which expired when he left office, Kathy wittmeyer, did not renew that executive order. So in a way that executive order banning discrimination is good. But on the other hand, it only is good as long as the person who's in office is better than them.

M

Michelle Meyers 46:06

That's fine. Let me mention something else. On Monday, Mayor Brown is having a press conference. And he's going to announce that there is going to be a new hate crimes hotline for Houston. All right. So there's going to be a very important step in getting citywide reporting them hate crime, very important. So what we're going to end up doing is going from atrocious reporting, which is what Easton does now to poor reporting, which is what all the rest of the cities do, who have centralized facility, at least I hope that's what happened. So we're going to improve the thing. So that's going to be on Monday at 1pm at the 13th of April, and it's going to be held at the Jewish Community Center, which is located at 5601, South braver, I'm going to be there. And I'm going to have my patrol t shirt on and my radio and my whistle, and whatever else I can find. So that's gonna be a good one.