[Intro music]

**Molly:** Welcome to *Gender Reveal*, a podcast where we ask intrusive questions and hopefully get a little bit closer to understanding what the hell is gender. I’m your host and resident gender detective Molly Woodstock.

[music ends]

Hey everyone, I hope you're doing really well. I’m exhausted, and here are some reasons why: Thursday was international Women’s Day and we’ll talk about this in This Week in Gender, but it was a lot. Friday, I took a vacation day from my day job and spent it in my closet doing 6 hours of back to back to back Gender Reveal interviews, because I love you and I make a lot of bad decisions. But honestly, it was amazing and I’m really really excited to share all those interviews with you. Saturday, which is today, and I realize you’re listening on Monday, but it’s Saturday (what is time even), Saturday I went to a farm sanctuary. I held a baby lamb. I cried about it. And then I came home, and realize that I hadn’t even started making a podcast yet. And also I forgot to sell one of my ad slots, so doin real well this week.

This week’s episode is brought to you by our incredible Patreon supporters, who donate a little bit of money every single month so that when I forget to sell ads I can still make a podcast. And I just appreciate you so much. I know that there are like 50 thousand Patreons asking for your money, and it means so much to me that you’re willing to help support this show. If you would like to help us continue to exist and grow, you can head to Patreon/com/gender to become a monthly donor. It can be as small as $1 a month. If you donate at the $5 a month level I will personally send you stickers. And if you donate at the $7 a month level, I will send you stickers and an extra bonus surprise that no ones even seen yet. And of course, if you can’t afford to donate a dollar a month, that’s super valid. I totally get it. If you could just tell a friend abut the show, or right us a review on iTunes that honestly helps so much also. And so, anything you can do is super appreciated. And if you don’t want to do anything, that’s fine. I’m moving on with he show.

This weeks episode is also brought to you by Babe Wax. Hey, remember in Episode 9 when we talked about a gender affirming body positive waxing salon in Portland, Oregon? That’s babe wax. They’re so cool. And if you get a service there, you can meet Mads themself. So go to [babewax.net](http://babewax.net) to book your appointment. And if you don’t live in Portland, don’t worry ‘cus you can go to [babewax.net/waxfund](http://babewax.net/waxfund) and donate to wax fund. Which, as you’ll remember, funds services for low-income trans women and trans feminine folks. if you work for a company or organization who would like to advertise on *Gender Reveal*, please feel free to reach out at [gendereveal@gmail.com](mailto:gendereveal@gmail.com). It’s a great way to reach queer and trans folks both in Portland and around the world, and it’s so cheap. it’s just so cheap. You won’t even notice that you did it. But you will be helping us fund queer and trans folks for their time and labor, which would just be so cool. And in the meantime, let’s go to This Week in Gender.

[This Week in Gender intro music]

**Molly:** Last Thursday was International Women’s Day and many people celebrated on social media by tagging the women who have supported them and inspired them. That’s incredible, I love that. However, there were some issues. And for folks that don’t follow me on social media, I wanted to talk about it here. It is super rad to post about women on International Women’s Day. That makes total sense! However, I spoke with multiple organizations who thought that Women’s Day would be a great time to talk about other genders, like nonbinary people. And here’s the thing: Women’s Day is about women. And when you bump nonbinary people in with women, you’re implying that nonbinary are people basically women. And for the most part, they’re not. That’s kinda the whole point. I don’t wanna see folks going “oh it’s international folks let’s talk about *all* the genders that aren’t men,” because it’s not International Not Men Day. Although, that day should definitely exist. Hell yeah. But that specific day is International Women’s Day for trans and cis women. So, in the future, when you’re making lists of women you admire, please make sure that the person you’re publicly celebrating is comfortable being called a women. By that I mean, if they did not post something that day that says “wow, I love being a women,” and they’re not like, your mom or like a very famous historical figure, if there’s any way they might, maybe not be comfortable being called a women, please reach out before you post and say “hey, is it okay if I honor you for International Women’s Day?” And if that person is a women, she’ll say yes and it’ll be great. If they’re nonbinary, there’s a chance they might still say yes. There are many nonbinary people who don’t mind being lumped in with women. There are even certain nonbinary people who identify *as* nonbinary-women. That’s totally valid, I’m not trying to say that it’s illegal for nonbinary folks to feel aligned with women or feel comfortable being lumped in with women However, it is never your place to assume that someone else is okay with being called a women. So, again, if there’s just even the slightest chance that maybe they might not love being on a list of women, please ask. If they say yes, great. If they say no, it’s okay because there are literally billions of women that you can celebrate for women’s day. International Nonbinary Day is July 14. I would love to see big lists of all the rad nonbinary people that you know going up on social media on July 14. Or really any day that’s not explicitly reserved to celebrate a different gender. You could do it today. You could do it right now.

This has been, This Week in Gender.

[This Week in Gender outro music]

**Molly:** This week on *Gender Reveal,* I am stoked to share my interview with Kaig Lightner. Kaig is the found and director of Portland Community Football Club, a nonprofit soccer club that offers high-quality, affordable soccer for youth in the Portland metro area. PCFC is also the first youth soccer club in Portland to have an acceptance policy of LGBTQ players, families, and coaches. Kaig is a queer transgender man who found sports to be his refuge during the tumultuous years of puberty and beyond. Kaig has a master in social work from Portland State University where he is an adjunct professor. He also started a consulting business sto offer education and training to support LGBTQ people in the workplace.

[transition music]

**Molly:** The way we like to start out every episode is asking: with regard to gender how you identify?

**Kaig:** That’s such a good question to start with, cus it’s the most complicated one I think. So, I use male pronouns. Ya know, I move and walk around in the world as a seemingly cis-gender male person. I’m not read as a transgender at all, and so the outward persona that I kind of give off into the world is just a male end of the gender the spectrum person. But my own internal *how do I think about myself, how do I think of gender,* I can’t really fit it into any particular place. I feel very genderless when I think about myself and kind of this concept of gender. And, I don’t know if that’s because I’ve thought so much about gender. Like it’s one of those things you think more and more and more about it, and it becomes more and more gray and sort of abstract and ethereal. And I’m just like: “what does it all mean?” So, I think that’s part of it. And then I think also, what’s really fascinating to me about gender as just a concept, but particularly my experience, is that the way that I present myself — the clothes that I wear, the body movements that I have, the way I use my hands, all these markers that we stereotypically think of for male and female different ways of acting — I’m no different than I was before I started testosterone. I am the same general person as I was when I was 9 years old or 12 years old or 19 years old. But now I just look so much more masculine with facial hair and a deeper voice and little bit thicker muscle structure and a more cut jawline, that every thing is now seen as masculine. And I’m like “but this is who I’ve always been,” so what does that mean? So that’s why I go back to this, like, I don’t have internally, I don’t feel a gender that I connect with.

**Molly:** How does it feel to be seen as a cisgender guy?

**Kaig:** Sometimes it’s really kind of great. Male privilege is such an immense thing, right. It’s something that we all who are aware of the concept talk about in ways that are really politically heavy and there’s so much discussion about what does it, how does it impact people? And before I transitioned, before I was really able to experience true male privilege, it was such a thing where I was like: “this is ridiculous, people should know how this is effecting people, and why don’t white men, why don’t men understand that they shouldn’t be acting like this?” Well, I now see and feel and experience that white privileged and white male privilege is so pervade into such small, small, tiny, little crevices in every day life, that unless it’s directly pointed out to you, you don’t know that it’s there. And if it is directly pointed out to you, it’s terrifying to think that that has to change. So, there are times when I’m treated as just-a-cisgender-man that everything’s so much easier. There’s this less of a wait of identity I guess. But, it’s so short lived for me because that kind of ease will happen, but I’m aware enough, and have such a different experience with it, that I’ll be like “oh man, that was just cis male privilege that I just experienced.” And if I can I’ll speak up to it, but it’s not always possible. So it’s really complicated and something I’m constantly thinking about in a lot of different avenues and a lot of different ways.

**Molly:** In 2007 you wrote an article for The Portland Mercury...

**Kaig:** Oh my gosh, yes.

**Molly:** Yea, remember that? And, um, you had this big list of ways you had identified and you said they identified as a boy-with-an-I (boi), a boy-with-an-I-dyke (boi dyke), a queer boy-with-a-Y, a masculine female, a trannie boy-with-an-I (boi), and then you were writing abut gender queerness, so that’s another thing. So can you talk about like, what those words meant? How are they being used today? Do any of them resonant with you? What was that journey like?

**Kaig:** That feels like another life time ago, that was 10 years ago. Those words don’t resonate with me really anymore. It feels like, when I heard you reading those words, it felt like *ooh,* like nostalgia, like *ooh that time in my life where I was really trying to,* I was trying so hard to figure out where did I wanna go. What direction did I wanna go in? And there was periods of time of coming and going where I really, truly wanted to find a way to be in the middle space. That I wanted to stay in that genderqueer space so that I didn’t have to do the really scary thing of starting testosterone and going into a process that I didn't *really* know what was gonna be like. And so at that time, I think that’s why a lot of those words, I was trying them on, basically, like a pair of shoes. Like “let’s see how this one works and this feels.” And ultimately, clearly, it never really felt like a place where I could be comfortable. It was not, I was not one to feel okay in the middle space. And I know there’s lots of people out there who can. There’s lots of folks who found some sort of way of being okay with that middle space, or being okay enough with it, right. It’s never something like “this is exactly where I want to be,” because our society is so, so hard on people in the middle spaces in so many different ways, but I had to step into a place that was outside of that middle space. And so, those words, I think those words were used a lot ten to fifteen years ago. I don’t see them as much anymore, like the boi dyke or trannie boi or the b-o-i, I don’t see that as much anymore. I don’t know if I’m just out of the loop and I’m older now and not in the know of the lingo...

**Molly:** I don’t see it either, but I could also be out of the loop. [Laughs]

**Kaig:** Yeah, I mean everything’s changing so fast that’s what’s so interesting about it. But, yeah. At the time that’s definitely where I was at.

**Molly:** Yeah, when did you transition?

**Kaig:** Well I started taking testosterone in 2007, and so that was probably right around that time where I was really trying to figure out what I wanted to do.

**Molly:** Yeah and there’s been a huge radical shift between then and now, especially hearing you describe, like, being in the middle and genderless and all these things. And like those are so, so infinitely more talked about today than they were years ago.

**Kaig:** Oh absolutely. There’s so much more discussion of gender nonbinary. I mean, gender nonbinary as a term...I wasn’t real familiar with that as a general term even 10 years ago. Gender nonconforming a little bit, but the nonbinary, like, throwing in the term “binary” into there has really escalated. I’ve been doing trading and education and workshops on this subject for about 10 years, and when I started doing that nobody knew the terms “cisgender,” nobody was talking about all the different kinds of ways of identifying. I mean there was some but it wasn’t *as* pervasive as it is now. And, the gender neutral pronoun of “they,” that wasn’t out there as much. So there’s yeah, its just been an incredible shift in a decade.

**Molly:** Did you say started a consulting business of some kind?

**Kaig:** I’m trying. I’m on the path of starting it. It’s basically taking the experience and knowledge that I have of my own lived experience, and applying it to any organization, company, institution that has people working for them who, inevitably, statically, you’re gonna have people working there who are gender nonconforming, transgender, or anywhere on the spectrum of the LGBTQ spectrum. And while there’s been a really good, I think positive, increase in companies, big companies doing things for our population, there’s still so many people that don’t understand “what does this mean?” “how do I interact with somebody after they come out?” “what are the policies?” all the things. So, I basically am at the very beginning and I’m trying to just build some clientele and get my name out there.

**Molly:** Yeah that sound’s so great, cus something I hear a lot from cis and straight people is that they don’t feel like they know enough about gender and LGBTQ topics, but they are really scared to say anything because they don’t want to mess up. And so, that’s part of the effort of this podcast. To sort of give folks more exposure to those conversations and learn more, but I’m really gad that you’re doing that as well because that is something that I think desperately needs to happen cus there’s so much. There’s such a big gap between these conversations that we’re having and conversations that happen in straight-cis spaces about these topics, and thats the whole point. (laughs)

**Kaig:** Yeah, it is the whole point. And actually, it’s really a part of what I do int he training is try to get people to think about their own gender. That it’s not something that’s just “oh this is just somebody who’s transgender experiences this, or genderqueer.” It’s like: no, everybody has a gender. Everyone has a gender. Everyone has a gender identity and everyone really, if they’re given some time and space and some tools, can stop and think about well what is their experience of gender in this society that is so based on two genders. The gender binary has got to go and if the gender binary is broken and taken apart, and either reassembled differently or done with all together, and there’s not system at all, it’s gonna allow people to just open up and express themselves in whatever way feels natural to them. And, you ultimately are gonna have more productive people, happier people, people who can connect on a better level. And all the sexual harassment, if you really dig down deep into that, there’s so much of the gender binary that is impacting those situations where there’s idea of how men can have this power and have this relationship over women and that women are supposed to just take it or say “oh it’s me I’m not supposed to be like this.” All the things that we can come up with are all gonna ultimately go back to the gender binary and how we have categorized societally two different categories that don’t actually exist. So, that’s a big part of what I wanna accomplish in this consulting business is not only to support the trans folks and the genderqueer and gender nonbinary folks that are at those workplaces, but also to get everyone thinking about it. Because it’s ultimately gonna change your entire morale and relationships within people who are working together.

**Molly:** Right, and like you said ‘the more you think about gender the more grey it seems’.

And so I think people that have like, really binary constructions of gender, the more that you think about like what does it mean to be a women, it can really help people understand a little but more where people are coming from.

Cool, I have many questions about PCFC. Could you tell me what that is?

**Kaig:** Sure, yeah thats, I love how we just jump into another topic like, ya know, this other business that i run.

**Molly:** You do so many things!

**Kaig:** I do so many things, I love it. Um, I am a gemini, so

[Both laughing]

**Kaig:** So I like to do lots of different things. Um, so PCFC is Portland Community Football Club, and we are a local nonprofit youth soccer club that provides high quality, affordable soccer to kids. We are, our main goal is to combat that big system of youth soccer currently that is really expensive, takes up an enormous amount of time and resources for families. Um, and so what we do is, we have low fees, we have scholarships, we provide free uniforms. If kids need cleats we get them cleats. Shin guards, we, we do everything to reduce, remove barriers that can prevent kids from playing good quality, high quality soccer. Not just kind of back yard recreational soccer, but good coaching, good gear. And try to elevate to the level that these other clubs are getting to, but they’re charging $1500, $2000, $3000 a year.

**Molly:** The last time we spoke, which was several months ago, you said that you were having trouble couple recruiting girls to play. Is that still happening and what are you doing to work on that?

**Kaig**: Yeah, it’s still happening a little bit. Um, we definitely have some more girls coming in. Some girls at the younger ages are coming in. You know, at this point we’re just still trying to figure out how we want to expand into different parts of the city, and as we do that we’re getting more girls who are knowing who we are. That’s kind of, it’s not a targeted goal necessarily of like “we’re gonna go into this neighborhood and only find the girls that wanna -play.” But, for example, I was out at East Portland Community Center earlier this week and there’s a really cool organization doing some organized pickup soccer there called street soccer. And they had 5 or 6 girls out playing, and I was there to kind of tell kids about our program. And so I sat down with that group of girls and was talking about the club, and they're all between the age of 8 and 10. And we started talking about the fact that, ya know, here’s the reality, we don’t have many girls in our program, you will probably be playing with probably boys, playing against boys. And they all were just kind of like “great, we’re better than the boys anyways.” And I was like “you totally are, and the boys are always scared to play against cus they think ‘what if they’re better than me’” and they were like “that’s cus we are,” and I said “I totally agree.” Ya know, it was a cool conversation. And it’s such an interesting place for me to be, because I’m not immediately out to those kids. Right? It’s not relevant for me to sit there and be like “well, I’m a transgender person and I know what it feels like to play soccer as a girl.” That’s just not super relevant for that moment in time. so I am in an interesting situation where I’m just being read from them as just a standard straight dude. And these are all kids of color and I’m just this white guy who shows up like “I’m gonna give you guys soccer to play,” (Molly is laughing in the background) ya know there’s so many layers, there’s so many intersections laughing at that very moment they don’t even realize. And so I have to be really, conscious and aware of how do I talk about boys and girls playing soccer together, and how do I make sure that there’s not one sliver of doubt or misogyny in my delivery to them of “you’re gonna come in and play with a lot of boys.” And I think that I did okay based on their response, but it’s so challenging. Um, because I don’t want for a second any of those girls to feel like “okay, well, we’re just the girls playing in the club.” It’s just like “no you’re just more players.”

**Molly:** Totally. Can you talk about your experience growing up and playing soccer and any other sports you played?

**Kaig**: Totally, yeah.I started playing sports when i was about 8, and softball was actually my first sport. And I was really not wanting to play, my parents totally pushed me into sports. And I think, looking back on it, the reason why I was so hesitant to go and play any sports or be involved in anything is I was already, at 8 years old, I was like for awhile had already been feeling like something really different about me and I don’t quite understand this whole how girls act. I was just kinda already on the outskirts, and so the thought of going and meeting a bunch of new people and being picked on or made fun of was really terrifying to me. I couldn’t have named that at the time, but they just pushed and pushed. They saw I had some athletic ability. And so, on my first day of Peppermint Patty Softball team I loved it! I was hooked, I was so hooked from the moment I like got to hit a ball or you know, got the ball into my mitt. I was like “oh, this is fun. I get to be competitive and I can,” I started to recognize there was something in me that was needing this kind of outlet. And it was off to the races from there. Then I started soccer and basketball. I played volleyball in junior high. And I couldn’t get enough, I just wanted to be the best always — which is still the case, I try to be as good at everything as I possibly can. But it was my place to kind of escape from a lot of the bullying and teasing that I went through for a lot of the, you know, from my entire school age life I was being picked on and asked if i was a boy or a girl everyday and just, you know, we can fill in the blanks, those of us who have been teased and bullied, what happens. And sports were a place where I got to work out a lot of that frustration and anger. I got to feel successful and feel like I could accomplish something and feel lie I had a purpose and I was more important. And I kinda let me escape the thoughts of “What’s wrong with me? Why am I so weird? Why am I so different?” and ltimately why I believe so greatly in the power of sports for anyone to find what they are looking for and for themselves, because it really pushes you to find yourself and to be challenged and feel that sense of joy and elation when something goes really well and also deal with disappoint. I started coaching at a young age too. I started coaching at 15. And it was this, I had the same feeling of elation when I first played sports. It was the same feeling I got when I started coaching of “this is it, I’ve got to do this. Somehow I’ve got to make this my life,” and so far done a pretty good job doing that.

**Molly:** I feel like I remember you saying something abut sports allowed your to sort of push the boundaries of being aggressive, but then there was a line where one one side it was a good amount of sporty aggression and the other side was too much. Can you talk a little about that.

**Kaig:** Yeah, it’s this really really fine line that particularly girls end up having to walk in the sports world. I think it’s appreciated up to a certain point of “oh you’re a really good athlete and can be really aggressive,” but if you, it’s hard to nail down where that line is. That’s the hard part about it, it’s really vague. But there’s, at some point, I crossed over this line of like, I was too aggressive and I was pushing my teammates around too much in practice or I was slide tackling too hard. But if I was out on the boys team, it would be like “go harder, be more aggressive.” The boys that I coach now in the club are all kind of high school age, and they’re brutal on each other. They’re just, and they’re brutal on me when I get in and play. And the girls, when we do have girls come in and play with the club, there’s this tendency to be kind of hesitant and it’s harder sometimes to coach girls to be aggressive. Again, cus back to the gender binary, everything comes back to this stupid system of “no, you’re physical anatomy is supposed to dictate how hard you can play in this game.” And that’s ridiculous! It’s a preposterous thing. So as a kids I kinda didn’t really care. I mean there was a part of me like “okay I’m supposed to not be this aggressive,” but at the end of the day I couldn’t help it. That’s who I am, that’s how I participate. That’s how I still play, I’m still called out on fouls often cus I’m being aggressive.

**Molly:** You mentioned the kids that you coach. you are perhaps best known for being in a viral video where you came out to your team and your players as trans and could you tell us a little bit about that?

**Kaig:** Sure. Yeah it was not something that I intended to have go viral or be seen around the world. It’s something that I had been thinking about for a long time and it had just come to a pinnacle of a point where I felt like I’ve known these kids in PCFC for the last 3, 4 years and they don’t know this thing about me. And I felt like I was missing out on them knowing fully who I am and it’s so much a part of who I am. I’m clearly not shy of talking about it, I want people to know about it, I want people to use my personal experience as an educational tool. The complicated part is that I am a white person who is read as a white cis male, running a club that is primarily 80-90% people of color. Not that my experience as a transgender person can necessarily equate to the experience of a person of color, but I have experienced some level of discrimination. I do have a sense of what it feels like to be discriminated against and judged based purely on how I look. And so if that alone can be some sort of parallel that was the other reason that I wanted to give them this insider knowledge of like “hey I know what it feels like to struggle,” and that’s why in that video I said that, “I know people aren’t saying nice things to you guys, I know based purely on the color of your skin, and I have a sense of what that feels like.” So it was that, plus, it’s such a great thing for kids to get to see a transgendered person who they already know, they already respect, they already love. And then it becomes just kind of a non issue. And it has been a non issue. it’s been since may that video came out and nothing’s changed. Nobody left our club. Nobodies given me a second look about it And we’re getting more and more people coming into the club and slowly but surely we’re getting some people who are finding out about that video who are in the LGBTQ community. Either their kid is nonbinary or their parents are or their queer family or whatever it is, they’re finding that information and saying “oh this is a safe place for my kid to go.”

**Molly**: Yeah, so right on the very top of it, the website for PCFC, it says that you’re one of the first clubs in the area to explicitly welcome LGBTQ...

**Kaig:** players, parents, family, everybody

**Molly:** Yes, all those things, coaches, and I just talked to Mads who owns Bay Wax which is an all gender, gender affirming waxing salon and I could see people be like “well aren’t all waxing salons gender affirming? Why is yours different?” So I kinda wanted to ask that, like, what makes other teams not welcome to that group?

**Kaig:** I think one, it’s if you’re not specifically in a really clear way “this is who we’re accepting of,” it may be buried down somewhere on a website and like “this is our non discrimination policy.” Well no ones gonna find that unless they’re *really* looking, so that’s why it’s at the top of every page of our website. The challenge in sports is that it is so rigid in “this is the boys team, this is the girls team, this is the rules for the boys and the girls teams” right, there’s just different kind of set rules sometimes. And so there’s so many micro-aggressions that can happen in sports. Whether it’s, you have coaches who are completely unaware, like I’ve heard over my years of coaching in other clubs and other settings, coaches, male coaches, coaching boys saying things like “well come on ladies you’re just being really lazy today” or “why don’t you guys just stop acting like a bunch of girls,” it’s that kind of stuff that goes on all the time. That’s the kind of stuff where, if you’re not a club of those things happening, you’re not a sports organization whose making sure that that is an absolute no-tolerance policy for things like that, then not only are you not gonna be welcoming to *anyone* who’s questioning or working through their gender, but you’re also disparaging to all those kids. You’re influencing all those kids in these ways that our society already does a good job of horribly influence kids. So, that’s the big difference, is that a a leader of a sports organization you have to recognize that there’s so many different micro-aggressions that can happen in the sports world.

**Molly:** Truly. Going back to the video response, I talked to you a few months ago and you said that at that point you had heard a lot of cis people saying you were so brave. Is that still what’s happening? Have you had any other trans coaches that you’ve heard of? If not hwy do your think you’re the only one?

**Kaig:**  I haven’t gotten too many more messages since you and I spoke, whenever that was, like July or something like that. I have had one other, there’s a basketball coach who just came out in Michigan who’re really high up in a university in Michigan, who played for the University of Michigan, and is a coach now at the Community colleague in the same area. That coach had learned about me coming out and their friend writes for a local paper there in Michigan. And that person contacted me and wrote up a story and quoted me, so I was kind of brought into this persons coming out at the university. So it’s happening, there’s other people and I think that’s another good benefit of what I did that I didn’t realize is that somebody sees that and they’re like “okay that person can do it, that seemed to go okay, I’m gonna go on for myself.” So that’s been really cool to be a part of that. I have had another trans person contact me about coaching for us, which is great. And he and I met and he’s gonna start hopefully next year. But, you know, just to know that that person found us because of me being out and sure they could of, and they said they looked at other clubs and they could have gone to another club, but they said “oh I liked what you guys are doing and i knew I’d find a good place here.” So, yeah it’s been nothing but really good, positive things from that.

**Molly:** That’s so great.

**Kaig:** It is great, and surprising.

**Molly:** It is, it is really surprising. It’s really heartening.

**Kaig:** It is, and it’s heartening and it makes me feel hopeful and at the same time I always go back to: well, I am white, I am presenting very masculine, I very much fit into a very stereotypical normative looking role, and that has afforded me a lot of privilege in being accepted so widely. Where if we could throw in a whole lot of other intersectionalities in there I don’t know if it would have been the same result. So I take it with like “Yes! This is great” and also “There’s other factors that don’t play into that that could have discriminated against me a lot.”

**Molly:** That makes sense. And I totally agree, but I, I’m just so happy to see a trans guy doing anything. Cus I feel like they’re so invisible. So, it’s still, I’, still excited about it. (laguhs)

**Kaig:** Thank you. Appreciate that. Um, it is exciting that there’s two trans women that have been elected to public office.

**Molly:** Yes! I was crying when I heard about Danica. And it’s just one of those

**Kaig:** Yeah Danica Roem.

**Molly:** It comes back to like you can’t be what you can’t see. And also I don’t think that straight, cis people understand how much queer and trans people use other folks as like a bell-weather for their own coming out. Like you said, like, gauging, looking at another trans person coming out. Seeing how much they’re harassed, who much they’re accepted, watching all of their friends and family, seeing how their friends and family react to that person, and using that to judge whether it’s safe for them to come out. And so, it’s obviously okay to not be out, but if you are out you’re not only doing it for yourself. You’re doing that for the whole community, which is really great and powerful.

**Kaig:** Yeah it is. And it’s a big weight. It’s a lot to carry and it’s totally understandable that there are people that don’t want to. And it’s fantastic that there’s people who can make that decision for themselves. Whether it’s to be out or not be out. They should make the decision for themselves.

**Molly:** Oh yeah, and be safe. We live in Portland, which is very welcoming of specifically white queer and trans people.

**Kaig:** Yes, specifically.

**Molly:** Well, anything else we should know about you? Genderqueerness? Your life?

**Kaig**: Umm no. You know I think um, the thing that always surprise me 10 years in to transitioning is how much it still is a part of my everyday world. Before I transitioned it was like my every waking thought was about gender and transitioning and will I and wont I and what does this mean? And now it’s not that, it’s more just looking broadly at the society that we live in and just, being so in awe of the people who are out, the people who are starting to come out, and then still in awe at this system that we’re still so tied to that is infecting people at all different levels. And so I’m hoping that through doing stuff like this, with talking with you on this podcast, I’m tryin to just really get my name out there, that I wanna be an educational tool.

**Molly:** Yeah, I love that you’re doing that work. You’ve already touched on this but I like to end everything by asking: what do you think the future of gender looks like?

(Kaig Laughs)

So just like a really small question.

(Molly laughs)

**Kaig:** Just a really nice, easy wrap-up to the interview. Um, the future of gender. Well, I have my ideal of what I hope. My hope is what it would look like is that as the generations behind us are starting to come up through, into college and into the workforce, that I already know through talking to a lot of kids in the younger generations that their ideas of gender are already more open, right? They’re already recognizing that there’s at least 3, at least that. And so my hope is that as they move up and are going to positions of power, that they will start to influence the way that we look at gender and that will over time eventually dissolve in to at least out of the binary system. I don’t know how long that will take. That’s the part, is like will I see something significant in my life time? Based on the projection of how things have changed so far, probably. I mean the 10 years changed a lot. What will it be like 10 years from now?

**Molly:** Well thank’s so much for coming on the podcast. I really enjoyed talking to you

**Kaig:** Yeah, your welcome. Thanks Molly, appreciate it.

[Outro music begins]

**Molly:** That's gonna do it for this week's show! If you had a good are time and are excited that this show exists, please tell your friends. It’s really the most helpful thing that you could do. We’d also love it if you left us a review or became a Patreon supporter at [patreon.com/gender](http://patreon.com/gender). Don’t forget that we’re giving out a secret prize to folks that pledge $7 or more, although honestly low-income trans person, just send me an email and I’ll send you stuff for free, it’s fine. If you have questions or comments or thoughts and feelings, you can reach us at [gendereveal.com](http://gendereveal.com) or @gendereveal on Twitter. That’s gender reveal with one R.

Our podcast to was edited by me, Molly Woodstock.

Our logo is by the talented Michelle Leigh, and our theme music is by the legendary Breakmaster Cylinder.

We'll be back next week with more feelings about gender.

[music ends]

**Molly:** Please pray that I take a nap before then.