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SPEAKERS

Vanessa Edwards Foster, Jimmy Carper

00:00

Okay

J Jimmy Carper 00:23

Oh yes, you've tuned into after hours Queer radio with attitude right here on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of after hours is ready to bring you news interviews, dialogue and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people and their friends. Hear it after hours, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common. We are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closets. That means standing up for yourself taking responsibility for your own life and being proud of who you are. Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of age job or frame of mind. That's okay, we're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of after hours. Whoo hoo. kind of ends on a hurry there. It's a different opening than I usually used it. Hello to you Stan and college station and Galveston in the world and welcome to after hours Queer radio with attitude. This is the Saturday, December 13 edition. I'm Jimmy Carper. I'll be your as your producer for the evening. Chris will be along later. We have a transgendered segment scheduled. And however, we don't have any transgender people here yet. So we're playing it by ear. This is the second Saturday of the month. We do have a transgender segment. Yes we do. Okay, and the second part, the second segment of the show will be Hispanic segment with Francisco Sanchez. And we'll have our ramp roundtable that's three with all kinds of stuff going on with the after hours regulars. But first I want to do a few things here. The music that you heard at the beginning of the program was a brand new CD called grateful by the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. The station happens to have a copy. I didn't get one but they did say that didn't sound bitter. No, not at all. But I did open with Santa Claus is coming to town and music of Hanukkah. They do a very good job on both of those two. They do many others that you've that you know and quite a few that you don't. And that might be worth looking into. We don't often have good Christmas music by local talent, especially local Queer talent. Big Roy just walked in there big Roy, speaking of talent. And he's going to run out and get a Texas triangle and talk for just a second about what happened. There. Yes. Some stuff going on the current report here. Sunday, Sunday, Sunday, December the 14th. It's the PW a Christmas show that's happening at the BRB at a dish Tuesday,

December the 16th. There's a jukebox show hosted by Keith Vivio at the outpost, and on Friday the 19th and then on Saturday. The 20th is a flashback that's hosted by Keith Vivio for rain to location to be announced. Well that's not too good. Since I'm not gonna see you until again until after next year with scuze me not sure it was over. I know. Mark your calendars now the Colts are making plans for their annual Christmas show benefiting benefiting the Colt 40 fives charities This will happen Sunday, Sunday, Sunday, December the 21st. At the Brazos River bottom, and it's called Kiss me under the mistletoe and I'll kiss you under the balls. No, it's called Kiss me under the mistletoe occult 45 blue ball Christmas. I guess they should have been kissed under the balls. And we'll start the evening with dinner and socializing at six. With the show featuring some of Houston community's finest talents. Beginning promptly at eight and 5050. raffle lots of Christmas fun. Oh, that's that's an entire evening. That's really cool stuff. Okay, blue is my favorite color, but not that kind of blue. I see. Gotcha, gotcha, Bobby. Okay. Don't forget the tech show with Nancy Ford every Friday night at the 1415 Bar and Grill a dish. Until whenever, of course, these these days, she might not be having it on the patio. No, probably not. And don't forget also every Wednesday night at the briar patch, you can see sweet mama cotton. Our own Marcy Ray every Wednesday night? Popsicles. Yeah. Yeah, and there's some other stuff. We'll talk about that later. What the hell? Okay. I do want to talk about this special show that's happening next week, because I don't know a lot about the man who's putting it together is right here. Michael, Hey, what's up? Hey, what's going on?



06:31

What's not going on? Okay, this is what is going on. December 20. I think is the first time ever after hours is going to be completely lie. Yes. Well,



J Jimmy Carper 06:41

we're. We're always I may be old, but I'm still alive, honey.



06:47

It will it's gonna be cut. Well, I don't mean compare. live on location live on location. That's right. And it's going to be a 710 Pacific Street. And that's the club. Oh, yes. And let's see what else you want to know.



J Jimmy Carper 07:05

Yeah. What are we going to be doing? Well, we're going



07:08

to take over the whole top of the club. They've got a lounge upstairs. We're going to corner it off. We're going to set up a little mobile studio up there. We're going to have the regular shows whatever shows y'all you have scheduled for that night there. And we're going to have we have

some portable mics. So not only are we going to be upstairs, that's where our studio is going to be. Yeah, but we're going to have some of our guys some of our guys walking around throughout the club outside in the parking lot.

 Jimmy Carper 07:34

After hours regular Yeah, checking it out.



07:38

Folks, exactly what their portable mics. And, of course, if you don't have tickets already, you can get tickets by calling 713-523-0213. That's the club. Or you can win on right here. I tell you what the first three callers can have a package of two per caller. So I've got 246 Caller tickets to give out these are VIP passes. This will get them in the club for free. And this will get them upstairs with us. All

 J

Jimmy Carper 08:05

right, and that number is 713-526-5738. Robert is out there. And he'll be answering the phone. He has no idea what you're calling about single have to tell him. We didn't queue him in on this



08:20

way. Robert answered the phones. Yeah, the passes that were given away right now. Do not include parking. And do not include your drink. Okay, but they will get you in the door numerous times in and out if you want to travel the clubs up and down the street and you want to come back and hang out with us. We're gonna be there from midnight till 4am. Yes, we are completely live on location. We've been around, what, 16 years now? Yeah. And it's the first time first. We've got some guys that have that are pretty interested in it. Nancy Ford that you were just talking. Yes. I've sent her some passes. I believe she's going to come on there. We can tell Roberts and CeCe or Robert answer the phones. When they start ringing. We're not getting no callers. That means nobody wants to come.

 J

Jimmy Carper 09:06

Yeah, we're giving out passes for for next week. Next week. We had a difficult time getting rid of those last time we getting rid of what the callers are the fastest know the



09:16

passes. Oh, really keep trying to tell Chris, you know, we don't want callers one and two. We want callers. 20 and 30. When you give them caller one and two, yeah. Nobody decides to pick up the phone and dial because they figure everything's gone before they can even Oh, this is what we'll do.

J

Jimmy Carper 09:38

I will call or five, six and seven. I will give

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09:41

a pass away to everybody that calls this show. Within the next five minutes. You call this show and I'll give a pass out to everybody that calls the show within the next five minutes. We'll go to calls. Come on, give me three or four. We've got two on the line right now. Five minutes starting right now it's 1219 starting right now starting right now starting right now And then yeah, for those five minutes are up, I have got five gift certificates to give away. Oh, to cue video, cue video, your porno headquarters. And I've got five gift certificate said the owner over there his name's Mike he gave us to him to give away to give each gift certificate qualifies that person for two complimentary video rentals. Cool. Now, if you're not already a member, there is no membership fee at all. Just, you know, you take this little gift certificate in and you get your videos, right, I got five of those, but I'm not giving those away yet. for about four and a half more minutes,

J

Jimmy Carper 10:43

four and a half more minutes. I see. But everybody that calls

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10:47

him for these passes right now you're gonna get one a matter of fact, you're not gonna get one but you're gonna get to cool, we're gonna give you two VIP passes. That's nice. So this is if we haven't said it is December 20. That number that is our next broadcast of after hours. The next time you tune in for after hours will be there will be live on location. Oh, Houston. And again, that address is 710 Pacific Street, Houston, Texas, which is right down the block with all the clubs you got all you got the mining companies South Beach Jr's and then you got a parking spot, then you got to an O is the old Pacific strip club. And it's under new management. It's called O Houston. And that's where we're going to be. So you'll have to come out and see us it's, we're actually going to kick off a tour. From there. This is our big shebang. And I think we've got about 30 locations planned out. Now not all of them are going to be completely live. Yeah, but our guys will be there. And you're gonna have to come out and join us. And those locations are to be announced. Probably we should have the first 15 put together the night that we're at. Oh, okay, so we got plenty of things to give away a fHh Foundation, Houston has given us tons of stuff to give away condoms, T shirts KPFT. Of course, you can get your KPFT T shirts. And not only that, but the name of our tour is face for radio. So you want to know who runs after hours, you got to come out and see us

J

Jimmy Carper 12:13

right and I certainly have the face for radio. Okay, and here's a little more I'm going to put something in your ear here while you're given us a call for those free tickets. We'll be right

something in your car here while you're given as a car for those free tickets. We'll be right back. Just keep getting



12:34

for the first time ever, it's live. It's on location, and it's after hours. Don't join the entire outdrives crew on December 20. At Oh Houston, midnight to 4am. So come



12:45

on out and show your support for KPFT after hours listen to KPFT to win tickets and a pad to be a special co host for the evening. Come party the night away after all, it's Christmas. It's also after hours. And



12:57

remember, it's live. It's Oh Houston Saturday December 20. And it's KPFT after hours.



13:04

Oh Houston is located at 710 Pacific Street in the heart of Montrose carpet. Tickets are information at 713-523-0213.



Jimmy Carper 13:25

And big, big Roy, what have you got for us?



13:28

Well, I got some pretty interesting stuff here. The Houston triangles 2003 roundabout awards was made public this week and KPFK 90.1 FM gets two awards this year. Wow. And the 2003 round awards. We get an award for best radio station and we also get her an award for Most gay friendly radio station.



Jimmy Carper 13:58

Well, that's because we're the only radio station in town that has gay programming but doesn't necessarily you know a lot of stations are gay friendly. And



14:06

we want to give congrats to a nice Parker.

J Jimmy Carper 14:08

You bet of course.

♀ 14:09

And did we give our happy none as to the Houston Gaiman's course. 25th anniversary. Yes,

J Jimmy Carper 14:16

we did. Yes. I opened the show with their new Christmas school.

♀ 14:20

That's what I get from coming in late.

J Jimmy Carper 14:23

See, also a friend of mine a member of Imperial Court of Houston space city empire. Cheyenne was voted in the best female drag Entertainer of the Year. That's that's that's really an honor. She works hard to get that to Yeah, she's it's very hard. Okay. Thank you.

♀ 14:48

Okay, I'll

J Jimmy Carper 14:48

talk to you later. Big Roy. All right. Vanessa is here and it is time to get on with the trends then. Interesting.

V Vanessa Edwards Foster 14:59

Hi, Hello, how are ya? Just

J Jimmy Carper 15:01

great. How are you doing?

 Vanessa Edwards Foster 15:03

I'm very good on my own.

 Jimmy Carper 15:04

You were oh am

 Vanessa Edwards Foster 15:05

on Yes. No, I didn't even realize I was on yet. Oh, well, my headphones are working. I don't think. Anyway, um, yes, I do have a guest this evening and I didn't need to apologize. Oh, I've

 15:20

got it. The funny thing is, is I always thought you were always on. I am always on. Thought you couldn't be turned off.

 Vanessa Edwards Foster 15:28

Sometimes, it actually got to switch right back here in the back. And a little crank to it gets very fun.

 Jimmy Carper 15:41

You know me I've always forgotten something.

 Vanessa Edwards Foster 15:46

Let's see. What have we forgotten? Well, I've

 15:48

forgotten something. Oh, no.

 Vanessa Edwards Foster 15:50

I know I need to say hello to everyone from Katrina rose up and I have a good trainer is actually tuning in tonight. For her way up there in the land of snow and ice. I think I live in Texas. It's cold down here. But at least

J Jimmy Carper 16:04

we don't have to put up with that stuff.

V Vanessa Edwards Foster 16:06

This is true.

J Jimmy Carper 16:09

Core voices, which is heard every Monday night from eight to 10. JD Doyle does Queer music heritage. Normally he does this once a month one our music program of music from the past and you've actually got heritage. Oh, yes. Oh, yeah. It's going way back. Yeah. But this month since it's December, he's doing two Christmas shows. Because there's so much Queer Christmas music out there. His first will be this Monday, December the 15th. And so

16:40

for years.

J Jimmy Carper 16:45

We're abortions comes on at eight o'clock. And his segment always airs at nine on the fourth Monday normally, but it's going to be the next two Monday's since

V Vanessa Edwards Foster 16:54

there's such a thing as normally. Well.

J Jimmy Carper 16:58

How about usually is that was that better than normal? Yes. Yeah. Yeah. He's got a lot of wild things of course he starts out with the usual walk around the women's underwear you know the elbow

V Vanessa Edwards Foster 17:13

you know it's you gotta have that that's a Christmas absolutely

J Jimmy Carper 17:17

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in that if I don't play it people call up and they're mad. Exactly.

V

Vanessa Edwards Foster 17:21

They have to have their they have to have their six little Charlie Brown Christmas. Yeah, but

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Jimmy Carper 17:28

he's got a little interview with Katie Curtis. He's got music by Pansy Division said Spencer. Erase your Pet Shop Boys, rainy city men's Gay Men's Chorus and several other people. It's there's also when I sold tribute to Sona, who was the was a Zona Hara Queer artists who recently passed away Oh, so he's got a little something in there for her, which is really nice. Very nice. So

V

Vanessa Edwards Foster 17:57

Well, I do have a guest and he is waiting very patiently. In fact, what you do is you push and push air air air button and then push the button and I think we have our guest on the air. Hello. Are you there? Imelda? Vanessa. Ah, very good. With us tonight is Imelda ghetto. Um, a lot of you may not be familiar with the name, right offhand. She is actually the aunt of Gwen Adolfo. And she, of course, was one of the most outspoken well, I shouldn't tell it's been one of the most effective spokespeople after the tragedy. And in fact, as he was one of the first people that I had keyed in on, immediately following what had happened. Obviously, it was terrible for the entire family and must, especially for Gwen's mom, salvia, a lot of the actual spokesperson duties that were being handled at that time were being handled by two of the siblings. Sofia's brother, David and Sobia sister emailed them. And I want to welcome you to the show, by the way, Imelda. Thank you and say hello to you from Gwen Smith out there in San Francisco from the day of remembrance and remembering our dead project, which kind of brings me to the subject of the show kind of a little bit of a segue this of course being the month immediately following remembering are dead and I hate to kind of, you know, bring this up in December. It's you know, I guess maybe not the the most cheerful of holiday fair, but of course, we did have the the vigil last month. And I'd actually planned on being on last month that things kind of got a little scheduled incorrectly and I kind of dropped the ball on some of that myself, but anyway, I did well I want to touch upon this because of the fact that it was a very, very important subject. And especially since Gwen had a family that was extremely supportive, and it's one of them, the rarity is that we have a family that's not only supportive, but is willing to stand up front and be strong advocate, especially publicly in the face in the chill have done. And I did want to thank you very much for for doing that. Number one. Just out of curiosity, were you at the remembering or dead vigil in San Francisco this year? You

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know, I tried to make it to every single event possible. But this was one of them that I actually could not attend to. But we had family members at both locations. We had family members on the day of remembrance in San Jose. And we also Sylvia was the one in San Francisco along with a couple of other family members.

V

Vanessa Edwards Foster 20:53

That's what I'd heard. And from what I understood, everyone that was there at the San Francisco vigil without fail each and every person said the Tobia was just the most just jaw dropping speaker that was there, everybody immediately. Just related to her and could feel the emotion coming through every word. They said she was an extremely affected speaker. I'm getting choked up here just talking about it. Yeah,

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21:24

she's my sister, considering everything that she's been through and been going through Still, she's I don't know, where she finds the strength. But she does her. When she goes out there and she speaks up, all her emotions are behind it, and you can feel it. And that's what we want to do, though, you know, we want people to feel, I don't want to say feel our pain. But I want we want people to know that, you know, there's a lot of hate out there in it. And it's a terrible, terrible thing.

V

Vanessa Edwards Foster 21:51

And especially to have something like this impact one's family. Just out of curiosity, how? How hard was it on the the rest of the family members? Besides Sylvia?

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22:05

Well, you know, like I said, we're pretty close family, we're very large. When had many, many aunts and uncles, lots and lots of cousins and 14 siblings. Yeah, there's 14 siblings, but I have seven brothers and six sisters. Wow. So they there's 14 of us. So she had plenty to go around uncles and aunts. But um, it was very difficult. It was it was the first death that our large family has had to endure and was the first funeral we had to plan. And we never in our wildest dreams that it was going to be one of the babies that we were going to have to say goodbye to, that's

V

Vanessa Edwards Foster 22:42

got to be especially hard isn't to realize that this is, you know, one of the youngest ones and to have it happen in such such a stark and really tragic fashion.

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Oh, yeah, it was not anything we would ever wish upon anybody. And it was just, you know, the only thing that kept us going, I believe was just the the strength that we give each other. You know, when one of us would fall, you know, there would be someone else to keep us up or hold us up? Or, you know, for or fortunate for that. So I'm I don't know, I don't I don't think I would have been able to endure this tragedy if I didn't have my siblings near me or close to me.

V

Vanessa Edwards Foster 23:21

Now, it was something you'd mentioned to me earlier on some of the other telephone calls, do you had such a close knit family that really made the difference in this? Do you feel that it may not have been quite, I guess, oh, such? Well, I don't want to minimize this in any patient don't want to say that this was easy. But to say that, it would have been a much more difficult task to have to have endured. Definitely,

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23:54

I mean, I can't even imagine trying to endure this without without the support of the family. You know, and, and Sylvia, she's just, she's got so much strength in her and just to watch her that gives me strength to keep going. And so when she can't go out there to do it, you know, I feel like I have to I have to do it for Glenn.

V

Vanessa Edwards Foster 24:13

And she really and truly has been a very amazing individual, especially considering not only having to deal with the tragedy and to keep one's head together while all of the the funeral arrangements and just the various proceedings afterward, but to also have to endure what she's gone through since then, with the the various trials, the arraignments and, of course, the maneuvering by the the defendants in this particular case and their attorneys, of course, who you know they're paid to do their job, which is to to get their clients off, but to have to endure some of the things that had been said in court and The some of the I guess, insinuations that they've made as a result of, you know, the arraignment and some of the trials.

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25:09

Yeah, a lot of the things that we had heard, you know that we didn't know beforehand. They were trying to how do I say minimize Gwen's character? They were trying to make her seem like she was trying to find the right word for this, but a floozy, I guess,

V

Vanessa Edwards Foster 25:26

yeah, exactly. And, you know, and it's character assassination. Yeah. And

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it was very difficult. But, you know, the way I looked at it as an in a positive light is that we're very fortunate that they have four people in custody. And we're very fortunate that things have been going our way. You know, one of the defendants got out on bail. And for a short period of time, I think it was about a two week period that he was out. And that was devastating to the family was Geron or as this was Madison, he

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Vanessa Edwards Foster 25:57

was actually out, he was out. Oh, that's right, early on, I'm sorry, I thought

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26:02

it was before the pre trials started. And so that was actually pretty devastating to us. And we started to really feel that the justice system possibly wouldn't, wouldn't be on our side. And just the way we look at it is the human life was taken, and they had no right to take it, whether Gwen was, you know, transgendered, or not transgender, or gay, or lesbian or whatever. She, she, they just, they had no right to take her life, you know, or anybody's life. And that was pretty much how we felt about it. And they needed to be in there and justice needed needs to be served. So when his bail was revoked, that was pretty much a victory somewhat in our on our end. And so ever since then, things have been going our way, they are going to go to trial, the trials are going to start in March on the 15th.

V

Vanessa Edwards Foster 26:50

The actual investigation, kind of backtracking just a little bit. This was one of those rare cases where the police actually did do up to me, at least, you know, from my perspective out here in Houston, did a magnificent job of not only getting the investigation, but to be diligent enough to follow through with this very conscientiously. And to keep pressing on this until they actually found the culprits, the individuals who did this, and I don't know if that perception is any different between what y'all had? Well, you

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know, the thing is that Newark is it's a small community. And, you know, myself and my brother, David, we, you know, we were teenagers there. So we grew up and we know a lot of people in the town. And so what happened was, initially when Gwen was missing, they weren't, they weren't very helpful at all. And we were, we were having a difficult time with the police department. They were trying to say that she was an incorrigible teenager, and that, you know, she ran away, and we knew better because Gwen had never been gone for more than one night, as she always came home. And she always let us know where she was at. And if she needed a ride anywhere, she you know, she knew how to be safe, she know how to take care of herself. And so we knew something was immediately wrong when she didn't come home, the when we tried to get the police involved, and they kept classifying her as a runaway, he was very difficult to deal with. And it took us four days to get them to change it on the police report.

V

Vanessa Edwards Foster 28:25

I know a lot of that they kind of typically do just as you know, an automatic reaction,

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28:31

right? Well, there's this thing, it's a standard procedure. But I also understood that I guess, after two days, they have to get over as a missing person, unfortunately, felt like we lost a lot of time in those few days, because Gwen had told us where she was going. I mean, the place, the home where they were she was murdered was the place that she had told us she was going. So we knew that that was either that was the last place she was at or something that happened to her there. And we were trying to get the police to go over there. And they did, but they didn't. They didn't follow through diligently in the beginning. And then yeah, then after about a week, I think is when they actually started to work on the case a lot more and pay more attention to all the details. And you know, and that actually got back to them. Me and David had actually heard a rumor from a friend of ours, about a transgendered person who had been killed.

V

Vanessa Edwards Foster 29:22

Exactly. And that was, that was the one thing that I thought made the difference in this particular case is not only the diligence, actually the diligence stemmed from the clues that you and David had provided to them. And it was the family itself who stayed on top of the police and basically would not let them drop this and would not allow them to just kind of you know, put this on a cold case file and let it know we

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29:49

had both emails I was emailing. There was probably like three different detectives on the case. And I must have been emailing them every day and just you know, we may had flyers and I gave him the most I had some video footage of Gwen from the last time that I had seen her. And we had actually put it on pause and we created a picture from that paused image from my camcorder. So that we could make a tracks player to get it out to all the stations because they needed you know, they, they initially had reported her as a blonde and she wasn't blonde, she had actually dyed her hair jet black. And so, you know, there was a lot of little details that they had to smooth out. And but yeah, once we got the lead in there, that was it. They were they worked very diligently and they got they got, you know, the four suspects in custody within days, within days after we had reported the rumor that we had heard.

V

Vanessa Edwards Foster 30:44

And that was something that really a lot of that particular credit goes to the family itself for, for staying on top of this and being very proactive in not only getting the police's involvement in this, but actually taking the initiative to to go out and try and oh, yeah, a little bit of your own footwork.

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31:06

I drove around many, many nights after grandmas missing, driving around, I know no work like the back of my hand and different places that as a teenager that I used to frequent that would you know, be safe away from adults and police. And I did I drove around many nights just just hoping that I would find her or hoping that you know, she was okay, and that she maybe just,

you know, lost her away for a few days and wanted to come home. But unfortunately, you know that I never, I never found her. And we heard that rumor. And then that's when it all started happening.

 **Vanessa Edwards Foster 31:40**

Now, when when the rumors first started, the police did take it seriously immediately. Is this correct? or

 **31:47**

Yes, they did they, as soon as I called them, I had a detective at my house within half an hour's time. And they took my statements along with my sister in law, my brother David. And as soon as they took our statements, they went and interviewed the people immediately that had told us about the rumors. And I mean, it just was a domino effect from there. And they had all the suspects in custody, like, literally three days after we had given them our statements.

 **Vanessa Edwards Foster 32:17**

Know when Darren had actually taken the police out there to show them where the shallow grave was a What was it like for the family with that first realization to actually know that yes, this has happened in this as this is not a test anymore. It's not just concerns. Now it's something tangible in something, unfortunately, very real.

 **32:46**

It was. Well, the detectives came. And when they told my sister, she called me immediately because she knew that I was in the wings just waiting. We knew the detective one had wanted to speak with her. And she actually had she didn't know about the rumor because at that point, we had discussed it with the other family members that we didn't want to alert Silvia or, you know, get her upset more than she already was because she was already devastated.

 **Vanessa Edwards Foster 33:12**

So you and David were kind of acting as sort of a buffer, so to speak to him.

 **33:16**

Right? We actually talked about it. And I you know, I called several other family members and told them about the rumor. And we're we're debating on whether we should we should tell Silvia or not, you know, we know she wanted to find peace as far as it was just driving her crazy not knowing where Gwen was calling or anything. And it had been 10 days at that point. And we decided not to tell her. So when the detective when she called me and told me that the detective had was going to come and meet with her because he wanted to speak with her. I

just got the sinking feeling thinking oh, no, you know, please don't tell me this rumor is true. So I was waiting for her to call me. And she did, she called me. And that's when the detective had told her that they had found Glenn. And we still, you know, didn't believe it until they brought her back to us and that we couldn't we couldn't have her they didn't release her to us for seven days. Because they had to do all the autopsies and all their all the investigative research that they need to do to get any evidence off of her. And so it was very difficult because we couldn't plan our funeral immediately or anything and we couldn't see her we couldn't do anything. Pretty difficult.

 V Vanessa Edwards Foster 34:34

And I know

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on top of that, we were dealing with the media.

 V Vanessa Edwards Foster 34:37

Well this is true. And that was I guess where I was going with this How difficult was it? I knew it was obviously too difficult for for Sylvia to deal with the media but how difficult was it for you and for David?

 34:50

At first we thought we could handle it we thought you know we have to do this because she can so we kind of took it upon ourselves to just do it and try to do it. To keep it out of her hair, and it was just too overwhelming. We literally had like media vans, camping out in front of our house and our cell phones were, the voicemail messages were just it was overloaded, we didn't have enough time to check them and the phone was ringing off the hook. And I mean, we had flowers coming into the house from people we didn't even know media, just reporters and journalists and people that were just dying to get the story. You're dying to talk to somebody from the family. And we kept telling them all the same thing we just said, we just want to, you know, have a her services, we just want to lay her to rest. That's all we want to do. We'll talk to any of you guys, after we're done with that, can you just let us plan her funeral. And we couldn't get anywhere. So we actually had to set up a family hotline, sorry, a media hotline for the family. And we finally posted notes on our doors and anywhere we could we put it in the newspaper so that the media would just call that one phone number. Apparently, they started to spread out once they realized how large the family was. And they started to contact other siblings at work and on their cell phones. And it's amazing how people can get all your personal information so quickly.

 V Vanessa Edwards Foster 36:11

Oh, actually, and I must confess, that was kind of how I had stumbled across that I'd seen the the news first report that day and I'd picked up your name off of one of the the actual reports

the very first report that day, and I'd picked up your name off of one of the actual reports and decided, well, let me see if I can find her I didn't want to contact Sylvia or I didn't know if Glen had a father at the time. But I thought well, an aunt or an alternate family member was you know, at least someone that I can speak with that I could at least get a chance to, to number one express my condolences, obviously, but also, that was at the same time that we had heard about Fred Phelps, unfortunately, wanting to make his unfortunate presence out there. And that I guess, really kind of got me in action pretty quickly to try and see about ways to get the community organized to stave that off in some fashion or another. Well,



37:13

I gotta tell you, the community was a great help. That's for sure. And out of all the phone calls. Vanessa, you were definitely the most humble. And, you know, it wasn't like any of the other calls that I had where they were, they were just being very forceful and trying to putting information on us into doing an interview. And we just were not up to it. Yeah, that whole Fred Phelps scare though he did. We had a lot of supporters out there that were waiting. And he didn't show up.



v Vanessa Edwards Foster 37:39

He didn't Well, actually, from what I understood. When I went to the funeral, they did actually hold someone away from there that was trying to apparently I guess get in to the viewing. And later that he my



37:52

sister, yeah, Lupe, she was kind of, we all kind of designated each other for different jobs. Some of my brothers were actually standing guard at the door and just letting family members in. And Lupe had actually recognized one of the one of Phelps's, whatever you want to call them. I didn't try to get in because we actually let the public and to see when to say their goodbyes, because she had a lot of friends. And



v Vanessa Edwards Foster 38:15

that was actually a bit of a surprise to I. When I had flown out there. I'd spoken with the PFLAG contact out there in Fremont. Belinda. Belinda. Yeah. And at the time, she had mentioned, no, no, this is going to be a very private service. And I understood completely. And from what I had understood, from my last conversation with her immediately before I boarded the plane. She said, Well, apparently the media had gotten it out in a number of people were wanting to attend. But the family is very adamant about making this a private service. And I thought, Oh, my God can Oh, yeah, we did want



38:51

to make it private. And then when we had gotten a hold on Gloria already has she's the one that's actually top Sylvia into making it public. Letting just the public and after I women in the

church, my sister said absolutely not no cameras in the church at all. Well,

v

Vanessa Edwards Foster 39:07

I was extremely overwhelmed at the number of people that I'd seen there. In fact, in a way, hate to say this. I couldn't go into the viewing. I actually got sick to my stomach. I just thought it was exactly the opposite of what the family had wanted. Yeah, well,

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39:23

we ended up kicking out the media. What happened was is it was the wrong move and glorious part as far as she wanted to let the media in for a minute. They

v

Vanessa Edwards Foster 39:33

had media all over the I was amazed that they had so many trucks out there with the satellites and the Oh yeah. And

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39:39

that's how it was they were camped out in front of our houses for the first week even before we had the service plant. We had initially wanted it to be private and then we thought you know, we were just getting so many phone calls and so many people that wanted to come and our family is so large and we have such a large extended family as well. That's when we just sight it Okay, fine. You know, let's just make it public, we'll have our own personal private viewing for an, you know, an hour before. And then when we'll open it up to the public, and then that's when we realize, well, the funeral home did a great job though they made sure everybody was in a single file line. And my sister Lupe was the one that caught one of Fred Phelps followers. And that's when they dragged him out. And there was a few things, you know, there was some guy who was really drunk, and he passed out in the chair inside the sitting room of the funeral home, and Oh, you're kidding. No, it was just a lot of weird things were happening is it just, it was just really weird.

v

Vanessa Edwards Foster 40:35

Sorry about them? Yeah.

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40:36

You know, I don't know who he was. I think he was just somebody that wanted to see what was going on. And,

V

Vanessa Edwards Foster 40:42

well, there. That was, I guess, one of the things that really kind of troubled me a little bit is it seemed to become not so much about Gwen as much as just kind of being a spectacle. And I'm not saying this, to diminish that, or to, I could turn any patient disrespect, Gwen, or the family or anything, but there was a lot of, I guess, maybe the media, and a lot of the individuals who came out as a result of that, apparently, I guess they had to advertise it on the radio station.

Ω

41:14

Oh, yeah. Hold up. I had gotten a hold of the 94. Nine, the doghouse you. And they wanted to people to go out there and support to keep Fred Phelps away. Okay. So I think that's what happened is, as Sylvia got afraid that he was going to show up and then show up there, okay, we weren't going to be able to handle it. And so we figured if we had a lot of people out there that they would,

V

Vanessa Edwards Foster 41:34

well, I knew that the train standard community was definitely going to be out there in force. But I was amazed at seeing what seemed like 1000s of people out there, really in from all walks of life. I was actually that was one of the touching aspects of it was that this juror out, it was almost like looking at the hate to say this, but at a Rolling Stones concert, you had every walk of life out there. And it just struck me at one point, that this was something that it touched so many different people in so many different aspects of society that felt not only touched by the, the tragedy of this, but compelled enough to actually to go out and to be there at the viewings, and at the funeral procession. And eventually, I got to the point where I, I guess, kind of grew a little more understanding and tolerant of it. Whereas before, I just thought that Oh, my God, you know, this is, this is going to be a shock to the family. Yeah,

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42:34

it was, well, we were actually really surprised at how many people showed up, we cannot believe it. And when people started filing into, say their goodbyes, for the viewing, it was just just never ending. It just seemed like there was the people were just not stopping from coming in to say goodbye to her. It was just it was just unbelievable. And I recognize a lot of them, you know, they a lot of them. Were her her girlfriends. And, you know, so she knew a lot of people she did, you know, she was just two was loved by many. And like you said, you know, walk different walks of life. And you know, there was also a lot of people that we didn't know, but they came out just to support and, you know, it ended up it ended up turning out all right, you know, considering we didn't have very much time to put it together. And it was our first time ever having to do something like that.

V

Vanessa Edwards Foster 43:21

You know, you learned that the circumstances. The



43:24

you know, and I don't I have never understood why this was such a huge media deal. I you know, I never understood it. You know, there's so many transgender people get killed. And and you don't see it, you don't see them making such a huge fuss about it. So I never understood why. Okay, what made Glenn so special? What made Glenn different?



V Vanessa Edwards Foster 43:48

Well, some of the aspects of it, I guess, kind of go back to what you had mentioned earlier with Gloria and bringing the media out there. In one sense, there's, it's a, I guess, a double edged sword. On the one sense, you lose the privacy aspect, and you lose the oh, I guess the kind of the intimacy, if you will, yeah, that's probably not the right word. But the sense of having some time to actually digest this on your own and to to grieve in your own fashion. But on the other side, by turning it over and making it something that is more public, you do have the opportunity there to actually reach out to a lot of other communities that may actually just maybe glanced at a in an article in the newspaper, or maybe even, I guess, see it flashed across the TV screen. And then once it's in mind, it's kind of out and gone, and it doesn't really make any impact. And so this did actually allow for a little bit more of an impact for a lot of folks that probably would not have have Well, not to be crass or anything but not have cared about it, because it wasn't something that affected them personally or affected their, I guess, cadre of friends, but it was something that was that became a community event that everyone in the community could feel and at least, you know, take, I guess, part grievance in or part, I guess, part guilt in that this was something that the community actually had within it and wasn't addressed before then. Right. And I just, I know, it was kind of difficult for the family to have to deal with that. I think



45:41

we wanted to make a stand, as well as by letting allowing the media to be there to let the world know that, you know, we were we were very angry that, you know, this happened to her, because it happened to us. And we wanted the world to know that, you know, to see what they had done to her



V Vanessa Edwards Foster 45:55

exactly. And it did get the word out, and it got it out very widely. And that was the one thing that I think made this probably a lot more distinctive than a lot of the murders of transgender individuals. Typically, it's very easy for society to kind of pigeonhole this, or I guess, fit this into the niche of what, you know, the perception of transsexual means. And typically, that means inner city, a girl that basically has lost all their family is a throwaway and ended up working as a prostitute on the street. And this was a case where actually it flew in the face of all that and defied all those stereotypes. This was someone that was not from an inner city, but actually just a regular working class suburb about middle class America, it was not someone who was a throwaway, this was someone with a very supportive family, and a very tight knit family at that. And it was also not someone who was the easily categorizable sex worker out on the street, this was just a typical 17 year old there was, you know, I'm not saying she was the perfect

angel, but she was just who you would see in any other middle class, suburban town, just a party girl that was, you know, wanting to be herself. And there are so many, so many aspects of this that just typical middle America could relate to. And it wasn't something that was easily, I guess, objectified into being that the class had go, Well, this was someone who deserved what she got, she wanted to be a hooker. And so they're, you know, therefore, she gets what she deserves. And it's very simple. And in fact, over simplistic to look at it like that. But as hard as that is, a lot of society tends to take that view and very easily, are able to kind of brush it off of their radar screen. And with this one, it wasn't something that was going to be brushed aside that he's lazy. This was something that a lot of people could relate to and say, Hey, that could have been my child. Yeah,



48:06

and it's not going to be brushed aside. And we're going to make sure of that. And that's pretty much why the family is, you know, myself and my brother David, and my sister, Lupe, a couple, you know, a lot of us have decided that, you know, we're gonna do what we can, you know, whatever it is that we can give as far as educating this world, or we won't be able to get out to the world, but you know, we're gonna try, Hey,



V Vanessa Edwards Foster 48:31

you did a piecemeal just one at a time. Yeah, you



48:35

know, and that's all we can do. And, you know, it's just, when, before going past, you know, we never, you know, and not to say that we were uneducated, or, you know, racial or discriminative, or anything at all, because we, we never really knew what the proper term was for her. Because we never saw her as a transgender person. We never saw her as any we saw her as Gwen and she was, you know, she was once Eddie, of course, you know, she was my nephew at one point. And when she decided to become herself, then at that point, it was fine, you know, because that's my flesh and blood. And, you know, she's family, and she, she always will be in, you know, and that's pretty much the way everybody else saw it as well. And it was like, okay, you know, this is who you are, then that's fine. You know, we're still going to love you no matter what. The way I looked at it is I used to tell her, you know, when when she first told me, You know what was going on because at first I thought it was just a phase. You know, when you're a teenager, you go through different phases of the way you're going to dress you try to find yourself. And I thought she was going towards, you know, this one fad that was around at the time, it was the Gothic phase. And, you know, it turned out that's not what it was. She was she she really she felt like you know, her whole life. And I just looked at her one day and I told her, I said, You know what, sweetie, I said you're special and you're always going to be special and that's fine with me. You just be who you are. And that's the way it was and we never, I never looked into, you know what kind of person she was or anything like that because she was Glenn to me.



V Vanessa Edwards Foster 50:07

That's beautiful. You know, you are extremely close to her probably maybe one of the closest of the ants, were you not?

50:16

I well, I raised her. So a lot of my teammates and numbers, you know, changing her diaper. And

v Vanessa Edwards Foster 50:23

that's one of the things Sophia had mentioned that the Gwen would always call on you. And whenever she needed something you were, she

50:31

called me when she was stranded somewhere or if she was fighting with her mother, or if she just wanted to say hi, you know, or if she had just gotten home, she would call me and say, Hey, I just got home, I'm home now. You know, sometimes I would stop by before I'd go to work, you know, seven or eight in the morning and go wake her up or yell at her for you know, staying out all night or something?

v Vanessa Edwards Foster 50:53

Well, you're almost kind of like, sisters in a way. I mean, oh, yeah. And

50:56

I would go in there and I'd say you need to give me a kiss, right? I'll give me a kiss. And she would say no, the I have bad breath. And I said, I don't care. I want to kiss with the stinky breath and everything. I mean, you know, she was we were we were really close. And she did start to you know, teenagers how they are. She started to stray away a little in the summer before she passed in them. But you know, I she knew I was always there for her. So and we went to we went to a concert together. And that was the last quality time we'd actually spent and it made sure that I would spend a couple of hours with her at the concert. Just

v Vanessa Edwards Foster 51:35

me and her. Which concert wasn't

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it was the oz fest here. in Mountain View. Yeah, she liked alternative rock. Hey, I

V

Vanessa Edwards Foster 51:45

can relate to that one myself.

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51:48

Yeah, she's she had a blast, though. It was her first time in a limo and everything. And she had actually did my makeup before we left.

V

Vanessa Edwards Foster 51:53

Oh, that was the one that I had heard about. Yeah, she she touched up

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51:57

my eyebrows. And she did my makeup. And she did. And she actually, uh, she ran into a group of her friends. And we went into the ladies room, and she ditched me. Oh, and I remember I yelled at her the next day. And she's like, Oh, I'm sorry. Yeah, she's like, I ran into Christie and this and that and say no, but she had a good time. So that was all that mattered to me.

V

Vanessa Edwards Foster 52:21

Was one of them. I guess more touching aspects of fact, I have right after the funeral. Just to kind of touch back on that was when Sophia was out there. That actually she was giving away some of gwynn's, I guess, possessions. And she had, she would actually bring up some of the things that the various family members had done, she would. In fact, I can't remember which one it was. But she mentioned the I don't know if it was Delilah, or her or Lupe or someone. But this is for all the two o'clock in the morning. pancake breakfasts, etc. And it was just uh, it was very touching in bed was one of the aspects that I'm kind of glad that she did, then it really brought the fact the human well the humanity back to it and brought the human factor back into this. And I think we always kind of look at them, the tragic figures as someone that basically was actually an extreme victim, but we don't really look at the other aspects of it. The human aspects we don't really know too much about their personal lives. Unless, of course that you know, comes out in book form. I think we've got to actually break away for just a second for our station identification.

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53:43

Yes, I had to step in here. You're listening to KPFT Pacifica radio for the Gulf Coast. 90.1 FM in Houston, a 9.5 in Galveston, and always on the web at KPFT dot O R G. You This is after hours, Queer radio with attitude. And back to this discussion. Just had to step in and break in and make the FCC people happy. Well, I'm

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Vanessa Edwards Foster 54:08

glad you did otherwise, I probably would have prattled on. I don't have an off button sometimes. Thank you, Chris, you do that too? Well, if you ever thought about doing this as a profession,

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54:21

that would involve being paid. I don't know if I can handle that much. Well,

v

Vanessa Edwards Foster 54:24

you've got the radio voice down. Thank you. That was something I guess I could learn. Maybe one of the sights but not quite that deeply. Anyway. Getting back to the the subject we were speaking about. We don't really often know a lot about the the personal aspects of going. And I was wondering if you could, I guess kind of fill us in on some of the other, I guess maybe little known facts, just to kind of personalize this and humanize this term. I guess. give folks a reminder of what the individual is like behind the eye. Guess the village of you know what happened? Hello? Who is she there? Imelda? Goo. Did I hang on one second? Looks like Monster. Did we lose her? Ooh, one toe. Okay. Well, anyway, we've got dead dead air here for a second. Well, anyway, I thought I had her online. Let me just go ahead and not

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55:30

sure what happened. I swear I didn't push the buttons weren't even in the room. Oh, no. Oh, let's see. Hopefully, Jimmy's got something queued up. You want to go to the music? While you're doing that? Quick. Let's step out for a second and yes, Jimmy has already played this. Well then. I'm sorry. You're hearing it again. But we're gonna hit this. And we'll be back in a moment.

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56:05

Yes, that was Lea de Leiria with sleigh ride, and that's from the Broadway Cares home for the holidays. C D. And have you hit the air button?

v

Vanessa Edwards Foster 56:15

Yes. We are back on the air with email like Edo, Imelda. Hello, hello. Oh, scared me there for a second that that. Oh, no, we didn't lose her again. Oh, that's okay, ma'am. I guess that's one of the problems with progress. We have battery phones now. And sometimes the batteries die. Anyway, we do have her back on the air. I did want to kind of touch base with you. I had just actually probably before you had died out on the telephone, we were talking a little bit about personalizing the victims themselves and finding out a little bit more about them personally, to kind of put a human face on this. For instance, like I was speaking with Sylvia, I had no idea that they had lived in San Diego. And I guess roughly about the same time that I had lived out

there back then probably have the late 70s Or so they may have lived out there a little bit later. But we get to talking and realize that we actually live just a few blocks from each other one. So it's kind of a small world in a way. But these are I guess maybe some of the things that we don't really get much of a chance to examine. How was some just kind of getting back to Gwen. Did she have other hobbies besides, just I know she was into cosmetics and Cosmetology quite a bit though. Was she? Much of a music fan? Besides just a no doubt in the arts fest? Um, oh,

57:48

no. She loved music. Yeah, well, no, that was her favorite. But she Yes, she was she listened to everything. She loved to dance. And you know, she was just a happy go lucky teenager. You know, she she was like any other kid. And, you know, she loved the she loves clothes, and you know, going shopping and all that. She loves to eat. But she'd never gain an ounce. And she was so thin. I wish

v Vanessa Edwards Foster 58:13

I could have that back again. I used to have those days once upon a time. But needless to say,

58:20

we all go through that. Oh, yeah,

v Vanessa Edwards Foster 58:21

exactly. And then you get to this certain phase, especially for me, once I start the hormones, it was like everything goes. Now I know what women were always saying. The whatever. It was a moment on the lips eternity on the hips. It's very true.

58:34

Oh, yeah, that is truly no sheep. But she was always making jokes, too. You know, like her sister. Pearl. When sister Pearl delivered. She had when she delivered. She gained a little bit of weight. You know, you have the babies babies that after you have a child and when used to make fun of her when she'd come over and she would just tell her Oh, I hear an elephant coming down the hallway. She would say things like honey, you need to go Jenny Craig. Here's a number here you'll meet a call for you. Just make little comments like that. So I remember telling her you know what, sweetie, you better just get used to that buddy you got now because when you get older, it's gonna go away. would always tell me no, I'm gonna be beautiful forever. There you go. Right. Yes. It's gonna be beautiful forever.

v Vanessa Edwards Foster 59:23

This is true. Definitely in everyone's memory. I know that you and David had been very strong

spokespeople since since her death. And in fact, actually a lot of the members of the family um, Delilah as well. I'm not sure about any of the other family members, but you've actually kind of become, I guess, for lack of a better term kind of the poster family for hate crimes, in a sense for advocating for hate crimes law now. And I don't know whether or not this is something that is easy. See for y'all to do, or is this kind of difficult because it's, in essence, kind of having to relive and rehash a lot of what had occurred? You know, obviously, around the time of her death.

1:00:13

Yeah, I, you know, we're learning so much better than I know, we've had several conversations where you helped me understand a lot of the politics, about the whole situation, because just going into it didn't really understand the laws or anything like that. And

v Vanessa Edwards Foster 1:00:29

it would be nice if it was simple. You know, it would be Fortunately, it's not intended, if there are any politicians listening, please. You know, I mean, really,

1:00:39

I you know, I it's just, we do we're really wanting to push the issue as far as with Quinn's attackers, they're not they don't qualify for the death penalty as far as for their crimes. Even though what they did her was horrific. It didn't qualify them for the death penalty. And granted, you know, we were very fortunate as well, that the hate crime enhancement stuck. But unfortunately, the hate crime enhancement only adds on for years to their sentencing. So nothing, you know, and I think that it should have a much harsher penalty.

v Vanessa Edwards Foster 1:01:16

And one of the things that typically happens is whenever charges, or enforces, they will oftentimes use things like the hate crimes charges to sort of bargain it down to get them to plead guilty to murder one, as opposed to going through an entire trial. And then, you know, risking, I guess, a murder one and the hate crime enhancement. And in this case, there's not too much of a, I guess, a bargaining room if it's for four years.

1:01:46

Yeah, no, it's nothing. And so that's something that we want to, we want to address and we want to bring it to, you know, the states, and we think it's something that needs to be changed, because anybody that commits a hate crime, you know, they are, obviously something's wrong, and they're not. They don't understand that, you know, we're all human beings, we're all the same. And, you know, one should not hate someone else for being who they are. And, you know, so we think that the penalty should be much, much more kind of I say, harsh.

V

Vanessa Edwards Foster 1:02:17

Yes, exactly. You're some something I guess meaningful enough to to make it. Effective disincentive. And that's the one thing, at least in California, they do have that law in place. Here in Texas, unfortunately, we're still kind of here in the dark ages, we don't well, I shouldn't say that we we don't have that that covers the train standard. And we don't have it federally, and we're still working on the the LL EA language. Again, this is one of those problematic issues where they started off with a certain language structure. And they don't want to add to that, because they're fearing risking some of their conservative members that they might be able to count on as supporters. And when

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1:03:07

that's the thing and the verbiage I think out here in California, it's not proper, either they're not. I don't think they're using the word transgender in, in the bill at all, if

V

Vanessa Edwards Foster 1:03:18

they use gender identity or gender expression, or sometimes if they actually have something in there that just says sexual orientation, but they have a definition of sexual orientation to expand that to cover certain things. Say, for instance, transgender, or gender identity or gender expression are something that will actually expand that then that will work. And that may be the case out there in California, if I'm not mistaken, I believe they've actually got gender identity and or gender expression, codified in the language.

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I think it's gender identity, and that

V

Vanessa Edwards Foster 1:03:55

that will cover it out there. But unfortunately, that's one of the things we're having major, major issues with them. We actually have some people in the Senate, the federal or us and that understand they're sympathetic to our concerns, but they don't want to touch the language, basically, because they don't want to upset the applecart. They're afraid that any changes to the language will all of a sudden become a red flag, and that people just don't change the language on the bills. But I know better than that, because the opposition is constantly wheeling away and changing the language and trying to manipulate it. And they don't seem to have any problems in pushing forward with their agenda in watering these things down or winnowing them to as narrow a focus as humanly possible and in essence, making them ineffective. And noticed that or I noticed i i believe that you went out with Sylvia and Delilah Did you know to Senator Feinstein to speak with her We

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1:05:00

did. And actually, we met with one of her assistants and not really sure how effective we were. We haven't heard back from them. I actually emailed them several times, and I haven't, I've yet to hear a response. I've gotten an automatic reply. But that means nothing to me.

v

Vanessa Edwards Foster 1:05:18

That was one of the things I've heard is she needs a lot of education on the transgender issues. Yeah, I,

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1:05:23

you know, we want to actually go out there, when she's in the office, some every time we seem to try to get a hold of her, she's at the Capitol, or she, you know, she's in Washington, or she's not around. So it's just a matter of, you know, we're just going to be persistent until we can get her you know, when she's in the office, Francisco, and we're just gonna go in there and, you know, try to talk to her exactly

v

Vanessa Edwards Foster 1:05:45

that. And actually, the press seems to be very effective times, if you if you put out the strategic press, and especially if you name individuals, suddenly, they either a become very embarrassed by this and start moving or be started really trying to cover their tracks, rather heavily. And it's kind of funny to actually see the movement on some of these things sometimes are, we've actually had at least a measure of efficacy with some of the press that we've put out on certain issues, obviously, and they do actually read a lot of the press that that we put out, they haven't moved on the LL EA, the hate crimes here. But they have seen it and they are aware of it. They obviously don't want it to become a little more pointed or more intense. But the thing is that, you know, it's obviously not in our best interest to just let this slide. And obviously, they're pretty much of a mind that they're going to continue going on with the business as usual. So obviously, we do want to have you in Washington, as well as Sylvia and the rest of the families, many of us we can have up there, whenever we do go up for the intact lobby days, which should be sometime late next spring. So it's kind of marked on your calendar at the end of April.

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1:07:08

Yeah, we will definitely be there. Excellent. Um,

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Vanessa Edwards Foster 1:07:13

one of the questions I did want to ask, before we wrap this up, I know we've got about another 510 minutes or so. I know there's you know, a lot of imagery around this. And I know that Gwen has made an extreme impact, not only within the community, but outside of the community, and has brought a lot of not only attention, but dialogue as a result of what had happened to her. And in some cases, there has actually been, I guess, maybe a sense that she's kind of

become a martyr for for lack of a better term. And I don't know if that's something that sits well with the family or not, I mean, how do you feel about people who I guess kind of motorized her as a result of this? You



1:08:02

know, it just depends on I guess, what, what they are putting out there? You know, I really, it's not something that we're looking at, at the moment, it's not a priority. Should I say? We're, we're pretty much focusing on a lot of other things. As far as you know, we want Gwen's memory to remain alive as far as her being a martyr. You know, she, she was a kid, she was a teenage kid, you know, and people are viewing her that way. You know, I really, I don't know what to, I don't know what to say. It's interesting, you know, that people are out there, I haven't actually read any, any, any articles or anything like that. I did read something about a gentleman who was upset about the whole issue and didn't think that she deserved to be in the media or anything at all. But, you know, that just goes to show you the ignorance that still lies out there.



V Vanessa Edwards Foster 1:08:52

Because he didn't hope it's not the one that was kind of taking the family to test who was on.



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There was a there was actually two journalists, um, I don't remember their names. I know, one was a, from Cal State, Hayward. He was basically, I don't, I guess somewhat mocking us smoking in the family by saying that we made it the media circus, and that, you know, these guys did what any guy would have done in that situation. And, you know, he put the question out there to whoever was reading his article that, you know, what would you have done if you were in their shoes? You know, no one stops to think about that. And



V Vanessa Edwards Foster 1:09:29

I think I saw that one from Iowa State, actually, if that's the same one I'm thinking of. He was basically kind of sticking up for Magic Johnson and all the others. Well, I was just livid at that when I read them. Yeah,



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it made me sick to my stomach to see it. And I just thought, you know, fortunately, there's 1000s of other articles out there that were positive and they were positive in the way they were reporting the story. Little details You know that some of the, you know how the media is sometimes they, they put things out there that they just kind of turn the words around a little bit. You know, and but the biggest issue was trying to get them to say, see, you know, and for the family that was, that was pretty hard for us to in the beginning because we were, you know, we were still adjusting to her.

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Vanessa Edwards Foster 1:10:20

And I think I'd actually heard someone, or I dealt with someone on the phone about them. And they said, Well, look, you know, I mean, I was basically taking my cues from the mom, and the mom was saying, he and he and Nettie and I said, Look, folks mean, please understand that the mother was raised with this child for for 18 years or 17 years. And it's not something that you know, after 15 or 16 years, when your child transitions, that suddenly you're able to just flip a switch and automatically go to a brand new name and a brand new pronoun, with the same person that you've grown up with that takes, you know, an immense amount of discipline to be able to do that. And it's, it's very, very easy just to kind of, you know, slip into the old mode. And, and it still happens with my mom, I transition like seven years ago, but I still get the heat and the hammer all the time. And it doesn't work. I'm sorry, go ahead.

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1:11:17

It's not an easy thing. You know, I was even with Glenn when she was alive. You know, when she was around her friends, I really, I made it a point, I made a conscious effort to not say, Eddie or him that, you know, when I would just come over to say hello, word. And if she was sitting on the couch watching TV, yeah, I would just automatically I would just flip out with Edie, or, you know, I would say, you know, talking about him in the mail fence, and I would just look and say, I'm sorry, sweetie, you know, I'm still trying to get used to it. And she didn't care. It didn't bother her at all, you know, because she knew that I loved her and accepted her as she was. And she knew we were still, you know, struggling to get used to it,

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Vanessa Edwards Foster 1:11:58

to get the minds around it and everything. And that's kind of there was a sense that I kind of got from it is, in fact, Sophie even mentioned, I believe in one of the interviews that she had mentioned to Gwen that, well, sweetie, I will start calling you go in once you have the surgery. And, you know, it apparently, I guess was okay with when she, you know, she understood that. And I was, I guess kind of similar to my situation, except no, well, I haven't had surgery or anything, but at least to me, as long as they're making that effort, and especially on public, then I'm not going to, you know, sit over here and, you know, pick nits just, you know, over what's occurring at home, you know, when their guard has dropped and, you know, when the hairs down, and everyone's just kind of relaxing, you know, I mean, you can be a little bit militant about just about anything. And so I always try and, you know, I guess look beyond maybe the surface, and just to try and see the intent, as opposed to, you know, just kind of reading words and, you know, taking each word apart.

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1:13:06

We look at, we look back now at some of the videos that people have sent us from, you know, the memorial service and whatnot. It's still the at one point, she's, she's talking or she's given a speech. And throughout the whole speech, he's saying, he and Eddie and we all sit there and we like cringe now, and we look at each other going stuck saying, because we're just like, you

know, even though at that point, it was still fresh in our heads and everything. And we were completely just not focused and whatnot. Even Sylvia, she goes, Oh, my gosh, I gotta stop saying that. So, you know, I mean, she's

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Vanessa Edwards Foster 1:13:43

been very good about it now. Yeah.

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Now, I mean, you know, definitely all of us are making a big effort. Because, you know, that's, that's what Quinn wanted. And unfortunately, you know, I know she's smiling down from heaven, saying, finally you guys. Finally,

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Vanessa Edwards Foster 1:14:00

she had her impact. She definitely did. One, I guess a real quick like, is, one thing I wanted to touch on was the effect on Sylvia since then, well, in fact, some of the things that had come out, not necessarily in the media, but from other individuals was, I guess maybe some of the things that Matthew Shepard's parents had dealt with that, oh, well, she's just in this for the limelight. She travels across the country and does you know, these, I guess, appearances and lives off of other people's dimes, and they're wanting to raise funds for you know, God knows whatever. But can you do me a favor and just for the record, speak to this so people know out there that are what the actual reality the situation is, I know it and to be truthful with you. I want them hearing it from the family members themselves. Oh,

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1:14:57

yeah. You know, Sylvia flu. across the country one time. And you know, they actually they basically paid for her plane ticket and her hotel and she was footing the bill for the rest of it Annelle. And I mean, she has not been able to return to work she, her her job was it required a lot of details and a lot of focus was legal work. And so in order to go back to her, she needs to be able to concentrate, and she just has not been able to do that. Like you were saying, you know, we never really had time to really mourn or grieve together as a family because everything just happened so fast. And then before we knew it, we were in the pre trials, the preliminary trials, were taking up a lot of our time. And then, you know, we're reliving the whole situation over and over and over again, in our heads every single day. Every day, we set foot in that courthouse, we were wondering, what what were we going to hear, you know, that was new to us about what they had done to her or what things that she had said, and they actually made a comment one day, I remember and they said that their neighbors was testifying and said that she had never fought back that she didn't do anything, which we don't believe at all, because, you know, Glenn would definitely have fought back. And apparently, one had told them to leave her alone or do please stop because she had a family. And apparently, those were the only words that she had told them as a you know, please stop I have a family.

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Vanessa Edwards Foster 1:16:24

That was one of the most heartbreak things I think of them the entire murder hearing that and that she was pleading for life.

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1:16:33

That was the hardest thing for us to swallow. You know, and, and I think about it now, and it still is really hard for me because, you know, she was murdered literally two blocks away from, you know, where we live. And my bedroom faces that home. And I think you know, what, if I had my window open, maybe I could have heard something, you know, and because she would always call me if she needed a ride or she was in trouble or anything. And, you know, it was so strange for her not to call or anything, even if she was mad at her mom, she would call me so that someone would know, she was okay. But you know, my sisters, she's just never been the same ever since this has all happened. And you know, it's it's, it's unexplainable, I guess, the pain that you have to go through and to endure, and, you know, the stability, you know, your life is just completely changed, it's turned upside down, and you don't know where to start anymore. You don't know which way to focus or anything. And, you know, unfortunately, my sister is still going through that right now. And, you know, she is suffering financially, but, you know, we're trying to make good things come out of this. And that is, you know, we want to get the message across, we want to educate, you know, the world as far as hate and, you know, really hate starts with children by the parents teaching them hate, it's a learned behavior. And if we can stop it, you know, and get it into the schools that you know, there's different people are different than, we're all different. And it's okay to be different. You know, and hopefully, there will be a lot more acceptance. And if the kids learn at a young age as they get older, you know, they won't think about, you know, killing somebody, because they've never dealt with that type of person or whatnot, you know, that probably won't happen. If we just accept each other, you know, as we are and that's it. Just

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Vanessa Edwards Foster 1:18:22

out of curiosity is the community. Um, I'm presuming the community has become at least a little bit more sensitive. But has there been I guess, any kind of backsliding, I guess, if you both from the community, maybe just kind of easing off of this or is the community still is devoted to, to fighting this, as it was immediately after? You

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know, to be quite honest, the way that I feel like, right now, as far as the community, we're not, we're not really getting any support from a lot of members of the committee, not as much as we used to, but there has been a new, a new group that was formed and they call themselves not a Newark. And they're actually are the ones that have been going to school board meetings and whatnot, trying to get them to implement some type of educational programs for teenagers, transgender teens, gay teens, lesbian teens, and even trying to get some type of education set up in the elementary school so that children learn not to hate and so far, they just started they just formed about three weeks ago, maybe for man maybe a little bit longer. But um, so they are out there and they're doing it and in Gwen's memory, which is really nice. It's a couple of high school students, some alumni, some teachers, a couple of parents,

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Vanessa Edwards Foster 1:19:44

do they get the do they get Chola involved as well? Or? Um, well, here's

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the thing is we didn't they didn't even call us and tell us that they were forming and then we have a annual parade in Newark. It's called the Newark Days Parade and they actually had At a parade and there was a there's a little group of people that marched down in the parade with they all had gloves, t shirt, you know, Gwen's picture on and on their T shirts, and they had candles lit and they were walking down and in honor of her. And they got a lot of applause from the community when they were when they walked by people were clapping and stuff. And we found out shortly after in the newspaper that they had formed, and they they named themselves not in Newark. And I, I contacted one of the well, actually, the drama school teacher was the one that actually I contacted because he was the only one that I'd recognize the name. And that's how we started getting involved. So we actually are going to start attending all their meetings and starting to help them move forward with that. Excellent. So that was something really neat. But at first for a while, I got really scared because I thought it was forgotten that, you know, the media wasn't as attentive anymore, and that everybody's forgotten. You know, my sister was, you know, she did a was like what was asking for help, as far as you know, helping her pay for financial is for financial things as far as getting her to do the things that she needed to do, but it's just not happening, you know, people can only give, you know,

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Vanessa Edwards Foster 1:21:15

and that's one of the things I guess that comes out of this as it becomes a catalyst for change and actually spurs you on into other pursuits that you never would have thought about. Well, Imelda, I want to thank you very, very much for coming on the air with us this evening. I wish we could have had Silvio and I know she's a little bit under the weather at the moment. But yes, that flu that's going around. Yeah, this is true. It's one of those years. But I really appreciate you coming on with us. As always having me Oh, not a problem, you're an effective spokesperson. And anytime that that I can have you on, I will definitely put you on the air or put you in front of a congressional hearing wherever necessary. You make one of the best impacts whatsoever of family members that stand up for us. And we appreciate everything that you do.

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I appreciate everything too, Vanessa, thanks a lot.

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Vanessa Edwards Foster 1:22:09

Not a problem.



1:22:09

All right. You have a good night. Yes, ma'am.



V Vanessa Edwards Foster 1:22:11

YouTube. All right. And that was our wrap up for this evening. Wow,



J Jimmy Carper 1:22:20

that was powerful. She's an incredible speaker. She really is. Yeah. So she's got all the facts. But but she's a very down to earth person. She's, she doesn't, is he not? She doesn't sound like a public speaker.



V Vanessa Edwards Foster 1:22:37

Right. Exactly in that was the one thing that really, I guess, kind of jumped out at me the very first time that I had contacted her. And obviously she, you know, had a little bit of concern. It was kind of like, whoa, who are you? Yeah, yeah. But she opened up a very easily and very, just very, I guess, unconsciously, in was just a very warm and unpretentious individual. And she, she knows exactly what it is that has happened to the family. And she speaks to them and speaks from the heart. And that's the one thing that people can relate to, in the same way, that same exact way. Just a very, very down to earth very, you know, common, everyday individual, but she speaks from the heart, and it's something that everyone can relate to immediately. And they just, they make a wonderful impact. Unfortunately, it had to come as a result of a tragedy. I wish it would have been under better circumstances. I wish we could have had them as advocate with Gwen. Back in the old days, but these are some of the the individuals that probably are going to be our best activists in the years to come. And in fact them family members are what we've always tried them to bring along.



J Jimmy Carper 1:24:04

Okay, we have Dean Becker on the line now for this week's edition of cultural baggage tidying. If Well, first of all, you have to press air. Oh, sorry, as and, and then you'll hear Dean. Hello, Dean. Dean Becker. Did it turn red?



V Vanessa Edwards Foster 1:24:19

Well, hang on.



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Now, Dean Becker. Good evening. Good evening. How

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Jimmy Carper 1:24:25

you doing? I'm

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well, I'm well, it's good. Nice to hear your voices. Yes, I, you know, it's such a busy time. And this drug war. Reform is making a lot of progress. We're kind of two steps up one step back. But it's hard to report all the news. I was kind of scanning the news tonight from around the net, get stuff from here and there and one that caught my attention. You hear about it every week. And it's another cop caught, you know, caught up in the greed and corruption. And this particular gentleman he's written up in the New York Times they're saying that he stole 167 \$1,000 ripped it off from a drug courier who and then a little later in the week, he had to murder somebody over the situation. I know and they're saying what a shame it is. And, and indeed it is. Because I'm sure many of these, these public servants, if you will go in with with the best of intentions, you know to serve their fellow man and yet they wind up tainted, infected by all the money, all the available money through the drugs. And we lose many good public servants to that. Here's another story I again from the New York Times we're talking about, again, the research on ecstasy is clouded by errors. And most folks have heard of this study, but they did a study at Johns Hopkins on ecstasy. And as it turns out, they used amphetamines instead, instead, use a mad read that massive amounts injected directly into the monkey subjects brains. Yes. Can you believe this? Two of the 10 died. They use that report to prepare the rave act before Congress told how terrible this drug was. So after the drug after the rave Act was passed, then they come back and say, Oh, error error we they shipped us the wrong stuff. We didn't know what turns out. They did it four times. Four different studies were corrupted. And these are the people that the government trust makes

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Jimmy Carper 1:26:22

you wonder about Johns Hopkins, doesn't it? Well, yes, four times for scientific research, especially there and they're not going to trust much that comes out of that place anymore.

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Vanessa Edwards Foster 1:26:31

We were already a little bit kind of antsy about him after the train textual studies. Well,

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1:26:37

you have to watch the I don't know who's wearing the white coat these days. You know, they they kind of did the presentation using a gentleman named on drawing a blank. Anyway, Ricardo was the one who developed the study and they took it before Congress, and the gentleman who made the Allen Lesnar I'm sorry, okay, as the gentleman's name, who made the presentation before Congress, and he's actually tied in with Robert Dupont, and Pice testers, America, they are the guys who want to piss test every person on the planet, to their

financial gain. And, you know, we need to focus in on these type of financial incentive cutbacks, if you will. You know, we hear out of Canada that they now opening shooting galleries, in, you know, Vancouver to cut down on the AIDS and the Hep C incidents. And basically, they're trying to find ways to stop spending all their money on incarceration, spend it on treatment, spend it on health, and benefit to their people rather than persecution. And this coming Tuesday, my guest is going to be Larry Campbell, who is the mayor of Vancouver, he was just elected on the drug reform policy. He promised to clean up the streets to provide health care workers to take care of these addicts, and in general, to stop spending money, pouring it down the drain on this drug war. And I'm certainly going to call Mr. White, talk to his people and let them know that this gentleman's on and he's got some good advice to offer. And I hope you'll tune in, I'm going to be after Mr. White, every step of the way. We're going to be before him and city council. And we're going to shame these gentlemen. We're going to maybe I keep trying to find a better phrase, we're going to educate them. We're going to try our best not to save them, I suppose. To make them understand the need is necessary. And we're going to need the work of you know, I want a different person down there before City Council every Tuesday. Just giving them a little pep talk letting them know we're not going to go away. Anybody wants to join that effort. Call me. 281-752-9198

 Jimmy Carper 1:29:00

No, wait a minute. Wait a minute. Wait a minute, that was way too fast. All

 1:29:03

right. Ken 8175275291989198 Dean Becker. And if and if anybody wants to, you know, be part of that effort, because you know, you have to take off a few minutes go downtown on a Tuesday. Yeah. But if we all do it if we hit on every week, and just let them know it's going to change and we can make the city much like Oakland or San Francisco where decent people live in a democratic society you know other than the DEA wandering the streets like Google's on the wind you know it's a it's a decent place to use medical marijuana or even recreational or sacramental if he want to, because they understand nobody's died from it yet and no one you know goes berserk or starts wielding axes like our first drugs are and you know, a bit I have good news for me. I'm happy to say I picked up one more station for my drug truth network. Oh, right. It's out in San Francisco. It's called KP o at 9.5k poo. I don't know.

 Jimmy Carper 1:30:14

For sure that's a real station.

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Well, yes I am he's there on the net. They they actually do live broadcasts, just like us. Cool. And and you know, they're going to be doing the cultural baggage shows.

 Jimmy Carper 1:30:27

Great that that is good news.

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You're getting syndicated here.

1:30:31

I'm trying I got nine stations, nine, nine towers, seven states, one in British Columbia. And the Sirius Satellite Radio Network. So

J Jimmy Carper 1:30:40

nice.

1:30:41

I just keep growing it is all I can do. It's through the hard work of folks at KPFT. It's through the support of folks like Jimmy and the crew. I know hell,

J Jimmy Carper 1:30:53

it's your hard work, Dean. Well,

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you've helped me my friend. You've helped me along the way and I so much appreciate your very report. You're very welcome.

J Jimmy Carper 1:31:01

Because this information means a lot to my community. And, and I like having it every week.

1:31:08

Well, it's it's so important that we do work together. Yeah, coalition building. The more I think about this because, Jimmy, as you well know, I think that the war of terror is nothing more than the war on drugs with afterburners, and we are bad to get our country deep fried. If we do not stand up to these lying weasels. Yeah. And I hate to pontificate and editorialize. But that's just how I see it. And we need to find a way to better appreciate this democracy and to attend to it

and to take care of it and to be part of it. That means writing those letters, that means making those phone calls. That means being at those meetings. And we can when we can when they stand there on bluster and nerve, and we can back them down because they got no facts.

 **Vanessa Edwards Foster 1:31:59**

You're right. The only problem is getting them off of the money. Yeah, it's what makes the entire thing go

 **Jimmy Carper 1:32:05**

course. It's the money. We know. It

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isn't the Dean, thank

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you very much. And of course, Dean Becker can be heard every Tuesday night right here on KPFT at 630 to seven, with a half hour of cultural baggage and for 20 Every six afternoons, is that right? Every day prohibited on Sun never on Sunday. But for 20 Every afternoon, you're gonna hear something like keyword right now. Thank you.

 **Jimmy Carper 1:32:34**

Thank you, Dean. Good night. Good night. Okay, it's 142 in the am you're listening to after hours Queer radio with attitude. And we're wrapping up the transgender segment Thank you very much. Not a problem. And since we're wrapping it up, I gotta play the song.

 **Vanessa Edwards Foster 1:32:58**

time we've got to have a That's That's

 **Jimmy Carper 1:33:00**

right. I didn't want to get those those mean phone calls. So here it is what you've been waiting for.

 **Vanessa Edwards Foster 1:33:06**

negatory Yes.

