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SPEAKERS

Elizabeth Richards, Sarah DePalma



00:02

The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature that may be considered objectionable by some listener



00:10

discretion is advised. I hate it when they don't fast forward a cart. You don't I mean no we don't have dead air I'm talking there. Let's get this out and get the opening and and get the show on the road as it were.



00:53

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 transgender 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 closet. 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 our.



02:15

Hello, Houston



02:23

Hi, Tim. How are you doing this week?



02:25

Oh, fine. This is KPFT Houston and ke O 's college station you're listening to after hours. But Jimmy Carter is not here tonight. And neither one of us are Jimmy Carper. That's true. Actually, He's coughing his full head off right now as we speak. Good. Alright, he's getting ready to all the date. What is the date?



Elizabeth Richards 02:46

It's Valentine's Day. The 14th That would be today. Anyway. Poor Jimmy.



02:56

The February 14 edition. Go coffee in the other room. Please go go. Go away.



03:02

Jimmy taken out. My show back.



03:06

Yeah, any second now? He's rewinding the card. Yes, there it is. As the properly fast forward and Curt for those lazy god damn programmers who refuse to do so. Yeah, really. Anyway, yeah, let me get out of the way. Really? Get out of the way so Sarah can take her show back over. Oh, no, that happiness.



Sarah DePalma 03:37

Okie dokie Hello, Houston. Musical chairs here. Oh, it's Winky Dink with after hours or Tinky wink or whatever it is. Let's see if we can get Ziff we can get Katrina up on the air. Hello, Katrina. Hello. Hey, we got her. Hey, OKAY. Jimmy, which which ones do you hit with Jim? Which ones do you have queued where? So I know here that you can use the top one. That's the top one. Okay, the second one. Oh, good. Okay, now I understand exactly what we're doing. We are well organized as usual. This is after hours queer radio with attitude. I'm Sarah dipalma. And of course sitting next to me tonight since Jimmy is really coughing his full head off out there is Beth Richard



Elizabeth Richards 04:23

and across the way and the other little room behind the glass is Katrina row. Excellent.

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Sarah DePalma 04:28

Well, how do y'all welcome to after hours. If you're coming home from the rodeo. Howdy. If you're coming home from if you're coming home from Mardi Gras, jingle them beads honey, and I'll see who else are we missing here. If you're coming home from the bars, I hope you're sober. And if you're driving if you're driving, and Happy Valentine's Day to my lovely Laurie, I did get your card in my purse, and you are so sweet like It's an unbelievable, so you want to say Happy Valentine's Day.

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Elizabeth Richards 05:03

Oh, I've been saying Happy Valentine's Day, my sweet back at home all night long and I can't wait to say it again on the air. Hey, Therese. Hey, see that?

User

05:11

Can I say Happy Valentine's Day to my three cats? Yes, you can is JMeter. Now meow, and Meow?

S

Sarah DePalma 05:18

Oh my gosh. There may be hope for us yet, but I just don't know. Well, let me tell you about the show tonight. First of all, we'll be going to be talking about the transgender Lobby Day which took place on January the 27th 27th thrive in which was a an absolutely major success. Just we have lots of great stuff to tell you about that. Also some very interesting and provocative things that came out of talking to state legislators. And we'll be talking about some of that, which we'll find very interesting. Brought some news front that I pulled off of the internet. And we'll be talking about some of that in tonight. We also have an interview with Candace Brown, that Candice is taking part in a transgender history research project, which is taking place, I guess, really out of Northern California. But they are trying to put together the history of the transgender movement in 20th century.

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Elizabeth Richards 06:19

Well, it's gonna be quite a show then.

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Sarah DePalma 06:22

Yeah, I guess I gotta say about this cane is brown. Yeah, this

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Elizabeth Richards 06:26

is sort of like sounding pretty interesting, because there hasn't been really a lot of documentation on all this.



Sarah DePalma 06:31

No, there's been Yeah, I didn't think we actually existed. Well, only if you're damn Carpenter, but for the rest of us, we exist.



Elizabeth Richards 06:39

There's plenty of documentation and plenty of evidence in places like Geraldo. But when you get to the real story, there's the real stories like on Jerry Springer. Yeah. It's pretty darn sparse. That's that's about the best you can put it



Sarah DePalma 06:54

all them chairs smash and Ts is on Jerry Springer. Ya know, what I was gonna say? He's Kansas is a very nice person. And I think the audience will enjoy the interview. But she has a bias that I find especially irritating.



07:09

There's there's a real feel, Sarah,



Sarah DePalma 07:11

well, don't get me started. Don't



07:14

go there. Know what your hands on?



Sarah DePalma 07:17

This. She's at one point she says during the interview. We want to move the Transgender Archives, that Dallas Denny has moved to San Francisco, because she says that's where the heart of the transgender community is. Oh, sure. I have a problem with that.



Elizabeth Richards 07:32

I think that the heart is like, where the home is.

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Sarah DePalma 07:37

I think the heart is like whatever it is for the week. Yeah, in truth, the heart of the transgender movement, if there is such a thing, it was in DeKalb. Last month. It was in Louisville, Kentucky when they passed an ordinance that was in Austin on January 27. It was in Austin with us. It's now with its time Illinois, as they tried, they have very good shot of getting in a state version of ended past and the state of Illinois.

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08:01

And it's also in Maryland, where they actually have a governor who will get behind such a bill.

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Elizabeth Richards 08:07

If it was at the Stonewall tavern.

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Sarah DePalma 08:10

Yeah, I resent the hell out of this concept that if that if it doesn't happen on the east coast or the west coast, then it isn't worth anything

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08:17

to Maryland is on the east coast. But again, if something has is happening there, you know, more power to him.

E

Elizabeth Richards 08:22

Yeah, but the concept is New York and San Francisco basically. More than that, yeah.

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Sarah DePalma 08:28

First of all, we have one of the most influential and powerful transgender communities anywhere in the country, right here in Houston. Let's start with that.

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08:35


Technically, we want to coast just not either the left or the right coast, you


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Sarah DePalma 08:39


know, in the south coast, or as they would kill us. We're on the wrong coast. Well, I


 Elizabeth Richards 08:43
grew up on the north coast. And they would call that the same. Yeah.

 Sarah DePalma 08:47
And I just I resent that. And I'm like, Hey, wait a minute here. I just not buying into this deal. So anyway, I got that off my chest. And now I feel better.

 08:58
Where did it go?

 Sarah DePalma 09:00
I really don't know here. Comment. No. And for those of you who were are gay or lesbian and listening to the show, and you may be saying yourself, Well, why would we want to listen into a train a show that has, that's just generally about transgender folks. That's not exactly the case. I think you're gonna want to stick around. We had some very, we learned some very interesting information in Austin. And I'll give you just a teaser. On several occasions, we had legislators who told us that is those of us who are transgendered, that we would be better off going to Austin and not aligning ourselves with the gay and lesbian community, because aligning ourselves with the gay and lesbian community actually hurt our credibility. Didn't really. So for all those all those folks out there who say, Well, you know, we don't want transgenders lobbying for gays and lesbians because you hurt our cause. Actually, we learned exactly do the opposite.

 Elizabeth Richards 10:00
And the reasoning behind this statement was given not given.

 Sarah DePalma 10:05
You have to stay tuned to the show to find out well, I'm

 Elizabeth Richards 10:08
staying tuned. I'll tell you

 Sarah DePalma 10:10

they'll have to stay tuned to find out why. In I'll tell you this just right off the top, the sodomy Bill sodomy law is not going to be repealed by the legislature. Fab. We will explain why. But that's,

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Elizabeth Richards 10:25

well, you've certainly got me curious. Well, as you might guess, I wasn't able to make it to this one. But it's got quite a lot of stories that were

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10:33

for those who haven't heard there were 52 of us, though.

⦿

10:37

52. That's an even deck of cards.

⦿

10:41

Oh, we weren't exactly even I'd say we were rather odd. But we got to we. We got the job done. I think

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Sarah DePalma 10:50

in a fine bunch of people. They weren't so

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10:52

which one was the queen of hearts? Probably Danielle. Yeah.

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Sarah DePalma 10:58

If anybody's gonna be the queen of hearts, it would have been Danielle I'm sure. You know, she has left us to go to California.

⦿

11:05

No, really? Yeah.

S

Sarah DePalma 11:08

Yeah. Well, you put you know, she was the ultimate California girl before she ever left like a really? I Yeah. Yeah. And so we're gonna miss Danielle. She did come to Austin. And



11:21

one of her last, I guess, last official acts as a Texas TG type person. But she's always always been a trooper. And I think she was one of the stars of the day.

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Sarah DePalma 11:32

She and Vanessa went to go see Robert Halton from Pasadena.



11:36

They deserve the transgender Medal of Honor for that.

S

Sarah DePalma 11:40

Well, I think their attitude is they hit the lobbying all day. It was the end of the day. And I think your attitude is essentially what the hell we have nothing to lose. It's got to have some fun. Yeah, in Taunton, in his usual right wing Pasadena way, couldn't carry on a coherent sentence. He just quoted the Bible verse after verse after verse, none of which applied to any of the questions that we're asking. And no, in other words, he was just about what you'd expect them

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Elizabeth Richards 12:05

to be your mistake is to assume that rationality is required.



12:11

Thank you. Well, and to the credit of some of the conservatives that me and some of the people I was partnered up with went to see, you know, they would throw that in. But you know, to their credit, they could actually form complete sentences. I didn't agree with a whole lot of them. Although you, one of the things we came across is that we did we were not absolutely diametrically opposed on everything. One of the things that happened is we actually opened some eyes on employment. That's right. That maybe not enough, but some

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Sarah DePalma 12:41

Well, we're going to talk about that as the show goes on. Now, before we get to the song I gotta. I gotta tell you, Jerry Falwell has way too much time on his hands. No doubt, and I know by now everybody's probably just tired of Tinky Winky or whatever the heck the name of this

little blue thing is. This is blue. teletype Teletubby. And we're, I guess that's what they're called. But I thought I got to really Jay Leno had a great line on this. You know, one of the one of the Teletubbies has this strange thing that sticks out of his head and for all the world, it does look like a dildo attached to the top of his head. To which Jay Leno replied, I think Jerry Falwell is going after the wrong Teletubby you wouldn't want the one gift if any of the Teletubbies was going to be gay. It wouldn't have a triangle on its head. It would have that so kind of thing Yeah. Which I have to say I thought was just a terrific line in the audience loved it. And all week long, Jay Leno was referring to as his stupid story of the week there you got it David Letterman was doing now you kind of wonder how sick a pervert is this guy that he could come up with something this bizarre?

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Elizabeth Richards 13:50

Well, obviously the Clinton things blown over enough that that's the next item of attention. Well,

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13:54

that's somebody made that joke and I believe it was politically incorrect. I think it was Bill Maher, who said, you know, you can tell that the impeachment is over because now Jerry Falwell is back picking on the homosexuals again. You know, they they're, they're losing their main main fundraiser in Clinton, because they know that's not going to work now. Now they have to I think, I think it was Diana sick Atella who used this phrase I saw online a while back, you know, we're being pimped by the religious right. And now they're back at it again.

S

Sarah DePalma 14:26

pimped is a good word for Yeah. Diane otter no without the right wing idiots that she's going out there. Oh, yeah. Anyway, that inspired me as I was coming in here. And I thought that you know, we really there's there's a song by romanovski and Phillips, we're going to play for you. And I just couldn't I just couldn't let this one go. In we're just going to go ahead and let this go. And I think you'll get the point of this. But if God was going to be anything, don't you think God would be a queen? I think so. So with that we go to romanovski in Phillips Yeah. Oh Syd Spencer all I can hear all I can handle YeeHaw for all of you folks who are coming home from the rodeo, and you didn't know that they were gay cowboys. Well, now, you know, they're certainly, I guess they never heard of the Texas gay Rodeo Association. Well, there is one I try is what? T G Ra. And let's go ahead and get done. Okay. Yeah, we didn't get

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15:23

all that and more on tonight's episode of the Jerry Springer show.

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Sarah DePalma 15:28

I'm sorry, me on because I don't know how to break any chairs. You know, that's an interesting point, the audience might be interested to know how you got on one of these talk shows. This

point, the audience might be interested to know how you get on one of those talk shows. I've been contacted by several different seven different talk shows now. And what will happen is a producer will call and they will talk to you about all kinds of different things. So that you're sort of wondering, where are they? Where are they going with this? And they'll ask you questions about everything except the show they're really interested in? Well, not I know what they're interested in, there's only one reason they would call me,



16:02

you know, about banks.



Sarah DePalma 16:06

And that's probably not bad. Right. So okay, so they will finally get around to saying to you, you know, well, actually, we're interested in doing a show about transgenders. So then I'll start to explain to them about what it is that the Texas gender association or you know, or it's time, America, any of those things, and they start to discover that, gee, I've got a real job. I'm not a freak. I have a loving relationship. We have a legitimate political organization. And you can use complete sentences. I can I can spell cat if you give me the K and the A. And you know what, they don't want me on the show, they will come right out and say, Well, you know, this is all very interesting, but really, it probably wouldn't be much for the ratings.



16:49

Yeah. And for those out there who are interested in a little bit more proof of this, there's a book out, I think it came out late last year called freaks tuck back, I forget the name, I forget the author. And it is all about this. There's, I think two chapters in it about transgendered people who've been on shows like this, but it's about various various groups of folks who have been on on the shows, and basically just really exposing them for what they are. There was it was either Linda Cynthia Phillips from, I guess, formerly of the Texas tea party. And they said they were may have been on maybe seven or eight of them. And they sort of all the ones I've either been on or been contacted by only one of them, actually told the truth about what the show was going to be about.



Sarah DePalma 17:34

Linda Phillips told me that the last time they got contacted they told them the only way they would go on the show is if they were given their their return tickets in advance. Yeah. So in case the show lied to them, they could go home and show refuse to put them on. I know on one of the shows they had, I want to say it was Jerry Springer. I think that's right. They had brought somebody with him that that was kind of an aggressive sort. And at one point actually had picked grabbed Jerry Springer and called him a damn liar. Needless to say, that didn't make the air. But Jerry Springer didn't appreciate being grabbed that way either.



Elizabeth Richards 18:11

Well, my favorite transgendered issue with talk shows was when Kate Bornstein took over the Geraldo show that

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Sarah DePalma 18:19

she was on Jenny Jones one time and it was really funny. Jenny Jones had asked her whole series of what were basically sexual innuendo type questions, right? And finally, she asked Kate, she says, Well, you know, is it possible for transsexuals to orgasm to which Kate stopped, looked her straight in the eye and said, Are you flirting with me? And brought down the house? Yeah. And I thought, you know, Jenny Jones had this coming in they had actually some not that they had some nerve for leaving it in and because it was obvious that Kate was just like, cases where we you know, you are kind of queued up consider this

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Elizabeth Richards 18:53

Well, yeah. Pretty much that same line was used with Kate back on that Geraldo show and her response at that point was Listen, honey, both the electricity and the plumbing work just fine. That's where that one came from? was Kate on the Jerry's on the Geraldo show

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Sarah DePalma 19:09

that does sound like that does sound like Kate Bornstein? I have to say, Yeah,

19:13

Kate. Will, I would say do anything. Do to to prove a point. Yeah.

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Sarah DePalma 19:19

At one point, she good point. At one point she and Martine Rothblatt and I were conspiring to try and get on the Jerry Springer show, right. In our home was our that I feel figuring was if we could get on Jerry Springer. First of all, he wouldn't stand a chance with the three of us on that same show. That's the first thing. The second thing is we could finally expose him for what an idiot he truly was. And I think they get kind of suspicious of putting Kate in Martine together. And they started like, Well wait, and then when they started looking into me and found out what I was about, they decided that they were being set up. Yeah, so they figured this out was too bad.

19:57

To be slightly fair to Springer, it's kind of sad in the way that we are treated in the press that occasionally if there if transgendered people are brought up and he's like, among a panel of four, I couldn't remember this on politically incorrect from a couple of months ago. He will

actually defend us, which is really bizarre. And but yeah, I've seen him where he where people will start. And actually, sadly, although I generally like Bill Maher, he occasionally makes some really idiotic comments about us. On on a politically incorrect panel, Jerry Springer will be the one who actually jumps to our defense.

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Elizabeth Richards 20:38

So is he being contrarian, to be contrarian to improve the ratings or is that real?

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20:42

I think he's just a he's just someone out to make a buck. Yeah, I guess in reality, he will come to our defense. Plus, if anyone remembers back when Jerry Springer first came on the air with his talk show. He, I think was really trying to be the next Phil Donahue rather than the next WWF. Yeah. And he had some had some real transsexuals on there. I assume they were real, because the shows were just different from what they are now. And they were very actually gotten into the in depth issues where he turned into the WWF. I don't exactly remember.

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Sarah DePalma 21:18

I think when he figured out he got better ratings. What happened was that whoever Geraldo had a couple shows that when crazy like that, Oh, yeah. And his ratings went up. And I think Springer looked at that and said, Oh, so that's how this takes? Yeah,

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21:31

well, I kind of liken it to if you've ever read anything about the history of the old, let's make a deal show the original one back in the 60s. If you seen a clip from the very first show, there were no costumes. It was just typical, very staid, almost Leave It to Beaver rich people sitting around in dark dark suits, then ties. Women look like they're right after I Love Lucy. Then Monty Hall said, you know, one day a couple a couple of weeks into the show. Someone were stupid hat. And it went downhill from there. Yeah, but it made him the law made him and that's no, that's probably what happened with Jerry Springer is just that we happen to be, in a way. You know, he's were somebody that he pumps, you know, and although I think he's, he's gotten more into three ways of light. I haven't seen him do duteous as of light

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Sarah DePalma 22:22


ratings week, when it's raining. It's true. When it sweeps week. You can you can always tell because that's when they put the transsexuals on the show. Yeah, yeah, it sweeps week. Oh, let's put the let's put the weirdos on. Yeah. Although, you know, considering some of the people Springer's head on, we look pretty tame now. Yeah. You know? Well,

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Elizabeth Richards 22:40

 Elizabeth Richards 22:40

I guess this falls under the category of transgendered history, which comes up soon.

 Sarah DePalma 22:45

Oh, yeah. Which we'll come away at. We're gonna probably do the taping the second half of the show. Right. Okay. Yeah. Let's talk a little bit. Let's talk about the lobby days. Oh, yeah. First of all, let me fill in the audience about the background on this. Four years ago, Phyllis fry, and I sat down and said, we have an awful lot of people who are having trouble getting their name changes done. And that was the story behind this was that Phyllis had had a case that took place in Dallas. And when the young lady went in to get her name, done, her name changed and to get her gender gender marker changed. And I guess we should tell the audience what that's about. When when a transgendered person goes to get their name change, in order for them to be able to work, they also need to get the gender marker on their driver's license changed. What had been happening in the past is the judge would say, you know, you can change your name to horse manure for all I care. But I'm not going to change your gender marker. So what would happen is a person would get a driver's license, and the name would say, Susie, but the gender marker said, male, and you know, there's an awful lot of states that still do that. Oh, yeah. But of course, it makes it impossible for you to get a job that makes it darn hard anyway. Yeah. So Phyllis, and I will Phyllis had had a case where the judge from the bench had told his trans transsexual that she was a pervert. I mean, in those exact words. And in said, you know, not, I will not do your gender marker, even even after surgery wasn't willing to do it. So we looked at that and said, Well, something needs to give. So we approached Deborah Dan Berg's office and we and we said, look, here's this bill, of the wording of it, we realize we'll probably be changed, but let's try it. So Deborah G and Berg got the bill into the legislature for us. And if you know anything about legislatures, what happens is nothing goes anywhere until it comes through a committee first. And because of a whole series of parliamentary things had nothing to do with us. Our bill didn't get hurt until fairly late in the session. Yeah, right. It's very end, wasn't it? There is just there's pretty close to the end. But we did get heard and going in we were told that the vote was going to be nine to nothing against us. And we're here Are that actually from Deborah Hamburg. And so Phyllis, Terry Fredrickson from San Antonio and myself, each went in and made a presentation about this bill. And we came in our best our Sunday best, as they say, in when we left, the vote was 72 in our favor. And two of the two who voted against us both told us privately that if the bill came to the floor that take a walk, they simply couldn't afford to have the names associated with it. One of them happens to be from district that has more Bible colleges than any place in the United States. So I guess I can, I can understand the problem there. So as we've had, it's happened, because it was at the end of the session, we were not able to get the bill out onto the floor. But it left fill us and I pretty convinced that if we could do if we could go up in any kind of numbers, we could accomplish something. We had hoped to do it in the last legislative session, but I read some health issues and some other things and it just didn't get done. So this session session, right, so this session, I said, Now wait a minute, if we're going to go and do this, this time, this time we want to go we want to make sure that we have a number of people with us strength in number three, right. Now, as the audience probably already knows, I'm the director of an organization called the Texas gender advocacy Information Network. I know it's a long name T game. And it is the offshoot of its time, Texas. And so I put I started putting it out on the net and said, Look, I know where I'm going to Austin, whether y'all come with me or not, you know, so, but it would be nice to have a fairly good sized number of people. And if you're, you know, if you have any interest in this, let me know. Vanessa came to me and within a couple of weeks, and said, Actually, I think we may have 20 people just coming out of Houston for this that and I started

got the first bought it, I thought, well gee, if we can get 20 out of Houston, maybe we can get two or three out of Dallas, and two or three out of San Antonio. So I suppose so that started seriously promoting this because I really hadn't thought that there was a snowball's chance. Lo and behold, we ended up with 52, which is amazing for first time effort. And the bills that we were going up there to supporting first of all, was the Texas version of the employment non discrimination act. We're going up to support a hate crimes legislation, even though I'm personally opposed to this, to hate crimes legislation, the or the membership really wanted it. So I felt it was my job to go ahead and promote that. When we were also in up there to promote the name change bill. We are up there to support the Lesbian Gay rights lobby in trying to stop the Warren Chisholm bill that would forbid foster parents by by gay and lesbian. And



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let's not forget Dalton's bill that would basically do the same thing. Well, Tom and

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Sarah DePalma 27:56

Warren Chisholm come from the same cloth, and also to report to support the repeal of the sodomy law. So we went up there not only to do gay and lesbian issue to do transgender issues, but we went up to support our gay and lesbian friends as well. Now, some people might say, why would we do that? Well, let's take the best best example. In my example, we both have female partners. So that no matter where we go, we are perceived as being lesbian,

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Elizabeth Richards 28:25

even at home, I'm, you know, in my neighborhood, I am perceived as being a part of a lesbian couple. And probably 80% of the people in my neighborhood. That's all they know. And, you know, maybe 20 maybe know how it got to be a lesbian couple. But as far as the majority of the perception is, we're a lesbian couple,

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Sarah DePalma 28:45

you told me a great story out, if you want to share it, about the lady that was leaning over the fence and wanted to know who the parent was,

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Elizabeth Richards 28:51

Oh, yeah. And, and it was, it was our next door neighbor, when we had first moved in. And in fact, they were moving out. So we only overlapped a few months. And, and just as she was moving out, she she leans over and says to me, so. So who do the kids belong to? And I said, Well, US, and she's like, Well, no, no, who's who's the parent? And we're like, well, US and she's a mother. And I go, Oh, traces and and she said something like, I remember exactly what she said, but it basically amounted to well, then then, are you You know, like adopting or anything?

And it's like, no, I'm their parent. And he's like, No, you're very good with them. And you really do treat them like your own but you just don't understand. And he's like, Oh, I understand and it's like, no, you don't know you really.

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Sarah DePalma 29:51

You can see how people are not sure what to do with us. If we don't fit any of the categories that they know it In a, it just confuses the hell out of me. I can't put this any other way. It just confused the hell out of them. So we decided that, you know, we really needed to go to Austin and support our gay and lesbian allies. So I want it. First of all, I guess we should talk about the first one. Katrina, fry, and I went up the day before the Lobby Day. And we ended up on the floor of the Senate.

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That was surreal. You want

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Sarah DePalma 30:28

to tell that we, you know,

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we were up there to meet with Debra Danburg and Glen Maxey beforehand, just to kind of get our bearings because it was really my first time in the Capitol. We'd been there for one meeting before that was my first time in the big show. Just get it getting a feel of it. And we had heard that that day. Senator Rodney Ellis was going to be introducing a different version of the hate crimes bill. And just by chance the press conference for this was taking place. I think right before we were supposed to meet with Deborah Dannenberg, we

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Sarah DePalma 31:03

were sitting in Glen Maxeys off yeah, that's right with Diane Hardy Garcia from the Lesbian Gay rights lobby, when the word came down that this new bill was going to pass and which Phyllis God bless her, Phyllis immediately turned to Glenn Nixon said and of course were included, right.

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31:22

The deal was yeah, they said, Okay, you know, the press conference is going to be taking place down on on in the Senate chamber. And I just thought, Okay, well, it's gonna be in the Senate chamber. You know, ordinary people can't go down. I forget who it was it Yeah, just wander on over there. And sure enough, we wandered wander on it, and we just wandered on in. I even have, after the press conference is over. I set up my camera and took a picture of me sitting at

one of the senators desk there on the floor of the Senate. It's just it is kind of weird to be able to just wander out there and do that. While obviously the Senate wasn't in session at the time it was a press conference. With Rodney Ellis. Debra Danburg carried Earhart and you know, probably 2020 legislators, all all saying a few words about the James Byrd Hate Crime Act.

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Elizabeth Richards 32:12

Tell me what we want. fantasizing about state senator rose while you're in there. Yes.

S

Sarah DePalma 32:18

We wandered in though, but we wandered in with Robin Chandler who is Glenn Maxxis. Legislative Assistant. Yeah. And with Diane Hardy Garcia, and no one. No one just ever asked anything. So we thought, what the hell we're here. And I looked at Phyllis and said, unless they stop us, we're gonna go awkward onto the floor of the Senate. No reason. And she said, Okay, So sure enough, we just walk right onto the floor, and no one said a word. Next thing we know we're standing next to, we're standing next to a whole host of legislators. And it's funny legislators are turning to us and say, I don't think I've met you before. And I'm like, Well, no, but you will. And I'm shaking hands with, you know, and Katrina. Katrina is off the side, she's got the great picture of all the television cameras lined up. Born in cheese took it from the from the almost from the back of legislators. No one said a word. We thought what the hell, we're on the floor of the Senate, we might as well make hay. So we started shaking hands. Well, yeah. Saying hi, how are you? Well,

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33:13

I had anyone said anything to me, I could have just, you know, blend it in with the press, because technically, I was, you know, covering it for the Texas triangle. But I don't know, if we were really prohibited from being there. We just kind of wandered on it. Or if it was actually open, anybody might happen with

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Sarah DePalma 33:27

Texas citizens when that's our house. Well, that's true.

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33:31

Even in it being the people's house and all that you can't just wander onto the the floor of the House or Senate during during Yeah, it couldn't do it in Congress. But it was the same thing the next day on. On the day, we actually did the lobbying because unbeknownst to us at the time, that was the day of Governor smartens State of the State address. I don't like Governor George Bush, if you've ever read any of my columns, you're going to discover that I have no respect for the man whatsoever. But again, it was it was the governor state of the state.

S

Sarah DePalma 34:05

She thinks we always have to wonder what she means. Gotta drag it out. I'm telling it. But again,



34:10

when what do you really think when when we heard that this was the case, our first thought was, you know, oh, it's going to totally screw up the lobbying because everybody's going to be worrying about that. It actually didn't but come 11 o'clock. Right at 11. We came to a couple of offices and they said, well, for the next few minutes, people are going to be listening to the governor. So me and I forget who I was paired with. At that time, we just let's wander over to the House chamber. See if we might actually be able to walk in and it was bizarre. If you were there, you could just walk on in and actually listen to to the governor of Babel, and we were up in me. A couple of us were up in the balcony of the House chamber during the Governor's speech. Okay, I mean, you know, plenty of secure We're in everything. I don't think anybody could have done anything, but it was just kind of surreal. And it's kind of a lesson to everybody. It that is the people's building, you know, go there, if you have any kind of problem, go there, talk to the people may not get anything done. But what we did is we put faces to this issue. I'm sure people out there have issues. Maybe in the gay lesbian community, you might have issues about something else. If you're in Austin, go to the state capitol, bang on your legislators door, say, Hey, I'm a person, I got a problem. Listen to me.

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Sarah DePalma 35:36

I especially I especially want to direct this comment to the transgendered people that the young kids that I know that are listening to us out there on their headsets, and we hear from them all the time. And those of you who are out there that are young, and you're transgendered, and you know, you call us or you write to us, and you send me email, and just you tell me, you let me know how afraid you are, and how and how you think maybe your life won't amount to much of anything. Let me tell you something, no matter where we went in the legislature, whether they agreed with us or not. The comment we got all day long was I may not understand this, but I truly respect your courage. The other thing that we got no matter where we went was, we kept getting called impressive. Yeah, our representatives were called impressive. The presentation that we made was impressive. The literature that we presented out was being called impressive. And so I want to say this, if you're young, and you're out there and you're transgendered, or you think that perhaps you might be and you are afraid of that your life will not mount too much. I want to present the example to you have Monica Roberts, Monica Roberts bless her heart, Monique Roberts is just

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Elizabeth Richards 36:55

fearless. And there is no energy behind that woman at all. A bundle of dynamite. I've never been sarcastic in my entire life.



37:04

Monique, can you turn good at it to

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Sarah DePalma 37:07

God bless her. She had absolutely no problems just pinning legislators to the wall and say and just demanding and just laying out their issues and saying I want this and here's what we believe. And I'm and I'll tell you what, she was so effective. What more

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Elizabeth Richards 37:23

than just I want this.

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Sarah DePalma 37:24

Here's why. Here's what she used to. She was articulate. She looked people straight in the eye. She gave them a she gave them a presentation that was so polished, it was incredible. And even legislators who were not sure what to think were incredibly impressed with her. And so I present to you the example of Monica Roberts. Monique has been on the show, a person who really had a tough growing up in the in the African American community, being Maul her life being told she had to be a male role model. Because you know, male role models is so difficult to come by and blah, blah, blah. Here she is today a transgendered woman a powerful individual. I mean, self actualized that's what your life can be. Oh, yeah, that I mean, I look at Monique and think that's what we all aspire to. You know. So if you're out there and you think well, gee, my life is over. Forget yet. Not

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Elizabeth Richards 38:20

true. You too can be quote, Impressive. Impressive. Yes. So

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Sarah DePalma 38:24

after we after we had our experience in legislature and on the floor of the Senate and stuff, we went back to the hotel, and we started preparing to do our lobby training.

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38:34

That's when the fun started. Now, I let me tell you about some unfortunately, the best part of that evening. We can't tell on the air.

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Sarah DePalma 38:41

No glare would kill us. Yeah. But what



38:45

I just saw a very strange look on Beth's face.



Sarah DePalma 38:49

Yeah, and we and we can't really tell you what he said either. But it was interesting.



38:53

It was something he said. Not anything that would end up on videotape. So yeah,



38:58

okay. Okay. Yeah.



Sarah DePalma 39:00

First of all, we had people here that came. They were from Killeen, San Antonio, Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth. Court. We had no folks from Corpus Christi didn't make it. We had I think 20 from Houston. And I'm trying to think there's St. Marcus Beaumont, Beaumont. That's right. Beaumont Port Arthur. I know I'm missing some other towns. But we had I think it was 38. At the lobby training. Yeah,



39:28

I think that's right. There was a couple of people who only came in for the lobby date. So



Sarah DePalma 39:33

yeah, there were a lot of folks, particularly from Houston, who had already had some lobby training, and really didn't want him to spend the money to hotel and we said okay, so we ended up with 38. And a lobby training was done primarily through Phyllis Frey and myself. And some of the people who came were just fascinating. There was a clinic there's a clinic in Austin, and a gender clinic. And the one of the directors there, thought it this would be a good lesson. In self esteem, oh my, if some of them or if some of the people from this gender clinic came along. And so when they came in, you could tell pretty much right away because we're the one with one exception. These were not what you would call passable individuals. It was obvious that they were at the start of their process, in scared out of their mind.



Elizabeth Richards 40:21



Everybody starts somewhere. Well, that's exactly right. Are you I remember some scary times.



Sarah DePalma 40:27

So these poor folks, God bless him. They came in and sat down and they listened to Phyllis and me