

gcam_ah_19960113_t2_01_edit

Thu, Dec 22, 2022 3:55PM 34:42

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

tats, cross dressers, information, transsexual, bathroom, montrose, crossdresser, houston, person, changed, intend, beth, group, answer, married, social security card, month, issue, good, hall

SPEAKERS

Sarah DePalma, Elizabeth Richards

 Sarah DePalma 00:01

Yeah, so yeah,

 Elizabeth Richards 00:03

I know a friend who had a little magnetic sign that she was supposed to stick on the outside of the door when she went in. There's all kinds of possible solutions for it. You know.

 Sarah DePalma 00:13

there's a person, just a person that I knew through the internet, who just committed suicide over that exact issue. Was a teaching assistant at the University of West Virginia.

 Elizabeth Richards 00:24

Oh, yeah. Heard about this.

 Sarah DePalma 00:25

And and the bathroom issue. They actually had put up a sign saying so and so's bathroom period. Yeah. And she was so humiliated is she that she ended up she committed suicide over? I mean, that to me commit suicide over bathroom is insane. But it shows you that the level of emotional the emotional level involved.

 Elizabeth Richards 00:42

Well I mean you know it's something that you do every day several times a day it's

Well, I mean, you know, it's something that you do every day, several times a day, it's definitely part of your life without a choice. That's right. You know, it's right there. And, you know, in your front forefront of your consciousness, especially when you're late.

 Sarah DePalma 00:56

Yes. Those three cups of coffee and now.

 Elizabeth Richards 01:01

So, you know, I could see how it's, it's an issue that really bothers people. Because suicide is is a very permanent answer for a very temporary problem.

 Sarah DePalma 01:10

Well, there had been other issues being discriminated against an employment and they were threatening to take her scholarship back. And you know.

 Elizabeth Richards 01:15

Yeah, there's a lot of ugliness in the world. But you know, so So what do you fight against that? Right?

 Sarah DePalma 01:20

What did you tell your employer? About?

 Elizabeth Richards 01:22

Oh, yeah, [INAUDIBLE] bathroom back to the bathroom? Well, I told her that my intentions were, that being I should preface this whole thing by saying that the first thing I did was to get the name change, nd the court work done roughly about a month, a little more than a month before I came out at work. The reason I did that was because, should I have been fired, I wanted to have in my possession type driver's license and social security card, so I could fill out that blasted I-9 form at whatever new employer, I might end up having to go to.

 Sarah DePalma 01:54

See preparation is listed above.

 Elizabeth Richards 01:58

Because if I didn't have some good documentation, you know, I'd be back in that same boat!

Because if I didn't have some good documentation, you know, I'd be back in that same boat I was a year ago, with not having sufficient legal documentation interview, that's who I really was. And I did not want to go through that again. That was really quite painful a year ago, and was not going to do it over. So I wanted to make sure that the day I had talked to them, I had that driver's license back in my hand after having made the trip to Austin and back, or however the way they do it. And I got that social security card in my hand with my name on it. And we were ready to go. So I went and talked to him at that point. So back to bathroom.

 Sarah DePalma 02:33

We're getting there, folks, we're really are.

 Elizabeth Richards 02:35

My HR rep asked me what I was intending to do at that I said, Well, I'm legally female. And it would be very much inappropriate for me to use men's room, I'm not gonna, I'm going to use the women's room. And I can understand perfectly well that some of the women on this hall who I've been here working with, might be a little uncomfortable with that, at first, they probably won't be after they get to know me personally as a woman a little better. But I don't know when that's going to happen. I will know it subjectively when it happens. But I can't tell you right now. So I'm going to use the bathroom on the other hall. Nobody knows me over there. Because the work groups are so small that we don't really have a lot of interaction with the people down the hall. So I'll just go down the hall. And, you know, they're the most likely not to have any problem with me being there. She looked at me said, yeah, I would never have a problem with you being in the bathroom if I just came in. It's like, okay, cool. So that's what I did for a while. And I think it was probably about maybe a month and a half, two months before I just somehow knew I just had the feeling that it would have been cool to go back to the local one.

 Sarah DePalma 03:44

So physical appearance and the ability to pass actually did play some part in this decision.

 Elizabeth Richards 03:49

I hate to say it, but it is I mean, there's no reason why that should be. No, no, no reason in theory, why that should be a hang up for anybody, but it is I mean, socially. It makes a difference.

 Sarah DePalma 04:02

It's a reality.

 Elizabeth Richards 04:03

Yeah.

 Sarah DePalma 04:04

I don't like it either. But it is reality.

 Elizabeth Richards 04:06

Yeah, cuz I know some perfectly wonderful people who are hearts of gold, hearts of gold. But now there's something about their facial features or something that that they don't pass quite as well as others do. And they don't deserve the treatment they get for it. Yeah, you know, and so, you know, I'm, you know, I happen to be someone who passes really well. Other people don't, that doesn't make me better than that. Not one bit.

 Sarah DePalma 04:31

Oh, now so, you know.

 Elizabeth Richards 04:32

I mean, there's some people who seem to think that, you know, they're put on because they're put upon because they don't then pass as well as other but not by me. You know, so I hope that's never hang up with anybody. That's a friend of mine.

 Sarah DePalma 04:45

Okay, so now you've got your bathroom issue resolved.

 Elizabeth Richards 04:47

And so, you know, here it is. An hour later, I'm sending that letter. It goes out to the 15 people in my hallway at the same time and it says to group members copied to me I HR rep from my old email address, which included that name I don't particularly use anymore. And the subject line was "Time for a change...". Yeah, that was interesting, because I'd written a letter, but I hadn't written the subject line, I'm sitting there going, oh, God, when we're going to print the subject line of this, and date, Wednesday, June 14 '95 1:26pm. So it's been two days, two and a half days since the first piece of this within the walls of my employer. Amazing. And here it goes. And it says, And remember, the first paragraph was the one that they had me add, and all the rest of is my own says I've requested management's approval to communicate this information via email. I've chosen to send this information via email in order to allow you the freedom to consider this information in private, as well as to communicate with everyone approximately simultaneously. It's a belief of mine, that one's personal life is best left out of the office, unless it somehow affects the office environment. I have a personal issue, which I'm

dealing with, which will affect our ongoing professional relationships as we work together in the lab and in this hall. So I need to let all of you know what's going on. On Monday morning, 19 June, when I come to work, I'll be coming as a woman, I've had my name and gender identification legally changed, and already living as a woman socially and have been for some time, it's come to be the time to make this change at work as well. My legal name is Elizabeth Ann Richard, I find it jarring to still hear people call me by my old name, rather than Beth. I've given you no reason in the path past for me to expect to hear anything but that it's time to change that. I'm sure some of you will find it jarring to refer to me using the feminine pronouns and to call me by my name, I truly hope we can all get used to the new situation quickly and hard to offend an occasional slips won't offend me at all. As long as we're trying together. I can never know what others expect or don't expect from these kinds of transitions. But one thing you shouldn't expect is to see RuPaul or [INAUDIBLE] or any of those other quote, media stars, who are different from the standard gen- gender situation. It's my goal in all this to become comfortable in my gender identity and roles and not at all to stand out or be sensational. I am and always will be simply someone's doing what she has to do to get through her life with honesty, integrity, and some amount of happiness. I don't feel as if I've been particularly in your face about any of this and don't intend to be. But at the same time, I felt that I've been fairly open with anyone who cares enough to ask the questions. I recognize that this is somewhat unusual situation. And I'm sure that there'll be some questions. Any honest questions will be met with an honest answer, please don't hesitate to ask, we can all learn from this experience. In telling you this information, I've changed something about you. I've changed what you know, I haven't changed me. I'm still the same person I've always been. I've enjoyed working with all of you. And I hope our relationships are changed only for the better by your having this more accurate information about who I am. Thanks for your patience and understanding, Beth Richard.

S

Sarah DePalma 08:00

Now what is the reaction been have has there been any negative reaction at all? Well,

E

Elizabeth Richards 08:04

Well, like I hit the return key on sending this thing and walked down the hall to my secretary's office, because my boss told me that she'd have all the paperwork in my mailbox name, business cards and all that on the way down to her office. One person who was just coming out of his office, obviously, having read the letter, looked up at me and smiled, said "Hi, Beth".

S

Sarah DePalma 08:27

Wow.

E

Elizabeth Richards 08:28

And I walked into her office and she had it up on the screen. And I "Oh, I see you're reading my letter". And she's like, "Oh, yeah". "I'll let you finish". So she finished that. And she says, "What can I do?" And I said, "Well, we got to do this paperwork stuff". So she pulls out all the forms.

We sit down, we fill them all out. And she, she we're done with that. And she says, "Can I ask you some questions?" And I said, "Yeah, sure". And we talked a little bit about what living full time was for and how long it be, as the minimum requirements, you know, the [INAUDIBLE] standards for surgery and that kind of thing. And whether I really intended to do that, or just what we talked about all that kind of stuff for about maybe 10-15 minutes. And then I said, "Well, can I ask you a question?" And she said "Fair's fai"r. And she said, And I saw I said, "alright, you gotta tell me, was this a surprise?" And she said, "Oh, I cannot lie. No, not at all".

 S Sarah DePalma 09:20

And then you said, you were oh, by the way, I'm still legally married. I want my kids covered on insurance.

 E Elizabeth Richards 09:24

Well, that came the next morning when the HR rep called back and said, "Well, we have found a snag". And I said, "What's that?" And she said, "You're driving the benefits people loony." I said, "How so?" And she said, "Well, you're legally female and so's your spouse and you're legally married. And they don't know what to do about two legally married females that's hurting their computer system real bad". And I said, "Yes, that's true. And we do intend to remain married". And the way the laws work in this country is once you're married, the only two people who can make you unmarried is you and your spouse. I was so new till further notice neither of us intend to not be married. So we're entitled all those legal benefits that any other spousal parents. So for all the people out there who've been fighting for same sex marriages, hey, we got one, it's legal. It's been around already for six months, and we're not seeing the end. And it's the foreseeable future. So-.

 S Sarah DePalma 10:20

Phyllis, Phyllis and her wife have been married for, I'm sure, I would guess, at least 20 years. And that marriage is certainly legal and certainly has endured. So I mean, there you go.

 E Elizabeth Richards 10:30

Yeah. So she's like, "Okay, I'll go tell him that and we'll see what happens". And so they, they were very miffed. And they checked with the legal department who confirmed it, and then they just had to do it. And I don't know how they did it, but they managed to work it out.

 S Sarah DePalma 10:45

Well, you know, if they want to make changes, they can make them.

 E Elizabeth Richards 10:48

Yeah, yeah, it took them a while. But they got it all worked out. That was the only real hitch in the whole process. Was that right there?

 Sarah DePalma 10:54

Now, here's the point of all this story. I get letters from people and I get phone calls from people all the time. And they say to me, I could never transition on the job. I could never do this. I could never do that. I hate the word never.

 Elizabeth Richards 11:10

Well, they're absolutely right. As long as they believe they never can. They never will.

 Sarah DePalma 11:13

Yeah, I hate the word never. And there, I especially get letters from people that are, they're fairly young. They're below the age of 18. And they say to me, Well, if I transition, what will my life be like? What hope will there be for me? And they write in despair. And say, Oh, well, my life will be misery. And I wanted them to hear your story, because I want them to know, that's not necessarily true.

 Elizabeth Richards 11:44

Absolutely.

 Sarah DePalma 11:44

Times are changing. Your attitude has a lot to do with it. The preparation you have has a lot to do with it. It really comes down to circumstances, luck of the draw, and how hard you're willing to work.

 Elizabeth Richards 11:58

Yeah, yeah, no doubt. I sure wish I'd have been able to have the gumption to do this at a much earlier age, you know, I'm past a third of a century is it. But, you know, everybody's got their own time to do it. I mean, it took me this long, it could have taken me a lot less, it could have taken me a lot more, there is no right time to do it other than the right time for you. So if you're 18, if you're 16, you'll know.

 Sarah DePalma 12:24

I didn't start my transition till I was 40. You know, my circumstances were fairly similar to yours, a company that I worked for one bankrupt. And it was a situation where I was

unemployed. And I thought, this is the time. There's no better time, at least this I felt like, I don't have to worry about transitioning out of a job. I'll do a transition now get it over with in so micro circumstances were different. But also often I hear people who tried to do it on the job, and I get such horror stories. But more and more I'm hearing success stories to companies are starting to get it

 E Elizabeth Richards 13:00

Times changing about time.

 S Sarah DePalma 13:02

Yeah. Well, I think we ought to probably go to some music. Let's take care of our throats. And yeah, and when we when we come back, we're going to start talking about some resources that we can get for you both locally and nationally. And I have no idea what that says.

 E Elizabeth Richards 13:18

It says Boy George .

 S Sarah DePalma 13:19

Oh, it says Boy George. Okay, so that's what.

 E Elizabeth Richards 13:21

We're doing that new album. Yep. Yep.

 S Sarah DePalma 13:29

You are listening to KPFT 90.1 FM in Hous- in Houston. And KEOS College Station, Brian and who was doing that song.

 E Elizabeth Richards 13:41

While you forgot the 89.1 part but you know that anyway. Yeah, that was Bobby McFerrin off the get this Disney's for our children, the concert album, which was a benefit for the Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

 S Sarah DePalma 13:54

That was all Bobby McFerrin.

E

Elizabeth Richards 13:56

The entire thing. All of the entire wizard was no no, no, not just the beating the whole thing was one person on stage being nutso. Jim Absolutely loved it. He was out there dancing around should have seen it.

S

Sarah DePalma 14:11

If there's a queer anywhere who does not have a pair of red pumps and says, we're going home. I mean, really/

E

Elizabeth Richards 14:18

I love that I love the bit come out, come out. And of course, the audience love that bit too. Before that was Boy George off of his new album, which I'm not even sure exactly what it's called. But this cut was same thing in reverse. That's really cool. This new one's got.

S

Sarah DePalma 14:38

I have really developed a new spec for Boy George. Here's a person that really has been through the tortures of the damned with drug abuse and everything. And he's fought back. I mean, I really get I really had developed respect for this person. This is a person with some guts.

E

Elizabeth Richards 14:52

You know, rather than try to figure it out from the graphics on the front, all I had to do is look at the spine to see what it was the cheapness and beauty of it. Sometimes in your head. What do you say.

S

Sarah DePalma 15:00

What cheapness and beauty sometimes go together. Not often, but sometimes. Okay, we're at the top of our show, we told you that we would provide you with resource information. And we are going to be true to our word about that.

E

Elizabeth Richards 15:17

Is it that time yet?

S

Sarah DePalma 15:19

Well, you know, we've got an hour left in the show. And I thought we would take our time and go through some of these. And let me start at the beginning about this. For those of you who are out there, and you are listening to our show, and maybe you're on your way home from one of the bars, you have been, perhaps you've been cruising it tonight, and you're on your way home. And I get calls from people who say, well, they spent the whole night, they went, they started out alone, and they went home alone. And they're tired of being alone. And they would like to find a social resource, pull over to the side of the road, or get out your pad, because we're going to give you some names, addresses, phone numbers, we get letters from people who were below the age of 18. And they say, I don't know how to reach any resource. How can I get a magazine? Who would I call? How can I get factual information? For the next, however long we've got here, we're going to give you a names, addresses, phone numbers, all the information that we can think of, so that you will have much of the same information that we have. One of the things that I am very guilty of, is I take for granted that people know what I know. Yeah. And, you know, if you're in Kansas, or you're in Nebraska, and you're 17 There's no way you could.

E

Elizabeth Richards 16:51

No, you didn't think Kansas from that star that we just heard about.

S

Sarah DePalma 16:58

So I want let's start out by giving some, some sources of Houston. And we already had Jackie Thorne on the show. And Jackie was talking about tats, about GC- about GCTC. But if I can find my information, I wanted to give that information again. It's here somewhere. I just don't know where.

E

Elizabeth Richards 17:20

I'll look for it you just go ahead.

S

Sarah DePalma 17:22

Okay, You ever had that happen to you? You know, you know the information should be there. Here it is. Okay. No, that's not it.

E

Elizabeth Richards 17:32

Yeah, this is a bummer because I just thought I mean-. Just saw it.

S

Sarah DePalma 17:36

Maybe it's oh, here it is. It was hiding.

 Elizabeth Richards 17:39

I saw too.

 Sarah DePalma 17:40

You know, it was hiding.

 Elizabeth Richards 17:41

Okay. Somebody else is disorganized. Because me No wonder we get along.

 Sarah DePalma 17:46

Oh, honey, you want to see my desk at the house? Okay, let's start out first of all. In Houston, we have three gen- transgender organization.

 Elizabeth Richards 17:55

You're forgetting the new one.

 Sarah DePalma 17:56

Am I? Wait.

 Elizabeth Richards 17:57

Yes, you are.

 Sarah DePalma 17:57

We'll get to that in a minute.

 Elizabeth Richards 17:58

Oh okay.

 Sarah DePalma 18:00

Now, the first one is Gulf Coast Transgender Community and Jackie already spend time talking about that. So let me just give you their phone number. It is area code 713 If you're outside of Houston, 7804282. Or if you want to write them in his PO Box 66643 Houston, Texas 77266. Okay, so that's box 66643. And the zip is 77266. They are primarily a social group. And they are open cross dressers of any sexual orientation. And they are a very, very good peer support group, especially if you're new to transgender issues. Now there is another group called the Triassic Sorority. The Triassic Sorority is primarily aimed at heterosexual cross dressers and their spouses. Now, I point this out because I've had phone calls from spouses who say, I came home and found my husband in my laundry, help, help. Do I have to divorce them? The answer is no. You don't have to. You know, if you've despite that your husband is crossdresser there are certainly better ways that that spouse could have told you but now the cats out of the bag so to speak. There are support groups available and Triassic is probably the best. They can be reached to telephone either area code 713-347-8747 and their address is 88. Let's try this again. 8880 Bellaire Boulevard, suite 104 That's Houston. 77036. So that's 8880 Bellaire Boulevard, suite 104 Houston. Oh 77036 and Beth, why don't you talk about TATS.

 E Elizabeth Richards 20:04

All righty. TATS is the Texas Association for Transsexual Support. And we host female to males as well as males to females. We're open to anybody who's seriously considering living across gendered lifestyle on a full time basis whether they're preoperative, postoperative, non operative. We welcome their significant others. And we held three types of meetings. We hold Social Meetings, which are just that we just go out and have fun either in someone's house or, or sometimes we'll get together and go see movie, that sort of thing we once went to saw a live stand up comedian.

 S Sarah DePalma 20:43

That that didn't work out so well, when he started making transgender jokes that really upset me.

 E Elizabeth Richards 20:49

Yeah, well, I think we kind of turned the tables on him, because when we went to confront him on it, he didn't want to come out.

 S Sarah DePalma 20:55

Yeah he wouldn't come out.

 E Elizabeth Richards 21:00

Well, you know, even when it doesn't go, Well, we certainly do still have a lot of fun.

 Sarah DePalma 21:04

Oh, yeah.

 Elizabeth Richards 21:05

No doubt about that. The other one is an educational meeting. We do that four times a year. The next one is coming up in February. And the topic is still open for that, but we'll have that one coming up soon. And the third type of meeting is had formally been called the feelings meeting. But we found that format a little bit too restrictive and has now become the unmuting much in the line of the so called uncool, okay, place to try to find that one just yet. But it's not just simply a support group type atmosphere, because we can do that. But it locked out the ability to do things like bringing in speakers and that sort of thing. So that that meeting is open for whatever we feel needs to be done. And then set aside on a month to month basis for whatever is appropriate. So those are our three meeting types. We do meet once a month with the social meetings and once a month with the the on meetings as well. So that's four times a year with the educational and once a month for the other two, you can get in touch with us by mail at PO Box 142 Bellaire, Texas 77401. And that's Texas Association for Transsexual Support or just right TATS. You can get ahold of us by phone at 713-827-5913 that gets a lot gets a voicemail address or a voicemail machine that's answered, you know, anytime day or night and we'll get back to you just leave way to get in touch. If not by phone, just let us know some way to write. That'd be fine too.

 Sarah DePalma 22:41

One of the things I would say about TATS if you're having if you're having a hard time learning about hormones, if you're having a hard time finding out about surgery, if you want factual answers, TATS is the place to go.

 Elizabeth Richards 22:59

Well, yeah, TATS is populated by transexuals mentions both pre and post operative. So people have been through all different stages of this thing. And and so they've got the personal information that they themselves found. And they're willing to share. And as well as no contact for other people who have information. So I might not know something about a particular subject, but I'll probably know who does.

 Sarah DePalma 23:26

Yeah, that's, that's the key.

 Elizabeth Richards 23:27

And it's this whole networking thing that goes on. And it's, it's for everybody.

 S

Sarah DePalma 23:33

One thing the TATS will do. And also, I would say this is true of GCTC. Well, not so much a GCTC. It's certainly true of TATS. There are many there their backup, I've met people who are just starting out on the road. And the first word out of their mouth is Hi, I'm a transsexual. Well, if TATS will really help you separate fact from fantasy, because you'll be talking to people who are transsexuals in our in the process, some of them are post operative. And it's amazing how many people who start out saying the transsexual turn up, they're really cross dressers.

 E

Elizabeth Richards 24:12

Oh I'll tell you, this path is not one that I took because I wanted to I mean, it came down to the end that I had to do this.

 S

Sarah DePalma 24:18

Yeah.

 E

Elizabeth Richards 24:19

And I didn't make that decision for a long time because I was exploring my options. And I think that's a perfectly valid thing to do. And so you know, to come in and say I am X without having explored Y, and Q in between. You don't really know that. And I know that I was I was pretty certain by the age of I don't even know what age but plenty young that I was transsexual, but there was no way for me to have known for sure if that was true without without checking it out. So had I decided at age 18 When I was you know of legal age that this is what I wanted to do on off surgery I go I probably would have spent a lot of rest of my life wondering maybe if I checked out maybe if I If I had thought about, but I did you know, so I can't ever can ever go back and say what if because I did it.

 S

Sarah DePalma 25:07

I always tell people, the difference between a transsexual and a crossdresser is a transsexual is willing to get up at 5am, five days a week to get their makeup on a good work. And a crossdresser tends to lose interest in that pretty fast. Fantasy tends to drop off in a hurry.

 E

Elizabeth Richards 25:23

Back to nature. Makeup, whatever. Yeah, no, it's, it's you're talking about 24 hours, seven days a week, there is no going back. If you're a guy and you like dressing up. That's beautiful. Go for it. You're not a transsexual?



Sarah DePalma 25:23



Sarah DePalma 25:23



Saran DePalma 25:38

That's right. There's a big, there's a big difference there. It always tickles me. I talked to Linda and Cynthia Phillips about this once around the tea party. Yeah. And Cynthia Phillips has a theory says that people start out saying they're transsexual because it's the top of the heap. You know?



Elizabeth Richards 25:53

That's what I was talking about earlier about this whole stra- stratified stuff. I don't get into that. I mean, there's no one person who's better than another because of what they were who they are. You know what, it's what you do. She wasn't saying it actually was but it's perceived. There's certainly as perceived that way. She's right in perceiving that I see it all together too often.



Sarah DePalma 26:12

Yeah. And it's, it's really funny, it tickles me, I used to have that happen that GCTC lot. People would come up to me and say, hi, you don't know you. My name is so and so. And I'm a transsexual, and I'll say, Oh, well, gee, it's nice to meet you. How long have you been crossing? Oh, this is my first time out in public. Hello, you don't have enough information to decide if you're a transsexual? It's gonna take a little more than that.



Elizabeth Richards 26:34

It depends how well they know that their own selves.



Sarah DePalma 26:39

Yeah, well, I guess that's true.



Elizabeth Richards 26:40

Because I have a close friend who is transsexual. She's been living full time now since '88. And, you know, she, she, her first experience with being out in public cross dressed, is when she went to her job interview at Apple. You want to talk about a baptism by fire.



Sarah DePalma 26:55

My God. That's her first time out her very first time out, is she insane.



Elizabeth Richards 27:01

She was she was a junior in college, she intended to be going full time at the end of her senior

year, which was, you know, a year to start getting things together. When Apple called her up and said, Hey, please come interview now. And she's like, well, if you really want me there, this is what it's going to be like. And so they were a little reluctant. But she ended up doing just fine in the end. But she knew herself very well. She had been doing a lot of soul searching for several years before that. And that's where it really mattered is that that she'd done it with herself. She'd done it with professionals. It wasn't a matter of what clothes you're wearing, because that's not what makes a transsexual. It's a matter of how you who you are inside. Now. It's not what you put on.

 Sarah DePalma 27:52

Well, yeah, if it was about clothes, I would have been, I would have been transsexual hell of a lot earlier.

 Elizabeth Richards 28:00

Yeah.

 Sarah DePalma 28:00

Now let's talk about a couple of weeks talk about some political things.

 Elizabeth Richards 28:03

Before you run into that I mentioned that force group in town.

 Sarah DePalma 28:06

Oh, yeah.

 Elizabeth Richards 28:06

That's new. And they're so new that I didn't have any information to bring with me. But if you contact any of the other three, I think you can probably find them. And that's the Helping Crossdressers Anonymous,

 Sarah DePalma 28:16

We got them on the show last month. Thomas was on the show last month.

 Elizabeth Richards 28:21

Now this isn't a group that helps people from being cross dressers. It's the it's a group that uses the 12 step model that's used in in whatever anonymous groups, there's plenty of them to use as a model. And they use that that 12 step model in working through the issues that people generate. I don't think that that being transgendered makes you sick. I don't think that makes you a bad person at all. I think that it's a breeding ground for some some pretty nasty things to happen given our society.

 Sarah DePalma 28:54

Yes.

 Elizabeth Richards 28:54

And that's what that's there to help you with.

 Sarah DePalma 28:57

Yeah, the whole idea behind Helping Crossdressers Anonymous, they're not going to try and cure you across dressing, they're going to try and help you deal with the guilt and the shame that you may feel for being a crossdresser.

 Elizabeth Richards 29:06

Yeah.

 Sarah DePalma 29:07

And that that's it, they're not trying to fix you.

 Elizabeth Richards 29:10

That's what I'm saying. Nothing needs to be fixed. There's nothing wrong with you, but you might have generated some some bad things and guilt and shame, that kind of thing. That you don't deserve it. You don't and so this is one of the groups it's there to help you out of that.

 Sarah DePalma 29:25

Yeah, yes, Beth, why they had that name because I hate the name of the organization.

 Elizabeth Richards 29:28

It does make you think that it's a different purpose

it does make you think that it's a different purpose.

 Sarah DePalma 29:31

Because that's where they're getting their funding is through HCDA.

 Elizabeth Richards 29:35

Oh, okay.

 Sarah DePalma 29:36

And so she just used those initials and said, Well, we will make call it Helping Crossdressers Anonymous aid CDA, but I sure wish she would change the name because it scares people away. And they're really good organization.

 Elizabeth Richards 29:47

They are they are and like I said Brenda Thomas has been involved in the community in Houston for ages and ages and ages. And I personally didn't bring information to contact them but call around. You'll find them.

 Sarah DePalma 29:57

Yeah, I meant to bring that with me enough. Brenda even emailed me and said, please be sure to do it. And I still forgot. So I'm sorry, Brenda. Okay, let's talk about some other things. Now, it may be that you've decided that you want to go to a therapist. Now, therapists are tough issues, because not a lot of therapists are qualified to deal with transgender issues. I know of many people who have gone to therapists and paid \$100 an hour, so they can educate the therapist.

 Elizabeth Richards 30:28

Oh, yeah.

 Sarah DePalma 30:29

And you shouldn't have to do that.

 Elizabeth Richards 30:30

Yeah. And there's some that I've noticed paid \$100 An hour who've been told, yeah, we can ~~carry on you know it's wanted a lot of time and a lot of effort~~

CARRY ON, YOU KNOW, IT'S WASTED A LOT OF TIME AND A LOT OF EFFORT.

 Sarah DePalma 30:39

I got some email from somebody in El Paso, who told me that they went to a group went to a therapist, and it turned out, the therapist was one of these Christian therapist, and basically, this therapist spent an hour explaining how God could cure them. Yeah. If she had the sense to, like, run out of there. Yeah, I didn't know these people were like, out there.

 Elizabeth Richards 31:02

You know, it's, I find it rather presumptuous to assume that the Creator. I've heard the argument that well, God made you male, you should stay that way. Well, how do they know that God didn't make me transsexual so that I could learn to do you know, learn things from both sides and take this path, it seems a little presumptuous for them to just say out now, this is what the creator's mind was in creating, you know, I'm sorry, I don't buy it.

 Sarah DePalma 31:26

And there's a lot people could learn from us, because we have lived on both sides of this. This this issue. There's a lot people could learn from us.

 Elizabeth Richards 31:32

I've imagined so

 Sarah DePalma 31:34

Yeah, well.

 Elizabeth Richards 31:35

Take the time to get to know us. Hopefully, that's part of why you're here, sir.

 Sarah DePalma 31:39

Hopefully. Okay, if you are like me, and you ain't got no money, as they say, the Montrose Counseling Center is a good way to go. Now, the Montrose Counseling Center has some limitations. And one of them is that they don't have anybody there. Who can refer you so that you can start hormones?

 Elizabeth Richards 32:02

Yeah, that's true. On the other hand, if you're just starting out looking for somebody, you're not at a point yet where you need to get referred for hormones.

S

Sarah DePalma 32:10

And it may turn out that you're a crossdresser. And you don't want the hormones at all. So I don't think there's any real problem with starting off with Montrose.

E

Elizabeth Richards 32:16

Oh, no, I recommend them.

S

Sarah DePalma 32:17

In fact, I've had an opportunity to meet with several members of their staff. They're very knowledgeable, and they are non judgmental, and they work on a sliding scale basis for you as far as income goes. So I recommend the Montrose Counseling Center. Their number is 5290037. I forgot their exact address. They are on the lower end of Richmond, but they do provide counseling services on a sliding scale basis. It's the Montrose Counseling Center.

E

Elizabeth Richards 32:46

White Pages will get you the address.

S

Sarah DePalma 32:49

Yeah, the Gay, gay, lesbian, yellow pages without I'm sure I'm sure I meant to have it. Now if you've got insurance, or money. There's the Rosenberg clinic in Galveston, Texas. And the Rosenberg clinic is run by Dr. Cole, who has been a guest on the show.

E

Elizabeth Richards 33:07

He certainly had plenty of experience.

S

Sarah DePalma 33:10

Yeah, and Dr. Cole has changed a lot.

E

Elizabeth Richards 33:13

Yeah.

S

Sarah DePalma 33:14

Dr. Cole used to really adhere to the Benjamin standards, tooth and nail and between Phyllis and De McKellar and myself and a couple of other people sort of beating on him. He's loosened up some.

E

Elizabeth Richards 33:26

It's interesting you should say that because if you read section three it says hey, these are these are like suggestions you don't you're not supposed to stick to him to apparently doesn't stick to section three tooth and nail.

S

Sarah DePalma 33:36

Well, we've been kind of beaten up. But the Galveston clinic, it's called the Rosenberg clinic. And their number is area code 409-763-0016. Where if you want to mail them, their address is 1103. Rosenberg Avenue. That's R-O-S-E-N-B-E-R-G Rosenberg Avenue. And they're in Galveston, Texas. 77577 550 is what I was trying to say. That's the Rosenberg clinic. Um, let me see. Um, we're gonna have to do a little business here for a second. Sarah G. Where are you? Dee McKellar is on one of the lines I don't know which six lines six. Okay. And she has some information she wants to give us.

E

Elizabeth Richards 34:31

Something I push.

S

Sarah DePalma 34:33

Okay, we're this is live radio folks.

E

Elizabeth Richards 34:37

Nothing dead about this radio. You ready?