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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

guess, work, hear, talk, chanel, elke, transgender, transgender community, lesbian, years, transgendered, support, tats, good, phone lines, transition, people, membership, folks, winters

## SPEAKERS

Bobby, Vanessa Edwards

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00:01  What group of people would they would consider you just like them? Because you're very you're kind of stuck.

00:11  You're in the boat with

00:12  Vanessa Edwards 00:12 a renaissance

00:14  the Renaissance Fair homeless shelter. Hey

00:22  Vanessa Edwards 00:22 look like they probably were.

00:27  Gosh, I need to cut in here. We need to do some pitching and see what's going on in the lobby. Here's the money, money, money.

 Vanessa Edwards 00:38

And the pitch.

 00:39

Yeah, let's see is Elke out there.

 00:42

I elke as here and I hear myself on the air loud and clear. Good. Have we been getting any phone calls? No. We actually have five open phone line. Hey. And the the phones are quiet. Excuse me. I can't hear myself so so Okay, perfect. Beautiful. Okay, we have five open phone lines, folks, now's the time to pitch in and pledge your support to KPFT in this wonderful program. 7135265738713526 KPFT. Jump on board. KPFT also accepts MasterCard, Visa, American Express, Discover card. And don't forget about that E F. T. Electronic Funds Transfer. We love that. We love that. Who we do we do. We love that with all of our hearts that will save you from never having to write a check ever again. To KPFT jump on board, give us a call right now. 7135265738713526 KPFT.

 01:53

We want to hear those phones ringing, right? It's quiet.

 01:57

And like I said, we have six open phone lines. And this program has a go. Do we? Yep, I'm not sure what it is.

 02:06

Don't tell me half million dollars. Yeah, that's probably a \$10,000. Let's

 02:10

just say it's \$1,000. Okay, and go from there. Okay, whatever. So jump on board at the \$500 level, that's right dollar and 37 cents per day, 4166 per month, if you jumped in with the electronic funds transfer, you won't even notice that they'll just pop it out of your account once a month.

 02:33

And then you would be a leadership circle member, you will get lots of goodies,



02:37

lots of goodies, lots of goodies with a \$500 membership,



02:42

like tickets to every concert here at KPFT. And we have a lot of them in the backyard. And you can only get tickets if you win them over the air. But if you're a leadership circle member or patron circle member or producer circle member, you get them for free. You get them, you know, right away. Or you get other things you get the fancy shirt and newsletters and all of this kind of stuff. And Oh, and don't forget the tour of the KPFT studios. Yeah,



03:08

that's right, you get a complete tour, which is all the way from the attic down to the base.



03:13

Oh, well, why they renovate it and the fun things we do to you when we get you down into the base? Oh,



03:18

yeah. No, know, I've been listening to your conversation. Yes. On this. And it's very, and that's the reason why our listeners need to call in support this last conversation about the Covenant House then. Oh, yeah. That's something that kind of touches me. It's something you don't get on any radio station.



03:40

No, never No, certainly not this side of it.



03:44

And that's true. That's 100% True. That's why it's time for you to pledge and keep this program on the air. 7135265738713526 KPFT. Back to you, Jim. Thank



04:00

you elke and we'll come back to you a little later in the show. Okay. Good, good, good, good. It's membership drive. We only do it the three times a year. This is the last time we're going to

do it this year.

 **Vanessa Edwards 04:15**

Not you're gonna say three times a month. I almost did.

 04:19

It's that would be a difference. You know, it pays our bills. It also is an indication to management what what shows are supported by the listenership and it's very important that our listeners support this show. Exactly. There's there's only two others like it in this city. And yes, she's looking at me to to. Yes, there is lesbian and gay voices heard on this station every Monday from eight to 10pm. There's also after hours north, which is in Huntsville. At Sam Houston State, it just started a couple of weeks ago. It's on Saturday nights at midnight till three o'clock ks Hu 90.5 Up there can you shave case you got a joy and Doug are the CO hosts? Yeah, I was they asked elations. They asked me I mean they asked me if it would be alright to name the show after hours north and I was so proud and I was so proud. Yeah Even was even here in person. Wow. Yeah, I bet their studios are in this nice. It's kind of cute and fluffy. Oh, yeah. Dog. Oh, yeah, he's very cute. Cute and fluffy. They're really cute.

 **Vanessa Edwards 05:46**

Fluffy is. This is almost like we're talking about pets here. Anybody got a plate? Or ugly?

 05:59

Okay, let's see what okay,

 **Vanessa Edwards 06:01**

I guess back to our show. Yeah. Where are we serious?

 06:07

I thought you said the show.

 **Vanessa Edwards 06:10**

seriousness?

 06:11

Yeah, we were being serious. And it's a serious subject. It really, it seems like Chanel's story's gonna have happy ending, because things seem to be working out. But for every Chanel, how many others don't work out that well.

 **V** **Vanessa Edwards 06:32**

Exactly. And unfortunately, this even happens with a lot of individuals that are, I guess, past the the youth age, you'll find a lot of individuals that just transition then because of work concerns, they end up getting let go from their job. And they have no support system. It's a it's a long and a very hard fall, in fact, a number of our cast members, but for the grace of God could be homeless themselves. Sure. I mean, when you've got unemployment, you really have no way to pay the rent. And that's, I guess, one of the most critical aspects to to making any kind of successful transition is the unemployment. That's one of the reasons I guess we kept hammering away with. HRS Hey,

 **07:23**

Oh, yes. Good. Yeah. Because I mean, once once you get over it, and and you finish your transition, then everything is okay. But, but in that meantime, you know, when you're just learning and you're transitioning, and and many times, people are not really they don't pass.

 **V** **Vanessa Edwards 07:44**

Yes. Then I mean, that's not to say that it's just limited to them, but know that it isn't, unfortunately, the more visible you are, the more I guess, at the target, you become to

 **07:58**

I don't want to equate transgenderism as a negative thing. But I look when I when I think, you know, if if a very large person, a 200 pound woman couldn't get a job because she bought 200 pounds, people would be up in arms. So

 **V** **Vanessa Edwards 08:18**

well, we say that actually there there is some of that that even goes on. In fact, for folks that are disabled as well, we have things I guess that are in place and prevent people from doing that officially. But that's not to say that the society necessarily follows those rules. Find easy ways around.

 **08:37**

I don't know how it's accepted. But I hear Phyllis talk about transgenderism as a birth defect.

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Vanessa Edwards 08:47

Well, for lack of the actual studies being official, yes, there is definitely something to this. In fact, this is something that if you ask virtually any transsexual this is something they felt from the earliest of recollection or exerting an ad. You can't, you can't pray it away. You can't drink it away. You can't wish it away. It's

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09:11

just a certain way you get kind of get in to get this into the Disabilities Act, then.

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Vanessa Edwards 09:17

Well, they would be nice. The only problem is that our kind Senator Jesse Helms ensured that no, it is not for people for reasons of change of sex. It covers just about anyone else but transgenders. And so that's pretty much the way you can get

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09:36

into disability. You can't get into end day

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09:39

I'm telling you, it's a lot of times it just feels like this big obstacle course of catch 22 that you have to maneuver yourself through to be able to just get to the point where you can just live your life. You know, we're not trying to, you know, do anything other than just be real, and and have the right to be who we are, live our lives be productive. You know, that's all we want. Yeah, and that I think that's all any of us wants.

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10:15

Yeah. And then you really get into that catch 22 Especially in Chanel's situation, where it's like there's one place that will take her if she can pay them 125 or 150, or whatever it was per week. But if she had a job there, you know, she can't get packing. And yeah, without, again, the job. And she can't get a job because she doesn't have her all of her documentation, reflecting a name and gender change and all that, which that costs money to get done, which you need a job to get the money for. So it's like,

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10:55

yeah, and that's not even equating doctors or psychologists or medication or any of that. You know, which of course, you have to have a job to get



Vanessa Edwards 11:06

into. You can't even get the job without the ID in the money. Yes,



11:11

yeah, just yeah, we'll be talking about a catch 22 is about 220 to



Vanessa Edwards 11:17

22 squared, or 22 times 2220 an hour. It really is, I guess, a common complaint among the transgender community that we do feel cornered in essence, that there's no real way out. And it seems that any avenue we do try and find usually ends up being cut off at some point or another by authorities or, or by whoever. And sometimes I get the the impression that they're systematically, I guess, touring to, to do away with transsexualism. In essence, to make it impossible for us to successfully transition. We're finding that with the name and gender changes, if we're not able to get that in this state. And that's kind of the direction they're trying to move, at least, that's the situation here in Harris County, currently. If this happens to become a statewide type thing, then in essence, we've got a bunch of people that are going to be in a very, very difficult gray area, we'll have people that will be physically changed due to the hormone replacement therapy. But if they still have the, the name that reflects the gender of their birth, and the gender itself, then where do they work? Or who hires the Minnesota?



12:36

Well, yeah,



12:39

what we need is, is some of the people who make a living off of transgenders, the doctors, the psychologist, we need them to be able to go up in lobby with us and talk and educate and things like that. That's what we really need.



Vanessa Edwards 12:55

Yes. I mean, this affects their bottom line as well. Yeah. They end up taking away their, their livelihood. Well, I'm sure there'll be affected then. But it'll be too late.



13:06

Could you go to another state and have a name change? Well, we



13:00

13:09

could the traveling and living their

13:13

money. And there, of course, you've got the little tense situation. Yeah.

v 13:19

And what kind of a precedent is a setting when they can effectively chase out an entire group of people from a state by making it impossible for them to live there? What happens once you get to the next state? And they decide, well, we want to do this here, too. How do you I guess, combat this? And where do you draw the line with you all

13:41

can't go to Vermont? You know, we

v 13:42

all can go to Minnesota or Minnesota? It's it's really kind of a it's a delicate? Well, I wouldn't want to live with the winters. Imagine Katrina. No, but I'm having second thoughts. At least whether was

13:56

yes. Like I've been seeing and hearing a lot of the stuff that's been going on? Well, you know, we're talking about the Littleton denial of the writ of certiorari at the Supreme Court and all the other things and yeah, I'd made a comment. It's like I can almost hear the jackboots on the cobblestones. Yes, yes.

14:20

Yeah. And, and I don't want to make it sound. I mean, it's dismal. You know, you just can't get around that. It's it's dismal. But the good thing is that in the transgender community, you have people like Melanie, people like Vanessa, you know, you have organizations like GCTC and, and HTA. tats can't, that can, to the best of their ability, help out in whatever way they can. And, and that's the only reason why I'm here today is because of tats. If tats wasn't here, I would have been dead four years ago. So I'm at this point, I'm just really, really, really grateful to have people in my life, like Melanie like Chanel, like Vanessa like Brenda, people who extend themselves selflessly, just to help out other people. And and



Vanessa Edwards 15:00



vanessa Edwards 15:28

it's, it's a way of paying back the community that that gave us are stored in our first steps are supported. It's something that really, I guess, has been needed for some time. But unfortunately, we're just, I guess, maybe in the infancy of a true community, with the transgender,



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many times I've looked at the transgender community, and I think this is where the gay community was 20 years ago.



15:59

Exactly.



16:03

The thing that hurts is that I know what we had to go through when and you know, I would love to not have to, you know, for any other group not have to go through all of that.



Vanessa Edwards 16:15

Probably no way around it, though.



16:16

I know. I mean, couldn't it's, it's like you just want to go, couldn't we just skip all the bad parts and get just?



Vanessa Edwards 16:22

Yeah, you think we would have learned the first time?



16:26

Yeah, I heard. I was standing here listening to you talk about earlier things like the Americans with Disabilities Act and all of that. And being someone who's directly affected by such an act. I. I also know that laws only work as well as their enforcement. Exactly. And trust me, here we are, quite a few years later from when that law took effect. And there are still places that don't adhere to the rules.



Vanessa Edwards 16:59

They just, they won't officially deny you employment because of the disability. They'll just do it unofficially. And that's, I guess that's probably one of the, I guess, issues within that even if we get written in, it's officially in there that they can't discriminate, but they can always find other ways around this, or that.



17:19

That's one of the arguments that we're talking about the



17:24

need to remind you that they were listening to after hours on KPFT Houston in ke O. 's College Station.



17:33

Couldn't see gesturing? Sorry, you have so many stickers and banners.



17:38

membership drive.



17:41

Yeah, that is one of the one of the the things that reasons were talking about putting gender identity into an NDA. Because if it does pass a sexual orientation, well, you know, they can always get you. You have they say, well, it's not your sexual orientation is your gender presentation. You know? Yeah, they can easily, they can just turn around and fire you for that, you know, J, there you are that, you know, with the pink shirt on your fire, you know, you, you weren't macho and for your feminine for whatever.



Vanessa Edwards 18:18

And a lot of, I guess, what, what takes place is due to lack of education, or lack of, I guess, experience really, more than anything, a lot of folks, for the transgender community really, are very reluctant to hire us. Because of the fact that we're an untested quantity. We're unknown to them, and they really have no idea how we're going to work out some, it's just a matter of actually getting that experience and getting that getting someone in there to to disprove whatever their misconceptions are.



18:53

Oh, yeah. For instance, Brendon and I, I believe last week, we did an education thing for a group of individuals and one there. A person really, really had a legitimate question he asked, well, what if there's a transgender that just isn't passing Well, and, and it's hurting my business? And what the fear was, and we've all it seems like I've everyone has heard of cases where these nebulous individuals who go nameless and faceless, go to companies become employed and all of a sudden their business takes a nosedive. I've, I've never I've never heard of a place that has hired a transgender or transgendered has begun the process of transitioning on the job, and the job went bankrupt. I've never



19:56

got it. And as a matter of fact, when I'm thinking about it, I would think They probably get more business because as word spread, people would want to come in to see the drains bubble gum or whatever, you know, whatever the point is.



20:13

I just think it's whenever you said that we're behind the gay and lesbian movement about 20 years I really believe that I really believe that I think what I hear and this was a gay man who are who are who was asking these questions I think that there's just a lot a lot of misconceptions and stereotypes based upon fear. Yeah, just has to be overcome and it's gonna take time it's just gonna take time this is the same fears that straight pipe people had about gay people that were facing it as the same thing



20:58

Well, I hope in 20 years you will be you will have progressed further than we have. Because we still there's still a lot of that for the game lesbian. Let's take a break here. Want to play a piece of music that Chanel wanted to hear? Because it's the only the only piece that I have that she could stand



V Vanessa Edwards 21:21

Nike girl



21:24

any Madonna. So this is the these are two other divas. We've got Elton John and Rue Paul once a day. And we will be right back. And, you know, while you're listening to this music, you might want to just pick up that phone and dial 7135265738526 Jam KP ft. And



22:01

oh, Yes, indeedy. Yes, indeedy, that was RuPaul and Elton John, don't go breaking my heart

please give us a call at 7135265738526 KPFT. Elke Are you out



22:17

there and standing deep in the heart of pled central we have seven open phone lines 713 Turn around we have another phone? Yeah, no. here a minute ago No, I see another way. Day. I mean, you walk into control room and come back out what another telephone well, you proliferate, we have some breeding telephones. That's how anxious we are to hear from you this morning. I know these phones have nothing to do but screw each other. We have a \$500 goal for this program. And we've only got till three o'clock



V Vanessa Edwards 22:51

to get it \$500 million goal.



22:53

Close. Close enough



22:56

would be going on during this show. Who knew? So what



22:59

we need to do is hear from you at 7135265738713526 KPFT. We had love more than anything in the world to have five pledges of \$90 each and each. It's got some good thank you gifts for it too. And you'd love this program or obviously or it wouldn't have been on the air that's long. It's been on since 87. September of 1987, September of 1987. Folks and you love us you know you do. Don't be bashful, get the cat out of your tongue or whatever, give us a call at 71352 6k p f t.



23:43

Now I know my listenership is about half straight. And so, you know, I'd like some calls from from straight folks who enjoy this. So this is not just GLBT people supported



24:00

drive We don't discriminate. No, no, not at all. I know some



24:05

of my best friends are straight.



v Vanessa Edwards 24:07

And they're curious about us transact. Commerce please.



24:13

That's right. That's right. It's our last membership fine drive of the year 2000. We come to you three times per year. But because we don't do none of that commercial blip law. And we depend on you to support us. Because you don't get queer radio with an attitude. I was just listening with transgender issues you don't get anywhere on the radio dial anywhere in the country, much less here in Houston that's probably on KPFT and that's why it's very important that you call us up with your pledge of support. We have a \$500 Go. We do 7135 to six KPFT we'd love to hear from you. And now we have seven open phone lines



25:02

now elke you have a show here at KPFT. Also don't true



25:05

that's correct the rusted kg electric radio program runs that. Monday nights slash Tuesday morning one to four a Yahoo. And it's basically the best of Americana AAA pop acoustic you name it, I play it.



25:23

Okay. And so you can hear alkies form of music. And yeah, she she, she worked it out. Yes, yes. I mean, you know, run out and grab any old CD and slap it on. I mean, this, this. She knows what she's doing here.



25:43

Sometimes we put the Spice Girls on. Oh, yeah, right. Give us a jingle were eagerly waiting to hear from Yeah, add 7135265738713526 KPFT. We have a \$500 Go. And about two hours to do it.



26:05

Now I have been told from folks out in the lobby that if you request when you call in, you may talk to a nude person. And but

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Vanessa Edwards 26:19

you have specifically asked for the nude

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26:23

purse and neither one will be chrisser big broad.

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26:28

Right. Neither one will be critical. Or big

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Vanessa Edwards 26:31

thing. God?

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26:32

Yes. Yes, Virginia, there is a goddess.

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26:36

That's That's what I was told exactly that.

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26:39

But if you call in with a pledge of support, and especially a request the whole enchilada. Ooh. And then you get to your pledges taken by a noose. New purse. There you go. \$500 membership level?

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26:54

Well, we'll get naked for \$500

o

26:56

Yeah, the whole station. You guys, we've



Vanessa Edwards 26:59

got windows right next to us. I don't think I will.



27:04

We'll have a fashion show for the whole neighbor area. Yes. See my new birthday. You won't even have to call in to make your plan.



27:16

Alki Thank you. We'll be back with you. Okay, talk to you later. Okay. That's right, folks. 71352657385 to six KPFT



Vanessa Edwards 27:27

wasn't that the most bizarre pitch for at least tonight?



27:34

Getting what show this? Yeah, we,



27:35

you know, you gotta try all different kinds of ways to get the word across sometimes.



Vanessa Edwards 27:41

Exactly. Quit radio,



27:44

with attitude.



Vanessa Edwards 27:46

Okay, all right. Thank you. We're, we're well rehearsed.



27:50

Do we have to get serious again? It's a serious

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Vanessa Edwards 27:54

kid is a serious subject. I mean, we're making light in the interim. I guess I just heard the, the commercial breaks and it's, it's something that unfortunately is not a very easy subject to deal with. And in fact, thanks, Melanie that had mentioned something a little while ago but people who I guess are or No, I take it back it was Kristin that was talking about if it wasn't for tat, she probably wouldn't have been here. That's another one of the issues that people do not I guess cover so much is the issue of suicide. Yeah.

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28:33

That's true. I wanted to ask Chanel. Okay, now that we're where we are, where do you go from here? What happens now to Chanel?

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28:43

Um, I get my gender change and my name change. Get my GED and go on to college, take some college classes in law and get on with life. Pretty much yeah. Okay.

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29:00

Do you have any when is another transgendered lawyer?

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29:03

Well, I'd like to see somebody with a goal down and these are goals that you can

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29:11

make I know

v

Vanessa Edwards 29:15

I want you to click ball and don't touch there though.

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29:25

No, that's good. But and I think I think you probably know that I've known you less than a couple of weeks but you've got great girl.



29:42

Yeah, no, she left it in my car whenever she got



29:49

into bad pun night.



V Vanessa Edwards 29:54

This is a serious subject of course.



29:57

No, but that those that those are good goals and I'm sure you can make them just one at a time. And I guess the name changes kind of got to be the first one, doesn't



30:07

it? Definitely. That's,



V Vanessa Edwards 30:10

I guess one thing with anyone that's in a difficult situation, you do have to, as you mentioned, take it one day at a time, one step at a time, and it doesn't seem to come fast enough.



30:22

And you've already made it through some stuff that would knock other people out of the room.



30:26

Yep. No kidding.



V Vanessa Edwards 30:30

Just out of curiosity, have you kept contact with anyone in your family? Or have they basically kind of just shut off all communication?



30:42



30.42

Well, lately, I've been working with the Houston press, because they're getting ready to release something to me. And they want to do some interviews with my mother and my grandmother. So I called around and now my mother is like, yeah, I want to see what she looked like. Now. I've heard about you. Because she's on an impression that I have implants. And I have a real weird family. She just wants to see what I look like. So yeah. But how do you feel about this? I'm scared the girl because my mom's fiance has guns in the under the roof. And he doesn't like me too much. So I don't even want to go really?



31:20

That'd be a hard decision.



Vanessa Edwards 31:24

Um, I'd heard you mentioned your mom's fiance is your biological father still? Around or I just



31:33

talked to my great grandmother like two days ago that find all the phone numbers out. And um, she just gave me a number on some dude, his name is Jeff T winters. And I go, Who is this? And she said, I can't tell you just call it you'll find out. And I remember this thing because I caught this person when I was in CPS, chatty winter. And I called my grandmother and said, I wonder who said she loves her father. I see. Yeah. Wow. That'll be fun. Yeah.



Vanessa Edwards 32:05

Have you contacted him or



32:06

nominate the interview lady, the press lady do that? Wow, that's



Vanessa Edwards 32:16

awesome story. Yeah, it's kind of it's going to be some way to introduce yourself, I guess. Maybe it's, um,



32:24

well, you know, if you talk to any of us in the room, we probably got some very interesting and sad family stories. I know you do. And my family hasn't talked to me since 1968. So,

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Vanessa Edwards 32:40

I mean, it can be reconciled in some cases. I mean, with mine, that was the case. So it started off, I guess, maybe not so good. But it ended up being good. My mom is actually living with me. Now. Some are wondering, well, yes, she moved up, like couple of years ago. And yeah, again, this was something she still wasn't totally cool with. But the fact was, she was, you know, living under my roof. And I told her Well, Mom, I've got the tats meetings coming up here and about a week and a half, and there's not too much I can do, I'm not moving the meeting, it's still gonna be meeting here, I don't know what you want to do if you want to, you know, if you want to leave, or if you want to just sort of hang out and, and watch from a distance. And that's exactly what she did. She just kind of sat out on the back patio, and just kind of observed. And for awhile, it was a bit of, I guess, in an oddity four, but then she got a chance to actually talk with some of the members. And she saw them as human beings. She saw the human side of it, and she actually got to where she developed friendships, with my friends within the group, so not hard to believe. Sometimes you'd be surprised where you can I guess get a reconciliation from it comes from the strangest forces occasionally. And perhaps I don't know, but perhaps that might even be a case and in this particular scenario, but I don't know. I mean,

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34:12

once you know us, it's not such a mystery.

v

Vanessa Edwards 34:17

A lot of it just goes down to trying to de objectify what this is what this phenomenon is to people and to put human face on it. And once I can actually see you as a real viable human being all of a sudden it starts making sense to him. I just I wish people could understand the innate quality to this, though, and that's one of the things I think people still failed to grasp fully is the fact that it's not something that we're just choosing know on a whim to rebel

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34:53

or would this not be able to work and have your family take you bout

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Vanessa Edwards 35:01

three choices.

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35:04

No being who you are.

v

Vanessa Edwards 35:06



Vanessa Edwards 35:00

And that's triggered. And hopefully someday society will see this. Hopefully someday maybe we'll even have some studies to back this up in the interim, it's basically still us against the rest of world and we're trying our, our best to kind of get our desperate little voices out there and get the message across more than anything. Hopefully, someday they'll see this. In the interim, we've got a lot of folks that, unfortunately, are having a difficult time and fallen through the cracks. And one of them sitting here with us.



35:43

Yes. But it seems that crack is kind of closing up. Well, hopefully, hopefully, yeah.



Bobby 35:51

It never ceases to amaze me how people can forget that beyond what they see on the outside every last one of us as a human being a person.



36:03

Yeah, and that's the problem. Once you say gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender people, kind of Don't look at us as humans,



Vanessa Edwards 36:13

they conjure an image. And that's in essence, what they fixate on, is this image, it's almost cartoonish. Yeah, they don't actually get to see us interact, I guess, as family members, for instance, a lot of us have families. I mean, even some of the transgenders have children, and are very, very, you know, tender with their children, very loving family people, they're very dedicated workers, when they're in, you know, employment positions that they utilize their skills, it's just a matter of actually getting the chance to see people react is other humans, and having them realize that, well, this is a lot similar to, to me, except, you know, I guess the, the outward shell looks a little bit different. That's it, different clothing.



37:02

Actually, there's a story that one of the cast members that told me, she, as she was going through transition, she had a friend who worked with a different company that was did sales on like office equipment and things. And this person, sort of like their their, like vice president of sales or something. And had found out that there was one of the one of the sales managers had a transsexual working in his sales division, and he had a real problem with her, and, you know, really was not comfortable with it. And this person that was the Vice President, had his on sales group and whatever says will, like, put her in my group, and let you know, let me deal with her. You know, he knew the the cast member knows, you know, she wasn't like a total freak or anything like that as it okay. And brought it into offices, like, I don't care if you're a

transgendered, or a Martian or whatever, just sell staff and I'm happy. And like, within a short time, she was like, the number two person in sales in the company or something like that. And yeah, because you have backing



38:30

and the people accept you for who you are. I mean, it makes a hell of a big difference in your morale.



v Vanessa Edwards 38:38

Alicia is another good example of that, Alicia, yeah, just recently started working. In fact, for Ironman, and she's actually carved herself out quite a nice little med. She's got a friendship circle there that she's developed within the department. People like her. They like her work. They like her attentiveness there. Yeah. You know, this is someone that was basically turned down from virtually every one of the other job interviews, and people never really bothered to give her that chance. That's



39:11

that's the chance get the foot in the door. And that's good, because then the door is open for others.



v Vanessa Edwards 39:18

Well, this is true. Yeah. And hopefully it will be for others and other companies as well. I guess. One of the things that we probably still need to address is educating employers. In fact, hopefully we can, I guess, get some kind of a panel setup with some of the larger employers. I mean, even someone like Beth Richard epic, compact, he is employed, and everything is fine there. But whenever it came to passing human, I was getting ready to see human rights, human resource policy. They include a gay and lesbian that they left our train standard. And he was kind of like, hey, you know, I'm here. I mean, I've been here the entire time you knew about this, I gave you all the information. And they're still, I guess, kind of coming to grips with the making it official, but the thing is compact, has hired in fact, continues hiring individuals that are transgender. And so I there's not really I guess, the complaint there. But the fact is, there are a lot of very large employers that still don't know exactly what this is about. And for a lot of myths, just a matter of actually having someone there so they can see, you know, how they work, how they function, and an employment factor. employment setting.



40:44

Yeah, we need to wrap this up because we've got the news and views group coming in and, and then the second half of the show, we've got Francisco Sanchez and, and Sandy Lopez will be here. But yeah, before



40:58

you break, I want to give out covenant houses address, please do and please, please. Even more than a phone call or an email or fax, if you actually take the time to write a letter and send it to them. It makes more of an impression. Their address is 1111 Lovett Boulevard. Houston, Texas 77006. That's 1111 Lovett Boulevard. Houston, Texas. 77006.



41:34

Now isn't the irony of that that cannot go unnoticed. Here we are at one end of love. Lovett Boulevard. And they are at the other end



41:43

in more ways than Yes.



41:49

Thank you for being here. Thanks. Thank you.



41:52

Thanks. Thanks, Kristen. And thanks for having



41:55

me, Bonnie.



Vanessa Edwards 41:58

You debut on the radio.



41:59

Yes. And we've got some Steve Cohen here and then news interviews with big Roy and Chris