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SPEAKERS

Sarah DePalma, Jimmy Carper, Dee McKellar, Vanessa Edwards, Gary Norman, Speaker 1, Elizabeth Richards

V

Vanessa Edwards 00:01

As far as a community sense that you can speak with on a day to day basis, and use is more of, I guess an example in person of reading about one, you know about a subject and actually experiences, you know, experiencing. Experiencing it, excuse me, are two different things. And experience, obviously, transcends just book knowledge or anything that you can look up in the library.

E

Elizabeth Richards 00:29

I'm probably getting a little bit ahead of Sarah's listing there. But the next thing that happened with me after I found this information, was finding the people behind it.

S

Sarah DePalma 00:38

Yeah, that is stage three. And something that I think is interesting about this conversation is, it wasn't mentioned in this material. But it's usually in that time period between stage one and stage two, that you start thinking about what happened, maybe I'll go public, maybe, and I don't mean necessarily come out. But you start to think, well, maybe I'll go to a bar dress. And I recall that period is absolute Stark, terror. I knew that I wasn't passable, I knew that I wasn't doing the job. I felt driven to get out. In I thank God for Jackie Thorne because I had no idea what to do or how to do it. And I really just thought I was gonna lose my mind. You know, that first time out, I still get goosebumps thinking about that.

E

Elizabeth Richards 01:27

Walk from my high school to the bank machine down the way home. Wow.

S

Sarah DePalma 01:33

I think a lot of people start like that.

J

Jimmy Carper 01:35

Passing is a big issue in the gay and lesbian community to passing for straight. You know, can I do people know? Can they tell by looking at me and of course, in my my particular case, they're trying to pull it away. Anyone would ever mistake me for straight? And I you know, I do that on purpose.

S

Sarah DePalma 01:56

Honey, he doesn't even think straight.

J

Jimmy Carper 02:00

20 or 30 years ago. I mean, that's that is all gay and lesbian people ever talked about is is how they passed how people at work, didn't know. And that was the biggest issue at all. Because then other coins would say, Oh, get her I mean. Everybody everything she was straight.

S

Speaker 1 02:18

Okay. Okay. Jerry. Jerry. Jerry called in Yes. And said that somebody was talking about the the guide to periodical literature.

E

Elizabeth Richards 02:29

That's the one ah, guided periodical with the-,

S

Speaker 1 02:34

Library? Yes, yes. Yeah.

E

Elizabeth Richards 02:36

It just goes to show how much how many years I've been out of college when I can't remember the name.

J

Jimmy Carper 02:42

J Jimmy Carper 02:42

Jerry, Jerry will remember that. Yes, thank you,

S Sarah DePalma 02:46

This shows that Beth lives in computers.

E Elizabeth Richards 02:49

Very true. And like I say it's been a long time.

S Sarah DePalma 02:53

Alright, let's take a look at stage three here. And I want to spend a little time with this. Because I think this is where a lot of-

J Jimmy Carper 02:59

Think on passing. It's like, okay, so what if you can't pass? I mean, there are lots of gays and lesbians that can't possibly pass. You know, very effeminate men, very, very butch women. And what about in the transgender community? So what does? What is passing? What does it matter?

S Sarah DePalma 03:18

I'm glad that you brought that up about gay people. Because because it brings up an interesting point, it has been my observation, that often the people who are the most obvious are the people who are will trying the hardest to hide. It has been it has been fascinating to me is very often it is the most effeminate, or the most wildly Butch, who will look you right in the eye and say, Oh, no, I'm not gay, what would give you that? And I've often wondered why that is. I have no explanation for it. And it's certainly true in the transgender community as well. And I just think it's a very interesting observation. And it probably does come about during this stage, you know, when you're trying to figure out who you are, but in some people never do get out of it. How many people do I know a lot, several people who are just as nosy as hell. And yet if they're ever asked at work, or by a family member, the-. Oh, no, why would you think so?

E Elizabeth Richards 04:07

Well, let's not forget this goes back even farther. I mean, passing originally was passing for white.

J Jimmy Carper 04:11

Yes,

 Sarah DePalma 04:12

that's true. That's right. That's a very good point.

 Elizabeth Richards 04:16

And there's the whole so that so-.

 Jimmy Carper 04:18

That's how passing is degrading because the whole idea is trying to be something you think is better trying to conform that when what you are is just fine.

 Sarah DePalma 04:31

Well, I think that goes back to the stage one that we talked about that in stage one, you have to make some sort of a choice about the messages that you're given by society. In I think for gays, lesbians, bisexual transgendered, the general Miss societal message is, what you are isn't good. Mm hmm. And the people who make it from stage one to stage two are the people who decide either that they don't care what society thinks, or that they can get over. Down Debt and some other ways that society never has to know about them.

 Elizabeth Richards 05:03

Oh well, hey, life's too short you know?

 Sarah DePalma 05:06

Well, while we're I don't want to get too far ahead of myself, but that's gonna come up a little bit later. And it's a hot issue within the transgender community, I think is D and I will probably talk about here in a few minutes. All right, stage three is getting active with the community. Now that's a huge, a humongous step. As much as Laurie would say, it is in these groups that still closeted TG men or women will begin to identify role models and to sort out what personal limits might exist for their own needs. They can identify with and learn from other people who express ideas and feelings similar to their own, as well as rejecting the ideas of those individuals who have seemingly gone further or in a different direction that is currently personally comfortable. Well, I think if you're out in the transgender community in or if you've gone to any TG meeting, if you've gone to gay lesbian meeting in your church, you can identify that you decided you just gotta go meet somebody, you got to get out. Now you're looking for role models. And I think role models are a key issue. In the queer community, they are damn hard to find. Yes, they are. How many of us had openly transgender teachers are openly gay and lesbian teachers.

J

Jimmy Carper 06:19

And that's my role model was Ray Hill, because he was the first man I ever met who was openly gay and proud of being gay. In an era when nobody was out. And you didn't associate with people who were.

E

Elizabeth Richards 06:37

We had, we had one woman in our high school whose butch butch butch all way and and everybody knew, but it was like, you know, the big secret, right? Nobody was gonna be out about it at all. It's just you couldn't be out about it.

S

Sarah DePalma 06:50

In other organizations like hatch that didn't exist when I was growing up, so that there are gay and lesbian teenagers who have some access to it. But as Jeanne pointed out, that's true. If you live in Houston, right, if you live in Caldwell, or Madisonville or or you know, or Yeah, Podunk, Texas. Yeah, yeah, there you go. That isn't that it isn't true. No, it's tough. And so often, it's not until I found that when I was at Texas a&m, I found that often it was the students in college, who were the very first time looking around and say, Wow, there are other gay people like me, or there are other transgender people like me. And it was the first time that many gay and lesbian people had ever met. Another gay or lesbian person was it was during the college age. So for you folks up in College Station, yes, we are talking to you tonight. Just thought I'd point that out. One of the other things-

J

Jimmy Carper 07:43

That may be where the Internet helps, because Because Gay Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender teens can learn what's going on from the internet. And I know it can be brushed nowhere. Yes. And it can be frustrating, especially if you live in Rob's town, or Wharton or something. But you know that, okay, well, when I go off to college, or you know, I graduate from high school and leave home and I can get with community.

E

Elizabeth Richards 08:13

That was such a freeing thing. I'm on my own finally, and now, I'm not required to be under the watchful eye of what my parents want me to do.

J

Jimmy Carper 08:22

I guess I am not just the parents, but the whole high school society thing. It's just kind of a very sad society. Yeah. And there. Yeah.

S

Sarah DePalma 08:31

I've told the story on the year once before, but I guess it's been a long time. So I've told somebody, I'll tell this again. When I was going to Texas a&m, I didn't know very much about gay and lesbian people. And I was convinced that I had become convinced that I was one. And at that time, a gay student services had not been was not a campus organization. They were meeting at a Unitarian Church off campus. And I knew so little about this issue, and I was so frightened. The first time that I went to a gay service services meeting, I parked in the parking lot sat in the car and watch people go in because I wanted to see what gay and lesbian people look like. And, and out and honestly, I know it this sounds really stupid now, but I look back on it. And I realized that I was genuinely surprised these people didn't have three heads. You know, I mean, it look, you know, and I thought, Gee, I finally got up the nerve to get out of the car. And I thought, well, I'll go and sit in the back of this meeting. And I'll be inconspicuous. Sarah inconspicuous, honey, I wasn't always this way. Let me tell you. So I had good intentions. And as I got to the door, it turned out they had somebody standing at the door, and the person said to me, hi, how are you? And I freaked literally, freak. I screamed, what running out the door got in the car. It took me three months to get up the nerve before I would go again. As luck would have it, the next time I went the same person was at the door and When he grabbed me and said, I don't mind the fact that you left, but did you have to be so loud about it? You know, that was that was Tom Johnson that time Tom Johnson.

J

Jimmy Carper 10:10

I hear that a lot from gay lesbian people about going into a bar for the first time or any, any, any place where there's many of their own kind. For the first time I remember-.

S

Sarah DePalma 10:21

The first time I went to a gay bar of all the bars in the city because the only one I knew about was Mary's. So Mary's was the first gay bar I'd ever been in of all places. Mary's had a Saturday night at 2am and the early 80s. You talked about intimidated, honey, I mean, I needed that restroom because I was wetting my pants for real.

J

Jimmy Carper 10:37

So what about transgenders? I mean, is this the same kind of feeling when like you go to a support group for the first time? Or-.

D

Dee McKellar 10:43

Oh, gosh, yes. Oh, yeah. I still remember. I kind of jumped into into it, and found out about GCTC. And on that Saturday night, I lived in Clear Lake at the time, and I had to drive all the way down to Montrose. And I was at the time, I was still afraid to enter the Montrose neighborhood. Although I had made an I made a trip in the afternoon, to find out where the location was, anyway, all the way down. I had this dialogue in my head. On the one hand, I was

saying, oh my god, I'm gonna get mixed up with all these freaks and faggots, they're gonna give me AIDS. And they're gonna get me hooked on drugs, and it's gonna be terrible. And then the other side was saying, Hey, you dummy. These are, these folks are like you, you're gonna belong. So for 40-45 minutes, I had this running dialogue.

v

Vanessa Edwards 11:43

But before I even got to that point, I spent literally years looking for how to find a support group, or just just the gay resources are like, okay, so you hear rumors of where the gay bars are even as far back as when you're in high school. Never heard about a transgendered bar. That's right. A support group, you know, it's not like they advertised in the local paper or anything. That's right. So things like this show are, I just, I gotta thank you, Sara so much for putting this on. Because I know there's people out there that find out that the A they're not alone and be there's other people that they can meet with. And they find out about it through the show, and others like it, you know, other other resources. And it's going to take a while but but we're here we are really are here.

s

Sarah DePalma 12:27

I had a call a few months back from person who told me that they were on the verge of suicide until they heard they heard Jimmy and I on the year one night talking about that exact issue. And we essentially, in the course of our conversation, talked this person out of killing themselves. And it gave me the shakes afterwards to think that that had happened. But it also showed me the power that radio can have. And it's sometimes I am very guilty of this as an activist I am guilty of often of sometimes forgetting what it's like when you're in stage one or stage two, and you're scared out of your mind. And it's every once in a while it is good for me to stop and remind myself about this. And not to run away from those folks and but to reach back behind them. And I think that's one of the for these folks. And I think that's one of the best things about transgender organizations like TAT, or GCTC. Because they can often many of the people who are in those organizations realize they need to reach back for the people who are behind them and help them out.

v

Vanessa Edwards 13:33

Would you mind if we gave the tax line phone number on the you know, please give it's a 8275913. Now we'll get a voicemail, 24 hours day or night, whatever. And let us know how to get back in touch. If you happen to catch somebody live, that's fine, too.

s

Sarah DePalma 13:48

One of the other things they talk about in stage three here, and it's something that I know that the group will be interested in a transgendered person in stage three who is forming a new identity has a special crisis. What do they call themselves? Oh, yeah. They Oh yeah, terminology becomes an overbearing concern is they struggle to find words to describe how they're feeling. Even though those feelings change as they continue to learn about themselves. With the defining of terminology and newly developing definitions of self comes the search for

others who are more like they are and the rejection of those who are different. Now we get into this with community. They've tumultuous period brings conflict as new friends are made and then pushed away. This stage also brings separation within the TG support community, as people begin to describe the define themselves as cross dressers or transsexuals and begin to decide that one or the other is higher on the ladder. Yeah, yeah, you want to know where a lot of the discord in the transgender community comes from? I'd say that's as good a place as any.

 Jimmy Carper 14:54

sounds exactly like the gay and lesbian community with the a crowd and you know, in the preppy Queen's who think they're better than the leather queens and you know all of this kind of stuff. It's a better career than you are in, you know, because we come from the same place. We cross all social and economic and racial lines. We come from everywhere. And so we're not ever going to agree on anything at any one time because we all have different value systems.

 15:22

This is KEOS College Station, Brian KPFT in Houston.

 Jimmy Carper 15:28

you're listening to after hours care radio with attitude. And let's take a short break. This is from diverse house, a local group that wants to talk about community.

 15:48

Oh, yeah, that was P!nk from her last CD. Oh, next to last Hush. The drama. And that was called Give and take. And I think that's a it's a great, a great message for the community. Be yourself.

 Sarah DePalma 16:06

You know, English-.

 Jimmy Carper 16:08

Local entertainer.

 Sarah DePalma 16:09

Interestingly, when I don't wanna jump too far ahead, but just being yourself is the final stage that we're talking that we'll be talking about.

J

Jimmy Carper 16:16

Maybe I played this too early.

o

16:17

No, actually, I'm glad that she's I'm glad you played it when you did. We were we first of all, let's reintroduce our guests, we have added a new person. This one of our guests in the studio right now. His name is Gary Norman. Gary is with the Montrose Counseling Center. And we're going to Gary will be be joining into our conversation here in a little bit. Are we talking about hate crime? No, no, we're gonna we just work Gary right in with this. And let's Gary wants to go ahead and say hi to the folks. We'll get your microphone check.

G

Gary Norman 16:48

Okay, hello, everyone.

S

Sarah DePalma 16:50

Okay, that gives us a little bit and let's tell the audience who else is in here with this

E

Elizabeth Richards 16:55

Beth Richards still hanging around.

V

Vanessa Edwards 16:56

And Vanessa Edwards still here.

o

16:59

Okay. In we had been talking and fro about material has been provided to us by Diane Zicatela. A having to do with the six stages of development of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender people. And we're using this in context of talking about community and how it applies. And I wanted to spend a little time here talking about this division between a transsexual and a crossdresser. Well, I'm I have never exactly understood why it is that transsexual somehow become superior to crossdressers. I've never bought into that. But I know that many people do. And it's particularly at the stage that we're talking about that we see an awful lot of it is actually in talking about this stage. I think. Speaking just for myself here, this is where I come in, in saying that I think gender is the actual oppressor here. The fact that we need to separate ourselves out as holier than thou we're better than this person, or better than that person or

more informed about such such an issue, to me is an indicator that gender is so oppressive, that it even works its way into a community that is trying to deal with gender issues, and make it go away. Comments or opinions about that? Anybody?

 Elizabeth Richards 18:25

Have he said, I gotta think?

 Sarah DePalma 18:28

Well, I guess maybe it was, as I've been thinking about this issue a lot.

 Vanessa Edwards 18:33

I'm not necessarily convinced that it's just peculiar to gender. I think really, this even happens, I guess, in straight society as well. I mean, if you got to any high school, you've got cliques that naturally kind of gravitate together and they tend to do basically the same thing they they consider themselves above the next group. So it's not necessarily something I think that's tied to gender as much as does just have one of those bad traits and human personalities.

 19:06

Well, let me talk about this, from my standpoint, is a political person here for a minute and talk about how this plays out and give you just an example. Last week, I put out some information I am about a proposed law in Texas that It's Time Texas is sponsoring. And within a matter of days, I began getting letters from people saying what are you including those damn cross dressers for? If you include the cross dressers in this legislation, it means we transsexuals will never get our rights. And I was appalled. This is exactly what the Lesbian Gay rights lobby is doing to us. And I thought we would do this to one another. And it was a real eye opener to me. It really was that even within one of the most oppressed communities you could think of this division would present itself in such a mean spirited way.

 20:00

Okay, well, he had two things going on here is just gender. And as it stands, and to me gender just like is I mean, I know where I fit in the gender in the gender spectrum or however, whatever phrase you want to use for it. But right now, I mean, there's two restrooms, right? There's room and the women's room, right? To me, this is a pretty strange distinction, but that's the one people are making now. I was just hanging out with some friends a while ago, and we were at Club, and they were playing some Zygo tunes. And there was a black man who asked this white woman to dance. You know, 30-40 years ago, these people have been shot. Yes. Just run site. Sorry. That's it. Game over. Boom. Right. Okay. So 30-40 years from now, maybe we'll get past that. I don't know. Who knows.



20:42

Yeah, the one removing one thing that I liked about the ranch is that the restroom was unisex? You find that in some places in Europe? Yeah. You know, just put in all stalls and it doesn't matter.



20:52

So you got the two rooms, right. But what about people who aren't like, quite either. I mean, you can see you've got like, the really androgynous types. I'm thinking like, you know, the David Bowie image of the 70s. Or the really undifferentiated types, like, like that Pat sketch from Saturday Night Live, you can't tell which one but-.



21:07

You know, if you just have a read, it was just as restroom works. I mean, everybody goes.



S Sarah DePalma 21:12

I don't want to see what they're doing.



21:16

You know, so that's, that's my take on gender as well, you know, okay, so there it is, like, why are making such a big deal? You know.



G Gary Norman 21:24

Right. Well, and I also think that, looking at it, even from the very early stages of life, gender, is sort of told to us what it means what it means to be male, what it means to be female, even from the maternity ward, where people are dressed in pink versus blue. And I believe that's still done. Well, that that's probably even better. But I think that that even started there. And just seeing how, throughout life, people are told what it means to be male, what it means to be female. And I think that really crosses over into Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, different communities to I don't think that we're really excluded from that oppression.



S Sarah DePalma 22:11

Well, I don't think so either. Well, we'll we'll get into that a little further. Let's go on to stage four here. Oh, sure.



E Elizabeth Richards 22:18

Yeah, the second part was the bit about about this stages on the ladder, I think is the phrase that was written in that in that thing. I'm sorry, there's not anyone progression. I mean, if if you're just somebody who likes to get dressed every once in a while, just for your own comfort in your own home, that's one thing, that's fine. It's er, that's cool. No problem. If you're somebody who just says, Look, this is who I am lifetime, full time all the time. That's called to I mean, there doesn't have to be any kind of progression or stages, and not one of them's any better than the other.

S

Sarah DePalma 22:47

I have taken a lot of flack on this show from people within the transgender community. Every time I talk about the idea of a continuum, you know that that gender is a continuum. And then once you find your place, and you're continuing that's comfortable for you. That's That's it. And where anyone gets off telling you that you're placing the continuum is wrong is beyond my comprehension. And there, there always seems to be some group of people who said who feel like they have to defend where they're at, you know, like, their spot is the one and only answer and anybody else who isn't like them is wrong. You know, the types I'm talking about know exactly. And I'm, and I'm really convinced that you find that in the gay and lesbian community with the bisexual community. Oh, yeah. And it is the single biggest barrier to actually building community in the real sense, this sense that that I'm writing the whole world's wrong is, I don't know how you get around that. But there's so much of it. We seem to eat our young over this issue, even.

♀

23:46

Kind of the inverse it is, I started out at least as far as the transgendered community and at least in stage one, they start out thinking they're wrong, and everyone else is right. And I guess as things progressed, and they maybe feel much better about themselves, sometimes certain individuals might take it to the extreme, and I guess, reverse that. I don't know if that's necessarily out of your, I guess a reaction to what had happened to them in the past and I pull retribution or if it's just, maybe, you know, vanity.

♂

24:25

I think that's a part of, of the community growing. You know, when there's only one gay bar in town, everybody goes to it. And everybody has a good time. When there are 10 gay bars, and then there's a woman's bar, and then there's a preppy men's bar, and then there's a leather bar.

♀

24:43

It's good point. It's a good point. Yeah. Yeah. So it starts to fracture itself.

J

Jimmy Carper 24:48

Exactly. You know, we get into these little cliques and these people are more like me than

EXACTLY. YOU KNOW, WE GET INTO THESE HEDGECRIES AND THESE PEOPLE ARE MORE LIKE ME, THAN everybody else.



24:55

Now, that's not necessarily bad. It's just the thing to me. Is that when they do that, then they start, I guess trying to focus on we are good and they are bad.



25:09

And we lose the tolerance in the US. And in the game. In the in, in the gay and lesbian community, it happened when all of a sudden, we don't want whether people are drag queens in the gay pride parade, that type of thing that, you know, we, we've talked to death. And that happens in every growing community.



25:27

But then the thing that raises an interesting question, if these people become sort of like sub communities, which I think is basically what happens, then then for example, is it truthful to say that there is a gay lesbian community? I mean, is community in the big sense that conglomeration of the sub communities we have-.



Jimmy Carper 25:47

We're stratifying ourselves?



Elizabeth Richards 25:49

Well, I don't know I'm kind of looking at it. Like, you know, we were all in this lifeboat together, and the sharks are out there behind us. And, you know, a whole bunch of people looked around and looked at us and said, Hey, you guys, you could overboard, your, your expenditure, classify these sharks, you know, so that we can get away. And and so, you know, then they said, Well, maybe we're not real sure about that. So at this point, they'd like thrown us a line, we're still dragging behind the boat. But you know, we're not, we're not cut loose yet. And it's just a matter of time before we either get pulled in the boat or cut loose. And so now, we're turning around and doing it to others within the same community,



Sarah DePalma 26:21

Which, which I find shameful. Yeah, absolutely.



26:24

No, but I, as much as I hate to say it, I think it's a natural outgrowth of growth

 Elizabeth Richards 26:31

It's a defense mechanism, no doubt about.

 Sarah DePalma 26:34

Yeah, I'm-.

 26:35

We can have our little cliques. But how about if we don't look down on each other?

 26:40

Unfortunately, I think that's a human trait, too. Is there's a certain group of people, I'm convinced who think that they are taller if they make someone else who seems smaller. Mm. You know, which, I've never understood it. But, but I've seen so much of them convinced that that's really so.

 26:58

It's easier to make yourself feel good by looking down on someone than by actually improving yourself.

 Sarah DePalma 27:06

Yeah, that's a very good point. Okay, in stage four, what we're talking about here, that says that stage four is characterized by continued increasing contact with other transgendered people. And this is where we start to see that the people who TGS at this stage began to declare themselves transsexuals who are working towards sex assignment surgery seem to achieve hero status within the group. Yeah, I've certainly seen plenty of that. And the problem in the problem is if for some later reason, they should have to back out of their transition, they're in deep trouble. They're in real deep trouble, and nobody needs that pressure. Yeah. Now, it's also at this, it's at this stage at seems to me that from a lot of transgendered people that I've seen, this is where they also begin taking some risks and get themselves in some trouble. I have seen people go to the bars and do things that are just very inappropriate. Maybe it's a part of the learning process. But whatever the case is, it seems like they go to the bars, they either will say something inappropriate, do something inappropriate, or even worse, they leave themselves at risk when they're leaving the bars. And then that, to me, is where I want to talk about the hate crimes issue for a minute. Okay. In as I was telling Jimmy, before we got on the air in the two years that I've been on, and we've we've been doing the show now, I've been averaging about four phone calls a month, from people who tell me about that they have been

victimized by hate crimes. And in that two year period, not one single person has ever gone to the police about it. Never. And I'd like you to talk about the Montrose Counseling Center and what you do with hate crimes.

G

Gary Norman 28:49

Okay. Well, to start out, I'll give you a little background on where we got the funding to do this. Because it is really it's a pilot program. And I believe it's the only one in Texas, which is currently doing this. We got funded from the governor's office to start a program to provide counseling, case management, some community advocacy and those type of services to survivors of hate crimes. We got funded so what we had to do was basically get the word out what our services are so that people knew to refer people to us and that people in the community knew that they could get services very specific to being targeted because of certain criteria. And basically, what those criteria are, their sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, and religion. Okay, so that's what we've been doing so far is to try to build really a code coalition of sorts of agencies looking out for these, and trying to bring the issue more into the open. And also encourage people to report. And that sort of gets to your question, which is, you know, people are not reporting the crimes. And I think that there are a number of reasons why people are not reporting. One is that I think people fear that there will be negative repercussions if they do come out with this. One obvious reason is if an example would be a person at work, maybe who's not out and they want to pursue something that happened, and you know, he know how things can get around at work. You know, what happens is that someone finds out and their job basically is put at risk,

♂

31:01

The number one reason that I am told why people do not report hate crimes. The number one reason far away is if this becomes public, I will lose my job, at which point they now become double victims.

♂

31:14

Ask Brandon Tina, what happens when it becomes public?

♂

31:16

Yes, yes, that Brandon Tina, of course was for the audience who may not know Brandon Tina was a female to male transsexual. And after it became public, that this person had been involved in a hate crime incident, Brandon Tina was brutally murdered, and raped and raped in there have since been other incidents like this around the country. And what it has done is strike absolute terror into the hearts of transgendered people. And even though they are the victims of hate crimes, there is no circumstance that it will be at least at this point under which I can get any of them to report it, even if I volunteered to come down with them. Because they'll say to me, Well, if the police at this time, if the police call me for information, it becomes public. I might have a job, or maybe I'm gonna lose a marriage. You know.



31:58

It's the exact call for gay and lesbians. But I guess it's even tougher for transgender.



32:02

What happens? In the closet, though, Sarah, it only gets worse. Yeah.



S Sarah DePalma 32:06

Yeah. You know, Beth, my, here's my biggest concern. And I'm glad to have Gary on the show to talk about this. My biggest concern is a person who is a victim of a crime, and then chooses not to deal with it is setting themselves up for so much more trouble down line. But I have yet to be able to convince people of it's hard to get people through the fear to see the reality. And I don't quite know how to go about that. So I'm glad to hear that the Counseling Center is, is addressing some of that issue.



G Gary Norman 32:39

Well, and historically, the Counseling Center has attempted to be sort of on the forefront of providing non judgmental and open and very inclusive services to community members. It's a difficult thing, because people are at different places at different times, I think, in their lives. And some people, I think, you know, may say, Okay, I've been targeted, I've been victimized, you know, get me to the police right now, I want to report this. And then, you know, whatever happens happens, some people, you know, for any number of reasons, feel that they cannot get to that point yet. And I think it's important to, to really realize that difference. And to take each individual in each case, individually, and to look at all the specific circumstances that come into it.



S Sarah DePalma 33:35

Interestingly, the two people that I hear from the most are drag queens, and heterosexual cross dressers. And they give me identical reasons for not going in there. Bolt say to me, but you understand, I'm a male and I was caught and female clothing. They'll laugh me out of the police station. Right? And I say to them, were you a victim of the hate crime? And Weren't you? Well, yes. Then the police don't care. Let's go I'll walk you down here. But and, and it's interesting, because I hear people say to me, Well, what gays but but but drag queens and heterosexual crossdressers don't have anything in common. That's nonsense. Either. They have to do is listen in my phone line for a while they find out that that's nonsense. How would people go about finding the Montrose Counseling Center? How do they access these services?



G Gary Norman 34:24

Well, I think about the phone number for one. Yeah, it's Area code 713-529-0037. And it also was located in the phonebook. Believe it's in the the emergency call numbers in the beginning.

I believe it's under there under Social Services.

J Jimmy Carper 34:45

And your locations around the 700 block of Richmond.

G Gary Norman 34:49

Right right in Richmond close to where 59 crosses Richmond there.

S Sarah DePalma 34:54

You work on a sliding scale. Is that right?

G Gary Norman 34:56

Right. It's the Counseling Center. overall is based on a sliding scale fee for this service specifically, if people have insurance, we can utilize that. Otherwise, it's covered by grant money. Whoa, so that services will end up being completely free. And we can also hook people up with crime victims compensation, which is run out of the Attorney General's office where people can apply for funds to cover basic costs that might have occurred during the incident. Some counseling, if it's if it's not elsewhere, counseling can be covered under this. This funding, things like maybe glasses that are broken, dentures, things that are sort of basic needs of people can be covered.

S Sarah DePalma 35:52

Wow, that's wonderful. I was not aware of any of that.

G Gary Norman 35:55

Yeah, yes, that's part of the reason that we really need to, to let people know what's happening. As far as you know, sort of touching back on to the police station, situation, if, if the survivor is ready to do it, but you know, there's, for any number of reasons, they're not quite ready to go to the police station, we can make arrangements, either providing information of what the experience may be like, or we can meet the person there and work on the behalf of the targeted individual at the police station and go with them and to meet them there.

36:40

Wow.

G

Gary Norman 36:41

And help them through the process? Because, you know, I mean, even going down for a parking ticket, sometimes can be tricky enough. It's right. Automatic. Exactly, yes. And for this circumstance, it's you know, it's just much more different. And there's a lot more circumstances it has to go through. So that's, that's one of the services and also if it does get to the point where the person wants to prosecute if it if the courts become involved, we can also be utilized as court advocates and be there for the survivors in court, and provide some of those services, along with information and referral. All along the way, if people are in need of other services, during the process of doing this.

S

Sarah DePalma 37:30

So for those people out there who have been victims of hate crimes, and you're afraid to go to the place, the worst thing that you can do if you're a victim of a hate crime is say nothing to anybody. I mean, far and away, that's the worst thing that you can do. But And beyond that, if you're very fearful and you are afraid, here is a good resource. And this is true, whether you're transgender, you're gay, you're bisexual, whatever, whatever it is, here's a resource for you. If you don't want to talk to me, and you're afraid of me as an activist there are, you know, whatever the case and I know I realized there are many people who won't talk to me strictly because I am an activist and they're afraid of me. And I understand that I've come to understand that a lot. Here's a resource for you. Well, you don't have to talk to me or anyone else, but you can get help.