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SPEAKERS

Vanessa Edwards Foster



Vanessa Edwards Foster 00:01

one other group I guess, before, we do often something, the Texas Association for transsexual support tats. And I guess I'll try and briefly wrap that one up. Tattoo, of course, is one of the younger groups here in town, it is actually a spin off of DCTC. It's kind of developed during a schism, when some of the transsexual members felt that they weren't being adequately represented in GCTC. And as such, tats spun off on its own, and a lot of people kind of figured that well, this, you know, may not be very successful, many transsexual support groups, unfortunately, kind of tend to be a little more transient in nature, because of the no pun intended, because of the fact that because of the fact that after they do achieve surgery, a lot of them go on to their normal lives.



01:03

I think it's really important for everybody to understand, some people start with trial, and then go to GCTC, and then go to tach as they progress down the journey. Exactly. And I think it's really important that everybody understands, there is no lifetime membership to any of these organizations unless you want to, for example, Deseret mentioned, she belongs to all the groups. So it's what works for you. And I think it's really important and key that everybody know that you don't have to go from one group to the other group, or whatever.



Vanessa Edwards Foster 01:32

And there's a natural evolution in a lot of this, a lot of people who do have surgery go on to live normal lives. That in essence, is what a lot of the a lot of the therapists have kind of pushed for years is to basically kind of blend into the woodwork be just another that word. Yes, exactly. Yeah, I'm actually we're kind of getting away, let's become



01:56

homogenous.

 **Vanessa Edwards Foster 02:00**

Like the first four letters of that word. Anyway, I Tatts is actually one of the if not the most successful transsexual organization in the United States, and is, in fact, again, a bit of notoriety around the country, or they're very, very few transsexual support groups in their industry, it's

 02:24

key, because it has, I mean, that's the source to go if if you're transsexual, you just can't go on the street and say, Gosh, what do I do now, you can talk to other people who have been through this, and they're gonna actually be the best influence on what you can do and where to go. And the source of information that Tatts has is this unbelievable,

 **Vanessa Edwards Foster 02:46**

and is specifically geared toward the transsexual. So we do have the information sources and the directions on where they need to have to go to find what it is that they need to accomplish. Our ultimate goal

 02:59

is a targeted thing. I mean, it's very targeted as far as the information because a crossdresser and a transsexual are not going to have the same point of view or issues to deal with. Yeah, exactly. Well,

 03:11

the thing about tattoos for me is the fact that gives me a chance to learn from the other people that so many of us have different issues to talk about. Some of us are parents, some of us aren't, some of us have certain problems. Others don't, in certain reaction to the individual hormones we're taking as well,

 03:27

to try and it tells you a little bit about what doctors are available. surgery procedures, what kind of what you can expect from a surgery. Okay,

 03:36

I'm gonna ask the question now, from all three of you. Where are you in this spectrum?



03:43

Well, I'm preamp.



03:47

Also, I'm a transsexual, and I'm prion,



03:49

okay. And I'm undecided. Okay.



03:55

And brighten.



03:56

Does that mean that you're a crossdresser or transgendered? Okay, I'm fixing to go full time at work. Okay. Very good. Just hang



04:04

out there and see what way it goes. Yeah, and I've been since January, I've been going full time. And it's really wonderful. I've had a lot of support from my company, and also my clients. See,



04:16

you know, I've been hearing more and more in the past year about people transitioning on the job and being successful at it. Yeah,



04:23

it's getting easier by the grace of God, it's been really easier.



04:27

Well, I think it's important, you know, if you're going to have a successful transition is not to push it but to take some time to educate your employers and your co workers and move slowly.



04:40

It's a very slow drawn out process and to make it work it has to be that way. Yeah, I



04:46

know Michelle Meyers has done it at at she did it at



04:50

Yeah, that company.



04:54

Very conservative company. Down and I was amazed but like She said it she was a year, because it just gradually, gradually, gradually, until, until, you know, there wasn't really much to do or much detail, because everybody pretty much knew it. And that's



05:12

kind of what I did, too. I mean, it took a year, a little bit more than a year from the first time I made the announcement. And you got through your own process, too, because you have your own growth over that period of the year, as far as to boil



05:27

back. Because it's a lot different than just a once a week or



05:34

yellow brick road. That's right.



Vanessa Edwards Foster 05:35

Growth your mind to meet a lot.



05:40

Once your coworkers don't hear they see. And then they start



05:46

rumors, right, the first thing that happens because you start like the first thing losing your, your hair on your face. Yeah. So right away, you look a little pale, and all of a sudden, you look so different. They think, oh my goodness that that person is sick.



06:00

And then you develop breaths. And before that you go from one earring to two earrings. That's true. Yes.



06:05

And then that's another the hair just keeps



06:09

getting longer and



06:10

longer and longer and longer. Are you a musician? Or what are you?



06:20

So a lot of questions do come out. And I made a commitment with my my partners in the business that this would be kept until we knew exactly how we were going to do it. So there were a lot of questions that I could not answer for people. And all I could do is say, well just hang in there, and I'll be able to answer it shortly. And then some people you have to pull into your competence and say this is what's going on. And well



06:43

eventually becomes easier in the end. Because by the time you're almost finished, they can find out what's going on. They can actually find out and surmise by the time we get to the end.



06:56

I don't know what's going on here with that kind of weird little feedback. Okay, let me ask the other big question. What about the restroom thing? Guys? That is like the biggest deal, especially with employers. That's



Vanessa Edwards Foster 07:11

one of the main sticking points. There. Absolutely



07:12

crazy,



07:14

right? There's multiples. I mean, legal. There's the legal aspect of it. And then there's the sensible aspect of it. And



07:21

then there's the obvious aspect.



07:25

Yeah, well, nobody catches on to the obvious aspect for a long time.



Vanessa Edwards Foster 07:30

For many years, Phyllis, when she transitioned literally had to walk out of the courtroom down about a block or two and across the street, to go use it to another building blocks away. She literally had accidents. To make it to the courthouse. This is how much we've evolved just over the course of the past 15 years, full



07:52

time I had to go down use the restroom on the ground floor. And that was down 16 stories in an elevator.



08:00

See, now I was quite lucky because when I transition on the job, the first thing the girls did is gave me a key to the ladies room. Right? So it was kind of



08:11

if they were all stalls for everybody. what difference would it make? None.

if they were all stands for everybody, what difference would it make? None.



08:15

It'd be like extra meal. Yeah.



v Vanessa Edwards Foster 08:21

afraid we're gonna write on the walls? Yeah. On your initial for a good time, call



08:30

mediocre time. Yeah.



08:33

But it's kind of you know, it's so funny. Because what makes him more of an impact a woman walking into a man's room. God dressed as a female going and using the ladies. Right? I



v Vanessa Edwards Foster 08:44

found that out the hard way. Yeah, going in there anymore.



08:48

The transition, it gets a little confusing. I mean, I was told you can't use that bathroom, ma'am.



08:54

That's right, guys.



09:00

So I see actually that the issue has not been resolved.



09:04

That's gonna keep going and going legally, what they say is, unless you have the owner's permission from the establishment, then use what's on your license. And so most of the time when we have events, what we do is we work it out before an event happens. And we go in and

say we want to be able to use the ladies room. And we've had a lot of success. I mean, most people when you're setting up an event, say that's not a problem,



09:34

which is really key because that's how a lot of the girls learn to use the ladies room. Fortunately, it gets a little difficult for some of the girls the first time they have to go out in public. And that time arises.



09:47

Yeah, no carry as it is you you're going out for the first time into a public place. You have to use this, you know, some sort of a facility and you're going where do I go? And so it's See what we kind of teach them as, here's where you need to do it, this is the proper way to do it. So that even if you're out somewhere by yourself, you're not gonna I'm not going to be a spectacle. And so it's important. That's another reason that the groups are so important. It's a learning experience. Everything is an educational process. Well,



10:18

it gets down to two things, attitude and appropriate behavior. If you act like a woman, and you behave appropriately and are dressed appropriately, you won't have a problem. Pretty much. Yeah, I'd say it's a big part.



10:32

How about what's the word? Continuity, no. Passing? What if your lady like and you're dressed well, and well, quite often, and makeup, but I just don't pass?



10:51

Well, that happens. A lot of times establishments will show respect. If they see you, they'll address you the way that you're dressed. So if you're wearing a skirt and blouse, most people are going to say, ma'am, unless you're walking around and really create an obnoxious scene, that



11:09

gets back to appropriate pain. Yeah, sure. Sure. Still some instances.



11:14

That does happen. Yes. And there are still times that people will say, Sir, to person dress. And

part of that is if you go to an establishment that has never dealt with this before, and you're very obviously a male and address and there's no adequate as far as trying to be as feminine as possible. You might get, sir, because they don't know. Right? So you have to be able to work with that a little bit.



11:42

I remember Dean McKellar when she would talk to new police officers. Yeah, we always stress. You know, if someone's in a dress, you call them, ma'am.



V Vanessa Edwards Foster 11:56

Yeah. and arrest them, how are they present.



11:58

And the other thing to realize is people get nervous, if you've they've never come in contact with a crossdresser or transsexual before. And they kind of make out Oh, my goodness, that is a man in a dress. They're probably just as nervous. As you know, you are being there.



12:15

Yeah, make them uncomfortable, because you're outside their tolerance, love. So



12:18

they want to show respect, but they're not sure how to show respect. They obviously realize you're a man in a dress. So there might say, sir. And



12:27

that's where attitude comes into, I think it's so key. You've got to look at this transition, this change with a sense of humor. You've got to have, you know, the tough skin. So they called me a guy. Oh, wow. And



12:44

it's appropriate. I mean, you can take them that way or person aside a little bit later, instead of being mad at him say, Look, I'm going through a transitioning process, I would appreciate it if you could refer to me as ma'am or miss it would be more comfortable to me. And it will be more comfortable, I think to you to education is

v

Vanessa Edwards Foster 13:04

a very long and drawn out process.

o

13:07

Hell, I've been here for four years with with Sarah and I've still got a lot to learn. And I'll tell you a story about it. The first time I ever met Sarah, she was had asked, she was asked to be a guest on the show from a co host, who did not show up that night. And so I'm thrown with Sarah, I've never Hello. We open up the mic. And the first thing I said to her was, I says, gee, you don't look like a man in a dress. Sarah, she was so gracious. Never let it you know, she just went on and did the explanation. And I was the one that felt little.

v

Vanessa Edwards Foster 13:53

Well, actually, that's the best way to deal with it. And it goes back to what they were saying you have to play this off. Good humor. Yeah,

o

13:59

no, that was my ignorance at the time. And I think she realized that. And that may be people that you run into, it's their ignorance.

o

14:07

And that's that's part of it. Like I said, they get nervous and they don't know what to ask. What they're used to seeing is something from a Springer show. Right there go, oh, my gosh, I'm seeing this now live. What do I do? She

o

14:21

started taking off her dress. Yeah.

v

Vanessa Edwards Foster 14:25

Some of the fights start I want to see the wigs fly. Yeah.

o

14:30

That's a big thing is it took each of us a long time to deal with our own issues. And we expect everybody immediately to just turn to think our view. Yeah, we can't expect that. That's unrealistic. Just like coming



14:43

out. If you're gay or lesbian or bisexual Hello, the same thing



14:47

becomes into as well. Yeah, I



14:51

mean, there's a big part of that where you have to deal it's like I said earlier, dealing with your own issues. That's going to help you deal with other people. Oh,



v Vanessa Edwards Foster 15:00

don't need to interrupt. But yeah, to do a bit of a station I do.



15:05

And let's just do it right here on the air.



15:09

Commercial Free and listener sponsored Houston. 90.1 KPFT, the sound of Texas, a Pacifica network station KPFT Houston que yo s College Station, and



15:18

you're listening to after hours Queer radio with attitude. I'm Jimmy Carper. Edwards-Foster. And we have with us



v Vanessa Edwards Foster 15:27

all of the members from the transcript.



15:31

Jessica, Jessica, Deseret,

v

Vanessa Edwards Foster 15:33

and Randy handy. And we've actually also got a couple of girls from Austin, we've got the women sitting in and telling us a little bit about the Austin groups as well. Before I let them sit down, I do want to touch on the Unity committee. Yeah, that's something we just kind of scratched the surface about. But we haven't really delved into yet. Yeah. In fact, we've got the two founders of this committee here. Wow, Jessica, and Deseret. Very good.

o

16:06

Well, one of the things that we noticed was that

o

16:09

you didn't want Vanessa getting all the glory for getting the

v

Vanessa Edwards Foster 16:15

getting swept the awards this year. I've got my academy. That's why she was bigger. Okay, you gave me away.

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16:31

But this is a large undertaking, and it seems to be getting bigger and bigger every year. And

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16:35

the responsibilities get bigger and bigger.

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16:37

Sure, exactly. And there's so many things that really don't fall into a specific group. But it benefits all the groups. And so the whole concept behind the Unity committee was to get the groups together more than just once a year at a unity banquet to participate in things like the Gay Pride pray, for example, or any kind of lobbying events or fundraisers, those benefit everybody. And so we wanted to get at least the heads of all the communities, which, you know, it's really kind of fun, because we're all friends anyway.

o

17:12

That's nice. That's nice. Yeah,



17:14

the other part of it that I think is so key. And so important, I mentioned earlier, our San Antonio sisters out there had a very strong community about 10 years ago. And now, we have a strong community here in Houston, which I think is the best by far in this state, and probably one of the best in the country. I think the Unity community works like a gel to hold all the community groups together. Because without that organization without working together, we're nothing but a bunch of splinter groups. If we work together, we can actually be a force in the community and do a lot of good things.



17:48

But as we say, without unity, there's no community.



17:52

That's right. Oh, that is so right. And



17:55

well, I think if we can show them that this is done here in Houston, that can be set as a model to go to other cities and create the same kind of organization.



18:07

I think I heard it best tonight, we're getting a lot better than San Francisco. Yay.



v Vanessa Edwards Foster 18:12

That's something that certainly San Francisco just recently created their first transsexual support group kind of based after tats. So if that tells you first yes, there first, believe it



18:25

or not, we're headed in.



18:29

It comes from this feeling that community the Queer community exists only on both coasts. And that us in the middle, we just kind of Oh, poor us. But you know, we're pretty good in a lot of ways.



18:40

We don't get a lot of time, you know, actually doing the work and not, you know, sitting out there pushing it all the time. Yeah, takes a lot of, you know, work that's just getting in there and doing that. No kidding, other than another city up north.



18:54

And the reason I came to Houston was because of the community. This community here is the best, not only in the state, but as I said before, I think it's the best in the nation.



v Vanessa Edwards Foster 19:06

Well, actually, I do think that what we've got in Houston community can actually be patterned for a lot of the communities around the nation. There's a lot of them that have really taken a lot of what we've done, and kind of superimpose this on their own communities. They're very impressed with what we've been able to do, in fact, actually kind of surprised because Houston has a bit of a Oh, reputation, I guess, just from the stereotype, they figure it's still tumbleweeds and cowboys, blue collar workers. And here we've got one of the biggest, most active and very thriving transgender communities in the nation. And I think it really surprises a lot of people. It's



19:49

funny because we do we hear a lot when I talk to people in other cities. It's like, do you take your horse and I'm like, Yeah,



19:59

Vanessa, let's go to a piece of music and bring in the Austin women sounds okay. We'll be right back. But for right now, this is a Patrick arena off of his new album. nightcap. This is really nice, pretty lush music, and it's his version of my romance and you're hearing it. After hours, Queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and ke o s College Station



20:42

Ooh, yeah, that was pretty music by Patrick arena pet piano by Andy Monroe off of a new album called nightcap.



v Vanessa Edwards Foster 20:52

I stoned it



20:53

pretty stuff. Yeah, yes. As a matter of fact, in the whole albums that way. He's got some of his own compositions as well as things like the more I see you, Johnny Angel. Embraceable you. Wow, yeah, pretty stuff. Very



V Vanessa Edwards Foster 21:08

retro. Yeah, like you went to a place last night. Downtown that the head it was a nice little disco downstairs, but they had the nice little retro thing going upstairs. The Art Deco furnitures Nice. Nice. Definitely need to check that out again. Okay, we're



21:23

bringing some new people in.



V Vanessa Edwards Foster 21:24

Yes, absolutely. We've got a couple of our Austin sisters in Hey, yeah happened to come all the way in to see what this unity banquet thing was all about.



21:33

Welcome to after hours.



V Vanessa Edwards Foster 21:35

And would you introduce yourselves please? I



21:38

am Devon from Austin from the Central Texas transgender society. And we came down tonight for the unity banquet and, and to in the spirit of unity that Deseret and Jessica were talking about earlier. We feel a need to, to to expand our bond from just our local community out to our regional community



V Vanessa Edwards Foster 22:09

stable identity.



22:10

Yeah, right and very good. You

22:13

know, we have our our local events. We have a little banquet once a year, like sort of like the Unity banquet, and we have other little social functions from time to time. But

v 22:27

Vanessa Edwards Foster how often do you meet,

22:29

we meet once a month for a for a luncheon meeting. And we encourage everyone to come to that meeting. In drag, if you will, rather than dressed and we have a lot of our group covers the entire range from the occasional crossdresser to the transsexual in transition, the postoperative or preoperative excuse me, and, but we, we use our luncheon meetings as, as a way to bring new people in to make them comfortable in a surrounding that it's more in tune with their every day function. Now what you're saying, and that way I can come in and see that okay. These people are all normal. They look just like me, they act just like me. So maybe I'm okay too.

23:26

There you go. And then you go on from there. exaggeration, then we

23:31

begin to to establish a dialogue and, and and bond and in let everyone take their own path from there. But but at least it's a way to, to give them a chance to take that first step without having to too brave, brave the public. Well,

23:50

from for all that surrounding area. You're like it, huh? There other groups? Yes, there's

23:59

of course, Central Texas transgenders. There's the Alpha Tau chapter of trial. Okay, who is also came down with this this evening. And they're, they're a great group and we do a lot of things in conjunction with them. Okay. There is another group called Austin's second image, and I am

not very familiar with them. Okay. I think they're a smaller, contingent and they, they occasionally come and participate with us on things but I really don't have a lot of information on that particular group.



24:36

Okay. Hello, I'm so sorry. Do you ever do you ever meet him face? Pardon me? Do you ever meet in face? The you're in? I'm Sam in



24:45

femme? Yes. Oh, yes. The Saturday luncheon meetings are optional. I would say half the people come Oh,



24:54

okay. Because you were saying you were you encourage everybody to dress in the Saturday



24:58

luncheon meetings. I go dressed and like I went to work. And I can



25:11

talk freely here, but when it's after midnight, we can say anything we want. Almost sorry. Seventh deadly.



25:23

You know, we have a lot of people in our group that that are just cross dressers. Okay, and people who, who may, they're in a cross dressing stage now they made progress on to, you know, to some transition, but they're still exploring their their own feelings.



25:42

Okay, so it became a better



25:45

place to start. Good.



25:47

Good. And so you don't want to scare folks off?



25:50

No, gotcha. But you have to be within their comfort level.



25:54

Yeah. Especially for the beginning groups. It's so key. That's



25:58

right. I mean, you're realized to people when they first start, they're scared to death, simply because this is something that's not been acceptable from any walk of life. Parents have not been supportive friends have not been supportive. They don't trust anybody.



26:14

You haven't been supportive of yourself.



26:19

All you gay, lesbian bi, folks out there, it's like walking into a gay bar the first time, same thing here, maybe even more scary than somebody else's clothes.



26:28

Because I think



Vanessa Edwards Foster 26:30

a lot of apprehension in the Austin community among the transgenders about going out really? Is there. Oh, yes. I'm asked is there



26:38

Austin is a pretty friendly city. You can you can pretty much go wherever you please.



26:47

But there's but there's a lot of small towns all around. Isn't that Yes. They're really really small towns.



26:55

I wouldn't want to go Manor. Manor Manor.



27:04

Yeah, but down in anywhere in the city in Austin proper. You You can go just about anywhere you have. You feel comfortable going.



27:13

But that raises a great point. Because anytime you're dressed or cross dressed, you should, you know, use caution when going out when you are wondering, because all respects and purposes, you are a woman and Austin. Yeah. Exactly. Exactly. Right. And so people have different reactions to when they see or how they see you.



27:35

And it's so much of it goes back to what y'all were talking about just before the break about how when, when people encounter you, when the general public encounters you. And you're you're not you don't fit their mold at all. And they don't know how to react to you. They don't know what to do. They have no. And I think they're



27:59

uncomfortable,



28:00

they're uncomfortable. And if you take the lead and kind of guide them into how to react with you just as just as Deseret was saying, then I think it gives them a more, a little more comfort.



28:12

Definitely toward the



28:12



28:15

attitude comes in, you got up to say, Okay, I'm here. I'm doing this and, you know, be very positive. very upbeat. Yes. It's



28:20

like, Well, are you are you a guy in a dress? Well, yes, I am.



28:25

Fine. Excellent point. I mean, if you're comfortable with that, that will ease their comfort level? Sure. Well,



V Vanessa Edwards Foster 28:33

you'll find a lot of people will kind of put this out this attitude just to kind of test you in ways that litmus test to see exactly how comfortable you are with us. And if they can get a reaction out of you and get some kind of discomfort, then that kind of signals to them that you're not really serious about this. It's



28:53

open season from then on. Exactly. Exactly.



V Vanessa Edwards Foster 28:57

Just out of curiosity, how long is Central Texas transgender society been in existence?



29:06

Oh, oh, we've had well, I've only been with this group for about a year and a half. Our website has been been up and running for about five years. Wow. Good. And, and I guess we had we got our domain name a little over a year ago. So we're ct tgs.org. Oh, cool.



29:30

So that again, slower CTT



29:31

GS dot o RG. Okay. Our website. Okay, gotcha. And we got that about a year ago and we felt real. We're official now.



29:43

We've arrived as well. I think that's another important fact too is the web has become a very great tool for the transgender community to actually talk you back. You can be anonymous and still be somebody and you can



29:58

learn I mean, so many Do you ever think we're the only one? When we start? Will all of a sudden the web's opened up the opportunity for everybody to learn about? Well, gee, I'm not the only one instead of going to an adult bookstore and getting that kind of education? Oh, gosh,



30:12

yes. When my first experience I got on the, on the web, and I didn't know anything. But I finally got some time to myself. And I thought, well, I'll just do a little keyword search here. And I typed in transgender. And all of a sudden, this world opened up. Like, took my breath away, there was and I had no idea. It St. Grad, I was so much, and so many people out there. And it's just, it's opened up. It's, it's opened up a world to us, and at the same time brought us all together. That's brought us from Boston to Houston.



30:53

And don't you think it's great for education, but still, you know, you can you can learn a lot of things on the web, but until you're out in the group, or out in the world, I mean, that that experience,



31:09

it's life, you've got to experience it. Yeah, every single piece of it day by day, play



31:14

on each other. Yes, definitely. Because like, this is my first time to be with the Central Texas.



V Vanessa Edwards Foster 31:21

Could you introduce yourself, by the way? Yes.



31:23

My name is Marty, Austin, Marty. And I learned about the group through the internet. And, and it was kind of taking baby steps going out. What



31:36

was your feeling when you first discovered the group?



31:40

Well, of course, it's it's a big world out there on the internet. Not only did I discover that group, but a lot of other cross dressers. And, you know, I discovered I wasn't alone. And to go out and with this group for the first time, in fact, this is my first time to be with the group this weekend. Wow.



V Vanessa Edwards Foster 31:59

Congratulations. Yes, that was a big step of



32:03

taking baby steps out in Austin on my own, but not with a group.



V Vanessa Edwards Foster 32:09

This is a pretty big step. Coming all the way to a different setting.



32:12

It's really great to see all the people and to understand there's a whole group of people that are aligned in the same way that I am. Oh, yeah, absolutely. So I attribute the Internet to a lot of that. Good.



32:31

But like anything, there's good and bad on the internet. There's things you don't want to be stopped in. There are some Springer-esque type things, too. Yeah.



32:40

You can say anything you can possibly imagine on the web, or Yeah. And Vanessa, you may know this number. But I mean, there's literally probably a million different sites on the web

KNOW THIS NUMBER. BUT I MEAN, THERE'S LITERALLY PROBABLY A MILLION DIFFERENT SITES ON THE WEB, dealing with transgender. Yes, unfortunately, about

 Vanessa Edwards Foster 32:53
half of them more porn related, right.

 32:55
And that's when I came out to my parents. The first thing they did is they went online and said, Oh, let's look this up.

 33:03
And oh, my God. Oh, my God.

 33:06
Oh, my God. When did you get

 33:10
a hooker? Yes.

 33:12
And that was it. I mean, they were like, better than what you see.

 33:22
It was interesting, because that was their big concern. That's what you're into at parts first sack. Like, wait a minute, you know, the first time I you know, was in therapy was I was seven years old. They hadn't no interest, no idea what sex was.

 33:40
It's like everything else. Everybody's different. And everybody's approach is different. Right.

 Vanessa Edwards Foster 33:46
Just before we I guess, get off the lot, some girls, I did want to ask your impression of the

Houston unity banquet and what you thought of the manatee your first time here? Oh, well, second time for Devon. Yes.



34:02

I think Vanessa said it perfectly. When she said we were impressed. And an envious y'all. Y'all have have a great organization. And and thank the unity between your groups, I think is is just key.



34:20

It took a long time. Oh, yeah.



34:22

work. And that's, that's when I came down a month ago and met with Vanessa and went to one of the meetings. I came down just kind of to see what was going on. And I went back and told our group I said, you know, we need to we need to be associated with these people. And, and, and combine our efforts made great strides. Austin is a really good TG community. Yeah, so



34:55

you go a lot over the past several years



34:57

really is



Vanessa Edwards Foster 34:58

and you've even got some Have some events of your own kind of similar to the unity bank. What do you know? Oh, yes, good



35:05

that may we can have some Houston girls going to Austin.



35:09

Trip was this trip was a big thing. We had 16 peoples who signed up to come tonight. And we had a great time. We got an RV and we all loaded up in the RV and dubbed it Brazil. Brazil. We terrorized, we terrorized I was 71? Well, no, but it is a Transtar.

v

Vanessa Edwards Foster 35:45

couple miles to SRS

o

35:49

couldn't be pink, when they returned it, they might get in trouble.

o

35:54

But at any rate, we do this in the fall we do a full moon cruise on Lake Austin. And occasionally, it's not too cloudy. And you can see the harvest mood. We like to add a dinner party in the summer. Our newest thing is in April, we are trying to get a group together to go on a steam excursion train that runs up through the hill country in the beautiful hall. It's a two hour ride. And it's a murder mystery. Oh cool. Trying to get enough girls together to just commandeer a whole car and take over the whole car.

o

36:42

Yes. Would that be

o

36:43

fun? It's an old west setting, comes dressed in period costume and stuff. And they do the murder mystery. And it's a blast. What a great idea. So that's our next big social event. I

o

36:54

think you can count some girls from Houston for that.

v

Vanessa Edwards Foster 36:56

We'll be sure you all know how much the tickets on that.

o

37:02

They are \$35 a person 30

v

Vanessa Edwards Foster 37:05

person no matter. What is the exact date of this. It's April

o

37:09

17. April. So

o

37:11

that's coming up. Yeah,

o

37:13

we've been so preoccupied with getting the details worked out for our trip down here, we kind of got behind, on on getting the announcements, they will be all down the side and on the emails this week. Okay.

o

37:25

Please, please email me, we can talk about it on the air. Pardon me, please email me with certain so we can talk about it on the air very

o

37:34

much. And I think we need to stay in touch with the girls here. Because I'm really excited about the lobbying efforts that are starting, it's been very grand. And you all have all done a wonderful job. And I want to I want to go on record as saying thank you very much.

o

37:51

It's only the beginning. Now we've got a lot of work to do. And, and,

o

37:55

and I think we in Austin who are right there at home, we need to do whatever we can to support and help you. And be sure that when you come to Austin that we are there to help you. And

v

Vanessa Edwards Foster 38:10

you know what I do want to compliment the Austin community they were actually the second

most numerous that showed up to do the lobbying. In fact, we had almost 20 people from Austin. Good luck in our effort. So we had a very, very good turnout in Austin as well from Austin, as



38:29

you mentioned that and I and I want to be sure that while I had the opportunity, I want to get a good plug in for The Alamo boys. Yes.



38:42

Tonight here, and yeah, maybe Marty I don't recall. But you know, that I think they are really seem to be left out. We



38:53

always seem to a lot of the times that try and when



38:55

you talk more about the net, they're an excellent organization. And they were very, you know, very comfortable. They clicked right with us. Oh, they



39:01

are great. Ian came down with us. At the Unity it's just great having someone to like, you know, open the door. For me that they are really, they're really great guys.



39:18

And a lot of times they you know, like you said they end up getting forgotten because there's so much focus on a male to female. Exactly. All right. But there are just as many if not more female to male transsexual is out there.



39:30

A lot. I'm happy to, to say a lot more activists too. Yeah, four years ago, when Sarah started this show, she could not get a male to come on the show. could not get



Vanessa Edwards Foster 39:42

them. And we actually had a whole show with Yes,



39:45

yes. Yeah. So as part of the



39:48

unity community two, we need to make sure we include them in all of our activities and keep those lines open. back because they are a part of the community. A big park.



V Vanessa Edwards Foster 39:58

Yes, we need to try and To discover ways to bring them back into the community and to try and encourage a lot more to participate in the community. A lot of them sadly, it's kind of similar.



40:10

Just like the gay and lesbian, just Yeah. Right. Like gays and lesbians working together. It's very similar in doing this show, with transgenders, it's just amazing how just about everything mirrors, gays and lesbians, and, and you know, and it just strikes me odd when people say, Oh, transgenders are not part of the community, da.



40:36

Hello.



V Vanessa Edwards Foster 40:41

Again, it's an educational,



40:42

stepping away. Nonetheless,



V Vanessa Edwards Foster 40:45

we need to learn a lot about the gay and lesbian community as well. There's misconceptions on both sides. Well, I think there's a lot of work to be done to try and bridge a lot of these gaps. Still, we've made some very, very good headway on this. The progress that we've made over the course of the past few years, it's just been exponential. But there's still plenty more to do in the beginning.



41:09

Yeah, and it's 130. And we need to do some news here.



v Vanessa Edwards Foster 41:12

Ah, very much. I know. Well, I guess we'll bring our news people in Does this mean we do a little bit of music we do a



41:19

little bit of music first. Yeah. And I want to thank everybody here.



v Vanessa Edwards Foster 41:23

And um, I guess we shall turn it over to a little bit of music. We will have the girls back on after the news.



41:31

I hope so. Yes. Anybody wants to say good. You're listening to after hours Queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston, and ke o s College Station coming up is big Roy. And maybe Chris I think I haven't seen him tonight yet. With after hours, news and views