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SPEAKERS

Vanessa Edwards Foster



Vanessa Edwards Foster 00:00

It was a little harder on mine. Well, then you're invited,



00:08

I got the outfit.




Vanessa Edwards Foster 00:13

We do want to announce to the transgendered community that we want to invite everyone, in fact, not just a train standard. This is open to the community. Sure, everyone, we want everyone to attend and this is going to be April 10, which is Saturday night, and it's going to begin at seven o'clock. The location is the Bellaire West U karate studio or karate school. I'm not sure about disco karate school. And the address is 6605 South rice, which is in Bel Air. Okay. It's right there in the Bel Air triangle, gotcha. South rice, Bissonnette and Bella Boulevard. Okay. And it's really nice to place in the original downtown area of biller Yeah, once upon a time. So we plan on having the 60s event here in April, we also have another little fundraiser, a house party coming up for a nice Parker that we're doing, we're trying to get that reelection campaign kind of find it quickly, really quickly. So we've got a lot of things that are kind of on tap. And we plan on taking this to other events as well. In fact, one of the things that I kind of mentioned to HDL PC was a day out in the park, a kind of a Unity Day out in the park. And that's still in the planning stages. So I can't really I guess, give you you know, formal details on this. But we tentatively got it scheduled for about the second of May, which is a Sunday. And what we're going to try and do is get everyone from the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community all out to Memorial Park for a big picnic, and also kind of dovetail this with a political rally. And we're going to have a nice Parker out there. And hopefully a couple of the other announced candidates, I believe Andreas Pobeda, has announced his candidacy for one of the council slots, we plan on trying to approach him and have him out there, as well as some of the other candidates who are friendly to the community, maybe even some of our state representatives, if at all possible. And if we can manage to swing getting a

band out there as well. We may just do that. But we want to make this day out in the park for everyone. And it will bring a lot of attention to HD LPC to hopefully encourage a lot of people to join and get active in the community good. community wide. In fact,

 02:47

let's mix up our communities. Yeah, yes, exactly.

 Vanessa Edwards Foster 02:53

Well, there's nothing wrong with maximum mainland. Yeah, and that's another, I guess, aspect to TPAC. Even though this is a transgendered Political Action Coalition, we're not going to focus just strictly on transgendered issues. This is something that we want to work together with the gay and lesbian community to try and encourage the passage of legislation that benefits all of us. And the primary focus of this is just equality for all individuals, regardless of who you are, which is what this is all about. And in fact, two of the board members are sitting here in the audience with us. And I Deseret again, go figure, these same names keep popping up over an hour. Well, we've got our hands in lotta Robins not here anymore. So I think we're safe. But I missed that joke. But well, what are the inside jokes? Okay. Hands inside. Nevermind. But, in fact, that's right. Do you want to, I guess, interject any thoughts? Any comments on the Political Action Coalition? I'll put you on the spot here. Now.

 04:22

Well, you know, maybe it's maybe maybe too early to talk about, you know, aims and all of that if you're just getting together. Well, what you want what you want, folks?

 Vanessa Edwards Foster 04:32

We want folks number one to know that we are here. And we do want to encourage people to participate in all the TPAC sponsored events. Obviously, this is something we've never had on a statewide level before. And it's something that I guess has been sorely lacking.

 04:50

In Vanessa's defense, though, this is something we all need to get more active in. Sure. One of the things that's happened with our communities we're the last to really get organized. We've been I'm basically sitting back and not aggressively pursuing lobbying and activist activism with the government. What is it? Is it much one of the reasons we're so misunderstood is we are,

 05:13

you have to be out there, they have to see



05:15

you. They have to see your face one on one to really make things happen. Yeah.



05:20

Recently, we had the lobby days up in Austin, where we actually went and talked to the representatives and the senators. And we had about 60 people show up. Right. And it was because in the past, they've had dinner, maybe 10 people. Yeah. And so we're starting to see some people wanting to step up and say, Hey, we're here.



05:43

And we were very well accepted. I was really impressed by the behavior of our government officials, they were very positive for the most part, because except



Vanessa Edwards Foster 05:53

for our Tolton



05:56

because, like that sign says, We're cheering transgendered and we're exactly the voting thing that gets their attention. Well, that's it and knowing that not only you know, you, they're looking at your point of view, but they know that you and all of your friends are voting



06:18

and we're all tax. And yeah,



06:21

we tell them that look, there's only 60 here this time 10 Last time, but you know what, next time it's gonna be 160 and after 60 Sure and growing



Vanessa Edwards Foster 06:36

important Deseret News can lead to live that one day. Another means by Jimmy Jimmy what does this mean?



06:51

You know, I think Devon is in the boat with me you know, not knowing what's going on. Up over here.



Vanessa Edwards Foster 07:01

It's hard to keep up with you kind of have to walk fast. Yeah. keeps the weight off. Only sneakers, sneakers, flaps whatever. works as long as I can move around fast. I was moving around fast in heels tonight. You just have to get the practice



07:23

I didn't know kids made he'll shop



Vanessa Edwards Foster 07:42

Oh, like the Beatles.



07:47

Get back to



Vanessa Edwards Foster 07:53

oh, oh, God. We choked him up. Shocking. Oh, yeah. stick around long enough. We will probably find probably. We could always cover the seven deadly words. No. See?



08:14

I want to keep the show on the air. All



08:17

t all the time. Wow.



Vanessa Edwards Foster 08:22

Oh, anyway, though. I do want to mention that. We also have a national Lobby Day coming up for the transgender community. Again, this is going to be in Washington, DC. This



08:34

is a Ricky Wilkins thing.



Vanessa Edwards Foster 08:39

Its agenda pack sponsored. I don't know how heavily rookies involved in this. I take it she probably is. But that will be coming up may 23. Through may 25. For those of you interested in that as well. And of course, before less i i guess let this one slide by. I do want to encourage everyone to go to the equality begins at home. Oh, yeah. Definitely. The March and the lobbying. The lobbying will be of course, Monday, which is March 21. If I'm not mistaken, isn't on. And March 20, of course is the the rally at the Capitol. And of course, the the parade before that. Or well, I should say the march not the parade. I'm Congress Avenue. We will march up Congress Avenue in mass. In fact, they're expecting I believe, like 5000 people want to come to this event. That would be really, really looking for a big turnout and we want to see a big turnout from the transgender community. So we need to let these people know that yes, we are serious. And we weren't going up there in January just for one time shot. Don't complain unless you participate. Exactly. And that's exactly what we plan on doing. I'd love to get out there and visit with Holden again even



09:59

better I'm happy to see you, I'm



Vanessa Edwards Foster 10:01

sure. No doubt,



10:03

I wouldn't see this ad again.



10:06

You know, I've got I've had some emails while I'm on hand net. Does anybody know what hand that



10:13

is? I'm sure. Yeah. Okay.



10:15



I'm on the membership committee. Okay, good. So, so we can get transgendered



Vanessa Edwards Foster 10:19

news on HANA? Yes, absolutely. There's quite a bit of training. You know, I've



10:23

become like, this computer whore. And I just, I just put everything and bring it in, you know,



Vanessa Edwards Foster 10:31

computer horrors. Wow. Yeah, no, no, you can do that spend for



10:36

25 cents, but



10:41

But anyway, you know, if we have all of this out there, then then we can, we can,



Vanessa Edwards Foster 10:46

in fact, actually have in hand knit is kind of instrumental in getting this park thing organized. That kind of came out of a discourse between myself and one of the other members on hand. And I kind of that's right, I beg to differ with my thinking, I guess. We went back and forth about two or three times. Okay, well, let me go ahead and take this offline.



11:11

No, it's interesting. It's interesting. Just if you don't even participate, just to get the all the memos Exactly. Han net, H A N Houston, activist network, dash Han dash net and et at one lists.com You can subscribe to that.



Vanessa Edwards Foster 11:30


Absolutely. And I encourage everyone to say, Oh, that's great. You



11:34

 11:34

really keep up on that. Brandon Wolf who runs it just I mean, he's always throwing stuff on there from all over it's incredible the stuff he is

 Vanessa Edwards Foster 11:44

just absolutely incredible what he is doing with this is just it's it's unimaginable that we would have anything like this above this kind of scope here in Houston. And especially this past Yeah. only been on for what about a year? Or has it even been? I don't think it's been a year. And yet it's just really taken off and excellent way for everyone in the community to know immediately what everyone else is doing. Exactly. Yes. All the events, all the the organization type things. Any news, even point of views. I love the point of views. Oh, well. I do like taking a task for I guess maybe stirring things. The pot, you just shake it a little I don't really stir. She owns a ladle.

 12:36

Don't ever let up? No. It's good.

 Vanessa Edwards Foster 12:38


basting brush to feels nice. It's more than 230 in the morning with

 12:51

a double entendre. And I didn't say it.

 12:56

Wow, double life thing again.

 Vanessa Edwards Foster 13:00

Like that, we always lift up a lot.

 13:03


But no, don't ever give up at your laptop even because everybody's opinion is important. And it gives everyone else different sides and different viewpoints.

 Vanessa Edwards Foster 13:14

And you've given me some very nice comments on there. And I want to thank you welcome, sir. Thanks very much. Yes, but I do think that everyone needs to be encouraged to participate in the net, I'm still trying to work on the caucus and see if I can get Terrence on there as well. But it's, it's a great way of having everyone on board in being able to notify each other immediately, which is something that I guess can't be, the value can't really be measured until you see it in action. Before I guess we would have to get on individual listservs or individual email addresses and try and get in touch with people individually. This way you can post something in everyone in the community, all of the communities know simultaneously Yeah,

 14:02


it's better than advertising and newspaper in the old days. I mean, come on. We're faster now than we ever were. Exactly.

 Vanessa Edwards Foster 14:08

And this is an excellent example of what the cyber community is capable of

 14:12

how many transgendered clubs groups have webpages or

 Vanessa Edwards Foster 14:22

Oh, that I don't know. JCTC does not

 14:28


yet. Yeah, we're still working on

 14:30

but I know the social club does. Even HCDA does

 14:36

goes through Brenda's domain same as

 Vanessa Edwards Foster 14:40

tats does, but tants is very outdated and unfortunately, the person who created that website lost the password to get into sites. Were kind of frozen in 1997 Unfortunately. what about

lost the password to get into Black. Were kind of frozen in 2007. Unfortunately, what about



14:59

us Then is there anything? I mean, specific to Austin? Any any groups is on the web?



15:06

Of course we are at CTG. Yeah. And Alpha Tau has a website. And I can't remember their address. It's right off. It's not I won't even try. Okay. But they are there. And you can you have a link to their site if the national okay Trius. website. Okay. And



15:30

is there like, just the website? Or do you have like a chat room or it's



15:35

just a webpage? They have links to other sites? Oh, of course, we cross link back and forth with them. And it's more of just an information.



15:46

Sure. Well, that's, that's important. Yeah. People got to know you. Got fine. Yeah, yeah.



Vanessa Edwards Foster 15:57

Well, you'll have done a very, very good job. Just from what I've heard from the Austin community. Yeah, you've gotten people organized, to the point where they're actually going out and seeking out people in other communities and trying to reach out and forge communication ties. So which is very important, a lot of our communities tend to isolate ourselves or just think very low grade, your bad. And just the fact that you took this opportunity in the initiative to go out and seek out other groups and try and make these ties is very impressive. Indeed, I have to hand it to you.



16:37

Well, never underestimate the park, the power of a party will come for the party.



16:49

It was wasn't Unity Party, you know,



16:52

unity in the community. Hey,



Vanessa Edwards Foster 16:54

we're gonna again.



16:57

Are there any other kind of cross pollination things here happens all



17:00

kinds of cross things going on?



17:03

I mean, we have the that the banquet, but there were any other times that all the groups come together?



17:10

Oh, there's there's a conferences or there's conferences? On national basis? Yeah.



17:16

Well, but that's one of the things that the Unity committee is designed to, because there are things like we get involved in the Pride Parade. Yes, you know, we march and we want people to know that we're there, the AIDS Walk, we also participate in that. And so we want people to know, as a group that we're doing this, not just a bunch of individuals.



17:36

Thank you for the AIDS Walk.



17:37

You're quite welcome. Last year, we had about a dozen people there, we had special T shirts we designed so that people would know, in fact, a nice, Parker wore one of our shirts during the

walk



17:50

that's designed by disarray.



17:53

And, yes,



17:54

let's give credit words to well,



17:56

but anyway, the whole concept is to bring these groups together bore these type of things. And the more we get together, and during the break, Devin and I were talking about the way we kind of look at it as an analogy, as if you could get high and up up in the air and look at a freeway that went from New York to California, we have, you know, a lot of cars that go on, they are different speeds, different makes different models, and they get on different X, you know entrances and get off at different accents. But the thing that we have in common is we all use the freeway. And so if we look at it like that unity is just a natural thing. And that's where we have to come from, we all use the same highway, we may not be going in the same plies going in the same exit at the same speed. But we still use the same highway. A good analogy, really



18:47

is from some some of the groups that I've been involved with Q Patrol gang has been switchboard, the more social things you have, I think it kind of draws other people in, and then you have more workers. Yeah,



19:02

that's that's a big part of it, getting the people out for a party, as we've never mentioned earlier. Yeah, that's the beginning. And then they say, Well, this is pretty fun. These are neat people, then maybe I'll do more. Sure.




Vanessa Edwards Foster 19:13

And that's kind of what we're trying to do with the caucus thing in the park, coming up in May, is to have something for the entire community. Once again, and this goes beyond just the

transgender community. This is the entire community right in Houston, and to get them out and to get them organized and to to spark some interest in the caucus, or in even in some of the other organizations. You know, this

 19:36

is why I think again, that is so incredibly great, because a lot of groups have been isolated. And there was really it was very difficult to get them together. This way. I can get information about transgendered events and take them back to the Gay Lesbian switchboard and all those people can know about them and you know that that's That's how you get the word out, I think exactly.

 Vanessa Edwards Foster 20:01

And I think it works much better on the net because of the fact that the speed involved Yeah, instead of having to rely on things like switchboard, which we once upon a time I was.

 20:13

Yeah, that was that was a

 20:16

phone number with an answering machine. I mean, come on. Yeah, go way back. Oh, oh God.

 20:23

Some of those the my first realization of this was the Matthew Shepard thing, because the day he died in went out over the internet. And hey, we're gonna do this. This this vigil at the corner of Westheimer in Montrose. And, you know, we had like, 50 people there. Yeah. And it was just in a matter of hours. It was incredible. And that I really realized the power of the net at that point, we

 20:53

can impact people's opinions in minute. Yes, absolutely.

 Vanessa Edwards Foster 20:56

And that's really something that I guess we do need for this community. When you think about it, a lot of the more conservative or religious organizations have utilized us as well to get themselves organized, yes, and to seek out information. And they've kind of gotten the jump on us on a lot of issues. And it's up to us to, at least for our part, try and offset this. Yeah. By keeping ourselves informed and to do so is comprehensively and as quickly as possible.



21:29

We're finding this out at the game has been switchboard, that we can't keep up with the information anymore. We're not computerized there yet. And that people are not calling us for information anymore. They're calling us for counseling calls. Because you know, you can go into a chat room, but you know, it's not like having that ear. And that that voice talking back to one on one. So you know, that's what we're focusing on rather than information these days. Because people just couldn't get much better on the net. Exactly.



Vanessa Edwards Foster 22:02

And maybe that's the best part about the hand net is this can kind of at least alleviate some of the responsibilities of your switchboard to where it can focus specifically on what it can do the most effectively, which is counseling. Yeah.



22:18

And another switchboards to I'm sure, you know, because it's not just gay and lesbian switch work. But there are other switchboard.



Vanessa Edwards Foster 22:26

Exactly. And I think that in the future, we'll probably see, maybe even better utilization of the resources. Yeah, as of this, because this frees up a lot of the time that used to be taken up on having to deal with two or three different things at once. And now they can focus on what they're best at.



22:45

You got you got it. Something Vanessa said was very important to talking about the the entity committee. And getting back to the fact that you mentioned about the religious right, what some of the things they're doing. One of the reasons for the unity committee is to basically to protect ourselves, because they're moving so quickly with so many agendas against us that we've got to either organize, or



23:07

that's right, because they've got the Internet to



23:10

try finding out there's power in numbers. Exactly. And



23:15

they can sway public opinion every bit as fast as we can. Yeah. Maybe



Vanessa Edwards Foster 23:20

even a little bit more. So because they've got this I guess, this moralizing position. They can say, well, these people have questionable lifestyles, etc. They've got the Rafi got church and backup. And so they utilize this quite, I guess wisely on their part, but I really to be truthful with you. I think they misuse it. The do a lot of misrepresentation. Basically is the wrath of God is a threat. Exactly. Sure. And widespread hate based on



23:53

their own interpretation.



23:55

Sure. You can make the Bible say anything you want to say.



23:58

And they're doing that exactly ventriloquism



Vanessa Edwards Foster 24:02

make it talk I'll be talking about oh, and that brings to mind in Galveston. Oh, yeah. I was waiting for that one. This guy is oh, God, we



24:21

don't really you know, we don't have to do anything. We can sit back because the straight community realizes that this guy is an idiot. Well,



24:28

some struct Yeah, hey, yeah, Fred's gone. Red is totally useless anymore to anybody.



24:36

Right. Right. And that's that's maybe where we have made strides because idiots like this are not being listened to because more people know us. And they know

 24:48

that this is BS that was so key about the Lobby Day in Austin, for me personally, was when I actually got to sit down one on one with people representatives and their aides and so forth. They looked at me I was like, This is a real person. Yes, this is a flesh and blood individual. It's not some creature on Springer. And so I mean, I can walk, talk and chew gum at the same time. That was pretty remarkable the some of them

 25:15

look damn good doing it.

 Vanessa Edwards Foster 25:17


Oh, yeah, some of the senators really enjoyed that part.

 25:23

But it was, you'd be surprised at how many did not know, and had never been in front are confronted by a transsexual or a crossdresser. They're like, except what they'd seen on television. Right, exactly. Well, you know, if that's all you see, that's all you know. That's it. And half of them didn't know that till you walked into their office and had a one on one, right? When they saw you sitting in the lobby, and they're going, can I help you mass? And you're like, Well, I just need five minutes of your time. And you go in, and they're like, Well, why why are you interested in this subject? Was somebody in your family transgender? I'm going Yeah, somebody's very close to me. And it was really kind of it was fun on one half, because you know that, you know, they had never met anyone. And that dot felt very comfortable. But at the same time, you know, they did not have a clue. And it was able to get their ear enough to listen to the issue. Until we

 26:19

mentioned tea gain, a lot of them didn't have a clue. Exactly.

 Vanessa Edwards Foster 26:23

But again, there is no substitute for firsthand experience. That's right. They can read all the textbooks that they want, but until they see us in person, and until they actually realize that, yes, we've actually got talents, we can contribute. We can participate in the Grand American scheme. Let's secure our own little portion of the American dream. I



26:45

want to house in a white picket fence.



Vanessa Edwards Foster 26:49

But actually, oh, wouldn't mind. Just



26:51

just get home? Thank you. wouldn't allow it.



27:00

But it was fun, because we go in sometimes ask for five minutes. You'd walk out 20 minutes later. Absolutely.



27:05

And I heard that over and over again, from Sarah. Yes.



27:09

Bring me bring me and then they'd asked the eighth spring the information on this because I want to know about it. Yeah. But it's very remarkable, because most of the things they had seen were just spring or shows or things like that, because



27:21

they know if there are 60, transgenders actually going to Austin, how many more rides




Vanessa Edwards Foster 27:29


and we drove home the point that yes, there are many more that did not make it and would not make it to something like because of the fact that they are not going to publicly out the rides. There's very, very serious





27:44


ramifications, and especially if there's marriage and children involved. Definitely, exactly.


 Vanessa Edwards Foster 27:49
You're bringing a lot of other people into this besides just the individual.


 27:53
Devin was gonna say something a lot


 27:54
of those people who weren't there, weren't there. Because of the very issues that you were there to bring up. Yeah, that's right. Oh, yeah. It's like, there, you have to take a step. And you break the ice on one issue and then and bring more people in to help break the ice on the on the next Secondly,


 28:16
and misconception on issues like family and children and things like that. And as I

 28:23
hear you all relate to your stories of being there with the with representatives. And as Deseret said they had no clue what they had never seen a transgendered or crossdresser person other than the shows on TV, and whose fault is

 28:46
that, but it's ours. That's our fault. It gets back to her saying about Tupac the

 28:50
thing that Deseret, and Jessica did and Vanessa and every one that went to the lobby date. It's

 28:57
Joffe to be the first person to stand up and say, This

 Vanessa Edwards Foster 29:01
is what I am. Well, it's difficult to answer. So first



29:04

step to, to put a transgendered person in front of all of our state. But we're standing there some firsthand, first hit try.



29:13

And I'll tell you the hardest thing was the very first person I talked to that. After that, it was really easy, actually. Because they were they would sit and they would listen. And so my perception was I'm gonna go in there, they're going to not listen, they're not going to pay attention. They're going to probably laugh in my face. That's the worst case scenario, right? And that's what we all think first. So what happened was just the opposite. They started listening and saying, Gosh, I never knew that. I had no idea. And they'd start asking questions, and they'd ask some great questions like, What about family? What about kids? What about this? And I mean, I have two kids and my kids are great. They're probably my biggest support as well. And they're, you know, they're are wonderful, they're small, and they ask lots of questions. And they're very involved in the community also, in fact that we have an event in my house and they're not invited, they get mad.



Vanessa Edwards Foster 30:10

I would have loved to have seen you bring the kids up to Austin to me, I would love to have them see firsthand the interaction between you



30:18

and your right. Right.



Vanessa Edwards Foster 30:21

Now, that makes a statement there and not say that this, this is something devoid of family values or of any moral basis, we have a lot of the same concerns, basically, a lot of the same lifestyle that they do with the one exception being, I guess, the outward appearance, the only good for birth gender,



30:43

the only difference is that and I have children also. And it's a very serious issue for me some of the things we were talking about up there, I could lose ever being able to see my children.



30:52

Yes, yes. And



30:54

it's it's typical, simply because you have this perception. And that's one of the first questions I think everybody asked me when I came out, oh, my gosh, what about your children? How do they feel about this? And actually, my kids and my ex are real supportive of me. They understand what it's about. But again, it's education and communication, letting them know that this is what it's about. It's not about you. It's not about them. Talk to my kids had bigger problem with my ex nor getting divorced than they ever did with me being transgender. Wow. That was their big thing. How come you don't live in our house anymore? And really was for their safety? More than anything else?



Vanessa Edwards Foster 31:37

The kids actually handled it a lot better than the adults



31:39

definitely, definitely. My parents are still having big issues with that. I mean, they're not accepting it. Even though they know the full story.



31:48

Well, Sara has said this, and it's a double coming out. And because if you're gay lesbian thereby, and you come out to your parents, that's one thing. But if you're transgendered, then the it's gay. parent is losing a son, or a daughter, depending,



32:12

in my case, my mother's first mouth for that very same thing. My mom said, Well, why don't you just be gay? I'm like, Well, gee, Mom, I don't remember standing in line thing. Pick Me. degreed grieve.



32:25

That's right. That's right, because they're grieving for a loss.



32:29

Yeah. And what I try to explain is, you did not have a relationship with me as a male, because it wasn't me. It was an act that I put on to please you, that



32:38

takes a very long time for that to sink in. Yeah. And you have to, you have to allow them that time,



32:45

right. That's the patience. It took us a lot of years to get comfortable with ourself. We can't expect that from them overnight. And so it's still disheartening and no matter what, but you have to be able to say yes, it is disheartening, and maybe someday they'll get it. But in the meantime, I'm just gonna give them more information and let them know,



33:02

the lobbying is very, very important to curb or change any laws that are going to take your children away from me.



33:12

I mean, surviving without my kids would not be an option for me



33:15

either, say, and I've got a teenage son. Yes. And that's a whole new believe that's a whole nother that's a whole nother issue. I was young.



33:28

She was three.



33:32

But my son is just beginning to have issues with us. And guess where the issues came from? Not from his friends, not from anyone, but their parents of his friends who I don't want you. I don't want you associating with that person. Because their quote unquote, father is that way.



33:54

This has, like this has anything to do with a kid throw.





33:57

There's a technical term that they use, it's called we got the cooties.



Vanessa Edwards Foster 34:03

sounds exactly like the Alex McClendon story in Georgia. She's like, kids had no problem with it. But the parents do have



34:08

no sense at all. I mean, that's, that's thinking that you expect from people 100 years ago.



34:15

That's it. And that's why they're made out of my neighborhood because my ma as a protection device for my children, so that people aren't gonna go, oh, my gosh, that's the kids that our Father was once a guy and now it's a girl. Unfortunately, they're cruel people. It's not so much the kids to kids, but the parents that teach the children that don't play with that, because you know, that was once Rena Wah



34:41

was taking everybody's children up until two three years ago to Six Flags and the whole neighborhood had their problem with that suddenly, founder issue raised its ugly head all of a sudden, you're you're not I've got cooties,



34:55

right and if you're the the sensitive male, that's okay. And then all of a sudden they realize As why that sensitivity is there? Exactly. Your hair gets



35:03

longer and oh, well we know that goes. Why should that dress like a girl?



35:10

We've also talked about that in relationship to the divorce. Yes. You know, the wife marry the woman married you because



35:19



you're a sensitive male. Yeah,



35:23

you haven't changed in any other way. I mean, and she liked that. And so,



35:28

I don't know. That's a key point. I think it's really important to say gender is between the ears. Sex is between the lines. There you go.



Vanessa Edwards Foster 35:38

But actually, not all marriages split up like that, though. Do stay to gas. There was a very good point in the lobbying I brought up with a very point and Lisa Yes, there is same sex marriage. already. I love that. In the eyes flutter in the back.



36:02

I did roll back and start spinning



36:05

exercises. A lot of disguise reasons. I mean, things like you do it because that's what's socially acceptable. You get married, you have kids and also we use it as a care. Yeah, this a huge care.



36:20

This one will kill me.



36:22

Yeah, if I get married, then I can be a guy. Right? You know, my kids, then I can be a



36:27

guy. I have heard of countless transgendered folks who have been moraines?



36:34

Yeah, so trying to convince ourselves.



36:37

I'm gonna play football.



36:41

You see pictures where people have beards and bow you know, everything they could to prove that male ego part. It just hits not their brain? Yeah,



36:52

if I can be a good enough guy, then it'll make up for these feminine this girl. The girl part by being a really good guy. Yeah, worst of all, it took days. Yeah.



37:06

When you don't want people to know that, you know? Oh, my God. I'm different than they are. Okay. How



37:13

many times have people here done purging? When?



37:25

Are you talking about Si, si. And by purging I mean, either getting rid of all of the females



37:32

very thrown away, thrown it out and gone out the next morning and did get back out of the



37:39

clothes too much for the



Vanessa Edwards Foster 37:42

laundromat. Now,



37:44

what did it take to look in the mirror and say this is when I really am. It took about



37:51

40 years.



37:55

Any issue though that divorce that said, Okay, I'm over it. This is I'm gonna be who I want to be. Yeah,



38:02

my father passed away. It was a real, it was real earth shattering issue for me, finally, brought home the fact Hey, we're all mortal. And we're all here on borrowed time, because my father was an icon to me. I mean, this person was as strong as a rock, nothing can hurt him. And all of a sudden, he was gone.



38:21

It's remarkable. And now with myself, it was a situation of I thought, you know, not being acceptable or not doing any of that. And what I created was this my own wall. And it just got to the point so big that I was didn't have a relationship anyway, with anybody. And I started looking at it, what did I want my children to know? And instead of running away from things, I wanted to teach them to stand up for what you believe them? Absolutely. And one of the reasons I get involved in as much as I do is, I always believe that they're going to learn by example, if I can stand up and make a difference, then I want them to do the same thing.



38:59

You're right. Amen.



39:01

During the break there, Desarae. and I were talking to about the about what you mentioned, of how many times if you are when did you look in the mirror and say, Okay, this is me. Yeah, you, all of us have done that from the beginning. It's looking in the mirror and recognizing yourself, it's not the issue. It's hearing the words out loud. Hearing the words, the spoken words that apply to you, that are the traumatic event. And one of the things that we were discussing was

counseling and therapy. And you can take therapy and counseling till you die. And you will never progress until you associate and socialize with other people like yourself. You've got why these groups are



39:50

very important. You've got to live



Vanessa Edwards Foster 39:51

the life exactly the healthiest. The healthiest thing that anyone can do is to be true to their own self, and you have admitted to yourself Well first and once you've gotten there, the next steps come naturally



40:05

truth shall set you free. No matter which exit you take or entrance you take on on desert raise highway onward



40:13

to a small matter



40:17

and to you



40:21

well you've got to get on the round in order to get



40:26

we have to unfortunately wrap this up and away we got I know we've got it again two minutes to three o'clock when Big Daddy j is going to be bringing you the Red Eye special and he's right here queuing it up for you folks. It's the beginning of our fabulous blues Sunday right here KPFT Houston and ke o s College Station you've been listening to after hours, Queer radio with attitude. And Jimmy Carper Vanessa has been here filling in for Sarah DePalma.



Vanessa Edwards Foster 41:01

Invitation we mentioned Sarah.



41:09

It's been great. Thank you. We've had folks here from the Unity bank went from Houston and Austin and everywhere greater



41:16

Texas.



41:17

Thank you for letting us join you tonight.



41:22

Thank you, and we'll see you next week.