

SARAH The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature, frame which may be considered objectionable by some. Listener discretion is advised.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Oh, yes, you've tuned into *After Hours* of continuing tradition on KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM. The crew of *After Hours* is ready to bring you news, interviews, and music geared for gay and lesbian people.

Here at *After Hours*, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common. We are out of the closet, and urge everyone to come out of their closets. That means standing up for yourself, taking responsibility for your own life, and being proud of who you are.

Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of age, job, or frame of mind. That's OK. We're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of *After Hours*.

Hello, this is Sarah DePalma with--

SCOTT LEWIS: Scott Lewis here special this week.

SARAH Well, we have an interesting show for you this evening. We have, first of all, a guest by the name of Shane who is a female to male transsexual. And I am very honored that he is here, and I think you'll find it very enjoyable.

We are also going to be talking politics this evening, and politics, and politics. So you might as well get used to that. And if we have time, we have an interview with Alan Bourgeois from Gay '90s. So we're going to be busy, busy, busy.

SCOTT LEWIS: I just hope I can keep up. We've got a lot to squeeze in this three hours.

SARAH I'll tell you what, I'm glad to be here with you. Scott and I are old friends from--
DEPALMA:

SCOTT LEWIS: Hey, who are you calling old?

SARAH All right, we're friends from Queer Nation. But I'm really glad to be here with you. This is fun.
DEPALMA:

SCOTT LEWIS: We've known each other for a while, but I'm not saying how long.

SARAH Well, you know, I remember you sitting with Randall Anstead when we had a little conversation with the man.
DEPALMA:

SCOTT LEWIS: Oh, don't get me started on Randall. Do you know what he's done now?

SARAH No. What?
DEPALMA:

SCOTT LEWIS: Oh, the man throws out-- was thrown out The Houston Press because of morals, because it's wrong and bad, and it promotes homosexuality. What does he do now? He can make a few bucks, so he's going to start selling beer and wine, which he's never sold because of his religion, Baptist and stuff. Oh, no, I can make a dollar. So he's nothing but an overpaid hustler as far as I'm concerned.

SARAH And you know, he promised us he'd never do that.

DEPALMA:

SCOTT LEWIS: I know. Oh, he would never do that.

SARAH Folks, I wish you could have been in that meeting. Let's see, there was Scott Lewis, Ray Hill, myself, and one

DEPALMA: other person who I--

SCOTT LEWIS: Wade Lee, and an undercover reporter from The Houston Press.

SARAH Who announced that he was there, which was kind of interesting. And I guarantee you, it was very interesting.

DEPALMA: He was very polite, but he didn't know at all what to make of me. And I didn't know what to make of him, because he was wearing more makeup than I was.

So it was a very interesting experience. Poor Mr. Anstead. If you're listening tonight, hi, there. I suppose you're happy after the election. Well, we're going to go to some music get ourselves organized, and then we'll be back in a little bit. So stick around, folks. We have an interesting show for you tonight.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

And she smiled by [? hoarse ?]. Why does that not sound like she was smiling at all? It looks like she's doing something else.

SCOTT LEWIS: I think she was doing drugs.

SARAH Well, actually, it sort of sounded that way to me too. But that's all right. We are here this evening with Shane.

DEPALMA: Shane is a female to male transsexual. And this is an interesting experience for me. I have met several, but I would say less than 10, female to male transsexuals probably my whole life.

And for listeners, let me explain something to you. For reasons I still don't understand, much of the transgender world is aimed at male to females. If you pick up the literature, most of it discusses male to female transsexuals. Much of it is aimed at the change in that direction. And somehow, female to males get ignored.

And so I really want to thank Shane for coming in. I had eight other people turn me down. And so I think it takes a lot of courage to be here. Welcome, Shane.

SHANE: Thank you.

SARAH Let me start off by asking you questions that may sound stupid to you, but I'm learning something here tonight,

DEPALMA: along with the audience. So let's start from something I know of my own experience. If you would, let's talk a little bit about how you first realized that you were in the wrong spot in the wrong place.

SHANE: You mean like how old was I?

SARAH Yeah. I know I used to pray that God was going to come along and change me. How old were you when you first
DEPALMA: realized things were not?

SHANE: Probably about five or six. Probably about five or six.

SARAH About five or six. And did your parents have any clue at all?

DEPALMA:

SHANE: Not a one.

SARAH And how old were you before you started to transition?

DEPALMA:

SHANE: Probably about 13.

SARAH You were 13 years old when you started?

DEPALMA:

SHANE: Yeah.

SARAH That's pretty unusual in itself.

DEPALMA:

SHANE: Nobody's known since I was 13 unless I told them.

SARAH OK. Well, 13 is really young. How did your parents take this when you finally told them?

DEPALMA:

SHANE: It didn't go over real well.

SARAH How old were you when you told them about that?

DEPALMA:

SHANE: Well, I told them the first time at 18. And they were like, well, it's just a phase you're going through. No, I don't think so.

SARAH Are there any gay and lesbian members in the audience right now who can say they have not heard the phrase, it's just a phase, you'll get over it? I think almost everybody can identify with that.

Let's talk a little bit about the process that you have to go through. I've talked on the show about electrolysis and all that sort of thing. Female to males are the exact opposite. Talk about the process in general terms. What's involved?

SHANE: Oh, well, I mean, besides the usual therapy, you get stuck in the butt every two weeks, which isn't a whole lot of fun. And just kind of wait for the changes. I mean, for me, it hasn't been a whole lot, because I've basically looked the way I look now my whole life, just getting a little bit harier as time has gone by.

SARAH Female to males have a distinct advantage over those of us who are going the opposite way in that the hormones actually work to change your voice, and it seems to really work to help change your appearance, it seems, much better.

SHANE: Well, like I've said, I've pretty much looked like this. I've had a mustache since I was 15. My voice hasn't really changed that much. I guess, I was one of the lucky ones, because, like I said, unless I told somebody different, nobody ever even asked.

SARAH Let's talk about some of the stereotypes that I've heard. First of all, I'm going to ask you something that feminists have pointed out to me or have said to me. Feminists have come to me and said, well, female to male transsexuals, all they're really doing it for is because they know males have the power. You want to talk about that myth for starters?

SHANE: Well, it takes more than a-- I'm not sure what I can say on the air-- thank you-- it takes more than a penis to make a man. And that is about the very end of it. One, just simply because of the therapy and everything you have to go through first. And two, you're talking like \$100,000. Not too many of us carry that kind of pocket money around.

There are skin grafts that are taken that leave-- can leave very bad scars on you. And it's still not guaranteed. I'm not saying that if I had the money and the chance I wouldn't do it, because I probably would. I know I would. But that's not why.

SARAH I want to talk about something that you just said. There is a general feeling-- and I've heard this from various sources-- that, somehow, people are defined by what is or is not between their legs. And I'm sorry that society feels that way, because I don't happen to believe it's true.

Feminists will tell you very flatly that women should not be judged by the size of their breasts. Men will tell you that they don't want to be judged by the size of their genitals. Why is it so different that we are or are not what is between our legs? I personally think that's a lot of nonsense, but I know particularly female to male transsexuals get a lot of abuse about that.

SHANE: Well, I've never had really a problem with it, because most of my friends know, they rag on me, It's not going to end up pretty.

SARAH Testosterone is speaking, folks.

DEPALMA:

SHANE: Actually, that's just me. But it is a big issue, simply because being born in a body that does not go with your brain is like being in a Halloween costume you can't get out of. And there are just-- it is something that you feel would make you complete, not just for sexual reasons, but just because, because it is the complete person, and there's not like-- your stick shift isn't missing.

SARAH Well, let's take on myth number two. I happen to have been reading a gender magazine today. And one of the comments that was made was to the general effect of, well, female to male transsexuals are never really quite complete, so they're never really quite members of the transgender community. You want to talk about that one?

SHANE: Well, I think no matter which way you go, unless you have cash, you're never going to be totally complete as to what you want. I mean, just like any other guy, you're never satisfied with what you got. You still want more.

SARAH I ask that question, because I'm personally offended when I hear people say that. That implies, somehow, for example, if you're a transgendered person and you can't afford the surgery, that, somehow, you're not a complete person, which I think is just pure nonsense, and, I think, a very destructive idea.

SHANE: Well. I can't say that there aren't times I don't feel that way, because I do. But you just get over it, and you keep going. I mean, it's not the only thing in the world, but sometimes, it seems that way.

SARAH I can identify with that very much. And my life partner will tell you I have my days when it's a good thing there are no high bridges close to where we live. It's funny, I'll go for months, and months, and months, and the fact that I have not been able to go through surgery won't bother me.

And then I'll go through a day when, if there's a sharp razor around, I'm in trouble. And then it won't bother me again for months. There's something that triggers it, I suppose. I'm not quite sure what. And I've just learned to ride that out.

SHANE: It's pretty much what I do. I go down to Galveston, and sit in the back of my truck and watch the waves until the feeling goes away.

SARAH Right. Let's talk a little bit about employment. That's always a big issue for transgender people. Have you

DEPALMA: encountered any employment discrimination at all?

SHANE: No, I've been real lucky. The company I was working for and still am working for, I told them what was going to happen, and that I was going to quit. And they said they didn't care. They didn't want me to quit. So they had a talk with the managers and said, look, this is the way it's going to be now. And it was like no problem. And I have another job that they don't even know.

SARAH Employment is an interesting issue. I know some people who have worked for some of the large oil companies, for example. And it's gone both ways. I know of one case of a person who is working for an oil company, happened to have been an engineer.

They called this person in and said, we have spent thousands of dollars on your training, and we are not going to turn you loose because you've chosen to transition on the job. They gave her a year off with pay so that she could transition, came back to her job at full pay, and that was the end of it.

Just down the street and another oil company, a person came in and talked about transition, and was promptly fired. Two companies within a block of each other, totally opposite results.

SHANE: Yeah, I've heard that happen to other people. I guess, I've just been really fortunate that the company I work for is a lot more open-minded than I ever would have given them credit for.

SARAH Something else that I was really surprised at, when I was calling and asking for folks to come on the show and being turned down, I was really surprised. I talked to, I guess, nine female to male transsexuals, none of whom knew each other, many of whom who had never met another female to male transsexual.

And I was absolutely unaware of the isolation. Because the gender community is so much aimed in the other direction, I didn't realize there was so much isolation. Talk about that, because that's something new for me.

SHANE: I traveled the United States by telephone trying to find somebody here in Houston, or just in Texas, I'd have been satisfied. And I thought I was the only one in the world. And even the ones I know now, I know maybe five. Talk about minorities. I think we are maybe 3% of the entire population.

SARAH Well, and it seems to me that female to male transsexuals are a minority in a minority.

DEPALMA:

SHANE: Well, that's what I'm saying. As far as just-- even male to female is still maybe 8%, and we are 3%. I mean, we're almost nonexistent as far as at least here in the Texas area.

SARAH Well, let me ask you something else. I was talking to a friend today, and here is one of the questions that she

DEPALMA: asked. She was of the opinion that there is far more prejudice for a male person to give up their masculinity and become feminine, that there was more discrimination within society.

Because do we go from female to male, somehow, you are not going to lose-- you're not going to take a cut in pay. In other words, her argument was, well, they're sort of becoming the privileged class. Does that sound right to you?

SHANE: I can see where it would, because you're going to have all the power that people associate with men. And whether people-- I don't know-- I'm not saying that's true, but companies look at women as second class a lot of them. So they get lesser pay for the same amount to work or for the same kind of work. And I've known people that that has happened to. But you ask any of them if it was worth it, and they'll tell you, yes.

SARAH Well, I can tell you that just based on my own experience. Transition has been no easy matter. And if it hadn't

DEPALMA: been for my life partner, I probably would have jumped off a bridge a long time ago.

I've been very lucky to have somebody who's been able to anchor me. But I know that's not true of many people. I get, perhaps, 10 to 12 phone calls a month from people asking, where do I go for help? And I always try to give them the answers that I know. But I've not once, not ever, had a female to male transsexual call, which leads me to ask the question, where do you go to get help?

SHANE: Well, when I was first trying to find out information, I called the Gay Crisis Hotline. They had no idea. I called every gay organization there was in Houston. And they were like, sorry. We don't know anything. I was like, well, I guess I am the only one in the world.

And it was actually through a program that was on one of the talk shows that I got information about another city, and started making phone calls and writing letters. And now there is an organization called TATS. Unfortunately, I don't have the number on me right at the moment.

SARAH That's the Texas Association for Transsexual Support. And I can verify that they are a terrific group. Go ahead.
DEPALMA: I'm sorry.

SHANE: No, that's OK. And when I first talked to the guy that I did, I just wanted to crawl through the phone line and hug him, because it was like I'm not alone anymore. And it's been good. Like I said, there's only about five of us. But hey, it's better than being alone.

SARAH I'm also the media coordinator for a group called the International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy. Now, this is an international organization. And I know for a fact that they have made an incredible effort to recruit female to male transsexuals to get their point of view. Yet, last year, I think we had three show up.

And the basic problem was we couldn't identify female to male transsexuals. It turned out that they were far more closeted than the folks who were going the other way. Do you have any idea why the female to males are so much more closeted? I mean, it really does seem to be true.

SHANE: I really can't say on that one, because, like I said, I don't know that many. And I guess maybe it's because there is no information and there's nobody to turn to. So you just kind of keep your mouth shut and just kind of blend into the woodwork.

SARAH I personally would like to see female to males get together and put together an organization of their own. And I

DEPALMA: say that only because I get so much gender related information at the house, and none of it is aimed in your direction.

SHANE: Tell me about it.

SARAH None of it. And as I was reviewing for this show, I went through six magazines and found a total of 12 paragraphs

DEPALMA: that were aimed at female to males. If there is such thing as discrimination within a discriminated group, that's it. I was really shocked at that.

Let me ask a little bit about family. Let me ask a little bit about family. Has your family found it easier, because you're now becoming a male, do they feel like they gained a son?

SHANE: Well, my dad, he lives in another state. I live here. I've been perfectly happy with it like that. When it was down to the fact where I was gay, then that just wasn't permissible. He didn't want anything to do with me. And I was like, fine, have it your way. Now that I'm his son, all of a sudden, I'm getting Christmas cards, birthday cards, the phone calls. And it's like now that I'm his son, everything's OK. Yeah, well, maybe on his end. But for me, uh-uh.

SARAH My father happens to be Pentecostal Christian. So you can imagine how that went. I am the oldest of 16

DEPALMA: grandchildren. And my father is of Italian-American heritage. Put that all together, and you can imagine that, all of a sudden, he has lost his eldest son and has gained a daughter. And that sets about a hand grenade in a crowded square. It has not gone over-- it has not going over real well.

I understand we have a caller online. And we're going to have to put you on headphones, because that's the way the station works. So if you go ahead and put the headphones on, we'll take the caller. Caller, are you there? OK, we're still working. We're still working on all the technical stuff. And Scott is in the other room. OK, Caller, are you there?

CALLER 1: Yes, I'm here.

SARAH OK, please. You're on the air.

DEPALMA:

CALLER 1: All right, I just needed to ask a question of you. You said that you get quite a bit of information on transgender. My son is also going through transgender, female to male. And I feel so alone sometimes. I have no one to talk to, no one who's been there ahead of me. Do you know of any kind of a parental group?

SARAH The answer to that is yes, I know where there is help. But to my knowledge, there is not a group, for example, that would be analogous to parents and friends of gays and lesbians. Let me make a couple of suggestions to you.

CALLER 1: All right.

SARAH First of all, in Galveston, here is what is called the Rosenberg Clinic.

DEPALMA:

CALLER 1: Yes, I know of them.

SARAH OK, that is run by Dr. Cole. If you would place a phone call down there, just a phone call, I guarantee you that he will be able to put you on just about any support group that you need. I'm sorry, go ahead.

CALLER 1: I hate to tell you this, I've already talked to him, and he doesn't know of anyone either. That's why, listening to your program, I thought you may have heard from someone. I don't know, maybe there's-- I guess, I thought maybe you had heard from someone similar to me that would like to be in touch with someone else that could-- maybe we could start a group.

SARAH Well, I'll tell you something. It's something that is truly, truly needed. Let me relate a little bit about my own parents for a moment. My parents, they're wonderful people. And sometimes, I think people hear me talk about them on the air, and they think, geez, she's really out to get them. That's not so, not at all. I feel sorry for my parents, and I identify with them very much.

My father is not a very educated man, but his heart is in the right place. And I understand his feeling that he thinks he's lost a son. I don't know how to alleviate that feeling for him. And I don't know there's a lot I can do. He lives in a very small town in Connecticut. He's in a very conservative church.

I honest to goodness do you understand how you feel. There is a group that's called the Texas Association for Transsexual Support. If you can give me a call later on this evening, I don't have that number with me, but I will get it for you.

CALLER 1: All right.

SARAH They are putting together a list of helping professionals. And if you can contact them, I know that they will be able to put you on to some other places. And I'm not aware of any parental group for transgender people. And I sure wish there were.

CALLER 1: I wish you well, you and your guest. How did his mother take it?

SARAH Well, he's right here. Shane, you want to talk about that? How did your mom take this?

DEPALMA:

SHANE: Well, when I first told her, she started crying, which wasn't quite the reaction I expected. But she's met other parents and gone to meetings and stuff. And she's getting better.

SARAH Where did she find the meetings? Was this at Dr. Cole's?

DEPALMA:

SHANE: Yeah.

SARAH OK. I was going to say, because I know that Dr. Cole does have parental get-togethers. But that's usually for the

DEPALMA: people who are his patients. How long has it been since you were told?

CALLER 1: Since I was told?

SARAH Yeah. How long has it been since you were told about this?

DEPALMA:

CALLER 1: The transgender, it's three years.

SARAH Three years. OK, and I guess it's a female to male transsexual. Is that we're talking about?

DEPALMA:

CALLER 1: Yes.

SARAH OK, so it's been three years. Have they started hormone therapy?

DEPALMA:

CALLER 1: Yes.

SARAH The honest answer that is-- well, I'll tell you how my mom took it. When I talked to my mom, her original reaction

DEPALMA: was, I'm never going to speak to you again.

CALLER 1: I can't do that.

SARAH No, and she couldn't either. I think there's something about moms. I guess there's something about that

DEPALMA: childbirth process. She couldn't either. We have gone from she couldn't speak to me again to I am sending her tapes of the show, which she is playing for her friends.

She has pictures of my life partner and I on her piano. But that's taken a lot of hard work on her part, and a lot of communication, and there's been a lot of tears. But people do get through it. People really do get through it.

CALLER 1: Oh, I know. It's just sometimes having a friend to talk to who understands what you're talking about, not just a friend listening, helps a lot. I'm taping this program for my son. And I want to hear more of what your guest has gone through, because maybe that will help us some too.

SARAH Well, that's why he's here. And I appreciate that.

DEPALMA:

CALLER 1: I thank you both.

SARAH Well, thank you. Again, if you want to give me a call back later on, I neglected to bring that number with me

DEPALMA: tonight, but I will get you the number for the Texas Association for Transsexual Support. And I'm sure they would probably be able to give you more information than I could right at this second.

CALLER 1: Well, thank you very much.

SARAH Sure. Thanks a lot. I appreciate your call.

DEPALMA:

CALLER 1: Bye bye.

SARAH Well, OK, there's an example of what it's like to be a parent. We don't do this process alone. We don't do the

DEPALMA: process alone. I know there have got to be other parents out there who have gone through this, whether it is because their child has told them that they are gay and lesbian, or whether it's because their child's told them they're bisexual or transgendered, there is one advantage, in least in the gay and lesbian community, in that there are organizations like PFLAG, the Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

There is no such group that I'm aware of for transgendered people. It would be a great idea for someone to start it, I think, for sure. Let's talk a little bit more about your history. You seem happy, well-adjusted, normal.

SHANE: Yeah, tell that to my friends.

SARAH Well, whatever normal is.

DEPALMA:

SHANE: No, why be normal?

SARAH Well, let me ask you, if there was an organization for females to males like yourself, would you want to

DEPALMA: participate in them?

SHANE: Sure.

SARAH Well, OK, let me make this as an appeal then. If there are other female to males out there tonight, and they

DEPALMA: would like to start an organization like that, here's how you can do it. I am the head of an organization called It's Time Texas, and we have a PO box. We are a political lobbying group.

If you are a female to male transsexual, and you're listening in the audience this evening, and you would be interested in starting such a group, please, contact us at our PO box, and I'll put you in touch with one another. OK, fair enough? Our post office box is-- get a pen-- I'll wait a second. OK, have you got a pen? You need some paper. OK, you got all of that together? OK, here we go.

It is PO box 74-1193. Obviously, that's in Houston. And our zip is 77074. And all I really need to know from you is how I can put you in touch with other people. That's all. You don't have to come out to me unless you want to. Although, I promise you, anything you tell me, it stays confidential. But I will do that to try and get such an organization started.

Let's see here. Oh, we have another caller who's on line seven. And we'll will go ahead. And let's get the earphones back on. OK, hang on. We got the people running in here for the other studio again. It's on line seven. OK, Caller, are you on the air? Can you hear us, Caller? OK, I'm here. Are you are you there? OK, I guess not. I don't see the caller online any longer. So I guess they gave up.

OK, the caller wanted to know what we were talking about. What we're talking about is that we are-- I am a transgendered person, and I have, as guest tonight, Shane, who is a female to male transsexual. And that's what we're talking about is transgenderism and transgendered people. And Shane, before we go to some music, let me ask you, is there anything else that you think we should have covered that I missed?

SHANE: Not really. I do want to say that, if you are, then you do need to talk to somebody, because it can be really lonesome out there. And we had one guy that was a very young member of the group that, even though we were there for him to talk to, just the confusion and the age he was at, which was really young, was just a little too much for him, and he hung himself.

SARAH Yeah, let me talk about that a second. The last show that I did with Jimmy Carper was with National Coming Out Day. And I did an extended piece about suicide in the transgender community. It is one of the most under-discussed subjects that we have.

Suicide happens, and it happens for the same reason that happens to everybody else. But the death of Damian was his name really touched me, because here was a person who belonged to a transgendered organization. Oftentimes, when transgender people commit suicide, it's out of loneliness. They don't know the transgendered organizations exist.

In this case, Damian did know. Damian had been to several meetings of TATS. I had talked to him myself. There was help available. There was help all around him. But Damian didn't believe in Damian.

SHANE: It's very true. It's a fine line, sometimes, to try and decide to go with the way you really feel, or to go with the way society says you should. And if you're not truly a strong person-- because I'm not going to say I've never thought about it, because I have. But nothing and no one is going to keep me from getting what I want.

SARAH Well, I was very open about this before and I'll say this again. I've attempted suicide twice. And I came pretty close to doing it the second time. I did a pretty good job of it. And don't worry, folks, I'm not going to do it again.

But the point that I'm trying to make is that no matter how strong you think you are, you can have your moments of weakness. And I want to say this again. There are organizations in the city that can help you. But one of the best right off the bat-- and I say that, because it's affordable-- and that's the Montrose Clinic.

Now the Montrose Clinic has just recently moved out to the lower Westheimer. And I'm sorry, I don't have their address right now. The Montrose Counseling Center. I'm sorry. Thank you. But if you are feeling down, or low, or you're even beginning to feel like you are depressed, I encourage you to contact these people.

They are friendly. They are willing to help. They want to talk to you. Don't do anything stupid. I can tell you from my own experience, it's real permanent. And you don't know how permanent it is until you wake up in a gurney in the hospital with your arm strapped down, and it suddenly dawns on you, they may commit you for this.

SHANE: It's exactly what happened to Damian a few times.

SARAH Yeah, Damian was determined. And that really struck me. I really encourage the people in the transgender community not to ignore the subject, because we can't afford to lose any more.

SHANE: No.

SARAH I want to thank you very much for coming on here tonight. I think this took real courage on your part. As I said, nine other people turned me down.

DEPALMA:

SHANE: Yeah, well, that's their loss.

SARAH And this wasn't too hard on you, was it?

DEPALMA:

SHANE: No, actually, it was kind of fun.

SARAH See? And so the next time we call, I call somebody out there, and I say, please, I'd like you as a guest, you heard

DEPALMA: it first, it was fun.

SHANE: Sure. Call me. I'll come back anytime.

SARAH Thank you very, very much. And good luck to you.

DEPALMA:

SHANE: Thanks.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

SARAH OK, we're back. And we have a caller on the line. And I'd like to talk to him, because he's saying some things that

DEPALMA: you may have heard me say on the show before. And I think his information is very valuable. So let me see.

Caller, are you there?

CALLER 2:

Yes.

SARAH OK, can you hear us OK? Hello? Are you there? I think he hung up. OK, he did. He hung up. Well, let me go into a

DEPALMA: little bit of what he said. This person is in his early 20s, and likes to dress in the clothes of the opposite gender, and is kind of confused about the differences between cross-dressers, transsexuals.

And so I don't want to sound like I'm preaching, but I would like to take a couple of minutes to talk about that, because that's something that's been put to me as well. OK, he apparently is back. So we'll see if we can get him on the air again here.