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SPEAKERS

Michelle Meyers, Vanessa Edwards Foster, Jimmy Carper, Sarah DePalma

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00:01

To undo together. And my impulse he was older, but my daughter had a real problem with it. And I recall one of the conversations that I had with her. She said, I'm the only person that I know that has this problem. And I said, Yes, you are the only person you know that has this problem. Because it's not something that you advertise, you know, you your friends are not going to walk up to you and say, you know, my father was a dress. And I said, but I'll guarantee you I said, if you would line up 20 of your classmates, at least two of them, either are cross dressers themselves, or have a father, brother, uncle or someone in their family who is because it's approximately one out of 10 men across dress to some extent. Now granted out of that 10% A sizable majority of them are really fetishes. They they they wear the clothing, basically for sexual arousal, which, unfortunately, is why the DSM carried that that designation, but But thank God, that the psychiatric and social and psychological associations have finally realized that it is not a mental disorder, there is no there's nothing wrong with us. I mean, for crying out loud, people jump out of perfectly good airplanes, and they think I'm weird.

S Sarah DePalma 01:26

Let's, let's go. Let's go on to number four. Here. It says, we have the right to our husbands as men, the men, we married the men who maintain a positive, healthy masculinity, while exploring the femininity, and neither seek and seek neither to evade responsibility, nor appropriate our own feminine roles. Now, after all, we said about gender. Yeah, I know you have all kinds of troubles with the language of this.

01:55

I know, I know. I know the ideas. But yeah, I was. Yeah, things. Buttons. Were clicking all over the place. Yeah, we were reading that it was this sense of humanity. What does that mean, this

S Sarah DePalma 02:05

S Sarah DePalma 02:05

set off alarm bells, all lower. I understand what they're trying to do is they're trying to maintain a quote unquote, normal heterosexual marriage. Time. Fine, that's good. Fine. Okay. I'm with them up until then. But then they start talking about about maintaining positive healthy masculinity. And I'm thinking this one over me. Yeah. 1002. And then it says, And, and, and while exploring their femininity. 1000. Yeah. Oh, boy, I understand this. But the wording of this just makes me know

02:45

that you are heterosexual,

V Vanessa Edwards Foster 02:47

politically correct wording to keep them from, I guess exploring too far and getting into the realm of the transaction. Let me know what isn't. I guess that's relative to the individuals, I would assume that to them. That is the way of addressing the transactional issue without actually coming out and saying the word a lot of my guess, just mentioning the word is a bit taboo. It's like, can you

S Sarah DePalma 03:14

maybe right, I hadn't thought of that. Sure. Let

03:16

me make two points here. One is the fact that unfortunately, society or whatever uses the word gender and sex interchangeably. They are not genders, masculine and feminine sexes, male or female sexes, an anatomical gender is mental, emotional and psychological data. The other thing also that people need to keep in mind, and James is probably one of my very, very best friends. But as far as going to bed with him, it's the last thought in my mind, and gender, gender, gender conflict has absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with sexual orientation. Right? Right.

S Sarah DePalma 03:55

Right. Right. It's just it's just that all the stuff that we've talked about with gender and in the eye, and that means Vanessa may have hit it on the head, that it may be a way of the wives that I've met in, whether it's in triathlon, or any other cross dressing group, one of their big fears is they will lose their husband because the husband will go on to be transsexual. So maybe that Vanessa hit this, this issue run ahead, that maybe this wording of this is some way of addressing it without saying it. But

04:26

04:26

will they lose their husband if their husband becomes a transsexual?

04:32

They don't, they don't have to. They don't have to, if they can handle their husband becoming a woman, but the the thing that that must be remembered is is the fact that it is an extremely small minority of people who are transvestites who ultimately realized that no, I'm not transgressed I'm, I'm actually transsexual.

Sarah DePalma 04:53

Well, that actually leads to the next one here. Well, we have the right to our husband's masculine male bodies, neither partner in a marriage has the right to alter body features without the full knowledge and consent of the other. Okay, yeah, that's that's that's fine. That hadn't occurred to me until a few minutes ago though, that this is all done on the assumption that we're talking about a male to female crossdresser. And for those that are out for those folks who are out there who are actually female to male cross dressers, please forgive us. This was written 10 years ago when you were not taking into consideration at the time. So I didn't want you to think we forgot about it. It just dawned on me. Having said that, any any husband who would start taking hormones without telling the wife or would start considering having genital surgery without consulting the wife is a real jackass.

05:47

Well, because marriage is not a partnership. That's yeah, that's right.

Sarah DePalma 05:52

Yeah, I mean, that's a jackass. I did that. I'm sure there must be husbands out there that do it. But what up? For lack of a word here, it's an old fashioned word, but what a CAD.

06:02

Well, how does that differ for? How does the whole idea differ in female to male?

06:11

Well, in a female to male

Sarah DePalma 06:13

doesn't in a relationship sense. It doesn't. Yeah,

06:17

okay. Two things in female to male one with regard to transsexuals, female to male, as opposed to male to female transsexuals, there are almost an equal number, which a lot of people don't realize. And that is because you're female to male transsexual usually is not as visible or recognizable as a male to female may be right. But in the case of the female to male crossdresser. This is highly unusual there. The vast majority of your cross dressers or transvestites are male to female solely because of the fact that a woman can put on a pair of blue jeans and a flannel shirt and tie her hair back in a ponytail and take all her makeup and put on a pair of Doc Martens and walk down the street and nobody will blink twice. Except they may think she's a lesbian. Actually, Leslie

S

Sarah DePalma 07:08

Feinberg is a good example of why that's not true. Okay, for the most part, it

07:13

is true. Well,

S

Sarah DePalma 07:14

yes. You know, I mean, I point this out, because Leslie Feinberg, if you've read a stone which blues, she talks, he talks about, he shares he likes to come up. He talks about how often he has been beaten up for exactly this reason. Pat Khalifa talks about in the book, she has been the subject of hate crimes for precisely that for exactly this issue. So yeah, I understand what you're saying. But it's in the Canadian that Yeah, but in

07:41

the case, in the case of female to male transsexuals, obviously, they will. They're more socially they will, they will Yeah, they will, quote even more cross dress, solely because this is the appropriate clothing to what they feel like. But in the case of a plain vanila, heterosexual female, who, you know, it's very rare for a for a woman who is not a transsexual, to have any desire to cross dress, basically, because they have such a latitude as far as what they wear. The other point that needs to be made is is that with regard to men or males, the visual and the tactile is more stimulating, whereas in the case of women, and I'm probably gonna get shot down on this and being called a choppiness. But with women, women are more emotionally oriented. They, they look to the relationship as opposed to the physical. They look to the abstract as opposed to the physical word men tend to look more to the physical than to the app, I have to

08:47

agree with you work takes.

Sarah DePalma 08:50

I'm gonna let the lesbians out there and

08:54

I still know I would,

Sarah DePalma 08:55

I would say you're out there saying, what a bunch of Craps? No,

09:00

I wouldn't. I would say the lesbians that I have known, also are more are more into relationships than they are into. You know, that it's more of a it's kind of thing, you know, they become friends before they become lovers. Oftentimes, there are okay, well,

Sarah DePalma 09:17

all right, I'll buy even I will buy that one. Okay. Okay. In that context, I buy it. All right. Next, okay. Yeah. The next thing what she says here is we have the right to support groups for our husbands then encourage their feminine development without denigrating healthy masculinity that welcome us as full members on an equal basis with our husbands and that fully support relationship commitment.

09:42

Oh, you bet.

Sarah DePalma 09:44

I have no problem with any. I have no problem with any of that at all.

09:47

That would only help strengthen the relationship. Yeah,

09:51

it's basic is basically a matter of achieving a comfort level. And of course, that comfort level may change from day to day.

Sarah DePalma 09:59

Yeah, I have no Problem with that, in fact that I know in the past Trius has really had problems with transsexuals, you may remember a person that you and I both know who actually get kicked out of triads, for even discussing becoming a transsexual. I understand that that policy has become somewhat more lenient after that incident was

10:21

Trent Trius has taken great strides in, in dealing with and accepting and in fact, they have a category of membership is my understanding that as an associate membership, friends of Trius, where if you are not a heterosexual crossdresser or a family member, their love, you would fall into this other category, if you so desire to affiliate with triads you can do so as an associate member friend of Trius. That's great.

Sarah DePalma 10:52

Yeah, and that's the only problem that I have. Jimmy United talked about this before. I understand that the whole idea behind this is is to be involved with heterosexual relationships. I just did for my own point of view, I find myself having a hard time going to the HRC saying you have to include transgenders if one of the largest groups of of cross dressers basically is not gay welcoming. And well,

11:20

no, the

11:23

gay welcoming me well,

Sarah DePalma 11:25

the rebel Well, I mean, all of this is aimed at at male female heterosexual relationships,

11:31

I understand that but I mean, if you and I have discussed how recently the all the different

groups have gotten along a lot better and are doing things together

S Sarah DePalma 11:42

well, yeah, and it is true the Triassic has really made a lot of a lot of strides in this area. But it's it's a I don't really know how they can address it in the context of their organization but at the same time, I would feel a lot more comfortable if if we're for going to demand in transgender inclusion that they could find a way to be have includes have gained inclusion is where

J Jimmy Carper 12:07

we can go with it. That's that's a whole nother ball of wax is I know what the gay was gay and lesbian switchboard. We have gone back and forth about allowing straight people to become volunteers. And we always say no, because when people call in to the gay and lesbian switchboard, they expect that they're talking to a gay person. I would expect that Yeah. But according to what you're saying that would be exclusionary? Sure.

12:39

Well, I don't I you know, this is it's a mild criticism, because in truth, I don't know how we go about suggesting they do it in their context of their organization. And just from from political aspect that sort of feels a little prickly to me.

12:53

Let me make let me make one comment with regard to try as Trius has taken a lot of a lot of flack and a lot of flips and blows about being exclusionary, discriminatory, and so forth like that, the thing that you have to realize is, is the vast majority, you know, sexual orientation among the gender community is almost identical to that of society, roughly 75%, heterosexual but 15%, bisexual, and about 10% Is is gay or lesbian. The vast majority of your cross dressers are heterosexual. And so therefore, if you can minister to those people, trust me they've got all they can say grace over. And and because of the discomfort in some cases, oftentimes due to the lack of education or knowledge of some of the wives and even some of the of the cross dressers themselves.

13:49

Am I gonna turn gay? Yeah, am I gonna

13:51

turn gay and so forth like that? A lot of

S Sarah DePalma 13:54

ridiculous things are game.

13:56

If you try, yes, can provide a place for these people to become educated. And to achieve this comfort level that I was speaking of? God knows, I mean, you'll I'm, you know, I'm not going to criticize them because they happen to exclude gays or so forth, mainly because their focus is on the CrossDresser and the family and they're trying to keep the families together.

V Vanessa Edwards Foster 14:27

Just because they're not inclusive of gays does not mean necessarily that they are anti gay. Right. Exactly.

S Sarah DePalma 14:34

And I don't believe they are.

14:37

I really do not know. There may be a few individuals within the group that are

S Sarah DePalma 14:42

but as an organization, I don't know.

14:48

Okay, sir, I don't want you to think we're ganging up on you on this.

S Sarah DePalma 14:51

No, no, no, it's just it's like I said it's a mild criticism because from political point of view, it feels a little prickly to me to be saying, Yeah, except in this case,

V Vanessa Edwards Foster 15:04

the political level and especially when you're going in to try and speak with a gay and lesbian group and bring something to the table to where everyone's included, and yet one of the groups that you're bringing with you, does not allow gays into their

S

Sarah DePalma 15:18

over the head with it pretty good. I gotta be honest, I've been clubbed over the head with it. And I kind of have to sit there and take it because I don't really have a good answer for him. And so from my point of view, it would be a whole lot easier if they could just find some way to get this monkey off of my back. But honestly, I wouldn't know how to go about telling him to do it. Michelle,

M

Michelle Meyers 15:39

each of the groups has a client base, more or less of the support groups. If somebody came to me as the president of tax and said, No, I'm just a crossdresser. I'm not interested in transsexual issues. But I think it'd be neat to come to your meetings, just to have another place to go. I would strongly, strongly, strongly discourage them from coming to the meetings. And I have done that.

S

Sarah DePalma 16:13

I know it's just that when I go when I talk groups and people like deal carpenter clubbed me over the head with try, yes, it's a real tough, man, I'm because I have a heart. I have a real hard time explaining that because deep down in my heart, I think there's a modicum of truth to their argument. I just wouldn't know how to go about it now.

V

Vanessa Edwards Foster 16:31

I guess similarly, they could probably be in the same position with maybe some of the groups that exclude transgender. And

S

Sarah DePalma 16:40

that's what I've told Dale is course you don't include us? How many? Where do you get off on me?

16:44

So how many cross dressers are in the log cabin?

16:47

Well, yeah, that's that's always been my argument as well. Of course, there are not. I noticed that black lab and is not transgender. Friendly. There you go. Yeah. Hello. And as I said, Out, Jaina, I've known Jalen long time, I know that through the Trius is not anti gay and contrary, I

know, they're they are very, very gay friendly. It's just it's, you know, and I know Troy Yes. has heard it from you before. Yeah.

17:10

One of the one of the ways that gulf coast handles this is basically we emphasize the fact that we are a social, non sexual organ organization. Basically, our attitude is is what a person's sexual orientation is their own personal business, we don't ask or care. And I think that perhaps if Trius were able to develop this type of an attitude, where the where the sexual orientation is considered a not a verboten subject, but it's just not something that is discussed at the meetings. I think that, you know, the problem would go away. I think so too. And of course, the other thing as well is with regard to a gay person who attends a Trius meeting. Trust me, I have gone to get, you know, to Trius meetings, and even though I am not gay. I hate to say this, but often their meetings are boring. And a gay person and a gay person of a gay people that I know would really would really be bored.

S Sarah DePalma 18:16

And please remember that I was not the one that said that.

18:19

I've got I've got to stand by your. Jackie. Your first comment is that tri s needs to stay the way it is because of the spouses and the gay issue. I mean, they're, that that's where a lot of work, we're working hard to keep this, these relationships together. And I think we need to do everything we can to do that. And if the women are coming in here, initially thinking that their husbands are going to turn gay and and

18:58

you don't say, well,

S Sarah DePalma 19:00

now we got a choice. I understand

19:03

this. But Jimmy really knows this. I really do know

M Michelle Meyers 19:08

this. The way I like to look at it is that there is a spectrum and the general community Tria

survey serves you for the heterosexual crossdresser tap Search for the transsexual or those who are exploring whether or not they're transsexual, and if you say isn't sure as an umbrella group services, the hope that that's a perfect explanation. And like Jackie said, because it's true, and because I figured it out, and it's

19:47

a social thing. And then if you want to get political or go in other directions, you go to the other group. Exactly.

S

Sarah DePalma 19:54

Okay. Well, let's go on to the last point. Okay. We have the right to expect local regional and national transgender organizations and conventions to fully support and promote these rights in their programs and policies. Yep. I gotta tell you, it's very interesting when I was national director of its time America, I would hear from various transsexual groups from time to time that will say, you know, it'd be so much easier for us to get our rights if you just get rid of those damn cross dressers. And I used to say, Have you heard of the Human Rights Campaign? Yeah, you need to go belong to them. You know,

20:29

it's just like the, the gay folks who say, you know, we could get our rights as gay people. If we got rid of those drag queens and those leather folks,

S

Sarah DePalma 20:39

I wrote my last that include trains that include cross dressers. I wrote those bylaws for its time, America, there's a reason cross dressers are in there. And it's because I believe they belong there. Yes. It's the reason they're in the bylaws of its time, Texas, in what it was amazing. It was amazing. But your church here transgender see that, but others is like, what is wrong with us?

21:02

We're all together in this fight. You know, we're all together.

21:06

Well, the one thing you know, again, utilizing numbers and of course, you get arguments from various people, depending on what kind of an axe they have to grind. But the usually accepted numbers are that roughly one out of 10 people is gay, male or female. The same numbers to a

certain extent, also apply to people who are transgendered, that is one out of 10 men are transgendered or CrossRef. To some extent, whether they be transvestite or transsexuals. They are not the same 10%.

21:40

That's right. That's right, hello.

21:43

And so that's a very so if the two groups could at least coalesce upon their common ground and their common interests, they would double their effectiveness, they would double their numbers, to be able to get legislation passed to get appropriate treatment on the part of the governmental entities. Because trust me, if we could get 20% of the population out for anything. I mean, for God's sake, look at the look at the voting pattern. Yummy. You're lucky if you get a third of the people who are even registered to vote my God.

S

Sarah DePalma 22:24

What happened Jackie's they learned to stop coming to me and saying those kinds of things, because they learned real quick that was falling on deaf ears. And when they found out that I wasn't willing to listen to that kind of stuff, they would come to Jessica Xavier and say, you know, we talked to Sarah, and we've been trying to get the cross dressers. We don't think cross dressers belong and as to which Jessica was a as they shut up and go away, cross dressers are going to be involved. If you don't like it, then don't come near us. And that has always been the policy. And people have eventually learned that if if we are going to exactly as you said, if we're going to progress as an or as a, as a community Unity, we have to be tolerant of ourselves for heaven's sakes, how can you see in in that, it was amazing to me, I was always fighting that battle. And there's like, within unique along the Human Rights Campaign, the exclusive of your own groups, you know, it's like, eventually they learned to stop that I can't imagine a any national organization today, whether it's if GE or gender pack, or it's time America, I can't imagine them not being 100%, inclusive of cross dressers. I don't think that's have a chance to exist for very long, no,

V

Vanessa Edwards Foster 23:36

no, just kind of a natural winnowing, I think a lot of people do it just to try and seek others of like mine. But the thing is, when you look at the big picture, which is trying to achieve non discrimination, that we should not be discriminating against anyone, period. And that's I think one thing that kind of gets lost in a lot of this. So

S

Sarah DePalma 23:59

the phrase I hear is, Well, they're just cross dressers. What makes me crazy, nobody is just anything just makes me insane. Yeah. What do you mean there? So in that case, you're just a transsexual, you know, just stop it. Just

transsexual, you know, just stop it. Just

V

Vanessa Edwards Foster 24:17

because I feel like it's okay to discriminate against one, you know, one faction of our own community, or any community for that matter.

24:27

What was it Terry said, I am more transgender than thou

S

Sarah DePalma 24:32

ate more transgender than that. Yeah. And Jackie I know has heard this for years and years and years and Jackie's been one of the champions is saying, don't you come to me with this more transgendered now crap

24:42

flying here. The other the other problem, which which I guess I kind of brushed over when I was when I was talking about the about the merging, not merging necessarily, but the least cooperation between the gay community In the transgender community, is the fact that which Vanessa can attest to is the incredible apathy on the part of the American public, and trying to get people to get out, and you know, and fight for their rights. And the same thing was true back in the 60s, I mean, I was, you know, I was a card carrying party member of the NAACP in 1963. In Maryland, before it was fashionable. Because I had my my commanding officer was black. And I had two or three other officers in my unit that were where I was stationed at Fort Meade, who were also black, that were very, very good friends of mine. And I felt that this was something that, you know, that was that needed to be done. And, but trying to, you know, even within the within the black community during the 60s, there was not 100%, participation, cooperation or even agreement. No, and unfortunately, we've got we're facing the same thing today with both the gay although the gay community is much further along than the transgender community.

26:08

And like I say, Please learn from our mistakes. Please, Jimmy,

S

Sarah DePalma 26:12

one of my favorite, one of my favorite works is is Martin Luther King's letter from Birmingham jail. What people remember about well forget about the reason that was written was because a bunch of black ministers had come to Martin Luther King while he was in jail, by the way, he's in jail, on their behalf, right. And they came to him and said, you know, maybe you ought to be

less raucous about this. I kid you not they came to and said, Maybe you ought to be quiet about this. Because you know, when we live when you leave, we still have to live with the Klan in and you know, all you're doing. And he thought about that while he was in jail. And that's where that famous letter comes from. And he basically says to him, If you don't have the guts to stand up for your own courage, how can you think anyone's going to give it to you? If you want it, you have to find the courage, end of discussion. It's true. Of course, it is absolutely true and has always been one of my favorite pieces. And I keep reminding myself of that. When I went when groups when various people come to me and say, well don't include the cross dressers. And I say, go read a letter from Birmingham jail. I'll see you later. Because I agree with Martin Luther King if you don't get up the gods you don't deserve.

27:22

And the transgender community is coming around because in just one aspect, we're seeing many many more F two M's. Yes. The coming political

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Sarah DePalma 27:32

bow time. Yes. Great. Yep. I'm glad to see it. Yeah. And you know, it's funny because, uh, Jackie Thorne, actually and and Jane Ellen. And I guess Brenda Thomas. Really are the I would guess Jackie you correct me if I'm wrong, but really yours really the three founding mamas in this city, aren't you?

27:53

No, actually, there are some there are some people who were there before i i basically came out in 82 and joined Trius are well, at that time, it was Trius in October of 83. Because I was totally unaware of the existence of it up until then. But there has there has been a history of support groups in the Houston area. that dates back to the mid 60s No, really, there was a group there was a group that used to meet down in Galveston there was one of the one of the members had a beach house down in Galveston, and they would go down there for the weekend. And there was a group of I don't know, probably less than a dozen people that used to used to meet about once a month or so. And that is the predecessor of the what exists today. The various groups that have have been spawned by this seminal organization that was just really kind of a social club. And this time, I had no idea that it went back that far. Why isn't even

V

Vanessa Edwards Foster 28:59

familiar that? Let's try us going back that for I thought they had formed in the late 80s with

S

Sarah DePalma 29:05

no, no, I thought they formed like well, late 70s. And we were around though

29:08

it was, I want to say I want to say it was the late 60s, early 70s Because there were two predecessor groups that merged there was a group called feminine F P E. I want to say it's feminine personal expression or something like that. And there was another group, basically was Carol Beecroft and Virginia prints that the two of them each of them had their own little Bailey wick in California. Yes. And and they and they Yeah, they work together and formed the Society for the second self or try. Yes. And so it that also dates back into the into the 60s.

S Sarah DePalma 29:50

Yeah, but here locally was we Eugene Allen and Brandon Thomas.

29:56

Locally there I think, you know, it was it was a it was a relatively close moved organization until, well, really not so much myself. One of the other people that was very instrumental in it was Vivian Mackenzie.

S Sarah DePalma 30:09

Vivian, you know, and Vivian was one of the kindest people to me when I started out.

30:15

And then of course, Renee has been involved in it for quite a while. And there was there was Milly, and Pam. And there were several other people that were you know, have were members for several years before I ever got involved in it.

S Sarah DePalma 30:30

This is history folks. Well, you know, and it's funny, because when I started in try, yes, when I started around in kctc, Pam was still a member in Vivian Mackenzie. And was I remember very well, well, she's back now. And she's back. In fact, Vivian used to have a show here on KPFT at one time, No, exactly. Yeah, she had a not not a transgendered program, but she had it was jazz.

30:53

Credible collection of blues records. He has an incredible collection of blues records. Yeah,

V Vanessa Edwards Foster 30:59

Vanessa Edwards Foster 30:59

I gotta go over there. So

M

Michelle Meyers 31:00

surprise blues on KPFT. Yeah.

S

Sarah DePalma 31:04

Yeah. And well, anyway, I thought

31:07

you're gonna get blues in about eight more minutes, folks,

S

Sarah DePalma 31:10

I thought this made for pretty interesting discussion. Because we don't we don't spend a lot of time on this program talking about heterosexual cross dressers, at least in LA, at least to some extent, because we realize we have mainly a gay and lesbian audience. But I don't want them to feel like they've been ignored either. And when I saw this article in the transgender tapestry, I thought it was pretty important to talk about it, the wives don't get get kind of short shrift here, in every once in a while, I think it's good to recognize them that they got a tough road to hoe to.

V

Vanessa Edwards Foster 31:41

Because I really do there have been an occasional instance where the husband will, well, I don't want to say abandoned, but in essence, that's exactly what happened. So there have been instances where the husband decided to just take it upon himself to do whatever he felt and he abandoned his wife and child, even after the wife had accepted the transgender aspect, and had pretty much come to terms with it, the husband just decided to continue it further began hormones and decided, okay, well, I am going to get a divorce and leave you I'm going to pursue my other life. And that was a very self centered thing to do. This was one instance. In fact, that was just recently documented in a letter to, I believe it was the femme mirror for Trius. And when I read about that, it just kind of send a chill to my bone. That's, that's exactly the wrong. I don't want to say stereotype, but the wrong aspect to be played up. As far as you know what a transgender is, or especially a heterosexual crossdresser, especially to these other wives that are coming in to the group with husbands, the new members, they see something like this. And this just kind of reinforces those same old fears that this is something they need to monitor very closely. And of course, it makes them a little more,

S

Sarah DePalma 33:17

have Kilifi has a chapter in her book on the wives in front of transgenders. And it's titled, The

have Kilm has a chapter in her book on the wives in front of transgenders. And it's titled, The Invisible gender outlaws, the partners of transgendered people. And I think I thought, boy, that's just right. Jackie, go ahead. One.

33:31

One other point also is, the wives not only sometimes have problems with their husbands, but certainly they have problems with society as a whole. Because if the Saudi finds out that their husband is a crossdresser, all of a sudden that woman is looked down upon.

V

Vanessa Edwards Foster 33:49

And there's still a lot of discrimination that goes on, as well. legal discrimination.

S

Sarah DePalma 33:56

Yeah, I think I think they've got a tough road to hoe. I really do. I've always thought, well, I don't know this has been a real interesting discussion for the cross dressers. And I gotta say this to, uh, we haven't discussed the partners of transsexuals. But I can't imagine a tougher road than to marry someone and find out that the person that you married is going to change sex, or needs to change sex or whatever the case may be. And for the spouses who stay and go through this transition themselves, I can't even begin to imagine the kind of courage that it takes on their part. It takes love. That's what it takes. You talk about until death do you part I mean, they add new meaning to this.

M

Michelle Meyers 34:39

And even even though they are in love, and they want to stay together. It's very hard for them to get support, because there isn't a group support group for the spouses of transsexual. And although we include them in meetings, and we try to talk with them As a transsexual I am the enemy quote unquote. And so can't get an unbiased position. And that's why we're working with PFLAG to have PFLAG provide that understanding of what they're going through and help them deal with what they're having to deal with.

S

Sarah DePalma 35:22

And not only is there not there no support for the wise, but there's no support for them as a couple either. And that's something Laurie and I've tried to start a couple of times, and we've found it very difficult because the transgendered couples tend to live so far apart from one another. There'll be a couple that's in Clear Lake and there's a couple that lives in spring and there's a couple that live in Conroe. There's a couple that lives in Sharpstown Yep. And trying to get everybody together you know, to go to go do one event has turned out to be darn near impossible. And get and that isolation is got to be really tough on the wives individually, and also on them as couples that's got to be pretty tough. And we need to get

J

Jimmy Carper 36:03

you've been listening to after hours queer radio on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station in the background. You're hearing a local woman, Denise Frankie, who plays all around town Anderson fair lots, and we're proud to play her on after hours. She is proud out. Woman. Yes. And Michelle was reminding me that KPFT is a Pacifica station. Texas, we are the voice of Texas. Coming up is Big Daddy Dre with the Red Eye special.

S

Sarah DePalma 36:43

I want to thank everybody who came in and sort of spur the moment in joining this. This has really turned out to be a very interesting discussion. And for those who are regular listeners to this program, I'll leave you with the usual ending for this show. When decorum becomes repression, the only dignity free people have is to speak out. Good night, folks. Thank you.

37:09

Welcome to the radar special. I'm your host Big Daddy J. And you are listening to KPFT 90.1 In Houston, K EO s 89.1 and College Station, the sound of Texas