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SPEAKERS

Scott Lewis, Sarah Dipalma



00:01

that that's not interesting lesbians. We've had lesbians before and people aren't interested in that. But they're interested in a man who dresses as a woman living with them. genetic female,



Sarah Dipalma 00:09

Kate Bornstein was telling me that she was on the Geraldo show. And she was there. There were three transsexuals on the show, all of whom regretted surgery. So she was the one who was there and was glad that she had the surgery. And she said, one of the things they bleeped out was during the course of the thing she finally turned to the guy said, You really fool. You know, you know that. And of course, they bleeped it out. And afterwards, she said, but that was the truth. They really were full of crap.



00:33

Really? Well, we did. We did Springer one time. And I don't know if you know, Rudy. Rudy is a character. So we did the show. And Rudy was just furious. This is not his second television show. And as now that was his first, second second. Yeah, New Mexico. And so as Springer came by, Rudy grabs hold, it really is good size person pulled sprayer down to his level where he was sitting, and he said, you stupid blankety blank, you missed the whole damn idea. You missed the whole thing. You didn't get any. And Springer's eyes got as big as silver dollars. Terrified, He frightened it. And of course, when we touch one, we touch a straight person, you know, they just they don't like that anyway, and they gotta catch something from a political



Sarah Dipalma 01:21

breakfast. And they say happened. The lady who was sitting next to me, was from the coalition of Christian women. I don't know who did the seating plan. But I just thought this was wonderful. So we went through the whole breakfast, he's chatting about one thing or another,

and she was just as comfortable as could be. And finally, she said to me, oh, what group are you here representing? I said, Well, I'm here representing it's time, Texas. We're a transgendered political lobbying organization. She literally moved her chair backwards. Well, that's really that's not quite horrible. It's not 100% off. Well, at least she knew what transgendered man most people don't. I don't know. We went to Second Baptist Church. And we taped at Second Baptist Church. And one of the people asked me out there if I was a he, she read it. So yeah, I was really thrilled with that.



02:05

Well, I had somebody tell me one time, we were talking and I said, Well, I'm a transgendered male. And they said, Well, you know, honey, it doesn't show.



Sarah Dipalma 02:14

That's true. No one knows what you have on under your clothes. No, no. Well, first of all, we haven't talked about the dates. What are the dates for the Texas tea party,



02:23

the Tea Party will be February 21, through 26th. If you would like to get more information for it, you can write us the Texas tea party, Post Office Box 174. Verde, Texas, it's be like boy, you I v like Victor, E, R D. E. Texas 78163. We answer our helpline every Wednesday night, from seven to 930. And the number is area code 210-980-7788.



Sarah Dipalma 03:09

Or if you need more information, call us here at the show the number is 526 4000. In the we will have the information here. The last thing I just I've got to ask you about this most trend, most crossdressing groups won't have anything to do with political action groups. And y'all seem to go out of your way. And just kind of curious, first of all, thank you. But why? Why would you feel why would you feel it's important? Well, I



03:34

think that one of these days, transgender people are going to be a big force and pull it in the politics of American life. If we can get enough people out of the closet and people like yourself and Phyllis frying people who are out of the closet, who are trying to get the rest of us out. And I think this is important in the only way we're going to touch life in our society is by going through politics. So anyway,



03:57

we're if we don't get involved, we're going to be sunk, right?



04:01

Because I come from the bad old days when what I do and what you do, was punishable by and San Antonio, when I was a kid growing up when I was a teenager, they used to just love to pick the drag queens up off the street and throw him in the drunk tank. And you can imagine how many people went through that process and some of them killed themselves right there in jail, and nobody ever talked about.



Sarah Dipalma 04:23

It was only recently that Ray Hill and Denise Parker have been able to get the law changed here. We're now if you are a transgendered person and you are arrested, you will be put in an isolation cell as opposed to being put into the male population. And I guess y'all can imagine what that was like. You're even gonna make room for Phyllis and me to come and talk. I can hardly believe that. Y'all must be able to be



04:44

alive. For you until us Yeah, especially fellas. Yes. Make a lot of what's gotten me out of the closet. My wife has been thankful everything she likes she helped me go full time. So



04:55

Cynthia has been really through Oregon has some interesting speakers and I'm delighted Sarah is going to be able to join us this year.



Sarah Dipalma 05:02

I think what you're doing is courageous. I mean that sincerely. I think what you're doing is courageous. And I want to I want to address this specifically to the CrossDresser out there, you have been calling our show. And you have been telling us that you are frightened. Well, on our show today are two people who are saying to you, yes, you have good reason to be afraid, but you can overcome it, too. And so I will say, again, what I have been saying on the show, since the day that I started, the first thing to do is to go into the mirror and say, no matter what happens, I'm going to be alright. I'm going to be alright, the rest of it will take care of itself. Let's get the phone number for Bolton Park and one after the Tea Party. And one more time, I want to make sure people know



05:47

Area code 210-980-7788. And we hope we answer live on Wednesday evening.



05:57

You know, sir, I think you're doing a great job here. I'm just I'm just amazed that one of us has finally gotten a voice and the society and I'm sure there's a bunch of people out there listening and as you say a lot of people in the closet that are listening and I'm hoping that in my lifetime I'm gonna see these people come out.



Sarah Dipalma 06:14

I think there's something about Texas a&m, you know, and Phyllis and I are both Aggies. So we know there's something wrong with a transgender like see the bumper stickers now. When I was going to a&m They used to have these bumper stickers that said steers and queers, no place but Austin, I very badly want to go back and say Aggies, in transgendered people no place by college station.



06:36

I think we ought to get a bumper sticker and we could sell well, I'm sure.



Sarah Dipalma 06:42

Wonderful maroon and white. So that note thank you all for being here. It was very nice. And you to stop. I know you're in you're in New Orleans, and thanks a lot. Appreciate it. Thank you. Oh, yeah, that's Sophie B. Hawkins. I just love that name somehow. So Sophie B. Hawkins seems to me sounds like a name from somebody who should be out in the middle of a cornfield somewhere with a calico dress. It just just I don't know. It's just a great name. And before that we had Melissa Etheridge. And I just think she's one of the hottest women I've seen in my whole life. I have I don't know if you happen to catch the Grammy Awards The other night, but Melissa Etheridge was singing. It's a good thing that I'm already attached to someone or I can become attached to Melissa Etheridge. Very, very easy. We have had a couple of pledges. We've actually had some pledges come in. And you know what, it's about time. First of all, we had a pledge from Roy and no last name, but Roy has pledged \$100. And Roy, thank you you have made our night. I see that you say give the regards to Jim, I promise you, we will give your guards to Jim. And the next one is from a wonderful friend Dima Keller and D D McKellar is D all I can say is d is one of the best activists I know in the city, and a good friend to boot. And let's get Scott's mic on. Scott, how are we doing? We get any more pledges out there. Yeah,



Scott Lewis 08:23

I was glad to hear from Roy because you know, Roy is one of our biggest fans. And he's always out there trying to find me a husband. Hey, Roy, keep up the good work. You know who else Sandy and Jennifer, Sandy and Jennifer are a couple of gals that Howard and I introduced on our love connection show about four or five months ago. And they're still together. And I ran into him a couple of weeks ago and Jr's one night I was receiving an award in the coffee awards, you know, coffee bingo, drag queen, overlooking thing. And she was given out her annual awards,

and I got flooded the year 1994 I'm very proud of. And so Sandy and Jennifer saw that introduce themselves to me and they're helping me find a husband too. They've been I've been getting phone calls from Hispanics, three, four times a week. Sandy, Jennifer gave me your number.

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Sarah Dipalma 09:06

Now, if you're going to be doing this dating game, does that mean you're going to start wearing suede jackets and crushed velvet jackets with wide lapels? And

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Scott Lewis 09:14

oh, no, no, I'll leave that for Howard. You know, that was more era. I was a kid in the 70s in the 70s. He was just entering retirement. So you know, things were different for us.

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Sarah Dipalma 09:25

Oh, get out the claws. Well, you can only say that about people that you really like. My best friend. I understand you have some material setup about the opera Harvey Milk. Did you want to talk about that a

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Scott Lewis 09:38

little? You know, last week we interviewed the librettist which is the not the person who writes the music but the person who wrote the story behind the opera. We had him on the show as well as the man who played Harvey Milk, who plays who will play Harvey Milk in the opera. Where's that tweet at? And it was really interesting because I expect it to be kind of boring and stale too. Interview these people from the opera. And it was really interesting. And it's an honor for Houston to have the world premiere of Harvey Milk. I mean, it's this is a part of our movement. And there are a lot of things going on around it like tonight there was a town meeting discussion called his Houston ready for Harvey Milk. And Sunday tomorrow at 5pm at the Museum of Fine Arts. They're holding a screening of the academy award winning documentary The Life and Times of Harvey Milk. That's at five o'clock tomorrow at the Museum of Fine Arts. Afterwards, there's gonna be a discussion featuring David Gockley, who's the he's the he's the head guy at the Houston Grand Opera I can't wait to I don't know what his title is. But he's the head mama. And he's going to be there with Professor Garth Jallat of the University of Houston School of Communication, talking about Harvey Milk as well as then there's a preview for the world premieres Saturday night. But they have a preview performance on this Thursday, January the 19th, which is a benefit performance for Baron community service Foundation and the names project Houston, and the performance will honor Houstonian, Jackson Hicks, who has made significant contributions to the AIDS Project bearing and other local age related organizations as well as Houston Grand Opera. Tickets are between 40 and \$200. And you can call bearing to get information on that. That's this Thursday night, January the 19th at 730. Also, there's a panel discussion entitled Who was Harvey Milk featuring individuals who worked and socialized with him at 2pm. Next Saturday, January 21. In the word them Center's grand foyer. Harvey Milk's lover, Scott Smith will be there. His speech writer, his campaign manager, and several other people that were close to Harvey, will be there in the

foyer discussing him. So it's it gets turned out to be an incredible event. I can't wait because I'm going to be there for the world premiere. I understand. As we found out last week, Time Magazine's coming in Newsweek reporters, journalists from all over the world are coming to see this opening night before it moves on to San Francisco in New York. So I'm excited. I have a Hispanic date a man from Spain. And I can't wait. But I don't have one tonight. 526-573-8526 KPFT.

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Sarah Dipalma 12:24

Do we actually have to tell people here in the audience who Harvey Milk was? My beats new generation out there while I talk about phasing.

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Scott Lewis 12:33

It's amazing that people that I've talked to, in my all my job, people that work there at work I've asked and I work in a completely gay organization. The younger people that you ask, you know, Harvey, you know who Harvey Milk was? And they say no. And it's kind of amazing, even though I don't know that much about Harvey Milk. I know that he was or is the gay and lesbian community, the queer communities. Martin Luther King, Jr. He was the first openly elected gay, openly gay elected official in San Francisco back in the mid to late 70s, who was basically he was a city council person was called City supervisor by basically city council here. And he and the mayor were assassinated by another city councilman, who believed that family values weren't getting enough play

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Sarah Dipalma 13:28

cut off on what became known as the Twinkie Defense. Yeah, that's right, too

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Scott Lewis 13:32

many Twinkies the night before the sugar messed with the system. And he got off with five years. But Harvey was somebody who came in and took disenfranchised people. And he was, I think, and brought them together in a coalition to and I think he was the first person that realized the idea that has become a cornerstone in activism today, that you have to unite all disenfranchise people together that the gay lesbian movement, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender movement is not going to move forward with just gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, we have to have the African American community and the Asian American community and the, of course, the Hispanic community.

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Sarah Dipalma 14:14

So why am I not surprised to do that? But you know, everybody has

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Scott Lewis 14:17



SCOTT LEWIS 14:17

to come together and we have to form unions, we have to that's why being involved with pro choice activists is so important. All these different issues and different communities. We all have to come together. And I think Harvey was incredible at bringing together the disenfranchised, and making uniting them into one voice. So he was an incredible, powerful part of our history, that if you don't know more about him, I think you can rent the life and times of Harvey Milk I think you can rent



Sarah Dipalma 14:48

and I would also recommend There's a wonderful book by Randy Schultz called the mayor of Castro's try, and if you have not read it, I strongly recommend it. It is an hazing to me. And it doesn't seem to matter whether you're talking about the gay and lesbian community or the transgender community, people don't seem to have a very strong sense of history. I tell this story about when I was going to Texas a&m, and one of the ways that I put myself through schools, I drove a bus. And there were some young black students who were sitting behind me in the box, and we got talking about one thing or another. And I mentioned to them that I had had the honor of meeting Rosa Parks. And they looked me right in the eye and said, who they had no idea who Rosa Parks was, had never even heard of Rosa Parks. These were sophomores in a major university. And I was stunned by that, that African Americans would not know their own heritage that way. Well,



Scott Lewis 15:48

unfortunately, we're so young as a community, that I think it's and it's difficult for us as a community, we're not taught gay and lesbian, bisexual, transgender history in school the way the African American community, I find it. I find it kind of shocking that someone wouldn't know someone from the African or someone from any community wouldn't know who Rosa Parks is. She's an incredible part of the history of this country. And that's surprising, and scary, I think a little bit.



Sarah Dipalma 16:19

Well, that leads into something that I brought in, I pulled this off the internet today. And this has to do with Well, I'm just gonna read it. It says the radical right organizers are threatening to seek statewide legislation and Iowa prohibiting any reference to homosexuality in the public schools. I think Scott just hit the nail on the head there. The threat follows several weeks of attacks against plans by the Des Moines Iowa School Board, to include discussion of homosexuality in local school curriculum, a non discriminatory policy and a policy to include homosexuality, inappropriate curricula ideas were approved in 1991. And then goes on to say that on January 2 3000, people attended an anti gay rally, which was organized and to fight having gay curriculum in the schools. We're never going to learn if we have to keep having dealing with this.



Scott Lewis 17:20

Hey, I you know what I say? Just send all those high school students that need to learn about

homosexuality over to my house because I have a lesson plan for them. You know, it's the top of the hour, so we need to remind them, let's get ready to take this phone call. We need to remind them we need to do it. Okay. You're listening to Sarah Palmer. And I'm in the house Scott Lewis tonight as a very special guest. And I'll say that you're co hosting on KPFT Houston after hours a continuing tradition. Hey, kids, we are the radio program that will not die. Hey, if you're looking for the religious right radio station, that is one to the left. Very good, Scott. Very good, but you are more than welcome to stay tuned in because we are a lot more fun than them. We'll make you wear a condom. But we won't tell you it's all bad and wrong afterwards. So we have to take this. We have to do it on speaker that's not what your headphones on Scott. No, I think it's this long. Okay. Oh, so we'll have to I know how to do this. Tom. Are you there? Tom? Oh,

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Sarah Dipalma 18:30

okay. Going once. Going twice. Well, Tom, are you there? Can you hear me?

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Scott Lewis 18:38

Yes, we can hear you. How you doing?

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Sarah Dipalma 18:40

Hello? Yes, Tom, go ahead.

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Scott Lewis 18:43

Have you had any cognac? Are you there? Yes. Can you hear me? Yes. Can you hear me? Oh,

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Sarah Dipalma 18:53

how are you? Good. Now we can all hear each other? Okay.

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18:57

I have I have noticed in in reading a lot about people like Rosa Parks and Gandhi and Martin Luther King and Harvey Milk was the one thing that they did not do is they did not go after ego. They didn't care about ego. They only cared about the people they were serving. And that is one reason why that today we do not have a leader within within the national movement or for that fact in this city of Harvey Milk because there's too much damn ego scratching in our movement. That's why we're not moving forward. I don't know whether you realize that or not? Well, the biggest Foley's within our community are the leading edge Shall we put parentheses around it gay activists?



Sarah Dipalma 19:49

Well, some of them for what I've read about Harvey Milk. He had quite an ego as well. So I think ego may be part of what it takes to be a leader.



20:01

ego takes a lot. Yes, that is absolutely true. But when you scratch your own ego to be more important than that of the moment when when the when the so called leaders are more important, place themselves to be more important, then the movement, then the thing the movement is bound to fail. It always has and always will. Right. A



Scott Lewis 20:27

lot of personal agendas on the on the part of community leaders.



20:33

I don't know, I don't really know what they mean, Elektra are most leading gay activists in this town, if you don't have a TV camera or radio mic in front of him, then he's gonna do nothing. And that's right here.



Sarah Dipalma 20:52

I thought you just described Phil Gramm was not wrong.



20:57

It's about same thing. And that's why everybody got out and hollered and scream about the murder a pump was on. We have had other murders in this town. Were nobody heard anything. Hardly a word was said. Why? Because a pope was odd was a pretty boy. And an easy to get? Well, no, I don't think that was the others were not, hey, let's face the facts. Okay, we have some dirty marks within our history, and within our moment, if we don't face the dirty marks, and



21:44

Well, excuse me, I am getting beside 90 star. When we don't face the dirty marks, and we pretend that it's all clean. Instead we're going to accomplish nothing. And that's exactly what we're doing. We have too many activists that are that felt that they themselves are more important than, than that which, which, which that which they claim that they are serving?





Sarah Dipalma 22:14

Well, let me let me play devil's advocate with your with for a minute. As somebody that's been involved in leadership roles in various political organizations over the years, it's been my experience that most political groups tend to eat their leaders and spit them out. If you take a look at the national leadership, for example, the National Gay Task Force, they have gone through more leaders than they can shake a stick at the liberals who say, no, no, I'm talking about the National Gay Task Force as an example, and a good portion of that's burnout. here in Houston, we burn out leaders and we and we beat them into the ground. And I think it's true all over the place.



22:51

But maybe it's because that way that we finally see the phoniness in it. And in them. I have known right here for 20 years. And I'm just recently getting around to to, to seeing through through Ray hill. But of course, I believe I blinded myself, because I wanted to make him a personal friend. Well, I don't know, whatever, but a friend.



Sarah Dipalma 23:21

Well, I don't think I should probably comment on that because Ray is a personal friend. So I guess I'll have to bail out of that discussion.



23:27

Well, I can assure you that, that, that that right here is not all that radio puts himself up to date. And I do not find other leaders within the gay community that are that way. I take that back. There is one or two by Bradley and Michael Crawford. Those two i i believe are really sincere gay leaders. Those two alone they stand alone within our community. Well, of



Scott Lewis 24:05

course Brian is an incredible activist and somebody who I consider very close friend and Michael Crawford is to and Michael as well. So I guess you you kind of you feel like Ray maybe has the gym and Tammy Bakker syndrome. He started he started good with good intentions but I have to serve his own agenda.



24:26

I don't think right he'll does I know right? He'll does



Scott Lewis 24:31

it Yeah, it's unfortunate because I think we do we do have a tendency to eat our leaders. You know, we we build them. It's



24:42

let's make a distinction between the phonies, and the leaders, Michael Crawford and Brian Bradley are leaders. The rest are not leaders you understand? Right? Okay. So that we are not chewing up our leaders. We are, we are tearing up the self proclaimed leaders Well, we are exposing the phoniness with within our movement. And we have to do that in order to move ahead. And that is why with that we are moving back instead of forwards.



Scott Lewis 25:22

Because of the personal agendas of those who are supposed to be leading our fight, absolutely well, and then what we have to do is get out there if you know if that's if that's the case, or if that's the way you feel, or whatever, if that's the way other people feel, then you have to get out there and set your own. To say set your own agenda would probably be just exactly what you're talking against. But to get involved and help move the cause in the right direction or the direction you feel.



25:56

Don't we give you an example of Michael Crawford, Michael Crawford one time, wrote a very stunning letter to the community. And it was in, in the magazine twit after it was finished. The the and I thought that it was a very honest and very direct letter and except for my toes as well as anybody else's. But the fact is that after he wrote it, the comment by the author was Oh home What the hell? Why don't you just go get yourself a drink, you know, itself cocktail or something that line



Scott Lewis 26:39

on Article. But But how? And we have to get ready to go to the QM Z. But you look at activism in this town and it's almost non existent. You have 1000s of people who will go to the 20 some odd bars in the city 1000s and 1000s and 1000s every night. But yet you can't get people to a rally or a march or an activist meeting or you know, and what does that say about the interest of this community? Where where's their heart and where are their desires and are not the ray hills and Michael Crawford's and Brian Bradley's and those people that are out there doing anything are



27:16

going to be out there. Unless there was a TV camera out there.



Sarah Dipalma 27:20

Wait a minute. Wait, wait,



Scott Lewis 27:21

wait, hold on. Even if that even if that were the case. At least he's out there doing something it better than did nothing.



27:29

Once you do it, what is he really doing? What is radio really doing?



Sarah Dipalma 27:34

Well, we have to go to the QM see my son all all I'm gonna say all I'm gonna say is this. I've known Ray for a long time. I have no way for 20 years in urine titled You're entitled to your opinion.



27:47

Opinion. This is a fact. You need me wopo That right here is now doing for the gay community. No, man, one thing that does not involve the media. No, one thing.



Sarah Dipalma 28:00

Okay, so right off the top of my head Ray Hill in a nice Parker had been very quietly working with the police department.



28:06

It's been reported in the media. It is not it would not be that the police department if the media wasn't there, right. He'll make sure that he got all the camera wouldn't when the sergeant was commenting. About the bet the hustlers downtown right here wanted to be on the camera. And Ray he'll make sure that he got all the camera.



Sarah Dipalma 28:30

Well, I'm gonna leave it at that. On that next time. We



Scott Lewis 28:32

appreciate your phone call. We do have to go to the queer music zone. We thank you for calling. And we okay. What is this? This is on the phone right now. Let's just take this real quick before we go to the Q patrol, who we always like to talk to Rick, are you there? How you doing?

Wonderful. How are you?



28:49

Oh, very nice night. Very quiet. We've just been watching your button. The insider says they would be in good me outside or staying away. So things have been wonderful for us.



Scott Lewis 29:03

Yeah, it's like that line in Priscilla, Queen of the Desert where they say the suburbs. Are they are they put there to to keep us keep keep them out or keep us in?



29:15

That sounds about right. One comment about an earlier statement about Rosa Parks. Yes, there was an interview with her the other day where she was quoted as saying, you know, she was just too tired to go to the back of the bus and she just got tired of fighting it. So she just sat there. And I think a lot of the activism that that we have is where people just have to wait until they get set up. The Broussard case and such is a prime example. I think the whole thing of like you're saying find a leader and the rest of the group follows as long as we're pointed in the right direction who can complain?



Sarah Dipalma 29:51

I was lucky enough to be part of the of the Civil Rights Movement as a Freedom Rider. And I can remember being at a speech, in which Martin Luther King turned to the audience at one point and said, I am a believer in God. But I am not so concerned about the great hereafter as much as I am concerned about the great here and now about right, yeah,



30:13

we have, you know, we have a lot of people in the neighborhood, in our organization that have for years. So why doesn't somebody do something about it. And that's what we're all about. We have a lot of volunteers that come out and spend their time and we'll put our plug in there that if anyone is interested, they can feel free to contact. Anyone have any questions on the group 8718519 For switchboard and just call, leave a message, we'll get back to you. Well, we know you've got to run so we'll make it short. Thanks for the time.



Scott Lewis 30:45

We appreciate it. We saw you driving by early a big ol good looking people in that big ol blitz truck. It was it was women.



30:54

That's one of our other mobile units. But we'll take credit for just as well. We'd like to compliment of course



Scott Lewis 30:59

it was a big bunch truck. So we know it was a woman driving



31:03

a little bit truck, but we won't



31:06

belabor the point.



Scott Lewis 31:08

We thank you guys.



Sarah Dipalma 31:11

The Q patrol, as I'm sure you must know by now is a volunteer organization. They are looking out for your safety, your welfare, and they need they deserve your support. So I have I don't think I can speak highly enough of Q patrol. Well, I think it's about time that we went to the queer music sale and we have, we have not done that. So without further ado, let's let's put the show on the road here. That was the sounds of silence by Simon and Garfunkel. The air was a collector's version. By the way, if you notice, there's no orchestration behind it. We're doing a different cue emcee tonight. This is marathon. And KPFT has a long and illustrious history. KPFT is deserving of your support. And so what we're doing tonight is we are going to play some of the songs discussing some of the issues in which KPFT and volunteers have been involved in over the years in Sounds of Silence is a song that has its meaning has changed me over the years, I could very easily be a song about being in the closet. It could very easily be a song about silence equals death. You can pretty much take your pick, but it is certainly an Anthem of the 60s and that was one of the reasons I put it on KPFT was originally put together by activists from the 60s who believed in that sort of thing. The next song I want to go to also has to do with the 60s although it was not recorded then. This next song is with Billy Joel, and it's about the Vietnam War. I'm sure you probably recognize this. This is called Good night Saigon.