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hate crimes, transgender, report, gay, sheila jackson lee, people, police, station, lesbian, queer, folks, rodeo, scott lewis, houston, talk, gay lesbian, switchboard, call, patrol, david bowie

SPEAKERS

Sarah DePalma, Jimmy Carper, Tom Richards

- S** Sarah DePalma 00:05
Hold in be held that is dedicated to my life partner. Happy Valentine's Day to you in to hold and beheld. Oh
- J** Jimmy Carper 00:19
really sweet. Yeah, Valentine's Day is coming up, isn't
- S** Sarah DePalma 00:22
it? That's right. That's right. florist will get wealthy in candy and the people who sell candy will get wealthy. But
- J** Jimmy Carper 00:32
not only that, but Valentine's Day is Scott Lewis his birthday.
- S** Sarah DePalma 00:36
Is it really? Yes.
- J** Jimmy Carper 00:37
And you know, he's gonna try to tell you that he's one age, but I just want everyone out there to know that Scott Lewis was born in 1970.

S

Sarah DePalma 00:49

Oh my god. Oh, I feel so old all of a sudden. Well, today is also actually this few minutes ago. Was Phyllis fries birthday. No

J

Jimmy Carper 01:00

kidding. That's

S

Sarah DePalma 01:01

right. Phil is turned off. She doesn't she won't mind messing that she turned 48. So Happy Body.

J

Jimmy Carper 01:06

I resemble that remark. I just turned that same age.

S

Sarah DePalma 01:10

We'll see. We're all about the same generation. I have a little bit of unfinished business here. Yes. I was asked to say that the number for boys life, which they did, which they neglected to give Oh, is 5239470 I think that's a great idea this boy's life. I think that's I think that's a great way to go. And the number is 239 Westheimer, where it's going to be held to 39. That's Anderson's properties. So yeah, I don't think you can go wrong with that.

J

Jimmy Carper 01:46

I mean, there's so many groups that meet over there. That's becoming the the queer social center, you know, because Q Patrol has its headquarters there. And the transgender group of transgender group, cross dressers, anonymous dressers

S

Sarah DePalma 02:02

anonymous. That's right there. Suzy amazing. Suzanne has really opened her office and made it a community resource. Yeah. Which I know I certainly appreciate. And I

J

Jimmy Carper 02:13

know you know, when I do cute patrol, I tried to do that every other Friday night. I make sure that I bring a handful of peanuts for the birdies. Yeah.

S

Sarah DePalma 02:23

I want to talk a little bit about Sheila Jackson Lee in hate crimes. Okay. Now, I'm sure many of you have been reading the papers and you have read about the incident in Katy where the gay man was killed. Yeah. Fred man June Fred man God yes. And I know there was a march here in Montrose. It take back the STS which was organized by queer nation. And I understand they do I guess about three or 400 people to it. So yeah, actually,

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02:48

it kind of looked like an after hours production because Michael and Sarah G were there. And Jim and I and Scott Lewis was part of that I

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Sarah DePalma 02:59

was scheduled to be there, but we had a we had something come up. We just couldn't get there. ratable and Sheila Jackson Lee, is, has said that she is going to organize hate crimes, as some hearings. Crimes. Yeah. I have spoken to her office several times. I've sent her letters. But if you I would like folks out there if you are listening, I would like I would really appreciate if you would contact her office and remind her the transgenders want to be part of that. Oh, yes. She is somewhat. She seems to have be somewhat ambivalent about this whole concept of having transgenders. She has not said no, she has not said yes. She just hasn't met any. Well, I don't know. She's known Phyllis Brown for many years. So she has no she doesn't have an excuse. Okay. But her dress is. So give you a second go get a pen that did adapt. Okay. Her dress is the honorable Sheila Jackson Lee. That is how you dress members of Congress. And she is the congresswoman 18th district. And folks if you don't know the 18th district, let me just remind you that was the district of Mickey Leland and Barbara Jordan, you bet. The address is 1520 Longworth House Office Building. Okay, that's 1520. Longworth is one word, House Office Building. Washington, DC 20515. You don't have to do anything fancy. You're saying anything fancy. Just drop a note and say that, you know, transgenders really ought to be included in any hearings that you have. And I say it for this reason I got on the internet and I asked people from around the country to send me information about hate crimes. I got eight Meg's of information set up the jammed my mailbox. I got information from all over the country in And after I've recontacted many of these people and verify their stories, some of them are just are just just awful. It because

J

Jimmy Carper 05:09

of the woodworking factor that people think that they can get away with hate crimes against transgender people.

S

Sarah DePalma 05:15

You know, I was going to ask you about that because you're on the gay switchboard. Most of these people didn't even bother to report these crimes. Right? We have that problem too. And it makes me crazy. A part of it, I guess is is they feel like nothing will be done. And part of it I

hear from them is they feel like they'd be made to feel like they were the guilty one is if somehow they induce people in

J Jimmy Carper 05:38

the closet feel that way. Yeah, yeah, no matter what their what it is that they're in the closet about whether it's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, whatever, whatever. People who are out of the closet have no qualms about reporting it is that's kind of the way it goes.

S Sarah DePalma 05:55

It doesn't make sense to me, there was one of the stories that a woman sent me some information from Seattle. Now Seattle has a transgender protection ordinance. She was attacked in in and raped did not report it to the police. And said, Well, who would have believed me because after all, I'm just a transgendered person, you are a person and I was furious, and just just livid. And I said, what

J Jimmy Carper 06:21

one effort deserves assault or rape?

S Sarah DePalma 06:24

Well, yes, you know that. And I know, but they're not reporting it. And those who did report it, depending on where you were, the results were very mixed. For example, one of the people who reported an incident in New York City got immediate police action on it. And another case, a person that was in Philadelphia got no action. So it's very intermittent. I get in some cases as far as like a tail, it almost depending on which officer you got, probably it does. There was a case in Washington DC, they got no action, they went down to the police department, person in person to complain got completely different with treatment. So I guess it all depends on where you are. But it's very frustrating to me, that the people won't report it. And it's even more frustrating to me, that the would be more frustrating to me if hearings were held. And we don't get an opportunity to present this. Because what's happened right now is that transgendered hate crimes are reported as part of the gay and lesbian statistics, but they're not reported out separately. So it makes it very difficult for me to go to a legislator and say to them, you know, we had 20 hate crimes in Houston last year against transgenders, because they say, Well, where are the statistics to back it? Well, gee, they're in the gay lesbian, as well, actually,

J Jimmy Carper 07:39

you know, and that's, that's, I mean, we talk about the gay and lesbian switchboard does take that information for statistics, right? How many people know that they can call the Gay Lesbian switchboard? Actually, it's the hate crimes hotline to report this, because we have no money to

publicize this absolutely no money at all. And the the police have been unwilling to give out our phone number in hate crimes wyness Because we're the gay and lesbian switchboard, which I don't get if we weren't the crisis hotline. That would be a different story because

S

Sarah DePalma 08:22

he has gay and lesbian title. It's stupid. I know it is really dumb.

J

Jimmy Carper 08:28

We do work very well with Q patrol. Not all Q patrols when cute patrol hands out cards, you know, the people who've been bashed or something. It has the hate crimes hotline number on it.

S

Sarah DePalma 08:39

Now, let me tell you how it would work. If you were in Houston, at least, if you want to report a hate crime. If you if you feel you're the victim of a hate crime, when you call the police. You need to tell them when they arrive, that you want to report this as a hate crime right now they're going to say to you, well, I don't know how to do that. Now the answer this is very simple. And what you say to them is, well, you go back to your patrol car and you get the green form. folks remember that green form? They carry them in their cars? No, that's right. Thanks to a nice Parker. I know it now. You go back and you tell them you want the green form and make them fill it out right there in front of you. And follow up because what happens is they take the form down to the city down to the police department, and it is never taken any further. We have a couple of police captains down there who basically believe that hate crimes law is not enforceable, and therefore won't report it officially. So you may have reported it to the police. But it did no good. Tom,

T

Tom Richards 09:47

can I give you an example. What do you remember? About three years ago when Randy and I were when I was stabbed up behind? Yes. Okay. That was hate crime. The fellow said. He said, Where are the facts? Does anybody know where I can find the facts? Okay. Well, I shoved Randy aside and told him I said, identified. He hit me then. And he's in he touched me. Do you remember that? Yes. When the police came, they were not interested in finding the assailant. They now here I am bleeding. And they told Randy and I to put our hands on the hood of the car, and they wanted to see your ID and I explained to him that I was bleeding. And he said, I told you to put your damn hands on the car. Yeah. Okay. And he did not do anything. And we run away Charlie's and I fell and Randy hill. But we went Charlie's. And they called 911. And the same cop came in and said, Well, what do you want me to do about it?

S

Sarah DePalma 10:56

Did you report the cop? No. Because is that that's not HPD policy at all. No, no, it

J Jimmy Carper 11:02
is it isn't policy. And yeah,

T Tom Richards 11:03
but I was hurt. And I didn't think about it right. And no,

J Jimmy Carper 11:09
yes. Because in a case like that, when you've been bashed or when you've been hurt or something like that, you're not thinking clearly anyway. Oh, no. Oh, no. But let me tell


T Tom Richards 11:17
you something else. When acted the murder of Paul Bazar. You remember the cops got out on into Montrose pretending to be Oh, yeah, sure, pretending to be gay. And they were attacked so much that they got off the street saying we cannot stand the pressure. Yeah, we got to live with it day by day by day. Yeah. And they can't stand the pressure for a few days. You got to come on.


J Jimmy Carper 11:46
Well, that's That's why since then, there have been there have been great strides in trying to get hate crimes legislation passed and enforced.


S Sarah DePalma 11:56
Well, and the problem the key word there is enforcement for the entire city of Houston last year. We have fit they the police department officially reported one hate crime. Now, you know,


J Jimmy Carper 12:06
that's absurd. No, I wish we had we had dozens of them reported that the switchboard right but and shiny car in many cases, when they're reporting them to us, you know, when we asked, Did you report it to the police? Yes, but they won't count this as a hate crime.


S Sarah DePalma 12:22
Right? Now what you need to do is make them go claim Ms. Make them go and make them fill out that green form? And then you'll have to go down there and follow up on it.

 Jimmy Carper 12:31
What do you mean by follow up,

 Sarah DePalma 12:32
you can go down to the police department, you go down, ask them, Where Where has the green form gone? Where what are they doing with it? And if they tell you will, it's sitting in some pile somewhere or whatever, you have an absolute right to say that you want this brought forward, even if you have to call the district attorney's office, if push comes to shove, call the Gay Lesbian Political Caucus and tell them what's going on. Okay, because they'll they will put they will make it move.

 Jimmy Carper 12:57
Okay, well, that that people can do. I, you know, it's very difficult to get the average citizen to report this crime in the first place. And then to ask them to follow up on it. I mean, that's not going to work. We've got to have another, a group with some experience that that can do this. You know, it's because the average person going, you know, going down to the police station is a traumatic event.

 Sarah DePalma 13:23
My experience with the police has been very mixed. I have had some officers who were very professional, and it really done their job well. And I've had some that that really haven't I've had, because I am very high profile in the city, I get a lot of phone calls. And I always will ask well, how did the police behave in in recent in the last year, every incident that I've had, the police have behaved very well. So maybe the training is taking some effect, I can only hope I've not had any negative reviews back there. The problem is after it gets down to the police station, those reports are going no place. So I would I really want to encourage people. In the meantime, I want to encourage you to contact Sheila Jackson Lee, and I will do the address that I just gave you. If you don't want to do that just call her office here locally. Her aid her name is Pauline Higgins, very, very easy name to remember. And you tell her that you want transgenders included in the hate crimes hearings. This there really is no reason for us not to be included. Oh, that's right. When we were in Washington, DC, we spent about an hour with Sheila Jackson Lee's office. They were one of the most interesting receptive offices that we spoke to they were very friendly to us. That's all nice. And that's all well and good. Being nice to me is good. Putting up actions far better. Yeah. I'll take being rude to me if you'll be active about it. So I just don't want to mention Yes, just doesn't mention it. Well, let's go to some music. And well, well, I'm sorry. Go ahead. What

 14:55
you got let's remind folks that this is marathon. Oh yes. Yes, because the phones have not been ringing has been quiet as it has been very quiet Yes And we'd like we had some great

thing has been quiet as it has been very quiet. Yes. And we'd like we had some great momentum in the beginning of the show. And we would like to carry that through. This is our we're coming up to our, to the two o'clock hour and an hour last hour and I'd like to try to go over our goal. That would be a nice show to management here that after hours, deserves the Saturday night at midnight slot and should remain here.

S

Sarah DePalma 15:30

You know, I realized that there's a lot going on in Houston this weekend. There's rodeo there is yeah, there's Mira. And there's there's Mardi Gras. And I think God knows what all what else is going on. But, you know, just on this show tonight. You've you've heard Lujack Tyler. Yeah. You've heard different aspects of our community presented on the air tonight. This is a community this is a community shadow it is and it needs community support, right? I mean, that's the bottom line here. Ray Hill told me once that the whole key to this stations success was the fact that people in the area believed in it. Well, if that's really true, the only way we can really know that now is we need to we need the money. That's right. Our funding, the funding has been cut. I don't guess that's any secret. It's going to continue to be cut. If the Republican Congress certainly does not like Public Radio, especially Pacifica, who has had a history of going after the Republicans

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Jimmy Carper 16:32

and this is a historic station. That's the only station in the country probably the world that's been bombed off the air twice.

S

Sarah DePalma 16:40

Let me tell you, I, you know, I made people. Let me tell you what the station is like, if you've ever seen the show Northern Exposure, mirror the radio station that they had a Northern Exposure? Oh, yes. If you saw that radio station, that's KPFT. That's what we look at. That's

J

Jimmy Carper 16:54

exactly what we were that small and that messy?

S

Sarah DePalma 16:58

Exactly right. The equipment is all right there. I mean, in truth, the equipment's the equipment. Oh, it really does need to be at least prepared. Our air conditioner works some of the time. The tower needs to be raised. Yep. I mean, I'm not I'm not whining here. I'm just pointing out to you. The reason we're asking for your money is legitimate.

J

Jimmy Carper 17:18

And this station is run by only six paid staff members. Everyone else is volunteer. That's right.

Everyone else.

S

Sarah DePalma 17:27

Jimmy's a volunteer? I'm a volunteer. All the show all the folks that you heard on the air today are all volunteers. If you listen to the blues broad tomorrow, Kathleen's of volunteers, right, you know, every one of us are we none of us are. That's one of the another thing about this the station, the people who are doing these programs, do it because we like doing it. Not because we're getting paid any money for it. And in we like to think

J

Jimmy Carper 17:52

we're providing some reason, right? Yeah, we do it for two reasons. We have incredibly huge egos.

S

Sarah DePalma 17:58

Yes. Well, thank you so much. Okay, there goes.

J

Jimmy Carper 18:07

But we do it because we believe in the message that we're putting out. That's right. You know, I do it because I remember, when I was a teenager coming out of the closet, there wasn't any Pacifica there wasn't any radio, there's nothing I had to it's like I had to create the whole gay world for myself, because there there wasn't anything. And I'd like to think that because of this radio show, and, and lesbian and gay voices, that people have an easier time coming out of the closet. And when I was when I was that age, there was absolutely positively in this world. Nothing for transgender people. Well,

S

Sarah DePalma 18:47

I was gonna make that point, we've talked about transgender inclusion. One of the reasons I talk about transgender inclusion so much is if you you know, you've got the Gay Lesbian Political Caucus, you have the Gay Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, the gay lesbian, this the gay lesbian, that and that's all well and good. But if you're transgendered, it's almost as if we don't exist. I know. And so this show, is really one of the few places where transgenders can exist in I know from the cards and letters that we receive, that we're that we're providing a service for, folks. Now, if you're a gay and lesbian, you I'm sure you remember what it was like growing up, especially if you were in a small town, being transgendered is no different. This station, really, whether it's us, or whether it's gay, lesbian voices, you know, you think about the number of people that have been in this in this seat over the years, whether it's been Ray Hill or the other, or many others. This whether it's worthy of your support, whether it's \$10 \$15.20 bucks, whatever it is, we are I'd like to think we're providing a service and our cards and letters seem to indicate we are but more than that, we're we're keeping the hope alive, I think, yeah, we should, you know,



Jimmy Carper 19:58

number is five to six, five 738526 KPFT and you're listening to after hours, queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station Brian and Tom just handed me a note and it's yes this is right that gay radio in Houston started with Wildenstein. Remember that EQ one way back when and that was one of the first gay and lesbian radio shows in this country.



Tom Richards 20:28

I can remember that. But I'm not going to tell you that. Oh, fat and bald. I'm not going to tell you that but I can remember that.



Sarah DePalma 20:37

I'll tell you a story about about Wildenstein. When I was going to Texas a&m. I used to drive to Houston every weekend was my only my only breath of sanity after a week in college. And so I used to and I would pick up Wildenstein about in Hampstead and I used to listen to Wildenstein all the way in. Now here I was 30 years old, but really just finally started trying to come to terms with mental and sexuality. In here were these folks on Wildenstein and they were the first folks that I ever heard on the air. Talk about being out of the closet. Yes. And present a gay and lesbian is in a positive manner. And I never forgot that. I remember listening to Buddy Johnson Yes. You know that we've had folks here over the years that really have provided a service and in as much as anything else the station is worthy of the support you whether you listen to the the folk music that we do the World Cafe Oh yeah. It's great. The BBC. I mean,



Jimmy Carper 21:41

sounds of Texas in the world all you so many people enjoy that now Monday through Friday. During the day.



Sarah DePalma 21:48

I get up on Sunday morning with the blues bra. Oh, yeah. It's really funny. I sit there with paper in my coffee. And I of course I know what the control room looks like. And I think I'll bet she's got CDs everywhere. Oh, God, I love her music.



Jimmy Carper 22:00

She still does a lot of records to a lot of the stuff she has isn't even on CD. Oh, yeah. Yeah, sure. Yeah, she's got some some very rare stuff.



Sarah DePalma 22:00

 Sarah DePalma 22:09

So the number is 5265738. It's five to six KPFT. For \$35. Yes, we'll get you a bumper sticker. And they're pretty cool looking. For \$60 We'll get you a t shirt, or a mousepad. And this is not we hate or misses two pieces. This is this is what the computer died. For \$90 you can either get a two T shirts or a CD case or you go in Jimmy tells me this CD case is

 Jimmy Carper 22:35

pretty good. Yes, it is. It has the logo on it the name KPFT logo for

 Sarah DePalma 22:39

150 bucks, we get the ever popular gym bag, or briefcase. So if you're on your way to buy the beautiful and you need a gym bag, we can do it for you. Or if

 Jimmy Carper 22:50

you're on your way into the boardroom, we've got the briefcase for you.

 Sarah DePalma 22:53

Yeah, proudly proclaim the fact that you listen to queer radio.

 Jimmy Carper 22:58

You know, KPFT just KPFT that doesn't mean you know, I've run across people, you know, when I say I do a show what KPFT Oh, is that that queer radio station as it relates to gay and lesbian programs on it?

 Sarah DePalma 23:13

But you know, we're the heart of a queer neighborhood. So obviously, station. Of course, we all know we don't have any stray people at all. Oh, I'm gonna hear about that now. Well, you know, we have to poke fun at that one. Yeah. Now

 Jimmy Carper 23:29

let's go through a piece of music and, and this is in just for the rodeo,

 Sarah DePalma 23:34

folks. That's right. For those of you who are into rodeo and I'm not. But you know, we have to

do a little bit of everything. Everybody here



Jimmy Carper 23:43

show me there are a lot of people who love the rodeo and we've got an openly gay cowboy by the name of Sid Spencer. Remember that name?



Sarah DePalma 23:52

Sid Spencer, and I don't know that he'll ever be performing at the rodeo, but oh, probably not. But that's alright. And so away we go. David Bowie. Ooh, yeah. Ashes to ashes. David Bowie is one of those people that has gone through so many changes you might as well be transactional.



Jimmy Carper 24:15

He has had major life changes and in his career,



Sarah DePalma 24:18

I see we went through the Ziggy Stardust phase. The major time phase the I'm not really a bisexual but I'm a Broadway star which no one believed which no one believed right and i don't know i David Bowie is just real interesting person to me is talent. Very talented, but very different than what's that weird, I think



Jimmy Carper 24:41

is he's got two different color eyes. Does he really Yeah, like one's one's Brown and one's like, green or blue?



Sarah DePalma 24:48

Does he not know how to put the right color context?



24:54

Yeah, doesn't die later.



Sarah DePalma 24:57

And before that, we did Holly Johnson.

J Jimmy Carper 24:59

Oh, yeah. Yeah, we lead singer from Frankie Goes to Hollywood. I didn't realize that right? Yes. Yeah. on his own.

S Sarah DePalma 25:06

I really liked that song about legendary children all of them career. You know, it's it's funny time was just in the studio talking about the history of gays and lesbians and why it's important that that that history we learned

J Jimmy Carper 25:17

that people know that that people from antiquity were Korea.

S Sarah DePalma 25:21

Yeah. And I thought well, gee, this song is just right. So we're gonna go back to the interview with Kate Bornstein. And before I do before we do, I wanted to talk a little bit about something that she said in the first part of the interview. And that is that she talked about the idea of self respect. Yeah. Kate's was said in so many words, I'm on a, a femme a strong femme, and I like it. Well, that's an easy thing for her to say now, but the amount of work it took for her to get to that point is really something Oh, I can imagine. And I would want to say to folks that are out there right now, regardless of whether your what's your sexual orientation is, or what your gender identity is, if you can ever reach a point of being able to say, I am this, I like the fact that I have this. And if other people can handle it, that's tough. Yeah, honey, you're liberated

J Jimmy Carper 26:12

honey. Not only that, but you know, that's the secret of life when you can look in the mirror and say, This is what I am. And I'm happy with it. Yeah, I'm proud

S Sarah DePalma 26:21

of it. And I'm proud of I'm proud of it. Yes. And I thought that was really quite an amazing statement. And it's funny, I didn't catch it. First time I played the tape. And when I heard it, the second time I saw it, I stopped the tape and thought, that's pretty strong stuff. Not many people can say that.

J Jimmy Carper 26:37

So it takes a while to get there. And some people never do. Yes,

S

Sarah DePalma 26:41

that's exactly right. And the second half of the interview, we talk a little bit about what it is like to be a public figure. And we talk in this interview was not so much an interview as it was to friends chatting, and other people got to listen in. That's the best kind of interview. It was the most fun I've ever had with an interviewer. She kept flirting with me the whole time or he and kept coming across the count.

J

Jimmy Carper 27:08

Breaking you out.

S

Sarah DePalma 27:09

She really did yeah, I blushed a good solid read. And but it was very interesting because it isn't often you get a chance to sit down with somebody like this and you just connect. And it was it was a very exciting thing to to hear the end to do. But to hear Kay talk about what it is to be public. She's I asked her whether she was a role model river or revolutionary, and she said she hoped she was neither. Because she didn't want the pressure of being either one. Oh, that's right. Yeah. And I thought, yeah, yeah, cuz I've talked about that. Sure. I'm not always real comfortable with the idea that I'm a role model, because there you are. Yeah, and I guess I'm finding out how much I am from some of the letters that I've been getting from some of the things that I get from email from folks. I guess I'm finding that out. And I'm sort of settling into it, I guess. You know, you don't go seeking NASA. Anyway, we're gonna go to the interview with Kate Bornstein, and then we'll come back and chat some more. Okay.