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SPEAKERS

Brian Bradley, Jimmy Carper, Scott Lewis



00:00

But this was 1960 No, I'm sorry. 56 Yes. 56 months started later. And I came to find out there were two or three other guys in the dorm who were equally gay. And that was delightful. Hard to imagine. There were certainly no gay bars in Baylor at Waco, obviously. In fact, there were no straight bars at that time you had to go to any bar. It was important dry. Yes, you had to go to McLennan County, I think it was the next county over whatever it was to buy booze. We made frequent trips, of course, because part of our I got very rebellious people. We were all heavy drinkers, atheists and mostly gay. And so we're a little subculture on the Baylor campus, and we were much despised. There were editorials being written about us in the school paper, we were threatened with expulsion. And we would go to the dean's office and and we'd confess and we'd be Oh, so shameful. And we'd swear never to do it again, knowing Damn, well, we would, of course. So I spent four years on most of it on suspension, but eventually graduate with honors. Don't last all the way to graduate school.



Brian Bradley 01:02

You know, I first went to a gay bar when I was on a regular basis in 1975. And that's not been too terribly long ago. You know, think it's real interesting. When I walk into one today, which is a rare thing for me. There seems to be a lot less community and a lot less solidarity. I remember when I first started going, there was a vicarious pleasure of knowing that you were meeting and your meeting clandestinely and in secret, and it was like exclusive membership to a club, not just a place that you could go to and feel safe. But you know, I felt as if a taboo was being broken that I was getting by with something and that, that that was an added attraction. And I don't think we have that today. Do we?



01:51

It was elicited, right. Yeah.



01:53

Great. Well, now they worry about do you have parking close? We didn't want parking close. As a matter of fact, we parked our cars way away. We hit our cars, because if you'd get to within a few feet of the door, and you could get in the door, then you felt safe, you see. So really, it was it was a game. No, when you came out. You were frightened. As a matter of fact, I've been in RAID. Fortunately, I've never been taken down. But I was in eighth grade. And everybody was outside the bar, and the police forced everybody back in the bar. There was not a soul in the bar. Because Rita got out and said the bar is closed. And it was nine o'clock at night. We all knew what that meant. We went and we were all down Shepard when the police has formed a rope ring around us, force us all back in. And



02:49

those are bad days. Bad days,



Brian Bradley 02:51

are you more afraid of that happening than you are, say, just an individual carrying out violence against you, you know, because of their perception of what you may have been or who you were afraid to



03:01

lose my job.



03:02

I was never afraid of violence from outside. But the police were very, very bad. Until it remained by wills was very good. Mayor Wells was very good for good reasons. But he, but then all the other mayors had police chiefs that raised it all the time is swept through. I never got to call it I don't know why I should have been and what from what I hear you should have been. But it was very grim for him. And these are then called the employees, your employees to say that you're in jail for such and such. But that all stops quickly.



03:46

That stopped after this particular raid I'm talking about and we raised money to raise money fun and hired Percy for performance. Because you have to remember that was at the roaring 60s And what happened they gave me an and they arrested everyone that had on fly front pants. Fortunately I didn't that day. And the it was right at the time when ladies pants suits were coming out. And he used Women's Wear Daily which you know, or you may or may not know is rated every week. Brian has a subscription. Anyway, Women's Wear Daily sets the fashion and Lady Levi's had just come out and pant suits that had fly for us that was it. So, but it took us many, many benefits to raise the money to hire Percy Foreman. And it stopped then

now not completely. There's always been some harrassment I mean, always, but because he used to come outside of Barstow and you don't know where they've just got to stop you and pick you up.



04:49

Well, it really changed a lot was Whitmire to yeah,



04:52

oh yeah. Oh yeah,



04:53

it was really stopped and the rating up to the land. They'd wait for gay pride weeks to view Oh, that and so that's pretty well stuff. I don't think they're ready. There's times they re Now sometimes the some of the bars deserve it, because they've got a lot of.



B

Brian Bradley 05:10

But I understand the so called fag files that used to be officially kept by the police department were all destroyed after a federal judge ruled that that should happen when President Chief Nuchia was a much less ranking officer. But I know things have gotten better. And I know why they've gotten better is because y'all were there. And y'all made things better. And I really appreciate that. But in some things, some things that went away ostensibly, I think, perhaps come may become more insidious, and, and harder to recognize and define. And I still see that quite prevalent among some police officers. But then again, maybe we'll always have that type of problem.



05:59

I don't think the gays can ever quit pushing, because the minute you quit pushing, they'll step on you. Oh, yeah.



B

Brian Bradley 06:05

Down. Can you tell us maybe what it would have been the difference between living in the greater Houston area at the time that you were a teenager? Or in your early 20s? And or and then switching to New York? Was there a grand difference? or Yes, monumental difference? What made the difference? It was so easy



06:23

to be out and happily and openly gay in New York, whereas it? I don't think it would have been here in the late 60s, I think it'd be probably would have been very difficult.

B

Brian Bradley 06:32

Was this confined just to Greenwich Village? Or could you know, more or less anywhere in New York,

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06:37

I lived a runoff Park cavity and my offices on Park Avenue. And it was a treat at lunch hour just to walk up and down and go to Fifth Avenue and walk up now watch the stores go into stores because fully two thirds of the employees were openly or obviously gay, at least to me, obviously, maybe not openly, they weren't wearing the men who are wearing dresses, but they were certainly well quaffed and well dressed and so forth, and usually a little Nellie and likewise, the customers. Things never change. Sales was really a better place to cruise than any gay bar in New York. Oh, yeah. Oh, yes. Bloomingdale's is notorious, you know, the most fabulous cruising Spot It beats any park or any bar in New York. And you can cruise the employees and all the customers

B

Brian Bradley 07:18

and the customers always ride right

i

07:22

now Houston never had any any kind of analog with that kind of open. openness. I don't think in terms of stores. People be open on the street, their jobs. San Francisco, I moved to San Francisco from New York. And I thought that Nirvana had occurred because that was even better than New York. The atmosphere in San Francisco was so totally open. And police harassment was just unheard of there. This was 1971. And that there. And police harassment is just not even thinkable, a gay club like a policeman in the 70s. In San Francisco, they recruited gays to the police department and the fire department and the Sheriff's Department. There was a gay police captain who's openly gay, he had a lover, who was I believe, a sergeant of the force. And he was the captain of the gay team. They actually had a gay police squad is a huge quantity about 50 men. And women too, by the way, excuse me fat. And they routinely patrolled only they patrol the gay areas like Market Street, Castro, Polk Street, they were patrolled by gay police officers. So when the problems came along, they would have a certain house in particular and an understanding and a camaraderie, hopefully, with the people who are causing the trouble. It really worked.

i

08:31

But I think so much of that kind of police work in all is about the only thing they demand is appropriate. Public.



08:41

Exactly. Nothing. Oh, yeah, no public sex,



08:44

I demand.



08:47

I demand that too. But you remember that when it when there were two women riding in the front seat of the car, we had to be what we call door pushers, one had to be completely on one side and one on the other side. Because you could not even hold hands you reach over and just barely. I mean, in particular one with the short hair cut more than long hair because they stopped.



B

Brian Bradley 09:11

This is so interesting, but I want to be able to talk about perhaps some of the things that you experience now and such, with with being older, do you feel as a whole that the community has forsaken you or doesn't you know give you your due or recognition?



09:33

No, not at all. In unless you forgive or you abandon yourself. If you're very active in whatever you like, a politics, that kind of thing. And in culture and all this, you are accepted very well. But if you sit back and say oh poor me and everybody's gone off, and lastly, he's able to go off and leave you but that's TrueView straight,



B

Brian Bradley 10:01

the same attitude, I think that you displayed probably 50 years before you claimed What was yours and demanded it and you got it wrong, you still continue to do that today. And you get your needs met by and large,



10:15

you don't quit learning, you read, you do all kinds of things, whatever pleases you, and you stay an interesting person. And therefore you have a lot of friends. And the fact that you're a gang. You know, that doesn't seem to matter.

S

Scott Lewis 10:33

We're going to continue the rest of that interview next week, about this same time, there's about another half hour to go. And it's just incredible to listen to them talk about what it was, like 40, and even 50 years ago, being a teenager, and coming to the realization that you are gay,

B

Brian Bradley 10:52

and so much to learn, and so much to be gained from the older members of the gay and lesbian community. And for that matter, the general population, you know, if we could just shut up and listen long enough, they could make things much easier to understand on us. And I'm just real proud of that interview. I really like. It's what came out of it.

S

Scott Lewis 11:12

It's neat just to sit there and listen to them. It's fun. It's an education in itself. It is.

B

Brian Bradley 11:19

What's the next thing we're going to talk about maybe the Senate in the house of restoring the funding for the HIV education and such, I'd like to show an example of how, like Lee and Pat and Duncan used a lot of negative things in their life, but they spoke up and things got done. And we've had that example, shown to us very clearly here recently, the State meets every two years in Congress to decide how the budget and others concerns are going to be addressed. And the money man, if you will, and women cut out some \$42 million or \$47 million from the HIV HIV education and prevention program. And that represented a 94% reduction in the spending for the state. massive campaign was mounted to contact the Senate and for them to change that we were extremely successful that Laurie Angela with the gay rights and lesbian rights lobby here in Texas, worked very hard on it. Monday, the Senate, the House Appropriations Committee, 26 members will begin to debate this issue. Also, I spoke to them or their offices entirety in their entirety last week. And they have told us that they greatly appreciate us educating them on this, supporting them, calling them writing them. And I was told by at least one member that the funds will be restored. So that just shows that if we take a little time to know what's going on, voice, our needs, show our numbers and our strength, we can be extremely successful, not just individually, but as a group. Without education and prevention for HIV in Texas, we can hope for much more. And so hopefully, we'll be hearing some more good things about that next week, they'll take a vote and restore the money and we'll save some people's lives.

S

Scott Lewis 13:19

The Lesbian Gay rights lobby had a fundraiser here in town last night. And I went over there and talked to Lori Osterloh and did a just a little kind of a little feature story on the on the Lesbian Gay rights lobby of Texas. So people can learn a little bit more about what they're

about. So let's listen to that. On Friday at Crossroads bookstore at a fundraiser that was \$25. Ahead trying to raise money for the lobby. I spoke with Laurie Iser Lowe, the executive director of the lobby, and later bumped into a surprise guest



13:57

it's lesbian, gay rights law, the lobbies at the state level, and you'd have to cut it's kind of like civics class, you have to keep that in mind. We have national lobbyist who work at lesbian gay rights lobby at the national level. And then there's some at the state level. That's what lesbian gay rights lobby of Texas. And there's also groups at local level at the Houston lesbian, gay Political Caucus, national, state and local, we're working on the state level. The reason why we need to have someone representing accident state level is that there are a lot of bubbles up there. I mean, very gladly take our rights away from us and I have to stay really, you know, watchful at the state level to make sure that bad legislation is introduced would hurt our communities such as AIDS quarantine. In fact, the quarantine people with AIDS is something that lesbian gay rights lobby blocked in. In the early years of the epidemic. We've also passed a lot of laws and improve estate planning for lesbian and gay people be blocked attempts to criminalize HIV positive health care workers. Watch countless homophobic bills and right now What we've our most recent victory is getting all the aid funding restored. This session aid funding was cut by 94%, which would decimate our state aid program. We got all the funding restored, and \$10 million added in the Senate. So now we're working in the House of Representatives see what we can do there?



Scott Lewis 15:14

How do you go about doing that? Restoring a 94% cut and adding \$10 million? That's quite a feat. How do you do that?



15:22

Well, you know, it's it's hard to do, and a lot of it is personal contacts with legislators, and in taking them, I guess, sort of unaware a lot of people, you know, have certain, I guess, you know, sort of prejudicial thoughts about lesbian, gay people. And I try to, you know, take them away from their stereotypes, and take them by surprise. And I really can't get people to listen to me for that reason. The other thing that I do is I network a lot a lot with other lobbyists representing very powerful interest, and show them why AIDS funding is important to everyone. The other thing I do is I organize the community so that people can make phone calls their state reps and senators, and get them online for AIDS funding.



Scott Lewis 16:01

The gay and lesbian community is not like other organizations and companies that have lobbyists in that. I guess my point is, we're not a big company that's gonna write you off a big check. You obviously being an attorney need a salary. How do you? How do you get paid? Where does the money come from?



16:22

Lesbian Gay rights lobby is entirely funded by the lesbian and gay community. And one of our most recent donations was a \$10,000 donation from Dr. Adan Rios, here in Houston and some of his his some other doctors that work with him. Most of our donations that were small, they're 10 \$25 Things of that nature. So anyone who's interested in sending us a donation can send it to LG RL PO Box 2579. Austin 78768. And that's that's how JIRA was funded. It's very difficult. There's only four or only three lobbies, like in the whole country, but it's very, very important, particularly to conservative state like Texas.



Scott Lewis 17:04

What do you consider as our next greatest challenge?



17:08

The repeal of 2106 is the most important thing to the community. For those of you who haven't heard about 2106 is the state sodomy statute, it makes same sex sexual behavior illegal between consenting adults, but the real what what really happens with 2106 people end up losing jobs because of it like Mike England, who was a police officer in Dallas. And so we need to get that repealed. And then we can move on to things like gay civil rights issues and more domestic partnerships, which issues which will help us to legalize our relationships.



Scott Lewis 17:40

Now, what is your name? matter, but we know you as mattress masks. Now, you given a very valuable pig just don't do. What didn't touch you about stone stupid costume do this.



17:57

Well, the fact to give away food free to the AIDS victims, and obviously a great cause, and a worthy cause. And every year when I buy those big animals, you know, we donate the meat, some charity, that that'd be great charity to donate to and look forward to doing more with them in the future.



Scott Lewis 18:18

We're here today with the lesbian, gay rights. Bobby, Texas, which is an organization that is supporting gay and lesbian rights in the state of Texas. Are we going to see more support from you and your organization? Towards that vein? Are you going to restrict yourself to AIDS charities?



18:35

You'll see more support from us toward the you know, gay lesbian movement. Sure, you know, and I, I think that discrimination of any form is wrong. And I think that whatever we can do it Gallery Furniture to help out the gay lesbian community. We'll be glad to do it.

S

Scott Lewis 18:50

That's great. Thanks a lot. Appreciate it. Nice. Nice to meet you. I was really surprised in seeing mattress Mac when I walk into Crossroads gay lesbian bookstore, and I look up and here's mattress Mac,

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Brian Bradley 19:08

where you wouldn't have been surprised to be to call me Mary. I could have told you he was gonna be there. I've been keeping my mouth shut for more than a week, believe it or not on a lot of there's at first for Mac unveil. The man is has was approached by John Paul barnish about helping out people that are living with AIDS. And he immediately jumped on the issue. He has a lot that he knows he wants to learn and needs to learn. He didn't know what the red ribbon was. And he asked John Paul what it was. And John Paul explained it to him about AIDS awareness and he said, Well, gosh, where can I get one? But of course John Paul gave him his and he said Do you think anybody would mind if I made these available for my staff members to wear in the store? You know, the man's heart is in the right place. He has just in the last week, not made a big deal at all about going to the maca Dori house. Totally refurnishing it from top to bottom kitchen, dining room linens, bed beds, mattresses, show you how sensitive they are. They were three very tall men understand. John Paul said that our residents there now. And the woman, Georgia that is max aid, said, Gosh, how do you guys sleep in these beds? You know, you're so tall, nice. Well, you know, we've adjusted our feed hangover. And she's Oh, well, we just can't have that. We'll just get you some much longer beds. And something was said about well, but then now we can't do that. Because all of our linen fits standard sized bed. She says, Well, we'll take care of that. And I mean, the pig represents several 100 pounds of food that people need very badly. The refurnish and the macro dollhouse is great. And there are other wonderful things that are in the works that, you know, this is not the time to talk about them. But I think we have seen a welcome addition to our community and, and it is just great. So gosh, it's nice. It really is. I'm glad you got to meet him.

S

Scott Lewis 21:04

I was I was very impressed. Very impressed, and very glad. that uh, that he's, as he said, as you heard on the tape, you know that you're gonna see Mac, and you're gonna see Gallery Furniture get involved in the gay lesbian movement.

B

Brian Bradley 21:20

We need that. Let's flip to a completely different thing I was reading just recently, I seem to pick up on everything that it says Amsterdam honored or Dutch or Holland named things, you know, I went back to mud romact mud. But you know, I went to Amsterdam last year for the first time and fell in love with the people the country in the country itself. And in that vague

letter, a brunette man well, but he wasn't Dutch. He was Italian. I'm glad they had immigration. But one of the things that I read just recently, when I was reading the papers and such was that in the military, when soldiers are sent off to maneuvers and recon orderings and things like that. They're provided with Playboy magazines to remaster Bay and look at, you know, perhaps find a little sexual release or whatever, perhaps it'd be better soldiers, the Dutch government feels well, what is so surprising about the Dutch government, they've made absolutely sure that the gay soldiers had their own particular magazines, too. So Colin Powell, if you're listening, you're looking at more and more like a dinosaur every day girlfriend. It's great. You know, the Dutch are wonderful. And to go to that country, it's just see No. Inference being put on two men walking down the street or two women is like they're blasé about it. Not that they don't care. It's not a non issue. So I guess when we all take over the military, we're going to have to demand honcho and stallion and cold, cold or whatever,

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Scott Lewis 22:55

man.

B

Brian Bradley 22:56

Yeah, not too young, though. Lots of news going on. For anyone that might be interested this Wednesday and Thursday in Austin. The National Commission on AIDS is going to meet and hold public hearings. It's going to be the public hearings. Well, public comments are going to be taken at 1230 on Thursday. This is sponsored by the Austin Travis County HIV commission and you probably if you want to go can get more information from them. Once again, that's the Austin Travis County HIV commission. If

S

Scott Lewis 23:30

they can't make it, I think we're going to have a I'm going to try to go we're going to have a reporter there and do a story there. At the conference,

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Brian Bradley 23:39

one of the things I want to cover real quickly if I can, there's a lot of talk going on about this new drug protocol that's going to be available and everybody wants to get into it and they want to try out everything. Recently, Dr. Chou discovered that if AZT and DDR were combined with a third lesser known drug, he could kill the HIV virus in a test tube. And these are under circumstances far and above a virulent sea level that would be found in the human body. And it was absolutely smashingly successful, even with the not so generally successful, anti retrovirals, AZT and DDR. It's been put on the fast track, if you will, 10 universities throughout America are going to study patients, human beings in phase two of this. I'm giving conflicting reports, there may be 20 people at each site or 200 at each site, but it's leaning more toward I think 20 People at each site. The nearest one to us definitely is going to be the University of Alabama at Birmingham, perhaps University of Texas Medical Branch Galveston, but the University of California at La in San Francisco, University of Minnesota at Minneapolis, Albert Einstein Bronx, New York, Cornell, New York, Boston, New York. to Western in Chicago,

University of Miami in my ad Miami. So if you want more information on that, or perhaps to enroll in it, the majority of the people, of course, are not going to get into the trial. And that's the sad thing about it. But if you are a person who thinks that you could benefit from that, if you could contact one of these universities that I just mentioned, and there are 10 of them, and asked to be a part of the program, knowing good and where you're going to be denied, because it's already filled, perhaps the medical institutions then in turn, could ask for an expanded program. So, you know, there's a little hope on the horizon. I don't want to give people false hope. But it's essential that we keep a realistic hope. And this has worked extremely well in the test tube, human body as an in vitro process also, but it's completely different.

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Scott Lewis 25:48

It seems a little bit I've heard, read and seen and talk to people that they're very excited about this more than I've seen them excited about anything. Yeah, on the AIDS front of

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Brian Bradley 25:59

time to turn though, would be, you know, from the Reagan years, cautiously optimistic, cautiously up to but we have another thing to be to be glad about. And I'm really particularly glad to see this happen. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People have officially and formally endorsed and will participate in the march on Washington that is going to be held April the 25th. Fifth, that's a milestone, I think, for our community and also for the African American community. I speak to I just spoke to an African American woman recently, who told me that there were no black people that were gay. Well, we all know that's not true.

S

Scott Lewis 26:37

Right? We have Michael Crawford. Well. And if she doesn't believe it, we'll get him to change himself to her.

B

Brian Bradley 26:47

It's a good thing that the NAACP is going to participate in the march and it's a good thing to have them allied with us. Because we have more in common than then we have. That's right.

J

Jimmy Carper 26:57

And we need to let the forward Times newspaper know about this.

B

Brian Bradley 27:02

Oh, yeah. Don't get me started on those two brainless wonders, you know, one less brain sound would have to water them over there. Anyway, you know, we brought up earlier some more news. There's a couple of studies out that purport that the Kinsey report from the 40s actually

was incorrect that gay people are not 10% or more of the population that we're really somewhere probably between one and 6%. I think this is indicative of society's need to even suppress us further into discount us. But it's interesting what has come out of it. And falling right on the heels of those two reports was another one saying that in actuality, we were probably much more than 10%. Bottom line is come out of those closets, guys and gals. Let's have our numbers counted. And let's show just how we are everywhere.

S

Scott Lewis 27:56

You know, I was listening to Marlin Maddox the other day and they were talking Marlin Maddox is this extreme right wing religious radio zealot. And he does a show called point of view and their show was on gays. And they were talking about this videotape of the gay agenda. And they're saying their guest was the man who made this tape and they were talking about it. And one of the points that they this man brought up was how important it was for the homosexuals to recruit because there really aren't 10% You know, there's only one to 3% of the country is homosexuals. And that's why they have to recruit. And

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Brian Bradley 28:33

well, you know, a lot of have to say to those people, you're exactly right. 10% is not enough recruit, recruit, recruit, get real. Another thing that's been a big in the news here in since we had our last program has been the castle dental centers, treatment of a patient. They had a patient that had been there eight or 10 times or so having mechanical braces put on his teeth. He decided he needed to have his teeth clean. He made an appointment filled out the application as requested. Answer the question, honestly, the Yes, he was HIV positive. They refused to see him. They sat him out in the lobby for like an hour, 45 minutes. And people came out looked at him they stamped his chart aids, totally illegal behaviors all the way around. And then they had the unmetered gall and absolute ignorance to send the man a letter telling him why they weren't going to treat them. So this is going to be one of the first good ADA cases John Paul barnish is once again handling it. And yet, I want the men and women out there that you know this the people that are HIV positive, not just the gays and straight. These people are taking our money, and there's only one reason why they are it's because we're giving it to them. Call Castle dental centers, cancel your appointments, tell them why you are and don't go to them anymore. We'll see you in court. Mr. Castle, you know, you better draw up your bridge Mary. We're coming

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Scott Lewis 30:00

After you and I understand act UPS going after and pretty soon to

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Brian Bradley 30:04

Well, that's not true. We have no plans whatsoever. Scott, anything else that you read? Other than trashy novel or anything this week? You know, begin.

J Jimmy Carper 30:17

Well coming up next week will be Diane Williams and she's going to do a show with religious people religious like Carolyn Mobley and people are not not psycho Christian. No, no, no, we have had enough of the the that kind we're going to have Padma how religion can put has had a positive side to the gay and lesbian community. She Well, Diane is a gay Christian. And so she wants to put forth that positive side. What religion has done to help the gay and lesbian community and there's a lot of that. We all know about what it's done to hurt us. So we don't need to hear any more about that crap. Anyway, I'm looking forward to that. And you will hear the second part of the interview between

B Brian Bradley 31:12

Brian Pat Lee and Duncan, there you go. Yeah, maybe we should have interviewed you.

J Jimmy Carper 31:21

I think your problem. I've lost all my brain cells. Oh, okay.

B Brian Bradley 31:26

It's been fun guys. I've really enjoyed tonight.

S Scott Lewis 31:28

It has been a great show. You have been listening to after hours a continuing tradition on World Radio KPFT Houston. 90.1 FM. Yeah, please write us. Stay tuned for the BBC News, followed by the carbon dating game with Eric.

J Jimmy Carper 31:44

Yes, please write us.

S Scott Lewis 31:47

Our address is after hours. Care of KPFT for 19 Love it Boulevard. Houston, Texas. 77006 more than a zip code a lifestyle.

J Jimmy Carper 32:01

Especially if you want to have music or anything dedicated, like for a birthday anniversary or for someone special or on the line so that we can schedule it and you can make sure that we get it in on the show.

B

Brian Bradley 32:15

Or or if you have a marriage proposal. We're always accepting them. Yeah, I look real good on the radio folks. I get this horn off my head and these words. I think that'd be pretty cool.

S

Scott Lewis 32:25

We'll see you guys next week.