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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

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## SPEAKERS

Michelle Meyers, Jimmy Carper, Sarah DePalma

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00:00

Are you aware we have Kyle Janek is a right wing conservative, just extremist, the only I think medical doctor who's a member of the legislature and he is just has a horrible record.



**S Sarah DePalma 00:16**

And unfortunately, as live in time delays distract you, they won't even let me in their opposite. They know who I am.



00:23

And we have a wonderful candidate that's running out there that's been endorsed by the caucus Global Action Committee, Mike Laster, and my could make a real difference and providing some leadership that Diane needs in getting these bills passed and keeping the bad stuff from getting passed. And that I guess, if we, if we wanted to make any point today, it would be go out and get involved with some of those races, go phonebank form block rock forum, pass out yard signs, even if it's just on your block to raise that visibility of these progressive candidates because we've got to maintain, quote, The progressive majority such as it is in Texas, but it was instrumental in in Diane's victory in the last session where the lobby was able to keep the anti gay marriage bill out of committee what what a guy of thoughtful votes where he fought and fought.



01:13

And know the our Jesse Helms is His name is state representative orange ism. And he was trying to pass a bill that said, If ye ruled and allowed gays to get married, people who went over to get married in Hawaii wouldn't have those revenue marriages recognized in Texas, he tried to pass that and we were able to stop that. But but this time, I think we're gonna have a very difficult time because it's again, Representative Chisholm saying wants to be able to stop gays

and lesbians from being able to adopt. And he wants to pass that bill. And he's saying he's completely determined and will leave no stone unturned and a little bit of sympathy for this one. Yeah, he really wants to stop. And then people don't understand that that means, you know, you won't be able to adapt your own needs and your own nephew. And it's extreme, Texas is really wrong. But he's, he's really gonna put a ton of energy into it. So we, we really are gonna have to try to stop him. But if there's only one thing you do, if there's only one thing you do this year, for lesbian and gay Texans, and for yourself, it's to get to the to vote on November. I mean, vote in November, your your vote really, really matters in this time. And it really matters that you vote for progressive people.

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Sarah DePalma 02:33

So people in my community for every time they do not vote. That's like allowing the right wing accounts to vote for them and going for you didn't vote. Well. And

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02:44

you know, it's not to say and I'll just go ahead and say it I won't be as diplomatic as Diane's been, you know. It's important to remember that while there are some great Republicans out there who are fair minded, most of them are in the northeast, but there are a few of them in Texas, the sad reality is that we have to have right now in Texas, a Democratic majority in the legislature, because a Democratic majority translates into Pete Laney being the Speaker of the House, and a Republican majority could quite possibly translate into Lauren Chisholm, the author of all this hate your legislation not being the Speaker of the House. And if you think we would have a snowball's chance in hell of keeping anything out of committee and from counting to the floor, we wouldn't, and it's frightening and unfortunately, and I hate to talk in this kind of partisan terms, but it's the reality. The reality is we've got to have John Sharp as lieutenant governor.

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Sarah DePalma 03:42

Imagine Jesse Helms as Speaker of the House of Representatives, and you get the idea. That's right.

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03:46

People, right. And as a newt Gingrich, this guy's just as bad as terrible. You know, it's really unfortunate that there are not more moderate voices in the Republican Party right now. And it's really unfortunate that we don't have moderate standing up to the extreme right wing's proposals to, you know, real, that are really aimed at hurting our community. And that's a shame, you know, because I don't think that one party should be the only party for our community to seek support from right but unfortunate, unfortunately, I'd be lying to you. If I told you it was okay to vote Republican in this election. It's not. You got to vote. You got to vote democratic. That's That's it.

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Sarah DePalma 04:31

We recently did a survey in transgender communities, Texas, and I asked them to list their political priorities. And the top three positions were jobs, jobs, jobs and jobs. And I know the LGL is working on a version of Texas and I wanted to talk about that a little bit. We

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04:49

we are so most people are familiar with the employment non discrimination act and in Washington, right being filed in his before Congress, we have a version of that it's called Texan. And it will prohibit job discrimination based on sexual orientation. And it's kind of the biggest issue, you know, really fought for our community or other than hate related violence, because, you know, we have had lived through an epidemic of hate related violence. That's just shameful for Texans to have to continually deal with, and we need our legislature to do something about hate crimes is just far too long that they refuse to act on that issue. But But, but the next thing is that it's it's important, you know, people call their two issues that people call my office about all the time I had been fired, what are my rights? What can I do about it? And unfortunately, if you don't live in Austin, Austin is the only one that has a citywide non discrimination policy, or for

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Sarah DePalma 05:50

that part away is my number one call up and fired. Or I started transition, they told me was okay, and now I'm still been fired, what do I do? What am I have no protection, no protection, whatsoever. And so

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06:02

we can talk to people all we want about coming out, and you know how important it is to be out, but when people can't, are not able to come out and, you know, at least have a job, then, you know, they can't put bread and butter on their table. And it's really kind of a false thing to say that it's okay to be out when we can't provide job protections for people. So now everybody can get fired for being gay.

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06:26

As far as an ordering dinner. Yeah,

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aren't we moving in the direction of ensuring that the transgender community is going to be protected by such a bill,

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the bill, this is this is a real thing, we're really proud of them that we're going to introduce a bill this session that as both sexual orientation and gender identity in it, when we call for the passage of a non discrimination in an employment bill. And, you know, I think it'll be a great educational opportunity to do that kind of work, and just at least talk about what it's like for people to lose their job because they're transgender, or because they're gay or lesbian in this state, and how, what devastating effects that has on people. So, you know, I think that that will be really an important issue again, and it's certainly something we've talked about and worked on together.

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Sarah DePalma 07:17

Now. I moved on a little time that we have left, I know, no clarity, you're on the board of directors of the National Gay Lesbian Task Force. Okay. You the first, your first person from Houston, I think

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07:28

I'm in Florida. And he actually there have been some other folks in Houston over the years because, you know, the task force is actually the oldest queer civil rights organization in the country, celebrating 25 years this year. There have been some other folks, it's been a few years, I think, since we've had a Texas board member, certainly a Houston board member. And I'm really proud and, and pretty humbled by the experience of attending my first board meeting in May. It's a pretty dynamic, impressive group of people who have just a marvelous history of activism and organizing and hard work in their individual communities.

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Sarah DePalma 08:04

I know they included readded trend of transgenders to the mission statement, right. And there are probably as many transgender members of the gLTF. Now as there are any organization anywhere in the country. Well, I hardly know anybody who has not sent in their money as a result of that since I think that's been a step forward.

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08:23

Right. The task force is proud of that, that addition to the mission statement, and of course, the task force believes that it's part of a broader social justice movement, and that it's so important to work on numerous issues, whether it's from redaction or immigration issues and, and embraces the gay lesbian, bisexual transgender community. I believe the task force is the first national queer group to have a transgender person

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Sarah DePalma 08:51

on the border, you're on board, as far as I know that the first year LJ Irving



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is from Oakland, California. And she and I attended our first board meeting together in May. So it was exciting.



S Sarah DePalma 09:01

And I know you're involved in some national activities as well. You're miked up about the origins, the organization states that you're involved with and what they're doing.



09:09

Yeah, I'm right now I'm chairing co chairing the Federation of Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, Bisexual state organizations. And it's really important, like as a political movement that every state have a statewide lobbying group because I think something that happens all over is that people do not realize how important state government is and how many decisions that state government controls about our lives. And you know, people tend to follow what's going on locally, they tend to follow what's going on in Washington, especially right now. And they sometimes forget the power of what happens in state legislator legislatures. And so the federation of states is trying to help make every statewide law every state have a statewide queer law. One group. And I think that's a mammoth task. Right now, Texas has one of the oldest statewide lobbying organizations, but I really have a dream for there to be good strong state lobbies. In every state, we need them. No states are in state government. It's it's state government that determines family issues, and, you know, custody issues and marriage rights. And it's state government and state legislators, legislatures that decide whether or not we're criminals in a state, and what we can do about hate crimes, those are state laws. And so, and we need state funding for HIV AIDS and HIV, and there are many issues like non discrimination and employment has, you know, if we don't get a federal law, our only chance in the States. So in addition to that the the right wing is really focusing on state legislators, legislatures right now. And so we too, have to have an equally strong voice there.



S Sarah DePalma 11:03

Right. I agree. I agree. I know, in Colorado, there's a person that we've talked about in our show, I mean, Diane, second, Taylor. And Diane is probably one of the top transgender rights activists in the United States right now. And one of and one of the things that she has talked about is how is the power of the right wing, she's located in, in the in the area, she is surrounded by more right wing political organizations. Focus on the Family is located a block from where she lives, Colorado Springs, unbelievable. And she talks about the power of the radio stations they've got all over the United States, and the power of their meat of the press, and the amount of money they can raise, Focus on the Family raise million dollars in one day. And she talks about that, and she's always talking about, you know, if you don't stand up against that, they'll simply roll you over. And I think that's what our audience is hearing here today, is that what it comes down to is you've got to stand up, or be prepared to lay down one or two?



12:05

Well, you know, when when the task force really began to focus more on the importance of what's happening in the stakes and facilitated the formation of the Federation of statewide gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender political groups, and move forward with the idea of of really tangibly developing a grassroots movement, because that's what this is all about is grassroots. It's got to be from the bottom. And we've got to have that kind of intensive organizational structure that the right has. And, you know, we have a great fight the right program, right now, the task force has been going around the country fighting, right. And it's so important for all of our groups to realize that this has to be a coalition, it has to be partnering. And it has to be at every level, when it's important for what's going on in Washington. It's vital for what's going on in Austin. And it's vital for what's happening here. You know, we have lobby groups in Washington, and that may do a great job lobbying, but they don't determine who they have to lobby, who does the local groups on the statewide and local level determined, and really, the local groups actually have a huge impact on which member of Congress is reelected, or not reelected, and state representative, and it's so important for folks to realize how critical each of those levels are. And I would, you know, people ask me, Well, I just don't have the money to remember every one of those groups. Yeah, right. You know, don't go to the black IP once a week, you know, once a month,



S Sarah DePalma 13:39

come on, remember the engineer? Yeah. And I can bear in on broke half the time. So buddy, buddy. Well, and,



13:45

and people asked me and I said, you know, everybody has \$100 a year if they can devote to the cause for quality, freedom, justice and equality. And you take that \$100 A year and if that's all you have, give a third of it to a state room give a third of that to a national group and a third of it to a local group.



14:04

You'd have a big event. Why don't you talk about that? A little time we've gotten that well,



14:09

the 23rd Anniversary Gala of the Houston gay lesbian Political Caucus is coming up Saturday the 19th. And it's going to be a wonderful event. The Houston Mayor Lee Brown will be one of the honorees and he will be there speaking to the group about his initiatives that he promised he would initiate during the campaign and he's followed through on hate crimes and enhancing education for police officers, and also the executive order that was issued banning workplace discrimination in the city. So he'll be there Carrie LaBelle, the executive director of the task force will be guest speaker, city council member nice Parker, other city council member state senator Rodney Ellis will be there Congress member Sheila Jackson Lee. That's gonna be a

wonderful event. We're gonna have a great silent auction. Lots of fun, interesting things, it'll be a lot of fun for folks to look at and buy and realize that this is the main event. For local, locally organized, get out the vote activity funding, this is our major event of the year is this gala, and it's gonna be a lot of fun, it's gonna be the Warwick you can call 713-521-1000. If you want information, tickets are \$75. And believe it or not, you know, I know that's a little expensive for some folks. But we've really tried to keep that cost down. So this isn't \$150 of light dinner, because we're trying to make sure that everybody has that opportunity to come and be supportive, but it's also a fundraiser. So that's my spiel. On the gala, it's going to be a lot of fun. And we hope that the folks will come and have a good time.



15:51

And then tell folks how they can become members of the LTR rail and you're going to hear your first I'm actually recommending if you're transgendered, get out your purse, get out your money, Diane's gonna tell you how to send it in, do it.



16:07

And we can we you can become a member by sending us your whatever membership amount you can afford at our addresses to send it to LG IRL, at PO Box 2340, Austin, Texas 78768. And can I just do a plug real quick for the town. We're gonna have a town hall meeting on October 7 at the Metropolitan Community at the MCC metropolitan. We're gonna have it on October 7 At seven o'clock. And I encourage you, it's really important that we get your membership and we want you to be a member. But we'd love for people to come to the October 7 meeting to be involved in our efforts to stop this. This bill that would ban gays from being able to adopt even our own relatives in Texas. And so we need people to come and be involved in that. So again, that's October 7, seven o'clock at the MCC our church. And if you need more information about that, go ahead and pause it 512-474-5475



S Sarah DePalma 17:15

Or they can contact you by email. And I'll give them an email in a little bit. And we'll be glad to talk about that.



17:20

And certainly if they can't make a long distance call, they can certainly call 713-521-1000 Then we'll have that information available. Because that's so important.



17:30

We need people to be involved in lobbying work



17:32



17:34

with the lobbyists doing people need to understand it and they need to be a part of of the effort to keep this stuff from happening and make some good stuff happen.

**Sarah DePalma 17:41**

A lot of political power at this table. This has really been fun. Thank you all very much. Thanks.



17:55

Woohoo, yes. You taped over a tape, didn't you?

**Sarah DePalma 18:01**

Really, really keen to ensure



18:03

did Gosh, and we weren't paying attention where we know we

**Sarah DePalma 18:06**

were talking about how we didn't go how Jimmy got an award at that dinner. And I didn't go because I couldn't afford 75 bucks.



18:14

Yeah, well, it was great. It was great. I really enjoyed that. I got the Dennis Spencer award for promoting for, for promoting civil rights for all in the community. Well, good. You deserve. I was really proud of that. Anyway, we haven't played Robert Urban. And he's another one of the artists that after ours only is featuring for a \$35 or more pledge on plastic. I know you have to tell Roy, you want it though. And so I'd like to get this in before the end of the show. Yeah, go for it. Okay, Robert Urban, and it's from his album called godless. But he's, he's more of a poet. I mean, he's really he does beautiful, beautiful, beautiful wording. So listen to the words on this. It's called We Are The Haunted and you're listening to it on after hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston, and ke o s College Station



19:20

Robert Urban from his album godless and that cut was called. We are the We Are the haunted.



Sarah DePalma 19:20



Saran DePalma 19:29

Very, very pretty piece of music.



19:31

Isn't that pretty? He does. He does. I love his guitar work. It's



Sarah DePalma 19:35

very nice guitar work. He's got a very nice kind of a light airy kind of voice. Yeah. Not and lyrics on that were good too.



19:43

Yeah, there's there's a lot of good stuff on this. And this is one of those that we're giving away.



Sarah DePalma 19:48

And it's still there's still times



Jimmy Carper 19:51

and so far only Michelle has picked up on any of the CDs and that number is 526573852 6k P F T with your pledge of support for after hours and Kpf. D.



20:06

I wanted to talk a little bit before we go out here and want to talk a little bit about the interview. Yeah, that's what Diane was talking about was that in the upcoming legislative session, Warren Chisholm, who is as bad as right wing as a person can humanly



20:23

go, he is the Jesse Helms of Texas, he truly is,



Sarah DePalma 20:27

is going to file a bill that would forbid adoption of children, by gays and lesbians. Now, the real problem with this bill is the wording that we have seen, would make it past making impossible for let's say, for example, you had a brother who had who was killed, and it would make it impossible for you to adopt his children.



20:49

Now, that's not right. No, that is not right.



S Sarah DePalma 20:53

But in a way sickly, what it would do, is it would say that gays and lesbians are unfit for adoption. And what they're using is 2106. They're saying the gays and lesbians are known and willing violators of the law. Therefore, they are not fit role models as parents



21:11

were in a minute. Am I confused? Or did we get rid of 21? Oh,



S Sarah DePalma 21:15

no, no, no. 2106 is still in the books, dear.



21:19

Oh, I thought a judge would knock that down. Nope. Refuse to do it. Well, I'm confused. I'm confused then. Okay. So



S Sarah DePalma 21:27

the situation is they are going to use it essentially would criminalize? Well, yeah, it really would, it would criminalize gays and gay and lesbians. And this is a huge issue in the transgender community as well. Well,



21:40

not only that, but I mean, he's got a good case on that, because 2106 is used to keep gays and lesbians from becoming police officers.



S Sarah DePalma 21:52

This silly thing about a Jimmy's. It's only a third class misdemeanor. It's like it's it's equal to getting a speeding ticket. But he if you're homophobic, and if you hate gays and lesbians, and you would like to find a way to marginalize them. It's a pretty smart tactic.

M

Michelle Meyers 22:13

Sure, awesome. Yeah. I wonder, will it be based on 2106? Or will it be based on a Class C misdemeanor?

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Sarah DePalma 22:21

Well, actually, they're going to be using the misdemeanor part of it, but the way that Warren Chisholm will present it, he's going to make it sound as if gays and lesbians roles bunch of criminals. Yeah.

M

Michelle Meyers 22:31

So if Warren cision has gotten a traffic ticket as a Class C misdemeanor, he will not be eligible to die.

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22:39

Well, it would work that well. Here's

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Sarah DePalma 22:42

the real problem in Colorado. That's how it started to they started out with a bill that sounded like it was fairly innocuous. The next thing you knew there were over 100 bills filed in legislature that were anti gay, anti bisexual or anti transgender in some capacity brother in what their intention is for the upcoming session. That is arch conservatives, plan flood is many of these committees as they can with anti gay legislation hoping they will get at least one or two of these through. What it amounts to is this is an all out assault on those of us who call ourselves queer, yeah. And of course, this is a huge, huge issue in the transgender community, because of course transgenders do adopt. Many of them have legal same sex marriages. And it raises a question depending on how law is written, whether the state could say, well, if you're transgender, you're an unfit parent, and therefore CPS can come get your kids

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23:41

and, and bisexuality. Well, Chris, bisexuals

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Sarah DePalma 23:45

are so quiet unless they come out of the closet. Oh, who's gonna know. But as we talked earlier, transgenders have nowhere to hide. We're pretty obvious.

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limmv Carper 23:54

There's an old saying, I'm listening. I'm wondering how I can word this. You know, you have if you're a male, if you have sex with 1000 women, you're straight. But if you suck one penis, you are gay forever. Well, this is the mentality that goes into this type of thing. And by that, I mean, just just think of the mentality of that because it is down, putting down anyone who would suck a penis.

 S Sarah DePalma 24:38

Well, of course it is. And Warren Chisholm, of course, is the darling of the right wing. Yeah. The real issue that people need to

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sexuals would would be included in this. Well,

 S Sarah DePalma 24:50

yes. And I think what people understand is that this is most likely just a stepping stone. This is this is just going to be the first step and I promise Diane, that that are that my group on the Texas gender information network will help them on this issue and we will stand with them on this issue. In return, Diane is getting the LG URL to include transgenders into the Texas version of ENDA. Now, I realize we probably have no chance at all passing that bill this session, having said that, this is a tremendous tool for education. It's a grill, it's a great place to begin. Yes. But I have decided in this session, at least, that we are not going to come forward with the hate crimes bill. I frankly just don't see the need for it. Just yesterday, they executed a man who was involved in in the murder of a game yet. Now, if they're going to execute people, how much more do you want? Exactly? I mean, at some point, you have to say, wait a minute, how would it help? How would a hate crimes legislation have helped this? I mean, it just executed the guy. What did you want? Yeah, so I kind of don't, I really don't see the need for it. However, on the last Wednesday, of January, we're going to have the first ever transgender Lobby Day in Austin, our very first is going to be pattern along lines of transgender lobby day in Washington, DC. And we're going to go there, we're going to be talking about some of the legislation that we have forward. We'll be bringing forward the name change bill will be involved with the Texas end. And I would say to you, and whether you're gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered. Now is not the time to hide. Here we are coming out day. Now is not the time to hide. Because more than ever, we are under attack. It is time for you to stand up and be counted. You bet. This legislation but a Warren Chisholm is, well, I don't know how to put this any other way. He's one of the worst homophobes have ever come across. He's

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he's pretty damn bad. And let's face it,

 S Sarah DePalma 27:01

he's out to get us. Yep. That's, I mean, I'm sorry to put it any other way. But that's the truth. So I would encourage you out and something else that came up in the interview that I need to repeat, if you are planning to stay home this election, don't those races, it's probably true. We can't affect the governor's race. But it's vital that we get a friendly candidate to win for lieutenant governor, and especially in the state representatives races. Because if Warren Chisholm, he has an all a lot of conservative allies in the house this time around, we're in deep trouble. A lot of really, really deep trouble.

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Michelle Meyers 27:43

The other place where it's really important to get out and vote is in the area of the judges, judges and our boards. Yeah, there are a lot of judges running this time, and family court. And all the courts, and it's vitally important for everyone, because that's where you get touched. When you go to court. It's important to get the right people on the benches.

S

Sarah DePalma 28:15

You know, Michelle, it's really kind of sad. The reason the right wing has the influence does is because the vast majority of people stay at home. It gives the right wing strength. If people actually turned out they would have very, very little influence because they're outnumbered. But if the vast majority of people stay home, it makes their strength in their power. That much more important.

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Michelle Meyers 28:39

That's absolutely correct.

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28:41

Thank you. You've been listening to after hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station. I'm Jimmy Carper. And I've got a note here from Carol in West Houston. And she wanted a song by The Beatles which I don't have, which is Happy Birthday, because it's her husband's birthday. And guess what his name is? Steve there's this has been a Steve night.

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Sarah DePalma 29:12

This has been our night Christine. Yeah.

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29:16

Oh, Steve, happy birthday.

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Sarah DePalma 29:19

Happy birthday to you. That's close. I'm gonna get

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29:22

Okay. Coming up in two minutes we'll be Big Daddy j with the red eyes special. And until then, oh, in the background, you're hearing my favorite new artist as squizzy toe with his song higher ground so I'm going to shut up so you can at least listen to the last minute of it.

s

Sarah DePalma 29:46

Remember when decorum becomes repression? The only dignity free people have is to speak out. Good night, y'all.

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29:58

Welcome to the radar spy Show I'm your host Big Daddy j and this is KPFT nanny dot one in Easton ke o s 89.1 in College Station, the sound of Texas and blues. Let's get this show a rolling down the tracks