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SPEAKERS

Jimmy Carper, Sarah DePalma



00:01

More hello from breaking loose on campus at that point is that it was during the summer? Yes, that's right. Now obviously they have summer school and there are people on campus but there's no organized Corps during the summer. That's a good thing during football season.



00:17

You would have been killed



Sarah DePalma 00:18

the big rumor. And this apparently was more than rumor was a bunch of the member of the Corps Cadets were looking for me to quad me. Now what clotting is, this is a good tradition, I'm gonna say, tradition, well, sort of, it's no longer legal theoretically, what they would do is they would opt anyone, they would take and tie somebody down to one of the concrete things that were there were seats, that would tie them down, that would get somebody up on top of the highest part of the dormitory. And they would take these big garbage buckets of water and pour them out of these third or fourth storey windows onto your genitals. Wow, that was called clotting. Yeah, bad. And I learned lasers. That was not what it happens. Yeah, I learned later that it was not a rumor, they really had been looking for me. So I am going to be very curious to see how a&m has changed? Because I don't remember it fondly?



01:11

Well, I'm, for various reasons that I've gone back up there fairly frequently after I graduated, I've seen it change gradually. My impression of it is that there are more out people there. There are a lot of more people that are willing to be liberal. I admit it, but it's like society. And you know, anyone from a&m listening? You know, I'm willing to admit I might be wrong on this. But this is just an impression of someone who pops in there once or twice a year is that it is

become polarized like the rest of society. Yeah, you have a lot more out liberals. But a lot more. Really, really right wing nut cases. Yes. You see the division, and not much in the middle of a bar. Oh,

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Sarah DePalma 02:02

wait, we we had Jerry Falwell came to the campus, and I'll never forget this. How could you forget that? And and Jerry Falwell came to the campus, they had had a book burning the day before? Because burning, Jerry Falwell advocated the burning of books that he considered sinful.

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02:19

Oh, boy, that's I mean, that's right. That's right down there with Hitler.

S

Sarah DePalma 02:23

So I was invited, because I was the member. I was the director of the ACLU on campus. So he went on, and he gave his speech about this book and that book, and I was cool about it. I just let them talk you get through and I set up and said, Would you mind explaining to me specifically which books you advocate the burning of? And essentially came down to anything that was ever written by any homosexual? So my question was, then we should we should we should do away with economics. Because Because John Maynard Keynes was homosexual, right. So should we do away with that? He specifically specifically wanted The Grapes of Wrath done away with and you know, why Grapes of Wrath Grapes of Wrath, because at the end of the book, one of the characters breastfeeds a starving man, he isn't your husband. Oh. And as I pointed out to him, it's the only act of decency in a book that runs 700 pages. And that's the one he objects to. He objected anything that was written by Hemingway because Hemingway was go homosexual, or at least bisexual. And I'm thinking, wait a minute now. That's two Nobel Prize winners, and he's just getting started. By the time he got through people in the audience, I can't I don't I kid you not. Their jaws were practically to their knees. They couldn't believe this guy. Now just kind of sat back and thought, let him hang himself. Yeah, because he thinks is a sympathetic audience. He got through the audience was looking tears head off. Good. And I thought he may never come back.

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03:50

We obviously didn't.

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Sarah DePalma 03:54

He was a fat scientist who had better be sued. I don't want to say

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that was a defense and he is not skinny.

S

Sarah DePalma 04:05

No, I'm not gonna say it.

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04:06

You're not gonna say you're not gonna say it was a fat bastard.

S

Sarah DePalma 04:09

I was gonna say he was a fat slob.

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04:12

Oh, no, with all his money, he can afford good suits. He's a drooling raving maniac as far as I'm concerned.

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Sarah DePalma 04:20

Well, three weeks later, Phyllis Schlafly came on campus. Oh, another beauty. Yeah. And a&m was the only public university in the state to vote down the equal rights.

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04:31

Probably the only the only college that would have her on its campus.

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Sarah DePalma 04:35

Oh, well, we she was a conquering hero to Texas a&m. So anyway, I digress from what we said the subject matter was going to be but I am looking forward to going up there in October the eighth it should be very interesting. Now Phyllis has been there many times since graduation, but this will be my first.

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04:51

Okay. This will be this will be Katrina's for



04:53

Lu, where we play a couple of songs and then we'll get back to the subject that We're all talking about surgery, which is sex reassignment surgery, right? We're and we're slashing the myth that how that surgery is just the cuttings, so to speak. So



S Sarah DePalma 05:19

if you're looking to make a change in your life, this is the biggest change you can make.



05:23

But it's not just cutting off your feet.



S Sarah DePalma 05:25

No it is not it. No, we're gonna come back and talk about the



05:29

words. I'm going to play. I think a couple of songs one, the first one is your favorite. And it's by a strange little group called the Kinsey SIG. I know this song, you know this song. It's a beautiful song. It's, this is a great album by them. Drag apella si si que es six for drag queens, doing four part harmony. And there are nine teen songs on this 18 of them are humorous one is serious and it's the best song and song. I wish I knew how it would feel to be free. And you're hearing it on after hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and ke o s College Station we are the queer sound of Texas Mark Weigel, I think like our white gal Michael beautiful piece of music that was that was called No More like nights alone. And it was a duet with a man named Blackberry. That's his name. You remember that? A BlackBerry is one. He may be the first openly gay entertainer. He was on walls to roses. I mean, he's, he's, he's he did the folk thing. Really openly gay, bad. Never back in the 60s. Yeah. Never heard of him. Yeah, he's has two albums out. He hasn't done much lately. And I was really, I got this on the internet for a mark. And I was just thrilled to see that there was a duet with blackberry that he was still around doing stuff. He the man. Gosh, he was an adult back then. So he's got to be 67 years old. Yeah.



S Sarah DePalma 07:21

You think he's probably retired is tomorrow? Yeah. Yeah,



07:24

he's got a wonderful voice. And he did some great. I've got one of his songs that I have these blue things back here that we're not supposed to talk about. But their carts. Yeah, it's when when when you want when something is really important for your show. You put it on whether

it's called a cart, and we have special card players and I mean, it's just kind of a permanent feel a track folks. Yeah. And and you just put them in there and it plays that one thing and, and his song was so important to me that I've got it on one of those. Is that right? Yes. Yes.

S

Sarah DePalma 07:58

That's really that's interesting. Say we learned something about Jimmy all the time.

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08:01

Mark. Why go and of course before that, like we told you. It was the Kinsey six with I wish it would feel to be free.

S

Sarah DePalma 08:12

I think we're in same shape as the transmitter tonight is

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08:14

235. You're listening to after hours.

S

Sarah DePalma 08:19

We hear radio that are weak. We're tonight,

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08:24

Julie Carper. And Sarah dipalma is here with Katrina rose. And we're going to finish up discussing s r s, which is sex reassignment surgery.

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Sarah DePalma 08:35

Now, I want to

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08:39

Oh, wait, if I turned you on, it would help. Okay, sorry. Oh,

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08:43

you turn me? No. No. since we only have a few minutes. if there's one point we touched on at

you can tell. No. No, since we only have a few minutes, if there's one point we touched on at the beginning, but we really, really need to get to, and that is the self health issue. One thing, any in a young person out there, thinks that he or she is transgendered, and is thinking about possibly getting to the point or surgery at some point in their lives. Do not under any circumstances. Go at it yourself for several reasons. Number one, just think about what will happen if you start cutting on that area of your body or veins there

 S Sarah DePalma 09:21

in a therapist is going to consider that abuse or literally, in this case, self abuse and they may never approve your surgery. Yes.

 09:31

And that would be the best situation under that. After doing something like that, because you may very well not make it to a therapist, or they may have committed vain down there. You will die they may very well have you committed for that. Yeah. And if and if you try that and survive. You may very well have damaged the skin there enough to wear a surgeon surgeon would not attempt to do legitimate SRS on you. So even if you survive, you may have damaged your your chances of having surgery ever, under any circumstances. Bottom line is, you know if you're 1112 years old or whatever and having, you know, transgender thoughts in your head and you are even you can very well be sure of yourself at that point as far as Yeah, I know. Something's something's up. There's no way you're gonna have surgery when you're 12 years old. Wait.

 S Sarah DePalma 10:33

Well, I wanted to talk about it a little bit from personal perspective and let the audience in on this a little bit, because, and they've heard they've heard me talk in the past. But yeah, I was gonna do it. No, I wasn't Yes, I was No, I wasn't. Here's kind of the situation that I'm looking at right now. I have been downloading various pieces of information off of the net. And I've been looking at pictures, that of what the women have looked like, after the surgery. What I've discovered is some of the surgeries look quite satisfactory. Yes, some of them look like the women have been mutilated. Only 40% of the women are orgasmic after surgery.

 11:20

I've read that before. That's not acceptable.

 S Sarah DePalma 11:24

That's to me, that's not an acceptable number. Now. As I've told Lori, in fact, come back non orgasmic That doctor is in serious trouble. But at truthfully, there's nothing you know, that you can do to ensure you will be absolutely there isn't. A number of doctors have had different kinds of problems. For example, as part of the surgery, some of the doctors will gather the skin into one spot, and it will start to harden.



11:54

Wait a minute now gather what skin they after the surgery



S Sarah DePalma 11:57

has been done. And the person is now at least to is now the surgery is their vagina has been created. There is some excess skin leftover that really doesn't have a lot of purpose. So there's some debate over what you do with it. Some doctors simply take and spread it out in the picture showing you Dr. Menard, where they pull it up in the way some doctors have tried just sort of pulling it into a little spot and just pushing it away out of the side. Well,



12:26

it's not enough like to make a labia



S Sarah DePalma 12:30

are now okay. And that within hardens, is what's known as the fistula.



12:36

Oh no, you don't want that



S Sarah DePalma 12:37

it is extremely painful. So, if the doctor doesn't know exactly what they're doing, you're likely going back to have some of the surgery fixed. Oh man. And for many doctors, the creation of a labia is a secondary surgery. Now more and more doctors are learning how to do this all in one. All in one surgery, Dr. Menard has been doing all in one surgery. On the other hand, an average surgery runs two hours with Dr. Minority it runs three and a half oops, okay, because the longer



13:12

the longer you're under the knife though the the more serious complications can occur.



S Sarah DePalma 13:17

Consequently, Dr. Menard requires transfusions for as part of the search as part of his search process. These are all issues you have to look at before you decide where you're going to go, what doctor you're going to do, you're going to have



13:33

another thing that in your age has a lot to do with it. He has



S Sarah DePalma 13:37

something to do with it. Um, we looked at one of the pictures tonight that I had brought in this person after surgery has only two inches of depth. Yes, only two inches. Dr. Schreyer likes to brag about things he says he produces more depth than any other doctor he does by creating a larger hole where your penis used to be. That's not always good. If for some people, it leads to severe bleeding and severe scarring. The point that I'm trying to make here is I'm at the point right now where I'm looking at these doctors and I'm discovering that all of them have very similar tech, very different techniques. They have different success rates. They have different types of care, before surgery. They have different requirements before surgery, they have different aftercare. They have different requirements of before you go in, I'm at the issue right now where I'm looking at these pictures, and then I'm looking at me, and I'm trying to imagine myself what will I look like when I come back from surgery? Yeah. And my big fear is, what if I come back looking like the wrong picture? And there is no guarantee



14:53

and what do you do if the doctor screws up?



S Sarah DePalma 14:58

I've heard some women say well, you know, you can always go to a good plastic surgeon with what money? Yeah, you just spent \$12,000 \$15,000 on your surgery with what money will you be going to a plastic surgeon in who's going to pay for that? Yeah. These are all really, really tough issues that a person has to look at. And I know there are probably people out in the audience saying well, but what's so difficult about this? Well without getting overly graphic, in essence, what they're going to do is they're going to turn the penis inside out, and they're going to use the scrotum. And at least more and more doctors are using this they're using as part of the vagina. This is major surgery, they're going to create an entirely new middle part of your body. This is serious stuff. The psychological aspect of this is incredible. Now, it's interesting the women that I have talked to, without almost exception, have said to me, the second day is the hardest. The second day after the surgery is the hardest. The first day you are not really with it, you're under a lot of sedation. You know surgery is just over the second day they start taking you off the morphine obviously they don't want you addicted and you begin to dawn on you what you've done. You had damn well better have been sure the day before the surgery. Because that second day after the surgery, it's going to occur to you that your body has changed forever. Yes, for ever. You better have been right.



J Jimmy Carper 16:40

I've I've read I think in an old tax newsletter diary from Carrie. Talking about her experience going to she went to documentary Dr. Renard and scenario printer.

S

Sarah DePalma 16:56

The thing about the thing about this is if it goes wrong, sometimes it isn't completely correctable and a good example that is a good friend of mine, Jessica Xavier, the director of its time America, she went to Dr. Biber, one of the top doctors in the country. She has had trouble with caring of vaginal wall ever since. She's had she's had gone back to Dr. Barbara three times to get it fixed. And he's at the point now she's developed so much scar tissue and may not be fixable. Yeah. You The thing is that this is not like going to the hospital. You can't sue your doctor if something goes wrong. Because this is a totally, totally, as least as far as law is concerned. They're going to tell you it's experimental surgery experimental and elective and elective and so basically, if something goes wrong, you're on your own. Yeah. Well, gee, golly, boys and girls, so you got to pay this this doctor 12 \$15,000 And you may not get satisfactory results from it. By the way, I still get to keep your money in Thank you very much. Yeah, exactly. That's something to think about. It. That's why it's always amazed me because I've heard women say, Well, no problem. You know, I'm gonna go run through my two years of, of transition. And I'm just gonna go run right up there and hit my surgery. And then they come home. You know, and it starts down on them. They've got swelling. It hurts like, like all get out. They're going to have to start doing dilators Dr. Menard uses a inflatable dilator that's put in immediately after the surgery so the skin won't close up on you. means at some point they have to deflate it and pull it out. Ouch. I'm Dr. Menard tries to get you up on your feet the third day? Yeah, no later than the third day. That's actually to your own benefit. But you have to remember folks, they took you off the morphine. K You have cotton stuffing up inside of your vagina. And most likely you still have a catheter and you're walking. Not a fun this is you know, this is no fun experience transsexuals do not say hey, let's go hip surgery next week. No. And this is why the therapists spend the time they do. It's why they make you take the test. They make you take you know, I

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19:14

had a very minor hernia surgery several quite a few years ago. Mine are very minor it was like almost day surgery. They had me up the next day and it was not fun.

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Sarah DePalma 19:29

And some ano the aftercare is a big issue. For example, I've talked to several people who want to Dr. Trang. Doctor Sring has his facility in Wisconsin. They tell me his after the aftercare is much better than Dr. Training is in the doctor training apparently is a brilliant technician and has the bedside manner of of me from a freight train. He just is not an on demand has got complex. I mean, I've actually heard him say look at what I created right now. Which is kind of scary.

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20:01

There are some doctors like that. And well, these. These are good doctors though

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Sarah DePalma 20:06

Oh, he's a great doctor just has no aftercare. I understand that the nurses in the facility itself is great. But he's not so hot. He's great at the surgery in in the surgery room, not before, not after. Dr. Menard from what I understand is a very personable guy. But I've also been told his results and not necessarily as good as Dr. Trainings, not not consistent, not consistent. So you have to ask yourself, what's important to me here?

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20:33

Am I going to be one of the lucky ones? Or am I going to come out with a two inch deep vagina?

S

Sarah DePalma 20:37

How much does the bedside manner count? How much does the aftercare count? And how much does the performance in the surgical room count? What matters to you?

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20:50

And another thing is, you talk about the two inch to two inch depth. If you are a transsexual, lesbian, and you know that that is not the biggest issue for you, that's something you, you might realize that going in and not count that as a negative, okay, I know people who specifically say, Look, you know, that's not an issue for me, okay.

S

Sarah DePalma 21:15

And I'm probably one of those people that don't view that as the end of the world. So when I look at that, I would look at and say, Well, I'd like to have had more but I can live with it. On the other hand, if you plan on the if you believe that your home a heterosexual woman, and you plan to have intercourse with a man two inches depth won't get

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21:32

it. Not not very much now.

S

Sarah DePalma 21:37

And that's another aspect which Katrina is exactly right. That's something you need to know about yourself before you go. Now, interesting. Only up until a few years ago, if you told your therapist that you were a lesbian, they wouldn't approve your surgery. Yeah, that's only

changed in the last few years. And largely that has changed as a result of transsexuals themselves, beating up on the Benjamins society, which is the group that theoretically puts out the the oversees all of us, let's say theoretically, because my mind to do a really lousy job. But



22:10

I've never been instrumental in the beating up I've been one of the people that



S Sarah DePalma 22:13

yeah, I will take some credit for this, Ricky Wilson's in in May. And a two or three other people just Xavier has been beating up on them. Like there's no tomorrow. Because our feeling is and I'll say this, quite honestly, I feel like the job they do stinks. If this is the best they can do and producing care for us, they should be fired. It's not acceptable to me that these doctors can produce wildly divergent results and all considered acceptable. Excuse me. Yeah, this is not roadie percent or orgasmic. And that's acceptable. If you know you wouldn't allow a veterinarian to produce those results for your dog. But this is perfectly acceptable for transsexual women, I don't think



23:01

send for incredible amounts of money, which is paid



S Sarah DePalma 23:05

in advance and is not refundable. If you die. They're not gonna give you the money to bury you forever. You know? Yes, this is a big deal. Now, the other thing, one of the things that I've found in talking to the women is find out what kind of nursing care it turns out. Some of the places have got terrific nurses in very good care. One of the one of the people, one of the places that actually has excellent care after surgery is in Galveston area, the facility the surgeon is not very good that frankly, wouldn't let him put a bandaid on me. Careful. Well, I've told him this to his face. And I'm not using his name on the year, but I mean, it's not we've discussed this, having said that his aftercare is among the best, because the nurses are terrific. So you have to ask yourself, Okay. And the difference there is the nurses.



23:57

Okay. Well, and yeah, I won't, I won't. Just because you did not. I won't mention his name either. But there are people I know. I know, people who have had their surgery in Galveston with this doctor who swear by him. That's thing, people.



S Sarah DePalma 24:15

He's terrible. He's got the longest recovery time of any doctor. I know.



24:23

But, you know, people, different people have to have their own different standards and sure what they consider to be to be a success. Yeah, I definitely agree that he's a he's a really personable guy. Yeah. I love listening to the guy talk. And he will. I think he, the few times I've heard I have heard him talk. I think he gives you some pretty straight talk. Yeah, because he will be at the meetings at the Rosenberg clinic. You know, they have what, twice a year twice a year. Yeah. And he comes in and answers questions and seems, you know, very willing to give give very, very detailed answers to questions that people have. And he has his very dry wit. Sometimes it takes takes a minute or two to for his jokes to sit down, but he he's a nice guy



S Sarah DePalma 25:13

and you are right. There are some women who swear by his care. Just have one of those people that he isn't going to be the doctor I'm going to go to I'm not willing to have a six week recuperation period. I'm sorry.



25:24

111 thing. One possible reason for that is is that that is not his specialty. Okay, yes, the the clinic down there does does not specialize in NSRS. These other doctors we've been talking about that is their, that's their livelihood, or their primary or exclusive practice.



S Sarah DePalma 25:44

That's right. One of the what I did is I downloaded some information. And I wanted to use some of this as an example. This was downloaded by a nurse who actually is a nurse for Dr. Train. And Dr. shrank asked her to put this on the net because he was aware that more and more people were coming there, knowing nothing about what they should expect, before surgery, or after surgery. And so here's some of what she talks about. A month before you school you're going in for your surgery, stop smoking, lose weight, walk two miles a day. Many doctors have so have said that a month before surgery hips. I've heard them say that you should also stop hormones. Now the reason makes a lot of sense. The hormones are a blood thinner. And they are concerned about your ability for your blood to coagulate after surgery. Yeah,



26:35

but isn't that kind of dangerous? Just getting off hormones. But



26:39

yeah, if you just suddenly stop Yes, but I one dear friend of mine who's preparing to go up Dr. shrine in about a month or so they're they're they're stepping her down? Yes. Or stepping down ~~all the hormones just like they stepped her off~~

all the hormones just like they stepped her off.

 S Sarah DePalma 26:53

Just just like stepping off a cigarette, they start to sit down your dosage. And it is for your own safety and surgery. Now want to make sure you're going to be able to clot afterwards. Well, yeah, you know, 14 days before the surgery. Well see now this doctor tracks is 14 days before stop taking your hormones. So that varies a little bit from doctor to doctor Menard says 30 days. On the day before your surgery, you're not allowed to eat. That's pretty obvious. I expect injections usually given in the hip of the thigh. You won't be allowed out of bed after your injections. So I mean, that's it, you're gay. That's the day before surgery. Now after surgery, you're going to feel groggy and sick. What a surprise. No surprise, your mouth will feel dry and you'll have a sore throat. You'll very possibly have an IV in your arm or your hand and you may have blood transfusing. Unless you're in severe pain. Don't ask for a painkiller. Oh, great. That just rearranged the entire center of your body. And this nurse to say, but don't ask for painkiller. Oh, good.

 28:00

She said just some whiskey.

 S Sarah DePalma 28:02

Yeah, unless unless you're in severe pain don't really ask you because you can only have a limited amount of morphine. And it's better for you to say that when you really need it. Like, when would that be? Exactly, brother? That's what I wanted to

 28:14

know. And so you're at the point of screaming, then

 28:17

yeah, I know, you can gather it all up and sell it to pay for and pay for aftercare. The number

 S Sarah DePalma 28:22

and type of tubes you'll have sticking out of you will depend on the hospital procedure, you'll probably have a catheter in inflatable prosthesis, minimum of two tubes. And I'm not even going to go into some of this because this is just to gross. But this is not a happy experience. And she's saying By the way, don't bring any the painkillers in it goes on from there. So the point that I think we've made, what brought home tonight is this. The go the decision for surgery is not something that you that anyone has would ever take lightly. In for those of you out there and I've heard from you on the net and who have thought that gee, surgery is

romantic. I hope we have disabused you. There. There is nothing romantic about this. And I strongly advocate you do what I'm doing. And that is visualize. Yes. Try to imagine yourself coming home without what you have now. And then see how your stomach feels. If your stomach doesn't turn topsy turvy, you might be okay. If you're getting a tightening of the stomach, reconsider it.



29:25

Remember you You're obviously aware of what's down there now. And you know what you want to be there? There's an in between stage and it ain't pretty. And that's surgery and immediately after Yes,



29:41

you don't just it doesn't happen no, doesn't happen



29:45

and you know, amount of money will do that. And you do not have



S Sarah DePalma 29:48

a choice not to have surgery and simply remain a transgendered person and that's absolutely legitimate.



29:55

Yes, and one of the many things that you know, the trans activists are fighting for is to get more lead legalization for all all aspects of people who do choose to remain without surgery. Because, you know, they're all all sorts of horror stories about people who've been living years, you know, pre op or not. And medical care suddenly has to be given to them and all of a sudden, oh no, she's



S Sarah DePalma 30:34

now Well, okay.



30:37

Listening to Yeah, we have to wrap this up because Big Daddy j is here. Bringing you the red eyes special right up at three o'clock you've been listening to after hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station. We are the queer sound of Texas. And in

the background, you're hearing small day tomorrow by Kelly gray off of the new fruit cocktail album, a neat album. Yeah. And Kelly gray is a jazz singer from Houston. Oh, who is now out of the closet and we are happy about it.

S

Sarah DePalma 31:15

And we invite you to remember our motto. When decorum becomes repression, the only dignity free people have is to speak out. Good night folks to stay dry.

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31:30

The sound of Texas KPFT Houston of Pacifica radio network station 90.1 FM 89.1k e os college station

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31:53

if you'd like good toe tap and get you up and jump in music, check out Joe's Roadhouse, where you'll find a great mix of music, comedy and interviews with local and national musicians. For the best in blues, swing and rock and roll tune into Joe's Roadhouse Sundays. Three to 6pm on Houston's 90.1 KPFT the sound of Texas to Elma stereo

♂

32:21

Welcome to the red eyes special. I'm your host Big Daddy J. And this is KPFT nanny dot one in Houston. Ke o s at 9.1 in College Station, the sound of Texas and we're still trying to dry out here

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32:43

Humam cinema please come back to me