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SPEAKERS

Mike Miesch, Ray Hill, Art Tomaszewski



00:08

Your hollowed holiday with goolish delight this Thursday at 8:30 in the evening on [Intro?]. Join us with the [thrills?] of rotting Meadow and entrancing Andre, [inaudible] terror from the damp English moore. Relish in the sardonic tale of intrigue, deception, debauchery, horror [inaudible] rotting Meadow will provide you an evening of unequaled entertainment. Much better than your spot Written Directed by Toby Alexander produced by Robert Magna technical production by Ten Viens. [Inaudible] the Golden Meadow an intro this Thursday evening at 830 Join us!



01:20

KPFT Houston [music]



01:35

KPFT ["For Mama" by Linda Lewis plays]



Mike Miesch 02:37

Good evening. You're listening to Wilde 'n' Stein. Thought of the program for tonight? Well, it had been one of those weeks and



Art Tomaszewski 02:50

We're just gonna wing it again, I guess.



Mike Miesch 02:52

Yeah. Um, I'm waiting for my guests show up. Ray will be making his appearance via telephone. And we're definitely going to be playing that by ear. Got a few things ready on tape. In the event, things don't work out. So it's going to be potpourri tonight. Right. We'll start off with announcements this evening. First right. On the 26th there will be a pre Halloween party and rock group with black white men together and that will be at 5102 Yoakum. And if you'd like more information you can call 5295006. Also, on concerts coming up Kathy Weiner and Betsy Rose will be in concert at Fitzgerald. And that's Tuesday, October 27 at 8pm. And if you need more information you can call Wilde 'n' Stein Books. And right now we'll have a little Meg Christian [music plays] Meg Christian, "Turning it Over" from her most recent album just trying to get things together a little bit because we're playing it by ear even more so then Last week, I had a little notice that neither my guests are showing up. And that was fun. And right now I'm just waiting. Right now there's something we haven't done in a long time. And that is this week in gay history. And you are there. Yes. And this is dedicated to the person who used to do that feature. Supposedly she's in the building and I'm talking about Lisa and then maybe we can get her in here. On for Monday, the 19th of this week, Umberto Buccino, Italian futurists painter and sculptor was once caught in bed where composer pianist Ferruccio Busoni. Buccino was born in Reggio Calabria on that date 19th of October and 1882. Tuesday the 20th is given to Macedonian King Demetrius the first who was so enamored of a you name Democles, pursued them to a bathhouse where the boy leaked to his death into a cauldron of boiling water. Another more sophisticated youth named Clentos simply asked for money. On the 21st of October in 1556, the Italian poet Pietro Aretino [inaudible] who began his life as a male prostitute and progressed to writing obscene but witty versus., died of strain of fit of laughter after hearing a dirty joke. Good joke dying with a smile on your face. You've heard that one before. And on the 22nd of October, which is today. The day is given to none other than Marquis de Sade. And the story has that while in prison after having fed a group of prostitute pills of Spanish Fly, and then sodomizing them, completes his masterpiece The 120 Days of Sodom. Well,

A

Art Tomaszewski 07:41

whatever it takes for inspiration, I guess.

M

Mike Miesch 07:44

Unfortunately for them. On the 23rd of October, born in 1925, Gore Vidal, who after his novels are long forgotten will probably be remembered as the finest American essayist of our time, and he was born in West Point, New York. Another well known writer, although he does more than that, Ned Rorem. Essayist, I should say, was born in 1923, Ned Rorem, who after us essays are long forgotten, and even though they're quite good, they may be forgotten, or be remembered as one of the finest American composers of our time, and he was born on the 23rd in 1923, in Richmond, Indiana. For commemorated on the 24th of October from 51, A.D. Emperor Domitian, whose love for a handsome pantomime [inaudible] are so intense that he divorces his wife to be with them. And Sunday, the 25th is given to Antinous the Emperor Hadrian's youthful lover, who committed suicide by drowning himself in the Nile at age 21. Possibly because he preferred to the die at the height of his beauty then, rather than facing the ravages of age, and that's this week in gay history.

A

Art Tomaszewski 09:22

Like I said, they didn't have Oil of Olay off all the way back.

M

Mike Miesch 09:25

Well right now we'll get into Uncle Artie's and Mr. Jack's neighborhood,

A

Art Tomaszewski 09:33

right are just going to start off with a cut by Roxy Music called Dance Away [music plays] That was Dance Away by Roxy Music. Well, I had something completely different planned for tonight here at Uncle Artie's neighborhood. But lately I've been talking I've been to a lot of people, and it seems like it's the time of year or something, but a lot of people are going through the blues are having troubles. And of course, it's not just one thing, you know, when something goes wrong, there's always six or seven other things that seem to happen in the same week, you know, your house gets broken until you break up your lover, you know, whatever, all those things seem to happen at once. And so I decided tonight, instead that I'm going to play upbeat music, just about all these songs is by an artist who has something to say about feeling good. You know, I sometimes it really gets bad, especially as it gets close to the holidays. So if you're a long way from family, if you just moved down here, and you don't really know anybody, it gets kind of tough. And I don't know I, I don't believe in the Pollyanna attitude toward life, because life can be really rough at best. But there's no reason that we shouldn't all make an effort to see the little things in life that make life really beautiful and worth living. And so that's what I'm going to play today I'm going to play music about how great life is and what to do when you don't feel that it's so great. And lots of times, you have every reason to believe that life isn't great. Right now. I have a little piece of advice from Carly Simon. Well, that was the incomparable Buffy Sainte-Marie singing I'm Going to be a Country Girl Again. And I feel just that way sometimes I'm ready to go. Before that we heard Fill Your Heart by David Bowie. That's a [bit rose?] tune. And that's that's the way Uncle Artie's feeling tonight. Just fill your heart and everything else will take care of itself. I hear y'all laughing out there all those people that know me. They know how normally gloomy I am. So that's it. I'm gonna I have a little poem here for this week. And then we're gonna play Heroes by-- off of Nico's new album. And then Ray Hill will be calling in we'll be talking to Ray. I'm looking forward to that. I haven't really had a chance to see Ray since he got back from Austin but be glad to hear it you know hear him tonight. I'm sure you all will. And this is a poem called Word Wonder by John D. Ankle Jr. Though he may never fully learn to use them as we ought words are nets in which to catch the falling stars of thought. And now we're gonna go to Heroes by Nico. [music plays] Thank you, Nico. She was getting a little carried away there. All right, now we're gonna bring Ray on. That was Uncle Artie's and Mr. Jack's neighborhood for this week. And remember I just keep smiling.

M

Mike Miesch 13:11

Good evening, Ray.

R

Ray Hill 13:12

Well, thank you. For the preceding upbeat feature. I'll try to keep mine in characteristic form. It's hard to do. I didn't commit this evening, because I developed some pains in the shoulder. I don't know how many of the listeners have had motorcycle accidents that caused crushed knees and broken clavicles and scraped and scratched stuff down the side. But that's what I've been through. I'm on demand, there are no cast, they were able to super glue and screw things back together so that I didn't have to carry around two or three yards and a ton of concrete. And that's thankful. And I'm already working on physical therapy, which is akin to your worst s&m fantasy. But they tell me that in a month or so I'll be down to one crutch and be able to get around pretty well with the ability to put some weight on my left leg. So I'm on demand. That hasn't stopped me entirely. And I was in radio station for the manager's report last Wednesday. Last Wednesday, I was in for manager's report and we had spent some time with Mike and Jean Palmquist, who is the person that has been selected by Pacific Foundation to replace me as manager of KPFT. And I think she's officially coming on board. Something like the ninth of November.

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Mike Miesch 14:41

Right. Some impressions on Jean, for the listeners. I think that probably be quite good right now.

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14:49

Well, my impressions of Jean, of course. Wednesday was the first time that I had an opportunity to actually sit across the board and chat with and you tell a lot about people when you do radio with them. On. Firstly, she knows a great thing about radio. She's a good programmer, a good broadcaster. She is comfortable with microphones. And what we talked about was various elements of the community radio business. And I kind of selected that topics and that the listeners could learn as I did. firsthand that she is knowledgeable about the entire field of community radio. She is involved as president as chairperson of the National Federation of community broadcasters executive committee, as our policy committee, as a person right at the hub of making decisions relative to the direction of all stations like KPFT, and other Pacifica radio stations, she comes to KPFT with a wonderful reputation from klp, and in Columbia, Missouri. And from just chatting with her, my immediate impression is that KPFT could not possibly be in better hands. She has her fingertips or at her fingertips, all of the resources in the industry where she has a good reputation. And she knows everybody that can provide assistance as KPFT needed it. Whereas I had to always pick up the telephone and call her and see if I could find someone with some expertise. She's not going to be having to suffer those kinds of delays. Plus the fact we've done a reasonably good job at KPFT. She has more resources to work with. She's in the process of selecting a program director and development director. And once that is done KPFT will become CPB qualified, and that means about this year 30 grand in federal monies to help with the cash flow. We're in the middle of a very successful marathon. And the return on this marathon has been more successful than on previous marathon simply because we've had the kinds of assistance in the station to make the processes flow easier. And Jean is a highly qualified person. Her interest in GED lesbian programming is established from klp and are interested in prison programming, which is another one that interested in me and the various kinds of minority programs. There were some folks that were wondering about how she's going to cotton to the atheist hour, which is a very important program on KPFT. That very afternoon, gay atheists League of America

participated in the atheist hour presentation. And but we've been advised by Jim that she's been running the Madalyn Murray O'Hair tapes, right. They've been available. So she's, she makes all of the kinds of critical qualifications that people ask questions about, plus the fact that she has an assertive looking, assertive sounding professional woman, which is going to add to the overall gestalt of Houston's community. I mean, I think that the listeners have Wilde 'n' Stein and listeners of KPFT in general, are going to learn to love her even more as we get to know her better.

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Mike Miesch 18:18

Well, I think one thing that started Saturday when she came in with the Prison Program was to talk about similar things she had done at KOPN and that put the press and program audience, you know, made them feel secure, as well as talking to her how she feels about not only gay programming, but feminist minority and music programming.

R

Ray Hill 18:48

Yeah, I think that all various elements of KPFT, who might be feeling insecure, can now no longer justify that insecurity. Because we have met her and she is one of us. He is the kind of community radio people that that make stations like KPFT I don't know what klp and was like, three years ago before she took over the management but scuttlebutt Rumor has it that it was pretty much out of control. It was kind of anarchistic. hodgepodge of a little bit of everything, and KPFT is a little more progressive than that. And, of course, KPFT being 100,000 Watt station in a major market is a lot different from being a 50,000 watt station in Columbia, Missouri. So it's also an opportunity for her to advance her career. And my impression was that she's very interested in that her career in the media. She's a qualified professional who has every reason to be interested in the development of her career in media. And if KPFT can reap the benefits of that. And she develops that career and continues what is already an established fine reputation. I think it's all to her or advantage decidedly,

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Mike Miesch 20:11

I'd one thing that I get asked a lot is, why is Ray Hill leaving and you're not leaving?

R

Ray Hill 20:20

No I'm not leaving. Actually, when I came on board as manager in February 1980, I had specific goals that I wanted to accomplish as manager, I made no mistake about it, I was not really qualified to be a public radio station manager. I knew how to run organizations owned small margins. That experience from March and Washington and just about everything I've done all my life. And I do reasonably well. Facilitating people's needs. And I was one of the founders of KPFT, I was one of the small handful of people that were out begging money to build such an entity in Houston. Before it was reality. So my commitment to the station, and my history of the station, plus the fact that I thought I had some management skills to offer, I went in to the job, looking for the day when KPFT would have its resources and qualifications for CPP and other things up to the level, but I could replace myself with a qualified community radio station

manager with some experience and proven track record. Those were my two primary goals along the way, I picked up a few others, such as enhancing media for non English speaking minority communities, that became very important to me. And I still think it's very important work and I was able to make a contribution in that general area. But I had completed my work. And there was a beginning to get a little threadbare, you get a little tired of an all consuming kind of position, which is manager of KPFT where's my friends could speak of additional records and additional gray hair. And but I by no means am disappointed with my administration, I am by no means at odds with Pacifica Foundation, which has my imminent respect and admiration as the whole of the organization is very finely put together. And it has some of the finest people in broadcasting ever involved in it right now. Some of that programming is in process as being manifest. And we're going to be hearing some things about first amendment rights and freedom of speech rights from Pacific a foundation that's really going to set standards, new standards for radio broadcasting and aggressive media coverage of issues of the day. And by the same token, Pacifica doesn't really have many complaints with me. I think that the whole of the organization has got nice things to say about the job that I did with resources that were available, and the jobs and not ideas, but the jobs that all of us together at KPFT were able to accomplish to get the station to the point that it is so that we can move on to a new level.

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Mike Miesch 23:26

All right, so a little bit about transition and some of your plans.

 R

Ray Hill 23:32

will transition is always a ticklish matter in an entity like KPFT because they realize that I think there's about 120 people a week or there was the last time I counted involved in the broadcast of a week's material. And among that 120 People are on great manufacturing people that are extremely committed to what they're doing. And as only each of them can have an understanding of the importance of their contributions to the media. Any transition causes a certain amount of insecurity, as each of these people who don't have a view of the station as an overall only of what they are doing looks like Mike doing well. And Sam Of course, Mike's advantage in that he does other things besides lungs. He's involved in the station, and he is more aware than most of the programmers and resultantly he is feeling less insecure than anybody else. I think that that speaks up the fact that you're where the action is, you understand what's going on and get a view. But those insecurities are are things that we all must work to. To address because a lot of them are unwarranted. Jean is going to continue the priorities that the station has had and add to that her priorities in programming and and in broadcast material. The last thing that gets affected of course The programming, the quality of the programming is first, and then the actual material allocates the program time comes somewhere down the line, nothing happens. Suddenly, in community radio, it's always an evolutionary process. As I say, Jim will be available when she completes her segway transition out of klp. And, and that will be around November, the ninth and until that time, I'm officially and by title, the managing radio station. However, my knee and other interest keeps me pretty much under wraps, I still oversee general cash flow and sign checks, do things of that nature, and facilitate that as much as possible from the telephone, the station has some expert help from the command ribbon have been fcb, who's been in town for some time. And we have the continued advantage of Nana RAM. And Sharon, who has been with us who is the Executive Director of Pacific Foundation, we'll be checking back with us from time to time. And then KPFT

has fine staff that can take care of itself. And so the transition is relatively simple matter, I had hoped that the Committee of the local board that was making decisions relative to the move would have come to a decision so we could be facilitating their station either needs to move or work at a new and better arrangement with the current landlord. And the committee is working on given by the management, some options, and as soon as they come to some kind of definitive decision, then we'll go to work on what that decision is. If we remain in the present facility, we're going to need additional listeners help and some cosmetic and structural repairs to the building and some work on that side. If we move, then we're going to need additional assistance and doing whatever is necessary to facilitate the move. And that's clouding the transition element a little bit. But nevertheless, before or after Jim comes aboard. She and I have a general understanding of what is needed in that area. And as soon as the appropriate parties make the decisions, then we can forward that I'll continue to be involved in KPFT programming. And after an appropriate sabbatical probably go back to my old role at the board. Now, what I hope to do in other media when I leave KPFT because apparently I have found accumulated a good bit of expertise in media during this process. That expertise has primarily been in the development of non English language programming. And that is an area that needs more than KPFT can offer. And so I'm going to be developing alternatives to broadcast using cable television networks and the FM frequencies of their own to distribute non English material to hungry and needing audiences for that material. And so that's kind of what I intend to take on as a project. In the meantime, other things are coming up all the time I'm giving serious consideration to running for political office next year, seems to be that we could do with a little more assertive representation on the commissioner's court. And I understand Tom bass is not seeking reelection. I don't know what those boundaries are going to look like because I haven't got through gerrymandering them yet. But I may definitely be interested in seeking a position on County Commissioners Court from the inner city district. I may also be interested in participating subject we another the new National march on Washington for lesbian gay rights, which has been called for by a conference in San Diego. That marches to occur next May 2. That was a project. The first march was a project that I played relatively major role after the death of Harvey. And I've been called on again to make contribution to that. And then all you do is define that row and go to work for that effort. I certainly am supportive of it. It depends on how I heal what how much of a role I'll be able to play in. And of course, there's my interest in Wilde 'n' Stein, which has not been mitre over the years.

M

Mike Miesch 29:53

Some thoughts on the upcoming elections? Well,

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Ray Hill 29:58

that's a very important thing. I'm glad you brought that up. But almost forgotten to do you haven't have an endorsement card over there my Yeah. Okay. Rather than going into all the candidates, I'd like to make a few comments about a few of the races. The test of this political strength began lesbian community in this election for the first time will be at the top of the ballot here to for our endorsements for against Mayor have kind of been well, they just have not received the kinds of attention that we've received in our endorsements of Kathy Whitmire for comptroller in the past, Eleanor Tinsley for city council just two years ago, and some of the other races that were a district in nature, of course, manslaughter. Race for both the legislature and the city council. The gay community played a major role in that was recognized for the

major role that it played. This time. The gay votes have they're playing with what we're here to for referred to as the big block votes, the big boys, and that's it at the top of the ballot with the mayor. So that gives us a strategic advantage or disadvantage. Have you ever looked at that? Can we measure up to that test and in my impression is that we can, apparently, irrespective what anybody says, the latest polls indicate that Kathy Whitmire is still holding a nice size lead in the mayor's race. Now, if you look at those figures, you see that everybody's somewhere in the range of 20 to 30% of the top front runners with smaller percentages trailing and heavy wittmeyer is ahead of the pack. Some polls say Jack herds winning second or the per post stage and makan is that in any case, Kathy, who is the endorsed candidate of gay Political Caucus, he's going to do very well in this election, she is currently the person to beat. And that's not going to be as easily done as discussed. So we've got a good chance of Kathy making it into, if not, indeed a winning position, at least a healthy advantage in the runoff. And I believe if we get into a runoff situation, I believe what's going to happen on the more conservative end of the spectrum is good old fashioned Houston dirty politics. And it has been my experience my observation of Houston city elections for the past, many, many years. And that is that the voters of Houston in a runoff election generally reject the more conservative of the candidate, simply because the more conservative the candidate gets scared and plays dirty politics. And I believe that if Jack Hurd were in a runoff situation with Kathy, I believe Jack would use dirty political methods to defeat her and I believe that would become self defeating for him. I know Jim Conway. I like to mention when I mentioned Jack heard some 20 years ago, I first became aware of Jack Hurd when he was a beat captain for the Houston Police Department and downtown area. And over the years, I have given up on being able to fix police people as a whole, but I thought that I would work on one to see if I could could make a difference in their thinking relative to us. And that one that I've worked on has been Jack Hurd. relatively close to Jack. I've talked to him frequently about issues in the gay and lesbian community, and have gotten him at least, to do react in some way positive. Whenever we had a complaint about conditions affecting gay men and lesbians in County custody. But after 20 years of work, I look at him on television to hear what the man says about us and everybody else. And apparently, that has that whole experience has been a failure, because deep down inside Jack Hurd really doesn't understand it. He really doesn't want to understand this, he really doesn't care to understand it. And unfortunately, kind of a personal failure for me because I've been working on that metric many years. And when I see him on television, spouting off about issues that affect us in complete and obvious, unawareness, that those issues affect us, then, then I feel a little sad because that means that I have been a failure at trying to alter the man's thinking about gay men and lesbians in Houston. The other races are very interesting George Prineas, who is not our heart boy the liberal community, but did receive the gay Political Caucus endorsement as he worked for the earned it that is going to be a test of strength in the district. I suspect Georgia is going to do very well. My message to everybody listening to this program is that the issues affecting Houstonians, gay men, lesbians, women, blacks, browns, Houstonians in general, have been looked at very carefully by their Political Caucus. And apolitical caucus is an organization that is dedicated to number one, endorse people that are qualified for the positions they seek. And we endorse people who have none of the kinds of prejudices that are great many political office holders. And there are some old names that we've endorsed in the past that will not occur this endorsement list because of various reasons. It's because the caucus does its job well. And if you are not aware of each candidate in each of the offices, and have a personal justification for voting for one person or another, because of a good rational reason that is important to you, and then suggest that you consider as a possible guideline for your votes, those endorsements made by a political Congress, because the process itself is remarkable, is referred to by all the politicians in town as the toughest endorsement in town. He is certainly among the most honest caster candidate, absolutely nothing to get endorsed by a Political Caucus. And I hope that will always be true. And the caucus then supplies at the

lowest cost, the largest number of voters to a candidate of any organization in this city, proud of the growth and development of a Political Caucus, very proud to have been a part of that. So as Mike reads over the various endorsements, if you have not researched the various races, if you're you know, if you've got a reason for voting for somebody for mayor, other than the one endorsed by a Political Caucus, and that's fine. But that doesn't mean that you have an understanding of the controllers race. Nor does that necessarily mean that you have an understanding of the various districts or city council members at large. So give some careful consideration to these names because these people have earned these endorsements not just because of their stand on gay and lesbian issues, because they're standing on the general states of freedoms affecting Houston Houstonians in general. And that process is a quality process. So Mike, I'll let you run through some endorsements. You're gonna hang around for other comments, are you going to dismiss me? Well, I

M

Mike Miesch 37:41

guess I'll dismiss you.

R

Ray Hill 37:43

Thank you very much. I'm sorry, I'm not there in person. But as long as [inaudible] lays down a line of wires, we can stay in reasonable contact. If anyone is looking for me for any reason, they can certainly reach me through the station. They are given instructions to give my bedside telephone number readily and those of you who are in the gay and lesbian community, I'm using the Houston town Houston town meeting is to give it rightly telephone number. And if anyone hasn't heard that, that's 5236969. So have a wonderful night and thank you for letting me a one standard night. Sure.

M

Mike Miesch 38:23

Okay. Take care. Bye. That was Ray via telephone. Hopefully we'll get him in here live in the studio next week. I'd like to start off the GPC endorsements back at the top of the list.