

# uhlib\_2023\_001\_wns\_19900910\_01\_edit

Mon, Sep 25, 2023 2:22PM 24:20

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

houston, lesbian, comedy clubs, gay, wilde, meeting, montrose, night, heckler, listen, comedy, nancy, lovett, woman, real, lucy, ohio, pledge, volunteer, people

## SPEAKERS

Bruce Reeves, Deborah Bell

---



01:02

have a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore



Deborah Bell 01:11

this is KPFT Houston. You're listening to Wilde 'n' Stein on 90.1 FM.



Bruce Reeves 01:18

Hi, Deborah.



Deborah Bell 01:19

Hi, Bruce. You know what? Something's missing.



Bruce Reeves 01:22

Yeah, Jack's missing.



Deborah Bell 01:24

Well, he's in pits real



Bruce Reeves 01:25

strange

strange.

D

Deborah Bell 01:26

Yeah. Well, we're gonna wing it here with Bruce's engineer on Deborah Bell and Jack is in Pittsburgh. So he's helping them with their traffic. He says it's even worse than in Houston. Goodness. Yeah. But we don't care about that tonight, because we're here to laugh. That's right. And raise a little money for KPFT. No, a lot of money, a lot of money for KPFT. All right. And I love women, that's for sure. I love them when they laugh. And I love men who laugh too. And this show is dedicated to laughter tonight. You know those people in the mood. I'm in the mood. We're in a mood tonight. And Mary Helen earlier on traffic jam was playing funny songs. I don't know what it is. Sounds good. Something is going on. There's a bunch of funny around here for laughing

B

Bruce Reeves 02:14

at everything else. We won't laugh at us tonight. We'll have a good time.

D

Deborah Bell 02:18

We might laugh at us. We have a special special guest. Nancy Ford is here. She's a funny woman and she's going to share some funny things with us. And we want you to listen and enjoy the show. And if you like what you hear and you support Wildenstein, and please call in with your pledge. We're not going to pitch a whole lot if we can help it if provided you do your part in a call to make your pledge call 526-573-8526 KPFT and Bruce and I are going to try to get the calendar done so that we can get Nancy in here because you know, I want to know things about this woman. Yeah. Well, okay, on the calendar. So where are we at September 10. And, you know, I think we're supposed to do a weather report. Oh, weather. Yeah, you know what the weather is? What is it? It's wet weather continued wet,

B

Bruce Reeves 03:11

and a little hot for bad measure.

D

Deborah Bell 03:14

Let's say Well, tomorrow night, of course a woman's place will be on on KPFT and tune in to listen to Clara. And then on Wednesday, there will be a women's network of lesbian parenting and co parenting presented by Karen J. Hanson and Elizabeth got taula. At the Montrose Counseling Center Women's Network, they're going to be talking about their experience as CO parents and will discuss self love and acceptance, honest communication, setting limits and conflict resolutions in relation to raising children. Problems unique to lesbian parenting will be addressed. Audience, audience participation is encouraged. This is a program for adults. And that's at the Montrose Counseling Center which is at 900 Lovett Boulevard and then I have to switch to another newsletter to get all this information on. To see the gay and lesbian Hispanic

unidos also meet on Wednesday at dignity center 7:30pm. That's 3217 Fanon. Call 880 G L Hu for information, and the gay and lesbian Political Caucus will be having a board meeting. All are welcome. That's at 7:30pm 900 Lovett Boulevard call 521 1000 Almost forgot the Montrose activity center board will be meeting tomorrow night Tuesday at 900 Lovett and the GLBC offices and that's at 7pm and that's also open to people that are interested in finding out what's going on with the Montrose activity center. I'd like to remind people that when they pledge tonight if they sell indicate they can be added to the mailing list to receive the Montrose activity center newsletter, which has this calendar of events and okay on Thursday, the 13th Act Up Houston meets at 7:30pm at the multi service center. That's it's 1475, West gray. Then on Friday, September 14, through the 16th. There are several events going on, featuring Brooke Williams. She's a radical feminist writer and editor and she will be in Houston to conduct seminars and subjects concerning feminism. Does it have a future, its history, and what is radical feminism For more information, call a Lithia at 7297387. And then the deadline for the Montrose activity center newsletter is this Friday the 14th. So if you're interested in getting something in for your organization, you need to send that into PO Box 66684, Houston, Texas 77266668 For our call 4291223. And let's see what else is going on.

B

Bruce Reeves 06:12

I've got a very important date for everyone out there to keep in mind. The first weekend in October, the names project will be returning to Houston. And they're desperately looking for volunteers. According to Mr. Brian Cooper, I had lunch with him yesterday, there was a volunteer meeting on September the 18th, which is a Tuesday evening at 6pm at bearing church. And if you haven't signed up already to be a volunteer or if you have and want to know more about what's going on, please make an attempt to attend that. If you can't do that there will be one other volunteer training session the Friday night of the weekend that that actually starts and we'll be bringing you more information to that as things progress.

D

Deborah Bell 06:54

Coming up on this Thursday. The 13th is a new group that's forming and this is very exciting. This is called the F row femme centric, and it's a group that is for the social and political concerns of Afro American lesbians. And they will be meeting weekly on Thursdays from seven to 8:30pm at the First Unitarian Universalist Church 50 to 10 fan and it's an open format with weekly wrap and guest speakers. And for information you can call 68802276. Then on Saturday, there are some fundraising activities going on over on Pacific Street and this is to combat the campaign of US Senator Jesse Helms who is probably one of the worst enemies of the gay and lesbian community in this country. And the fundraiser is focused on raising funds for his opponent who is a person who stands for a civil rights for all. And that's going to be going on over at Jr's at 800 Pacific Street on Saturday night. So that's something you can go out and have some fun and do something political at the same time. Then, coming up on Sunday, the women's group will be meeting at the First Unitarian Universalist Church. And I think I have to do that little switch again where I'm checking my other newsletter to see if I have that program information. Okay, Brock Williams will be the speaker this Sunday. So that would be an interesting program on the 16th. Then this is also the third Sunday of the month. So you have the Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meeting they are made at Grace Lutheran Church at 2pm at 2515 wal drive, call nine five to 2525 for information, the lesbians over 850 Love meet also at 2pm at the multi service center 1475 West grey call 661 1482 for information

and an Omega de Houston will be holding a fundraiser and gathering over at the ranch and the number to call for information on that is 5205667. And of course we will be back here on Wilde 'n' Steinn next Monday night for the second part of our marathon fundraising. Yeah. And Bill Scott will be our guest bill is one of the cofounders of the Montrose Counseling Center. And he's going to help us cope with the high stress of Marathon and talk about some of the things that he's been doing, including being involved internationally with the gay and lesbian movement. So that's something to really look forward to. That sounds great. And I think that's about all I can stand of calendar. Right now, we do want you to pledge your support for Wilde 'n' Stein by calling 526-573-8526 KPFT. We have some nifty premiums and we're about to have Nancy Ford in here.

B

Bruce Reeves 09:49

Great. But first, let's listen to this record.



09:53

Now the name of the song was called bar one. It's about us in the bars and we have been Don't go to some bars now when I've gotten into bars, I've wanted to talk to somebody but as soon as I've walked over now tell me if this is not the truth. There have been times when you just want to talk to somebody and you walk over and you say, Hi, my name is Maxine. What's yours? And it is immediately translated. Did she say do I want to come?

D

Deborah Bell 10:28

Up with Wilde 'n' Stein with first raves and Deborah Bell, and we already have several people to think they include Pat Jensen, Donna, thank you, honey, and I friend of Wilde 'n' Stein in parallel and and so we have gone \$100 towards our \$400 goal tonight, please call in and make your pledge of support 526573852 6k PFT We need your support to not only keep Wilde n Stein on the air, but to keep KPFT on the air with just come to you three times a year trying to raise some money so that we can remain commercial free and a little freer to play some things that don't get AirPlay elsewhere, such as Maxine Feldman in her rendition of bar one. And we don't get wonderful people like Nancy Ford a lot of other places either. They won't let her in.



11:21

Hey, if I pay the cover, they always let me in.

D

Deborah Bell 11:25

Yeah. Well, Nancy Ford is a local talent who plays at various locations around town and has some particular things going on. She really, I think captured the show during Lesbian Gay Pride Week this year. In her performance, there was your title MC, is that what you were? Well,



11:47

some people call me MC sledgehammer. Sometimes only when I come on really aggressively, though. Well, I guess technically, in a way. They asked me if I could be MC and I said sure. But I can't stay for the rest of the show. And it was it was really terrible. Because I got to miss Nevada and Teresa Monae, one of my best friends Hi, Teresa, and Sandy van, who was also performing so I opened the show, but then I had to dash to another thing that I was doing that night. And they don't hold those bowling lanes. You know? You got to be there on time.



Deborah Bell 12:26

Well, you weren't always a comic by profession. You have a passed on to?



12:33

Oh, yes. And we will be auctioning off pieces of my past throughout the evening just by dialing five to six KPFT When do I get to sing? You'll never walk alone.



Deborah Bell 12:47

Is that what you want to say? Well,



12:49

this is a telethon type thing, isn't it? Oh, you



Deborah Bell 12:51

thought that was what you had to do? Well, first I want to get to know you, Nancy. Well, where are you from? Are you from Michigan? Yeah, no, not



13:00

originally. Originally. I'm from a little town in Ohio in the snow belt called Salem, Ohio. And the funniest thing happened the other night. Oh, you don't mind if I touch your leg? Please go ahead.



Deborah Bell 13:10

I was hoping you would.



13:13

 13:12

Oh, Bruce. Yeah, really dream on dude. No. The other night I was doing a show at Missouri Street Station. Hi, Jay. And all the boys at Missouri Street and the girls of course Tracy. Hi, girl. Anyway, I was doing the show there and there was a table full of people who actually knew where Salem Ohio was which is the place of my birth not only that he was a cousin one of the gentleman was a cousin of one of the women that I woman that I had gone to high school with. Oh wow. Not

 Deborah Bell 13:42

only amazing, Nancy No, it really was

 13:45

I mean this this graduating class it only had 99 people in it I mean we're talking small small little place and this other woman I always knew was the other lesbian

 Deborah Bell 13:56

in the reassuring when you find that out that someone you always thought was you is validated. Yes, she's

 14:03

in the gay national marching band and in Washington and everything I don't know if I can say your name Mary Lou bar. I wonder if she's had you know

 Deborah Bell 14:13

what's gonna happen

 14:13

I was thrilled. So it's like it's this US gay Ave is a real small town so to speak. If that's true in

 Deborah Bell 14:21

so many ways, well, who do you admire and comedy? Who are your Oh idols? Lucy? Lucy Lucia  
lon Luthy

 14:35

there is only one Lucy and and we still talk. Last Contact Lucy and Desi appear to me sometimes. Like no, not really. But But to answer your question. Definitely. Lucille Ball was my absolute Queen of the hill. So to speak comic idol, no question. No question. She was the best and the day that she passed away I was I was a On Tour in Louisiana, it is a glamorous life this comedy bit. Yes it is. And I was in Bowser city, Louisiana, the day that Lucy passed away and performing at a comedy club and I don't know, just things just seemed real cosmic. I ended up throwing a drink on a Heckler and I did it for Lucy,

D

Deborah Bell 15:20

you know, I was going to ask you about your experience with hecklers, do you? Do you mainly perform in Gaelic slash lesbian? Except I never



15:29

slash lesbians? I don't know who you've been talking to. Well, we make any money off this yet. Well, I

D

Deborah Bell 15:37

mean, people need to be calling up. I mean, if they don't don't want to hear this, they better be called.



15:43

T. Do a subliminal comedy show. Yes. My favorite send money comedy routine was send money. Lucille Ball? No, I actually worked both. I've done a lot of work here at the laughs stop here in town on West Gray, high Sandy, and the comedy workshop and places like that, which are essentially straight and straight quote on quote, comedy clubs in college campuses and that sort of thing throughout the United States. But if I have a preference, I heard that you do? Yes, I do. I am somewhat by comedic but my preference certainly leans to that the gay and lesbian bars, indeed.

D

Deborah Bell 16:22

Are you openly out as a lesbian in those mainstream clubs? Have you ever work in any consciousness raising material?



16:32

I certainly hope that people who are listening carefully leave my shows in in regular comedy clubs with their consciousness, at least streamed somewhat. But yeah, if you listen closely, I do a lot of gay jokes. I do some jokes about drag versus lip sync, and things like that. And yeah, if

you listen closely, you know, when you're done listening to my show that that I am a gay woman. Do you have

 Deborah Bell 17:00

a certain way of handling hecklers? And deadly or one?

 17:06

It depends. It depends on the heckler. And sometimes a person can be a heckler who was there for a good time and just you know, really helps the show along because sometimes some of the funniest moments in a in a comedy routine will be that the spontaneous ones where you're you're actually working the audience. And that can be very enjoyable for everybody. On the other hand, like this guy in Bowser city had just worked my last nerve, my last comedy nerve, and Lucy had died that day and he was making I don't know if I can say this. He was making references to his anatomy versus my own and how maybe they could get together later it'd be a safe way of describing it. I do that was good. The FCC would

 Deborah Bell 17:48

lead with that Jesse

 17:50

Helms is even probably sent Okay, that's all right. Go ahead. She'll, she'll hang herself eventually. We know she will. So it differs. You know, some people will just go on and on and on and not leave you alone. Unless like you warn them and then you shame them and then you have the management throw them out. There's like three cardinal rules.

 Deborah Bell 18:16

And what what happened one day, you were like, just sitting around in corporate America and you said, I think I'll be a stand up comic.

 18:25

You must have been there that day. Yeah, it was it. It was about a quarter to 11 one Monday morning. No, it's something that I've always wanted to do all my life. I started working as a performer off and on since I was three there's like this little local TV show in Ohio that I used to be a regular person on the baby I guess the baby face at the time since I was three and did not wear makeup. Well,

 Deborah Bell 18:53



Deboran Bell 18:52

from that now not Oh, you're so nice.



18:56

What a good one call in for that ridiculous compliment five to six KPFT. But yeah, it's all comedy has always been real important in my life, and I was working as a sales manager for a cable TV company. And when just I realized that it really didn't matter to me if people purchased both HBO and Cinemax it just had no bearing on my life and I knew I was in the wrong business so that's when I quit and hit the road more or less you



Deborah Bell 19:30

do that you just quit just buy off the you know, I'm



19:34

respectable. I gave them my my what? Two days? No, no, I give them two weeks notice and they had one of those See, I wanted to get the going away party and they needed time to plan it so right Are you kidding?



Deborah Bell 19:46

Of course I gave them notice get a loot? Really where's my gold watch but but did you pretty much have like savings and things like that? Are you savings?



19:56

Crazy. This is the night Indeed I'm a free spirit maybe just a little saving certainly then far more than being on the other end of that



Deborah Bell 20:11

no maintain a as they say a day job now are



20:15

living from performing.



20:18

I've mostly make my living from from performing. I've got a real interesting gig coming up right

now at the Texas Renaissance Festival. It'll be my first year to Queen Henry. That's me know, I'll be a washer woman, one of the characters and doing some writing for them. And so it'll be really interesting to go in. And do you know that every weekend and just kind of transport myself back to that period of time and stay in character for eight hours, which should be a trip in itself

D

Deborah Bell 20:48

are wonderful Diane Lin does a lot of work with.



20:51

In fact, that's where I met earlier this year there.

D

Deborah Bell 20:55

Well, I did make a little list of questions. So forgive me for referring to it. What's the funniest thing that ever happened to you?



21:05

That tell she I don't know that it changes like weekly. I don't know. There's so many things to choose from. There was a time where I was trying to break up a domestic argument between two friends of mine and the police came and drew a beat on me. God, that was just a scream.

D

Deborah Bell 21:26

laugh because well,



21:27

it was funny because the you know, bless their hearts, the HPD has so much on their minds and everything. And I was really kind of scared, because I can't believe I'm telling Houston this. Alright, go ahead. But you know, HPD came and and took care of this small disturbance and thought that I was a perpetrator. Is that legal? legal terms? Is that right? And it turns out, one of the officers recognized me from a comedy clubs. There was my hands above the air say yeah, you want an autograph? For what? It was really weird. It was funny that I don't know if that was funny. That was kind of frightening, which is often like funny. The funniest thing that ever happened to me. My mother might be a good one. I know. Here's one. Here's what had happened to me when I was three years old. My mother told me she had taken me shopping in Youngstown, Ohio downtown. This was before they had malls. This was the big city. This was the big city. Exactly. Mary Lou bar knows all about Youngstown. But anyway, she was taking me

across the street and I was three years old and my little drawers fell down around my ankles. And I instead of stopping I just kicked them off up in the air and kept walking. I guess maybe that's when my show business career

 Deborah Bell 22:42

really started today. You do the same thing, right? Make a bit out of it. Go

 22:46

with the flow.

 Deborah Bell 22:48

What what do you do for fun?

 22:50

Oh gee, I don't it's been so long. Since I've had fun. I just work and work. I'm a slave to my craft. I like to go to the beach. Yeah, I love to go to the beach. I love the water anytime I want to just like chill out or just have a real good time and just get really down to basics. I like to go to the water. So yeah, I go to the beach a lot to have fun. I love trivia to trivia machines. That's my first love. I have a goal. Uh huh. Beyond the \$400 that we need to raise here this evening. Let's get those phones around like

 Deborah Bell 23:29

why up there in the lobby? Five to six there's one tower here a phone there's magic. I love it. Probably

 23:36

like probably my girlfriend wanting me to pick up some toilet paper on the way home or something.

 Deborah Bell 23:41

Okay, had a conversation about toilet paper before we came in here didn't we? We did. Yeah, I was I was I knew that I couldn't find anything to wipe my hands on so there was so that's writing at least some coffee filters in the kitchen coffee filters can sub for a lot of shared with me that



23:58

are available for other usage. You know, let



Deborah Bell 24:01

me think. I mean, isn't it wonderful?



Bruce Reeves 24:06

Take your Sears Roebuck catalog Sears



Deborah Bell 24:12

remember, you know the the outdoor little house outdoor down the path