

- Kids drag in the darnedest things. [FROG SOUNDS] [BABY CRYING] [DOG BARKING] But these days, that can be a problem.
  - Where is the food?
  - Today, kids are bringing home Iraqis.
  - Where is your chemical weapon storage?
  - These Iraqis are driving me crazy.
  - They want your oil.
  - What can I do?
  - Wow Chemical has the answer, Iraqi Go.
  - Give me some falafel.
  - Is it hard to use?
  - Just point and spray.
  - It's Iraqi Go.
  - No more Iraqis.
  - And my floor is so shiny.
  - Where is my Iraqi?
  - Iraqi Go, by the makers of Atheist Motel.
  - Ah!
- [MUSIC]
- (SINGING) After Hours. After Hours.
  - And it is 1 minute after 2:00. You are listening to "After Hours Radio," celebrating life from the heart of Montrose.
  - KPFT Houston.
  - Thank you, Mike.
  - You're welcome.
  - You're better at that station ID stuff than I am. I get confused.
  - It's not the only thing, but go ahead.
  - Well, Buddy is not here, as we've been talking about.

- He's on vacation.
- He's taking the night off, and he's kind of rescheduling the show.
- It's kind of a working vacation.
- Yeah, because I don't know, we've got the BBC coming on these days, and it's wonderful. It's just that it kind of-- oh, it gives us gaps and things like that.
- You have to schedule your show around that to have a good show.
- Yeah. So I don't know, it just kind of feels like we're starting the show now at 2:00. Because we've been doing other things, "This Way Out," and all the wonderful--
- The news.
- --and the news and the wonderful things that we want to keep. So he's working on that, and what were we going to talk about?
- Oh, so that means that this show will be starting then at-- we'll be coming on at 1:00? Coming at 12:15 with "This Way Out"?
- Yes.
- And then the news will come on after that, right?
- Yeah, that's you.
- I'm ready. I got to be ready.
- You're going to be 12:45-ish.
- Oh, that'll be good.
- This last business of writing stuff out at the last second has got to stop.
- Yeah, that's right. Yeah, we've got to come prepared.
- Well, that's good. That'll work out good for next week.
- Yeah, OK. One thing I wanted to talk about is bitch and carry on about what happened last week.
- What happened last week?
- Remember, when Phillip was here with Buddy and I said that kind of tacky remark.
- Oh, yeah.
- He was going to replace me and ask people to call in.
- Something about his physical looks.
- Yeah. Well, we did have people call in, some real tacky queen by the name of Chris called in and just couldn't wait for me to leave.

- Well, what happened?
- Well, nothing. I'm here. And by the way, some very nice man came by this station and left a jean jacket for me, which I thought--
- Well, how nice.
- Well, I guess he figured since I might be kicked out into the cold, I might need it.
- That's great.
- I'm not sure of who it was, but I think it was David.
- You're not going to be kicked out.
- No, OK.
- I don't know, Buddy is not here, man. That's what he's planning now. I don't think so.
- Out there interviewing people. Ups. Thanks, Mike.
- Well, let's see. Do you know, this has been a big week for birthdays.
- Well, I guess so. I guess. I mean, probably millions of people have had birthdays this week.
- No, but I mean for famous gay and lesbian people. For example, on the fifth, it was Pier Paolo Pasolini's birthday.
- I'm sorry. I'm laughing.
- This is a test. Do you know who he is?
- I have no idea.
- He's a movie director.
- Ta-da.
- All right, Mike. You win.
- See? And on the eighth, it was Una Troubridge's birthday.
- Who's that?
- Ah-ha.
- You got me on that one.
- It is the month of weird names birthday.
- No, she was the lover of Radclyffe Hall.
- OK.
- OK?

- Next question.
- And who is Radclyffe Hall?
- Exactly. Who is Radclyffe Hall?
- The premiere lesbian novel was written by Radclyffe Hall called *The Well of Loneliness*.
- Oh, OK. I've heard of that.
- See? See. If you're hung out at Inklings or Lobo every now and then, picked up a few gay and lesbian pieces of literature.
- I hang out at other literary spots.
- Oh. Yes, I've seen you there.
- How about on the 10th was John Rechy's birthday.
- OK, I know who that is.
- No. No.
- I'd be getting the buzzer if we were on a game show.
- Sure would.
- He was an author. He wrote *The Sexual Outlaw*. It's sort of a revolutionary novel.
- That's one of his, but to some people's way of thinking and mine, in particular, he was the one who wrote the first really gay men's novel.
- And that was?
- *City of Night* back in the '60s.
- Oh, yeah.
- I knew that. See, I knew that.
- Well, some people think it was *The City and the Pillar*, by Gore Vidal, which was written earlier.
- Oh, but *City of Night* came before *The Sexual Outlaw*.
- Oh, yeah.
- OK, I didn't realize--
- *City of Night* was his first work, and he's had about a half a dozen others.
- Oh, yeah, at least that many.
- Let's see, what else do we have here? What else? What else? What else? On the seventh, Maurice Ravel.
- Composer.

- Yeah. You know what he wrote?

- "Bolero."

- Ta-da!

- Was he gay?

- Yes.

- I didn't know that.

- I didn't know that part.

- Yeah. All these people. And on the sixth, OK, this is for you, Frank.

- I going to keep my mouth shut on this one.

- Michelangelo.

- Oh, yeah.

- The painter. The sculptor.

- Sculptor, all that kind of good stuff.

- Owner of that restaurant on Westheimer.

- Right, girl.

- See, if you hung out at the Inklings and Lobo, you'd find out all about your gay and lesbian heritage. It's right there just for the asking.

- And money.

- Well. I mean I need to find out more about this, but the gay and lesbian community does have a library.

- They do?

- Yeah.

- At MCC.

- Yeah, I don't know how it works. If it's like, you go there and read stuff or--

- Like Christian Scientists.

- You can check stuff out.

- You can check stuff out, really?

- I don't know if they're open all the time. You can get in on Sunday during services. The guy who runs it, whose name escapes me, I think, it's Charles. The guy who runs it--

- And he's done it for years. Yeah.
- Well, how great. See.
- This is the first I've ever heard of that.
- It's a huge library. It's just got all kinds of stuff.
- I've seen it, and it's incredible. It's got the narrowest aisles I have ever seen in my life, I mean, and it's packed full.
- That's over on Decatur, right?
- Well, they're trying to get a new building. They're raising funds for a new building, so maybe when they get a new building, they'll have a bigger library. I mean, the space for it's very small, that's why the aisles are so narrow.
- Yeah, I know.
- They've got so many books.
- Yeah.
- Yeah, I think they probably need a new space too.
- Yeah. Well, we had talked earlier about days and birthdays and all of that, when was that, the 11th. I think I said the 10th before, back in 1979 was declared Sylvester Day in San Francisco. Yeah, so in honor of that, I want to play another Sylvester song, one that you may not be aware of.

We think of Sylvester as our late, great national treasure and the disco diva, but he did a lot of serious stuff too, and this is one, in particular. Since I'm a city boy, I really like this. It's a version of Stevie Wonder's "Living for the City." So let's hit it, Mike.

- Ooh, yeah. I like that, and we're going to take some requests. Buddy is not here tonight, so we get to play music. So give us a call at 526-4000, 526-KPFT. And now coming your way is Mariah Carey, one of my faves, with a song for the gay and lesbian community. "There's Got to Be a Way."

[MUSIC - MARIAH CAREY, "THERE'S GOT TO BE A WAY"]

- M-hm. A broken man without a home.
- Wouldn't that be nice, one better world?
- Yes, indeed.
- It can be one better world for you out there because it's time to give something away.
- Oh, boy.
- And we've got a lot of stuff to give away. Let's see. We've got the Jimmy Somerville *Read My Lips* tape. We've got the *After Hours Salute to Stonewall* tape. We've got *Gay Music Favorites* tape. And we've got Buddy's *On My Mind Today* tape, which is my personal favorite. But--
- But.

- --you know what I did with U2 before, when we were talking about birthdays?

- Oh, yeah.

- I gave you a test? Well, it's test time for all you out there.

- It's still a birthday question?

- Yep. Sure is. It's going to be the first person who can answer the question correctly, gets their choice of two of any of those four tapes I mentioned. And the question is, we talked about Radclyffe Hall's birthday. And the question is, what book did Radclyffe Hall write?

- Oh, it's one, we had to be paying attention earlier.

- Yeah. So, call us at 526-4000, 526-KPFT, to tell us what book Radclyffe Hall wrote. Whoa, OK. And we do have a winner on that Radclyffe Hall question. The answer was *The Well of Loneliness*, the first recognized lesbian novel. She was from England, by the way.

- Oh, good.

- Yes.

- I knew that.

- I knew that too.

- Now, I think we're going to do something a little bit different.

- And what's that?

- Well, we're going to play a song to introduce this, but I've got a little something that Frank is going to read. It's by Mike Hippler, who writes for the *Bay Area Reporter*, San Francisco. He writes weekly essays, and there's been a book put out recently with some of his favorites.

He's kind of funny, but he writes from the heart. It kind of struck me as yeah, I feel this way when I read a lot of his material.

- But it's just nice to see somebody thinks that way besides you and has the time to put it down.

- Yeah, absolutely. That's what I really liked about it. So we're going to do a little something to introduce this. It's a Romanovsky and Phillips that I don't know that we've ever played. It's called "To Myself." So let's hear it.

- "On Being Single," December 1985. "An acquaintance I rarely see came up to me on the street the other day and asked, 'So who are you dating these days?' 'Nobody,' I replied. 'Nobody?' he echoed aghast. 'You never have a boyfriend, Mike. What's wrong with you anyway?'"

"'What's wrong with me? Nothing,' not that I'm aware of at any rate, other than a black and front tooth, the result of a water skiing accident this summer. But that alone shouldn't explain why I can't attract or hold on to a man, which is what my friend is implying when he asks, what's wrong with me? Actually, the reason why I can't attract or hold on to a man is that I don't try very hard to meet a man in the first place."

"I never go out anymore, not for that purpose anyway, and when I do, I become so uncomfortable with once familiar mating rituals that I leave the bar, or wherever, in exasperation and disgust. It's not that I don't see anyone I like. I do. I do. It's just that it's been so long since I've tried to pick anyone up that I've forgotten how to do it. Besides, who's got the time and patience?"

"AIDS has a lot to do with it, of course. Once, promiscuity was the main way I met potential boyfriends, now that promiscuity is a thing of the past. Indeed, the very phrase 'tried to pick up anyone,' has a quaint, archaic ring to it. I'm left high and dry with few alternative paths to matrimony."

"Had I listened to Mom and saved myself for marriage rather than giving it away for free, perhaps I would have learned some of the skills necessary to attract a man without sex. But slut that I am, I threw myself into the fray and learned an entirely different set of skills, an education that is useless to me now, when I have my only videotape machine and a few nasty tapes for company."

"Perhaps I'm selling myself short. I do know ways to meet men other than to thrust myself upon them in Buena Vista Park, after all. And periodically, I will pull out all the stops and conduct a full-scale husband hunt. But when I do, my efforts invariably prove fruitless. I'll meet someone in the gym, say, or well, the gym, and I'll ask him out. He'll say, yes, and we'll have a great time together, even if we don't have sex."

"Then I start building airy fantasies of our future life together, Dave and Mike, all right, or Mike and Doug, or Patrick and Mike. I like to see how the names will look on the wedding invitations, but then he'll tell me about this other man he's just met who's too perfect to be believed, or he'll remember an article I wrote years ago about the rather impressive list of diseases I've had, and that'll be that. The romance, if romance it ever was, will be over."

"My friends are no help whatsoever. You think they had a concept of true friendship that helped me find a husband by setting me up with friends of theirs, but no, they're so busy destroying their relationships that they don't have time to help me build one. Well, wait, I take that back. I forgot Miss P. He brought a friend of his to the gym once to meet me, but it was a disaster."

"True, the man had tits as big as a house, but he had an ego the size of a barn and the brain the size of a pea. Not my type at all. In recompense, Miss P invited me to another friend over coffee and *I Love Lucy* reruns at the friend's house. At first, I accepted, but then I thought better of it. Did I really want to fall in love with a man who spent his mornings drinking coffee and watching *I Love Lucy*, or the man who had a friend named Miss P in the first place?"

"Actually, I did have a lover once, upon a time. Now, we've got to take a timeout for definition here. A lover, to me, is someone A, with whom you live and B, with whom you plan to spend the rest of your life. Of course, some of my friends have planned to spend the rest of their lives with 10 or 12 different people, but not me. I take this love business far more seriously than that."

"Anyway, I did have a lover, once upon a time, but he was a jerk. Unfortunately, it took me a year to figure that out and another year to leave him. And when I did, I vowed never again. I was bitter, disillusioned, and determined to protect myself from the emotional trauma that serious relationships always seem to involve."

"It took a while, but after a few years of independence, years that took their toll physically rather than emotionally, I finally decided to settle down again. As it happens, I was dating two people at the time, a 31-year-old actor and a 23-year-old porn star, and they actually had the nerve to ask me to choose between them. Can you believe that?"

"I opted to go for experience and stability, rather than for perfect physical beauty and so chose the older of the two. But as soon as I did it, he unleashed months of suppressed resentment and paid me back by promptly deserting me. Ah, me. True love, once again, eluded my grasp. You know, if the truth be told, despite years of making a God of love and despite the things I say here, I'm not sure that romance and relationships are really all they're cracked up to be."



"There's certainly something to be said for being single. My friend Rick, in fact, recently sat down and made a list of all the advantages he found in being single. One, he doesn't have to worry anymore whom his lover is screwing around with behind his back. Two, he doesn't have to spend a lot of money on outrageously expensive Christmas gifts. Three, he doesn't have to wonder whose turn it is to do the laundry this week. It's always his turn."

"These are negative virtues, however, and there are positive ones. Since I've been single, I've found I have much more time for good friends. I also have more time to pursue the things I'd like to do-- nights at the ballet rather than at the movies such as *Godzilla 1985*, trip to Alpine Meadows, rather than to the I-beam, and quiet moments spent reading rather than hallucinating. Furthermore, my career is progressing much faster now that I have time to devote to it. It's hard to write Pulitzer material encumbered by a lover interested in something base or sex."

"Still, I do get lonely sometimes, and there are nights when I think it would be nice to come home to a pair of warm, loving arms, rather than a cold, empty apartment. Despite the compromises that must be made in a relationship, there is something about the idea of a shared life that I find particularly attractive. But as I'm usually perfectly content with things as they are, I'm not going to waste a lot of time wishing I were part of a twosome, especially when I'm sure that the goal is at all practical or realistic for me."

"And I'm certainly not going to make the attempt to answer my friend's questions, what's wrong with me. Please. It's those potential husbands out there who need to come around, not me. Until I find one who likes the things I like, but who still has the good sense to leave me alone half the time, I'll be more happy to pay the rent by myself."

"'With an attitude like that, girl,' Miss P said the other day, 'you ain't getting nobody.' Maybe not, but screw it. Life's too short to compromise."

- OK. That was great. I really like that piece.

- Yeah, it's kind of fun.

- It was wonderful. Yeah. Mike Hippler does a lot of stuff in that type of vein. And that type of vein is what I'd call tongue in cheek. I like a lot of what he says, but what he's really saying is, yeah, I really do want a lover.

- Deep down, yeah.

- Yeah, sometimes we don't have them, or sometimes, we lose them, or sometimes, they die. There are all ages of people who have these problems from teenagers, who maybe are looking at that boy in class or that gym teacher or that girl and wanting, but yet knowing that it's probably not to be to an 80-year-old gay or lesbian, who has lost a lover of many, many years and now, finds himself alone.

And I'd like to think that because we are gay and lesbian people, we can transcend a lot of the straight, the heterosexual teachings that we've had in that men don't have to be what we're taught. We can cry if we want to. And a lot of lesbians feel that they have to be very, very strong and can't show emotion.

But it's our life. We can write our own, and I'd like to think that we can show emotion. And showing emotion is something that was kind of hard for me to learn. And in doing so, it started me on my life of collecting. I don't know if you know it, but I'm an avid collector of all sorts of things, one of the first ever being greeting cards.

- Oh, I didn't know that.

- Non-Hallmark kind of artsy type things. One of my very best card illustrators is a woman named Mary Engelbreit. That may not mean much to you, but she does a lot of cartoonish things. And the card that started me, not only in collecting, but reassessing my emotions. I'm not always the happy, gay Ed McMahon that you may hear every week.

Things happen in everybody's lives. I have a wonderful lover, but he's only here half the time, so I get lonely. Anyway. This card that I saw and started me, not only on my card collection, but in a reassessment of my values and how I need to conduct myself, it's right here in my hand. It's an original, and I had it framed because it meant that much to me.

- We need a close-up of that.

- Yes. OK. There you are.

- Hold it up. That's right.

- OK. It's a cartoonish figure of a man standing ankle deep in water. He's holding a heart that is hinged and open, and these stars are falling out of the heart. But the caption that goes along with it is the one that did me in. It says, "His heart broke open, and all the tears that had been hidden inside it spilled out like thousands of tiny stars. His heart must have been sadder than he suspected because it cried and cried, till he floated out the door and away down the road on the river of his tears."

[MUSIC]

(SINGING)-- I guess you got me in--

- You know, I don't know if that was my version of a soap box or the absolutely longest promo in the history of KPFT for a blues show. Blues for you, coming up at 4:00.

- Comes up at 4:00 with Kathleen.

- With Kathleen.

- --and Terry.

- But sometimes when I get in a blue funk, I like to play bluesy songs, and that happens to be one of my favorites. And after I play those bluesy songs and cry and feel sorry for myself for a while--

- Then you feel better.

- Not only do I feel better, but I sit around and I think, now, what is this gay and lesbian life all about, and it's about friendship. We have extended families and then so many times, those families are much more important to us than our real ones, or the real ones. What does that mean?

- The ones we grew up with.

- The ones we grow up with, the blood ones because my extended family is a hell of a lot more important to me than any family I grew up with that rejected me. And that's my message to you tonight in the gay and lesbian community is to form close friendships, because honey, lovers come and lovers go, but your friends are always there.

- Right. They don't all stick around forever. It'd be nice.

- Yeah. But the friendships in the gay and lesbian community are some of the finest that you'll ever have and that you'll ever know. And of course, it's a big responsibility too. And in that vein, I want to play another one of my favorites by Kris McKay. If you've listened to this show, you know it, and that will probably bring us up to around 3:00 when the BBC comes on.

So here it is, Kris McKay, what is that one?

- "If Ever You Need Me."

- Thanks, Mike.

- We're here on KPFT Houston. Stay tuned for the BBC right afterwards. Ta-da.

[MUSIC - KRIS MCKAY, "IF EVER YOU NEED ME"]

- (SINGING) Well, I hope if ever you need me--

- Thanks, Mike. Kris McKay, "If Ever-- I could never get that damn title right.

- "If Ever You Need Me."

- "If Ever You Need Me." Right. One of my favorite songs, and I can never remember the title. We've got the BBC coming up at 3:00.

- Just a few seconds.

- Yep. And "Blues for You" coming up at 4:00 Kathleen and Terry, and they're already here.

- All ready to go.

- Yeah. And after the BBC, Frank wants to get on the soapbox. There's a couple of things he wants to talk about.

- OK. Well, we'll let him on.

- And I think we're going to play some up music too, once that happens. Here we go, BBC. KPFT Houston.

- Nine hours, Greenwich Mean Time.