

uhlib_2022_016_wns_19921123_edit

 Fri, Jul 21, 2023 4:03PM  45:44

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

lesbian, gay, wilde, people, stein, years, program, talk, mike, call, community, radio station, catechism, meeting, queers, houston, man, week, radio, women

SPEAKERS

Lori Clark, Ray Hill, Cindy Friedman, Brian Nunes, Jack Valinski

 Jack Valinski 00:09

And that was not a weather bulletin. Although this weekend, it probably could have been a weather bulletin, the sounds of the taking sweeping us away from here, but we're still here. We're still here. This is our second last show, and you're listening to Wilde 'N' Stein. This is Jack Valinski. And

 Lori Clark 00:23

this is Lori Clark,

 Jack Valinski 00:24

and tonight we're gonna be talking to and I guess you can call him an old time activist Ray Hill who has been a former manager of KPFT, a former producer of Wilde 'N' Stein. And we're going to do a little bit of reminiscing tonight and of course talking about the future also because we always do on playing some special music and talking about a few things. But let's jump right into the calendar.

 Lori Clark 00:46

Okay, we can start with tomorrow. 24th Tuesday, eight equity League All are welcome at 12 noon, Charlie's restaurant at West timer.

 Jack Valinski 00:56

And the sense a sexuality sensuality workshop is a entertaining mini workshop to put your back, fun back into safe sex sort of like Bart was here the other day, and that's going to be talking about things regarding HIV transmission and safer sex practices. And this happens at

the AIDS Foundation between seven and 9pm at 3202 Weslayan and their number there is 6236796

L Lori Clark 01:26

Okay, Wednesday the 25th of November, March on Washington. Their monthly local meeting is at 7pm at the Metropolitan multi Service Center, which is 1475 West grey and Tao 5296979. For more information a women's network.

J Jack Valinski 01:42

It's going to be happening at 7pm Wednesday the 25th at the Montrose Counseling Center, which is courses 900 Love it second for their numbers 5290037 and their

L Lori Clark 01:53

topic is going to be about backlash which is an excellent book that every woman should read and man to the 26th this is Thursday of November as the women's group are at the beach house at their annual beach house weekend at Bolivar Peninsula in Galveston, I you meet at 10am at the Sojourner Truth room at the First Unitarian Church. For more information I would call 5298571. That's iris or you could call Janet at 9427377 teams you can get directions to the beach house

J Jack Valinski 02:23

and Friday the 27th is a fourth Friday social it's a sponsored by the MCC our church for fellowship. And that's at 7pm at the MCC our church 9019 Decatur In the Heights is 8619149

L Lori Clark 02:38

Okay, and the Sunday lads lesbians and the dogs are still meeting over Transco legs in the morning. And I think Monday, the 38th is the local contest deadline the last time day to submit your logo for the 99 d3 Pride Week contest.

J Jack Valinski 02:58

And that pretty much brings us around of course there's the roller skating next Monday. It's close to the general public but so open to our community.

L Lori Clark 03:04

They have course no one's gonna be roller skating because they need to be listened to the last show the

J

Jack Valinski 03:08

last show well that's from 730 till 1030. At the trade winds roller skating rink that 5006 West 34th at 290. Their number for information is 5236381.

L

Lori Clark 03:20

But they're not going to stop roller skating at nine. And also of course gourmet

J

Jack Valinski 03:23

nation meets on Tuesday nights at 730 at the Montrose palace 1505 Nevada at Commonwealth and I don't think AQAP is going to be meeting on this Thursday, but they usually do meet on Thursdays at the same place.

L

Lori Clark 03:35

Okay. Also, just a little bit of news. There was a controversy on whether they're going to boycott aspirin or not boycott aspirin. And they've decided not to boycott aspirin. Instead, they wanted to go to this gay ski week and protest the passage of Amendment two, which was the anti gay passage, they want you to flood Aspen and show them that you're there. And it's the last week in January, there's a contact number to call. And that's going to be Robin Taylor, numbers 303-925-9249.

J

Jack Valinski 04:12

And even though Wilde 'N' Stein and Breakthrough are not going to be on KPFT anymore, after hours is still going to be on and we'll be making an announcement about future gay and lesbian programs a little bit later in the program, we still would like you to send items into our calendar at PO Box 66071 Because this calendar is submitted to them and we're also going to be submitting it to the station at large right to put items in there. So you do so by writing PO Box 66071, Houston 77266, and put the who, what, when, where, why and how in there.

L

Lori Clark 04:42

And also this is about the March on Washington, which takes place in April, and they want that if you send a minimum donation, there's a certain amount I'll give you a number you'll have to call and get that from them 1-800-832-2889 They will send you a pack Get which includes a calendar of events, maps information on using the DC metro system, accommodations information and their latest newsletter. So that number get us 1-800-832-2889. That's a free call to Deborah Bell and just tell her hello from everyone.

J Jack Valinski 05:16

And we'll be back now after this way out

B Brian Nunes 05:29

I'm Brian Nunes.

C Cindy Friedman 05:29

And I'm Cindy Friedman

B Brian Nunes 05:31

with news wrap a summary of some of the news in reflecting the lesbian and gay community for the week ending November 21 1992. The Vatican has issued the first major revision of its catechism in 400 years, but the new version pretty much restates current policies regarding lesbians and gays. The new catechism describes homosexual acts as intrinsically disordered and against nature, and urges gays and lesbians to abstain from sex. The Catechism does state that sexual orientation is not a choice and asks others to treat gays and lesbians with respect, compassion and sensitivity and to avoid unjust discrimination. Third party procreation the use of sperm donors or surrogate mothers is cold quote, inherently dishonest because it breaks the link between the sexual act and procreation and quote, the new catechism also affirms the church's current positions against masturbation, sex outside of marriage, birth control, abortion and the ordination of women. Now available in French, the Catechism will be published in Italian and Spanish next month and in English and German a few months later,

C Cindy Friedman 06:35

ripping up a picture of the Pope and calling him our deepest enemy. US National Book Award winner pulmo net stole the show at the Creating Change Conference where 1200 gays and lesbians from across the US gathered to plot political strategy. Before mo net followed in the footsteps of Sinead O'Connor. There were three top issues at the annual National Gay and Lesbian taskforce event. One was whether to officially boycott the state of Colorado in response to the state's passage of Amendment to the ballot initiative to prohibit passage of civil rights protections for lesbians and gays and to overturn the existing rights laws in the cities of Denver Boulder and to Aspen. While a number of gay and lesbian organizations have already canceled plans for events in Colorado, the Coloradans at Creating Change stood firmly against a boycott until other actions have been thoroughly explored. For example, the annual gay ski week in Aspen in January has not been canceled, but this traditionally social event will be more political. The City Council's of Aspen and Boulder have already voted unanimously to join a lawsuit challenging amendment to a second issue was organizing to counter further homophobic right wing organizing at the state and local levels. Florida, Idaho, Maine, Missouri, Ohio and Washington are expected to be targets for more measures like amendment to another issue

was how to see that President Elect Bill Clinton keeps the campaign promises he made to the lesbian and gay community, particularly ending the ban on military service by gays and lesbians.

B

Brian Nunes 08:14

A gay sergeant who was discharged from the US Air Force last month because he is gay has filed a lawsuit against the US Department of Defense and the Air Force seeking reinstatement. Doug Menzel has that story from Phoenix, Arizona.

o

08:28

28 year old Tom Panacea says he's seeking a preliminary injunction that would allow him to return to the Air Force while he fights his discharge. That a CEO who was stationed at Davis Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson says he's worried that President Elect Bill Clinton will have problems overturning the ban against gays in the military. Due to opposition from the military leader. Their opposition is based on something that's unfounded. It's otherwise known as homophobia. And it's ridiculous. There's no empirical data to support this policy whatsoever. And that's what this is all about. It's about fairness. Fantasy says he wants to rejoin the airforce as soon as possible because he plans to apply to become an officer before he reaches the age of 30. Doug ninefold Phoenix,

c

Cindy Friedman 09:04

US government efforts to remove a gay sailor from the Navy ran into procedural snags in Los Angeles. Federal Court Judge Terry Heter said he could not rule on a motion to reverse his reinstatement of Keith Weinhold. Andy Friedman reports.

o

09:20

The Navy will have to wait for the judge to make its final decision on whether gay sailor Chief Mine Hold can stay in uniform. Government lawyers asking the judge to reconsider his earlier ruling reinstating the discharged Navy man, but Mine Hold's lawyer Chris Rudd says it's nuts to exclude gays like Mine Hold from the military. Keep serving the military for 12 years. Everyone knew he was gay. He did a terrific job. He was always rated among the Navy's top enlisted personnel. The Navy says including gays is bad for morale. But President Elect Bill Clinton will likely force the military to include homosexuals and the freedmen Los Angeles. The US

B

Brian Nunes 09:53

Navy seems determined to get in its last legs before the ban is lifted. The Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps ROTC has created a new affidavit for its more than 7000 midshipmen to sign. The affidavit states that they can be discharged and forced to pay back their scholarships if they are found to be homosexual. The average cost of ROTC training is almost \$53,000. ROTC has always asked applicants if they are homosexual or have engaged in homosexual activity.

But the new affidavit appears to signal a general crackdown on collecting training costs from discharged lesbians and gays. Among those protesting the new form to defense secretary Dick Cheney was Congressional Representative Patricia Schroeder, who said I consider this inquisitorial affidavit a totally unwarranted intrusion in the private lives of these American citizens. Schroeder is a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee. Auburn University

 Cindy Friedman 10:47

has dropped its requirement for signatures by campus organizations on a pledge not to promote sodomy. Several organizations had protested this approach to complying with Alabama's five month old law denying use of university facilities and funds to groups encouraging violation of the state sodomy law. In withdrawing the pledge requirements Auburn President William Hughes said he regretted the lack of support from student groups and that he was setting up a committee to develop a new plan for compliance.

 Brian Nunes 11:19

The International lesbian and gay youth organization held its General Assembly in mid October in Brussels. 50 delegates attended from Belgium, Croatia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United States. The organization is composed of gays and lesbians less than 26 years old, and primarily works to change age of consent laws. It will be adding Secretariat in Eastern Europe, Western Europe and the United States to its current headquarters in Brussels.

 Cindy Friedman 11:50

World AIDS Day is coming up again on December 1. The World Health Organization hopes that this year's observance will encourage individual communities to make a commitment to working on the pandemic. The WHO estimates that Worldwide, there are 2 million people with AIDS and 12 million infected with HIV. And what do

 Brian Nunes 12:11

you wear for World AIDS Day? high school junior Thirza Hargrove tried wearing a dozen packaged condoms as decoration for her clothes and hair. Unfortunately, her school principal at the Elmira Free Academy in Elmira, New York, I thought it would be distracting to other students and yanked her out of class, threatening her with suspension if she wore them to school again, reactions from students were mixed.

 Cindy Friedman 12:35

And finally, after a series of rejected membership applications, the gay and lesbian positive Metropolitan Community Church this year sought only nonvoting observer status with the National Council of Churches, the leading us ecumenical organization, but the outcome was the

same. Their General Board voted 90 to 81 to deny the primarily gay and lesbian church even limited participation. The council called it one of the most painful decisions in their history. Unofficially 12 of the 32 member denominations might have fled the council if MCC had been admitted. The gays and lesbians didn't go quietly grabbing the mics do express their rage at being sacrificed to the council's the unity, said MCC is Reverend Nancy Wilson. It's easier to get into heaven than into the National Council of Churches.

 Brian Nunes 13:33

That's news wrap for the week ending November 21 1992. compiled and written by Cindy Friedman. Follow the

 Cindy Friedman 13:39

news in your area and informed community is a strong community. For this way out. I'm Cindy Friedman.

 Brian Nunes 13:45

And I'm Brian newness.

 13:53

[Music plays]

 14:00

 Lori Clark 14:08

Okay, and this is the Wilde 'N' Stein show. And this is Lori Clark and Jack Valinksy and Ray Hill, our special guests that was Melissa Etheridge a song you can sleep while I drive. And we played that simply because that's my favorite song and she's gonna be in town December 2 at Jones Hall.

 Ray Hill 14:23

Also you the whole concept of you can sleep. While I drive is a communication of trust and security. It's a whole lot of things. I like people to sleep while I drive and I like to sleep in somebody else's drive.

J Jack Valinski 14:39

It also has to deal with separation and moving on at least that's my first time I heard this song. And that's what a lot of us do. We've left where we've grown up and moved to other places, or we'd left the suburbs and moved into the city or we left the life that we sort of knew and moved into a different life and And if

R Ray Hill 15:02

we left a hostile world and moved into one that was awesome,

L Lori Clark 15:04

you have total you have totally different interpretations. Mine of this song is that it's adventure going out and experiencing life and seeing all kinds of different things. It's I see it more as an adventure.

J Jack Valinski 15:16

Well, yes, that is an

R Ray Hill 15:18

adventure and going into a new life moving along is a good concept of driving because that's whenever I get on the road, and I head for the mountains every year and it's so much nicer when I have someone to sleep in my lap and drive for hours to the beauty of America.

J Jack Valinski 15:33

We were sort of kidding, Ray that we wanted to do like the second last show of the tonight show where Bette Midler came out and did this wonderful song and dance routine reading a letter to Johnny Carson,

R Ray Hill 15:44

but I don't sing well. And I'm sorry that disappoints Lori because she's certainly deserving of a song but I don't have one in repertoire in any way i don't even sing in church, I do the Lord no favors and certainly none of the parishioners by singing in the pew.

J Jack Valinski 16:00

But you know, we're not very good. At least I'm not very good at looking back at the past. I'm always like moving forward. But we do want to make an announcement here. We were very concerned that there would not be a program continuing for the gay and lesbian community on

this radio station. And we know that there's no another on no other radio station in the city. But General Manager Barry Forbes announced the debut of a new radio magazine program to serve the lesbian and gay community in Houston. The yet untitled program will air in early spring, and will be produced by the volunteer programs who produce KPFT's Breakthrough and Wilde 'N' Stein, we met last Thursday. And we sort of brought a proposal together and everything sounds very favorably. And if it doesn't, you hold everybody to the fire to make sure this happens. So Wilde 'N' Stein and Breakthrough are going away, but there will be a new beginning and hopefully a better show that will be more time conscious, the more better produced more better produced, well better have somebody speak right out copy in advance. Exactly. But it will still have the element of life elements in its we will be able to do some better phone interviews. It's not always easy to get people here at night on a Monday night. Because they will have new equipment to do that. And the equipment's actually here, it just has to be put together.

L

Lori Clark 17:18

And there's gonna be there's portable equipment, something's that we go out to the community, why things are happening and record the community. While we're out there for all this special events. That could be so much fun.

R

Ray Hill 17:27

Actually, I did some of that this week, I went to death row and I conducted an interview for the new news format program with a death row inmate. And so some of the portable equipments in good shape. And that works.

J

Jack Valinski 17:39

There's a couple images that KPFT sort of echoed throughout my head, my meeting here in Houston, and also that radio has been a very favorite medium of mine. In the Houston Post on July 19, there's a picture of the previous Pride Week parade of the gay and lesbian switchboard people, they're holding a banner, and there's a bunch of balloons. And every it's sort of like the wind is blowing, and everybody's happy. And there's just this beautiful picture of joy and everybody. They're very happy to be in the parade. They're very happy with what they do in the community. They're very happy to be there. There's also the image of radio Caroline, radio, Caroline was this pirate radio ship outside of England, before the British government let rock music play on their airwaves in there. Somebody was traveling across the Atlantic and saw a picture of Caroline Kennedy and sort of saw the same thing. I'm describing this picture of somebody being very free. That's how they named the radio station. It was a station where they can play the Beatles and things like that. This happened to me when I was growing up outside in New York, there was a radio station there called W ne W FM. And there was an announcer who worked from 10pm to 2am called Alison Steele. And she used to read poetry. And she used to do all this countercultural music of the late 60s early 70s Jefferson Airplane, we're gonna play something shortly by the Velvet Underground. And that really talks about, you know, this is a form of a free speech and free music. I mean, they're both very much. It's not just a Wilde 'N' Stein show that's very important to this station. It is the music that's played here, because the music lets the freedom, the expression out, and what's special about Wilde

'N' Stein and Breakthrough is that we talk to a very specialized audience, an audience that may not know that there's a community here, it's an in this is something I learned from you. We go beyond the closet doors. Why don't you relate to us a little bit about the early days of Borland Stein and the

L Lori Clark 19:40

I have a question and I just wanted to know how you got the name Wilde 'N' Stein and how you started the program since I know you were the founder of the program. The idea for it were to come from seem logical.

R Ray Hill 19:51

Culturally, there are two role models, one for gay men and one for lesbians. That was true for most of my life. Are the Gertrude Stein, Alice B. Toklas. role model for women and the Oscar Wilde role model for men. And so when I came to the station in 1975, and we began strategizing on having a gay and lesbian program, it was clearly a gay and lesbian program. It was it was Katie feller and myself and J. And JF, who did all the engineering and Fred who did all the running around. Fred actually wasn't gave when he first came when he came out on the show. We've had to come out on the air came out on the air. Wow. And he had other young young man came in with his companion and surrendered his virginity on the floor of the station. We were a little wilder in those days. And we are now but we tried to make radio recovered a gay bar raid live, but radio shows are not democratic institutions in the main collectives may swap idea, but I'm from the old school of radio has a producer and and that producer determines what is actually on the air. And so you're gonna ask Jack, I never ran the radio show as a democracy. Whenever I was in charge, no, you almost ran me off, I tried had him sitting out there forever, you know, and just absolutely let him sit out fallow in the hall. But but you have to test people's commitment. And patience is as good a gauge of commitment as anything I can think of. And I know Jack was dying to get in here and do radio, and he was running through these wonderful ideas, and then give him an opportunity. But this was not a democracy. When I ran it, it was not even a collective of people to jointly decide. I ran the show. And so I named the show. And I named it after the two role models, not because I loved them. But because I was sick of it. I'm sick of gay men thinking that they can survive wholly on their wit. Many of us do that. Certainly gay men my age, my generation and, and for a few years after that, survive, not on her intelligence. Because being articulate is frequently mistaken for being intelligent, that that is a mistake. We survive on our wit, and cutting humor, a kind of rap party that puts down other gay people among other things, and mercilessly ridiculed. Anyone that would disagree with us or anyone with whom we disagree, or anyone who was slightly different. It's a rude kind of arrogance. But that was the role model for gay men in my generation. I remember when I was a teenager and and first breaking into Houston, gay and lesbian society. I would go to art rooms or tokens, which were the restaurants roughly equivalent to Charlie's today and, and to survive at the front table of tokens restaurant after last call on Saturday night. You had better be able to put down or answer the put downs of every person that walked in the front door, you are relegated to back table. And I had no way to boast it's kind of a confession and embarrassment. I survived at the front table for years when I was a late teenager. I come to the gay and lesbian community from the experience that there was no community there may have been some geography. There may have been some common meeting places, but there was by no semblance, any concept of community.

L

Lori Clark 23:48

Can you give me a time era of what you're talking about

R

Ray Hill 23:51

in the late 50s and the early 60s, gay people hated themselves and one another. I met the great floral designer Leonard Thorpe, under four different names. And maybe five years. Leonard, gay people didn't have last names. They were ashamed. They were frightened. They were intimidated. We had a phrase drop a nickel on a sister, which meant call their boss and get them fired. You did that from a pay so when the show started, when the show started in 1975. Houston did not have any semblance of gay and lesbian community as we know now, there had been an attempt in the late 60s 6869 through the organization or promethium society to create an organization but Rita and I read a wannstrom Papa bear this wonderful character cheer of a magnificent person and I've learned to love dearly and still love and respect. Read and I tried to get gay homosexuals organized in self defense to deal with like police problems and things of that nature was not about changing the laws or decriminalizing the felony sodomy statute was about getting the boot off her neck kind of thing. But we didn't know how to do that. And those people were not ready for that we'd hold a meeting and get 200 people and we'd help them hold meetings, Rita would call the other women's bars and the bars would make an announcement that will be a meeting on certain date at a certain time. And then we would leaflet the cars parked at the men's bars. And the flyers saying giving the date and time place in the meeting and run them off on a mimeograph machine. I guess that nerd to be exact,

J

Jack Valinski 25:40

and which is hard to get ahold of in those days, right? Oh, yeah, getting getting

R

Ray Hill 25:45

printing was was impossible first place, you go to places that did printing with gay material. And they would just, you know, either, quote, your price of \$4,000 of \$450 worth of printing are run you out. We even had auxiliary health care if someone got brutally beaten, and that happened a lot because coming in town and rolling the queers was a common practice in the 50s and 60s, we kept a sterile sheets and sterile surgical instruments, and one of the bars and we'd spreadsheet over the pool table and bring them in and put their face back together. Because you didn't go to any of the hospitals, if you went to the public hospital, which is Jeff Davis at the time, you're subjected to be charged with an offense yourself. And if you went to the other emergency room, there were only two emergency rooms in town at the time. The other emergency room, of course, was St. Joseph's Hospital and the nuns were not unopinionated as far as being gay is concerned. So people do not understand what it's like you people listening to the radio program, I know you're isolated and many of you are at home and alone. And gathered around, maybe have a friend with you. It's very difficult to understand

what life is like when there is no gay or lesbian community at all. None, zero, zilch. There is one now even though you're not a part of it, you know, it's there. And you draw a certain amount of security out of its being thing, right? I

J Jack Valinski 27:20

mean, they're discussing gays in the military very openly. Now. There's that very hardly write the editorials in New York Times supporting it. It's just incredible. Let's take a little break. And let's go back to some of the music that was played in the early time of Wilde 'N' Stein. couldn't believe what was going on at strange radio station and it still happens? The fact that we do something that is like not supposed to work in the book. But it does.

R Ray Hill 27:59

But actually it works amazingly well, because radio is about seeking an audience finding it and satisfying it to a radio. I mean, people from Arbitron will tell you, you know, pick your age group, check out how much money they got in their pocket, swage them into separating the money from their pocket and spending it on things. Those are the advertisers you get. That's the music you play. That's the way that works. And we work exactly the same way. Except we're not for commercial motivation. I've always felt we were of political motivation.

J Jack Valinski 28:29

One of the sort of consistent things here and Wilde 'N' Stein for a long long time was Mike Miesch. Yeah. Why don't you talk a little bit about Mike?

R Ray Hill 28:38

Well, Mike, was this phenomenal little elven creature that wandered into the radio station one day to like, carry out the trash and do other things. Actually, he you know, when this was, oh, he volunteered for the radio station. Originally when Greer price was doing Wilde 'N' Stein, so that would have been in AD and AD one somewhere along in there, okay. And, and I was general manager of the radio station, grid Price, who is now the head honcho at the Grand Canyon. I saw him on CNN the other day talking about new fossils, as they found at the bottom of the canyon. He's paleo and micro paleontologist was secretary of the caucus and Chair of Pride Week. One year, and Greer was a natural at a good even tone and easy. So when I had to surrender, doing the show, I did have to surrender to the show. I just became manager and I had a show to do already, which was the managers program. And then I had another show that I'd conceptualize the prison program which I still do. And so because you wake up one morning and realize you can do anything in radio you want to do when you start thinking beyond what you have been doing in the past. And so I think of that and Mike I Greer wanted to go back and grid on a job transfer. And so, So Mike, who had been around the station for a while as a volunteer, took over the radio program from Greer. And then shortly after that, my companion can't NAS and I decided that we were going to the ferry gathering outside of Pecos, New

Mexico. And it just occurred to me that if I really wanted to make Mike me happy, I would take him to the ferry gathering. Didn't see him for two years. He blended in and disappeared. And when he came back when I was here, then when he came back,

J Jack Valinski 30:44

which was 1980. Well, I came I started here in 1982.

R Ray Hill 30:49

Okay, well, Mike was on the air when you got here. So no, he came back

J Jack Valinski 30:53

shortly at about, probably about six months after I

R Ray Hill 30:57

Well, after my que me and then Mike was dying of AIDS. And Mike had had a difficult life. Mike was one of those people who couldn't pass at all. I mean, you know, I can, if I weren't Ray Hill, I could probably go to any shopping center in the city. And people would think I was just another heterosexual male on the make. But Mike couldn't pull that off. He was an extremely elven kind of creature. He looked like an elf. He had ears like an elf. He felt like a mouse. And he did a very different kind of Wilde 'N' Stein from what you do or from what I did. And as he got sicker, I've always been kind of the old man just over the horizon of the Wilde 'N' Stein show. And I always felt that that, that I could step in and manage my baby.

J Jack Valinski 31:56

Well, and there were times when I needed you to come back because I needed help.

R Ray Hill 32:00

Well, I consciously made the decision to let me die on the air. I know that sounds cruel, it certainly was cruel to Mike, it's not quite as cruel. As the pressure I put on art Thomas Chesky. To produce that art was extremely artistic dementia begin to set in, and we didn't understand it. And I didn't understand it at the time at all. And I made demands of of art time, and Chesky, which is, I mean, I've forgiven myself for all of the things I may have done. But I still have a sensitive spot about one evening in the radio program with our timeshare escape where I just leaned on. But I treated Mike the same way. I would be in the studio with Mike doing the program. And Mike would get confused and lose it. And I would get up and walk out in the lobby and talk to you. And leave him alone with a radio station you manage. Because I wanted the listeners of Wilde 'N' Stein at the time to understand and an audio but very real way something they can measure how horrible this disease is, and what it did to people. And so when Mike

would be at the board and would get confused. I would say I'll see you later Mike and get up and leave and let him deal with it. And he did some incredibly awful programs, trying to cope with his own confusion, as his mind was deteriorating under the infection. I know that's cruel and sounds horrible. I forgive myself for Mike. Because I think really it was the show that kept him alive longer.

J Jack Valinski 33:41

But Mike also finally said I need help.

R Ray Hill 33:43

When Mike surrendered. Then we came into COVID. And you became a producer once Well, actually,

J Jack Valinski 33:49

I was producer beforehand. And and Mike, we gave Mike the space. And he needed the space. And you're right. It was a it was an educational experience for the community. And and also we were probably the first show to do safer sex program.

L Lori Clark 34:07

What's the time period of when you're talking about Mike? Misha is the name. Yeah, and you add three and how how how not well known was aids then

J Jack Valinski 34:17

it was the beginning of it. It was art Thomas Cesky was really the very, very beginning. And we didn't understand and I remember going to those first meetings and this was just I was also just coming out at the time too. It was pretty incredible. By the time Mike was going through his troubles a lot of the activists knew about AI, but not the community in general.

R Ray Hill 34:38

It was very tangible aspects. And I was called by Steve Shifflett, who died this year to come over to his organization che and he said I need you to do copy. And he gave me the ideas and I wrote the copy on the first safe sex pamphlet in the nation. When our friends in San Fran Cisco in New York, we're arguing whether or not it's politically correct to close the bathhouse and to close the bat. Well, it was not it was not a matter of closing down to tell people how to engage in sexual activity in such a way that they didn't exchange body fluids. That pamphlet with the exception of the last page, which dealt with this call, this stuff may be caused by inhalants poppers, which we thought at the time, is still stuck around, I read my copy in the clinic this evening, and I read my copy and other pamphlet, you write it down. And that saved a lot of

people's lives. It certainly kept companions who followed those practices from giving one another, the infection is still live together. But if you didn't exchange fluid, you didn't transfer aid. And still, the religious nuts are out there, making up all this stuff. But we've held a course another thing that I did regularly in one zone, bring some preacher down here and scan them alive.

J Jack Valinski 36:03

Yeah, we've sort of taken a difference a different avenue and made this sort of a safe harbor for the community, that this is some place that you know, we talk about tough issues, but we don't necessarily bring in the Buchanan's or things like that. And I know you did. Well, I

R Ray Hill 36:21

still do it. I don't do it on Wilde 'N' Stein. And the last time I did it, we did it out at KSC V which is an am talk show station. They brought in a series of preachers, and I just cut them down. I mean, please understand, I used to be a teenage evangelist and I knew all of that. I'm gonna say something this is the last opportunity to get to talk to this particular let's

J Jack Valinski 36:42

let's take a little break now. remind everybody you're listening to Wilde 'N' Stein and we'll be back pretender by Jackson Browne. Yes, struggle for delinquents hinder, you know, keep in the closet, don't you know jobs more important than

R Ray Hill 37:11

one time everything was more important. I call her called in or requested that I come out on William S. Burroughs Thanksgiving, and I'm gonna save that for a better mindset, a different mindset. I'm kind of grieving and I'm kind of hopeful for the future because we're going through a transition here with Wilde 'N' Stein. This has been the longest continuously running openly gay and lesbian radio program in the country. I gave it a very painful birth in 1975. And I'd like to talk a little bit about my concept of what Ray Hill's job is even back dealing with Wilde 'N' Stein and I'd like to look at the future for both me and Wilde 'N' Stein if I may, I'm sure if I have license to do that. I grew up in a world that did not have a community for my people, was always been a community for black folks has always been a community of Hispanic folks and Asian folks kind of live together and, and there was even a kind of sense of community for women. A long time ago. I mean, it was the women's movement to the suffrage movement, and that created the nucleus of a movement, the world I came into. queers were dirty little boys and nasty old man. are nasty little boys and dirty old man, everyone think that women didn't exist at all, in the game of money. That was there was I mean, it was Queen Victoria once said, what is it that you ladies might do? And so we assumed that they did nothing. And so there weren't even any laws against lesbian behavior. I've always felt that it was my responsibility because of my being born when I was my being conscious of this absence of community, that it was my responsibility to do any and everything that I could to build community. We had gay bars, we had gathering places, we didn't have community, we didn't like ourselves. We didn't

like one another. The men were openly sexist and racist, and the women were openly sexist and racist. And we were hostile as a people to ourselves. Therefore no community could be built. So I tried organizations in the 60s and that didn't work. I tried medium of communication in the 70s Wilde 'N' Stein and like tomorrow, I'm going out to give a university lecture. I still do that sort of thing. And as I go up, plant seeds of hope and promise and responsibility and commitment to one another to protect their worthy The occasional gay and lesbian couple a gay man two gave me an back to back fighting the world or two women back to back fighting the world. And I run across one of those in Baytown the other day to black lesbians, who are just being set upon by their neighbors and their landlady back to back fighting the world. So wonderful romantic circumstance, it's the kind of thing that True Love and Dreams and mutual healthy dependence is based on. Next on the schedule is town meeting to I'm thinking maybe Hillary Clinton was a keynote speaker in Houston, sometimes in 1973, to jumpstart everything that's been going, I'm thinking about pooling the wisdom of pokey Anderson, who's got a little more spare time now than she used to have, and the wisdom of Linda Morales, and some other folks to get their thinking into it and planning. Nice long, six months lead time and then a really big show. Maybe KD Lang concert, you never can tell what we can pull off with enough lead time. But I want us to sit down and look at one another. Because every time we do that, whether it is Pride Week, or whether it is town meeting one and hopefully town meeting too, when we look at one another, we're a lot like the other people perhaps a little more beautiful. Perhaps together we shine with a greater brightness than collectively we would do individually. I have I'm 52 years old, I don't have as many years left as I would like I've got a good, productive life ahead of me, my friend Maurice Cates, 73. And they're having his 73rd birthday.

J Jack Valinski 41:45

He said hello to you, when we were out in Los Angeles, wonderful man

R Ray Hill 41:50

has been an inspiration to me. But Morrison, I don't have as much time left as those of you who are listening to the show. And before I leave, I want to not only see gays in the military, but I want to see that drill team. I don't just want to see lesbian lesbians in business. I want to walk down to the big law firms and the big corporations and see lesbians making a difference in the world by proving that, that there's more to business than money and greed. I really believe that if we can develop a community, we can build a better world if I didn't believe that I wouldn't give up now.

J Jack Valinski 42:32

And yeah, I mean that that's the feeling. It's not just make society acceptable for us, but actually change society. The whole idea

R Ray Hill 42:40

is not just look after number one, the whole idea is look after everybody. And we do that in sociological studies in Native American societies, that's what gay men and lesbians do, is they *keep the history, they educate the young, they keep the traditions, they make the society*

keep the history, they educate the young, they keep the traditions, they they make the society humane, that is our role, and our destiny. And for one time, we are going to accomplish that. On a global level. We're going to overcome all the hate, because you compare what we do as a community, in the care of people who are dying with a and you look around, and you try to find anyone else in history that has done as much with as little resources. We are wonderful people. And as Wilde 'N' Stein makes it changes, Ray Hill finds another windmill to tilt toward join us. We need your help.

J

Jack Valinski 43:43

And we have one more show left. And it's been a pleasure to be on the side of the microphone for the past 10 and a half years. And I really have to thank you for sort of getting me behind that microphone, although you were a little bit cautious at first and and that's fine. You proved yourself

R

Ray Hill 43:57

you deserve it and you've done a wonderful job. Wilde 'N' Stein has been in very good hands since its very inception. And you've carried your end of the load responsibly. Keep the collective together. And let's have wonderful radio in a different format.

J

Jack Valinski 44:11

We are going to next week Deborah Bell is going to be with us who has been the co-producer for a number of years. And we're going to be here. We're going to be here at the door at KPFT. And that's a guarantee and you make sure of that. You're listening to Wilde 'N' Stein, this is Jack Valinski, this is Lori Clark and Ray Hill and Ray Hill and want to thank Donna for running the controls. And this is KPFT Houston. We'll be back next week.

Q

44:50

If you think Queer Nation is a bunch of radical queers think again. We're doctors, lawyers, teachers, parents, politicians, students, and radical queers. Queer Nation is a group of people joining together to end discrimination in all its forms. Many people are interested in queer nation because queer nation addresses ideals and issues particular to them. Affinity Groups of Queer Nation include SHOP, Suburban Homosexual Outreach Program, a program to be visibly queer places where lesbians and gays would not normally be visible. PLSD, People with Immune System Disorders FYQ Fine Young Queers, United Colors of coronation, Q-Patrol the eyes and ears of Montrose, and many, many more. We meet Tuesday nights at 7:30pm 1505 Commonwealth and Nevada at the Montrose Palace. For more information call 5292969