

# Airwaves

Spring 2005

the quarterly program guide from KFSR 90.7 FM

[www.kfsr.org](http://www.kfsr.org)

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## Aircheck

by Joe Moore - KFSR Station Manager

Now that the New Year is well underway, and thoughts of resolutions and holiday parties slowly fade from memory, like distant objects in our ever present tule fog, an exciting 2005 is beginning to take shape here at KFSR. Throughout this, our second issue of *Airwaves*, we'll be focusing on what's new and exciting in this new year at the station, including new programs and specials, and much more, as we build upon a successful 2004, for an even bigger and better 2005!

Building upon the strong foundation we set in 2004, we're launching a number of exciting innovative new programs, unlike anything else on the radio in the Valley, which we think complement our existing programs and enhance our service to the community. Starting February 20th, longtime local jazz DJ Jeff Parker, for many years host of the program *Parker's Place* on KAAT, joins the KFSR family, with a new show called *Jazz Joint Jump* Sundays from 2pm-4pm. Jeff plays a great mix of jazz, focusing primarily on the great artists of the swing era, but also with some later jazz styles thrown in as well. We're also launching some new nationally distributed programs as well, including a jazz program called *Listen Here - The Jazz Review*, hosted by jazz journalists and DJs Neil Tesser and Mark Ruffin. This is perhaps the single most unique radio concept I've heard in years - it's part Ebert and Roeper, part Car Talk, but all jazz. It will air Saturdays from 3pm-5pm. We're also adding to our schedule another program from the English language division of Radio Netherlands (complementing *European Jazz Stage*) called *Euroquest*, which will air Saturdays from



A new year's vintage begins to take shape at KFSR

the continent that you would otherwise never hear.

In addition to those year round series, we have a number of special programs on the way. In February, KFSR pays tribute to African American History Month with a series of programs that air Saturdays at 1:00 pm throughout the month of February. Included are three nationally produced documentaries, as well as a pair of radio plays from the Harlem Renaissance, produced by KFSR. Then starting in March, KFSR will air an award winning series called *StoryLines New England*, produced by the American Library Association, focusing on great writers, both past and present, from New England. The multi week series will begin Saturday March 19th at 1:00 pm and run at that time each week (barring Fresno State Softball or Baseball broadcasts) through the spring.

But the new developments at KFSR don't just extend to programming. We're also currently working on some major studio upgrades, which will improve the quality of our broadcasts, and eventually replace equipment that has been in operation continuously for almost a quarter of a century. Right now we're finishing work on what will be a second production studio for the station, the place where we record interviews, station promos, and some programs in advance. Once it is completed, we will begin retrofitting our existing control room, (our main studio) with some badly needed new equipment, further adding to our broadcasting capabilities. And as always, everything we do is made possible with the support of you, our generous listeners and underwriters, who keep KFSR going strong, now and into the future!

6:30am to 7:00am. It's a weekly radio magazine program in the NPR tradition, that looks at a wide-range of topics spanning Europe and crossing the boundaries of current events, art and music, leisure, food and wine, the environment, science, and technology. It's hosted by Brooklyn born, Amsterdam based journalist Jonathan Groubert, who keeps the show both lively and informative, bringing you fascinating stories from

# “Jazz Joint Jump” comes to KFSR and keeps swingin’

Former host of KAAT’s “Parker’s Place” comes to KFSR Sundays 2pm-4pm

Valley jazz fans have been tuning in to the sounds of DJ Jeff Parker for nearly twenty years to hear the finest in 1930’s and 40’s big band music, as well as medium and uptempo small group jazz from the swing era to the present. His show, *Parker’s Place*, has become synonymous with classic jazz in the Valley on the radio. But earlier this year, when it was announced that KAAT radio, the Oakhurst based station that was home to Parker’s Place for the last decade, was sold to a media conglomerate, the future looked bleak. Fortunately though for Jeff’s loyal listeners, and fans of classic jazz in general, you can now hear Jeff’s new program, called *Jazz Joint Jump* right here on KFSR, every Sunday from 2pm-4pm, following the *Big Fresno Barn Dance*. *The Blue Buffé*, hosted by the Hound Dog, will follow *Jazz Joint Jump*, at a new time, Sundays from 4-5 pm. Here’s Jeff’s story of how *Jazz Joint Jump* came to be such a swinging jazz joint. - ed.

This year our mainstream jazz and big band music radio show, in one incarnation or another, will be in it’s twentieth year of broadcast. We have seen a lot of the great players pass away. We’ve been through an unexpected swing dance craze and numerous station buyouts. And as you’ll read below, to keep our program on the air, it has taken a modicum of perseverance as well.

Our little adventure in jazz broadcasting began in 1985, when we hit the airwaves of Central California with a weekly big band music radio show that lasted one whole hour. In humble surroundings, over AM 790, we broadcasted from a little, beat up wooden building, on the outskirts of Fresno. Our weekly “one-hour of glory” was called the *Sentimental Supper*. The only thing worse than the announcing was the smell of the ridiculous food we actually cooked up on a hot plate over the air during the show. The setting of the show was supposed to be an old big band era style hotel, as we claimed to be broadcasted from the Grill Room of the Ecstasy Hotel (our call letters were KXTC.) A dinner music loop-track, complete with crowd noise, was run under all announcer segues to give the impression we were really there. We used a corny little dinner bell when requests were honored. When the station was sold in 1987 and for our last show (then a whopping 2 hours long) we had a character named Julia Childless come in and prepare a gourmet meal in the kitchen. She promptly burned the place to the ground and we signed off with Happy Trails.

During this period it suddenly became apparent that being a child of the rock and roll era didn’t do much for old Parker’s knowledge of jazz history, the big band era, swing music



Jeff Parker at home with “Nipper” and his collection of classic jazz and swing memorabilia

or anything else outside of loud amplified guitars and screaming men posing as vocalists... unless of course it was soul music, or folk artists doing protest songs. Anyway, we figured since the chicks weren’t actually beating down the doors or lighting up the phones (at least the ones under, say, 65) maybe we should start learning a bit about jazz history and the big band era and buying records to supplement the overabundance of Martin Denny and Kay Kyser records the radio station had in its library.

We embarked on a mission of really learning about big band music and the history of jazz, buying up anything we could find in the way of reference books. We also listened to any other big band and jazz radio shows and stations we could find on AM, FM or Shortwave to get ideas. One shot of inspiration came from a very unlikely source, a locally produced, extremely funny morning team known as Dean And Don who broadcast their Breakfast Club over 105.9 FM KKDJ. Growing up south of Cleveland and listening to East Coast radio, Parker was pretty hard to impress, but these guys at KKDJ really had it going on. Under many of their theatre-of-the-mind type comedy bits ran old big band songs and jazz instrumentals by guys like George Shearing and Oscar Peterson. Old time radio type announcer intros used before skits, and well timed sound effects were also part of the lure. As fate would have it these two immortals of Fresno radio used to listen to the big

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## Jazz Joint Jump

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band radio show we did on KXTC (probably for a laugh) and friendships developed. We were quite surprised to find the two really did love big band jazz and swing music. Being roughly the same age, suddenly it became not so weird to be immersed in what seemed to be a dying form of music.

Following the 1987 sale of KXTC, our new home became KEAP AM 980. Fortunately there were no playlists at KEAP either so once again we were able to free-form it, adding more and more mainstream jazz tracks to our ever increasing jazz radio library. But while the KXTC studios were humble, the KEAP studio was just a down right dump. We used the premise BYOTP while affiliated with KEAP, standing for "bring your own toilet paper." There were a number of wasp nests in the attic and in the summer, without fail, those pesky suckers would get into the studio long about 9 PM. Let me tell ya, you learn how to read radio copy and smile in a radio studio full of wasps baby, and you can read copy through anything. Yikes!

KEAP was sold in 1989 and we got out of the hornet's nest landing head first at KAAT-FM. Initially KAAT's broadcast frequency was 107.1, but then moved in the 1990s to 103.1. At that point the KAAT had only one studio, located in Oakhurst. Often this meant a drive of nearly two hours depending on which point the bread and butter job happened to be that Saturday.

Then in 1994, our old buddy Dean Opperman, of Dean and Don fame, came back to Fresno after a number of years in Santa Barbara radio. Dean was placed as program director at KKDJ and instructed to resurrect it back to its former state of glory. KKDJ had a 50,000-watt signal and could be heard from Bakersfield to Modesto clear as a bell. Lo and behold Opperman convinced management that a jazz show would work on Sunday mornings. So, with a bit of trepidation, Parker became the "Jazzmaster" at KKDJ and was heard Sunday mornings from 6 AM to 10 AM. This was the top of the mark for old Parker. A killer signal, fantastic ratings, a great time-slot, tons of calls, and oh yes, multitudes of chicks...well maybe not, but four out of five ain't bad.

As is the case in radio these days, KKDJ sold out in 1995 to a big business radio station holder called Infinity. When it sold, Parker immediately baled and within weeks the staff was told the station would become Spanish. Luckily Larry Gamble, the owner of KAAT, was gracious enough to allow us back on the air. In 1995 we rebuilt the old white wooden one story out on the back forty of the KAAT complex and opened it up every Saturday as the jazz juke joint called *Parker's Place*. That lasted until early 2005, when KAAT was sold to the Moon Broadcasting Company, which operates Spanish language radio stations throughout the west. And that of course brings us to our current program, now known as *Jazz Joint Jump*, airing every Sunday afternoon on 90.7 from 2 pm-4 pm. We are thrilled to uphold the tradition of our big band jazz clambake playing the highest quality CD re-masters of 1930s and 1940s jazz and big band music; by mixing in mainstream jazz and hi-fi big band recordings; by playing only the finest jazz grounded mod-

ern swing bands; and by adding new jazz recordings weekly to an already nearly endless play list.

Broadcasting big band swing and classic jazz music isn't lucrative, but it comes with its rewards (except for the chicks.) We were on the air the Saturday following the passing of Frank Sinatra with a four-hour radio special; we were on the air the Saturday after Peggy Lee passed away with a two-hour tribute. We have also bid our adieu to Les Brown, Jonah Jones, Al Grey, JJ Johnson, Rosemary Clooney, Ray Brown, Lionel Hampton, and most recently Nina Simone, Benny Carter, Billy May, Ray Charles, Barney Kessel, Illinois Jacquet, and now Artie Shaw.

*Jazz Joint Jump* includes music from the masters of jazz in the 1930s and 1940s and follows many of the great Swing Era soloists and bandleaders throughout their careers. Attention is also given to the mainstream jazz instrumentalists and vocalists of the 1950s and 1960s swinging the songs of the great songwriters of Tin Pan Alley. You'll also hear a number of modern day jazz musicians and soloists on the play list. From Duke Ellington to Diana Krall, *Jazz Joint Jump* runs the full gamut of jazz that swings.

The show does come with a disclaimer: it is ill advised to listen while attempting to take a lazy Sunday afternoon nap. However, many listeners have found that doing yard work while listening to the show is much more tolerable, in some cases even increasing productivity. Our suggestion is to barbeque up some chicken or ribs, hangout, and enjoy the music.

**- Jeff Parker hosts *Jazz Joint Jump*, Sundays 2 pm- 4 pm 90.7 KFSR. Note: Jeff also runs the excellent jazz website [www.swingmusic.net](http://www.swingmusic.net)**

## "The Blue Buffet" moves to a new time - Sundays 4pm-5pm & KFSR shows off new Monday Night Blues DJs



Join the Hound Dog, host of *The Blue Buffet*, at his new time, Sundays from 4 pm-5 pm, following *Jazz Joint Jump*. You never know what's going to be on the menu at the buffet, but it's always good, from down home blues, to classic soul, jazz, music from the Hound Dog's second favorite city, New Orleans, it's a veritable musical smograsboard of hot tunes and cool sounds.

You can also hear the Hound Dog on Monday nights, as one of the rotating hosts of our Monday night 9 pm-12 am blues programming. One of the longest running shows in KFSR history, the Monday night blues show now has four hosts, each trading off every four weeks. They include Roger Gonzales, Chester Neville, The Hound Dog, and John Shafer.

# KFSR celebrates Black History Month with special documentaries, radio plays

In honor of Black History Month, KFSR presents a special month long series of programs and features that look at the African American experience, both past and present. The programs include three radio documentaries, two of which are produced by the acclaimed group American Radio Works. The series concludes with a pair of radio plays from the Harlem Renaissance, performed by students at Fresno State, directed by Prof. Thomas-Whit Ellis, and produced by KFSR. And if you aren't able to catch the broadcasts live, you can listen to them all online at [www.kfsr.org](http://www.kfsr.org).

## Saturday February 5<sup>th</sup> – 1:00 pm *Martin Luther King Jr.'s Path To Nonviolence*



Two women with very close ties to Martin Luther King Jr. reflect on how King developed into one of the great moral and political philosophers of the 20th century and how his philosophies might still guide the world through troubled times today. Dr. Dorothy Cotton was the highest ranking female in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, founded by Dr. King. From 1960 to 1972 Dr. Cotton was the educational director for SCLC and worked very closely with Dr. King. Yolanda King is the eldest daughter of Dr. King. She is an internationally known motivational speaker and actress whose personal mission in life is to inspire positive social change and world peace. Ms. King and Dr. Cotton are interviewed separately by phone by show host Carol Boss. The entire program includes about 15 minutes of excerpts from talks by Dr. King, as well as historic 1960's recordings by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee Freedom Singers.

## Saturday February 12<sup>th</sup> – 1:00 pm – *Say It Plain - A Century of African American*

### Oratory



When the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.'s I Have a Dream speech is broadcast each February to mark Black History Month, the magnetic cadence of his words is almost impossible to resist. King was a remarkable orator, but he was hardly alone. He was nurtured in a centuries-old African American tradition of spoken narrative and oral persuasion. Like black speakers before and after him, King testified to how America betrayed its founding ideals through slavery, segregation and racial bigotry. King and scores of other black orators sounded the charge against Jim Crow and stung the moral conscience of America. Many powered their messages with relentless optimism that one day change would come. They reminded

Americans of how good they could be. Others offered a different version of utopia: a separate nation free of whites.

This dramatic and moving program highlights a selection of landmark sermons, speeches and broadcasts by African American orators over the past century. From Booker T. Washington and Marcus Garvey, to Fannie Lou Hamer and Malcolm X, to Shirley Chisholm and Julian Bond, listeners will hear the stirring words of African American figures as they call for action on civil rights and the unmet promise of democracy. *Say it Plain* will give listeners a vivid audio portrait of black Americans exhorting the nation to make good on its democratic principles and, in so doing, actually changing the country. This program is based on a new book and CD set, *Say it Plain* set for publication in February, 2005 by The New Press.

## Saturday February 19<sup>th</sup> – 1:00 pm – *Thurgood Marshall before the Court*

Thurgood Marshall is best known as the first African American appointed to the Supreme Court. Marshall may also be known to many as the lead attorney in the landmark school desegregation case, *Brown v. Board of Education*. Yet Americans are unfamiliar with the full scope of Marshall's 30-year career striking at the legal framework of segregation and establishing the foundation for modern civil rights law. In the 1940s and 50s, Marshall, the most recognized black leader in the country, was often called Mr. Civil Rights. This comprehensive documentary project will highlight contributions made by Marshall and key legal partners, and by the courageous African Americans across the South who risked their jobs and safety to press their grievances in local courts.



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## KFSR celebrates Black History Month

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### **Saturday February 26<sup>th</sup> – 1:00 pm - Fresno State African American Theatre Presents: *Black Damp & The Church Fight* - One act plays of the Harlem Renaissance**

KFSR and the African American Theatre class of professor Thomas-Whit Ellis present a special broadcast of two short plays from the Harlem Renaissance - John F. Matheus's *Black Damp*, a murder mystery set in coal mines of North Carolina, and Ruth Gaines-Shelton's *Church Fight*, a comedy focusing on a political struggle inside a small church. Both plays attempt to capture much of the historic vernacular and performance style common to that period. These two plays were recorded by KFSR in spring 2004, before a live audience at the Lab School Theatre at Fresno State, and mark the station's first full scale radio drama productions. Support for this program comes from the Fresno State Theatre Arts Department.

## EuroQuest brings a unique perspective to KFSR weekends



Program airs Saturday mornings at 6:30 am

**E**uroQuest is Radio Netherlands' weekly English language broadcast designed for listeners looking to expand their knowledge and understanding of world politics and culture. EuroQuest



Euroquest host Jonathan Groubert

host Jonathan Groubert brings public radio listeners a light and wide-ranging view of topics each week spanning Europe and crossing the boundaries of government, art and music, leisure, food and wine, the environment, health, science, and technology. Drawing on Radio Netherlands' network of reporters around the world, Groubert's accessible and engaging style tends toward the quirkier sides of life outside the United States.

The rundown of a typical program might include a report on ethnic tensions in Holland, a dispatch from France about the rebirth of the legendary Citroën 2CV, and a story from high in the Alps about the declining population of St. Bernards that were once a symbol of the region. EuroQuest paints a vivid picture of life on the continent, and brings to life stories that you simply won't hear elsewhere.

Groubert, is a Brooklyn, NY native who's been living in Amsterdam for 12 years and producing for Radio Netherlands since 1992. After getting his degree in secondary education and theater at the State University of New York at New Paltz, Groubert headed for the open airwaves of Europe, and now brings his unique view of the world to his native citizens back home. In addition to his weekly hosting stint, Groubert is a columnist for Radio Netherlands on-line, has recently completed a Masters in European Communications, enjoys music and preparing Indian food, when not keeping his two-year-old son entertained. - ed



Visit [KFSR.org](http://KFSR.org) today!

Listen online from any location on the globe, and find out about upcoming special programs, new station news, record reviews, information about your favorite hosts and more!

### ***The Tower Theatre presents: The Manhattan Transfer***

February 18, 2005 - 8:00 pm

815 E Olive Ave, Fresno, CA 93728  
559-485-9050



The Tower Theatre is a proud supporter of KFSR



# KFSR Program Guide - Spring 2005



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
12am-3am	Jazz Classics	Jazz Classics	Jazz Classics	Jazz Classics	Jazz Classics	Japanese Street Beat w/ DJ Trick	R&B and Hip Hop w/ Frank D
3am-6am	Jazz Classics	Jazz Classics	Jazz Classics	Jazz Classics	Jazz Classics	Japanese Street Beat w/ DJ Trick (till 5am)	Jazz Classics
6am-9am	Morning Jazz w/ David Aus	Morning Jazz w/ Josh McDonald	Morning Jazz w/ David Aus	Morning Jazz w/ Bill Bruce	Morning Jazz w/ Roger Gonzales	6am: CIW / 6:30 Euroquest 7am: World Music w/ Dave	Gospel Music w/ Wayne and Shawn
9am-12am	Morning Jazz w/ Joe Moore	Morning Jazz w/ Joe Moore	Morning Jazz w/ Joe Moore	Morning Jazz w/ Kent Stratford	Morning Jazz w/ Joe Moore	"Hye Oozh" w/ Sevagi, Davev & Armen	Euro Jazz Stage/Classic Jazz What's the Word On the Air Campus and Community
12pm-3pm	Afternoon Eclectic w/ Sara	Afternoon Eclectic w/ Cheyenne	Afternoon Eclectic w/ Andrew Roach	Campus Issues Weekly Afternoon Eclectic w/ Frank D (12:30)	Afternoon Eclectic w/ Josh	All Things Armenian 12-1 Special Programs 1-2	The Big Fresno Barn Dance 12-2pm Jazz Joint Jump 2pm-4pm
3pm-6pm	Afternoon Eclectic w/ Andrew Roach	Afternoon Eclectic w/ Miguel	Afternoon Eclectic w/ Pepe Rex	Afternoon Eclectic w/ Ryan Borba	Afternoon Eclectic w/ Sorreath	The S.E.A. Show 2-3pm Listen Here: The Jazz Review - 3pm-5pm	The Blue Buffet 4-5pm Surf Show - 5pm-6pm
6pm-9pm	Reggae w/ Papa Roots	"Trayler Trash" w/ Bill Trayler	Through the Listening Glass w/ Don Fischer	Latin Jazz w/ Steve Alcalá	"This Just In" w/ Frank D.	Hip Hop & R&B w/ La Shondias	R&B w/ Lady J and Lady Bombay
9pm-12am	Blues Mondays (rotating hosts)	"The Uncommon Thread" w/ Bob	Audio Harvest w/ Frank D.	"Mr. Leonard's Jazz Suite" w/ Mr. Leonard	"World Sounds" w/ Hope Munro Smith	Hip Hop & R&B w/ Dougie D	Hip Hop & R&B w/ A.J.

## KFSR expands student public affairs program

Last fall, KFSR launched a new student focused public affairs program called *Campus Issues Monthly*. Now that program has been expanded into a weekly show, and thus has a new name, *Campus Issues Weekly*. Produced and hosted by KFSR's Guy Haberman, the program features in-depth interviews with



Program host and producer Guy Haberman in the studio

Fresno State students, faculty, and administrators, and focuses exclusively on topics of concern to Fresno State students, from upcoming campus events, to major issues of importance to all students. On occasion the program also features profiles of individual Fresno State students who have fascinating stories to tell, such as Peter Dwight, who recently survived the South Asia tsunami while on vacation in Thailand. *Campus Issues Weekly* can be heard every Thursday at 12:00 pm, immediately following Earth and Sky. The program is also archived on the internet via Real Audio, and is rebroadcast on KFSR at 6:00 am Saturdays, before EuroQuest. In addition to the standard in studio

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Spring 2005

Airwaves is the quarterly program guide of  
KFSR FM - 90.7

**KFSR Staff**

Chair- MCJ Department - Prof. Don Priest  
 General Manager - Prof. James R. Wilson  
 Station Manager - Joe Moore  
 Music Director - Frank Delgado  
 Traffic Director - Ryan Borba  
 Sports & Public Affairs Director - Guy Haberman  
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*KFSR is a service of the College of Arts and Humanities at California State University, Fresno*

## Fresno State Softball and Baseball on KFSR this Spring

Fresno State Softball and Baseball return to KFSR this Spring for a number of exclusive broadcasts in March, April and May. KFSR's Guy Haberman will provide the play by play for both sports, as both Bulldogs teams look to land a spot in the postseason and continue on their winning ways. More games may be added to the schedule as the season progresses. For the most up to date information check [www.kfsr.org](http://www.kfsr.org).



Fresno State Softball Coach Margie Wright

### KFSR Softball Broadcast Schedule

3/3	<b>Iowa State</b>	6:00
3/4	<b>St Johns</b>	5:00
3/4	<b>Kent State</b>	7:00
3/5	<b>Ole Miss</b>	1:00
3/9	<b>UConn</b>	6:00
3/9	<b>UConn</b>	8:00
3/11	<b>UCSB</b>	5:00
3/11	<b>UCSB</b>	7:00
3/22	<b>Northwestern</b>	6:00
3/22	<b>Northwestern</b>	8:00
3/28	<b>Stanford</b>	6:00
3/28	<b>Stanford</b>	8:00
4/13	<b>UNLV</b>	6:00
4/15	<b>SJSU</b>	6:00
4/16	<b>SJSU</b>	1:00
4/23	<b>Tulsa</b>	1:00
5/13	<b>UTEP</b>	6:00
5/14	<b>UTEP</b>	1:00

Game times and broadcast dates subject to change

### KFSR Baseball Broadcast Schedule

3/7	<b>Southern Utah</b>	7:00
3/8	<b>Pennsylvania</b>	7:00
3/9	<b>San Francisco</b>	7:00
3/10	<b>TBA (Pepsi Johnny Quick Tournament)</b>	TBA
3/11	<b>TBA (Pepsi Johnny Quick Tournament)</b>	TBA
3/12	<b>TBA (Pepsi Johnny Quick Tournament)</b>	TBA

# Listen Here! comes to KFSR in March

Jazz review program to air Saturdays 3-5pm starting March 12th

## Listen! Here!

The Jazz Review with  
Neil Tesser and Mark Ruffin

Starting next month, KFSR listeners can tune in for one of the most interesting, informative and innovative new jazz programs around, called *Listen Here*. The program debuts March 12th, and will be heard every Saturday afternoon from 3 pm-5 pm. Hosted by noted jazz critics, friends and sparring partners Neil Tesser and Mark Ruffin, *Listen Here* is a high-energy, two-hour, weekly program incorporating conversation, criticism, debate, recorded music, interviews, and occasional live performances from Jazz venues around North America.

In the style of Ebert and Roeper, or Click and Clack, (or Jekyll and Hyde), Tesser and Ruffin will preview and review each week's newest Jazz recordings, analyzing and playing the best of the best, and often agreeing to disagree. Each week's program will also include an interview with at least one prominent jazz artist, discussing his or her latest recording. Selected programs will feature guest jazz critics with their own perspectives on what's new in jazz. *Listen Here* will be on the road in 2005, recording live-on-stage, at some of the best-known jazz clubs and settings in the U.S. and Canada, in front of a live audience. First stop: Los Angeles, California.

Neil and Mark have earned the right to disagree. Friends for more than twenty years, these award winning hosts, have been active in the jazz scene in Chicago and across the United States – as critics, radio hosts and journalists for both print and broadcast. Their chemistry as radio co-hosts has been proven during special jazz festival broadcasts of *Miles Ahead*, Chicago's only afternoon drive-time jazz radio program, now going strong in its fourth year.

### About the hosts:

#### Mark Ruffin

Mark Ruffin is an Emmy Award-winning jazz correspondent for Artbeat Chicago on WTTW-TV (he's actually garnered two!), jazz editor for Chicago Magazine, music editor for the alternative weekly N'Digo, and a producer of jazz recordings and events. Many Chicago-area radio listeners know him as a former jazz host on Chicago Public Radio. Mark has also served on-air stints at several other Chicago radio stations. He was the producer for the first five years of the nationally syndicated Ramsey Lewis radio program. He currently co-hosts *Miles Ahead*, Chicago's only drive-time jazz radio program, with his colleague



Mark Ruffin (left) and Neil Tesser (right) host "Listen Here"

Neil Tesser. A former musician and songwriter, Mark has written more than five hundred articles on jazz, broadcasting and African-American culture. His work has appeared in a variety of local and national publications, including the Chicago Sun-Times, Down Beat, Jazziz, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Playboy, and dozens of others. His recent productions include the latest album from be-bop guitar legend George Freeman, titled *At Long Last, George* on High Note Records, and a benefit concert for the late Art Porter. He has also received the Excellence in Television Award from the Chicago Association of Black Journalists for his work on WTTW's Artbeat program.

#### Neil Tesser

Neil Tesser has written on and broadcast jazz in Chicago for more than 30 years. Jazz critic for the Chicago READER and author of *The Playboy Guide to Jazz*, he was Playboy's jazz critic from 1991-2002 and the first jazz critic for USA Today, and has also served as a monthly columnist for Jazziz Magazine and jazz critic for the Chicago Sun-Times. A former adjunct professor in jazz history at Northwestern University, and a charter member of the programming committee for the Chicago Jazz Festival, he is also completing his second term as National Trustee to the Board of NARAS (the Recording Academy), and serves on several of that organization's national committees. In 2001 Tesser received a Deems Taylor Award from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) for his liner notes to two Rhino Records reissues: *Coltrane Jazz* and *Coltrane Plays the Blues*, two classics originally pressed by Atlantic in the 1960s. These awards are granted each year by ASCAP, the world's largest performing-rights organization. Author of liner notes for nearly 200 albums - one of which, the Stan Getz reissue *The Girl from Ipanema*, received a Grammy nomination in 1985 - Tesser previously hosted nightly jazz programs at Chicago Public Radio (1980-1996) and WNIB-FM (1974-1976). His broadcast credits include arts commentaries for the NPR series Future Forward and for all-news WBBM-AM. Radio listeners in Chicago and around the United States can hear him, along with colleague Mark Ruffin, as the co-host of *Miles Ahead*.

# Studio project opens new doors for KFSR

Earlier this year, KFSR began work on a long term project that will eventually renovate all of KFSR's existing studio facilities. KFSR currently has two small studios adjacent to each other, one for live broadcasting, (the control room) and another for recording interviews, promos, editing and the like (the production room). While both rooms have been updated substantially with modern computer equipment and other broadcasting hardware, the basic audio control consoles, the main interface between the DJ or host and the listener, are beyond their practical lifetime. In the case of the control room, the original Autogram audio console has been in continual use, virtually 24 hours a day, for over 22 years! Needless to say, the equipment, which was state of the art in the mid 1970's, is showing its age, and KFSR's growing needs have outstripped its capabilities. However, renovating a radio station that broadcasts 24 hours a day is a logistical challenge of rather daunting proportions. In order to renovate KFSR's control room, it will



KFSR's aging audio console has been in constant service since 1982



KFSR's new production facility takes shape

need to be out of commission for several weeks at the very least. During that time, broadcasts will seamlessly (to the listener) shift to our existing production facility right next door. However, by broadcasting from our existing production room, that leaves the station without a facility to record our interview programs, produce promos, and other daily work associated with running a radio station.

In order to solve the studio crunch, KFSR, in cooperation with the Mass Communication and Journalism Department at Fresno State, is constructing a new, state of the art production facility in a small room across the hallway from the existing KFSR studio complex. By splitting the cost of the project between the two groups, we will have access to a full featured radio production facility that will rival those of any non-commercial radio station in the area. KFSR will use the facility during the renovation of the existing KFSR control room and will continue to use it for additional production work after the project is completed. This will be especially useful, as currently there are many cases when our existing studio is completely booked, making scheduling quite a challenge. The Mass

Communication and Journalism Department will also use the facility as an audio editing lab for MCJ students.

Following the completion of the project, which is expected in late February, KFSR will begin raising funds for completion of phase II, which will be the replacement of the existing control console and related equipment in the station's main broadcast control room, and then phase III, renovation of equipment in KFSR's existing production room. While the bulk of the equipment, including a new 12 channel audio console, has already been purchased, additional expenses will likely total around \$5,000 - \$6,000, and will include a reconfiguration of the in built in furniture and desktop to accommodate the new, larger audio console. The resulting studio complex will finally bring KFSR into the 21st century with reliable capable broadcasting equipment. And once that project is complete, we'll begin raising money to replace KFSR's original 1982 analog audio processor (which was state of the art in the early 80's), with a new, more powerful all digital processor, which will make KFSR's signal somewhat stronger, and thus expand the station's coverage area! If you would like to contribute to these projects, please call the station today or pledge during our upcoming membership campaign, as your support will directly help KFSR modernize and improve.

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## Campus Issues

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interviews, the program also features a regular segment of "man on the street" style interviews with randomly selected Fresno State students, offering their opinions of the topics at hand. This semester's first edition of the *Campus Issues Weekly* debuted on Thursday February 3rd, and featured an interview with the aforementioned Peter Dwight about his ordeal in Thailand, and an interview with Dr. Robert Levine, about the opening of the multi-million dollar Science II building in January. More information about *Campus Issues Weekly* is available online at [www.kfsr.org](http://www.kfsr.org).