

LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA

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Title: LGBT Oral History: Edmund “Ed” Good and Thurman Grossnickle, Part 2

Date: March 28, 2013

Location: LGBT Oral History – Good, Edmund “Ed” and Grossnickle, Thurman - 042

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Interviewees: Ed Good and Thurman Grossnickle Tape 4

Interviewer(s): John Folby and Lonna Malmsheimer

Date of Interview: March 28, 2013

Location of Interview: LGBT Center of Central PA

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Abstract:

In the second half of their interview, Ed and Thurman tackle some deeper issues. Ed discusses how his work and family life didn't change too much overall, but there were some bumps. At first, his parents didn't understand what it meant to be gay, creating an estrangement. But with the introduction of Thurman into the picture, they had a change of heart.

Ed and Thurman discuss other difficulties they've endured in 33 years as a couple. Despite being made coal on the carpet, a church backed them up and defied their national organization, making it a known safe space for LGBT couples. On a less happy note, they discuss a community's reaction to Thurman's friendship with a gay teenage boy. As Ed and Thurman reflect on the past events they've encountered, they note where we've come from and where we still need to go. Ed mentions several websites, webinars, and workshops that helped him as a gay man, but could also help others to understand and love thy neighbor.

EG: Catholic Church *should've* done. To go and... you know, have a six cycle—they call a canon... but I mean, you talk about them. Most talk about your sex life, I mean... with—you chose a partner in a group. You know, most often, it's, you know, it's... man and—man on woman, but... of a really, you know, the Human Awareness Institute is something that you would definitely want to look at. And I would certainly want to recommend it, you know, for any gay person.

JF: Is that something you've done recently?

EG: Well, they have—they... I... They have eight levels. You know, and I... I've done seven of the eight.

JF: Have you ever encountered anyone from this area... in the process? During the process?

EG: There's... There's, I mean, a few people that have done it. But because of the drive, it's...

JF: Not easy...

EG: Yeah.

JF: Not that doable...

EG: But they—well, there's actually a group... I very much like their website, where they talk back and forth and I learn about some of the most interesting courses going on. And I find, you know, one of the things I'm kind of my—a latent heterosexual, I've recognized for myself and I'm... I find it interesting in the sense of the church, that as a, you know, as a heterosexual that... the person I work with at The Brethren Housing... you know, we have... you know, talks about, I guess. And in the sense of, you know, he, from a spiritual standpoint, has difficulty with gayness, but he would say that... you know, that... heterosexual, I mean... Ya know, at my age, being 65, marrying a, you know, a woman, be—I mean, if it were *not* for the sexual purposes, he would not consider that an acceptable... you know. I mean, since that's the only purpose of marriage... But I'm not sure where I was going with that...

[all laughing]

JF: You were educating me and it all started from *flaming heterosexuals* [laughing]... Okay. We set to go?

LM: Ready.

JF: Okay.

LM: We're rollin'.

JF: Alright. What impact did coming out gay have on your work life?

EG: Well, since I was working for my father, and he *knew* I was, you know—obviously about our, you know, relations and living together... it luckily for me, was not a problem.

JF: That's—and that's a good segue into the next question, which is: what impact did it have on your family life?

EG: It... it—it wasn't a problem. And also the fact that I was an apartment manager and, I mean, I was living at the apartments, some people, you know, *knew*—knew we were living together... and we weren't officially... you know, but, I mean, I think everybody knew exactly what was. [TG raises his hand]

LM: Did we get a time there? What date?

EG: 1980.

LM: Okay.

TG: May I?

LM: Sure, go head!

JF: Certainly.

LM: You know, this is part of the reason... that we—

TG: It's interesting how I became a son to them... their *evolution* of acceptance... of their son, whom they had always felt was odd, because he was gay. And I came into his life... I was spending first about three or four nights a week at his home, sleeping in the same bed. And... at first, they put up with it, so to speak... But I could sense that there was a strangeness—an estrangement there, as it were. But as—well, one night, in particular we think was a changing point in the father's point of view, and probably he had an influence on his wife. Ed was, at the time, doing... practice teaching in his last year at Penn State, hoping to get into a teaching position of vocational education... and he was preparing things the night before up quite late. It was probably midnight or something like that...

EG: Yeah, it was.

TG: And I was helping him by typing out the copy paper that use to have—you know, you type it and...

JF: Carbon Paper!

[all laughing]

EG: [Laughing crosstalk inaudible]

TG: Yeah [laughing]. And so, I was doing that, while he was at his desk preparing the stuff to be typed. His father walked by his room and looked in... and shook his head as if, "Wow, this is more than just a sexual relationship." And eventually, as I say, we went together as...to his mother and father, I was accepted. And I think they actually may have used the word, "son."

EG: Oh, yes. They did, they did.

TG: "Son-in-law," or something like that.

EG: Yep.

TG: So, that's how we changed them—their opinion of what it was to be gay. When they saw a loving relationship that was a lot more than sex.

JF: And Ed, you said you have a sister, correct?

EG: Yes.

JF: And how did she... deal with all of it?

EG: She accepted it, but her husband had difficulty...

TG: *Has.*

EG: *Has, yeah.* [TG and EG chuckle] And... you know, we'll talk about it, I mean, she feels comfortable with it, but...

JF: But she was still living at home when Thurman was sleeping over?

TG: No.

EG: No... No.

JF: So, she was grown and already out of the house?

EG: Yes.

TG: They live in Illinois, so they're not even nearby.

JF: So she's an older sibling...

EG: Yeah.

JF: What impact did coming out gay have on your social life?

EG: Not... not at all, really. I... And I think most... I think a lot of my friends, you know, were—were gay. [TG coughs]

JF: It sounds like your affiliations at Penn State were a good way to ease into social interactions.

EG: Yes.

JF: Is that how you feel about it?

EG: Yes.

JF: Okay. What did coming out gay have on your civil and political life? If any...

EG: I wasn't very involved politically.

JF: No? Okay... And what about in your spiritual life... did coming out gay have any impact?

EG: Well, Dignity certainly was very helpful. And Kirkridge (Bangor, Pennsylvania), yeah... and John McNeill, I think was very helpful... in being unified. I also found that Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren also helped... that we did a... a news... our next door neighbor... I'm trying...[Looks to TG] the patriot... worked at The Patriot (News) and interviewed us and mentioned the fact that we were in Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren and that we're accepted there. And that outed our church, which caused a... in our denomination, the fact that we were, you know, the church did not officially, you know, recognize gay people. And when the—this got in the newspaper, the fact that we were an accepting church, they were put, you know, coal in the carpet. They... supported us and, you know, backed us up, and I'm really glad 'cause they—the fact that, you know, Thurman knows more of the church... that they...

JF: When was that?

LM: Was this still Brethren?

TG: Yes.

EG: Yes.

TG: Church of the Brethren... That's changed over the years, since we started in 1980. Well, actually, we started going there in 1982. There are now two openly gay men... I mean, partners. Ed and I are one, and there's another one that drives some distance to come because they are openly accepting. And there's a lesbian couple that has moved away, but they still maintain their membership there and were totally accepted there in the congregation. There are some old-timers that just can't get quite... bring themselves to be that way [laughing], but by in large...

JF: When did the article about you appear in The Patriot (News)? Do you remember which time that was?

TG: Oh... goodness...

EG: 19... 93, something like that.

TG: Was it that? I don't remember the date.... I can't...

EG: Okay.

TG: Maybe later than that... But one of the Pastors was coal on the carpet, as it were, because she was supportive.

JF: So, even in 1993, it sounds like the community... or the region was still *agonizing* over gay issues.

TG: Well, in the Church of the Brethren... nationally, has not accepted yet. I don't consider myself a member of the national organization anymore because they don't. I'm a member of the congregation, period.

JF: And that's the Elizabethtown?

TG: Yeah.... Yeah.

EG: To give you an idea, I mean... I... the gay and lesbian—I'm trying to think of what the group... BMC...

TG: Brethren Mennonite Counsel... for lesbian and gay concerns. I think they've included bisexuals and so on. I don't know the whole thing... but that's a national organization within The Church of the Brethren. *And* the Mennonite churches. That's one organization that covers both...

EG: But we have—we have been trying to get a booth just—I mean, a table to put our literature down—

TG: At the national conference... once a year.

EG: And I think it's 29 years...

TG: I don't know how often, but it was only last year that they would allow that to happen.

EG: [laughing] I mean, if you and I together...

TG: [laughing] Finally... Finally...

JF: Oh...

EG: [laughing]

LM: It's like the Supreme Court.

JF: I was just gonna say that!

LM: [laughing]

JF: You just stole the words out of my mouth... what changes have you witnessed or participated in with respect to the LGBT community in Central Pennsylvania.

EG: I see the Pride Festival being accepted... I—I think we're... Things are... you know, I see a *big change*, I mean, from, you know, when—when I came out... where

there was nothing in the newspapers and to the fact of having The Pride (Festival) being an annual event and welcomed in the community.

JF: And before The Pride Festival came, or was finally open to, Harrisburg, would you go to New York or Baltimore, or other Gay Prides in the country?

EG: No, we did go to The March on Washington.

JF: Okay.

EG: That was the... That's about the only event that we...

TG: Yeah... Several times.

LM: And when was that? Which one?

JF: Wow...

TG: Well, both of 'em featured that quiddle. Yeah, the quiddle.

JF: And... How much were you aware of local LGBT issues for civil rights in this region? Sort of like the things Thurman mentioned with his work in The Switchboard. He was aware of how civil rights were changing in the region.

EG: Yeah... I'm trying to think of—we had a... newspaper.

TG: He was probably as aware as I was—

EG: Yeah.

TG: —because we were sharing information, of course, all the time.

EG: Yeah.

JF: What kind of things do you still see as challenges to the LGBT community? Or things that need to be done in respect to our civil rights?

EG: Well, I think marriage equality. That's the biggest issue and I—I think it's—I'm really glad that it's getting so much coverage that it's becoming a topic of conversation. I think among, you know, what *is* “loving your neighbor” mean in a Christian church. I... I really have trouble with the Christian church because... You know, I see loving your neighbor not the question that's asked. And things like this I find most Christians don't, you know... How our country treats the poor... it's not talked about frequently.

JF: How long have you and Thurman been together?

EG: Oh... 32, 33?

TG: Well, it's since 1980. I guess it's going on 33 years. June the 6th is our...

LM: How did you meet?

TG: Wedding Date, so to speak [laughing].

EG: Oh, Dignity.

LM: Hm?

EG: Dignity.

LM: Oh, Dignity.

JF: Dignity. And ever... do you talk about same sex unions and getting married?

TG: As far as we're concerned, we're married.

JF: Okay.

TG: We don't need somebody else to perform a ceremony for court to recognize it. We recognize it among ourselves and that's all that's necessary.

JF: What about things such as, do you ever talk about inheritance issues? Or...

EG: Oh, we both have wills.

TG: Well, we have separate...

EG: Wills.

TG: We have separate accounts, actually. And we have separate wills, as it were.

JF: And have... have you ever talked about adopting one another as a way around inheritance taxes? That stuff's an option...

TG: Well, we have wills and presumably, if they're carried out, then we don't need anything else.

EG: The house, I mean, is both. You know, if I die, it goes to him. Like, you know...

TG: Things of that nature.

JF: I'm just curious because it seems to be an emerging phenomenon among same sex couples. And living in states where same sex marriage is not acknowledged, and as a way of preventing being... overly taxed. Because if you're married—

TG: Yeah.

JF: —the inheritance tax is—

TG: Yeah.

JF: —nothing more than 3%.

TG: There is a matter of taxation business.

JF: If you are partners and everything would go either to you or to Ed.

TG: Mhm.

JF: And there would be 15%... and that becomes a financial cushion.

TG: That's true.

JF: Adoption becomes a financial cushion... and have you ever—

TG: Well...

JF: —looked into that?

TG: I've never even thought of that, actually, to tell the truth.

LM: I'm not sure that would get them out of it. That's the thing, though.

JF: It's an option.

LM: Right.

JF: It does.

LM: I... I paid taxes on my mother's estate and I was her—

JF: But—

LM: —*birth* daughter.

JF: That's for birth daughter... We'll talk about that in a second. Sorry!

LM: [laughing]

JF: [laughing] [Pause] Let's see. How much were you aware of LGBT civil rights in other places, other than Central Pennsylvania? Such as statewide or nationally.

EG: Well...

JF: I mean, other things you and Thurman talked about from Gay Switchboard.

EG: Well, I think nobody got the newsletters that, you know, talked about that. I mean, the gay—gay papers.

JF: And you did mention that you participated in both of the marches on Washington... what have been the most important events of your life?

EG: That's a good question.... Nothing... You know, I think, you know, I'm gonna say working for... Brethren Housing. I'm trying to think of... I don't see... In the big picture of most... That's a question I've always thought about, but I don't see anything big coming up... Do you—

JF: I was gonna say meeting your partner [laughing].

EG: Yes! Yes.

TG: He's asking you the question [laughing]. I've already spoken.

JF: What have been major turning points in your life?

EG: [Pause] I... Nothing particularly comes to mind.

TG: Not even meeting me?

EG: Oh [laughing] [All laugh] certainly, yeah.

TG: [laughing] I don't wanna put words in your mouth, but...

JF: And you mentioned Gay Pride coming out to Harrisburg and being open in Harrisburg. Have you seen any other great changes or experienced any other changes in the area for gay and civil rights in the region?

EG: I guess, you know, kind of, you know, from my Buddhist...I, you know, I see it kind of—you know, I don't see the... You know, I see it as the big picture, not... not any—you know, the smaller... smaller parts.

JF: Okay. And do you have any books or music or memorabilia or objects that are of particular significance to you?

EG: Nothing. No.

JF: No books you've read? Have you read the same library books that Thurman has? Pretty much?

EG: Yes.

JF: Okay... Can you think of anything we might have missed in this interview you'd like to talk about? Or...

EG: Well, ya know, I... I...

LM: Either one of you.

JF: Yeah.

EG: I find that, you know, programs, such like Dan Savage's... You know, I... and I find it surprising that even gay, you know... hard to believe that people do not... you know, a lot of people don't know it, but I find that human sexuality programs... you know, are kind of like the Ann Lanner's. It really covers the things that I think gay and straight people... I mean, coming out, but I find... You know, like high school students... you know, very few people have... I mean, it's on the internet and he has a weekly—a weekly hour show.

JF: Is that...It sounds like then that it's something you would advocate for The LGBT Center to include in their newsletter.

EG: Oh, most definitely!

JF: Advertise more about Internet options or media options?

EG: Oh, yes. I... I—and it's hard to believe that... you know, the Internet options of that nature are not... not known about. I—I'm a... I guess probably have you, yourself done it- Or either of you... have ever heard of Dan Savage?

JF: No, I haven't... and... and in the process of developing The History Project, the steering committee published a link of LGBT history projects that are going on throughout the country. Like... Dan savage—that never would've dawned on me to look on the Internet... for LGBT history projects.

EG: Well, the thing I... I really like is that he gives a... like a ten minute talk on whatever's happening in the news this week. And I find him talking about The Pope and... in fact, he *is*, you know an *out* gay. He takes it from the gay's—and I find a gay's perspective, but I find also as a Christian. I see him, you know, I would compare him to Jesus. I mean, when he's asked the most... People will go call into the show and ask

questions on... any topic on human sexuality and very personal matters in their own life and he tries to give—help the person work through the problem and I...

JF: What's the format, Ed? Is it a weekly Webinar, or?

EG: Yes. Yes...

JF: A daily Internet show?

EG: No, I mean, it... He has a phone line. You can go leave a message or talk to him directly.

JF: And how do you find him, just Google—

EG: Yeah... Yes.

JF: —Ann Savage.

EG: Yeah, Dan Savage. Yes.

JF: *Dan Savage*, okay.

EG: And he also—and he also... you know, I think... In a newspaper in California, I mean, has a weekly column.

JF: Is that where it originates, in California?

EG: Yes.

JF: Okay... Do you have any photographs or artifacts you might be willing to share with the project?

EG: I... [shaking head]

JF: Well, think about it.

EG: Yeah.

JF: And if you do, The Project would appreciate it. And how—what was your first connection with The LGBT Center? How did you become involved with it?

EG: Well, through working with The Switchboard.

JF: Working with The Switchboard, okay. And...

TG: Oh, now he's talking about *this* center.

EG: Oh! No.

TG: This is new.

EG: Yeah.

JF: So, you would say then through Thurman?

EG: [nods]

JF: ...Became your connection to The Center.

EG: Yes.

JF: Or your introduction to The Center... Okay.... And could you think of any recommendations of other people you would recommend for an interview? Or might wanna talk to about The History Project and have 'em call us or send an email?

EG: [nods]

JF: It sounds like you might have a few folks you *would* recommend... And we can go beyond the borders of the Commonwealth... We're not there yet, but eventually, that's what we wanna do... is reach out beyond the borders.

EG: Well, I see as a resource—I think of-of... you know, activities that... you know, that gay people might wanna go to is... Center for a New Culture, which is a... 11-day workshop. And I've been going for five years and I find that they are *very* accepting of *everybody*, including gays. And they are very open, sexually speaking. And they're... I find topics covered there that—and they have... I find—I think going and going to their... yeah, their website (<http://www.cfnc.us>), Center for a New Culture, and you read about, you know, the different events they have. And each day's a separate workshop.

JF: How did you find out about them?

EG: Well, I went to Shalom Mountain and I heard... the leader, Michael Rios, give a talk and I was *sold*. Boy, I signed up on the spot. He's a very impressive person and... originally, this was done out in California and he brought the concept to the East Coast and... I could go on talk for two hours, I mean, on... the event and what he's, you know, what he's done. And... what... But why I think for gay or straight people, I would highly recommend... the workshop. And also is very inexpensive and a sort of sliding scale, depending on your ability to pay.

JF: And where's Shalom Mountain?

EG: Oh, well, you know, that was where he happened to be doing a—

TG: He asked where.

EG: Well... in the Catskills (New York).

JF: Oh, so it's in New York State.

EG: But actually...the Center for New Culture is done... in West Virginia and it's halfway up a mountain, so the temperature is, you know... In the daytime it seldom goes above 80 and gently is like 65 at night and, you know, it's *no* bugs, I mean, you know, it's heaven.

JF: And how did you hear about these other groups—just through research on the Internet, or?

EG: Well, I...

JF: Word of mouth?

EG: Yeah. I find... going to these different workshops I've gone to, that's where I—

TG: How did you find out about the workshops at first?

EG: Well, I guess you find out about the *first* one just through meeting people. I suspect it probably was at Kirkridge where I've heard people that went to these other workshops. And then I... you know, checked them out.

JF: Word of mouth, then?

EG: Yes.

JF: Huh. Okay. Well, thank you and unless you two have anything you'd like to add or comment about—

TG: Well, it just occurred to me that I was for a while involved with... P-Flag, because my daughter's a lesbian... So, I'm a parent of a gay person, although I, too, am gay. And I became Program Director for the local chapter and I brought different people in. It was interesting to bring different people in to speak to us. Mary Clouse still rights in The Patriot News every so often as a column.

JF: Where is the local chapter now? Is it... still—

TG: It's still going.

JF: —going?

TG: Yeah. They threw me out because they thought I was having sex with an underage boy and I wasn't... [JF sighs] They accused me falsely. And they couldn't prove it and I couldn't prove otherwise—

LM: Oh...

TG: But a 15-year old boy somehow—how did he find my name? I don't remember, but he gave me a call on the phone. He wanted to meet me. And I said, "You know, I can talk with you, but there's no way we can have sex." Well, anyway, he became very close to me and I sort of became a mentor... And his parents became very gung-ho for this and... they... I would visit him at his parents' homes and he would come to visit with us occasionally... But anyway, somehow or another... what let them to think... that I was having sex? I don't know, but anyway, they called me before the board and I told them that I wasn't having sex. But still, they decided that I had to leave.

JF: Now that you've mentioned P-Flag—early on there was a woman... local...

TG: Uh-huh.

JF: Who ran P-Flag—I think her name was Jackie Shultz.

TG: Yes.

JF: And she use to work with Father Saude—

TG: Yes.

JF: —to get members of Dignity to be speakers for the P-Flag speakers borough.

TG: Yes.

JF: And P-Flag and Father Saude would ask members of Dignity if we would go to local colleges and universities.

TG: Yeah.

JF: And what kind of impact do you think that had *eventually* on people in the region and—

TG: Well, I think...

JF: —being more affirmative about LGBT lifestyles?

TG: Oh, I think it was a positive thing to do... absolutely, yeah. Sure... I occasionally went on those... on that panel, so to speak. We'd meet in colleges and people would come to ask us questions.

JF: One of the panel members... Was there a man named Bob Savinsky (ph.)?

TG: Oh, yes!

JF: And Bob Savinsky use to point to students in the audience and say, "I can point out everyone one of you right now who is lesbian or gay."

TG: [laughing]

JF: Do you remember that and the shock value that had—

TG: No, I can't remember Bob doing that [laughing].

JF: And...

TG: I'm not sure I was ever on a panel with Bob.

JF: The first time I ever saw him do it was at Shippensburg University [Shippensburg, Pennsylvania]—

TG: Okay.

JF: And you could see the blood coming to the kids' faces and...

[EG and TG laughing]

JF: It had incredible shock value and—

TG: I'm sure.

JF: —you could see them squirm.

LM: Well, that's how he knew. If the blood drained, you knew darn well.

[all laughing]

JF: But it was incredible! And I remember the first time I was on the panel when he did it... *I* almost died.

TG: [laughing]

JF: Just... but that was, I think... between Jerry Brennan saying, "Yes, we'll help you get speakers," was a really great way to begin to break the ice.

TG: Mhm... Mhm. Yeah...

JF: For people understanding LGBT issues in the region.

TG: Yeah... but I thought that the—well, personally, who was most influential is now dead... But I thought... you know, depending on accusations with no proof...

JF: Yeah.

TG: Was terrible...

JF: Intense.

TG: You know, but... That's the way it went...

JF: Can you think of anything else?

TG: Not off hand. That was about it.

JF: Alright. Well, thank you *both*... so much.

TG: I like to share, I mean...

JF: You're the first couple we've interviewed!

TG: Oh, really? [laughing]

JF: Yeah.

TG: Alright.

JF: Thank you for the inauguration.

TG: Sure. Thanks for giving us the opportunity, I guess [laughing].

JF: Okay, thanks.

TG: Yeah.

LM: See, that one I knew would be shorter.

JF: Yeah, you can't leave yet.

TG: Oh, alright [laughing]. Well, I have to get on a taxi.

JF: Let's get you disconnected first.

LM: Actually, don't.

JF: Don't turn it off?

LM: No.

JF: Oh.

LM: What I find is that when this stage comes, suddenly people might talk about something... that we would wanna have on here.

JF: [laughing] So you want them still connected?

LM: Yeah. I'm sorry...

JF: I de-miked you too early.

LM: You don't have to do that anyway, but if you do... If you object to anything you've said *now* or in the future while we are here, you are perfectly...

TG: Yeah, I understand.

LM: Clear about that kind of permission...

[EG and TG nod]

TG: I understand.

EG: But, you know, another resource... that is equally interesting as the new dimensions... I mean, this... I find a send of spirituality that Michael Toms covers... all, I mean, the really *wide* area of human spirituality and I... I... I can't believe that... I mean, that people in our church that are up in a lot of things they're not aware of... This is on the Internet... that he has a weekly—you know, there's two programs that you can, you know, download and hear. And he has... He's interviewed, I think, 5,000, I mean, you know, these are people who've written spiritual books in... on any... the whole earth... From Eastern religion to Western religion... ad he has some really interesting stuff.

TG: Some of these organizations though that you go to are... a little more than some people can stomach. I mean some of them are nudists.... And a lot of people aren't into nudity.

LM: True.

TG: So... So, that's a turnoff for a lot of people.

EG: The... That's the reason that—

LM: That's the Radical Fairies.

EG: Well...

LM: Do you know that organization?

TG: Well, it's never come up.

LM: [laughing]

EG: And... speaking... speaking... speaking of activities, Beltane is *another* really spiritual, I mean, it covers, you know, tantric sex and is very open to gay people. I mean, *that* I would recommend. I mean, when I think of all the resources, I would certainly...

LM: Well, the Internet, yeah... I mean, resources for... anything that could come... enormous.

EG: Well, I mean, for somebody coming out, I mean, that's 18 and over, I would *strongly* recommend Beltane.

LM: Yeah. Well, I'm thinking about your experience in terms of mentoring a young man... That's a fear all over the place and that's *really* sad that—

TG: Yeah, it really is!

LM: That other gay and lesbian people *cannot* help young people without *fearing* they're going to be *accused*.

TG: I had... I had to push him away because he wanted to have sex... and I said, "We can't do that!" I mean, he... and he knew what he was. If I had to say anything, he knew more about what he wanted than somebody who's 19-years old. I mean, this age discrimination is *meaningless* in these days with young people. They know what they want! And anyway... but because of the law and so on, I said, "Oh, no way!" and I held to that. And... well, anyway... In earlier years, I've gone to nudist colonies—male and female. I have no problem with the human body... As far as I'm concerned, it's what the creator gave us and it's beautiful in all its ways.

LM: Those can wait... [laughing]. We need to get the permission stuff.

TG: And so I don't really have a problem with nudity... per se.

JF: If you could please...

EG: Do you have a...

JF: Something...

LM: Something to write on.

JF: A hard surface?

EG: Yes.

TG: That would help... But I don't attend the things he does [laughing].

JF: Sorry.... How's that? That's a little cushiony, but—

EG: It'll work.

TG: The only thing at my age, I've decided to... cut back on a lot of... activities [laughing]. I don't have the energy he does, to have...

LM: I gotcha. I gotcha.

TG: [laughing] As you could figure, I'll be—I have my pen—89 in July, so...

JF: Oh... Ed, do me a favor, if there aren't any restrictions, just put "n/a" on there, *please*.

TG: I use to write beautifully... and now I can hardly write at all.

JF: Thank you.

EG: But I would always say, you know, the biggest thing is that, for a person coming out, is finding these groups. You know... like on the Internet, I mean, where they're talked about. What I like about- like about Dan Savage... is that he talks about anything, you know, sexually, you know, what *is* normal and what is *not*. And he also talks about... even, you know, the kinky items, I mean, 'cause *any*... they say—the introduction to the show is a musical interlude. It says... there isn't a *topic* that you *can't* talk about and he *literally* means... He gets... And I find 'em all, from a spiritual standpoint, I mean, to answer questions on the issues. I mean, I would not wanna—I mean, its really difficult to say *what is* the spiritual thing and what... what—are you—

TG: Do you wanna put your email on there? I don't know if you want 'em, or not. Email address...

LM: I'm gonna take these down now.