

JON PEACOCK. To the point of being somewhat mousy, I'd almost say. He was having some difficulties adjusting, but this was home for him and he made that quite clear. And, so his mousyness, his shyness gave way to a person who was excited about this track that he was going to embark on. He was just figuring out wanting to work on human rights, how he was going to do that. And when that happens this person begins to bloom a little bit. He was starting to say, "Wow, there are opportunities here. There are things I can do in this world. I can be important."

ROMAINE PATTERSON. I did hear from Matthew about forty-eight hours before his attack. And he told me that he had joined the gay and lesbian group on campus, and he said he was enjoying it. You know, he was getting ready for Pride Week and what not. I mean, he was totally stoked about school — yeah, he was really happy about being there.

JON PEACOCK. And in retrospect and I can only say this in retrospect, of course, I think that's where he was heading, towards human rights. Which only adds to the irony and tragedy of this.

MOMENT: WHO'S GETTING WHAT?

DOC O'CONNOR. Let me tell you something else here, There's more gay people in Wyoming than meets the eye. I know, I know for a fact. They're not particularly, ah, the whatta you call them, the queens, the gay people, queens, you know, run around faggot type people. No, they're the ones that throw bail, hay, jump on horses, brand 'em and kick ass, you see what I'm saying? As I always say, don't fuck with a Wyoming queer, 'cause they will kick you in your fucking ass, but that's not the point of what I'm trying to say. 'Cause I know a lot of gay people in Wyoming. I know a lot of people period. I've been lived up here some forty-odd years, you see what I'm saying?

And I don't think Wyoming people give a damn one way or another if you're gay or straight, that's just what I just said, doesn't matter. If there's eight men and one woman in a Wyoming bar

CATHERINE

which is often the case, now you stop and think — who's getting what? You see what I'm saying? Now jeez, it don't take a big intelligent mind to figure that one out.

MOMENT: EASIER SAID THAN DONE

CATHERINE CONNOLLY. My understanding when I first came here ...

NARRATOR. Catherine Connolly.

CATHERINE CONNOLLY. ... is that I was the first "out" lesbian or gay faculty member on campus. And that was in 1992. So, that wasn't that long ago. Um, I was asked at my interview what my husband did, um, and so I came out then. Do you want a funny story?

When you first get here as a new faculty member, there's all these things you have to do. And so, I was in my office and I noticed that this woman called ... I was expecting, you know, it was a health-insurance phone call, something like that, and so I called her back. And I could hear her. She's working on her keyboard, clicking away — I said, you know, "This is Cathy Connolly returning your phone call." And she said, "Oh. It's you." And I thought, "This is bizarre." And she said, "I hear — I hear — I hear you're gay. I hear you are." I was like, "Uh huh." And she said, "I hear you came as a couple. I'm one too. Not a couple, just a person." And so — she was — a kind of lesbian who knew I was coming and she wanted to come over and meet me immediately. And she later told me that there were other lesbians that she knew who wouldn't be seen with me. That I would irreparably taint them, that just to be seen with me could be a problem.

JONAS SLONAKER. When I came here I knew it was going to be hard as a gay man.

NARRATOR. Jonas Slonaker.

JONAS SLONAKER. But I kept telling myself, people should live where they want to live. And there would be times I would to go down to Denver and I would go to gay bars and, um, people