

SHANNON. I'm sure that he knew people that are gay. I mean, he worked up at KFC and there was a couple people up there that — yeah. *(He laughs.)* And I'm not saying it's bad or anything, 'cause I don't know, half the people I know here in Laramie are gay.

STEPHEN BELBER. What would you guys say to Aaron if you saw him right now?

SHANNON. First of all, I'd ask him if he'd ever do anymore tweak.

JEN. If I saw Aaron now, I'd be like, "Man, why'd you fuck up like that?" But, I'd want to make sure he's doing good in there. But I'm sure he is, though. I'd probably just want to like hang out with him.

SHANNON. Smoke a bowl with him.

JEN. I bet he wants one so bad.

STEPHEN BELBER. You guys both went to Laramie High?

SHANNON. Yeah. Can't you tell? We're a product of our society

MOMENT: HOMECOMING

NEWSPERSON. On a day that is traditionally given over to nothing more profound than collegiate exuberance and the fortunes of the University of Wyoming football team, this community on the high plains had a different kind of homecoming Saturday, as many searched their souls in the wake of a vicious, apparent anti-gay hate crime.

NARRATOR. University President Philip Dubois.

PHILIP DUBOIS. This was Homecoming weekend. There were a lot of people in town, and there's a homecoming parade that was scheduled and then the students organized to tag onto the back of it — you know, behind the banner supporting Matt, and everybody wearing the armbands that the students had created ...

HARRY WOODS. I live in the center of town.

NARRATOR. Harry Woods.

HARRY WOODS. And my apartment has windows on two opposite streets. One goes north and one goes south. And that is exactly the Homecoming Parade route. Now, on the day of the parade, I

HARRY WOODS

had a cast on my leg because of a fall. So I was very disappointed because I really wanted to walk with the people that were marching for Matthew. But I couldn't. So I watched from my window. And it was ... it was just ... I'm fifty-two years old and I'm gay. I have lived here for many years and I've seen a lot. And I was very moved when I saw the tag on the end of the Homecoming Parade. About a hundred people walking behind a Banner for Matthew Shepard.

So then the Parade went down to the end of the block to make a U-turn and I went to the other side of my apartment to wait for it to come south down the other street.

MATT GALLOWAY. I was right up in front there where they were holding the banner for Matthew, and let me tell you ... I've never had goose bumps so long in my life. It was incredible. A mass of people. Families — mothers holding their six-year-old kids, tying these armbands around these six-year-old kids and trying to explain to them why they should wear an armband. Just amazing, I mean, it was absolutely one of the most — beautiful things I've ever done in my life.

HARRY WOODS. Well, about ten minutes went by and sure enough the parade started coming down the street. And then I noticed the most incredible thing ... as the parade came down the street ... the number of people walking for Matthew Shepard had grown five times. There were at least 500 people marching for Matthew. 500 people. Can you imagine? The tag at the end was larger than the entire parade. And people kept joining in. And you know what? I started to cry. Tears were streaming down my face. And I thought. Thank God that I got to see this in my lifetime. And my second thought was, "Thank you, Matthew."

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