

sober

Wendy: Okay. So, the first thing I need to say to you is I'm going to say and spell my name and I'll ask you to say and spell your name. Um, remember that any question I ask you don't want to answer, you don't have to. You can end the interview at any point if you want to. And if we run out of time, you know, before quarter of 12 or 11:30, we'll just talk about scheduling.

Dan: Okay, Sure, sure.

Wendy: And I'm going to sit at your feet here, if you don't-

Dan: If you're comfortable, are you're sure? How about a pillow?

Wendy: No, I'm good. I'm good. Okay. So my name is Wendy Chapkis, W-e-n-d-y C-h-a-p-k-i-s, and you are?

Dan: I'm Dan, Daniel N Crewe. That's D-a-n-i-e-l N. C-r-e-w-e.

Wendy: Great. And if we refer to this, would you like us to refer to the interview as Daniel or Dan?

Dan: Dan.

Wendy: Dan. Okay. Dan, can you just start off by telling me a little bit about your family of origin, where you were born? Parents, siblings? That kind of thing.

Dan: Well, I was born in 1934. We were residing in New Jersey. I was born in Newark, New Jersey. Um, but after a few years we moved to Belleville, New Jersey, which is just outside of Newark and over the years, my family resided in New Jersey, although I left when I went to, uh, college.

Wendy: Can you tell me a little about your family? Your parents, or did you have siblings?

Dan: I did. My mother and father came to the United States from Newfoundland, where you were just up there, right?

Wendy: Yes.

Dan: My mother came from an area, um, oh, one of the small villages on Trinity Bay, which is called Hearts Delight. There's a series of towns that are Heart's Ease, Heart's Delight, Heart's Content, Heart's Desire. It's interesting. Yeah. And my father came from an area slightly across the country, called Hermitage or Daw-the specific town is called Dawson's Cove. Sounds like a television show. They came to this country first to Boston and eventually went, as often, following other people who have come here before and friends had said, come down to New Jersey and they wound up in Newark. And my father, began working at a company called the

[00:03:08.04] company which became Celanese, which will be eventually become American Cyanamid, etc., etc. But they over the course of time also started a store or, a food business, so they had a small vegetable market in Belleville. Then they opened up a Superette in Nutley, New Jersey and then eventually moved down the Jersey Shore where they had a supermarket. And that's an area between Point Pleasant and Seaside Heights. It's a spit of sand that separates the Barnegat Bay from the Atlantic Ocean. It's actually a very nice area of New Jersey. Um, so I grew up in Newark, then Belleville, I think it was first grade when we moved to Belleville. Then I went to my first year high school in Belleville, second year high school in Point Pleasant High School. And my last two years of high school I went to Admiral Farragut Academy, which was located in Pine Beach, which is part of Town's River, New Jersey. From there, when I graduated, I had passed the exams and had gotten an appointment to the United States Naval Academy, which is in, obviously Annapolis, Maryland. I graduated from the Naval Academy in 1957. Back then before there was an Air Force Academy, 25 percent of the Naval Academy and 25 percent of West Point could opt to go into United States Air Force. I wound up graduating from the Naval Academy and transferring to the United States Air Force, and then I was assigned to McGuire Air Space in New Jersey, which is just outside of Trenton. It's actually part of, originally part of Fort Dix, New Jersey. And I was in the Air Force for a little over four years, and resigned my commission after my obligated time and moved to New York and took the first job I could get because of moving into the city, I was a little worried about being able to survive and I went to work at Bell Laboratories. And while I was there, only for under two years, actually, my brother approached me and asked, because a lot of things were happening for him, and suddenly he had a record that was starting to break and he was not sure what to do. And I was always that kid in the family that everyone went to for advice; it's that middle child syndrome. So the [inaudible] of the Crewe family.

Wendy: I love it. Before we move on, can you just tell me a little about your siblings?

Dan: Yes. I had my, my brother, Bob who's four years older than I, whom I, in many ways, ironically, because of the four year difference and how early he left home and the fact that I was not at home from second year of high school, we really had a very, I would say a limited childhood relationship, until later, which was ironic because we wound up partnering up as adults. My younger brother was seven years younger than I. And in many ways I, because of my family's work condition, I wound up being his caretaker and, at a very early age, by the time he was two years old and I was nine years old, I was pretty much his, at the very least, I was his tender or - or whatever you call it, but we have a very, he and I had a very, very - very warm and close relationship.

Wendy: And what was his name?

Dan: Tom. So there's Bob, Tom, Dan. Which I, that's how I was called. I was "Bob Tom Dan." My mother could never get it straight.

Wendy: Okay. So now we're back into adulthood and brother Bob asks for your advice and what was the kind of advice that he needed?

Dan: Well, he asked me if I would join him in creating a business and come into the music business. And because I was fairly young, I'd say that was 1962. So, I was only, like 28, single, well partnered, but single in the, you know, I didn't have family obligations. I saw no downside to, um, exploring this unknown arena. And together we built a super successful production and publishing company in the music business and had a wonderful period of time until the inevitable sixties drugs and alcohol took its toll and we wound up breaking up our relationship in '68. I went on my own and continued to work in many various ways within the music business. Moved to California for a couple of years, then wound up in London for almost a year advising the producer of the Rolling Stones. Then I came back to the states and went back to California. And about a year later moved back to New York City. And so the period of time, they're very concentrated period of time. I was in New York, LA, London, LA, New York. And at a certain point in 1970-, let's see, 78. Let me think, let me double check my math here. In 70, uh, 76, I was in California and I married Cindy Bullens. Uh, we moved back to New York City. And after about a year we had our first child, Reid, daughter, and we decided to move out of the city. And moved to Westport, Connecticut. Wait, actually moved to our farm. We had bought a farm in um, Sherman, Connecticut, which is a little bit upstate, but it was so incredibly remote that after about a year we moved down to Westport, Connecticut and we were in Westport, Connecticut when our second child, Jessie, was born; she was almost three years younger than Reid. Sometime in that period of time, um, I negotiated the sale of the music publishing company that my brother and I still owned together. And because of that, I had the freedom to take advantage of a prolonged vacation the following year; we wound up on North Haven, in Maine. As a consequence of the summer in North Haven we made a decision to move to Maine. So in 1991, September of 1991, we moved to Portland. I bought a house just off the Western Prom on Chadwick and Pine, and then serendipitously, wound up building Gateway Mastering Studios and bringing my soon to be partner in that studio up here from New York.

Wendy: And your partner's name was?

Dan: With, uh, Bob Ludwig. So built that and we opened in 92 or late 92 early 93. Um, highly, highly, highly successful. Now, it wasn't something that I looked at it as straightforward project, business. It wasn't a passion for me because I had my other activities still going on. I managed one of the leading mixing engineers, his name was Bob Clearmountain. So it was just one of the, one of the things I was doing, but for, for some personnel differences, I'm not going to go into detail here. I did- I and my partner decided to separate and I sold my interest in Gateway Mastering Studios -- which on some level was fortuitous because my daughter Jessie was diagnosed shortly thereafter with Hodgkin's disease. And all my life and interest and focus became her illness. She was diagnosed when she was 10 years old. She died shortly after turning 11, and my life went into spin cycle, you know, catastrophic reaction, almost nonfunctional. Well, I was fairly much nonfunctional for almost a year. But as a, because of her death, I wound up getting much more involved with what I'd call philanthropy and issues around, first and foremost, child health, but many other areas that I subsequently have been involved with for over 20 plus subsequent years, including now running the Crewe Foundation, which is-benefits three different areas of focus. It's art, music, and LGBT.

Wendy: So I want to get into the LGBT stuff in a minute, but I have a couple of earlier question; can we just go back a second? So you were in the Air Force. How do you move from there? I mean, I know your brother wanted you involved, but was there an interest in music before?

Dan: I always had, yes, I always had an interest in music, but I realized, there was some part of me that had what I would call acute business acumen, meaning, wait, wait a minute, I'm more linear in many respects. I also was very musical and artistic, but I was watching my brother's life and there were so many things about what he was doing that I thought were interesting, but not really appropriate for where I was going. I also think there was a sibling rivalry. It was very powerful. For instance, ah, when my brother was going through school, he was always the star in every production. By time I got into school, I was a star in every production. So it was always a sort of, "oh, this is Bob's brother." Right. And this kind of stuff. So there was that element. I don't think I understood that then, but I do think in retrospect that that's what's going on. For me to make a decision for, for one thing, I think sociologically speaking, I made the decision to go to the Naval Academy, not by, for a yearning to go to war. It was a yearning to be somebody. I think it was some deep rooted thing that I wanted to be more than my middle class background. I wanted to be recognized and one of the things about going to the Service Academies, certainly back then was that you, you didn't, you didn't necessarily have to be born with a silver spoon. But you were very, very positively recognized, as a significant, as an example. You know, graduating from the Naval Academy meant that I, well I was certainly welcome to go to the University Club in New York City for like, yeah, there was a certain amount of, uh, superego issues that were going on. There's no doubt in my mind. But.

Wendy: So you get in but after four years, that was enough?

Dan: Yup.

Wendy: Okay. And, so, at that moment, what were you doing when you worked at Bell Labs?

Dan: Oh, well, funny story because I went to Bel Labs looking-

[Wendy dealing with microphone: You know what, I'm gonna take this off so you don't touch it accidentally. We'll just put it right here, I think that'll be fine, as long as you don't knock, I'm gonna put it right here. Sorry. Carry on. Bell Labs.]

Dan: Well when I went to New York, I had signed up with an employment agent. You know, for college graduates and all that kind of stuff. So I submitted my resume. They sent out my resume. On the second day that they sent it out, I got a call from them saying, you have an appointment to see the director of personnel at Bell Laboratories in New York. This is back when the headquarters of Bell Laboratories was, if you're familiar with Manhattan, if you know where the Highline is, well that's the old railroad tracks, right? And that went through Bell Laboratories building. Years and years and years ago the trains came up the west side and actually where there was a building, or when they built a building, they built the building around

the railroad track. My office, was above the railroads tracks... I've come a long way, baby. So I went there to see that, I went there ostensibly, I was looking for a job in PR, cause I had this sort of "man in the gray flannel suit" syndrome going on. It's like, elegant, I'd be sipping martinis in New York City, flair. And the director said, well, I really would like you. I'd like to offer you a job, but I'd like to offer you a job here in personnel. Well now, it was the last thing I really wanted to do because it just, god, I'm going to be hiring people for the job I want, maybe. But being a little unsure of where or what was going to happen in my life, I decided to take the job. But during the ensuing year and a half, I made myself indispensable to people in the PR department and the editing department. Sure enough, eventually I maneuvered myself into the PR division and so I wound up, first I started editing a scientific magazine which I didn't enjoy and so I was transferred over to the house magazine, which is when my brother called me. He called me out of the blue and said, can we have lunch? And of course now I'm working in the Bell system. It isn't like I was going off for my martini lunch. I said, well, if you want to have lunch you have to come down here, and I've got an hour. So he came down - which ostensibly, back in the old days, this is where the meat packing district of New York was; those years it wasn't refined New York City. It was gritty. In any case we grabbed lunch and this is when he proposed this thing: "This record is breaking. I don't know what to do. Would you think you could join me and blah blah, blah, blah, blah." And I, to be honest with you, I make a joke out of it now. I said, well, I have to really think about it, but I said, yes at dessert. The fact was, I was intrigued. My brother and I had a fairly good relationship. Although it wasn't close, It was a good relationship. And so yes. And that record, by the way, was "Sherry" by the Four Seasons. And the rest is, of course, now history.

Wendy: So I want a little of that history. So what was it that he needed help with specific?

Dan: Well, he understood nothing of the business, right? So I came in and my first thing was, I have to understand what you mean by the music - so my first thing was, for almost a month, I went down and studied with a ex-partner of his, the whole field of music, publishing, copyrights, licensing and all that. So I, I quickly learned the core elements. So what does it mean when you're in the music business; and the aspect of growing a business was you were either just making records or you're building a lateral business. And what we started to do was hire or sign people we thought were talented into songwriting contracts, other producers to produce some records with us. And we built a little enterprise. Successful, highly successful. Of course we could build it on the success of the Four Seasons, but then we had a whole series of other artists as well in the sixties period.

Wendy: Did your business have a name beyond-

Dan: We had several, we had several companies. One was Saturday Music, Tomorrow's Tunes, Genius Inc., Bob Crewe Productions. We had Heart's Delight music. I mean, there were, there was a whole. Yeah, we were really, really hot, and very successful and unfortunately, there was, I think a family, there is, I think, in general, a family proclivity toward addiction and my brother - we - I had my own problems with it - but not like my brother. My brother was, really, really, really

messed up and to the point where we could no longer function together. And so we split. And I sold out my interest of which he wound up not being able to pay me off because he ran the company into bankruptcy within two years. So obviously a lot of drama here.

Wendy: Did you make up in your relationship ever, or was that...

Dan: Oh yeah. I mean I think we really got it back. We all met, we all eventually arrived into a sober life and that was, I would have to say sobriety was the key and I have to be honest. I mean, I sometimes try to remember what it was like before, but I've been sober for 41 and a half, almost 42 years. I don't remember what my processing used to be. I mean, it's so long ago. Uh, my brother didn't; he, in fact, he actually got- It's a kind of funny story in a way. So, I had moved to California. My brother was... alright. I have to backup. My brother really went into the toilet. I came in and saved him, not to get in partnership with him. I made a deal for him with Motown, and I got him a really solid deal that saved him financially, not the company, but he saved him. And he wound up moving to California with Motown. So he's stashed. Separate and apart from that I enter into a partnership with another person and I wound up moving to California as well. So now I'm in LA as well and eventually I have this company that I'm a partner with and I have a secretary who asked me one day if she could have extra time at lunch because friends wanted to celebrate her birthday. And of course I didn't know, but I said, oh, I didn't know it was your birthday. And she said, no, not my birthday, my AA birthday. Now I thought I was incredibly sophisticated, I had no idea what she was talking about - AA. She said, "oh, it's Alcoholics Anonymous." I still didn't know what she was talking about. Now this is for this hip, slick and cool guy who has been, lived in, everywhere. And she said, "I'll tell you all about it after lunch." So she came back from lunch and closed my door and she told me her drunk, what we call a drunkalogue. And I said she would. She, her name was, she's now dead, so I can say this, her name is Luanne Sims. She was a big star when she was very, very young and she was on the Arthur Godfrey show, Little Luanne Sims. She had a huge career. And her husband died when she and he were very good. He had a massive heart attack when he was in his thirties and she wound up, she had two kids. She wound up becoming a total alcoholic. But then got sober. So she tells me this massive, unbelievable, you know, soap opera. Huge, super. So at the end of it I say, "oh god, you could help my brother." Well, you see, I was a very, very high functioning person. I had my own black stuff, but I was determined never to be embarrassed. I was determined. I didn't even know this by the way. This is the kind of stuff. This is the two lives that are going on, you know, near bifurcated life is what you think you know, and what's really going on. So she said, oh, she'd be happy to help him. So I connect them up and it begins the process of him eventually struggling. But he eventually gets started in the program. I, because I was trying to support him, with, on Fridays, I would go to the meeting to support him. I'm clueless. I just loved the stories, I was going there. I'm not... I used to say it's cheaper than a Broadway show. It was fabulous.

Wendy: So what years are we talking?

Dan: I got sober in 76. So, uh, I was almost a year fiddle fucking around with my brother., clueless. Like, my favorite part... I'm going to allow you to have a little bit of my drunkalogue. So

I was uh, I was a private drunk. I would work and function. I'd get up early in the morning, run a couple, three miles, go to the, every morning, go to the gym, play racquetball for an hour, go to eat, go to a restaurant and meet my friend that played racquetball with and eat healthful breakfast, go to my office, lace my espresso with vodka. Many slipping through the day till I could get to legal lunch, drink, and then come back and pop some blue, black birds to keep buying functionality. Um, and then get home and start serious drinking, which would generally produce a sound sleep at some point in the evening. Now the thing that was going on here as I'm successful, you know, living in Beverly Hills, driving the right car, wearing the right clothes and super dude, man. Yeah. And absolutely, categorically from my point of view, spiritually dead. I could not figure out what was wrong with me, myself, and I had that. And I was going to these meetings periodically almost; I mean, I'd say at least two or three times a month with my brother. And everybody knew me as Bob's brother, and I, and of course, Luanne was there who was my secretary. She would go. So it was social and blah, blah blah. So I had an opportunity to go to New York, which I, you know, I looked at New York as my spiritual home. I'm living in this godforsaken Los Angeles; I mentally never unpacked. So I go to New York and I have a dinner out with friends and I get stupid drunk at dinner and I, I am actually outrageously out of control, which was not my pattern. The next day when I woke up, one of the things that I - I was a blackout drunk by the way, but blacking out at your own house is one thing. Blacking out in public is another. I woke up the next day, unfortunately remembering everything that had happened and I was mortified. So the solution to this is: I sometimes make a fool of myself if I drink; I don't have a drinking problem, but I had had a fool problem. Solution to this is: I know, I just won't drink. So I told everybody when I got back to California that I had had early um, hepatitis, and my doctor said I really can't drink so I wasn't drinking. So I started this non drinking thing and I was periodically going to the AA meetings with, for my brother. And this went on for, I don't know, six, eight months, at which point I had another opportunity to go back to New York, which I always tried to do because I just love New York. And I went to have dinner with a friend, a really close friend of mine, who knew I was not drinking because of this hepatitis. I mean, this is, you know, at first we deceive, isn't that the whole thing.

So I arrive at his apartment and he's not quite ready and he said, I have some Perrier. Which was unique, and, look you're talking about, Perrier was really special. And he had laid out the bottle of Perrier for me and he had poured his New York style glass, you know, it's this thing that you need two hands to hold, with vodka on the rocks for himself. He has it in the coffee table but he's running back and forth to the bathroom, to do his evening prep and we're yelling back and forth. Then out of the blue - now I hadn't had a drink in whatever it was, six, maybe, or so months, eight months - and I reach over with no intention and I grabbed his glass and I take a chunk out of it, which then meant that I had to go out into the kitchen and find the bottle of vodka and then take a couple of swigs out of the bottle of vodka. And then we'd go out to dinner. The two of us. And of course I don't order a drink because I don't drink, but I talk about how I think he has a drinking problem because I am sophisticatedly knowledgeable about alcoholism because I've done a deep dive having almighty vast AA experience. We are all fools. I swear to God. I am, in particular. And I, uh, so after that, haven't, other than those drinks I stole, I didn't do anything else. Went back. We have a pied de terre, in New York, went back to the apartment and I woke up the next morning with what I now, and only then eventually you could identify, I was having a severe anxiety attack which I had never had in my life. And I thought I was coming

apart and the only thought I could get coherently was: I have to get back to LA. Now, you have to understand something. I was where I believed I was always supposed to be: New York. All I could think about is getting back. I canceled the rest of my plans, changed my plane tickets, left that day, got back to my house in Beverly Hills, got in the car, went to the AA meeting- it's Friday. I get to the AA meeting at Rodeo Drive. I'm there two hours early and I'm sitting there and I go through the whole meeting and my brother's not even in town so he's not in the meeting. So I'm there, but I'm there because everybody knows I'm Bob's brother. So I sit through the whole meeting and at the end of the meeting we're all holding hands and saying whatever we say, bugga bugga bugga, and I have this moment of total absolute clarity, and I said I could hear my voice in my head going, "oh my god, I'm an alcoholic." I mean I cannot tell you until that moment. I had no clue. That was 41 and a half years ago. Although, October it'll be 42 years, 42 years. And from the moment that that occurred to this moment, I never had a desire to use again. I can think of that one out. So that's the, what I call the essence of how you start to live a life and who you start to discover who you are and what you're about. And so as a direct result of sobriety, my brother is sober. I'm sober. And I get, I get, and I mean this literally, I dragged Cindy Bullens into the Friday night meeting and there's a whole story there, which is very funny how I can-

Wendy: I would love to hear it. I know you were already with Cindy at the point that.

Dan: [Redacted]

Wendy: So, well let's go back a little. So how did you meet Cindy?

Dan: Cindy had met my brother. And Cindy, and I'm not, that's too much of a funny story, but I mean it's a great story, but in any case she now was working with my brother, for my brother. She was gopher. She was driver because my brother was drunk most of the time, so he needed a driver. She was terrific. She sang background in a lot of his productions that he was still doing. So she would be a background singer. She was co-writing some songs with him but I had had gotten word from his then lawyer that he was in trouble. But he, and the lawyers, thought that was because of this girl named Cindy who was corrupting him. Bob Crewe was the original corruptor of the universe. Trust me, this poor kid Cindy, well she was like 20, let's see, she's more than 50, so she was 22, maybe, something like that. I was 15 years older. So, uh, something like that. I, vaguely, I can figure it out. But, so she was working for my brother and I had been told that she was the corruptor, and I was clueless. So I said "I'll take care of that," which was when I go out there because I was going out there to help him get out of his deal at Motown now because he couldn't deal with Motown. Whole different problem. Um, I'll get rid of Cindy. That was a minor problem, just get rid of this person. So we're in bed the second night after I'm out there maybe. Hello? Well, she looked. You have to understand something: I've always known, I've always identified and lived my life as a gay man. The only reason why an awful lot of people didn't know very much about that was because I was in the military. I was precarious. Then I'm working at Bell Labs; we're talking about an era of very limited outward... unless you're living in, well, I would call it, gay ghettoizing. I didn't, but I always had a lover. I had a lover when I was in the Air Force; of course he was my "nephew." But that's a whole

different.... No, it's, seriously. I had a boyfriend for several years, here I am Captain in the Air Force with a "cousin" who I'm taking care of, you know. But by time I met Cindy, I had had three long term relationships. My last relationship had been for seven and a half years. No, I take that back. Yeah, well that's right. That was before I met Cindy. So I had that three long term, reasonably long term, like a couple of years. And then Eddie was seven and a half years. Yeah. But now you have to understand another thing, there was a certain basic built in attraction, if one sees early pictures of Cindy in her early rock and roll career, she was like a young Mick Jagger. You know, she was hot. I mean she was ambivalent but she was hot and so that was part of it as well. Plus we really were great buddies; we were really good friends. So we eventually got married and had children, and what have you, so...

Wendy: Can I just ask, was she your first girlfriend or the first-

Dan: First really legitimate girlfriend. I had two girlfriends. Well, I'd have to say one back when I was in high school and I'm at Point Pleasant high school. When she went off to college and I went off to the Naval Academy and we got together. The first time I'd had to leave and she told me that our relationship was over. She was having an affair with one of her professors. So, I was devastated.

Wendy: I'm fascinated by the fact that you were, you weren't maybe out, but you were out to yourself and having relationships.

Dan: Oh, I was out to a lot of people. I mean I, I wouldn't say it was as...transactional in a way. So if I'm, if I were. Well, as an example, when I lived in Wilton, Connecticut with Eddie, everybody who I socialized with, including all the straight people, knew that this was my partner. There was no doubt that he was like my gay partner. So I didn't make anything up. On the other hand, it was also a kind of thing you didn't talk about. It was really strange period. Everyone talked about...it's just, today of course we would be very forthright and we would talk about your partner or your husband or whatever it might be. Incomprehensible. But, on the other side, I wasn't hiding. It wasn't a... But you have to look at how I was living my life. So it was circumstantial. So if I'm with my friends who know Eddie and know me and we're all getting invited to the same party together because we are together. That was just, we travelled, I had holidays with my partner with all my straight couples. We'd go to Europe, two couples, so it was kind of.... But I didn't live in the, what I would call a gay ghetto. I didn't-

Wendy: Did you have gay friends?

Dan: Oh yeah, sure.

Wendy: Your social world was mix of gay and straight.

Dan: Very. Extremely mixed. But I will say this about the music industry: a lot of people think of it as very cool, very hip. It wasn't then. It was as homophobic as any place else. In fact, sometimes I think it may even been more so. But, on the other hand, unless you're, socially

speaking, if you're in business, unless you will have to do something with quote "your partner," which is very few and far between, that's never going to come up. So you're going to go home to your partner. It doesn't come up. You don't bring your partner to some event. that, first of all, wouldn't be much fun anyway, but. So I would have, when I lived in Connecticut; I had gay couples I went and visited and we did things together, kind of. I don't know how to explain it, but-

Wendy: What year were you, Are we talking about when you were involved with Eddie?

Dan: Uh, let's see. Eddie and I got together, I think from about 1964, for seven years.

Wendy: So you, so it was during the period of the rise of sort of public gay activism, Stonewall and other things. Were you aware of that?

Dan: I was aware of it, but in many ways it's really strange because it was like the same activism about the war. There's a certain part of your life; to be involved, you have to decide. I mean, there's a certain part, you have to make yourself uncomfortable, right? Can you make the transition to say, oh, instead of my going to the country house, I'm gonna march. Well, I intended to go to the country house. Bluntly, so I wasn't- also, I was in my thirties, mid thirties. I got sober when I was 42 or something like this. There's this period of transition. My activism actually took, I would say I became more active after I was married, strangely enough.

Wendy: So let's go back to....so you've meet Cindy, you have a torrid affair, you get married pretty quick.

Dan: We break up.

Wendy: You break up-

Dan: Okay. And then. Oh, so we both get sober and we both decided we wanted to go back East for a little bit of a holiday because she and I both loved it here, love of east coast. She's from Topsfield, Mass and we decided to come East and do a vacation. So her mother and father allowed us to borrow their car. And we actually came up to Maine, did all the doodling around, and then we went down into Connecticut. We, believe it or not, I actually looked at, we were looking at property, we liked doing things together. We had, were, no, we're friends, we're just buddies now. We had had that thing. She had had her girlfriend. I used to advise her about her girlfriend. Very weird how I- but uh, because she can cry on my shoulder about so and so, whatever it was and, you know me, I'm very understanding. And so, see you have to understand my primary purpose in life is to solve your problems. That's what I do. That's my career. I'm a problem solver. That's what I do. So the point was, now we're great buddies. We come east, we decided we were going to do different things and we start talking about, "you know what? You ought to have a place in the East so that when we want to, whenever, you can take 'em up back East, so I can come back east. We can both come back East, we will have some place." So we started looking at real estate. In the short period of time, we actually looked at property in

Goose, in uh, her family had a house in the Goose Rocks. Yeah, many generations. So we start at in the general area; we actually looked at property across the street from George Bush. This is back before he was, before he was Vice President and it was like way, way back, but it was Walker's Point. No one really knew much about the Bush's, but they were over there. We looked at this beautiful old place. It had a beautiful old port carshare and it was...No, I'm a fanatic with, uh, with, uh, architecture and real estate. So I've done so many houses. I've absolutely lost count. I have no idea anymore. But we wound up meandering down into Connecticut and we bought 90 acres in Sherman, Connecticut. God only knows why, but it was great. It was a beautiful piece of property and I bought it relatively, well for a song, really. And this plays out later on because we wound up actually moving to Sherman, Connecticut after she- after Reid was born because we had bought an apartment and oh god, it gets confusing.

Wendy: So how- so your, your friends, she's crying on your shoulder...

San: Here's what happens. Now. Here's the real story, the real story.

Wendy: Okay.

Dan: So we get back from this, this beautiful little trip of ours, and Cindy calls me. I'm in my apartment and she has her own place. Excuse me. And I'm, we're just yacking and out of the blue, and I'm, I'm also a jokester. So I also, I know people's buttons and I knew Cindy. So I knew how I can get her really- She's a reactor. She's one of these people that, you know, get, "Ah!" that kind of thing. I used to love doing that to her, like don't take her sailing because, oh my god. Yeah. So in any case I say, "So when are we going to get married?" On the phone. It was a joke. This is a joke that lasted nearly 20 years. So that precipitated this whole act. First of all, she gets, hysterical and she says, "you've got to be kidding me." "No, I'm not kidding." And it goes onto this, this whole thing, and I've actually, we are- And I started thinking about, "oh, what the hell, I don't have anybody else right now. I'm sick and tired of boyfriends. Uh, especially living in West Hollywood." Oy! well, you, of course, know, part of the problem is moi! It just started to accelerate, it started to develop. Everybody bought into it and everyone thought, "oh, how cute." And, you know, my brother wasn't real happy but he went along with it. Her mother and father were delighted because they figured she's never going to get married. Right. So that's what happened.

We wound up getting married. I built a beautiful house in the Hollywood Hills and I just could... she was on the road by the way. Her career started to click. So she was out with her band and they had a bus and they were traveling all over the country and I just could not get settled in LA. And I finally said to her, "I want to move back east." And eventually she said, okay. And so we moved to New York City. I bought a co op, not a condo, a co op, horrible. I hate the co ops. You really have to talk to your neighbors in a co op. Um, uh. Where were we? We were on west 77th and West End Avenue. Nice two bedroom apartment. When we get pregnant, which we intended, we worked at it. I mean we specifically said, she's off the road, right now She's not doing anything. She said if we really want to be pregnant, we should do it now. Thoughtful. And that's where we got pregnant and Reid was born while we were living in that apartment.

We sold that apartment and moved to a rental temporarily. But we had been working on our farm. We had a place up in Sherman, Connecticut, which we renovated, making do. And through a series of events, we both decided it's time to get the hell out -it was during a terrible - in 82, Reid was born 1982. New York City was in the toilet. Ironically. However, I had amongst many things, I'm always doing something. I had two ice cream stores in Manhattan, one across the street from the Met and Lincoln Center, and then one up across the street from the Museum of Natural History up on, uh, Amsterdam. But we had the house we were renovating up in Sherman and we had the apartment. But we sold the apartment. We're in this rental; Reid is born and everything is negative. We get, we got broken into in one of our stores, burglarized, we got, I got stood up by, with a gunman in my other store one evening. Her mother and father arrived at our apartment to see the baby. Their car got looted while they were parking, the car outside of our apartment. Uh, I mean, this is a building, a beautiful building on the upper West Side. Itzhak Perlman lived in the building with us. I mean, the whole, so it was an elegant place - and the car, all of her mother's jewelry and everything was stolen. And I said, we're out of here. And we left New York and moved up to our barn.

We had converted the barn on the 90 acres, a great barn. And uh, but we lived in this - when I say boonies, I am not being facetious. We were in the boonies. We were. Yeah. So we were there for for uh, it was over a year and a half. And one day I said, she said, Cindy had said, she was going crazy. And I was fed up too. So we went- I said, why don't we go down to Westport and poke around, see what's going on down there. At least it's, it's a little village and it's close to New York because, it was like a two and a half, three hour drive from where we were to get to New York City. I mean we used to cut the coupons out of the local circulars because we'd have something to do, go to the supermarket, Stop and Shop. Um, It'd be it, was a wonderful place for weekends -we were living there.

Wendy: Can I just ask, any sense in these early years of your marriage that either one of you was missing the gay life?

Dan: Well, probably if I drilled down, there was probably some of the, I mean we did still have gay friends and I think in the initial years. Until I think, I think we were really generally happy be for the first three or four years and satisfied because we had, um, a lot of other, a lot of elements to our life where we were balanced. And, you know, your sexuality, it's only when your sexuality I think is conflicted and I, that really didn't start until four, maybe four or so years into our marriage. Because, first of all, we were very busy, you know. Raising two kids, very involved in their school. I'm involved in, on the board at the Montessori school in Wilton, Connecticut. In any case, I become super dad. You know, it takes a lot of energy to be super dad. All you're doing is taking care of your little one's. Changing diapers and then taking them to school and whatever. And you don't do a lot of: "am I okay? Are we okay?" Cindy was trying to resurrect her career, so she's busy doing that. I'm busy taking care of the kids. I'm also running business from the house. I'm, you know, very active and still in the business. It's easy not to look at yourself. It's so easy not to pay attention to the angst that you may or may not have. And I think for the first four to five years, I pretty much was sustained on that level. I think reality start to click in when we moved from Westport to Weston. I built this gigantic house in Weston, Connecticut.

At that point Cindy was going through a lot of, I think, dissatisfaction and I think it was a combination of career that wasn't quite jelling, combination of I was distant. I know I was starting to really withdraw, certainly intimately, which I think, um, I certainly, I accept that responsibility. But I really think it is exactly, I think it speaks to the issue that you brought up. What does it mean in a relationship? How - what is the, what is this? How do you equate satisfaction in a relationship if intimacy and sexuality becomes secondary? Now I know that this happens in many, absolutely, what one would call normal or regular marriages where intimacy and sexuality dissipates, disappears, having nothing to do with sexual orientation. It's just common activity in the case with the conflict that the underlying conflict that I had, which was sexual orientation and the combined conflict that Cid had in gender orientation. We always accepted, but it was much less acute when Cindy would tell me about her, um, dysphoria, but she never made it as clear as she eventually was able to do it as she got much older.

She had at least three, during our marriage, when we quasi-separated, she had three different relationships. One that was not a consummated relationship or was a yearning relationship with another person in her band, female. Then later when we actually separated, she had a several year relationship with a woman here in Maine after we had moved to Maine, um, which on some levels, if you looked at it from outside, you would say, oh, she's a lesbian. Right? She's like, that's her orientation. And the reality was, Cid always was in her own mind, a man. Which, part and parcel, may have been the reason why there was a certain attraction for me. Because she wanted to express herself in a masculine way as well as look like a young man to begin with. So that I understand and I, what I didn't understand was her proclivity toward other women, which I now understand was, wasn't the fact that she was, what, clinically a lesbian; that she, in her own mind, she viewed herself as a man, you know, interested in a woman. Which is where she's at now. As a matter of fact, she's now married to a woman. So, some things take longer than others. That's the way I look at it.

Wendy: And it sounds like- excuse me. From your description of your years with alcoholism, you were very good at bifurcating.

Dan: Oh my god, yes. No, it didn't. It didn't. No, it was very, it was very- It was very interesting duality. Yup. I mean it's not like subterfuge. It's internal subterfuge. It's like, it's not like I was protecting myself from the public or for the outside world.

Wendy: Do you want to take a break for a second?

Dan: Yup

[New tape]

Dan: Reid lives next door-

Wendy: Oh, how wonderful.

Dan: And my three and two-thirds grandchildren live there.

Wendy: She's pregnant, is that the two-thirds?

Dan: Number four.

Wendy: Wow. Oh, how wonderful. Right next door.

Dan: I have two granddaughters who are 11 and 9. And a grandson who will be 3 in September. And the baby comes in August. Who is another boy. So, two boys, two girls and um, Reid-
[Redacted]

Wendy: [Redacted]

Dan: [Redacted]

Wendy: [Redacted]

Dan: [Redacted]

Wendy: All right, well let's use this as a segue to the activism thing because you're talking about being a philanthropist and so, um, let me just sort of catch us up. So you're married to Cindy for... how long were you married?

Dan: [Redacted]

Wendy: [Redacted]

Dan: Alright, 90, Let's see. We're, we've been divorced now, How many years? Maybe 10 years. Maybe. We stayed married forever even though we weren't together. We'd just, first of all, it's so much easier. You don't have to worry about it. I'm married, right? So, yeah, it gives you a pass. Um, well we got married in 79. Well we were definitely married for 20, at least close to 25 years for sure.

Wendy: And you say it gave you a pass, which suggests you were involved with other people, but it did-

Dan: No, I have, I, no, I- somewhere along the line. Uh, yes. I've had a couple, mini- only three, which were really not relationships. They were- well, one was- we became really good friends and you probably know who I'm talking about. I loved him and he, he and I had a wonderful relationship but it was not going to be a lover relationship. [Redacted] Um, but no, I, there's something that happened. I had this [inaudible] and I do consider it some kind of psychological conundrum. Being married meant that I had a commitment. I, commitments are everything to me. If I tell you I'm yes, I will do that, got- the ship is going down and I'm still doing it, right? And that's what happened> Reid- Cindy is off, before Sydney, is off doing her thing and I'm just

being. I'm very busy. God who can handle a rela- and I'm getting older and older and I live in 'effin Maine. Are you - gotta be kidding. Have you looked around? Especially when you're older and we are in an ageist society, totally ageist society. Um, and I have been living alone, ostensibly for 20 plus years. I'm very set in my ways. Now, I can incorporate somebody into my life. Maybe. It would have to be. I don't know how- I wouldn't even know how, what it would be. But no, developing a relationship versus developing a lust for some it's a very different thing and, I don't know. Every once in a while in a fantasy I think I try to think it through. I try to think about, what would it be if somebody was actually here with me? And it's not comfortable. Separate homes would work. Separate towns would probably better.

I'm just being facetious, but on another- on another level there's a reality portion to this is. I'm very, very comfortable appearing in- and by the way I'm busy. I mean I, I'm on five boards. I'm not sitting on five boards. I am working on five boards. I'm the committee chair of this thing and that thing and the search committee for the new MD for the PSO, the new, the DP for development at MECCA, the new president of USM Foundation, the new, you know, endless stuff and I'm the chair of the committee that's overseeing the building on the USM campus. [Redacted] Now I'm busy. God. Yeah. So, uh, I'd have to have a deep shrink talk with, uh, you know, trying to figure out am I just, uh, am I, have I created the obstacle purposely or is it that this is the comfortable way for me, but I will, I'll be, honestly say I can't, I don't, and when I do try to conjure up what is the- you know, what I'm missing, if I were to say anything as a gay man, whether I'd be a straight, maybe it could even be a straight man. I don't have the buddy. Uh, that I go to the movies with, then talk after the movies. I don't have somebody automatically say, oh, I'll see you on Wednesday for dinner. I have a couple of set friends that I see for breakfast. I have a Sunday morning breakfast. I have a Wednesday morning, but you know, my Wednesday morning, it's Frank Brooks. He's my buddy. I've known him now forever. Um, so I had people like that. Right. I have people who call me out of the blue and say, can we get together for whatever. Sure. I mean, I have all those kinds of people, but I don't have, uh, that person. And my, my last best friend, so to speak, that I had, that we would go to the symphony a lot together. He's now moved to palm springs because of health reason and -young man, 40, 43 years old. You just, my friend Ned Kane, who was the sort of office manager seat, I would call him uh, Allison [00:12:00.11] major domo at ACLU. Unfortunately came down with testicular cancer, which triggered this autoimmune disease, which is, they've got it in check, but he's now disabled. Uh, I just talked to him yesterday. He was at Mayo Clinic going back to- he just sold his apartment here in Portland. He can't handle the winter, he can't walk around each, he's got to walk with a cane. So people like that. I had that kind of person. So every once in awhile I'd say I don't go to the movies. Why don't I go to the movies? Because I have nobody to go to the movies with. I don't like going to movies by myself. Well, but you don't try going to the movies by yourself. I mean, I have these discussions. These are, these are deep. These are, you know, Socratean.

Wendy: So, was there a period in your life that you felt like you were at the heart of the gay community? I mean, I know earlier you had a community that was mixed gay and straight. Were you ever- when you lived in West Hollywood? It must have been sort of ground zero for some kind of-

Dan: Early sobriety. Before Cindy and I got together. Um, yeah, unfortunately... I had a plethora, deep meaning, deep, deep rooted relationships. I had a couple, you know- know it's me. It's not that I can't have a relationship because, oh wow I take that back. How do I know that? I am, it's hard for me because I usually any, and this includes Cind- Syd, God blessed her, him. I always play Professor Higgins in all the relationships I have now, they are all better for it, but I get tired of being Professor Higgins, and of course they start to establish themselves. I mean, it's a purpose, right? So, I have, I think David was the first person in my entire life that I felt like I had an equal. Which was so attractive. Ironically, for the first time I had somebody who I could say, I can't, I'm not going to fix this person. He doesn't need fixing. Right? Of course he did. But uh, yeah. And became a, and to be an honest, it has a lot to do with attraction. I'm attracted to younger pe- I don't mean kids, but I am attracted to younger people, just are, that's the case. That's the way it is. Um, and I think part of the attraction is not just the physical. I think there is an attraction of, I like being able to teach. I'm a teacher, you know, on many, many levels, just sort of I'm inspired to-the only depressing is when you're with people and you start talking about something that seems to me it'd be such common information and they have no idea what you're talking about. So, as far as the gay community...I've always felt like I've been part of the gay community, but I haven't been...I, first of all, I haven't been exclusive to anything, you know? Even when I was at the Naval Academy I had a lover. Yeah. I mean, but it was just a sexual love affair. In the Air Force of course I had my nephew, uh, so I've always involved myself and been involved in the gay community. But again, it's a, it isn't ghettoized. I haven't been, except with the, I would say it was more ghettoized in early sobriety in West Hollywood, because by the way, AA in West Hollywood is hot, right? Eventually you start realizing who is coming to the meetings really just to pick somebody up, right? Um.

Wendy: It doesn't sound like it's something that you've missed. It's not like you think, oh, that-

Dan: Oh no, no, no, no, no, I don't. No and, and there's not an in my mind AA- gay life in Maine- the thing about gay life in Maine, it's from my experiences, this is a great place to be partner and most people are. Most of my friends are partnered. I mean, when I go through the litany of people that are in my Rolodex, euphemism,uh, I know very few single people. So, I had this weird experience. Well, Ned was an example. Ned is a very cute man. Very brilliant. I said, Ned, you have come to the desert and you don't even know it. Now he is in the desert. I said, where are you going to go? Blackstones? Or whatever, whatever. I've never been there. I've never even been in that place. I have no idea what-

Wendy: Blackstones?

Dan: No.

Wendy: We'll have a date-

Dan: I was never a drinker, I never- I wasn't a bar person, ever. No part of my life. I can't remember except some after disco parties in New York or going into Studio 54 or all that kind of

crap, but, the bizarre period. I was married then, I had my partner, I wasn't going out to those things, right?

Wendy: Well let's talk a little- I know we're running out of time because you have to go, oh no we still have a, we have half an hour. Okay. So what I'd like to know is you, so you said it was your, your daughter becoming ill and that sort of transformed your focus into philanthropy. Can you talk a little bit about it?

Dan: Well, first of all it, the most important part of it was I wound up being the president- I always wind up being the president of something - I became the president of the board at Maine Children's cancer program, which of course the whole purpose of that is raising funds and awareness of the cancer program. That was my deep dive, original, really focus, um, social outreach. I mean I've always been, I've always been a donor. I've always been a participant in a certain like, like with the LG, with the, what do they now call themselves and I just checked the task force-

Wendy: Oh the LGBT, I know what you're talking about. The task force, yeah.

Dan: Right. So I mean, I've always been that kind of supporter but, I, I'm trying to. I have to give some thought to this. I don't know, I don't think I've been, I didn't go to the ramparts. I wasn't one of the, you know, it's interesting in my, at my age, in my age group, I slip through so many different little places in history. I graduated from the Naval Academy in 1957. I marched in Eisenhower's inaugural, you know, second- I'm deeply rooted in our career in the sixties, from 1964, I mean think about it, 64 through 72. I'm deep into, up to my whatever in my rock and roll career, hip, slick and cool career. But I'm a big player. I don't have time to go walking down- Oh, give me a life, you know. So, yeah. And then there's a period of being a father, you know, the period of intensity focusing there. Yes. I could get righteous indignation over different, I mean right now for instance, you know, maniacal over our current situation. Well, what I do, I spend money on activism. I don't know, you know I, but I'm 83 years old at the same time, so I'm not going to go marching down in Washington. My feet hurt. So it's interesting. Yes. I got actively, much more physically active. I mean I would do the, these are kind of silly things, but you know, because I was president of the program, I had to go play golf. God, I hate golf. It makes no sense to me whatsoever and I'm athletic, you know, so playing racquetball or tennis or whatever, something like that makes sense. You can do things to make it better. It seems like there's, I think it's some kind of Voodoo that you have to learn how to do to be able to hit the ball from the tee to the women's tee. I mean, I remember the first time I got up there and I clobbered the ball and it flipped over to the women's tee. I said, oh, there's this really progress. So in any case, I had to be, I had to appear at those events for the first, for a couple of years, you know, suffer through being a theoretically a golfer. And they all liked to drink. I don't drink... hysterically funny-not. And, uh, okay, but from the standpoint of activism, you know, first of all, I'm one of the older, more proper gentlemen. I'm not wearing my torn, tie dye- tie dyed tee shirt. I do march in the, uh, pride parade. I've been thinking, debating it this year. I said, oh Christ, that's a long time. I mean I work out for two hours here I go on the treadmill for two hours. I'd have to from Monument Square all the way down to that God damn park. And then I have to figure out how to

get home. All right, so Alison's asked me am I going to march with a Equality, am I going to march with ACLU? I said I'm not going to march, how's that? Figure that one. I'll let my, my daughter, my grandkids have marched. Yeah.

Wendy: That's what Uber's or a taxi, you march down. You get a cab back.

Dan: Makes perfect sense. So, now I'm a political junkie, so I'm very involved in Democratic, progressive politics. Have been for years and years and years supporter financially. Uh, collectively. Um, I've ran for office. I ran for the House. Um, I can't, I have to figure out what year that was. I was still living over in the old farmhouse before I built the other houses. And that's uh, yeah, I was um, I ran for the House. They came to me. God, some of these people, I swear to God, Chellie Pingree, who's a close personal friend and Dale McCormick, Dale, promised me the moon not, didn't do a damn thing. They were all going to support my campaign. Now they came to me in September to run for the House. They had nobody to run. They had held it with the name, which was a fictitious name. Somebody put, puts their name on it, but they're not going to run. Then they had to find somebody to run because this has always been traditionally Republican area, but it's not now. Cumberland, is now, now leans, it's heavily, it's, it's much more Democratic than it was even two years ago, four years ago. I think you're shifted with Obama's first, somewhere around there. So I ran for the house, came in with, uh, within five points. Nobody knew who I was. I ran a great campaign, door to door. I get very competitive. That's my problem, but nobody was helping me. So I'm driving myself like this is- They promised me the moon. Oh, we'll have drivers you, I wound up doing my own signs. I mean I had to print it, but I put my picture on it that nobody had ever seen before. I said they have to know who I am. At least they're going to talk about it. So I got that. So I ran against the incumbent. I came in with 46 percent with a third party as well. So I came close. I am so happy I didn't win, you have no idea. My lawyer said one of my lawyers said, Dan, you would kill yourself if you go up there because I'm a problem solver. So I didn't. But then I became. Well, when Chellie ran for the Senate against Collins, I was her treasurer.

Yeah. I think I'm very active in, Maine politics. Have been for quite a while.

Wendy: Was there every time-

Dan: I was on Equality Maine and I quit and I'll tell you why. This is part of my story, too. So I was, uh, I was on the board and I said at some point when they were all determined to do the marriage, which ever iteration this was at that time, I said, look, I'm fine. I'm fine with that whole, the whole thing. I said, but I want us to take a stand on Don't Ask, Don't Tell. I'm the only one person in the organization that was a veteran, right? I understood, what the hell, I believe that if we could get, Don't Ask, Don't Tell, and I went and spoke to Collins about it. Every year at least 200,000 people leave the military and go back home. If they have had a relationship in the military with other gay and lesbians, they're going to go back home with a whole different attitude. I said that's what happened when Harry Truman integrated the military back in 40, 40, whatever it was, eight or something like that, and I was determined and I could not get the board to take a stand. They were everybody on that Goddamn board was- Betsy, uh, Smith.

Wendy: Sweet?

Dan: Sweet. Betsy- and a whole bunch of others who had partners and wanted marriage and that was their only thing is that we could have marriage. I said, so tell me. I'm going to ask you another question. I said, this was something that, Betsy Smith came to my house when it looked like they, well, after we won marriage, she came to my other house and she said I, I had said back in those days, I had said, if you get marriage, who are you? Who is the organization then? What is your focus? Who are you going to be? You better figure out who you are as an organization. If you are a one issue organization, you'll be done. And that's exactly what happened. You know what happened? I mean, it's been in the shitter. I mean they're gonna. I said, you're going to have to do something about children. If you don't make it, you have no recourse. You're going to lose all of these citizens who are being your buddies, straights who are giving a lot of support now, but when that's over, what else are you going to stand for? How are you going to get your community to stick with you? I said, you better be talking about bullying. That ought to be your primary focus. How do you deal with young people? Well, they're finally doing that, but it took them awhile to get reorganized. So I quit. I resigned. I said, well, if you're not going to look at Don't Ask, Don't Tell. Now, it just so happened Obama solved the problem for us. Okay?

Wendy: So your concern was under Don't Ask, Don't Tell people didn't know that they were working with a gay, lesbian or trans people, but the policy needed to be changed so people could be out.

Dan: Yeah, if you are working side by side, if you're bunking and have, there's, you know, just say if you're in a bunk in there 50 guys or gals and you know, you know five of those people who are openly gay, it's like if 5 of those people are black, you have to start to interrelate with it. That's what happens. That's how, when you know that your next door neighbor has a child who's gay and you can talk to your next door neighbor or she or he can talk to you about their gay son or daughter, you're going to change. Once you know people you change. We just do that. That's the way we work. That's how humans are. I don't like pit bulls. My daughter has a pit bull. She's a sweet dog. That's my point.

Wendy: So what are you, what do you, in your estimation, are the key political struggles still facing the LGBT community? What should people be focusing on? Bullying is one.

Dan: Yeah. Well, I mean I don't think the LGBT community has any different issues than the general population has. I think though, if you don't recognize that they do have the same issues and they're not named in those areas where, um, the law says that you cannot discriminate. I think ultimately it really comes down, the epitome of it was the situation with the cake. Yeah. I get that part. I mean, I understand that. This guy is assumed to be this great artist. Yeah. Maybe that's true. And he has a perfect right to sell to whom he wants to. I get that part. Um, but they

made that decision very narrow, citing his specific- specificity. They, they really did not take a stand, where saying that that was a, that allows anybody else who doesn't, who wants to discriminate the, the right to discriminate. I think that the issues that LGBT people have are the same issues that blacks have today. The difference is until you disclose, like people don't know. I tell people all the time, I'm gay. I have to say it. I said, how do you know I'm gay? Well, if I have a partner and I walked down the street with him, you're going to say, oh, those guys are gay. But if you just see me in my board meeting, I'm sitting there with the rest of the board at USM, unless I tell you, and which I've had to do, which I do, do, do, do, do. Which pisses me off because somehow or other it means I have to, I said, would you rather I just wear a sign. Contrary to popular belief, I am a gay man. I could tell a funny story. So, Joe Wishcamper, I don't know if you know who he is, Joe Wishcamper is a good friend of mine. [Redacted]

Wendy: Oh shoot, It was a good story, I could tell.

Dan: Yes it is! Uh, god damn. What were we talking about? Oh, my have to, to tell-

Wendy: To come out, yeah, and wear a sign-

Dan: Oh, Joe Wishcamper. Thank you. So Joe knows I, I- So we're at Richard Rockefeller's at a campaign, a political campaign and he and I split away from the crowd, we're sitting out on the lawn overlooking, beautiful place. I don't know if you ever, on Thurn- Thornburg, Thornburg or whatever it's called. Well, Richard died in a plane crash, right? Well, but before, he had this event and uh, Joe and I are just looking at this ocean than sitting there in some lawn chairs and the whole cablub is going on behind us. And he says, so what have you been doing? Are you dating now? So this is after everybody knew I had divorced Syd. I said, no, I'm not. He said, you know what, you ought to, you know, I don't know if you know about this. I'm a bike- I bicycle. He said there's some great bicycle groups in there, a lot of single women. And I, I turned to him and I go, Joe, I'm gay. I've known Joe, I bought Joe's office. That's where I built Gateway Mastering. I've known him since 1991. Right. I've socialized with Joe. [Redacted] We used to go biking together. Carol and I are- I said, Joe, where have you been? Now, here's the point. How would he know I was gay? Even if I were an activist, which I was. I mean I'm on Equality, you know, all this kind of stuff. So I lived, i lived my life in that kind of, yeah, like I said at the event that they filmed me by the way for the event. So they did interview with me which was filmed here. Really nice job. And at some point there's a point where I'm saying something about coming out, but I said, this is back when I don't know what, he was asking me about something, and I said, well, I was coming out. I said, but I wasn't really ever in, you know that kind of thing. So I do live in that kind of ambiguous...Can I just take this for a second? Hello?

Wendy: So you were saying, you've never- you were out, but you've never really been in.

Dan: Well in the way, I haven't hidden. The only time I had to hide with when I was in the military. That's it. And of course it was dangerous. I mean it was, you know, as an officer, forget it, you know, you, you, first of all, you're going to be decommissioned. You're going to possibly,

if you actually, they could prove that you were in a relationship you could actually serve time. I mean, it was dishonorable. You didn't play around with this. It was very, and even those episodes, when I think of act, of those, you know, those episodes onboard ship, or those episodes at,uh, you know, United States Naval, you know, hiding way up in the attic, it's a weird kind of thing, bizarre things that go on. The thing about it is now it's, it's open right? Now, the [00:01:06.24] and there's a whole outgroup. I keep getting invited to come down for the celebration of the mid ship men and women who are out at the Naval Academy. I can't get my head around it. I can't get my head around it. That's my point though. That was what Don't Ask, Don't Tell, didn't recognize or did- the whole thing that Clinton did that was a big mistake was doing. Don't Ask, Don't Tell. That was a horror story because it, it placated. It says, oh, I've taken care of that problem. You can, you can serve. Just don't tell anybody. That's what we've been doing. What the fuck are you talking about?

Wendy: One thing I wanted to just circle back to for a minute, is you mentioned that when you worked in Hollywood in the late sixties and early seventies, do you, that you know, sex, love, rock and roll, that it was very homophobic. Do you keep-

Dan: I would say the industry itself was very homophobic. When I say that, I mean the people who actually run in the music business. I don't mean there weren't gay people in the music business, do's get me wrong, there's gay people everywhere. But you weren't, you weren't hardly embraced by being gay. So my brother, who was, by the way, my brother was homophobic. He was so, um, controlled. You know, he was very gay.

Wendy: He was gay?

Dan: Oh yeah. No, my, my broth- Bob Ceve, now there's a gay man and everybody knew he was gay. He didn't know that everybody knew he was gay, but everybody knew he was gay, but he was the kinda guy that would to all the events and always have a beautiful woman on his arm. Not because he had a relationship with her, unless it was a minogatout with his boyfriend, like a, which her had. But he, in fact there's a line in Jersey Boys, you know the show's about my brother? Oh, Jersey Boys is all about Four Seasons, which my brother discovered and created It's very important to know that. And uh, but he was homophobic so he, he, he was a kind of guy, he was just kinda hysterical. I used to make fun of him all the time, when he would be meeting a gentleman, like somebody he didn't know who was, especially if he was a good looking guy, he would turn into um, this John Wayne character. He would. Hello, I am Bob Crewe. He'll change his voice, his stance and yeah, true, true, true, true. Yeah. He's a true butch, right? Real man. He was a definitely afraid- afraid of being known as a gay man. Until he was senile. He, he had lost his cognitive ability while he was at, um, what the hell is the name of the place over in Cape Elizabeth, the- Piper Shores. Well, we had to put him in their medically cared for, but he would, he would, every once in a while they start screaming, oh, being, I'm queer. I'm gay. And scare the old ladies though. Oh, he was really hysterical. This hidden thing that he suddenly could express because he didn't have any sensors, but in any case, in the play, he goes, he meets Bob Gaudio who was this co writer, one of the Four Seasons, it work- they worked together, wrote some of the greatest songs, Can't Take My Eyes Off of You. What

else, you know, Rag Dolls, Big Girls Don't Cry, all kinds of big hits. And uh, in the play he's meeting Bob Gaudio and they, the writers do this cheap shit thing that they do on Broadway. They have the token gay thing. And so they have Bob saying to Gaudio, you know, Gaudio is actually, my brother at that point was probably 30, Gaudio was probably 23 and he meets Gaudio and he goes, hello young man, and I mean young man. I'm, I, my brother would have blown his brains out before he would ever have done that and my brother used to complain about it, but he had no rights, really, because my brother's a public figure, you in a way. And I said, Bob, just deposit the checks, just deposit the checks. Yeah. But until the bitter end he was still concerned with what are they going to think? What if, who gives a crap? It was, it was kind of sad though.

So, um, yes, my older brother was gay, very gay, never had a real partner. Um, my younger brother was bisexual, but I would say it was, uh, circumstantial kind of thing. The right time in the right place. He was a devil. He was a, he was really- I loved him so much and he was such a- And he was married a couple times and he had two children. My two nieces, nieces and nephew. Um.

Wendy: Did your parents have any idea that?

Dan: My dad probably thought my brother was gay. Nobody ever thought I was gay. Not because of anything, because I just didn't act gay. Also all the roles I played in life. I mean, it's like I'm always in charge. I'm always doing something. I'm always the person that you go to it for a, you know, I was - talk to Dan. Call Dan. That was my role. Bob was different. Now I don't mean... Bob was not feminine, but Bob had style. Now in his gay friends, with his gay friends, my brother could be Bette Davis, but um, and he could camp it up pretty, pretty health, healthfully. I always look like an asshole if I, you know, I just don't do it well. So, uh, my dad, because Bob was different, I think always had, they're just reminding me of my appointment- It's automatic, my phone does it for me an hour ahead of time. So, uh, so Bob spent so much energy in living in this strange world that nobody saw except he. The way he lived his life, he thought he was, that other people just didn't know. And to me it just seemed so ridiculous and obvious what was going on, but that's the way it was.

Wendy: Well, since we're getting toward the end here is there anything I didn't ask you about that you want to say, or anything that you would, um, like to say to younger people who are gonna listen to this?

Dan: Yeah, I think younger people listening to this are going to sit there and say this is absurd. How can you possibly be thinking that, that you live your life that way. And, I mean, I was having lunch with a young man. He's in his late thirties maybe, who is, um, somebody at WEX, back when they were, that we were working together because they, we were doing, um, all the peer shows that were all for the Jessie Bullens-Crewe Foundation, which was for the Maine Children's cancer program. So WEX became one of our big supporters and so a lot of their staff would help put together the thing. So I was sitting one day at a restaurant in Falmouth and I was

going through this thing and we got into a conversation about my being gay, and he's a gay man and partnered openly, partnered at Wax. I'm sitting there like God, what a different world and I'm talking about, you know, the strangeness of my, my life as I see it and the openness that he lives so commonly with parties, with the people, executives from WEX would go to his house where he and his partner entertain them. Now, that sounds absolutely normal- not to me, because it's, it's not a matter of my having a selective straight community which I had who absolutely knew my story and I would have no problem having social life with those people, but to have a, well he's an employee. I mean I'd never worked for anybody except Bell Laboratories for a year and a half. So from then on I've always owned the company, so I didn't have quite the same situation. So I, he could not understand what my problem was. I said, you don't understand something. Life wasn't the way it is now for you. I don't, this was even before marriage. I said you have no idea what it was like. Half of the time, my early part of my life, I could've been put in brig for my behavior. Like I mean, like it was crazy. No, I said, you don't understand. Your life would be destroyed if you had been, uh, honorably, dishonorably discharged, discharged from the military in 1960, 1950, 19- whatever, your life was over, you couldn't even get a decent job because people- that would be on your record, and he couldn't, he just couldn't grasp it. I said, no, this is a different world. And you don't have any idea of what it's like for me, who I am. I'm part of what's going on now, but I am. I'm always on- there's a part of me that still looks over my shoulder. Even where I'm open, there's a part of me that says, watch your back. Look, look around the corner, see what's going on. No, I'm not going to walk down the street with another elderly gentleman with holding hands, in the wrong district in the wrong area of town. I'm not gonna do that anyway, but that's a whole... you know, the, the point is, it's a, this just goes to the element of once you open up the door, it changes society. Society is a direct reflection of what the norms are that are allowed and, and tell - the Supreme Court basically made a decision that started the snowball effect and society, it's just the way it's built. So, you go and you see, you know, the history of LGBT at USM, and you sit there and you look at it, this is like, it's like looking at the Egyptian pyramids. It's hard to understand about what it was like. There's some of us old dogs that are still around who lived it. You know, I remember, you know era of Penny Loafers, you know the slick Brook's Brother look bars, they were all the bird bars in New York City. Yeah, but you could not talk to another person if the the police were in there. If you were conversing with another man at the bar, you could be arrested, inappropriate behavior. We used to have lights that they, which signal with the lights when they knew an undercover cop was coming in and everybody would suddenly go dead silent. Nobody was talking to anyway, just having your drink. This is going back like the Blue Parrot, places like this. This was sophisticated New York City. It was...wonderful time, but I will, and I'm going to go on record as saying it. There is something, even though it was a, on many levels, it's sort of a mystery story of how we used to live. There is a society that existed that doesn't exist today and as a consequence, those of us who were deeply rooted in it, there is a, a pentamete, there's a sense of loss. There was a society that used to exist. There were secret messages that you could send. It was kind of funny. It's almost like a child's game. You know where you wore your tie, or how you wore your coat or how you've combed your hair, or if you had it, at later on where you put your handkerchief, all the different signals that that you had to have that everybody knew, but nobody knew. Right? So there is a loss. I mean, I think it's wonderful and I think it's- there's a little sadness that goes along with it.

Wendy: That's a beautiful place to end. Thank you. I will try to remember to send you the-