

<b>Transcript</b> <b>Daniel MacNaughton</b>	<b>Index</b>
<p><b>Wendy Chapkis:</b> [00:00:06] So my name is Wendy Chapkis. Spelled Wendy Chapkis. And today is November 13th, 2022. And I am in Northport, Maine. And you are.</p> <p><b>Daniel MacNaughton:</b> [00:00:26] Daniel MacNaughton, which is Daniel MacNaughton.</p> <p><b>Wendy Chapkis:</b> [00:00:32] And what pronouns would you like me to use with you? He?</p> <p><b>Daniel MacNaughton:</b> [00:00:37] He, Sure.</p> <p><b>Wendy Chapkis:</b> [00:00:39] And what kind of language do you use? Do you prefer being called, like gay or queer or none of those?</p> <p><b>Daniel MacNaughton:</b> [00:00:48] I've always used gay. I think that about sums it up.</p> <p><b>Wendy Chapkis:</b> [00:00:56] All right. Well, Dan, perhaps we could start with talking a little bit about where you were born.</p> <p><b>Daniel MacNaughton:</b> [00:01:04] I was born in 1955 in Bangor, Maine, and grew up in Hamden, Maine. My parents, I mean, when they were in their forties. And I have one older brother who was seven years older than I am.</p> <p><b>Wendy Chapkis:</b> [00:01:23] Was your family associated with the Bangor area for work?</p> <p><b>Daniel MacNaughton:</b> [00:01:28] Yes. My father had a jewelry store in downtown Bangor and was kind of the classic immigrant businessman in some ways, cause he had basically walked across the border from Canada when he was 14 and sort of worked his way up to owning his own business and wearing a suit to work every day. And his children were fed and well housed. And that, I think, was about all he was trying to get out of life. And he did so as his was a good story.</p> <p><b>Wendy Chapkis:</b> [00:02:00] And how about your mother?</p> <p><b>Daniel MacNaughton:</b> [00:02:02] Well, she was a very brilliant woman who basically had to take the role of a conventional</p>	<p>Pronouns: he/him/his</p> <p>Uses "gay"</p> <p>Born in Bangor; grew up in Hamden Maine</p> <p>Brother</p> <p>Father jewelry store Immigrant from Canada</p>

housewife. And she claimed to enjoy it and claim to enjoy raising her children. I think she did. But she was definitely of that generation where she was not expected to have a career. And I think it colored her life quite a bit. She always said she regretted not being an architect or something like that because I was very interested in house design. She said looking back, she didn't know why she didn't. But I know why she didn't because I look back and see why I didn't do certain things for similar reasons and.

Mother took the rol of 'conventional housewife'

**Wendy Chapkis:** [00:02:50] What were those reasons?

**Daniel MacNaughton:** [00:02:52] Well, one of my regrets is that I was not more optimistic about my opportunities growing up because as a gay person in those days, I saw all doors as being closed as far as professions, you know, because it depended on where you lived and who you lived with. But of course, in those days, if you came out as gay, you probably lost your family, you lost your friends, you lost your apartment, you lost your job, and then you could start your gay life over again.

Mother regretted not being able to have a career

**Wendy Chapkis:** [00:03:26] And can I ask, what was Bangor like in those days? Did it feel like that to you?

**Daniel MacNaughton:** [00:03:34] It was really Hamden that I grew up in what was a pretty small town at that time, of course I was very young. Yes, it felt that way. You know, my parents were not religious, but there was no mention of sex in our house at all. I mean, I, I had to read a book when I was 11 to learn the facts of life at all, you know, and it really so it was kind of an atmosphere, very Yankee kind of conservative household, despite the lack of religion.

Dan was not optimistic about professional opportunities as a gay man

**Wendy Chapkis:** [00:04:12] Did did you know of anybody who you identified as gay when you were a kid?

**Daniel MacNaughton:** [00:04:18] No. Not a single person. Later on, of course, you realize that there were gay people all around you, but no. And in fact, it was I was thinking about this. It was kind of interesting compared to nowadays, because, of course, young kids at that time, you know, had no exposure to sexual material of any kind. There was no pornography. There was no internet. There was no conversation about this type of thing. And so my introduction to sex was kind of typical of the time up to a point. Because that

<p>time very, very early on, you know, young guys who are just coming into puberty and stuff would tend to fool around with each other. And I don't think that happens nowadays because I think I think, you know, everybody knows, you know, that you're committing yourself to, you know, something massive if you do. So at that time, that was not true. So those were my earliest experience.</p> <p><b>Wendy Chapkis:</b> [00:05:31] How how old were you?</p> <p><b>Daniel MacNaughton:</b> [00:05:32] Probably 11 or 12 or so.</p> <p><b>Wendy Chapkis:</b> [00:05:35] You said 'all the boys were doing this.' But did it seem to you that you were different in any way? Or was iike just like all the boys do this.</p> <p><b>Daniel MacNaughton:</b> [00:05:42] Well at the time. It at first it didn't. But then, of course, that doesn't last very long. You know, a couple of years later, you sort of, you know, try to get together with the same person and they're horrified and deny ever having done anything to begin with. And that's when I first realized that what I felt was different from what other guys were feeling. And so basically by 14 I had realized I'd put a name on it and I knew I was gay.</p> <p><b>Wendy Chapkis:</b> [00:06:14] And what was your reaction to that?</p> <p><b>Daniel MacNaughton:</b> [00:06:16] Well, I was somewhat horrified because, of course, it meant all of the assumptions that everybody made about the path of my life were going to be inaccurate, you know, I couldn't see how I how I could do that.</p> <p><b>Wendy Chapkis:</b> [00:06:31] It's interesting that you felt like it was inevitable if you're gay, that you nobody would hire you and careers would be cut off, even though you didn't have direct experience seeing that happen to somebody.</p> <p><b>Daniel MacNaughton:</b> [00:06:46] Well, at that time and in that place, it was about the worst thing you could be. You know, you could confess to murdering someone. And as long as you had, you know, paid your dues to society or whatever and everything, you would be forgiven. But I think at that time, being a gay guy, or woman for that matter, was just about the</p>	<p>Yankee conservative household</p> <p>Didn't know gay people as a kid</p> <p>Fooled around with other boys at 11 or 12</p>
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worst thing you could be. It's hard to look back and think that now, but it was a very, very bad thing. So, you know.

**Wendy Chapkis:** [00:07:24] I do think you might try not to be gay then.

**Daniel MacNaughton:** [00:07:30] Oh, yeah. I've had all sorts of scenarios where I, you know, I would, you know, I would marry some woman and, you know, just pretend it wasn't real. I know later on there was a girl I went with whose brother was very attractive to me, and I thought, well, maybe I can marry her and have sex with her brother. And then there were a series of straight couples that I, you know, became very close with and envisioned myself somehow teaming up with them. It's strange looking back on it, but uh.... And then, of course, the real, my real coming out started in high school because a very wonderful thing happened, which was that at that time, you know, there were a lot of so-called encounter groups, you know. That was the big thing everybody was doing in the 70s was getting everybody together to talk about stuff. Well, for some reason, you know, this group came to my high school and wanted to start doing that. But what they wanted to do was train high school students to run these meetings. So for some reason, they picked me and three or four of my closest friends to to be trained to run these meetings. Well, of course, we never actually got to run any meetings because we had so much to talk about, about ourselves that but that's as far as it went. But it was in that process that they basically taught us how to talk about anything that we thought, you know, that it is possible to actually say whatever you believe and whatever you think and it's going to be okay and it's better if you do that, you know, life becomes more real. The people, you know, like you for the right reasons and all of that. And so that was absolutely huge for me. And it was during one of those meetings that I came out to my best friend and and the group and which was the first time I had ever said those words to anybody.

**Wendy Chapkis:** [00:09:50] What was the reaction like?

**Daniel MacNaughton:** [00:09:52] Well, of course, it took me a couple hours to get the words out. And by the time I'd gotten the words out, I'm pretty sure everybody knew what the hell I was talking about. But they weren't going to say it for me. So, no, they were great. They were absolutely great. And so after that, I was basically out to my friends in high school, in like

By 14 realized he was gay

Horrified to be gay

Being gay was the worst thing you could be

1972 or so, which I certainly had never heard of. And it was treated it was treated as sort of a a terrible secret. You know, it was a terrible tragedy that I had this situation. But they all loved me and supported me. And but it was a terrible secret. And they you know, they made pretty sure that they didn't tell very many people, but all the teachers knew. But some of the parents were teachers. And they of course, a lot of the teachers figured it out.

**Wendy Chapkis:** [00:10:46] So you didn't get harassed at all in high school?

**Daniel MacNaughton:** [00:10:50] Not at all. Not at all. And in fact, I had one teacher that whose name ought to be immortalized somehow, Charlotte Littlefield, who perceived what I was going through and made it a point to feed me gay authors and gay references in literature and so forth. We never really talked about it directly, but she kept sending those things my way, and that was a tremendous help to me.

**Wendy Chapkis:** [00:11:24] Did you have any other, were there any other gay students that you knew of at the high school?

**Daniel MacNaughton:** [00:11:29] No. No. I hugely regret some of the some of the guys that I learned later were gay. I'm like, oh, yeah, you know, because if I could have just had a boyfriend in high school, my life would have been much happier. But at that time, I think.

**Wendy Chapkis:** [00:11:46] So did you come out to anyone else? Did your family know?

**Daniel MacNaughton:** [00:11:53] Not till later. Much later? No, I really didn't. I kind of, well, we spent summers in Brooksville. I had a very idyllic childhood in that my parents had sailboats, or a sailboat. And we, my mother and I, as soon as school would let out, we'd both go down to Bucks Harbor and live on the boat for the summer. So I spent these wonderful summers paddling around in this beautiful harbor and going cruising on the boat with my parents when my father came down. And so this was great. And as I got older, I got a job at the yacht club over there teaching kids to sail. And I came out to some of my other teenage friends, you know that then I saw in the summer.

Real coming out happened in high school

Encounter groups of the 1970s

<p><b>Wendy Chapkis:</b> [00:12:49] And were their responses also accepting?</p> <p><b>Daniel MacNaughton:</b> [00:12:53] Yes. Yeah. Very, very. Yeah. And of course, that sort of set a pattern for me for a long time was that I really tried to get to know people before I came out to them. Later on, of course, that becomes hopeless and you just give up on it. I should mention one of my other high school teachers was Stephen King, the author. He allowed me - this is the seventies; you wouldn't get away with this now - but he taught a creative writing class that I took and allowed me to write poetry instead of prose because that's what I wanted to do. And I think my writing poetry was partly an effort to reveal myself as a gay person, because obviously poetry is gay, you know, compared to other forms of writing [laughs]. So I don't know about that.</p> <p><b>Wendy Chapkis:</b> [00:13:48] But this was in high school that he taught. I didn't know he taught high school.</p> <p><b>Daniel MacNaughton:</b> [00:13:52] Yeah, I think he was making about \$6,000 a year.</p> <p><b>Wendy Chapkis:</b> [00:13:55] [Don't hit the table. The mic will pick up on that]. He was making \$6,000 a year?</p> <p><b>Daniel MacNaughton:</b> [00:13:59] Yeah. And I was there on the day he came in and said, I'm not going to teach class the regular way today, he says we're going to talk about selling books and everything. Because, he said, last night I heard I sold the paperback rights for Carrie for \$400,000 and the hardbound rights for \$400,000, and they were negotiating for the movie rights. So he said, life has changed a little bit. You know, he finished out that year and, you know, obviously didn't keep teaching, But he was wonderful. And I mentioned Charlotte Littlefield, and when Charlotte died a couple of years later, it was Stephen King and me that read things at the funeral. So she had things she wanted to read and for some reason, she picked me and Stephen King, which was a great honor. You know. I was very pleased about that. But it was too bad to lose Charlotte. But she was a help to me and a help to a great many other people.</p> <p><b>Wendy Chapkis:</b> [00:15:06] I'm so glad we have her name.</p>	<p>Friends were accepting but it was a 'terrible secret'</p> <p>Teachers figured it out</p> <p>Charlotte Littlefield, supportive teacher</p> <p>Didn't know other gay students in HS</p> <p>Summers in Brooksville</p> <p>Bucks Harbor</p>
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<p><b>Daniel MacNaughton:</b> [00:15:08] Yeah. Yeah.</p> <p><b>Wendy Chapkis:</b> [00:15:10] So after high school, you went to Orono?</p> <p><b>Daniel MacNaughton:</b> [00:15:15] Yes. And I should say that fall prior to going to Orono, I met my boyfriend, who was a friend of a friend that I knew in the summertime. And she introduced us not knowing that he was gay. And then we started seeing each other. And as it happened, we both went to UMO and we both lived on the same floor, in the same dorm. And of course we were 18 and 19 years old and it was not going to be possible to keep us apart [laughs]. So the inevitable happened and we were caught making out on my bed, in my dorm room, by my roommate, and all hell broke loose.</p> <p><b>Wendy Chapkis:</b> [00:16:16] What did 'all hell' look like? [00:16:16][0.5]</p> <p><b>Daniel MacNaughton:</b> [00:16:18] Well, we of course, we thought the world was going to crack up and swallow us up, but they had the very intelligent solution of, well, the guy ran to the head resident. And the head resident had the very intelligent solution of just having us swap roommates. So that my boyfriend and I ended up together. I guess I'm not going to say his name because he's not in this interview.</p> <p><b>Wendy Chapkis:</b> [00:16:43] Whatever. If you think he would not be comfortable having it out there, then I wouldn't.</p> <p><b>Daniel MacNaughton:</b> [00:16:46] I'm sure he would be. But it just seems presumptuous. But a wonderful person. And so, you know, I don't know. I'm pretty sure that went around campus, you know, pretty, pretty quick. And the downside of it was that we, we felt completely isolated. You know, we we had not grown up in the gay context. You know, we didn't know any other gay people. We had no, certainly no political concept. And up to that point, in fact, I had always been quite phobic about gay people, especially stereotypical gay people. It just seemed so foreign to me and so weird that I just wasn't at all sure I wanted to, you know, be like that or being associated with that. And so it was kind of odd because we had a passionate, beautiful, passionate, lovely relationship, but it was completely behind closed doors and, you know, continued for a couple of years. And we we never spoke to a single person in</p>	<p>Taught sailing</p> <p>Came out to teen friends</p> <p>Stephen King was his teacher in High School</p> <p>Wrote poetry in high school</p>
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the dormitory aside from people that we had already known before we went to school.

**Wendy Chapkis:** [00:18:10] Wow. So if it wasn't talked about by anybody, but everybody knew.

**Daniel MacNaughton:** [00:18:15] Yeah, we we had, like, one set of notes pinned to our door that made us think we were. You know, I had cause for concern, but.

**Wendy Chapkis:** [00:18:28] What did they say?

**Daniel MacNaughton:** [00:18:29] Oh, it's just feminizing us, you know, in some way. I don't remember exactly how, but someone, it's kind of cute actually, somebody rushed to tell us that all the people on our wing had had similar notes on their door. So it's kind of cute that somebody actually cared. I think it was the first year of freshman year that we saw the notice for what became the Wilde Stein Club on the dinner tables at the cafeteria there. And I remember looking around to make sure nobody would see me pick it up, you know, but I'd pick it up from quickly, you know, put it in my pocket. And talked to my boyfriend about it and he wasn't interested. He just he wanted to see our relationship as being outside of this gay context. And I was - my family had always been politically inclined. You know, my grandfather was in the legislature. But mostly we just talked politics. And so I was interested in politics. And so I went to the first meeting and that was almost a movie scene, I'll tell you, because it was at the in the student union there. And I went up the stairs to that room three times and went back down again because I, I just felt... I can't imagine why looking back on it, I just felt like if I crossed that line, I was going someplace really weird. And I eventually walked into the room and, you know, I remember perceiving everybody sitting there as looking so weird, you know, being so weird, just unlike other people. Completely. Except then I noticed Sturgis Haskins who is another person I definitely want to mention. I had known Sturgis because, you know, when I taught sailing at the yacht club in the summertime, they had had an antique boat regatta there. And I put my boat in it and, you know, won a prize and a couple of other people. It was very small, but he and I hit it off. And, you know, we've had wonderful conversations about boats. And he was a graduate student at the time, you know, considerably older than I. But I walked into that room and there was Sturgis and it was like, Oh, thank God, you know, this is somebody I can talk to. And I remember

Charlotte Littlefield

First boyfriend

Both went to UMO

Caught making out



he was like, Oh, my goodness! He was so excited to see me. And gradually it dawned on me that he might find me attractive at 18. But, you know, it wasn't my first, I didn't think of myself as attractive. But, so that began a friendship that lasted for several years. And I didn't do much with Wilde Stein. I went to the meetings. I voted against the name. I always thought it was a terrible name. Now it doesn't bother me.. But what we did do is, well, I became the first vice chairperson of it when Steve [Bull] became the chairperson. And of course, I was not out to my parents at this time. So it was very interesting to see what was reported in the paper, you know, and what wasn't.

**Wendy Chapkis:** [00:22:28] Ah, before we go further, can you just talk a little bit about who was in Wilde Stein, you know, what kind of personalities were there and did they all continue to seem so weird to you?

**Daniel MacNaughton:** [00:22:38] So no, I don't remember a lot of people's names, but I didn't develop any, I didn't feel much common ground with anybody there. A lot of them were graduate students and, you know, a lot of but I was by far the youngest person there and everybody had more experience with life and with being gay than I did. So I didn't really strike up a friendship with anybody else there. You know, the other there were other people, the range of people ranged from very weird - I continue to think were very weird - to people that seem perfectly normal on acquaintance. But this, of course, was reassuring and and helped me to see myself as a gay person and not just a person who happened to be gay, if that makes any sense.

**Wendy Chapkis:** [00:23:40] How did you end up being the first Vice Chair if you didn't know people?

**Daniel MacNaughton:** [00:23:46] I think everybody was just so charmed by the fact that I was the youngest freshman and the youngest person there that they would put me someplace. And, of course, what we did do after that, Sturgis and I, took on the task of taking this film around to all of the dormitories. It was a, you know, just a film explaining gay life to people. And and so we went, I think, to every dorm on campus and showed this film. And I think it was extremely effective. It was, people, it obviously just blew people's minds. And I can't quite, looking back on it, think why. But I remember getting the one reaction we always got that we never did figure out what we should have asked, but we never figured it out was, well,

Felt isolated at UMO

Phobic about gay people, especially stereotypical gays

Hate note pinned to dorm room door

"you people have sex just the same way we do." It's like, well, well, no, not exactly [laughs]. But, you know, what are you seeing? You know, I guess they envisioned equipment or or something. And of course, I know I did get, in those days, one of the questions you always got if you said you were in a relationship, was, "well, which one's the man?" You likely just saw sex as being so completely - what would you say? dualistic or whatever? whatever you'd say - that they couldn't conceive of that you wouldn't, that somebody wouldn't play the role of a man and somebody play the role of the woman. So we got that a lot. Well, of course, the only thing is Sturgis, Sturgis had a fantastic sense of humor, just one of the best senses of humor I ever heard. We got very familiar with this film, and there were things that we thought were pretty fucking funny, you know, that were just just, you know, people being stereotypical. So we could imitate, you know, people in this film. And so we had trouble getting the film out with a straight face. We'd end up giggling and laughing and people would ask us why, and it would be very hard to explain. But then the other thing we did was there was a gubernatorial race going on at the time, and Sturgis and I went to every meeting where these candidates came to talk to the students and asked them our question, you know: would you support a bill to protect gay rights in the state of Maine? It was kind of interesting. I think it was it was George Mitchell and Stanley Leen, I think, was the conservative candidate's name. And I can't remember the Republican's, or the other Republican's, name. But strangely, of course, one of those meetings, we were the only ones to show up for Stanley Leen because he was the really right wing religious guy. We were the only ones that showed up, which must have been a nightmare for him. But he was actually kind of great, you know, he was kinda, he was kind of good. You know, we didn't agree with anything that he stood for, but he was polite and pleasant and receptive and pretty good. The worst one was George Mitchell, and I've never forgiven George Mitchell for this. He knew we would ask our question and when we asked our question, he compared us to left handed chicken pluckers at the Belfast chicken plant and said that our concerns were too small and insignificant for, you know, the governor of the state of Maine to pay attention to. And of course, he went on to be quite a good guy and could do great with a lot of positions. But that was his that was what he said at that time. And Sturgis and I were both quite shocked.

**Wendy Chapkis:** [00:27:47] So besides doing the rounds in the dorms and showing the film, first of all, did that change how

Wilde Stein Club flyers

Boyfriend not interested in politics

Anxiety over attending first Wilde Stein meeting

Sturgis Haskins

you were, did this being active and out change how you were being dealt with on campus or was anybody talking to you about being homosexual?

**Daniel MacNaughton:** [00:28:03] Nobody would. Nobody talked to me. And I always wore the Lambda button around campus and it terrified me. I was terrified every time I walked out with that button on. But I don't think half the people I met at any idea what it meant. But it, I was just terrified, you know, and embarrassed and and, you know. But I just felt like that was my duty to do it. And my boyfriend didn't want anything to do with that, you know, he just wasn't interested in the political side of things. But we went to dances and stuff like that. And, you know, Sturgis and I would dance together, you know, you know, people, nobody reacted in a bad way. People reacted. But, you know, it was pretty tolerant. You know, we only had you know, I remember we had some death threats from some fraternity, but, you know, they didn't amount to much, you know.

**Wendy Chapkis:** [00:29:04] So your parents don't know. And how does, and you're doing all this very public stuff?

**Daniel MacNaughton:** [00:29:12] Yes. It was a cause of great anxiety. And the the other thing was that my boyfriend's father and my father knew each other. They had been sort of political allies in local political fights. But my boyfriend, the second year, came out to his father and his father reacted extremely negatively. And he was just crushed. He had no idea his father would react that way. This did not make me much more inclined to come out to my parents. So anyway after two years at UMO, I decided to work for a while because, you know, I didn't really have any direction in mind professionally. Part of the reason for that, of course, was that it was still very much my opinion that, well, let me back up. By that time, I had decided that I was only going to live out gay man, and that was not going to be negotiable. You know, I just wanted all, I wanted my friends, to know. I wanted the people I worked with, the know. I just wanted it to be something that I didn't hide because I, I sort of thought that hiding it was just kind of slimy. You know, I just I felt it was very discreditable for me to hide it. So I also believed that most professions were closed to me. You know, I was interested in politics, but there was no way you were going to, you know, run for office as a gay person and get anywhere. So I thought most of the professions, architecture, you know, things like that that I considered at the

Didn't like the name Wilde Stein

Steve Bull

Became first Vice Chairperson of the club

Didn't feel he had much in common with other members

time, it was my belief, and I think it was true that, you know, if you were in an architectural firm and you came out, you weren't going to be in that firm anymore. So I was quite adrift in terms of what I was going to do. So I quit school and got a trailer in Old Town with the idea I would take some classes and then I went to work for a cleaning company where I was out with my coworkers and, you know, that was where I began to see that I could be out with people and have it be okay. You know, for one thing, I was very acceptable. You know, I didn't look gay or sound gay, the way according to the stereotype. I was not ugly, you know, I had a decent personality and I could talk, you know? I mean, a lot, we, we underestimate how much luck has to do with people's success in life. And, you know, all you need is, you know, to be ugly or have a speech impediment or some visual visible flaw, you know, to live the same life that other people do. But I had, I had all of that. My parents didn't know I was gay, but they were very supportive people. You know, they were good people and had good values. And, you know, nobody was telling me I was a bad kid or stupid or ugly or anything like that growing up. So I was quite confident and I had this ability to live openly to an extent.

And then my father died. I was 19 and he passed away unexpectedly, which was a huge blow to me because, of my two parents, he was the one that I, you know, bonded with the most. And my mother, after that my mother was in crisis mode; she didn't have any time for me, you know, so we didn't communicate very much. But then after another year. I chose to write her a letter that had some veiled reference to being gay, and she immediately wrote back, said, "Oh God, I hope that isn't true, you know, and blah, blah, blah and everything." So I said, "Well, I wasn't going to tell you, but now I feel like I should." And wrote her this terrible letter describing every gay experience I'd ever had, right in ink. You know, all the boys that she'd known when I was growing up, that I had fooled around with. It's like, looking back on it, it's like, Oh, my God, why did I do that? I sent her a book. It was quite a good book, you know. And so. But her reaction was anger. She just didn't want to have to deal with this, you know? And that had been kind of the deal up to that point, as, you know. I was allowed to go anywhere and do anything I wanted as a teenager as long as no trouble resulted, because they just didn't want to know. And they were quite passive and they didn't want to deal with it. So. So her reaction was anger. And it remained that for a couple of years and through those years she would occasionally send me these books and articles about about

Took on task with Sturgis Haskins of showing a film about gay life in all of the dormitories

Gubernatorial race

Met with each candidate about gay rights

George Mitchell

<p>happy straight people and their relationships. There was there was a whole book, there was a whole book called Good Lives that was all about straight couples that, you know, were having good lives, you know. Oh yeah. So all of this served to do with, you know, trying to drive a wedge because I wasn't, this wasn't going to work out. [00:35:15][363.1]</p>	<p>Stanley Leen</p>
<p><b>Wendy Chapkis:</b> [00:35:18] Were you out to your brother? [00:35:19][1.2]</p>	
<p><b>Daniel MacNaughton:</b> [00:35:20] Yes. She told him immediately. And surprisingly, his reaction was very good. He, he was by far the most conservative person in our family, far more conservative than my parents, you know, sort of a Goldwater Republican. You know, with the black rimmed glasses and the whole deal, you know. So I expected the worst. But he, as it turned out, one of his roommates in prep school was a Jewish kid who happened to be gay. And so he had been tarred by that brush himself. And looking back on it, I remember my father taking him on various skiing trips and stuff to kind of man him up, you know? Oh, you know, my brother was straight. Always was. [00:36:12][51.6]</p>	<p>George Mitchell described gay rights as 'insignificant'</p>
<p><b>Wendy Chapkis:</b> [00:36:12] But did your father do that with you, too? Did you need to be manned up or were you... [00:36:17][4.6]</p>	
<p><b>Daniel MacNaughton:</b> [00:36:17] Father had died by the time I came out. So. And I'll tell you one sweet thing about that, if I can get through it. But, you know, I was writing poetry and there were poems that I was proud of that I showed to my father. And he always read them and I think somewhat puzzled as to why I was writing poetry. A couple of those poems, you know, actually were about my boyfriend, and I probably didn't hide that very well. So I think it started him on a journey of some research where he, my parents, you know, to give them credit, any time something like this came up, they'd go to the library, you know. And so I think he did that and he, he knew my boyfriend and liked him very much. I think he thought he was very funny, which he was. [00:37:08][51.0]</p>	<p>Nobody on-campus talked to him about being gay.</p> <p>Terrified.</p>
<p><b>Wendy Chapkis:</b> [00:37:09] And they knew your boyfriend was gay because he had come out to his parents. And they were friends. [00:37:13][3.9]</p>	<p>Dances</p>

<p><b>Daniel MacNaughton:</b> [00:37:14] No. No, I don't believe, I don't think his father called my father. They might have, but I don't think he did. Maybe he did. I'd love to know. But, at any rate, my father was going in for this heart operation that actually ended up killing him. And when I visited him just the day before in the hospital, he was chuckling about the orderlies that had brought him up to the floor, because in those days, orderly, hospital orderly, was one of the gay jobs. You know, you could be a hospital orderly, you could be a hairdresser, you could be an actor, you could be a waiter. You know, there were a few jobs like that that were sort of "gay jobs." He was kind of laughing about, you know, how gay they were, bringing him up and stuff they said. But then he looked at me and he said, But they seemed like really nice people. And that was the last words that we spoke. And well, aside from just saying goodnight. But, but over the years, it's meant a lot to me.</p> <p>So anyway, so then I went to College of the Atlantic because there was some Social Security money, and that was the best educational experience of my life, cause previously I'd been able to hide in the back of a, you know, 60 person lecture hall or whatever and, you know, not be noticed. But now I was in classes with eight or ten people in them and, you know, you just had to participate, you had to converse and talk in class. And I loved it. It was just wonderful. You know, I just thrived. And of course, it was obviously a very liberal atmosphere. And so after a few months, I put a notice up on the bulletin boards, I guess, or maybe it was a student paper, I don't remember. But one way or another I basically called a meeting and said, You know, anybody interested in starting a gay group on campus? You know, meet in such and such a place and at such and such a time. And lo and behold, you know, half a dozen people showed up, wonderful people.</p> <p><b>Wendy Chapkis:</b> [00:39:46] And what was the name of that group?</p> <p><b>Daniel MacNaughton:</b> [00:39:50] That was the Down East Gay Alliance. And you know, I did that for a while, and moved in with a couple, a gay couple, you know, who were wonderful. And well, what we did was we put ads in the paper for people to come to our meetings. You know, the regular paper, the state paper. And so people from around the community began to get in touch with us. You know, they had to write to us in those days, you know? And, you know, so that group grew. But then I realized that I was going to run out of money to go to</p>	<p>Some death threats</p> <p>Boyfriend comes out to father</p> <p>Leaves UMO after 2 years to work</p> <p>Decided to live as openly gay</p> <p>Believed most professions were closed to gay people</p>
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<p>school. And I realized how much I was going to have to borrow because the College of the Atlantic was not cheap. And while I was wrestling with that, I got a job offer from Wooden Boat magazine in Brooksville. My brother's wife's sister worked there and recommended me for an editorial job. So I actually left school and took that job and turned the reins of the Down East Gay Alliance over to a young man from Ellsworth who ran it for several years after that, I think. But I didn't stay in touch. So I went to Wooden Boat magazine.</p>	<p>Out at work</p> <p>Not stereotypically gay</p>
<p><b>Wendy Chapkis:</b> [00:41:29] Can I ask before we move on? So were the students who were involved in the Downeast Gay Alliance at College of the Atlantic, similar to the students that have been a part of the Wilde Stein? Or did you feel like you had moved into a different group of young gay people?</p>	
<p><b>Daniel MacNaughton:</b> [00:41:48] I felt it was a different group. A lot of it was just they were much younger. You know, most of the people in Wilde Stein, you know, were older. It was hard at the time, hard to get young students to join Wilde Stein because, you know, you had to risk, you know, being known, you know. So I think it was difficult for Wilde Stein to attract young people. And, of course, at College of the Atlantic there were no graduate students. So it was all young people and they were sort of hippies as opposed to, you know, the broader spectrum of people that, you know, you'd have at UMO.</p>	<p>Father died when Dan was 19</p>
<p><b>Wendy Chapkis:</b> [00:42:22] And perhaps lived further from their families?</p>	<p>Mother in crisis</p>
<p><b>Daniel MacNaughton:</b> [00:42:25] Yeah. And their families were generally liberal and more supportive of this type of thing. And actually that was the first place that I ever was where it became evident that people were delighted, you know, to have gay people on campus. I mean, it legitimized their liberalism, proved that they were liberal [laughs].</p>	
<p><b>Wendy Chapkis:</b> [00:42:49] Okay. So back to the boatyards. So you were working for a wooden boat magazine, and how long did you do that?</p>	<p>Comes out to mother</p>
<p><b>Daniel MacNaughton:</b> [00:42:58] Two and a half years. And it was certainly the best job I ever had and the job that I wish I had had later in life. Because at the time, you know, I was kind of a mess, you know. I just, you know, I wanted to party and have fun and so did everybody else working there. It was</p>	<p>Reaction of mother was anger</p>

definitely that kind of organization. It was sort of a counterculture magazine at the time; a lot of people thought it was just nuts as a magazine about wooden boats. But a lot of very passionate followers as well. And so obviously I was completely out with people at Wooden Boat, and they were very happy about it.

**Wendy Chapkis:** [00:43:47] Were you the only gay person?

**Daniel MacNaughton:** [00:43:49] For a while. And then, sometime in the second year, a young guy came to work there in the bookkeeping department and he and I struck up an informal relationship, a very beautiful young man, and we had a lot of fun. But it wasn't really a, it wasn't a relationship like, you know, like a serious relationship. But interestingly, they, everybody there, really was very supportive and they felt very strongly that I needed to move to the city where I could meet gay people and have more of a gay life. And they actually - I can't believe this looking back - but they created the job for me, which involved me moving to Boston, or Cambridge actually, and, and, you know, collecting material to write about from there. And so I got a check every week and had no particular deadlines or obligations. So I had a lot more sex and did a lot more partying and did a lot more drugs than I did writing for the magazine.

Mother outed Dan to conservative brother

**Wendy Chapkis:** [00:45:17] What years are we talking about here?

**Daniel MacNaughton:** [00:45:18] Oh late seventies. That's the best I can do. Well, it must have been 78, 79. And so eventually they wrote to me and said, We can't keep sending these checks. You're not going to produce more, we've got to let you go. So. So I got fired, probably amicably. I mean, I totally understood where they were coming from. But of course, one of the things about being 20 something, it's so hard to know how to work the world. You know? I mean, I had no idea how to go about getting a job in the greater Boston area. You know, I just I couldn't face it. You know, I just I couldn't face it. And so I eventually moved back to Brooklin, in Maine, where I had a house.

Brother accepting

But going back to Cambridge, it did accomplish what they wanted: I met all kinds of gay people. Wonderful, wonderful, gay people. Oh, and I should say, getting back to Sturgis for a minute before I actually moved, I went down and visited



<p>Sturgis a number of times. And Sturgis, I remember on one night took me to every gay bar in Boston. So I so I got groped at the Napoleon Club by numerous old men at the piano bar. And I, I went to the cruise bar and I went to the dance bar and, you know, he just basically said, okay, you know what's out there. And I do remember, I think it was that same week, or weekend, that I did pick up someone at a bar for the first time in my life. And he was just the most delightful person; we saw each other for, you know, a long time after that. Well, we quickly agreed that we weren't going to have a relationship, but we just really got a big kick out of each other. So that was a very positive start to that. And so I did a lot of that. You know, I went out to bars and picked people up. But basically what happened was I, I met, you know, half a dozen just great guys. And I stopped going out to the bars and just sort of did the circuit around those guys because they were wonderful and that was all I needed, you know?</p>	<p>Shared poems about boyfriend with father</p>
<p><b>Wendy Chapkis:</b> [00:47:58] And then you moved to Brooklin?</p>	
<p><b>Daniel MacNaughton:</b> [00:47:59] Then I did move back to - well, let me say one more thing about the city. I never liked living in the city because I saw it as ugly and dirty and dangerous. And I had no appreciation of architecture. I had no appreciation of, you know, art really at that time or any of the other things that you would get out of a city. So it mostly to me, it just seemed unpleasant. [00:48:26][26.6]</p>	<p>Father in hospital</p>
<p><b>Wendy Chapkis:</b> [00:48:27] Even though there was a queer community? That didn't compensate for all the rest? [00:48:37][9.3]</p>	<p>Gay orderlies – gay jobs</p>
<p><b>Daniel MacNaughton:</b> [00:48:39] Looking back on it, I don't quite know why I made the decisions I did, but I did come back to Maine to be back with a beautiful place. And, and well, the other thing was living in the city also, after a year or two, I came to realize that I didn't know anybody but gay people. It was all gay people. You know, all my friends were gay. All the businesses we went to were gay businesses. The places, you know, we went out were gay and everything. And it felt a little ghetto like to me, you know, I didn't think it was quite right for me. So I moved back to Brooklin. My timing was perfect because, of course, within months of my coming back to Maine, the AIDS crisis had just swept through the cities. It must have been all around me while I was there, but nobody knew it. The people I tended to pick up were probably the least</p>	<p>Sweet moment with father the day before he died</p>
	<p>College of the Atlantic</p>

<p>experienced people in the bar scene. They were young and shy and I was lucky, you know. So not only did I not get sick, nobody that I knew got sick. I never knew a person who had HIV until much later when people had it that were still healthy, you know. So, on the one hand, I felt very lucky. On the other hand, I felt very guilty, you know, because I knew the same people that I was hanging out with in Boston were dealing with friends that were dying. And I was spared every bit of that. You know, and I'm very thankful for that. But also, you know, a lot of people had a deeper experience of that than I did.</p>	<p>Liberal atmosphere</p>
<p>So back to Brooklin. I was basically unemployed in Brooklin. I fell in with a bunch of the local boys there, and that was where I discovered that I could get along with local redneck boys just fine [laughs]. You know, I could make them laugh. I could hit on them in a humorous way and they didn't mind. You know, it's a fact that young men like to be praised for their looks, whether they want to have sex with you or not. But they're just fine with you telling them how hot they are. So I actually began having these wonderful friendships with these local redneck boys, guys, you know, they were adults. And so we, there was a scheme to grow pot, you know, large quantities of pot because we had a variety of weed that would grow in Maine. It was an Afghani strain. And that was the first weed anybody had seen that would grow to full maturity in Maine. So we figured we had a brief opportunity. And so we, we planted hundreds and hundreds of plants on other people's property out in the woods. And my house was the Clone Factory. You know, I made thousands of clones, you know, which, you know, went down into the woods. We had a flat black pickup truck. You know, all of, the all of the chrome and lights had been removed from the pickup truck so we could move fertilizer and water and stuff to places at night and not be seen. And it was quite a lot of fun and we didn't make any money. It was, you know, we made enough money to scrape by. But what we always said we were doing was looking for a leg up. You know, we would get a chunk of money and then do something with it. So, you know, I did that for a couple of years, paid taxes on every dime that I made. But then the cocaine arrived. And the same people who were selling the weed were starting to sell cocaine. And now you're dealing with an addictive substance and you're trying to collect money from addicts who don't have the money. And it was getting ugly fast. And so I started objecting and, you know, eventually put my foot down and left. In there I met another guy, a local guy, who was from Stonington, a lobster fisherman son from</p>	<p>Started gay group at College of the Atlantic</p> <p>Down East Gay Alliance</p> <p>community members join group.</p> <p>Dan leave College of the Atlantic</p> <p>Employed at Wooden Boat Magazine</p> <p>Down East Gay Alliance</p>

Stonington - Sturgis was so impressed! And he and I, sadly, really, he had an art gallery and a, you know, T-shirt printing business. And sadly, he moved right into my house as soon as we started up our relationship. And it took me, it would have taken, now it would take me about a week to know that this guy was not a good match for me. At that time, it took me about four years because I, you know, this was somebody who was just infused with anger. You know, just every every negative emotion was translated into anger. And I thought I could fix him, you know, because I thought that all a person like that needs is praise and support and everything, No. [Laughs]. So it didn't, that ultimately didn't work out. But in the meantime, we had moved with a sailboat that we had bought, to Hilton Head Island in South Carolina, where my brother was living on his sailboat and had worked for us. So I left the I left the cocaine and weed scene behind and moved down there and started doing work, you know, with my brother and the local boatyards and so forth. And assumed that my boyfriend would now be very happy because we had pursued this plan and now had more work and money and so forth. That did not prove to be the case.

**Wendy Chapkis:** [00:55:12] Were you again sort of surrounded by straight men in the workplace?

**Daniel MacNaughton:** [00:55:18] Yes. Because eventually I went to work in the boatyard that was right there building boats. And I was out at that boatyard in South Carolina and they loved it. It was the same thing: the local guys just loved. It was funny, because I was always making a joke out of it, you know, because basically straight guys and gay guys working together is one of the funniest things ever. I mean, especially at that time, there was just so much opportunity, for know, making fun of each other and saying obscene things, you know, in response to whatever other people say. So they loved it. Well, I'll say one other thing about that. When I started work there, it was a rough place. There were literally knife fights in the parking lot at some of the breaks between factions in this place. And the black guys didn't talk to the white guys and the white guys didn't talk to the black guys. And everybody hated the boss. Well, the way I'm telling it is in the wrong order, but the way I got that job was I wanted to ask if like, if they were hiring and they said no. And I said, "Well, can I fill out an application?" I say, and he says "Sure, go ahead". So I filled out the application. He looked at it and you said, "You're from Maine". And I said, "Yeah." And he says, "Well, the last three

Gay group at COA was younger than Wilde Stein

Hippies at COA

COA students' families liberal

COA delighted to have gay people on campus

<p>guys I hired were from Maine, were the best guys in the shop. So I guess you got a job." So I took the job and shortly thereafter a young couple came, straight couple, came to visit us on the boat; they were people that my boyfriend had met at work and we enjoyed them very much. Agreed that the guy was very cute. Well the guy was Greg [Dan's current partner] at about 20 years old. Because I remember he wasn't old enough to buy beer; we had to buy his beer for him. And then he got a job at the at the same boatyard because of a mutual friend. Well, it didn't take very long for him to come out to me. And I went back to my boyfriend and said, "guess what?" [laughs]. You know, "our bubddy here is actually gay." So his reaction was, well, and, you know, Greg was engaged at the time to this young woman and. I don't know quite how to put the sequence, but my boyfriend eventually said, "Well, why don't we just ask him to join us?" And so we did that. And, and he did split up with his fiance and joined us. And there was one grisly conversation where, you know, the fiance came to the boat to try to talk us all out of it like that was going to happen. And so, you know, my boyfriend and Greg, they go down below and leave me in the cockpit with this woman. So I have this grizzly conversation where she says, "I just can't compete with the lifestyle," you know, meaning the boat. And I and I'm like, I don't think it's the lifestyle you're competing with. And I'm just like, you know, trying to explain to this very nice young woman that it just probably wasn't going to go her way, that this was a story that, you know, it was out there and, you know, was not going to go away. So he stayed with us. Now, this was a copout on my part, because as soon as I realized that Greg was there and gay, I was thinking, how can I dump my first boyfriend to go with this guy? Because Greg is just the sweetest person ever, you know, has always been, you know, just a delightful person. And my boyfriend was horrible to me every day, you know? So I'm like, how can I? So then I, how can I tell him that I want him to go away? You know, because I've met someone I like better. It just seemed like something that nobody should ever do because I just felt like I should be loyal and everything. So it was a copout for me to become a menage a trois. And we did that for years, you know, for a couple of years. But getting back to the boat shop, eventually the boat shop closed down. You know, the the the guy who ran it day to day that most people didn't like when I started there, worked for this really rich guy who was just a horrible person and eventually told me he was going to quit and open his own boat shop in Florida. So I don't think he ever did that, but he did quit. And so we built the last boat in that shop, and these</p>	<p>countercultural</p> <p>One other gay person at work</p> <p>Highly supportive environment</p> <p>Moves to Boston/Cambridge area</p> <p>Sex and drugs and partying</p> <p>1978/79</p> <p>Loses Boston job</p>
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<p>were wooden, wooden powerboats and big wooden power boats, luxury stuff. And there was a big party. And his wife, the guys wife, took Greg and I aside and she said, "I don't know how you guys did it." But but she said, "basically, everybody's been getting along since you guys came on board." She said, she says "the black guys and the white guys are talking, there's no more violence or disputes in the workplace. Everybody's being nice to my husband and my husband's getting along with the guys." And she said, "We don't know how you did it, but it was you." And this, of course, was one of the nicest things anybody said to me. But it was true, you know, and the reason I think it was true was, it wasn't just because we were gay, that was largely because I was from Maine, I think. And and, you know, around here, you talk to the boss like he's a regular person. You don't put him up on this pedestal, you know, grovel to him one minute, you know, criticize him behind his back. So I just talked to him like a regular person. I talked to the black guys, you know, just normal and made all the straight white Southern guys laugh and, you know, and everybody loved Greg. I mean, Greg didn't, you know, do a lot of those things, but everybody just loved him. And I do think that somehow we just brought a whole lot of positive energy into that organization and it helped. And this made me think this may be what gay people are for, you know, in society, because there is some evidence, as you well know, that gay people always show up. I mean, every, you would think we'd be weeded out genetically, you know, but in fact, there's always gay people. And I think that's a leavening influence and a different point of view that helps people to get along. You know, I have lived in the same house with straight couples, you know, many different times. Well, sometimes they call me an exotic pet [laughs], but a lot of times they call me their live-in marriage counselor because I was able to explain them to each other, I think, in a way that other people hadn't.</p> <p><i>[01:03:09][471.0]</i></p> <p><b>Wendy Chapkis:</b> <i>[01:03:10]</i> Queer Eye for the Straight Life? <i>[01:03:11][1.1]</i></p> <p><b>Daniel MacNaughton:</b> <i>[01:03:11]</i> I think so. I really think there's something to that. And so we eventually all decided that we wanted to own a boatyard in Maine. So my brother, and so we all, moved back to Maine. I went back to the --- Oh, I left out of whole thing. After I went back to Maine the first time having left Wooden Boat, I got a job at the Brooklin boatyard, which was a wooden boat building yard right in town. And it</p>	<p>Moves back to Brooklin Maine</p> <p>Gay bars in Boston</p> <p>Napoleon Club</p> <p>Cruise Bar Dance Bar</p> <p>Didn't like living in the city.</p>
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was owned by a wonderful man named Joel White, who was E.B. White's son, actually. And Joel's son, Steve, was my age and was taking over the yard at that time. And Steve and I were friends, local friends, and he realized I needed work. And he said, "Geez, we need someone at the yard." So he he said, "But I got to ask." And so we went back and asked the guys in the shop if they minded, if they hired a gay guy to work at the shop. And the oldest guy there said, "I don't care if he fucks skunks as long as he'll do the work" [laughs]. So they hired me on. And it was tough walking in there, you know, because the crew at that time was mostly 60 year old, you know, guys in their sixties, local guys in their sixties, some of whom had worked at the boatyard while it was a fish packing plant that just came with the place. And then there were a group of younger guys, Steve's and my age, and they were no problem. But the older guys, you know, were clearly a little dubious. And I was very paranoid about it. I think they were all more accepting than I feared they were. But, you know, I was a big guy. I was young, I was strong. I could lift things nobody else could lift. I could skid the big timber into the building that nobody else could move. And I worked really hard and did really good work and had a better work ethic than probably anybody working there. Because I really cared about the work and what we were doing and so that worked out quite well.

**Wendy Chapkis:** [01:05:47] Can I just ask a question, so you you get along really well in all these environments that were either all straight or almost all straight. And I'm just wondering; it seems to me it might've had something to do with your masculine presenting? Like you didn't trigger any of that "Oh, I'm with a nelly." Or there's somebody who's, you know...

**Daniel MacNaughton:** [01:06:10] Oh, yeah. This is not to my credit, it's just, yeah, that just happened to be my persona and personality and yeah so it made me acceptable in a way that other people might not be. You know, they did draw the connection. I mean, you know, other gay people that were more stereotypical would show up at these places and be treated better than they would otherwise be treated because they knew a gay guy and knew he was all right. So, yeah, you know, I mean, I, I don't think I was I wasn't being closeted about it. That was my actual personality and appearance.

Oh, I forgot the sequence but I worked at another boatyard on Mount Desert Island for a while and had a similar experience

Returned to Maine beauty

In Boston, lived in a 'gay ghetto'

Left the city just before the AIDS crisis exploded

Never knew anyone with HIV at that time

Felt lucky and guilty

Brooklin Maine

Got along great with 'redneck' straight guys

and then went back to Brooklin boatyard for another couple of years.

**Wendy Chapkis:** [01:07:03] What kind of work were you doing in these places?

**Daniel MacNaughton:** [01:07:08] Well, when I started, I was very concerned because I was not a boat carpenter and I thought to work in these boat building yards I should be a carpenter. And I had no such skills because whenever my father and I tried to build anything, he would very gently take the tools out of my hands and then do it correctly. So I grew up with the impression that I could not do that kind of work. Learned later that I could. But, no, all I could do was rig sailboats, you know, put the mast up and down and do whatever they needed for organization and stuff. And I could paint and varnish. And later on I realized that the rarest skills in boatyards are sail boat rigging and painting and varnishing. So that explained why they were very happy to get me and I was the first painter that they kept on year round at Brooklin boatyard.

But all of that time we were trying to buy a boatyard in Maine, you know. After I moved back from South Carolina, was the second time I worked at Brooklin boatyard. And so I had been to South Carolina at that point and moved back. And we were looking for a boatyard. And we ended up buying a boatyard in Eastport, Maine, and moved down there and started this extremely ill-advised business. We had no capital. We went in with what was left of our paychecks in our back pockets and started running this business in Eastport of all places, where we figured we're bound to do fine because we're the only boatyard for 20 miles in either direction up and down the coast. Well, there were no boats [laughs]. So it was a terrible business decision. But Eastport turned out to be my favorite place that I ever lived. It was a beautiful, beautiful place for sailing and cruising, which is my primary recreation. It was absolutely unequaled, unspoiled, and the people were just marvelous. And it was the most accepting community I've ever lived in. And I think it's this island, it's on an island literally, that has a causeway, you can drive on and off, but it's very much of an island community. And what we noticed was not only is diversity tolerated in these places, they are delighted by diversity. You know, if you come up and you've got a different story or a different background or something different about you. They want to know all about it, you know? And and it was

Growing pot in Maine

Cocaine arrives on the scene

Got involved with a local guy and moved in together

the only place I've ever lived where if you went to a party, there were all different kinds of people there. They did all different kinds of work. They were male and female. They were Native American and white, you know, and so and so's mentally challenged brother was there. You had to socialize that way or else there wouldn't be enough people to put a group together. So this tolerance ran very, very deep there. And still does I think.

So we had a wonderful time at Eastport. The boatyard eventually failed and I went to work in a plastic factory up there - the worst job I ever had, you know, molten plastic, you know, being made into fiber. And there I met more young redneck guys who just loved me, you know [laughs]. So it was pretty good. And somewhere in there we split up from my first, my other boyfriend, and it was just Greg and I. And Greg and I split up for a few years in there, in the middle there, but got back together again.

**Wendy Chapkis:** [01:11:12] And you two got married when?

**Daniel MacNaughton:** [01:11:14] Yeah. That was after we moved down to this area. We finally ran out of work in Eastport. There just wasn't anything to do for work, and we were actually split up when I moved down here. Greg was seeing someone else. But that relationship was ending. And I think he realized that I was slipping out of his grasp. So. So we got together again soon after I down here. And we both got jobs at Rockport Marine boatyard, boatbuilding yard. And soon thereafter I started running the yard as a manager. And that, of course, was the second boatyard I had run because I ran my first boatyard for ten years down in Eastport and then and then ran Rockport Marine. And of course, this was 20 some, 20 some odd years ago, you know, so things were still not what they quite are today. A gay guy showing up at Rockport Marine. Well the first time anybody thought that that ever happened. Or at least an openly gay guy. There was one guy everybody knew his was gay, but he didn't talk about it at all. Nobody ever mentioned it, you know? But I had felt as a manager that it was critically important that I reveal myself as early as possible because I hated the idea of being this gay manager that nobody knew about. You know, the big stories and questions and everything like that. So when I realized at Rockport that they were going to make me a manager, I went through my tiny and innocuous porn collection and found an acceptable picture of a young man that I did think was

Guy not a good match but stayed together for 4 years

Moved to Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

Worked with straight men in boatyard

Got along great with straight men



attractive but, you know, had pants on [laughs]. You know? And I put this up in the shop - his name was Viktor, with a K, it said "I'm Viktor" on the bottom. I put this up in the shop. You could hear the muffled explosion. You know, it went through the shop in about 30 seconds, you know, because at that time - this was, you know, quite some time ago - there were no women working in the shop. They were just in the office. There were pictures of naked ladies, you know, all around the shop. So, you know, the paint foreman that I was working for - I was up in the loft varnishing something - and he came up and accused Ed; he said "You put that picture up?!" [laughs] And Ed starts denying it. And then I'm thinking, "Well, this wasn't how I expected this to go. I don't want Ed to take the blame for putting this picture up." So I said, "No, no, Steve, I put it up." And he says, "Why?" And I said, "Well, because he's a nice Czechoslovakian boy. And I thought these girls needed some competition." He said, "Well, we'll see about that!" And stormed off, went straight to the boss's office, the big boss, and said, "How long have you known Dan McNaughton?" And my boss said, "20 years." He said, "Well, did you know he was gay?" And he says, "Yes." And Steve later said, you know, "it was at that time that I began to feel like things weren't going to go the way I expected." So the boss said, "it's not a problem, Steve, and it's not going to be a problem. Right?" And he said "It's fine," you know, and left. So at that point I was instantly out, you know, to everybody in the shop. I sort of thought it might be a more gradual process. But there, again, you know, the oldest, most conservative guy in the shop says, "well, I don't know anything about him, but he's got balls." And so everything went fine. And then they made me the boss. And, you know, then I, you know, learned, you know, what I continued what I had done relating to people as a gay boss. And on I flirted with the young guys and I called them Mr. So-and-so, met them by their last names like they were Midshipman Donna, you know, on the old sailing ship or something. I didn't cast my pearls before swine if thought, you know, someone wasn't into talking about this stuff I didn't bring it up. But a lot of the young guys - at that time, of course, it was a big political thing happening.

**Wendy Chapkis:** [01:16:04] What years were these?

**Daniel MacNaughton:** [01:16:06] 2000. I started in 2000 there. So the young guys definitely wanted to talk about it, you know. So that was cool. Greg got a job there and everybody loved him. And that just continued through a couple more

Work place was rough and violent and racially divided

Met his current partner Greg

Greg ends relationship with a woman and moves in with Dan and his partner

boatyards to the same day. Greg still there and he's one of the best carpenter is now running big boat building projects. There's no other gay guys there that we know, but no gay guys are ever going to have a problem going in there on that score, I don't think.

**Wendy Chapkis:** [01:16:46] So is your social world still largely straight people?

**Daniel MacNaughton:** [01:16:52] I. Yes. And I actually have almost no social world at this point. I mean, when when we bought our first house, when we moved down here, we bought a house in Searsmont. And I picked the house because I thought it would be a nice party house. You know, it had a big deck and, you know, other characteristics that I thought would go well with our social life, which had always been extremely active. In Eastport people were always coming over to the house and stuff. But that was a miscalculation. We live too far out of town and nobody came to visit. And and then, you know, I you know, when I was down here by myself, I was going out with the guys cause, you know, that was what all the single guys did. But when Greg came down, we had more of a sort of home life and and that kind of stopped it, and it's never started up again.

And COVID, you know, just sent us all indoors. And so what little contact we had with people basically ended then and hasn't resolved. We have people that we see but very seldom. And last spring, the house in Searsmont burned and we lost all of our possessions. Well, I'll tell you one incident before that. We did have someone shoot a bullet through the living room in Searsmont. It was early spring; it was the night before the Trump rally in Maine which I don't think was a coincidence. I was asleep in front of the television and Greg was asleep upstairs. He comes thundering down the stairs, says "Did you hear that?" I said, "No, I didn't hear anything." "Well it sounded like a gunshot." You know, I didn't hear anything. So we didn't think much about it until we opened the curtains the next morning. And there was a bullet hole through the window about six feet from where I was sitting. And it, ah, the bullet was lodged in my computer printer. And so we called the cops and the cops came and the cops were quite funny trying to get the bullet out of the printer. And, you know, they were great. We never did determine who did it. I don't think it was anybody that we knew closely. I think it was somebody who knew of us. And I don't think it was a coincidence that the Trump rally was

Menage a trois

Boatyard closes

Greg and Dan are complimented for creating good relations among the workers

happening the next day because this is the type of thing he's encouraged with every word that's come out of his lovely mouth. But nothing further ever happened. You know, we just kind of got over it. You know, one thing that did happen that was great was, I don't know how Facebook works, you know, I use it a little bit, but I don't understand it. So if I say what if what I say is impossible, then forgive me. But we put a little thing on there just saying what had happened. And of course, everybody we knew just, you know, just rows of supportive comments. And I don't know how Greg knew this and maybe I'm wrong, but it appeared that was in like three or four days. It had gone to about 30,000 people. And we were getting messages from people we'd never heard of supporting us in this. People around town were stopping us and, you know, supporting us, you know? So we cried a lot more because of the support than we did from the from the incident [choaks up]. It was a revelation, you know. But nothing further ever happened.

And then, you know, a couple of years later, last last spring, my house did burn and we lost all of our possessions, which was not a big deal for me because I had grown up with plenty of stuff, you know, I'd never wanted for anything in particular, and also had a strong dose of Buddhism as a young guy and was fairly blasé about it. But for Greg. Greg grew up in a poor family, a very fundamentalist Christian family that was very unsupportive. He never had anything. You know. Until we got together was when I first started to be able to buy things for himself and have nice things. He also, you know, is a craftsman, he built these beautiful guitars that, you know, a lot of beautiful guitars that got burned, skateboards and things like that. So it was much tougher for him than for me.

**Wendy Chapkis:** [01:21:45] Is there any, do you know what caused the fire?

**Daniel MacNaughton:** [01:21:48] Yeah, it was a chimney fire, wasn't arson or anything like that.

And so this last year has been largely, you know, I semi-retired a couple of years ago. And I've been doing boat surveys since then, which is, you know, examining people's boats to see what kind of condition they're in, either, you know, whether they're going to buy them or insure them. And writing reports

Gay people have a role in society to help people get along

Moves back to Brooklin

Works for EB White's son, Joel, in boatyard.

Out at work in the boatyard

about that stuff, which I'm pretty qualified to do after 40 years in boatyards. So I thought I was going to have a lot of time off.

But then the house burned and that became a full time job with the insurance and the, you know, finding another place, temporary place to live and moving into that, and then trying to get the insurance company and builders together to build on that site. And I could never get the numbers to add up. And finally, we've got to, we've found this house on the market and the insurance company basically paid for it. So we're in here with no mortgage and no debt. And we still have money coming from the content settlement and we still have the property to sell over there after we tear the house down. So it's a little embarrassing because we're far, far better off, you know, in every way, including financially than we were before the house burned. So we tell people we did not burn the house down, but had we known, we might have [laughs]. We're in this place. We love this place. But we've only been in here for like 3 months. That's why none of the artwork is on the walls that's all being reframed. You know, the stuff that survived the fire.

**Wendy Chapkis:** [01:23:35] Well I have one more question on my list and that is generational differences. Oh, I didn't ask you how old you are. Do you mind telling me?

**Daniel MacNaughton:** [01:23:39] I'm 67.

**Wendy Chapkis:** [01:23:39] So what what generational differences do you see?

**Daniel MacNaughton:** [01:23:47] Well, of course. Of course, in my parents' generation, you know, being gay was no joke. I mean, you know, you're you. Yeah. You were in danger physically. You were in danger of losing anything that you had. If you tried to have a sexual life or a social life, you were subject to arrest, you know, and raids on gay bars and everything like that. You couldn't hold a job, you know, most jobs you'd be immediately fired from. And it was just brutal, you know? And the gay people I met from that generation when I was mostly in Boston, in Cambridge, seemed really damaged to me. I mean, really, really damaged, you know, like, you know, just I couldn't communicate with them. I just didn't feel I could communicate. But it didn't feel like we had anything in common either.

Older workers  
dubious but younger  
workers accepting

Masculine presenting

**Wendy Chapkis:** [01:24:50] How did that damage manifest? What would you remember of how they seemed damaged you?

Boatyard on Mount Desert Island

**Daniel MacNaughton:** [01:25:03] It's hard to say. I'm not sure if I can really illustrate it, but the. It was like a gay identity was everything, you know. I mean, it was like their entire identity was as a gay person because that was like the only choice you had. You either hit it off completely and pretended it wasn't true, or if you stepped over that line, I mean, that's pretty much all you were. It seemed to me. Sexually, it it seemed weird to me. But that may just be because these were older guys that were, you know, in different places. They, I think, had internalized the stereotypes to a much greater degree. Well, yeah. Yeah. That's one of the biggest ones, I think is there's always been this assumption - and I'm not, I don't I mean, anybody who feels this way, it's fine with me - but there's always an assumption that being gay means that you're less male or less masculine than if... Lke, you're in between a man or woman, someplace. You know? And that may be true for many people, but it's not inherent in being gay. You know that those are two separate things. So I think a lot of people made themselves more feminine and more and so forth because they just felt that must be part of it, you know? And there's nothing wrong with that. But it's not just the only truth, you know, it's not the only thing. So I would meet people that it didn't seem natural to me. It seemed like that was a veneer they had applied to themselves and that they had restricted their options, you know, a lot by doing that.

I remember Sturgis founded the Chiltern Mountain Club, you know, which was, you know, the first, I think, outdoor nature club for gay people that I ever heard of anyway. And I remember older guys saying, "What's the point? Is it to prove that we can climb mountains?" It's like "no; the point is to go have fun together." But they saw it as something that gay people would not naturally do. It was sports or anything like that. They saw these things as being things that gay people wouldn't do. But mostly I think it was just whatever manifested itself from having lived in that world where, you know, you really were considered a terrible person if you were gay.

Bought a boatyard in Eastport

And of course, my generation, you know, sort of came out of, I feel like our politics kind of came out of the anti-war movement. And, you know, the civil rights movement. We saw, we were able to see ourselves as a continuation of the civil rights

<p>movement. And this, of course, appealed to me because I was politically inclined. And it gave me a way to identify with that movement. And and, you know, a lot of the older people really didn't want you to take those risks, you know? I mean, "oh, my God, you're going to be killed. You're going to you know, you're going to make it worse for us by bringing attention to us," you know? And, you know, they had reasons for saying that, you know, we ignored it and did our thing.</p>	<p>Loved living in Eastport</p>
<p>And, uh, but still, I feel like, you know, I feel like I'm damaged also by a continuation of the things that they went through. I remember I went to a gay retreat here and ended up crying through the whole thing because I was surrounded by these beautiful, wonderful gay people. And I lived all my life in the straight world. And I had never had these kind of, you know, friendships and relationships that these people had. And, you know, people thought I was a freak because I couldn't stop crying, you know. And so I realized at that point, "you two are damaged," you know? And then I, you know, as I met young guys that worked for me and so forth that were a younger generation than I am in the boatyards, straight guys, you know, they had a completely different attitude toward it than the older generation did. I mean, they thought it was great. You know, they thought it was cool. You know, they thought they were progressive by being friends with actual gay people.</p>	<p>Delight in diversity in Eastport</p>
<p>And now there's another generation coming along, but you know, I started to meet trans individuals living right out in the world. You know, the high schools you go to, the high schools around here, there's a giant poster: "if you think you might be gay, here's a whole lot of people that you can talk to or other students at the school."</p>	<p>Boatyard fails Works in molten plastic factory</p>
<p>It's like, this is not the world I grew up in. You know, I'm thinking, man would have done me a world of good. And so each generation I think, in my lifetime has made a radical additional step. I don't know where it'll go; I feel like the future is going to be a lot different place, you know, as all of these things become mainstream. You know, we will have some resistance, but. I can barely conceive of a world where all of these variations on sexuality are mainstream, accepted. And I wonder what it'll what impact it will have. You know, I know there's a lot more openly bisexual people and I've encountered, you know, which has always been difficult for people. So I guess what I meant.</p>	<p>Got along with redneck straight guys</p>

<p><b>Wendy Chapkis:</b> [01:31:17] That's a beautiful way to end. Is there anything that I didn't ask you that you want to make sure that we don't forget to say.</p>	
<p><b>Daniel MacNaughton:</b> [01:31:32] Well, all right.[choaking uip] I would advise people to be more optimistic. [crying] Things are getting better. The ugly shit that's been said lately is not going to carry the day.</p>	<p>Got jobs at Rockport Marine boatyard</p> <p>Becomes yard manager</p>
<p><b>Wendy Chapkis:</b> [01:32:07] Thank you. Thank you so much.</p>	
	<p>First out gay guy at work</p>
	<p>Decides to out himself at work</p>
	<p>Posts mild gay porn at work alongside existing pictures of naked women</p>

	<p>Big boss supports him</p> <p>2000, young straight guys at work wanted to talk about gay issues</p>
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	<p>Not much social life after moving to Searsmont</p> <p>COVID</p> <p>Home In Searsmont burns down</p> <p>Bullet shot into their living room in Searsmont night before Trump rally</p>
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	<p>Trump rally</p> <p>Lots of support after shooting incident</p> <p>House burns down with all their possessions</p>
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	<p>Semi-retired</p> <p>Bought home in Northport with insurance money</p>
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	<p>Generational differences in gay community</p> <p>Dangers of being gay for older generation</p> <p>Older gay men seemed damaged</p> <p>Gay identity was everything for older generation</p> <p>Older gay men internalized stereotypes</p>
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	<p>Belief that being gay meant less masculine</p> <p>Chiltern Mountain Club</p> <p>Dan's generation came out of anti-war and civil rights movements</p>
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	<p>Older generation didn't want attention – too risky</p> <p>Dan's generation also damaged</p> <p>Gay retreat</p> <p>Sadness at living his life in the straight world</p> <p>Younger generation thinks gayness is cool</p> <p>Trans youth</p> <p>High School poster for gay youth</p> <p>Each generation takes a radical additional step</p>
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	<p>Bisexual people</p> <p>Advise: Be more optimistic</p> <p>Trump ethos won't carry the day.</p>
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