RO: If somebody really offended me if they call me sir are not paying attention to me and they say can I help you sir. No I don't think they're really offended me I think they're just not paying attention. Now if they are actually. Trying to offend me well it's going to take more than that.

RO: You know I mean you know at one time maybe. But you know at this point it's like you know I just laugh about and go I'm like you know. Well you know whatever.

SM: You know I can't go back. So you're talking about how you were safe when you were going out to the country and you guys had your group together. Have you ever dealt with like an unsafe situation where law enforcement now. Have you ever. Like you know walking on the street you know cops there and they look at you funny or anything like that.

RO: No I don't even think I've gotten the funny looks if I have I didn't really pay that much attention to it.

RO: I learned long ago to let people think whatever they're going to think.

RO: And if a find somewhere or somebody was looking at me and if the cops were looking I'm walking around to say hey what's going on here is or something I don't even know about it. Yeah.

RO: So I've never really been in those kind of situations. I basically live my life. Without that type of interaction or having to do something. The only interaction I've really had with police officers has been made come to LGBTQ events and I've probably talked with the officer that comes in and you know they're coming with that community spirit and trying to help him keep problems from arising and that kind of thing. That's probably been the most contact I've had other than I did have a go. I grew up with who was the deputy who was the sheriff's deputy. And when I was doing investigations for child abuse.

RO: I would just call her and she said definitely yes with me if I won she was going to protect me. So that was really kind of cool so I've never really have been the other side of
RO: Fortunate for that I did. I did. I think I think with the activism and some of that that's in your face.

RO: And I think sometimes that's just a little too much I don't know. For me I don't think that that works as well because I think any time somebody comes up to me and they're trying to force something on me I'm going to rebel against that I'm not going to want to accept that same approach to stand up and understand why people feel the need to do what. But that's not the approach for me. So I think those kind of. Attempts to teach people only make people angry and only make them want to lash out. Whereas I think with a softer approach you've got that opportunity to do some education. You've got that opportunity for them to say I'm a person like you are.

DE: We often talk about LGBTQ are just the people next door we are just like anyone else.

DE: It's actually a really big topic in our class and we often talk about is that LGBTQ are just the people next door and they are just people like everybody else. Have you ever felt that. There is a separation between LGBTQ and normal.

RO: Heterosexual. Yeah definitely definitely I think we talked about it but I think we're walking down the street unable to display public affection. So that also probably is is I'm not that fond of public displays because of the way that I grew up. So I mean but you know still there I was those moments when you know something really special and you would like to do that. And it's like you know I catch you. Oh but I think it's I think a lot of people who are heterosexual feel like that they are above that they are more elitist that they are better than people who are gay because of their sexual that there's more heterosexual male or gay people. So it kind of puts them in a little bit different class and I think sometimes they can look down on. Not everybody not everybody but you know I think there are those people. Look it's privilege. Probably that's what I'm footboard privileges privilege privileges just like you know why. What used to be the white man's privilege. You know they had their sexual privilege. And if you are otherwise you're not privileged you know. So I think only knows miles from them has been beneficial in having some of these people that were very gay to have gay children. You know I think that also comes of in terms some some cranks and turning some things when it was happening in their own families and that they had been very active and very vocal. Yeah. No no no know not liking the devil or whatever. Right.
SM: Yeah that's right, it's under your nose very under your nose and maybe you didn't want to see it that maybe you didn't want to say it but you're going to see it.

SM: Some good goodness. So we talked about places where you felt safe. Were there any thing you can remember where you were not safe.

RO: I think sometimes in going with a smaller group and trying to find some of the bars because you're going down dark alleys. You know you're going you're knocking on his door. I don't know who's behind that door. So it was a little different for me I think some of those kind of things. I think sometimes being late at night either myself or a date or a small crowd and you know I always have that awareness about where I am and what I'm doing and what's going on around me. But I think sometimes those things take some time when we get the national news broadcasting things or you know that day after day I think sometimes you wonder you know what will have happened here. Yes we know it could happen here. Will it happen here.

SM: Do you feel that LGBTQ, the L, their at more of a risk than G.

RO: I do. We don't hear anybody taking heterosexuals out and time them to offend. Like Matthew Shepard we don't hear people taking heterosexual cop or and arresting them or telling them that they shouldn't be seeing each other or have anything to do with that with each other. I think there's still that danger. I think the danger comes from the people that one that either don't want to know or they don't.

RO: And I think there's a difference in that because those that don't know can be educated those that don't want to be educated those people are too quick to sometimes think violence is the answer in whatever form that may be.

RO: Just because but just because I'm a gay person does that mean I can't walk down the street just because I'm a gay person does that mean that I can't. Won't one thing she talked about two special beds was fairness in Lexington when they were able to have fairness and so you couldn't be discriminated for housing and jobs. So that was another moment I just thought I'm sorry. I'm getting a little out of order but I think that. Some people feel very justified and if you're different that they can hurt you. Now I don't understand that type thinking but I think sometimes people think like Matthew Shepard getting tied to the Pentagon and others have gotten dragged by trucks I think he might have gotten dragged time to defend him. Senseless violence just for violence sake just because of you. Thank you love. They may not even know for sure but they think you love someone that they think it's something you should do. I think that dynamic and violence and United States compared to
other places is it's gross because.

SM: For example there was a lesbian who was burnt in her car in New York the other day. She actually was not gay.

DE: They found out that she just appeared to be gay but was not. Wow. And I mean and you can place it's such a centralized LGBT community.

SM: To have someone attacked her that is beyond belief.

RO: That's right. That's what I was like. Like I'm trying to understand like you said.

RO: From my perspective or how I feel. I feel like a lot of women. In the United States are attacked based on race and sexuality. I'm not saying it's more than men because I don't know. But I hear a lot of.

RO: I would venture that lives more than men because women are seen as vulnerable or weaker. Yeah we're weaker supposedly we're. You know so I think it's a kind of goes back to that mentality again of disrespect.

RO: Probably very low self-esteem. I don't like how I live. I'm not the one you love my wife before I get to use looks like it's just some fancy and grand and. Whatever. So I'm going to shoot you or I'm going to beat you up or. Heaven forbid burn you in a car. You know I think that. I think. President Trump is also probably not helped the situation because I think in his campaign where he was rallying and he was after the masses to take care of certain things. I think that kind of gave these. Militia type groups permission to do whatever they wanted.

RO: Oh yeah those home grown boys I think are the probably the most dangerous that we have in the United States because you just don't know what they're going to do you don't know what's going to set them up on us outside. And I think. In the United States. Women are definitely you know a risk for. A. President. To say certain things and to give voices where voices should not be I think. But on the other hand let's look at the world in Poland being a lesbian hugging and touching your arm is a. Being gay.
SM: Hugging and touching your boyfriend it's not OK you are going to be beaten for it by the males, the females are said to be more open than the males.

RO: They feel that they need to assert that dominance.

RO: You know that women women are much more nurturing in our nature. We're much more accepting of things we're much more accepting of what our kids are doing or not to.

RO: So I think that's always the trial ground as well as talk to mom first time that you talked to that later you talked to mom and dad.

DE: Later as we talked to mom first at. So speaking about our current president and our political views. On You Have The. You are well aware of the Orlando massacre that happened on and the fact that. Our. Governor decided to declare is not a crime.

DE: And to also state the shooting was not a gay club.

DE: That was a hefty eye-roll which I understand because I looked up the website for the Facebook page of the club. And unlike the little information section I was.

DE: gay club.

DE: So how do you feel and the response of our government towards that.

RO: I don't blame the sanctioning violence against anyone but I especially think that what we're looking to special populations that we need to be careful what we're saying and not incite people who already have a tendency toward that violence toward gays. It could be gays it could be women it could be prostitutes it could be whatever group. That's not what we need from our government. The government should provide services that should. Well first of all keep it safe. Second of all should go first I should burn the country keep it safe. Not incite people to create one sort of poor be violent toward others. I think it was a horrible incident and I think it was definitely a hate crime. How can it not be a hate crime.

RO: You know and to have somebody in a position of power get up and show it works is
exactly what he's doing.

RO: You know any time they stand up and say oh well you know no one in the world knows that. We thought we saw the video on TV we saw what they were saying and we heard the news report. We can check it out we can find out yes it is it was a gay club and somebody comes in and does the massacre. Yes that's a hate crime.

DE: It was also refused. It was a terrorist attack. And I would like to add that when. They later found that he was. Partnered with ISIS. So a lot of that. I think was.

RO: Taken back. And I think you know the media oftentimes doesn't report on our homegrown terrorist. And. Whether they got linked to a known terrorist group or not. We don't have these homegrown terrorists here that are just wanting to spew hate and discontent. That's something they know why they want to get rid of it so they don't have to see it. So they think violence or killing whatever is the way to go about that. And I don't think I don't think we should ever condone any type of violence especially not from our government.

DE: That's not the role. That's not random.

RO: You know our governor is quote unquote a Christian man. But you know sometimes they can also be the most damaging things that they are saying or doing.

RO: Honestly that's what I'm just going to say because the UNICEF United States has actually looked at as a predominantly Christian country when you think about it. So when I heard about this and I heard what he was doing I looked at it as OK when you know you're trying to take power away from the situation. It was LGBTQ crap.

DE: And then on top of all that to say it wasn't a terror attack.

DE: Are you trying to hide your embarrassment that the fact that it was a terror attack and the fact that it is about to take you out or you're just not going to do anything about it.

RO: There you go.
RO: That's that's kind of where I was. Well you know if we if we didn't I was against gays that we do not just Arabs we have to do anything.

SM: You just don't get it Chekhovian shot every hand and you know what is something that these people didn't hurt and you know it just you know we don't know why we are honestly taking so much out of the situation to teach the community to teach this entire the United States that OK look you know it was a terror attack.

SM: We have these people in our country and they were just like us in the LGBTQ community. Oh ok. Yeah you know. No.

RO: They were just regular people. No they were specifically taking that name and that you just you know let's see how we can put it back into our books. The other thing that it does if you're denying that it is a hate crime and that someone's penalty takes that takes the punishment away.

RO: Because punishment will us it's not.

DE: He can only skip terrorists questions. You read the stats about.

RO: The hate crimes against certain members of certain societies. And this was reported by the Federal Bureau of Investigations. What did the statistics mean to you. Wow

SM: It's very scary. It is it's very scary to think in in 2018 that we still have people that feel this way and a lot of them get away with it. That's the other side of it. Somewhere along the way with the violence that they. Perpetrate on whether it's gays Jews women whatever the group is but a lot of those people get away with.

DE: I think it's a very horrifying that really kind of makes you think makes you stop thinking it's kind of want to start looking around them around me you know kind of watch what you're doing. I hope it doesn't. I hope it never gets to the point that it's shutting people back up.

RO: I hope is something that fires people up and says we still have work to do. We still need to combat this. I think we need to. You know to me I think it's a matter of. Let's quit
talking about OK. We know. The girl is the tool. That kills people. But is the person behind the gun that. It's either their mindset their values their. Just trust their prejudiced whatever.

RO: That really causes the violence. Now should assault rifles be made broadly available. No I don't think so. I don't think so. I think handguns and if you were a hunter and you or your family hunted you have rifles. I think those are okay I do not think assault.

RO: You do not need a semi automatic rifle. The only reason they make those are to kill people right.

SM: Today they just released that 21 guns are allowed. And that in Florida I can't remember but I vaguely remember seeing it today that they passed that bell that these guns are allowed in schools.

RO: Wow. And you know we're looking for arming teachers. Well I didn't go to school with teachers and not go to school when they had medical factors. I didn't go to school when they changed the world. I didn't go to school when they had police officers or resource officers in the building. I didn't have anything bad. You know did we have kids that got in trouble we were there but we weren't. But we I guess we were a generation that I don't know. Wait wait we didn't have we didn't nor did we have the exposure to the drugs and alcohol that younger people today. So that's also different but we never had those kind of problems and I think part of it is we have to wait for them. Lawmakers are going to we are going to the people around us. We've moved away from them. You know the way back when when people had to help everybody go into their house. You know you had that sense of community because you're helping each other somebody needed something you were there for them if you had to it's something you gave that one you know because they say bring back for you. We've moved so far away from those interpersonal connections. That's where I think we solve these problems as we start getting people to come out to each other.

SM: You know I agree. I literally think that you know it's a mindset these days that oh OK I live by myself I mean my little space.

SM: No one comes saying you know those relationships like the fact that you know you can't walk across the street and just think hey how are you doing today.

DE: You know typically I don't have money harassing them.
DE: It was odd the other day because my neighbor was out like cleaning his motorcycle. Beautiful day and he was getting ready to ride. And I parked my car and got out and he was waving at me and I was like hey why are you waving at me and then I realized he comes here all the time when I talk to him.

RO: But anyway when we have become so unattached disconnected unattached you know how dare somebody come out and ask you for a cup of sugar anymore.

RO: There's a Kroger's down the street from me. And we threw that I think we've lost part of our humility part of our our sensibilities part of our. Willingness to try to help.

RO: Get we claim that we are so progressive you know working so great these days were better than you know in some aspects we are better than we were before.

SM: We're safe or I wouldn't define safer as better but. The thing is.

SM: What. At what cost are we better. What are we.

RO: Where are we. And when you when and when you look at the United States has much more violence a lot of the other ones that industrialized countries. You know we other countries don't have these things on the news every other night or two or three times a week or whatever the thing is we other countries don't deal with this type of violence like we've got the United States. And part of that becomes I think part of it comes from that privilege set in that mindset of I'm going to dominate. Now some that it's all just men. And there are some women that have those same gender to use them for whatever reason. But but we've gotten away from having the connection with the people that are around us. We don't have communities anymore. We have single houses. You know each house takes care pretty much takes care of kids. And sometimes you find something a little bit different but just as a larger picture we're very isolated. You know and the isolation is never bad. And when you're isolating people that also brings things to become more scary people become scary because you don't know. And if you do get a chance to to have those connections and I think any time you can bring people together and you get them talking I think that's how you solve a lot of the problems and we definitely know the fighting the violence either. I never think that's the answer that's always going to pop up that's always going to be there.

RO: But you know on the other side to look at that as well with his victims what they did.
Nothing. In the land that they were in a bar they were having a good time. It was a Saturday. Yeah you know some of these schools you know they were going to class they were doing what they were supposed to do. You know today I just had to watch an active shooter video. You know we have to watch as ever so off I guess once a year or something. And you know and I'm just sitting there thinking you know.

RO: Gee I think you know somebody came in and you know where when I'm really high because when I'm the locks on their office doors.

RO: So what kept lock the door so it's not going to be good to stay about. But why should we be thinking about that. You know why should we. Why are we not at villages taking care of the kids. Why is it so difficult for us to find places for these kids homes for these kids. Northern Kentucky stepping up and taking care of the kids in Kentucky.

SM: Honestly to do with love we have people fighting for their love for what they love what they like doing. It's all about love. Why is something that is supposed to be so pure.

SM: And just innocent something that you know is innate. You love people Love. Why can't a country like that is so industrialized. Why can't we love.

RO: That's my style.

RO: And part of that is because we still have those smaller groups. And I do think it's a smaller portion of our population. The militia like groups that just feel like they can do whatever they want to do in our time today. The president who sanctioned that.

SM: You know there is a bill that is in the talking that you can discriminate against.

SM: You know someone coming into a hospital based on their religious beliefs. You hear about that.

RO: I have heard about that just like some of the shop owners that have decided in the end that they will not serve gay people but the cake maker wouldn't make a cake for a gay couple for the male couple. Oh that's business. And when you're a public business you serve the public that's whoever walks in that door. Doesn't matter what their sexuality is. Why does that
come in dividing the cake. Why what does that mean. I want to go to an antique shop. Why is that. Why did that come into play. And does that mean. Because if they kick tell about me I get to buy things. Do I want my money going there is where I come from. No I don't know if you're a business that is open to the public it should serve the public. If you are a hospital that offers medical care you should all for animal care. Did you ever walk through that door. You should not be thinking about your religion. He raised you.

   RO: It goes back to why are we thinking about this why are we thinking about oh Seiki wise you know someone walked in what got guy. Where do I have time. Why do we think about that. Why do we have to think about oh stop pursuing gay.

   SM: Maybe I shouldn't serve them. Why. What is this. What are we looking. What does that have to do with business. Why.

   RO: Yeah I mean why does that have to do. Whether you're in the food industry or whether you're in the medical industry where does that come into play.

   DE: We are all humans and it all should come out here because they're human. We are providing humanitarian aid. That time I checked.

   DE: The amount on a dollar does not change depending on who is holding the bill on not as a policy. I've brought in to my work.

   DE: Is because good for you. I'm not going to look at somebody and be like well you like men and here do you know you can't have a cheeseburger. Or want to work even when I worked a Babies R Us.

   DE: We had gay couples come in all the time and they're like Oh we're here shopping with our surrogate like we have a baby step. And I had a manager that was like you might want to take this elsewhere and I said don't worry I'll check him out. You don't have to worry about that.

   DE: And I shop with them to me and start and I take it to corporate and they really fail that's just the way he is.
DE: And why should that be the attitude. Well surely I have to be hey that's not what we do here. You know we want the greenbacks. We don't care who they come from. We want we don't care for you for dirty don't give the wadded up. We don't care if they're part of the press the songs not counterfeit. Oh my goodness.

SM: Thank you. Very exciting very insightful. Did you want to add anything since this is going to be.

RO: You know I guess I guess we've just been kind of talking about I guess I'll just kind of summarize them. It doesn't matter where you live. It's just a quarter that you do love.

SM: Do you have any advice to people who are not yet out morning. Well I think first of all let's first of all it's a very personal decision to make.

RO: And I think that they need to talk with whoever they can find that they can talk with. And Tom's right. And they need to do that from themselves. I think it is a process. It's more of a journey you take the steps and then you end up where you're going. I think sometimes people come out a little too soon and they're still in the questioning phase and are not really sure. And I think you know walking around have not said this and some of us you know this has to be true but maybe it's not you know just taking the time to get to know yourself. I think taking the time to pull your support around to wherever that might be and then moving from that don't be in a hurry because your whole life ahead of you. And when the time is right you know. And that's for some people it's not as important as it is for others. You know and I think at best part one has to be considered and if it's something that you're struggling with then you need to talk to people that can help you that will listen and then follow your heart.

SM: Thank you.

RO: Thank you. Thank you so much. You're welcome. Thank you.