

Under the Rainbow: Oral Histories of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual,  
Transgender, Intersex and Queer People in Kansas

Ryan Campbell  
Oral History

Interviewed by  
Tami Albin

December 12, 2008

<http://kuscholarworks.ku.edu/dspace/handle/1808/5630>

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**Please note: this transcript is not time stamped or indexed. It will be at a later date.**

**Ryan Campbell:** Narrator  
**Tami Albin:** Interviewer

**TAMI ALBIN:** Okay, so this is recording. We'll get this recording. And once again, when I'm looking at this it's just I'm just checking the time on it.

**RYAN CAMPBELL:** So even if you move over there should I just keep looking here and pretend like you haven't moved?

**ALBIN:** You don't have to track me if you don't want to.

**CAMPBELL:** Okay.

**ALBIN:** But what I'll do when it gets close to like fifty-five minutes is probably stop you so that I can change the tape.

**CAMPBELL:** Gotcha.

**ALBIN:** And you'll see me getting them ready. Like, I'm pretty fast with it, if this goes beyond eight hours though. So, okay so today is February 12, 2008.

**CAMPBELL:** December.

**ALBIN:** December 12—

**CAMPBELL:** (laugh) That was a good try.

**ALBIN:** Okay today—we're going to edit this out. Today is December 12, 2008, thank you.

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**CAMPBELL:** That's correct, you're welcome.

**ALBIN:** And I am here with Ryan Campbell. And I'm going to start off this interview the way that I start them all off which is thank you so much for participating.

**CAMPBELL:** Sure.

**ALBIN:** And tell me where you were born and when.

**CAMPBELL:** I was actually born here in Lawrence, Kansas on Halloween, 1986. And then my family relocated to Johnson County, which is a suburb of Kansas City, when I was about six months old. We initially lived in Lenexa and then moved to Olathe, and I was basically raised in Olathe.

**ALBIN:** So what was your childhood like growing up in Olathe?

**CAMPBELL:** It was interesting. I'm the product of a split household. My parents separated when I was in the second grade, and my dad is very severely ADHD and can't function very well. He can't hold down a job, kind of wanders. He's lived on and off with my grandparents for the last fifteen years. And my mom is very like put together, organized, straightforward, blunt. I take much more after her, I'd like to think, than my father. And so they separated when I was in the second grade, got divorced when I was in the fifth grade, sort of went back and forth a little bit between households. Nothing too out of the ordinary. It was a lot like any other childhood. It's interesting because my family is very divided, I guess, my mom's side versus my dad's side. They're very different from one another.

My mother's side of the family is very liberal, Democrat. My grandmother's Jewish, kind of snooty. They live on the Plaza in Kansas City, very upscale, love art, theatre, expensive, overpriced wine, all that kind of stuff. And my dad's side of the family is army, Republican, conservative, suburban, meat and potatoes. So I kind of got the best of both worlds, I think, because I really feel that I can navigate between those things pretty successfully. And it was interesting because like growing up I mean I got great

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things. I went to really fancy restaurants with my grandparents, and then I'd go and my grandma would make me a meatloaf. And it was great, and I loved it. But it's just very, very normal, just like any childhood.

**ALBIN:** So, are you an only child?

**CAMPBELL:** I have an older sister biologically. I have three step-siblings. My mom did get remarried about nine years ago, so yeah one sister.

**ALBIN:** And so what was high school like for you?

**CAMPBELL:** High school was rough. I—when I was a younger kid I was very extroverted, playful, outgoing. I had a lot of friends, all of them were girls. I had a Barbie collection. I loved pink. I had satin nightgowns. Like, I was just—I was a little gay kid in training. (laugh) So when I hit junior high school everything kind of changed. I had gym for the first time and I realized (laugh) I was gay in the boys locker room, after gym class, like checking out one the basketball players in like his gym shorts. He looked really great. And I just realized, Hey that's really attractive. And then immediately I thought, Oh shit. I guess I'm not attracted to women. So after that revelation I just got really introverted and I spent the next five years of my life pretty much kind of a loner. I didn't have a lot of friends through junior high. I gained a lot of weight over the course of junior high. And then when I hit the ninth grade I was about 205 pounds. And then the summer after ninth grade I started jogging, dieting, I lost fifty pounds like that. And when I got to high school it got a little easier, I made some friends. I hadn't come out yet to anyone. And I was still—I was pretty depressed. I was on antidepressants for about a year-and-a-half in high school. I had like a dark, twisty, emo phase. I died my hair black, I wore dirty T-shirts and baggy jeans and like sweatbands on my arm. And I went through that whole bit. And then my junior year of high school I finally just decided the hell with it, I'm not going to worry about what my parents think, what my friends think. Like, I just can't live like this anymore. It was getting to the point where I was kind of suicidal, and I just didn't think that that was worth the price of being in the closet.

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So I went to a newspaper meeting. I was on the newspaper executive staff in high school. And we had a planning meeting one Sunday. And I decided that I was going to tell my friend Sara, who was the head editor of the newspaper. And so I got there about ten minutes early and like started bawling, told her, Sara I'm gay. And she gave me a hug and a pat on the back, and the, You're so courageous, I'm so proud of you and made me feel a lot better. But I sat through the whole meeting completely silent. I didn't—you don't know what to say after that because it's kind of like, Where do I go from here? And the next day I resolved to tell two people, so I told two of my other friends. The day after that I told four people and asked all of them to kind of keep it on the down low. I wanted to tell people at my own pace. And then the day I was supposed to tell eight people, because I was doubling it from day to day, I decided that that was just too (laugh) much work. So I got on my Xanga. I don't know if you're familiar with Xanga. It's an online web, kind of like a—it's not really like a—I guess it's a blog. I guess you would say it's just like a blog for junior high and high school kids. So I came out on my blog (laugh) and just wrote this whole long, super-dramatic high school gay kid post about the fact that I was gay. And the next day everyone at school knew. I didn't have to tell anyone else. It was common knowledge, and I don't think anyone was that surprised.

And after my whole school knew I decided I should probably tell my parents before someone else did. So probably the day after I came out on my Xanga my mom was driving me to Borders for a study group. And we were just sitting in the car and I was really nervous, kind of sweaty palms, the whole bit. And we were at a stoplight. And I just look over at my mom and I say, Mom I came out to my friend on Sunday. And my mom just sits there and she drives—drives a little and she goes, You came out. Does that mean what I think it means? And I just said, Yeah I'm gay. And she goes, Okay. Then we drive in complete silence the next five or ten minutes to Borders. And she drops me off, tells me to have a good time. She obviously has no idea what to do. And I'm at the study group and it's totally fine, it's very relaxed. And my friend gives me a ride home. And I walk in the door and my parents are sitting by the fire. My stepdad is drinking a glass of scotch. And as soon as I walk in the door he says, Ryan your mom told me the great news, congratulations. And my mom's just sitting there still in complete silence. Like, she has no idea what to say. And my mom didn't really

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acknowledge it for probably four or five months after I came out. It wasn't an issue of homophobia, she just didn't know what to do.

So one day I was in the kitchen making like a sandwich for myself. And I'm just doing my thing, putting some mayonnaise on some bread or something. And I can kind of feel that someone is standing behind me. And I turn around and I see my mom. And she has her hands in front of her. And she puts her hand on the counter and slides it over to me. And when she lifts her hands up I see that she has a piece of paper and it has a phone number on it. And she says, That's a phone number for a gay safe-sex hotline. Call it if you have any questions because I don't know anything. (laugh) And then she just immediately turned and walked out of the kitchen. (laugh) And I think that was her way of acknowledging that it was fine. It took her awhile. She—I mean, it's not—for me, I don't really think it was ever a question of homophobia, wondering if she had love for me still after coming out. It was, I think, an issue for her of being a white girl from Johnson County that didn't know how to deal with it. But she's done well. She's warmed up a lot to it. She asks me if I'm dating. We talk about that kind of stuff. She's much more open about it now that she's comfortable with the idea, which is great. And my stepdad has never cared. He just asks me about boys all the time. And it's great. And he drinks scotch and we talk about men. It's pretty great.

**ALBIN:** And what about your biological father?

**CAMPBELL:** My biological father—I actually told him probably after everyone else. I believe he was the last person I told. Before I came out to him I came out to my grandparents, to his parents. And at that time my grandfather was suffering from a combination of Alzheimer's and dementia, so he wasn't really with the program. But I took my grandmother to lunch with my sister, and we went to the Olive Garden. And I had resolved to come out to my grandmother during this meal at the Olive Garden. So we're eating, I'm deadly silent. And finally we've eaten, the check comes. My sister just blurts out, Grandma, Ryan has something to tell you. I'm like, Shit. What do you say to that? So my grandma's looking at me and I'm sitting there. And I say, Grandma, I'm gay. And she sits there, for no joke, probably thirty seconds, and says nothing. She's just looking down at her nails at the table. And finally she looks back up at me and she says, You know they're right. All the cute ones are gay. (laugh) Which I think is

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probably the best response you could get after coming out which was—and it was nice. I was really nervous telling her because she is an army wife, very staunch Republican, pretty conservative, from a small town in Kansas. I didn't have high hopes for her really being there for me. And she's been great. I'm very close to my grandmother. And so that was fine.

And then my mom called and told my dad's brother, my uncle who's in the army, he's a colonel in the army. And he was fine with it, he couldn't have cared less. And then finally I was at dinner—like a Sunday evening dinner with my grandparents, my uncle, my aunt, and my father. And my dad kept making homophobic jokes at the dinner table (laugh) and implying that I was gay. And finally I was like, Yeah you're right, I'm gay. And then he just sat there and didn't know what to say and didn't really say much the rest of the meal. I don't think he expected me to cop up to it. I don't know if he knew that I had told my grandmother at that point either. But he's done pretty well with it. I don't see him very much. Apparently he got in a fight at a bar about it. He was talking to a lady friend of his at a bar about the fact that he had a gay son. He wanted to know what to do with a gay son, I guess. And some guy started giving him hell about it, and I guess he like punched him in the face. He's kind of violent. He's kind of a violent man. So I mean, I guess he's willing to stand up for my sexual freedom, what have you. But, he took it okay. I mean, I don't—he—as well as he could have, I think, probably. Yeah.

**ALBIN:** So when you were little and you had the Barbies and the nightgowns and everything, I mean has your mother ever—like, how did you acquire those things?

**CAMPBELL:** I—(laugh) I—first I would borrow them from my sister, because my sister had a satin nightgown and I really wanted one. And I would just take hers and put it on and wander around the house in it. And finally I begged my mom to get me a satin nightgown of my very own. So my sister and I had matching satin nightgowns. And then every Christmas for probably two or three years I'd get a new nightgown. So I had a Little Mermaid nightgown, I (laugh) had a satin nightgown. Just—you know, they had bows and lace on them and I'd like to twirl around the living room in my satin nightgowns. And the Barbies my mom would buy for me, just like you'd buy a daughter some Barbies. She was pretty nonchalant about it. She just thought I was creatively expressing myself, I suppose. So she didn't really care too much about it. And I was



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really shocked because she said that she had no idea that I was gay. And I think that satin nightgowns (laugh) and Barbies are a pretty clear indication of budding homosexuality.

**ALBIN:** So once you finished high school—

**CAMPBELL:** Yes—

**ALBIN:** —what did you do next?

**CAMPBELL:** When I finished high school—I should talk about high school for a second actually. I came out at the end of my junior year of high school, and I really hadn't had any problems with it. Everyone took it pretty well. I'm from Johnson County which isn't superconservative or superliberal, it's pretty middle-of-the-road. And I thought that it was pretty accepted. I was one of five homosexual men in my graduating class out of five hundred, which was a pretty good number, I think, for that area. But, the fall of my senior year I was elected to the homecoming court. And at the school I went to it's a very involved process. You get paraded around like a show pony. They make you go to big assemblies and you make a video and all this stuff. So I was ecstatic when I got on to the homecoming court. My mom let me go crazy at Express. I bought a new suit, new shirts, new ties. I looked great, it was fabulous. Made a homecoming court video, went the whole nine yards. And we had a big assembly. And the way they did it is that you would have an escort. I was escorting a girl that was on homecoming court. And they would play our videos as we walked around the gymnasium floor and everyone was forced to watch us. And as I was walking with my escort, our videos were playing and I thought it was fine. We were just chatting. It was very light, whatever.

After the assembly a lot of my friends came up to me and said, I'm so sorry. I can't believe you had to hear that. And I was like, I didn't hear anything actually. And apparently people had been shouting things at me as I was walking around the gymnasium floor like, We don't need two queens, go away, you're not wanted here, faggot, all the basic unsurprising taunts that you get. And that happened again at the homecoming football game when I was walking my escort up for the announcement of who won. So other than that, it was pretty low key. I didn't have a lot of problems. I

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was in pretty insulated communities in high school. I was a theatre kid, a newspaper kid, I was in a group called Students Achieving Social Harmony. So I didn't experience much homophobia in high school except for that one big spotlight moment which was kind of upsetting. But other than that it was very, very good for the State of Kansas, I think.

**ALBIN:** When you were talking earlier about seeing the—being in the locker room and seeing the basketball player and kind of having that light bulb moment of, I'm gay, what had happened previous to you to know what it meant to be gay? Like, had you been reading literature or had you just heard things from people?

**CAMPBELL:** My mom actually really likes the movie *The Bird Cage*. (laughter) So I had a very vague idea in my 12-year-old mind of what a gay man was, what it kind of meant, that there was some sort of line between sexuality and some people were one way and some people were another way. And I didn't really know what that was, but when I was in the locker room and I saw this really attractive—he was really attractive, basketball player, it was just a moment of, Oh, this means that people are attracted to those of the same sex. And for me it was just a big, Oh shit moment. It was like, I guess I'm different. And it was really scary actually. Because at that point you feel very alone, you don't know what you're doing, where to turn to. You don't know who it's safe to talk to, any of that. And it's overwhelming, especially—with my family I shouldn't have been concerned. I'm from a pretty tight-knit family. But it's terrifying. I was scared shitless.

**ALBIN:** And so during those five years where you kind of retreated, did you at that point look up any literature or did you—

**CAMPBELL:** No. I tried to deny it. I was in the denial phase for a really, really long time. I would stay up late at night and cry because I didn't know what else to do. And I would—I've never been that religious, but I would pray to God to make me straight and I would make all sorts of wild promises, like, I'll never look at another man and I'll do whatever you want me to, et cetera, et cetera. I'll go to church every day, pray five times a day—like really unrealistic things, especially considering I'm not (laugh) religious.

**ALBIN:** But is your family religious?

**CAMPBELL:** No, no, not (laugh) at all. But I would stay—and I would stay up—one thing I did I thought would help is to condition myself. So I had a room filled with posters of women in bikinis like Brooke Burke and all these—Carmen Electra. And they were horrible. It was just dreadful. And I didn't ever spend any time in my room because I was surrounded by scantily clad women. And I had a subscription to *For Him Magazine* which is similar to *Maxim*. And I would sort of like flip through it and just be like, Okay this is pretty boring. But, to me it was a way to convince myself that I could be straight and a way to convince other people that I was straight, because obviously a guy that subscribes to *For Him Magazine* is not homosexual. And obviously that didn't do anything for me. I would also—sometimes if I couldn't sleep I would sit at my desk and I would write I am not gay over and over and over, dozens and dozens of times. And I mean, that doesn't do anything. Like, writing the phrase I'm not gay doesn't do anything. Like, it just made me cry more. But I didn't—I was really depressed.

I didn't sleep well pretty much for the five years. I was just very alone. I played a lot of video games, basically tried to stay away from people, because I didn't know if it was safe or if I was going to slip up. And I was really afraid of letting it slip that I was homosexual because I had no idea what would happen. Because all you really hear are the horror stories. If you're not in the community you don't hear the good stories. You hear the stories of the kids who were kicked out, who are homeless, running around the country trying to find a place to be safe. And that's what I thought was going to happen to me for no good reason. I had no basis to think that, but that's the information I'd gotten and that's what I expected to happen.

**ALBIN:** So what happened after high school?

**CAMPBELL:** Well, (laugh) after high school I had—I had considered going to San Francisco for college because I knew it was the gayest city—(laugh) gayest city in the country in my mind, and I'd been accepted to San Francisco State University. And my mom is a third-generation KU student and she was pretty insistent that I go to KU. So she offered some financial aid for me if I would become a fourth generation Jayhawk.

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And so I was swayed to go to KU, but I wasn't really happy with the idea of going to college and I applied for a program to work in an orphanage in India for an undetermined amount of time, a couple of years. And they called me the day after I'd turned in the online application and left a message on our house voicemail and said, Hey do you want to go work at an orphanage in India? We can fly you out as soon as you want. And my parents got the voicemail. My mom sat me down and was like, Do we need to talk? Like are you moving to India? What's happening? So I went to the new student orientation that KU offers, a two-day program for incoming freshmen. And my mom said if I hated the orientation I could go to India and it'd be fine, and if I liked it I should obviously stay. So I went to the orientation, I loved it, I decided to go to KU.

I started out as an art history major and took some art history classes right off the bat, lived in a private dorm called Naismith that tends to be kind of snooty. It's a lot of kids from Chicago, a lot of gay kids. It's very—it's very, very snobby. There's private cooks that cook for you to order. There's chefs that make all your big batches of food fresh like every twenty or thirty minutes. And the people there were just kind of awful. And it was without a liquor policy. So you could wander around the hallways with a red cup. And as long as the liquor wasn't in the original container, you could drink wherever you wanted to in the building. So there were parties seven nights a week in this dorm. And the first week I was in school I was so overwhelmed I just drank for seven days straight and threw up a whole lot. And I think that's what everyone kind of goes through right when they start college, at least for my generation.

And I'd met a boy online through Facebook right before I went and (laugh)—and he had a friend that lived across the hall from me. So the day I moved into the residence halls he and his friend were across the hallway. And I get a call from him and he says, Hey we're at Room 1016. You should come across the hallway and say hey. So I go over and meet this guy that I had kind of been chatting with online and his friend, Andrew. And I totally ignored the guy I'd met on Facebook and was all about his friend, Andrew. And Andrew and I became pretty good friends, and that was my first sexual relationship was with the guy across the hallway. And he was sort of breaking it off with a guy he was seeing at the time and it was really messy, really ugly, really unhealthy. But when you're eighteen and you've never been in a relationship you have no idea what you're doing. So I kind of dove into it and I completely fell head over heels for this guy that

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really isn't that spectacular to begin with. So that was great. Got really caught up in it. He wrote me a letter at the start of second semester just kind of saying, I'm not willing to do this, we're cutting it off. And that didn't actually happen. We sort of on and off would spontaneously just kind of go to his room, whatever. And that was really painful and I didn't date or see anyone for that whole semester because I didn't know what to do. So I just drank a lot (laugh) instead. And it was a good learning experience. I made gay friends. I'd never had gay friends before. And it was a good opportunity for—just learning how to interact with other gay men on like a friendly basis, but still pretty scary. I still don't have a lot of gay friends, gay male friends, but—because they make me nervous. I think it's related to my father. I have a lot of father issues, my dad was abusive. So it's really hard for me to be around men a lot of times because I'm convinced that they're all kind of bad people. So I kind of set myself up for those kinds of situations.

**ALBIN:** And so what else have you done since you've been at university? That was your first year?

**CAMPBELL:** That was my first year. That was first year. My sophomore year I lived in the same residence hall again. I didn't have a car so I wanted to be on campus. And my sophomore year was—I was kind of lonely again. I kind of went back to being insulated and on my own. I had a one-room place in this residence hall and lived alone. I ate in my room a lot, sort of went back to being depressed again. Didn't really get involved in very much. And I'd been to student senate my freshman year and then my sophomore year I hadn't been involved with it. I hadn't run for a seat. And I decided I wanted to get involved with it. And an organization named Queers and Allies had an opening for a senator. And I went into the student group and talked to them, and they had no one else running so they let me do it. And I got involved with the organization that way. And that really kind of picked everything up for me. It kind of got me on the right track again, got me involved with activism, really fighting for LGBTQ rights, and kind of lifted my spirits a little too which was nice. It was a good group to belong to. And I got involved with that in February of 2006.

And then in May—is that right—May of—yeah, of 2006. And then three months later I was elected the head of the organization because there was no one else to do it.

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(laugh) So I ended up running this organization and I'm still running it today. I've been running it for the last eighteen months. And I started out not knowing anything about anything. I literally was in the dark, I had no idea. And it's been good. It's sort of become a home to me. I've met a lot of my really good friends through Queers and Allies. And that's really provided a second family for me, which is good, and a way to interact with other gay men and gay women. Yeah.

**ALBIN:** So what type of activism have you been involved in since you've been part of Q&A?

**CAMPBELL:** Lots. It really varies because Queers and Allies works with every single color of the rainbow of the community. So we've done work with transgender, violence worked with National Coming Out Day, Freedom to Marry Day—we make wedding cakes and give wedding cake to students and say, Hey, here's wedding cake even though we can't get married. And everyone thinks that's kind of cute and like novel, what have you. There was a big protest that happened a couple weeks ago, I'm sure you heard about it, against Proposition 8. And Queers and Allies organized a big carpool to go down to Kansas City and participate in the big protest. And I guess there were about a thousand people there. And it sounded pretty great. I was in St Louis for the protest visiting friends, and that was pretty awesome. The protest I went to, there were speakers from the religious community. Every single speaker they had was some sort of religious leader, which I thought was really effective because the main opponents—or pro—excuse me, proponents of Proposition 8 were those faith. So to me it was pretty great. I got to sing some protest songs, which I'd never done before. That was a nice opportunity, a good way to really get out there, hold signs, chant, really show my support. I've never done the actual protesting. I've done activism, but I've never protested before. So it was a really great introduction to that. I also got a job this year doing activism for women's rights. I work for the on-campus Women's Resource Center and do men's outreach coordinating. So I do presentations to men about sexual violence prevention, rape, all that sort of thing, domestic violence awareness, the whole gamut, violence in media. And that's been pretty eye opening too. It's just a whole 'nother field of activism that I hadn't been exposed to.

**ALBIN:** So are you still an art history major?

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**CAMPBELL:** I am studying art history (laugh) and communication, double majoring, which will keep me in school for five years, but it's worth it. I'm liking the art history less and less. I find it a little tedious, particularly when I study ancient art, because trying to differentiate between two Chinese paintings of bamboo is very difficult. (laugh) It's very, very difficult. I prefer modern art, contemporary art, a lot more, so that's sort of been my focus as much as it can be. And I'm almost done with that component of my degree which I'm really thankful for, because I don't know if I could deal with much more of it. The communications is the part that really appeals to me. I imagine that I'll use that in some capacity in whatever career I go into. I've given a lot of thought to going into speechwriting because I tend to excel in the classes where I write speeches and do that whole bit. And I think it'd be pretty great to go do politics for the rest of my life. So we'll see, I don't know.

**ALBIN:** Have you noticed since you've—I guess being out—and this is kind of a two-part question, being out and then been involved with Queers and Allies, have you noticed the politics changing at all at KU in Lawrence or in Kansas?

**CAMPBELL:** I have. I'm so young, for me it's mostly within the City of Lawrence that I've noticed it. It's become much more acceptable to discuss homosexuality I think, whereas four years ago it was definitely a part of the city and there's a thriving gay community. But it was pretty contained. It was very much the gay men and the gay women kind of versus the rest of the world, at least the college age ones. And now the gay community's kind of shrinking because it seems that the university community is assimilating the gay people. So we're losing a lot of our culture which isn't great. But on the other hand it's nice because we're just being out in the world and we're not necessarily separating ourselves just because of our sexual orientation. In terms of the university community, I've done a lot of work with the administration at KU and I am not always confident in their support for the gay community. There's definitely a few administrators that I—that are great and they're very, very supportive and do a lot. But Queers and Allies hung Pride flags last Pride week which was in April of 2008. And we had about twenty-four flags up and down the main boulevard of campus and we had about six or eight flags torn down by various parties. And talking with university administrators about this problem, they kept coming up with various excuses that we

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shouldn't hang the flags next year, gradually getting more and more severe so as to convince us that it was a not a good idea. It started out with it being a liability issue, then it became a warranty issue, it became an unwillingness issue. So I'm not sure that every member of the administration is behind the efforts of Queers and Allies, but I think for the most part we do pretty well, particularly for the State of Kansas. I'm more comfortable being at KU than at say Fort Hays, Emporia, K-State, really any other university in the state.

**ALBIN:** So what direction do you think you will go in life? You mentioned you like speechwriting, so you're thinking of graduate school?

**CAMPBELL:** I'm thinking about graduate school. I'm thinking I'm going to get out of Kansas as soon as I graduate. I spent two months last summer in Florence, Italy studying Italian, and I think that the Italian way of life is pretty beautiful. So I've considered moving back. The problem is that the gay community's presence in Italy is very, very quiet, very subdued. It's definitely tolerated, but it's not accepted. It's underground. The gay bars I went to in Florence this summer were mostly in back alleys and underground. So it really doesn't give me a lot of incentive to want to move there if I'm going to have my sexuality stifled for however long I stay. And it's odd because I think that the attitude towards homosexuality in Lawrence, Kansas is healthier than it is in Florence, Italy, which surprised me tremendously. But I have thought about moving to Italy, I've thought about moving to the Northwest. I don't—I like big cities a lot, but I don't like the East Coast, emphasis on careers and you've got to have a really great job and—whereas you go to the Pacific Northwest and it's kind of like, Hey let's go hiking and hang out and whatever. And it's much more relaxed, it's much more outdoorsy. It's not as uptight, which I really like, because I would get really stressed (laugh) out if I lived in say New York City—too many people, too much pressure to succeed, not really my cup of tea. But, I suppose if I go into speechwriting I'll kind of go where the wind takes me, wherever I get into graduate school, and then wherever I can get a job. I'm taking a course next semester that's a graduate-level speechwriting course. And the woman who teaches it has a lot of contacts in the State of Kansas. And she's gotten a couple of students jobs with Governor Sebelius before. So if I show her what I've got then that's a possibility, get a job and live in Topeka which would be wonderful. (laugh)



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**ALBIN:** Great. So is there anything else you would like to add that we may not have touched upon?

**CAMPBELL:** Nothing I can think of off the top of my head.

**ALBIN:** Okay.

**CAMPBELL:** Yeah. Um-um. Haven't been alive that long, couple decades, that's nothing. It's nothing.

**ALBIN:** Well, thank you.

**CAMPBELL:** Yeah.

**ALBIN:** Very much.

**CAMPBELL:** No problem.

**ALBIN:** I appreciate it.

**CAMPBELL:** Yeah, absolutely.

**ALBIN:** All righty. Cool. That's great, thank you.

**[end]**