

"TYING THE KNOT"

COMPLETE DIALOG LIST

TITLE CARD

New York City

TITLE CARD

The city clerk threatens to sue churches performing gay holy unions.

TITLE CARD

In protest, the Gay Activists Alliance stages a wedding reception in the clerk's office.

OFF SCREEN

Would you like to meet the happy couple?

PROTESTERS

Gay power! What have we got!? Gay power!

ARTHUR EVANS

You're welcome to attend if you like, free coffee.

CLERK

You can't come into a private office and start disturbing..

ARTHUR EVANS

Herman Katz has slandered the gay community of New York. This is not a question of making appointments, we are here demanding retraction of this slander and demanding that he represent gay people who pay his taxes, and we are not going to take 'no' for an answer from anybody. Do you want an invitation to our reception? Here, you're invited.

CAPTION

Arthur Evans
Founding Member GAA

ARTHUR EVANS

Oh this is definitely the marriage bureau, but it's been taken over by the Gay Activist Alliance. Your mother and dad want to get married? Are they gay? Oh, I'm sorry, we can't help you.

MAN

Any comment?

WOMAN

I just hope they're very happy.

MAN

Right on.

OFF SCREEN

Marriage is a basic human right.

TITLE CARD

1,049films presents

OFF SCREEN

Marriage is very simple, a union between one man and one woman...

OFF SCREEN

If the biological basis for marriage is removed...

OFF SCREEN

...not two men, or three men, or four men...

OFF SCREEN

...the next generation growing up will no longer understand what marriage is.

TITLE CARD

A film by Jim de Sève

SIGN

"Homo sex is sin"

OFF SCREEN

It is an issue that is being used by the homosexual extremists to divide America.

OFF SCREEN

The institution of marriage is about love, commitment and mutual responsibility.

TITLE CARD

Tying the Knot

OFF SCREEN

And what it shows is that we are on a slope that leads to no standards and no relationships...

OFF SCREEN

As I listen to the dire predictions...

TITLE CARD

Edited by
Constance Rodgers
Jim de Sève
Stephen Pelletier

TITLE CARD

Produced by
Jim de Sève
Stephen Pelletier
Kian Tjong

TITLE CARD

Co-produced by
Joshua Koffman
Justin tan
Matthew Lavine

GEORGE W. BUSH

Our nation must defend the sanctity of marriage.

INTERVIEWER

How do you feel about same-sex marriages?

MAN WITH CAP

What do you mean same-sex, like man and woman or...

INTERVIEWER

Like two women getting married, or two men getting married,
wanting to share their life together.

MAN WITH CAP

No problem. I really don't have a problem with that. If they love
each other, that's the main thing. That's the main issue, and
that they will respect each other.

MAN IN BLACK AND WHITE JACKET

Same sex?

MAN IN RED JACKET

It's up to the person.

INTERVIEWER

Like if two women want to get married.

MAN IN BLACK AND WHITE JACKET

Two women?

MAN IN RED JACKET

It's up to the person I think.

INTERVIEWER

Or two men.

MAN IN BLUE JACKET

But, it's like, no way.

MAN IN BLACK AND WHITE JACKET

Two men?

MAN IN RED JACKET

Personally I wouldn't do it, but it's up to the person. If the person feels that they could feel, you know, like they really love this person and they want to settle down with this person then it's up to them.

TITLE CARD

Mickie and Lois

MICKIE

I'm so glad you're here. I can't stand it. I have been so nervous.

MICKIE

Honey I love you. It won't be long if we're so lucky. Lois, you have got to take this to her.

CAPTION

Home video 1991

MICKIE

I started at the police department in 1985, and when I first met her I was a 'rookie' as they call them, and going through the program, and she'd had a couple of years on and was probably one of the best females that was employed by the Tampa police department. We did a lot of things together, sporting events, spring training, taking trips to go watch baseball games. I mean there was just so much excitement, so much in common, it was like we complemented each other.

CAPTION

Mickie Mashburn
Tampa Police Officer

LOIS

Where's my baby?

MICKIE

In here, goodbye honey, I love you.

FRIEND

If you guys knew how close you were right now.

MICKIE

Lois and I both went to MCC in St. Petersburg Florida, and I said well you need to go to classes, you need to understand the commitment that you're making. They said, you know, set the date, let us know and you're ready to go forward and that's what we did. We went out, we had dinner, and when that was through they drove off with her, and I go home and I'm like, wow. I was lost! I mean you know, you're with somebody 24 hours a day, you go to work they're at work, you can talk to them, and I go home and she's not there. I was nervous, but I was so happy, I looked at her and said god I am so lucky. It was coming from the heart; it was coming from her heart, the smile on her face. I'm going to tell you, that was the happiest day of my life.

OFF SCREEN

The future of same-sex marriages in Massachusetts is now in the hands of the state supreme court.

CAPTION

The Marriage Debate
March 2003

PLAINTIFF LINDA DAVIES

For 32 years I've loved Gloria and wanted to marry her, and I think that after today I will finally be able to do that.

NEWSCASTER

Linda Davies and Gloria Bailey had their day in court today, one of seven gay and lesbian couples that went before the supreme judicial court to argue for the right to marry in Massachusetts.

MARY BONAUTO

...but the state is saying Hillary may not marry Julie Goodridge...

NEWSCASTER

Attorney Mary Bonauto argued the right to marry the person of one's choice is protected under the state constitution.

MARY BONAUTO

We're talking about people who don't have equality under the law and should have it because all citizens in this state are born free and equal.

STATE ATTORNEY

The state wants to encourage this model of marriage with one parent of each sex.

PLAINTIFF DAVID WILSON

I have always felt discrimination as a black man, but certainly now as a gay man in a relationship.

NEWSCASTER

Now if the high court agrees with the plaintiffs, Massachusetts would be the first state to legalize marriage rights for gays and lesbians. A decision is not expected for several months, though.

CAPTION

Rural Oklahoma 2003

CAPTION

Angus Cow Association Annual Meeting

MAN IN BLUE SHIRT

If it wasn't for marriage it would be a hell of a different society out here. The grounds for the society we've got now is marriage.

SAM

In some respects I think you're matched up long before you ever meet.

MAN IN BROWN SHIRT

Oh certainly it serves a function. You're kind of ostracized if you're not married when you go to parties, dances. It lets the other people know that you belong.

SAM

If you can't take your partner for granted and know what they're going to do, you might as well call it quits to start with. I know a lot of women who say, "oh I don't want to be taken for

granted, I don't want to get married and be taken for granted." If you don't want to be taken for granted, you don't want to be married. You have to be able to do it, because that's trust.

INTERVIEWER

What about two women getting married? Or two men getting married?

INTERVIEWER

What about two women getting married? Or two men getting married?

FARMER IN COWBOY HAT

I wouldn't call that a marriage. Marriage is between a man and a wife. A man and a woman. To me that's all that marriage is. I can't imagine anything different.

SAM

I was sitting on a pier on the Arkansas River, sitting there watching the water go by one day. Beautiful day. He walked up behind me. We sat and talked until 2 o'clock in the morning. It just kind of went on from there.

JAMES DOBSON

This fad that is sweeping the world right now is dangerous because it undermines the legal basis for marriage.

SENATOR BILL FRIST

Marriage is very simple, a union between one man and one woman. Not two men, or three men, or four men.

CAPTION

Bill Frist
Senate Majority Leader

ANTI-GAY PROTESTER

It's liberty and justice for all, people have the right to believe what they want, but the fact is, is it right what they believe?

CONNIE RESS

The reality is our families do exist, and we're at the point now we need the government to recognize that, we need the laws to catch up with that reality.

CAPTION

Connie Ress
Marriage Equality

BRIAN BROWN

A man and a woman social scientists have shown again and again are in the best interests of children, and therefore, in the best interests of society.

CAPTION

Brian Brown
Family Institute of Connecticut

EVAN WOLFSON

Marriage is a choice that does not turn on having children. Nobody is required to have children in order to get married, but at the same time people who do want to get married, who are raising children, ought to be allowed to do so, and that includes lesbians and gay men.

CAPTION

Evan Wolfson
Freedom to Marry

JAMES DOBSON

That will destroy the family, which will destroy the nation.

SENATOR PHIL GRAMM

Are we so wise today that we are ready to reject 5000 years of recorded history? I don't think so.

CAPTION

Senator Phil Gramm
Republican - Texas

EJ GRAFF

What I have to talk about is the big lie of the family values debate, the idea that marriage has ever been some solid, static, immovable thing and that it has stayed that way for 6000 years. In fact, marriage has constantly been a political battleground, constantly shifting to suit each culture and class, each era and economy.

CAPTION

EJ Graff
Author, "What is Marriage For?"

EJ GRAFF

For the first 1000 years of Christianity it considered marriage a secular institution, and not until 1215 did the Catholic Church

declare marriage a sacrament. Traditionally the engagement feast was when you signed, witnessed and notarized the marriage contract, and the marriage ceremony was when you actually exchanged property. This is back in an era when there were only two ways of making a living --land and labor. If your family has property, they find another family with which to exchange it, or if you're from the class of butchers and bakers and candle stick makers, then you find someone else who will be your business partner lifelong. So a farmer required a farmwife --couldn't bring in the eggs otherwise. Fishermen required a fishwife or you couldn't get the goods to market. Certain German guilds would not let a man become a master until he had a wife who would feed the apprentices and keep the books and run the shop. Feudal marriage is traditional marriage, and the proverb was "he who marries for love has good nights and bad days". You don't have any money if you don't marry a stable partner who knows how to take care of the vineyards, which is a very specialized skill. You're going to starve. You have to marry your cousin and a half who has the next vineyard over, because you know she's a stable worker and has been really well trained in exactly the techniques that you already have, or that she has exactly the half a house that will match to your half a house that you're going to inherit so that you and your brother in law can swap and have a whole house. So when people marry for money in traditional marriage, they're not doing it for venal reasons, they're not doing it to get rich, they're doing it to not starve.

When men get shoved out of the house and go off to work in factories or as owners of factories or as entrepreneurs, then marriage is suddenly shaken free of its meaning. Suddenly all that's left is affection and love and sex. So then you start getting these hymns to love and these hymns to motherhood and "love and marriage, love and marriage go together like a horse and carriage". That's the new radical marriage model. As people begin to make a living independently, without a wife, without a husband, just based on their talents and personal effort, so does marriage change. Once you can make your own living you can also choose your own partner. Now we talk about love first and money last.

CAPTION

Tampa, Florida
2001

KAREN DOERING

They'd robbed a bank right down the street here, and apparently they'd come back this way, came into the parking lot. Lois got the call that they were headed this way, she was right around the

corner. When she came out, they just gunned her down. They shot her in the neck.

CAPTION

Karen Doering
National Center for Lesbian Rights

OFF SCREEN

Five hundred and it's going to be for an officer situation.

KAREN DOERING

She literally bled to death.

OFF SCREEN

Officer Lois Marrero, 19 years on the force, died at Tampa general hospital.

KAREN DOERING

Lois and Mickie had just celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary.

MICKIE

It's just a tragedy that occurred. If I would have been in that place, my perspective the same thing would have happened to me.

INTERVIEWER

Probably any officer?

MICKIE

Any officer that had been in her shoes that day the same ending would have occurred.

OFF SCREEN

Do I have officer Lois M. Marrero on frequency? Units be advised that 327 officer Lois M. Marrero is 10.7 for the remainder. She will never be forgotten. May she rest in peace, and god bless.

TITLE CARD

After Lois's death, Mickie took over Lois's share of their household debt.

DANIEL CASTILLO

In as much as Mickie enjoyed a caring relationship with her partner, Lois Marrero, she has decided to seek the surviving spouse benefits, as well as Lois's contribution to the pension

fund. Moreover, she strongly feels that this is what Lois would have wanted.

CAPTION

Daniel Castillo
Mickie's Attorney

REPORTER

Do you think Lois's family will support you in this effort?

MICKIE

Yes m'am I do.

KAREN DOERING

Shortly after Lois was killed the community, the family, everybody rallied around Mickie, and Mickie was treated as any other surviving spouse would be treated. The issue of money kind of got raised and the family suddenly turned on Mickie and began making all kinds of crazy allegations that Lois was allegedly having an affair with some woman in Texas.

NEWSPAPER

"More roommates than soul mates"

NEWSPAPER

"She was in love with somebody else..."

BRENDA MARRERO

And when we see someone claiming that something existed when it did not exist, then the family is going to stand up to that.

It's just a truth issue.

CAPTION

Brenda Marrero
Lois's sister

REPORTER

If they were married and it was a heterosexual relationship though, and say that Lois was in love with someone else, this really wouldn't even be something we'd be talking about would it?

BRENDA MARRERO

You're correct. If the state did recognize same-sex unions and if the state also provided a means by which same-sex unions would be able to terminate, then this would not be an issue, so we're very much in support for same sex-unions to be recognized.

CAPTION

Tampa City Council Hearing

WOMAN IN GREEN SHIRT

I think it's long overdue. Sadly enough from the tragedy that happened a week ago we maybe should come to something that's fair to all our constituents and all our employees.

MAN IN WHITE SHIRT

We see it as a moral issue. You take this away, the next block to fall will be an argument with the state legislature that will argue in favor of same-sex marriages.

MAN WITH TIE

The morality is to do the right thing for the community, and do the right thing for every single person.

MAN IN WHITE SHIRT

The bible clearly states that god put together one man and a woman.

MAN WITH TIE

I don't believe in your god, so your god is not my god. I have a different god.

DANIEL CASTILLO

Many members of the pension fund, the people who actually have standing to say something, are writing letters in support of Mickie. We've got to convince 5 people on this board that we're right.

CAPTION

Hawaii 1993

NINIA BAEHR

Genora and I have been in love and engaged for 6 years. It's been a long engagement, and when we first applied for a marriage license, people told us we would never win, but now we are so close.

TITLE CARD

Hawaiian same-sex couples sue for the right to marry. The Hawaii Supreme Court rules same-sex couples may have the right to marry, under the state's constitution.

TITLE CARD

It sends the case back to the lower court for further hearings.

NINIA BAEHR

This means that we can care for each other not just emotionally, but legally and financially once we get married.

REP. BOB BARR

What the courts in Hawaii have done is saying that is not important, we're erasing 2000 years of human history and we're starting afresh, and I think they are starting afresh on a very shaky, immoral and unsatisfactory basis, and that is homosexual acts.

CAPTION

Rep. Bob Barr
Republican - Georgia 1995 - 2003

EVAN WOLFSON

Today the court in Hawaii has struck a strong blow against discrimination in marriage based on sex, and it is enormously important for many many real life families and couples, who now stand on the brink of being able to do what every other American takes for granted, exercise the freedom to marry, the choice to marry the person they love.

CAPTION

Evan Wolfson
Hawaii Plaintiffs' Attorney

CAPTION

Washington, D.C. 1996

REP. BOB BARR

The legislation before us today simply stands up and says, "enough is enough." The courts in Hawaii are going to recognize homosexual marriages and these groups are then going to take those marriage licenses, so-called marriage licenses, pieces of paper that purport to be marriage licenses, and come to the mainland. So in an exercise of responsibility, in an exercise of proper role of federalism, we have crafted the Defense of Marriage Act.

CAPTION

Rep Bob Barr
Republican - Georgia

TITLE CARD

Defense of Marriage Act
"DOMA"

TITLE CARD

Defines marriage as a man and a woman.

TITLE CARD

Allows states to not honor other states' marriages.

TITLE CARD

Denies same-sex couples over 1000 federal benefits.

TITLE CARD

Inheritance
Veterans' benefits
Immigration
Hospital Visitation
Insurance
Social Security
Marital Confidentiality

REPRESENTATIVE STEVE GUNDERSON

Why shouldn't my partner of 30 years be entitled to the same health insurance and survivor's benefits that individuals around here, my colleagues with second and third wives are able to give to them?

CAPTION

Same-sex marriages

REPRESENTATIVE MAXINE WATERS

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the so-called Defense of Marriage Act. We have a responsibility to represent all Americans as members of the House of Representatives. Let us not be guided by prejudice, ignorance and fear. Let us not use a segment of our population to employ a political strategy for this election year.

CAPTION

Rep. Maxine Waters
Democrat - California

PROTESTERS

Gay rights now! Gay rights now! Gay rights now!

WHITE HOUSE SPEAKER MIKE MCCURRY

The president has a personal belief related to marriage and what it is and he has to act consistent with the personal belief.

PROTESTOR'S SIGN

"Traitor"

PROTESTER

This is the greatest civil rights issue of the decade. It's about human rights, it's about civil rights, and Clinton has turned his back on us.

TITLE CARD

Weeks before his 1996 re-election, Bill Clinton signed DOMA into law.

TITLE CARD

Clinton's campaign ran ads on Christian radio declaring him the "family values" candidate who stood up to the homosexual lobby.

TITLE CARD

In 1998, the Hawaiian legislature proposed a constitutional amendment to restrict marriage to different-sex couples.

TITLE CARD

Voters passed the amendment by 69%.

SAM

Oldest boy, youngest, and middle one. "Granpa's Farm." Grandkids made that and I kept it. That's their school pictures and this one here they had to get it at Walmart. So I have to put a frame up there for that. And that, of course, is Earl.

INTERVIEWER

So when you were with Doris did you know that you had an interest in men?

SAM

Yeah. Well, not when I met her, I didn't.

INTERVIEWER

Were you trying to be straight?

SAM

Oh, after I came back from Vietnam I didn't try. When I came back, we stayed together for about a year and decided to call it quits. I got custody of the boys. She didn't mind.

INTERVIEWER

What do you think is the difference: you've been married to a woman and to a man?

SAM

Other than sex, not one damn thing.
Me and her were married for 11 years. Me and he were married for 23 years.

When me and her got married, he looked at me and he said, "do you take this woman to be your lawfully wedded wife?" I said, "I will". He looked at her and said, "Do you take this man to be your lawfully wedded husband?" She said, "I will." He said, "I pronounce you man and wife. Now greet your bride." That was it. With Earl it was just a private little thing between the two of us about 10.30- 10.45 at night. We sat there and did our vows. And we just agreed to be one. Till death do you apart. Wish he were here. Wouldn't have all the problems I've been having now.

CAPTIONS

Wouldn't have all the problems I've been having now.

CAPTION

Tampa Police Pension Hearing

CAPTION

Karen Doering, National Center for Lesbian Rights

KAREN DOERING

You have an obligation to follow the law, and the law requires that in your pension plan, you do not discriminate based on marital status. This pension policy currently provides a certain benefit to a married person who is killed in the line of duty and their spouse receives a certain pension benefit, a substantial pension benefit. A person in Officer Mashburn's situation whose marriage is not yet recognized by the laws in Florida, they are denied that same benefit that a heterosexual married couple is granted.

You have the opportunity now to resolve this situation by awarding her the pension benefits that are due her as a surviving spouse. Thank you.

MICKIE MASHBURN

Next week, as a matter of fact, next Wednesday makes it 8 months that Lois had been dead and I honestly believe in my heart that I have not grieved yet. I both basically have had to sit back and defend myself from every angle, defend my relationship, defend, you know, our life together, and that's so sad.

PENSION HEARING OFFICER

The legal opinions that Mr. Roper has rendered and when I read the policy I believe that the heirs of her pension benefit should be the estate and I'm going to make a motion that we deny Miss Mashburn's request for pension benefits.

OFF SCREEN

All in favor of the motion?
All those opposed?
Motion carries unanimously.

CAPTION

Martin Bubbly, Marrero Family Attorney

MARTIN BUBBLY

Well, we will, as part of the estate, make our own formal claim and application to receive the pension benefits. We're relying strictly on what the law states, and again what the law states is that in the state of Florida, same sex marriages are not recognized for any purpose. I'm glad the board gave the same honor and dignity to honor the law and follow the law as Officer Marrero did in dedicating her life to enforcing the law. You can't have it both ways.

REPORTER

But don't you agree...

MARTIN BUBBLY

Pardon me?

REPORTER

She dedicated her life to Mickie Mashburn too, and that's being dishonored.

MARTIN BUBBLY

Well how's that being dishonored?

MICKIE

Wasn't surprised by what happened. I was already prepared for that. I am ready to move forward with my attorneys and all I can say is let's go to the future and see what happens. Thank you very much.

REPORTER

What is the future? What are you going to fight for? What's ahead now?

MICKIE

Thank you, thank you very much.

CAPTION

1970s EDUCATIONAL FILM

OFF SCREEN

The heart of a marriage is the need of two people to share a life, warmly and closely and forever. Even with this very strong motivation, both of them will have to make the compromises that are inevitable before two people, any two people can live together in harmony.

CAPTION

Holland, 2001

INTERVIEWER

So how did it come that you do all the cooking?

CAPTION

TON AND LOUIS

LOUIS

He has this wonderful talent, and I don't.

TON

You know on television people said that every man had to cook one day a week so that a wife can stay one day, no cooking, can sit down, have a drink. And so I said to him he must cook one day a week, but he doesn't do it. What can you do?

TON

This is my room. He has his room over there.

INTERVIEWER

So you're not sleeping in the same bed?

TON

No. He cannot sleep with me. He gets hot and warm.

LOUIS

He's snoring all the time.

LOUIS

Marriage is the most intimate bond two people can ever get into, and if you really love each other, that's what you want, don't you?

TON

We are together for 36 years, so I think we have the right to marry.

TITLE CARD

On April 1, 2001 Holland changed its laws to define marriage as "any two consenting adults."

TITLE CARD

Eighty five percent of the Dutch population supported the legislation.

TITLE CARD

The Mayor of Amsterdam performed the first legally recognized same sex marriages.

CAPTION

Amsterdam City Hall

LOUIS

It was like a haze, I felt like this was not really happening.

CAPTION

Amsterdam Gay Pride Day

DUTCHWOMAN

It's very happy. Everybody is waving at you, everybody is happy. It's just nice. It's a big party. It's a beautiful day, the sun is shining. It's wonderful.

DUTCHMAN WITH COWBOY HAT

I guess it's hard to be married when you're gay, you know.

INTERVIEWER

Well, I guess, but not in Holland.

DUTCHMAN WITH COWBOY HAT

No, but I mean just being married and be gay is hard.

INTERVIEWER

What do you think the difference is?

DUTCHMAN WITH COWBOY HAT

It's much more difficult than in a straight relationship.

INTERVIEWER

Can you expound on that?

DUTCHMAN WITH COWBOY HAT

Oh you know.

INTERVIEWER

Put you on the spot?

DUTCHMAN WITH COWBOY HAT

I don't know.

WOMAN

You know, we're not all gay here, so you can ask me.

THE OTHER DUTCHMAN

Why's it easier for you, tell us?

DUTCHWOMAN

Hello. Why's it easier for me, darling? Why is it more easy for me? I don't understand what you're saying now.

DUTCHMAN WITH COWBOY HAT

I don't know. I think it's harder to keep a gay relationship more steady than a straight relationship, you know.

THE OTHER MAN

You have to prove yourself.

DUTCHMAN WITH COWBOY HAT

Yes

INTERVIEWER

What about guys who get married? Do you think they'll have longer more committed relationships?

DUTCHMAN WITH COWBOY HAT

No. I think that's bullshit. It's just a piece of paper.

DUTCHMAN WITH DARK GLASSES

I don't believe in that. We saw two friends of ours, they got married a year ago. Now, they got divorced.

DUTCHWOMAN

It's happening to straight people as well. I mean it's so normal. So, you're only watching the gay people, I think. Because, I mean, straight people have problems as well.

CAPTION

Kees Waaldjik, University of Leiden

KEES WAALDIJK

There has been a trend that less people wanted to marry. They just wanted to cohabit. And marriage therefore became less important. You would think that people in support of marriage would be happy that now other couples want to join the institution of marriage. If more people joined marriage, marriage would be stronger and last longer and be a more important social phenomenon.

CAPTION

Vinco and Adjiedj

ADJIEDJ

When we drove with the marriage car to the city, there was this bunch of old ladies from the southern part of Lindbergh, and they were doing a bicycle tour to Amsterdam. And they stopped when they saw us. "A marriage, a gay marriage." And they all startled and they waved and they wanted the cake.

VINCO

They wanted to know everything.

ADJIEDJ

Yes. "Where is the marriage? Can we come by to have a drink?" It was fantastic! These old ladies, in their sixties, in their flower skirts, from the South, very Catholic, staunch Catholics, and they just loved it.

VINCO

Also one of the reasons we wanted to marry is that you arrange all sorts of legal affairs in one stroke. And that is easy for inheritance, but also for visiting rights in hospitals.

ADJIEDJ

Traveling together.

VINCO

Traveling, tax.

Business trips, tax, disasters, Social Security, everything.

ADJIEDJ

In Holland, we have a saying that a country, a great civilization, you can judge by the way it treats its minorities. And if it treats its minorities well, then it is a civilized country.

SAM

There are Earl's house shoes. Still got them. That's one of them.

INTERVIEWER

You guys slept in the same bed?

SAM

Yes

INTERVIEWER

Well I know some couples don't.

SAM

I slept right there. He slept right here. Until he got sick, then he moved over there and I moved over here, because he could get to the bathroom easier.

I was looking for his living will because the hospital wanted it.

I found it the day after he passed away. But I had found his will. But later the nurse at the hospital said they wouldn't have needed it anyway because they couldn't save him. Here's the feed.

SAM

The people who you trusted and thought were your really good friends. Then you get a letter like that from them.

SAM'S ATTORNEY, MARK HAMBY

And basically they're attempting to steal the estate from Sam.

TITLE CARD

When he died, Earl left everything to Sam.

TITLE CARD

But Earl's cousin Betty Lou led a band of cousins to challenge Earl's will.

CAPTION

C.R.

Sam and Earl's youngest son

C.R.

This is dad's home. They built this house. When Dad and Earl got together, there was nothing standing here, nothing: no barns, no house, nothing. Dad and Earl designed this house. They designed those barns, they had them built. Dad put his blood sweat and tears into this place, just like Earl did. And I don't think it's right that his cousins can come in here and say, "just because we're related, we got blood kinship, we can just come in and take this place."

SAM

Because it didn't have two signatures besides his, it only had one notary public, they're claiming it's not a legal will. Although everybody agreed it was his signature. Nobody contested that one bit. It was his signature on the will.

CAPTION

Mark Hamby, Sam's Attorney

MARK HAMBY

Because it's two men, there's no way to have a marital relationship that the law would recognize so these cousins, who donated nothing, had no contact basically with Earl for these last twenty years, are going to be unjustly enriched.

TITLE CARD

Citing the technical error, the courts awarded Earl's estate to Betty Lou and the cousins instead of Sam.

CAPTION

Kenneth, Sam and Earl's eldest son

KENNEGTH

Hey, Dad. You think it's about time to wear these things. You think it's close to time to wear these?

SAM

Yeah, those are ready.

INTERVIEWER

So how do you feel about this? I mean, really, if Earl and Sam could have got married then you would be...

KENNEGTH

Hey, they were married. The way I consider it is that they were married. I mean they lived together 22 years. That's pretty much married. You don't see many straight marriages that go past 15 years. Usually they just go at each other, start killing each other. Occasionally you see some old couples who've been married 35, 40 years. That's the way I felt. They were married, nothing to it. Just parents to me.

INTERVIEWER

What did you think of Earl?

KENNEGTH

He was cool. Businesslike but he was cool. Just hard to talk about...

SAM

Silly guinea. There we go. Birth of a guinea!

SAM

That's ... Dale, Kenneth, Doris, the boys' mother, Earl and me. And it does resemble all of us except this part here, and this. I've never worn a scarf around my neck in my life. I would consider that a bit on the Nellie side.

INTERVIEWER

So this where you might move if things go sour?

SAM

If everything goes sour this will be my home. I'll come and redo this over here. Nothing much else I can do.

CAPTION

Andrew Sullivan, Sr. Editor, The New Republic

ANDREW SULLIVAN

I'm really kind of amazed by how conservatives oppose this. Because this is, and was always understood as, a conservative measure. I mean, think of what marriage represents: taking responsibility, being fully a part of society, fidelity, commitment. It's tough. It requires sacrifice. It requires exactly those virtues and values that conservatives have always said they believe in.

CAPTION

James Dobson, Focus on the Family

JAMES DOBSON

I don't think homosexuals really want to marry. I think they want to destroy marriage and then recreate it according to their own interpretation, with all of the benefits but without the commitment that means so much to children..

LARRY KING

Why would they want to destroy marriage? If they want to destroy it, why would they want to be married?

JAMES DOBSON

I don't think they want to be married, most of them.

CAPTION

Los Angeles, 2003

CAPTION

Reverend Troy Perry, Founder, Metropolitan Community Church

REV. TROY PERRY

Today is Valentine's Day in Los Angeles, California and around the nation as well as our friends in Canada. We're going all out to our County Clerk's offices to get married. He and I have been together for 18 years. The one thing I want to do before we die is to marry legally.

MALE COUPLE

We just celebrated our 24th anniversary. We just feel we should be given the right to legally marry.

MAN AT WINDOW

What does the letter say? Is it a rejection letter?

COUNTY CLERK OFFICER

It says the clerk only issues marriage licenses only to an unmarried male and an unmarried female.

MAN AT WINDOW

OK, because we're both unmarried males.

Do you think gay people should be able to get married? I mean, you marry people everyday, right?

COUNTY CLERK OFFICER

Yeah. They should be allowed to get married.

REV. TROY PERRY

We want you to know that we'll be back next year on Valentine's Day again. And we'll encourage more and more people to come until we are able to marry in the state of California. We know it's not your fault.

CAPTION

The Sperbers, Members of PFLAG

THE SPERBERS

We have a son who is gay, who is in love with another man, and he can't get married anywhere in this country, and we want to know why our son is being discriminated against.

CAPTION

New York City

FEMALE COUPLE

It would be great if we got a license today. It really would be. I don't know if the city is ready but we've been ready.

WOMAN WITH CAP AT WINDOW

Yes, I'd like a marriage license application.

COUNTY CLERK OFFICER

Where are the bride and the groom? The bride and groom have to be together. Come on, dear, honey, come over here.

WOMAN WITH CAP AT WINDOW

That's us.

COUNTY CLERK OFFICER

Fill this form out and get in line all the way against the wall
to my right.

MAN

Good morning, an application for a marriage license, please.

SECRETARY

Now you're really confusing me!

MAN

No, not at all.

SECRETARY

Bride and groom can get an application for a marriage license,
but groom and groom..

MAN

Why not? My other two sisters - the other couple..

SECRETARY

I know, I'm getting confused here. They're coming up bride and
bride and groom and groom.

SUPERVISOR

We need to get you a domestic..

MAN'S PARTNER

No, we want to get married

MAN

Right, we want a marriage

SUPERVISOR

You can have a domestic partnership.

MAN'S PARTNER

Yeah, we don't want to do that, we want to do this

SUPERVISOR 2

Unfortunately, you know, at this point, until we get a directive
from above, we can't marry same-sex couples.

CAPTION

Sophia and Mirabelle

SOPHIA

It took bravery on both sides of the window 50 years ago to stop separate but equal laws in this country, and we're not even separate and equal. We're separate and unequal. Domestic partnership is very unequal to legal marriage. And he said, "this is the bottom of the totem pole, you have to work on the top." So as I left, I'm like, well, segregated coffee shops were the bottom of the totem pole.

CAPTION

Rev. Pat Bumgardner
MCC Church

REV. PAT BUMGARDNER

It would help me to hear from you what you think it would cost you, for example, to run one application through as a...

VICTOR ROBLES

We won't do it.

REV. PAT BUMGARDNER

I know you won't, but I want to hear from you why, like what are the costs to you.

VICTOR ROBLES

Let me be clear - not what it costs me, that's not the issue.

CAPTION

Victor Robles
New York City Clerk

VICTOR ROBLES

I am banned from issuing a license. Now, if I get an order from a court ordering me to give you a license, I have no if's or but's about it, I will do it.

REV. PAT BUMGARDNER

I understand that.

VICTOR ROBLES

But currently right now I cannot do that under the law.

MAN 3

You can kind of tell that the people are sympathetic, like it's no big deal in their lives, but it's an institutional thing that's been carried for years, and it's large. And also the kind of laziness that comes with bureaucracy, where it's just like, "well, I don't feel like changing it, you don't feel like changing it, go see the guy down the hall." And I guess this is just the way to do it, one little chip at a time. So..

CAPTION

Rep. John Lewis
D-Georgia

REP. JOHN LEWIS

When I was growing up in the South, during the 40s and the 50s, the great majority of the people in that region believed that black people shouldn't be able to enter places of public accommodation. And they felt that black people shouldn't be able to register to vote, and many people felt that was right, but that was wrong. I think as politicians, as elected officials, we should not only follow, but we must lead our districts.

CAPTION

DOMA Debate
1996

REP. JOHN LEWIS

You cannot tell people they cannot fall in love. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., used to say when people talked about interracial marriages, and I quote, "Races do not fall in love and get married. Individuals fall in love and get married." Why don't you want your fellow men and women, your fellow Americans, to be happy? Why do you attack them? Why do you want to destroy the love they hold in their hearts? Why do you want to crush their hopes, their dreams, their longings, their aspirations? We are talking about human beings, people like you, people who want to get married, buy a house, and spend their lives with the one they love. They have done no wrong.

RICHARD LOVING

What?

SHERIFF

Who's the woman you're sleeping with, son?

CAPTION

Mr. & Mrs. Loving (1966)

RICHARD LOVING

What?

MILDRED JETER

I'm his wife.

SHERIFF

Not here you ain't.

CAPTION

Evan Wolfson
Freedom to Marry

EVAN WOLFSON

In the early 60s, Richard Loving, a white man, and Mildred Jeter, a black woman, fell in love and wanted to get married. But unfortunately they weren't allowed to do so because the law in their state defined marriage as only between people of the 'right' races. And so Richard and Mildred left Virginia and got married. Sometime later, they're awakened in the middle of the night by a knock on the door and were actually arrested by the sheriff and police officials of the State of Virginia, who charged them with the 'crime' of wrongful marriage, of marrying the wrong kind of person.

JUDGE

On the count of miscegenation, I find defendant Richard Perry Loving and defendant Mildred Delores Jeter guilty as charged.

EVAN WOLFSON

And the judge told them that they could either spend the next year in jail or could go into exile for 25 years, leaving the state of Virginia. The couple chose to remain married and leave the State of Virginia, and they went to the District of Columbia and got a lawyer. Court after court upheld this horrible law and said that this was the definition of marriage. One judge wrote, for example, "Almighty God..."

JUDGE

Almighty God created the races - white, black, yellow, Malay, and red, and he placed them on separate continents. And but for the interference with his arrangement, there would be no cause for such marriages. The fact that he separated the races shows that he did not intend for the races to mix.

EVAN WOLFSON

And God's definition of marriage - God's definition of marriage, the separation of the races - would remain intact, and he upheld this restriction. So did the Virginia Supreme Court. When that case came from the Virginia Supreme Court before the United States Supreme Court, the state's attorneys were still arguing that the definition of marriage itself meant that this couple could not possibly be married.

CAPTION

Same-Sex Marriage
U.S. House

REP. BOB BARR

Marriage does not mean two men or two women getting married; it just doesn't mean that.

EVAN WOLFSON

They argued that, if we allowed interracial couples to marry, society would fall apart.

CAPTION

Rep. James Talent
R-Missouri
U.S. House

REP. JAMES TALENT

If marriage goes, then the family goes. And if the family goes, we have none of the decency or ordered liberty which Americans have been brought up to enjoy and to appreciate.

EVAN WOLFSON

They argued that it would be bad for the children.

CAPTION

Rep. Charles Canady
R-Florida
U.S. House

REP. CHARLES CANADY

Should we tell the children of America that, in the eyes of the law, the parties to a homosexual union are entitled to all the rights and privileges and benefits that have always been reserved for a man and a woman united in marriage?

EVAN WOLFSON

They argued that it would be unfair to different states that didn't want to allow these 'kinds of couples' to marry.

CAPTION

Rep. Bob Barr
R-Georgia
U.S. House

REP. BOB BARR

No one state of the union can have its decision of its people overridden, run roughshod, by people from - judges from - another state.

EVAN WOLFSON

They made very much the same kinds of arguments that we hear today made to defend sex discrimination in marriage. But fortunately, in 1967, unlike in previous cases, the United States Supreme Court had had enough. And the court ruled that all Americans have a fundamental right to marry - that it is a basic human right, a basic freedom - and the court struck that ban down.

CAPTION

Mildred and Richard Loving
1968

REPORTER

When your children grow up, how would you want them to marry?

RICHARD LOVING

I think I'll leave that up to them - they can decide that themselves.

NEWS ANCHOR

Tampa police officer's pension benefits isn't over. Officer Lois Marrero died in a bank robber's ambush last July.

MICKIE MASHBURN

I'm proud of who I am and who I was with. So I'm very driven and will continue to be driven. And I think I have a lot of that from Lois's also doing that, because Lois was so driven it was unbelievable. If you told her, "Well, you really can't do that," she'd go, "Oh, it's going to be done. I will get it done. I will achieve it somehow." And she always did. So I guess that's where I'm at right now.

CAPTION

Major Jane E. Castor
Tampa Police

MAJ. JANE CASTOR

If they would have been able to marry legally, that, obviously, is one of the pension - I think just the two - you have to either be legally married or have legal dependants that you can leave your pension to. Those are the only two cases prior to July 3.

INTERVIEWER

So what would have happened? Would there have been this board hearing?

MAJ. JANE CASTOR

No, there would be no board hearing whatsoever. It would be automatic. And there would be no questions whatsoever as to the status of their relationship. It wouldn't matter.

CAPTION

Tampa Pension Board
Second Hearing

VOICE

Do you swear that the testimony you're about to give in the cause now pending shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

WITNESSES

I do.

CAPTION

Shannon Minter
National Center for Lesbian Rights

SHANNON MINTER

Lois Marrero was killed on July 6, 2001, before she ever had a chance to designate Mickie as her beneficiary. And Mickie's claim is based on this violation of Chapter 185. She's here today asking the board to correct that violation in the only way that's possible at this point in time, and that is by you all as a fact-finding body making a determination as to who Lois would have named as her beneficiary if she had been given her legal right to do that.

KAREN DOERING

Ms. Morgan, how do you know Mickie and Lois?

MS. MORGAN

They're my best friends and my neighbors.

SHANNON MINTER

So they were both your neighbors and your professional colleagues?

POLICE OFFICER

That's correct.

SHANNON MINTER

Were you aware that Lois and Mickie had been married, were married?

MS. MORGAN

Yeah, I remember when they started dating.

SHANNON MINTER

By the time Lois was killed, were most people on the force that Mickie and Lois worked with aware that they were in a relationship?

MS. MORGAN

Everybody was.

SHANNON MINTER

And did most people accept that and respect that?

MS. MORGAN

Of course.

WOMAN

I had no idea. One day, I seen - I was talking to Lois, and I noticed she had a ring. And then it was a couple days later, maybe a week, I saw Mickie had one, and I just thought, "Oh wow, they have the same ring." And I was talking to a neighbor who said, "Well, don't you know?" And I said, "no," and next thing I know, I'm going, "That is so cool." I was just blown away. I just thought it was, like...

SHANNON MINTER

Now can you tell us what is a holy union?

PASTOR

A holy union is asking God's blessing upon a couple, encouraging and affirming them in a public way, to encourage a relationship, not unlike a holy matrimony. In the religious sense, it's the same thing.

SHANNON MINTER

And does this mean that the participants are making a lifetime commitment to one another?

PASTOR

Oh yes.

SHANNON MINTER

Now if a same-sex couple who've undergone a holy union ceremony want to terminate their relationship, does the church have any provision for that?

PASTOR

Ah yes, if you've had a holy union in the Metropolitan Community Churches, you have to find the pastor who performed that ceremony, and a rite of dissolutionment, a document of dissolutionment, is written, and all parties who are involved in that ceremony have to sign that document.

SHANNON MINTER

And prior to Lois's death, did either Mickie or Lois contact the MCC Church to file for a dissolutionment?

PASTOR

No, they did not.

LAWYER

During your wedding ceremony, did you and Lois exchange rings?

MICKIE MASHBURN

Ah, we did exchange rings. Matter of fact, her sister and her brother-in-law had the rings and they were given to us, and Lois placed the ring on my finger, and I placed the ring on her finger.

LAWYER

And did you and Lois continue wearing those wedding bands?

MICKIE MASHBURN

Up until the day that she was killed.

LAWYER

And you were actually present when Mickie learned that Lois had been killed, had been shot?

CAPTION

Betsy Pinkerton
Tampa Police

BETSY PINKERTON

Yes.

KAREN DOERING

And you were actually the one that informed her?

BETSY PINKERTON

Yes.

KAREN DOERING

What were some of Mickie's concerns as you told her? Can you just tell us briefly?

BETSY PINKERTON

One of the first things was that she wanted to go to Lois. And myself and another of the officers in there, we basically picked her up by the elbows and moved her into the sergeant's office where it was a little roomier and got her into a different chair.

I was concerned that she might be weak or upset and that she could fall or something, and I didn't want her to hurt herself.

And by the time we got her seated, my husband called communications to try to get more information because Mickie kept asking if she was gone. And my husband said that he talked to radio and said that Lois could be alive, that they were working on her. And then about a minute or two passed, and Mickie said, "She's gone." And I said, "Mickie you don't know that yet, you don't know that." She said, "Yeah, she's gone. I can feel it in my heart that she's gone." And then she said, "Please take me to her, please take me to her." And Mickie insisted that I go to find Brenda - Mickie was concerned that Lois's mother would turn on the TV because it was lunchtime and she was worried about the news. So she said, "please get to Brenda so she can get to Lois's mom so that Lois's mom won't just flip the TV on and see what's going on."

SHANNON MINTER

Did Mickie invite you to be a pallbearer at Lois's funeral?

POLICE OFFICER

Yes, she did.

SHANNON MINTER

And do you recall where Mickie was sitting at the funeral?

POLICE OFFICER

She was sitting up front, one of the first pews in the church.

SHANNON MINTER

And do you recall what Chief did with the flag on Lois's coffin?

POLICE OFFICER

At the ceremony at the cemetery, he handed off the flag to her, which is consistent with a spouse or a life partner.

KAREN DOERING

If Lois had been given the opportunity to designate a beneficiary, who would she have designated?

MS. MORGAN

Without a doubt, Mickie Mashburn.

SHANNON MINTER

Who do you think that person would have been?

WOMAN

It would have been Mickie.

SHANNON MINTER

Do you have any doubt about that?

WOMAN

No doubt, at all.

POLICE OFFICER

There isn't a doubt in my mind it would have been Mickie.

BOARD CHAIRMAN

Any questions at this time?

BOARD MEMBERS

Not at this time. No sir. Not at this time.

MICKIE MASHBURN

I really have to get myself together 'cause I'm tired and hopefully be able to come back and talk to everybody a little bit later. You would hope that everybody would have an open heart and an open mind. There's no doubt that the people that spoke today spoke from their hearts and spoke the truth. The law has to change, not only for myself but for other individuals. It's like as was stated in the hearing today: this is not a gay issue, this is everyone's issue, and that's what we're working and striving towards.

E. J. GRAFF

1920 and 1930 - every third magazine article is saying this is the end of marriage as we know it.

CAPTION

E.J. Graff
Author, What Is Marriage For?

E. J. GRAFF

This is the death of the family. This is the period of the collapse of traditional marriage because suddenly youngsters are behaving bizarrely. They're dating, on the front porch but out, outside of their parents' view, and they're marrying for love, and they're having sex with contraception rather than just settling down right away to work hard and raise babies.

E. J. GRAFF

For 50, 75 years, even discussing contraception was considered disgusting, filthy, and prurient in some terrible way. The idea that you can have sex not just for making babies but for making intimacy, for making love, is the idea that's endorsed by legal contraception. That was already endorsed in *Griswold v. Connecticut* when the Supreme Court knocked down the last remaining law banning the use of contraception.

E. J. GRAFF

As a society, we have decided that making love is a legitimate reason for having sex and for being married. This is the philosophy same-sex couples fit under.

E. J. GRAFF

The second big battle over public marriage philosophy that leads to same-sex marriage is the battle over divorce.

E.J. GRAFF

Again, nearly split the protestant denominations. Catholics, they had decided that already --- never. But the protestant denominations were turned inside out over the debate of whether divorce might be legal for causes other than the traditional Protestant causes of attempted murder or adultery. Again, public marriage philosophy decided that when you love you marry, and when love is gone, you are no longer really married; it is no longer really a fully moral marriage. And if marriage is made by love, same-sex couples belong.

SAM

This is country. Different kind of grasses --- guess everything has a right to live.

SAM

I just wish some people would leave us alone - the worms would leave us alone - worms and scumbags.

TITLE

Betty Lou and the cousins have sent the family an eviction notice and a demand for back rent.

SAM

Hurts a lot, but... Knowing what he wanted and what they're doing is completely different, and they don't give a hoot. They've already said if they got the place they'd sell it immediately, put it up for sale.

C.R.

Dad and Earl... Dad would sell stuff, he took care of the taxes, he took care of all the receipts on the property. Dad would go up and pay the taxes. Of course it was all in Earl's name, but he went up and paid it. It's just really screwed up because, when Earl passed away, all dad had was about \$2000 to his name. And within two days after we buried Earl, it was all tied up in court.

SAM

And I've got to call that electric company 'cause they're going to turn my electric off if I don't have the money, and I don't have the money to pay it. I need 900 and some dollars.

KENNEGTH

I can take that stuff up here and sell it better than they can over there.

SAM

Well I don't have the \$95. Do you?

KENNEGTH

I was going to go see if I could get it.

SAM

Where are you gonna get it?

KENNEGTH

I'm not telling you.

SAM

Ninety-five dollars would give him a boost for a month in the flea market. How much money could you come up with?

KENNEGTH

Not that much.

SAM

How much?

KENNEGTH

Maybe ten or so dollars, Dad. And that's if I scrap something.

SAM

Well, scrap!

SAM

If I can, I'm going to have to take these horses to that sale too, to just sell them for what I can get out of them. I hate to do that 'cause I think the world of my horses - like selling a part of you.

SAM

See, somebody cut my fence right over there in the corner. See what they did to the door? The fire went right down this way. Went right out, and it burnt the door-facings as it went. All the door facings, clear out the front door. Burnt the front door out. Didn't hurt the bed in there that much, just smoked it a little bit, which is funny, because why would it catch all these door facings on fire?

INTERVIEWER

That's a good question, isn't it?

SAM

...unless somebody poured something on it, and poured something here.

SAM

The flowers still blooming.

TITLE

Sam lost \$400 a month income from the burned rental house.

TITLE

The estimated \$10,000 claim can only be made by Earl's cousins.

SAM

Well, it's just one big mess of greedy grave-robbers.

TITLE

To protect his valuables from the cousins, Sam has hidden them in the woods.

SAM

Earl's dad, Papa. This was Granny, Earl's mother, when she was young. Betty Lou would give her left nut to have one of them, and she ain't got one, but she'd give her old boyfriend's one, left nut.

SAM

Somebody has been in this one. Boy they had flat come in and stole stuff. My God, they stole and they stole.

ANGEL

Hi, Squirt!

KENNEGTH

Angel, walk up the gate, come up behind him...

SAM

One thousand, six, and four. And I'll take a little less but I'd rather have that much

SAM

What did they do?

ANGEL

Too Low.

SAM

How low did they go?

ANGEL

Judy, I think they wanted to pay like five for her, and they wanted like Three-fifty to four hundred for Joe and wanted two-twenty-five for Squirt and we said no

SAM

Hi Irene, this is Sam. I have to come up with 400 by tomorrow about 10 o'clock. Well, actually 500, but I got a 100 of it. And I'm trying to figure out if there's some way I can get it, borrow it from somebody until Tuesday of next week and give it back to them.

Okay. Then I'll see you in a little while. And I do appreciate it. Thanks a lot, Irene. Thanks, thanks.

GRAVETONE

"In Loving Memory, Earl, Oct. 26, 1943-Sept. 13, 2000, May He Rest in Peace."

SAM

That's Earl's grave. That's his mother, and that's his dad, and that's mine over there. I wish they'd start putting flowers on mine. I'd like to have my flowers before I go. I don't care what they put on there. That's fine. This is where I was going to get my, have my grave. But some woman bought it. They wouldn't tell me who. Said she bought it the day before. I always figured it was Betty Lou, but I don't know for sure.

INTERVIEWER

So does it upset you, you won't be right next to Earl?

SAM

It bothers me.

ANGEL

I wouldn't be able to live with myself, if somebody handed me a will and said "this is what I want in it," and I say "I don't like what you got in your will, I'm gonna fight it." This has been Uncle Sam's home for the last 24, 25 years, and here they are wanting to take it away. How would they feel if this was to happen to them? Say, her husband's kids came up to him and said "Hey, I want you out."

CAPTION

State of the Union Address, 2004

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

Our aim is a democratic peace. A peace founded upon the dignity and rights of every man and woman.

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

When I came to this rostrum on September the 20th, 2001, I brought the police shield of a fallen officer, my reminder of lives that ended in a task that does not end.

DETECTIVE FRANK COPPOLA

I am a New York City police officer. I was the type of guy that was gay and happy living in hiding.

CAPTION

Det. Francis Coppola, NYPD

DETECTIVE FRANK COPPOLA

I didn't have to tell people what was going on in my heart, 'cause I had the world, I had a life partner that was the best thing in the world to me, you know? Seventeen months ago, on September 11th, I lost that man. The one man that I thought I would spend the rest of my life with. I ran into that building when it was coming down, and I'm saying "this isn't happening, my Eddy's in there, my friends are in there." I didn't say "let me just save the gay people." Let's save everybody.

CAPTION

The Pentagon

PEGGY NEFF

She was finally identified on the 12th of October. They had done the cremation, and they delivered the box down.

CAPTION

Peggy Neff, Surviving Partner

PEGGY NEFF

She gave her life for the country. And that's what this was all about.

CAPTION

Virginia State Capitol

MARY VAIL WARE

We're the criminal injuries compensation fund. And we're designed to help victims of violent crime with costs that are associated with the crime.

CAPTION

Mary Vail Ware, Virginia Crime Victims' Fund

MARY VAIL WARE

The secretary came to me and said, "yeah, this person is ineligible under the law," and we struggled with what to say.

REJECTION LETTER

"you are not eligible"

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

We understand our special calling. This great republic will lead the cause of freedom.

JESSE GOODMAN

Where is the democracy and freedom for all individuals when our rights are not respected?

CONNIE RESS

Currently our government is saying, you know, don't fall in love with someone from another country because they're going to have to be sent back to their country.

CAPTION

Connie Ress, Marriage Equality

MAX OLIVA

I'm from Argentina. I came to New York and I met Jesse three years ago, and I fell in love. And I moved here because I want to be with my love.

JESSE GOODMAN

Even if marriage becomes legal in Massachusetts, the discriminatory law of the Defense of Marriage Act still needs to be repealed and struck down, so that our marriage will be recognized on a federal level, and Max will receive a green card.

JESSE GOODMAN

Where's the compassion when this country is forcing us to leave?

MAJOR JANE CASTOR

You know everybody has their personal point of view.

CAPTION

Major Jane E. Castor, Tampa Police

MAJOR JANE CASTOR

I think a lot of people on the pension board probably wanted to vote to give Mickie that pension.

NEWSPAPER HEADLINES

"Officer's pension denied to partner."

MAJOR JANE CASTOR

And, you know, they felt that they were just bound by the law. The law states that you have to be legally married in order to give it.

INTERVIEWER

This is probably a tough question. What is life like, now without Lois?

MICKIE

Well, we're fixing to go into 8 months. And it's weird. It's hard. But I have the memories. You know you try to sit back and think that last year at this time she was still alive, you know, and, for, you know, Valentine's, she...where you send out, send off for Care Bears, I'm not sure what they're called, but you send them off and they make the bears and they send them back to you.

Well, that's what she got me last year for February 14th. She bought me roses and she had one of those bears sent to me, so you kind of, you sit back and you think of that. And you think, you know, what a year changes. And it's hard.

NEWSPAPER HEADLINE

"Same-sex law to be clear: It's marriage."

CAPTION

Toronto 2003

PAM

We've had our ceremony with our family and everything like this, and now this is the legal thing. I mean it's not, you know, the best it could be would be in the United States being married, but here this is a little bit of icing that adds another layer. This feels good.

CAPTION

Pam and Jenny

JENNY

Living in a conservative area of the United States, especially, there is some anxiety around what could happen because you don't have the legal protections that just come with being married.

JENNY

We have to book the Chapel.

PASTOR

I, Pam.

PAM

I, Pam

PASTOR

Take thee Jenny

PAM

Take thee Jenny

PASTOR

To be my wedded spouse

PAM

To be my wedded spouse

JENNY

For better or for worse

PASTOR

For rich or for poor

JENNY

For rich or for poor

PASTOR

In sickness and in health

JENNY

In sickness and in health

PASTOR

I now pronounce you to be legally married spouses.

JENNY

Gotta do the official kiss.

PASTOR

Yeah, yeah for sure.

BLACK FEMALE PARADE-GOER

How many people there are on this route, it's amazing. Every corner you just see thousands of people. It's great.

JOHN FISHER

The Ontario Court of Appeals ruled unanimously that same-sex couples have the constitutional right to marry. Our Cabinet and Prime Minister have affirmed that they will support equal marriage, so as of right now, same-sex marriage is legal in Canada. We have a number of couples here who are getting married right now, so it's a great day to celebrate here at Toronto Pride.

CAPTION

John Fisher, Director Egale

MAN IN PARADE (WITH CHILD)

I think it's great that everyone should have the choice to marry if they want to. It's about time.

MALE PARADE-GOER

We love it, we're gonna get married.

INTERVIEWER

Are you?

PARADE-GOER

No, I will, I'm engaged.

Asian FEMALE PARADE-GOER

It's about time. That's why we came out to celebrate. This is a celebration.

WOMAN IN PARADE WITH PARTNER AND SIGN

Married yesterday morning! So it feels good. Don't make me cry. I'm going to cry. I'm ready to cry. Happy pride!

MAN WITH SIGN IN PARADE

If you don't like same-sex marriage, don't have one.

MAN WITH PARTNER

We got married, primarily because of him.

MAN ON THE STREET

You know it's equal, it's supposed to be. This is a diverse country, you know, it should be a diverse world. It's all about love. That's what it's about, you know.

OLD LADY WITH DAUGHTER

Let them, let them, they don't hurt us.

MAN IN COWBOY HAT

I think it's absolutely fabulous.

INTERVIEWER

Are you gay yourself?

MAN IN COWBOY HAT

No, I'm not. But that doesn't matter. This is my wife.

INTERVIEWER

Can we get a quick kiss?

MAN IN COWBOY HAT

Sure.

WOMAN ON STREET

The support of the straight community I think is absolutely crucial that they understand that it is an issue of social justice, and human rights. It's not a lifestyle issue, it's a human rights issue.

TWO MEN IN PARADE KISS

You can't do that in America yet, but I'll be there.

TITLE CARD

Breaking News, Massachusetts, November 18, 2003

NEWSCASTER

And now breaking news from Massachusetts. The Supreme Court ruled today that it is unconstitutional to deny same-sex couples the right to marry.

MARY BONAUTO

No one gains anything by having these families and these couples struggle and not have protections that everyone else has, and have to think about ways cobble together protections when, in the end, the simple and equal solution is civil marriage, the exact

same thing that everyone else has. I can't imagine for a single second that there aren't going to be some people who are very agitated about this.

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

I strongly believe that marriage should be defined as between a man and a woman. I am troubled by activist judges who are defining marriage.

WOMAN IN RED SUIT

Our opponents have bussed people in from Georgia, from Virginia. Most of them are outside right now saying very nasty, vicious, hateful things about us.

ANTI-GAY PROTESTOR 1

He's going to take these anus fudge-packing sodomites, He's going to cast them into hell, when their anuses are ridden with blood, and they have got to wear diapers.

ANTI-GAY PROTESTOR 2

Marriage is between male and female the Bible says. Male and female. Not homosexual, not bisexual, not anything but heterosexual. But you haterophobes don't like that, cause you don't want to listen.

PRO-GAY WOMAN PROTESTOR 1

I'm straight. We're both straight.

TONY PERKINS (MAN ON PODIUM)

What the court is about to do is unleash chaos on our society!

PRO-GAY PROTESTOR 2

Are these Christian values you're teaching your children?

ANTI-GAY GIRL PROTESTOR

Homos has got to go! Yes, they are teaching me, because I know the right. Hey hey, ho ho, homos has got to go!

GOVERNOR MITT ROMNEY

I agree with 3,000 years of recorded history.

ANTI-GAY PROTESTORS

God loves a sinner! He hates sin!

CAPTION

Governor Mitt Romney, Massachusetts Governor

GOVERNOR MITT ROMNEY

Marriage is an institution between a man and a woman.

ANTI-GAY PROTESTORS

God is judging America. We must repent.

GOVERNOR MITT ROMNEY

I will support an amendment to the Massachusetts constitution...

ANTI-GAY PROTESTORS

In the name of Jesus!!!!

GOVERNOR MITT ROMNEY

to make that expressly clear.

PRO-GAY PROTESTORS

What do we want? Equal rights! When do we want it? Now! Keep God out of civil marriage! Church and state! Separate!

NEWSCASTER

Republican Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave is the lead sponsor of a federal constitutional amendment that would define marriage as the union of a man and a woman.

TITLE CARD

Amendment XXVIII

TITLE CARD

Marriage shall consist of a man and a woman.

CONGRESSWOMAN MUSSGRAVE

The President of the United States puts his support behind the Federal Marriage Amendment.

JEFF COOK

The Federal Marriage Amendment is a threat to so many fundamental American principles. It's a threat to federalism, it's a threat to constitution to secure peoples' rights, it's a threat to equal protection of the laws, it's a threat to the full faith in credit clause.

CAPTION

Jeff Cook, Log Cabin Republicans

ANDREW SULLIVAN

Saying in the Constitution of the United States that a whole minority of people will be now and forever denied the right to be a full human being or full citizen is so appalling in its extremism. Even someone like me who endorsed George Bush in 2000 has to draw the line.

CAPTION

Andrew Sullivan, Sr. Editor, The New Republic

TITLE CARD

"White House Radio."

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH'S VOICE

Overreaching judges could declare that all marriages recognized in Massachusetts or San Francisco be recognized as marriages everywhere else.

CAPTION

Gay Marriage, The Kerry Record: "Does not support amendment."

NEWSCASTER

John Kerry has said he does not support an amendment. The Bush campaign will also point out that Kerry voted against the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act which permits a state not to recognize marriages from another state.

JOHN KERRY

I believe that marriage is between a man and a woman.

NEWSCASTER

Since Hawaii defeated marriage in 1998, 38 states have enacted laws to define marriage as only one man and one woman.

NEWSCASTER

And look for gay marriage bans on the ballot in these crucial battleground states: Missouri, Ohio, Michigan, and Oregon.

CAPTION

Valentine's Day 2004

NEWSCASTER

Thousands of gay weddings here in San Francisco have sent shock waves across the nation.

WOMAN

We're getting married.

MAN

We've been together 20 years, so...

HIS PARTNER

And we still want to get married.

MAN

And we still want to get married.

FEMALE NEWSCASTER

The mayor of New Paltz who performed more than 2 dozen marriages last week will be in court tonight facing criminal charges.

MALE NEWSCASTER

In New Mexico, about 20 gay couples were married today.

CAPTION

Portland, Oregon

WOMAN

Every single county in the state is responsible for upholding the Constitution in the same manner that we are. They must do the same thing that we did today.

MAN

We'd be celebrating our 29th anniversary if we actually get married.

CAPTION

New York City

PRO-GAY PROTESTORS

We won't give up the fight! Marriage is a human right!

WOMAN IN PARADE

The numbers that people are wearing on their backs represent the over 1,000 federal rights and responsibilities that come with marriage, and these are the rights that they're denied, that our gay children are denied.

MALE NEWSCASTER

A historic night in Cambridge, Massachusetts. At the stroke of midnight the city began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

PEOPLE SINGING

Going to the chapel and we're going to get married!

PEOPLE WAITING TO GET MARRIED

10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1...cheers!

TITLE CARD

In the 2004 election, twelve states had constitutional amendment initiatives on the ballot.

MOTHER

Over this way please, thank you.

TITLE CARD

Massachusetts passed a constitutional amendment against equal marriage in 2004.
It may go to voters in 2006.

TITLE CARD

Belgium opened marriage to same-sex couples in 2003.
In 2004, France, Spain, Sweden, and Taiwan were also considering opening marriage.

PASTOR

As long as we have been here in His image, walking as His creation, there have been men and women who have shared their expression of love with another of the same gender.

TITLE CARD

The 2000 census counted same-sex couples living in 99% of the counties in the United States.

PASTOR

It's high time we put an end to the queer notion that it is sinful to be gay or for gays to come together to be married.

TITLE CARD

The California Supreme Court nullified 4,037 marriages licensed in San Francisco.

MAN

May the Lord bless us in wisdom that we may grow together ever in
love and understanding.

TITLE CARD

In 2004 Virginia passed a law nullifying private contracts made
within a same-sex couple.

PASTOR

With this ring...

MAN

With this ring...

PASTOR

I thee wed...

MAN

I thee wed...

PASTOR

my beloved...

MAN

my beloved...

PASTOR

my best friend.

MAN

my best friend.

MOTHER

My son being gay, it doesn't bother me at all. I looked at him
as a person. I still look at him as a person, not a gay person,
not a straight person. I just look at him as a person.

MAN

We both were crying, you couldn't see it, the tears were freezing
up half-way down.

HUSBAND

I've heard so many people say, they feel different, they feel
closer afterward. It's wonderful, absolutely wonderful.

TITLE CARD

Learn more: www.TyingTheKnotthemovie.com

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