

[OH2149.Stuart_file2_access_clip1.mp3]
[01:10:03]

Stuart: But again... it's still, of course, not okay to be gay.

Halaska: Yup.

Stuart: It's getting a little later into it, so we're hearing about this Don't Ask, Don't Tell proposition. We're hearing this stuff already.

Halaska: Mhm.

Stuart: But the first time, I'm in my dorm. And it's seven, eight o'clock at night, and it's very loud, people are yelling. You come out into the hallway, and you realize you're being told, "If you're female, go down to the first floor." There's more females in the dorm, we almost had half of the second floor, it's three levels. We're told to go down into the dayroom down in the first floor, we don't know what's going on, really. Somebody call in a bomb threat, or something? I go down there, and I see my girlfriends standing outside the dayroom, you know, in their uniforms, and I'm like, "Hey, what's up?" She looks up, she goes, "They're not here for us, they're here for the men." We both look like deer caught in headlights. We knew, I knew then. She knew before she came, and it was put on the detail that they were coming, because of reports of gay men. One was a criminal act, the others were just because they were gay, the other one actually did something that someone said they didn't want done. I don't know – anyways. Then you see them resisting, because two were in the upper level day room. So, they're grabbing them and throwing them down to the ground – when I think about it, I still see it on slow motion. And one of the guys I knew really well. He was actually the one accused of something really bad. He was accused of doing something that the other guy didn't want, said he was drinking and wouldn't have done it. Anyway, he left his shoes under his bed, so he got caught – I don't know if he got caught, if it was consensual, that's not my business. The fact is, someone later said no.

But, they threw him down, and they were just yelling. They weren't just yelling. They had a dozen, half dozen people they were looking to get, he wasn't the only one. I just knew him, and I could see it, and the way they threw him down on the ground was inappropriate. "Faggot" was the nicest word I heard. So, it wasn't done because they were trying to get someone and arrest them. You could feel the anger, the tension. There was two other women in that dayroom with me that I knew darn well were just as scared. But, it was the first time I realized that who I was, was illegal. I mean, I knew it and I thought it, and was being secretive, but that changed that day. I was now afraid, I could lose my job.

[End of OH2149.Stuart_file2_access_clip1.mp3]

