

Female Monologues

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Rebecca Hilliker: I must tell you that when I first heard that you were thinking of coming here, when you first called me, I wanted to say you've just kicked me in the stomach. Why are you doing this to me? But then I thought, that's stupid, you're not doing this to me. And more importantly, I thought about it and decided that we've had so much negative closure on this whole thing. And the students really need to talk. When this happened they started talking about it, and then the media descended and all dialogue stopped. You know, I really love my students because they are free thinkers—and you may not like what they have to say, and you may not like their opinions, because they can be very redneck, but they are honest and they're truthful—so there's an excitement here, there's a dynamic here with my students that I never had when I was in the Midwest or in South Dakota, because there, there was so much Puritanism that dictated how people looked at the world that a lot of times they didn't have an opinion, you couldn't get them to express an opinion. And quite honestly, I'd rather have opinions that I don't like—and have that dynamic in education.

Catherine Connolly: My understanding when I first came here is that I was the first “out” lesbian or gay faculty member on campus. And that was in 1992. So, that wasn't that long ago. Um, I was asked at my interview what my husband did, um, and so I came out then...Do you want a funny story? When you first get here as a new faculty member, there's all these things you have to do. And so, I was in my office and I noticed that this woman called...I was expecting, you know, it was a health-insurance phone call, something like that, and so I called her back. And I could hear her. She's working on her keyboard, clicking away—I said, you know, “This is Catherine Connolly returning your phone call.” And she said, “Oh, it's you.” And I thought, “This is bizarre.” And she said, “I hear—I hear—I hear you're gay. I hear you are.” I was like, “Uh huh.” And she said, “I hear you came as a couple. I'm one too. Not a couple, just a person.” And so—she was—a kind of lesbian who knew I was coming and she wanted to come over and meet me immediately. And later she told me that there were other lesbians that she knew who wouldn't be seen with me. That I would irreparably taint them, that just to be seen with me could be a problem.

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Romaine Patterson: After seeing Fred Phelps protesting at Matthew's funeral and finding out that he was coming to Laramie for the trial of Russell Henderson I decided that someone needed to stand toe to toe with this guy and show the differences. And I think at times like this when we're talking about hatred as much as this nation is right now, that someone needs to show that there is a better way of dealing with that kind of hatred. So our idea is to dress up like angels. And so we have designed an angel outfit—for our wings are HUGE—they're like big ass wings—and there'll be ten to twenty of us that are angels—and what we're gonna do is we're gonna encircle Phelps...and because of our big wings—we are gonna COM-LETE-LY block him. So this big ass band of angels comes in. We don't say a word. We just turn our backs to him and we stand there...And we are a group of people bringing forth a message of peace and love and compassion. And we're calling it "Angel Action." Yeah, this twenty-one-year-old little lesbian is ready to walk the line with him.

Reggie Fluty: When I got there, the first—at first the only thing I could see was partially somebody's feet and I got out of my vehicle and raced over—I seen what appeared to be a young man, thirteen, fourteen years old, because he was so tiny, laying on his back and he was tied to the bottom end of a pole. I did the best I could. The gentleman that was laying on the ground, Matthew Shepard, he was covered in dry blood all over his head. There was dry blood underneath him and he was barely breathing...he was doing the best he could. I was going to breath for him and I couldn't get his mouth open—his mouth wouldn't open for me. He was covered in, like I said, partially dry blood and blood all over his head—the only place that he did not have any blood on him, on his face, was what appeared to be where he had been crying down his face. His head was distorted. You know, it did not look normal—he looked as if he had a real harsh head wound. He was tied to the fence—his hands were thumbs out it what he call a cuffing position—the way we handcuff people. He was bound with a real thin white rope. It went around the bottom of the pole, about four inches up off the ground. His shoes were missing. He was tied extremely tight—so I used my boot knife and tried to slip it between the rope and his wrist—I had to be extremely careful not to harm Matthew any further.

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Sherry Johnson: I really haven't been all that involved, per se. My husband's a highway patrolman, so that's really the only way I've known about it. Now when I first found out, I just thought it was horrible. I just, I can't...Nobody deserves that! I don't care who ya are. But, the other thing that was not brought out—at the same time that happened, that patrolman was killed. And there was nothing. Nothing. They didn't say anything about the old man that killed him. He was driving down the road and he shouldn't have been driving and killed him. It was just a little piece in the paper. And we lost one of our guys. You know, my husband worked with him. This man was brand new on the force. But I mean, here's one of ours, and it was just a little piece in the paper. And a lot of it is my feeling that the media is portraying Matthew Shepard as a saint. And making him as a martyr. And I don't think he was. I don't think he was that pure. Now, I didn't know him, but...there's just so many things about him that I found out that I just, it's scary. You know about his character and spreading AIDS and a few other things. You know, being the kind of person that he was, he was just a barfly, you know. And I think he pushed himself around. I think he flaunted it. Everybody's got problems. But why they exemplified him I don't know. What's the difference if you're gay? A hate crime is a hate crime. If you murder somebody you hate 'em. It has nothing to do with if you're gay or a prostitute or whatever. I don't understand. I don't understand.