

## Coming out more stories

>> Hi, you're listening to KCOU Columbia 88.1.

>> It is 3:00 p.m. on Thursday and this is Inside Out with DJ Shane.

>> And DJ Excellence. We're here for real talk on basic topics facing the LGBTQ and Allied folks of Mizzou. I want to welcome our guest, DJ Dino joining from the LGBTQ resource center.

>> Hello, hello.

>> How are you doing?

>> Good. It is my first time on radio. Hello world.

>> Wow, I would not have known.

>> Oh, I mean I guess I have a voice for it.

>> Yeah, I guess so. And a face, but nobody will ever know.

>> Ever.

>> Those PSA announcements about humans are -- I thought they were really cute. They were pretty cute.

>> They were.

>> Yeah, totally. I know there were a lot of cat and dog announcements. So this week we are continuing with our coming out week stories and whatnot.

We're still doing coming out week at Mizzou right now. We're on our second week. Tonight DJ Shane, you want to talk about tonight?

>> Yeah, tonight there's actually -- give me a second.

>> No problem.

>> There's actually an art show going on in the craft studio which is in Memorial Union in the basement. Artists from all over campus created amazing rainbow-themed artwork to showcase, and I'm pretty sure you can buy some of them, am I right?

>> Yeah.

>> You can buy some of them, they're for sale, and do the proceeds go to --

>> A lot of the proceeds go to us at the MULGBTQ -- not like me us but go to the LGBTQ resource center and then others go to unknown places that I can't talk about, because I don't know what they are.

>> Yeah. And they're also really afford ably priced.

>> Yeah.

>> They're student priced.

>> You know that melted Crayon art that interest people are always talking about? That's what it is like. Very cool.

>> It's very awesome.

>> Very cool. Well, so last week we kind of, like, talked about our coming out stories and, like, you know -- we kind of touched on this last week that, like,

every person LGBTQ status, like, you don't come out once. Sometimes you come out every day, sometimes you come out every other week, sometimes you come out to different communities, sometimes you don't come out. You know, there's all kind of ways of coming out. DJ Shane and I shared our stories with you just a couple of them, and so, you know, we're basically going to tell you more stories.

>> Yes.

>> And then, also, DJ Dino over here.

>> What?

>> He's going to start by telling us his coming out story.

>> Oh, all right. Well, let's see. Where to begin. I guess beginning with my background, my parents are very, very open-minded. My dad and mom are both teachers. My dad is a professor at Missouri state western university up in St. Joe which is sort of roundabout where we live. We live a little bit outside of St. Joe, and they're very open-minded. My dad actually was the faculty sponsor of the LGBTQ group on their campus before I even came out. So there was that. And, yeah, they're very open-minded people. The town around me though called is a van a Missouri, was not necessarily --

>> That sounds small.

>> Yeah, it is. It is really small.

>> That sounds small.

>> Yeah, it is very small and not very open-minded and that was reflected upon me, and I gleaned a lot of information from the people around me as to how they would feel if I were ever gay, which, I mean I am. But back in --

>> What?

>> Wait, what? But back in middle school and high school I was not really -- I didn't accept that about myself because of the people around me. Because, you know, the friends I made, and I made some of the most liberal friends I could in Savannah, Missouri, and the language they used and the things that they would say about homosexuality and LGBTQ people were not good. They were mean. And so I felt if I ever came out or if I was ever gay that they would -- that I would lose all of my friends. And I'm somebody who relies a lot on their friends. And so rather than just accept it for myself and come out, I tried to tamp it all down and that ended up making me try to date girls for two-and-a-half years at a time in high school. And that didn't --

>> Wow.

>> That wasn't good, obviously, because, I mean the first one I think I kissed her once in two-and-a-half years and then the second one I dated senior year for eight months and, yeah, we just -- there wasn't very much chemistry there. But then I came to Mizzou, and Mizzou was very welcoming and very open and

very awesome, as you all know or should know. I feel like everybody should know that.

>> Yeah, I agree.

>> I hope so.

>> Yeah. Or at least it was compared to my town. I know it's not compared to some other places, but it definitely was compared to little Savannah, Missouri up there.

>> Absolutely.

>> And so, yeah, freshman year here I was chilling up in the hatch in my dorm.

>> What?

>> Hatch nasty, oh, yeah. And we made friends there -- or I made friends there.

>> It is really, really easy to make friends in the dorm environment.

>> It really is. I would recommend dorm life to everybody for at least one year. I'm not in the dorm right now. I would never do it for another year because it was just -- it was not for me. But making friends was because I love making friends.

>> Yes.

>> And so coming out to them was really difficult for me.

>> Yes.

>> Because I sort of did it -- it came up in conversation at one point in time, and we were all in the dorm room and I accidentally said something, and I sort of came out to eight people at a time, and myself, because until then -- I knew it deep down but I didn't really say it to myself.

>> Right.

>> And that ended in a lot of tears, because I thought they would not accept me, and I was freaking out. But I mean every single one of them just, like, gave me a hug and said it would be okay and that I was still their friend and still awesome. That made me cry more because I was so happy. So, yeah, that's sort of my story.

>> That's such a great, positive coming out story.

>> I know. I feel really lucky.

>> Yeah. And you know it's not the case for everybody, but college is -- I mean it is kind of just like the primo place to come out as any identity gender or sexuality. It's like your parents aren't here, if that's an issue. It isn't for everyone. You get to choose new friends and stuff like that. I mean that makes a huge difference, like, you know when you come from high school, like, and you come from, like, a small town, for example, Savannah, Missouri, you know, you have a small population of people to choose to be your friend. And like you said, you were, like, fishing and finding the liberals and you were

still not ready. And, you know, we talk about, like, liberal conservative right now and what we really mean is, like, we're speaking mostly about, like, social liberties.

>> Yeah, accepting or unaccepting.

>> Yeah, accepting LGBTQ. You can be a conservative republican.

>> Right. I have a few conservative friends.

>> Yeah. So, whatever, no hate thrown out there. We love everybody, you know, except our haters. Actually, you know what, we love our haters.

>> We love our haters, too.

>> We love our haters.

>> We do. We just wish they wouldn't hate us.

>> Yeah, that is so perfectly put, DJDino.

>> Thank you, DJ Excellence.

>> I think college is the perfect place to explore what you want to do and what you want to be and any identity you want to claim. Everybody else is there the same age as you figuring everything else out, too. It is just an open place to ask questions. It is an open place to have meaningful conversation. I mean you don't -- and a lot of places in high school you don't get those all the time. You get the -- you get there on some aspects.

>> No, you don't.

>> You sure don't.

>> But, I mean, I know coming to Mizzou you just have more intelligent conversations and you learn a lot more and you educate yourself more. People are more open to being honest about who they are, who they want to explore and figure out who they want to be. I don't know.

>> Definitely.

>> It is a great atmosphere to be in. There is nothing like it and only four years of it. Everybody enjoy it, please.

>> Take advantage.

>> There's a lot of trial and error in college. Like you said, everybody is trying new things. Everybody is experimenting with new things in a lot of different capacities, so it is also kind of this time where you're thrown in, especially at Mizzou, there's like, what, like 30,000 incoming freshmen? I don't know the number.

>> There's so many.

>> I think there's 30,000 in the school together.

>> I don't know. There are thousands.

>> There are 4 million people at Mizzou. No, don't quote us. There's a ton of people here.

>> All of the people.

>> It kind of gives you one of those moments of, like, just being, like, okay, and when I come out and somebody else just got to college and they, like, don't know, like, how their mini refrigerator works and why it melted ice all over the floor. They're like okay you're gay, cool, good, I'm happy for you. Happy you're happy. You just start to realize, like, you know, it is a big deal.

Coming out is a big deal, you know. It is showing, like, that you're proud of who you are, of your identity and all that but it also, I think, coming to a place like Mizzou you just realize, like, you're one of a lot and that doesn't make you less special, but it just -- I don't know. You kind of just start to get the feeling that, like, okay I'm important but, like, this is not going to, like, shatter the universe of my roommate or my best friend or whoever.

>> Well, I think that's a big thing in the acceptance process. That, like your little -- it is not a little identity but your identity isn't going to completely shatter somebody else's life or affect them to the point.

>> Precisely.

>> I mean most people. Talk in most cases. Normally your identity is your identity and around college most people are like cool, you're figuring out what sexuality you are. I'm figuring out how to live on my own and make Ramen in the microwave.

>> I put bleach in the darks!

>> If in college you are finding that people aren't, you know, accepting and are like, hey, that's not cool for you to be gay, find different people to hang out with.

>> Absolutely.

>> There's 30,000 people.

>> So many people.

>> No, it is so true.

>> If you can't find those people, come to the resource center.

>> Yes.

>> Because we're awesome.

>> We are awesome.

>> Bottom of the student center.

>> Both of you weren't there, so, on you.

>> I have a good excuse.

>> Yeah, you do. But the drag show last night was insane.

>> What I saw of it --

>> Insane.

>> What I saw of it was amazing.

>> It was in The Shack I like that environment the club feel sitting at tables and have refreshment asen we're going to interact with everybody. Not military

aisle form. Leaves more room for interaction which is what drag is pushing.

>> It is, like you said, the club format where traditionally drag is done.

>> The audience, the performers, everyone was totally vibe in that place.

>> I heard you kicked it.

>> It was so much fun.

>> What's your drag name?

>> Shane styles.

>> All right.

>> Shane was rocking a gold tie and gold sparkly suspenders and a suit. Oh, God, it was a good time.

>> Dressed to impress.

>> Yes. That's awesome.

>> Shout out to Dick van Dyke my duet partner. We were the cowboys in town.

>> Cowboys came to town.

>> I heard you killed with it Dick van Dyke.

>> Choreographed dance is, I think, always a good idea and I'm pretty sure Shane styles and what?

>> Dick van Dyke.

>> Brought the house town.

>> Personally, I can't think of a time where choreograph dance isn't appropriate.

>> Absolutely, yeah. There's a huge, like, movement now to publicly dance with strangers all the time.

>> Flash mob stuff in the malls. I think it would be so hard to dance on an escalator.

>> Can we organize one of those?

>> Do a --

>> Resource center flash mob drag flash mob.

>> DJ Dino I'm picking up what you are saying.

>> Are you catching what I'm spinning at you?

>> Yes, I am. Speaking of -- I just thought of another coming out story. I was in a sorority in undergrad in Chi Omega. I was in it for two-and-a-half years or so and I left for -- I don't even remember why I left. I think I got too busy with my major and stuff. It wasn't anything happened after I came out. So basically, like, the first two years I'm there I was not out. I knew I was gay, but I, like, had absolutely no idea how to go about telling any of these people that I was gay. And, like, I even had some of my closest friends who are still some of my closest friends, like, and they were -- I knew they would be fine. Like how you were talking about your hatch peeps. You knew it was going to be fine

but for whatever, it is just really hard to do. So I didn't come out, didn't come out, and so finally my junior year -- I went to camp for the summer and I was, like, really, really depressed my sophomore year second semester. Because it all culminated. It had come to a head. It was becoming just unbearable the weight upon me to, like -- not even to come out to other people but to come out to myself. I had told myself but I was like no, no, no, no, no and shoved it back down and that just felt so awful. And I was -- you know, I was just in this really bad place. I go to camp in Canada, I was a camp counselor and I basically spent three months outside on islands in Canada. That gives you a lot of time to think. There's no electricity or anything.

>> God, I would love to do that.

>> I mean it was insane how awesome it was. But I met all these people that were so open and cool and, like, one of the girls there identified as bisexual. As soon as I heard that I was, like -- my dar was up. I clung to her. I was immediately just, like, totally enamored by her. He was totally in love with the idea this was a woman who sometimes likes other woman. I maybe had met one other lesbian but I was afraid to please lesbian because it is obvious I'm a lesbian now.

>> You try to keep a wide berth from other lesbians. Don't tell them about me.

>> This is my experience -- I totally interrupted you.

>> Go. We've got time.

>> I was in sixth grade and a senior in high school shout out to Kelsey doing awesome social work in Akron Ohio. She was basketball star, awesome. She took me under her wing and so crazy how older lesbians can pick out the gay-dar thing. I'm going to be your friend and be there for you all the time. We still talk to this day. She is a lot older than I am, but she's so awesome. When you meet someone like that. She's like -- we never really talked about it until 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade and she was like you know that I like girls, right? I was like oh, my God. Just like you. Part of me I am infatuated being friends with that person because I want to understand, you are like me, but part of you is like whenever I'm seen with you people are just going to know. It takes time to get to that acceptance point.

>> Absolutely.

>> For sure.

>> God, I remember that like it was yesterday.

>> Yeah, it is funny. A lot of my ally friends I was like aren't you worried to be seen with me? I was projecting on them the stuff I had. I was, like, people are going to think you're gay. And they're like, I don't care. I was like oh, cool. Also, it was just like they weren't gay, so they weren't worried about

being, you know, whatever.

>> How awkward was it being in the locker room in high school before you were out.

>> Yeah.

>> Because, I don't know, me, personally, I've always kind of looked gay and people are like, Sarah, when are you going to come out? Shut up. Stop, whatever. Yeah, you guys were right, just letting you know, if you didn't know already. But being in the locker room was -- you would force yourself. Since you knew what you were thinking --

>> Don't look, don't look. If they see me look, they'll know.

>> Everyone is going to know I'm gay because I looked at someone putting on shorts.

>> Eyes to the floor at all times.

>> Yes. And that's a safety thing, too.

>> Totally.

>> It can be.

>> Definitely. I was just thinking about that moments where you're, like, if I do this, people are going to know. Like that moment when I bought cargo shorts at American Eagle. Different conversation.

>> It doesn't have to be.

>> When you first come out you are exploring clothes and you feel like you want to dress the way you always want to dress. This isn't just for Butch lesbians talking about my experience.

>> Totally.

>> You get excited about that.

>> Absolutely.

>> I'm not afraid to wear what I want to wear.

>> And feel comfortable.

>> It is a lot of things.

>> That's like my sorority. So I meet this girl, totally enamored. She is my girlfriend in a couple weeks. We're at camp. I'm completely in love with her, and in retrospect I wasn't in love. I was so in love being in love with a girl. I totally got it. I was 20 -- 19 or 20, and I was having, like, the feelings of, like, a 11-year-old. Oh, my God, I never stopped thinking about her. From that point on, all my fear about coming out kind of evaporated. I mean it was still scary but it was just, like -- it kind of went for me that I have proof now and somebody will like me.

>> Exactly.

>> That really helped me. It was hugely validating.

>> That you're not going to be alone. Being the token queer is a scary thing at

the beginning.

>> Exactly.

>> Then you learn to love it.

>> That's true.

>> But definitely coming out in that first experience you're, like, who in the hell is going to look at me the same way.

>> Exactly.

>> Everyone is going to look at me and say gay, gay, gay, gay, gay.

>> And some people do.

>> Yeah.

>> But that's their own trip. You know, like, yes, you are gay. That is one piece of you. And there are a million other slices.

>> I had a friend my freshman year last year in my dorm who was just, like, definitely that person. She wasn't against it or anything but all she wanted to talk about, so you're gay. How do you do this? What happens when you go here? Literally every conversation she comes down to my room, I had another question for you. Like, when you're gay -- I'm like, dude, that's not all that I am.

>> Right.

>> I play guitar.

>> Slash I'm not a gay dictionary.

>> I'm still learning things. I just learned the whole queer umbrella term last year.

>> Right.

>> I'm so obsessed with it.

>> Yeah, same.

>> Absolutely.

>> I love being queer. It's awesome.

>> Totally. I love being queer, too. So then that all happens. I'm cool with being out. I tell people. I'm, like -- some people find out. I remember I walked into this party one time and I heard before I went that everyone knew. And they were, like, friends I had had for a while but they weren't, like, best friends. They were extended group or whatever. And I walked in and I remember, like, everyone kind of stopped. It was, for real, almost like a movie. Everyone kind of stopped and looked at me. Like, what's she going to do? Do you know what I mean?

>> Uh-huh.

>> I was like what's up? Beep, beep, beep. Insert whatever you want to think. And, you know, then everybody is like, you know, it's mimi.

>> In a, I'm still the same weirdo you were friends with 20 minutes ago. As far

as.

>>> Sorority goes just incredibly accepting.

>> Which is not what most people think.

>> Exactly. I'm talking about sororities. I don't know fraternity men's experiences.

>> And you only know your experience.

>> Absolutely and my specific point in time.

>> I remember when you told me that story the first time, I was like this is such a good thing to hear.

>> Yeah. It is unexpected. Let's be real. We're going to go to break.

Thank you for joining us. This is KCOU 88.1. You are listening to Inside Out. We will be back with you in a heartbeat.

>> That artist you just listened to didn't appear out of thin air. Every band, rapper and solo act has a story and I'm here to tell it. Hi, my name is Alex Smith, and I host Making The Band and Thursdays from 10:00 p.m. to midnight. Every show features one artist telling their story from the ground up with archived interview, trivia and guest commentary. And, of course, the music. Making The Band Thursdays at 10:00 p.m.

>>> it is the bottom of the hour and here's what's making news in the world of sports. It's 3:30 at the KCOU sports deck. As of today Mizzou and Illinois officials got together and announced that the annual basketball game will remain at the Scott Trade Center. The Butt Light bragging rights game has extended until at least 2017. Mizzou starts out in the pre-season polls ranked 17<sup>th</sup> in the nation. Catch the Tigers battling the Illini December 22 at 5:00 p.m. on ESPN. Mizzou football is off this week preparing for the football game against the 1-6 Kentucky Wildcats. Mizzou and Kentucky are looking for their first S.E.C. victory. Catch this game next Saturday at 11:00 a.m. on ESPN-U. Last night the St. Louis Cardinals hosted the San Francisco Giants in game three of the series. It was tied 1-1. The Cards were down early but Matt Carpenter came in and hit a two-run home run to put the Cardinals on top. In the 7th inning rain delayed play 3 hours 17 minutes. St. Louis took the victory giving them lead in the series 2-1. Game 4 is tonight at 7:00 p.m. This Sunday the 3-3 St. Louis Rams take on the Green Bay Packers in the Edward Jones dome. The Rams look to get offense going in this year. They are 27<sup>th</sup> in passing yards and 16<sup>th</sup> in rushing yards this season. Don't overlook Sam Bradford and Rams offense as they are due to have a breakout game. As for the Kansas City Chiefs they have a bye this week and play the Oakland Raiders October 28. The chiefs look to get their second win against the struggling Raiders. For the latest news and sports check out KCOU.FM.

>>> Friday, October 19, KCOU presents based Drum Of Debt at Mojo with Hot

Lunch and Monte carlos. Doors open at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the Blue Note Box Office for student charge. For more information on this and upcoming shows, check out Mojosolumbia.com and KCOUFM. You are listening to KCOU Columbia.

>>> welcome back. You're listen to go KCOU Columbia 88.1. This is Inside Out with DJ Excellence.

>> DJ Shane.

>> And DJ Dino.

>> We are back and talking about coming out issues. Kind of basically talking to each other and telling each other stories.

>> Which is a lot of fun.

>> Yes.

>> Mimi was talking about -- DJ Excellence, my bad.

>> No prob.

>> DJ Excellence was talking about how she found that person -- it just made her feel more comfortable to come out. We have a little reaction sheet in front of us and I'm definitely -- like, I see some of these and there are some that describe it perfectly. Like, why didn't you tell me sooner? And I called it. This explains everything. One of the other ones I get a lot is, let's get you a girlfriend. I don't know why people are so obsessed with getting me a date. But, you know --

>> There are worse things.

>> There are worse things to worry about and complain about. I find it very funny.

>> That is funny.

>> That kind of leads me into I hear that DJ.

Dino is kind of seeing someone.

>> Yeah, do you want to tell us your first -- I don't know what you call it. What do you call it?

>> It was a date. There's a guy, obviously.

>> Obviously.

>> Yeah, last weekend we went on our first date and sort of talking and it is kind of awesome. But, yeah, we were on our first date last week. That was my first public date with a boy ever.

>> Yeah. What was that like?

>> That was, like, awesome it was it was like.

>> That's a totally coming out experience.

>> Oh, no, it really is. Yeah, we went to a restaurant, then we went and saw "Sin dister."

>> Is that a scary movie?

>> Yeah.

>> Did you hold hands?

>> We did hold hands. That was one thing. We didn't hold hands on the way into the theater. We did hold hands on the way back out and just the reactions of people just standing by was completely different. Like, you get so many more stares.

>> Oh, definitely.

>> And you get, like, I don't know how to describe it. I was looking around, I'm like, guys, it's not a big issue. I'm just holding this guy's hand.

>> No doubt.

>> Stop. Just stop.

>> Stop staring at me.

>> It's not -- nothing is going to, you know, spontaneously combust here. We're all safe.

>> It was, like, yesterday -- yesterday was awesome but difficult in so many ways in the fact that the drag show was last night which was, again, so incredible. But I had two exams two hours before it.

>> Oh, dang.

>> I made the choice to just dress in drag all day because it was just going to be faster.

>> Because why not?

>> Yeah, and it is fun. But the looks that I got and the stares that I got. People were just like -- I heard a couple comments walking by speakers, what is that?

>> Yeah.

>> What is that wearing? Is that real?

>> Yeah.

>> You get those stares. It is like a coming out experience all the time. Like I'm just here not even coming out as a sexual identity.

>> Gender identity.

>> It is just me wearing different things and you have to make some assumption and stare. Why do you wonder all the time?

>> Right. No, totally. It was funny. I was in the line at White Castle the other day -- I love White Castle. So I'm going through and the person who gave me my food was, like, oh, do you want any ketchup, sir? And then her eyes got huge -- or their eyes got huge. And they were like, Ma'am, Sir?

>> No, that did not happen.

>> It happens a lot kind of it. It was funny. I've been prepping on how to respond to that. I don't want to, like, make people feel weird because, like, I don't care. And then, like, I also don't want to, like, be on a pulpit and make

people feel bad. So I was just like no, that's cool. It's whatever. And, like, she was just, like, oh, okay. Here's your soda.

>> Here's your food.

>> Here's your food.

>> Cheeseburgers. White Castle cheeseburgers.

>> Cheese fries, too.

>> Stop. So hungry. It is almost dinnertime. I haven't eaten yet.

>> Chipotle.

>> Stop. Don't talk about Chipotle. We can't bring that up on air. Too long of a discussion.

>> We are now going to each state our own personally Chipotle orders. I'm kidding.

>> Only a little bit though.

>> I can relate to DJ Excellence on the fact when you walk into a department store or food place or anywhere where people are supposed to treat you respectfully and have manners, Ma'am, Sir.

>> Public.

>> Exactly. You walk into a store and people get real anxious. You can see them, I'm supposed to greet them. What do I call them?

>> Smam.

>> I like that.

>> I do, too.

>> They kind of follow you into the department where you are going to shop, see where you are going to go and then they're like, sir, if I'm in the clothing department. And then I turn around and bat my eyes and do my little woman smile, I guess.

>> All right.

>> Oh, Ma'am. It is just really funny just to see how anxious people get. I have been working on my reaction to that, too. I don't care either. And you don't want to get into the whole spiel of pronouns but you want people to feel comfortable with what they call you.

>> Exactly. And with that being said some people do care what their gender is. DJ Shane and I, not so much. But, you know, like there are people who are transgressing gender all the time out there or very much identify as one gender. And so, like, again kind of the protocol for that is, like, if you say Sir and they're like it's Ma'am, then be, like, you know, you can do something as simple as like oh, I apologize. How can I help you? You don't want to be like oh, my God! Well, because of this -- I thought were you this. You know, that is really awkward.

>> Don't make a big deal.

>> Yeah.

>> Just let it be, kind of.

>> Totally.

>> Let it be, let it be. I can't sing.

>> You can, actually.

>> Thank you.

>> I want to make an announcement about tomorrow is Inner Sex Awareness Day. At 12:00 at MULGBTQ Resource Center, we are going to be joined by biological sciences professor Miriam Gollom for a lunchtime program discussing the basics of inner sex identities and issues. Lunch is going to be provided for the first 25. Get there at noon, maybe a little early, get your spot. It is going to be an incredible, incredibly, like, entertaining and also informative lunch speaker special. You know, get your free food, you know.

>> Yeah.

>> Free food is what's up. Money doesn't grow on trees.

>> No, it doesn't.

>> Indeed.

>> I guess it depends what kind of tree you are.

>> Oh, yeah. No dollar bills hanging off leaves.

>> No dollar bills.

>> I wish.

>> Oh, me too.

>> That would be great.

>> So we were talking about some other reactions you can get when you do come out, and, you know, like, as far as, like, how it can go with reactions is, like, how you react is fine. Like, if you're an ally or maybe not an ally but a person of the heterosexual persuasion. I think something you can do if you are trying to move more into that ally status, if someone comes out to you, you know, say thank you is first a great thing to say. They've just entrusted you with, like, a really big piece of information. Don't go overboard.

>> Oh, thank you. I'm so appreciative that you shared with me. Thank you.

>> Yes, just be normal and whatever that is to you. And by normal, I mean genuine to you. So that reaction is, you know, is what we want to do.

>> The best reaction I ever got was I told one of my best friends from high school, and she was just, like, okay.

>> Just simple. Simplicity is your best friend.

>> And that was it.

>> In most cases.

>> We were at the Sonic drive-through having Lime-Aids and discussing whether we wanted to get something to eat. I told her, I'm like, I'm gay. She

was like okay. So, do you want mozzarella sticks or what?

>> Mozzarella sticks.

>> Actually, I do.

>> On this special occasion, I say yes.

>> Yes, I do.

>> Last week I talked a little bit about my experience coming out after being a very, very intense member in the Southern Baptist community and one of my good friends that goes here shout out to Steph and I was first coming out and dating this girl Tris, this and I need to tell people but all my friends go to church. How do I tell them? We were sitting -- this church I went to had this huge gym and we had an open gym after whatever -- what was it called -- I don't know, student youth group, The Rock. We were sitting there, she was sitting on the counter and I had a dodge ball in my hand. We were playing dodge ball. I walked up to her Steph I'm dating Trish. I was expecting a bad reaction. She was like I kind of already knew. I said you're okay with it? Yeah, I'm fine with it. It was one of those reactions you are expecting and preparing for the worse and sitting there, like, I'm totally going to get bombarded with sin, and then you see the friendship you guys have is stronger than the belief system.

>> The expected belief system.

>> Thank you.

>> Exactly. My best friend from childhood was first grade wad Jenny Watson, shout out to Jenny Watson out on the west coast tagging fish in the ocean.

>> Such a cool job.

>> Yeah, she's awesome. I remember Jenny and I, like, growing up, had just like gay bashed. I don't even know why. We just did. We were really young, too. We didn't gay bash people. We would say that's so gay, oh, that's so gross when we would see it different places, whatever. And we want do it, like, 24/7 but it was something we did.

>> Hey, Mim- i want to go gay bashing tonight.

>> What are you doing at 3:00.

>> Let's talk about how much we hate gay people.

>> And so --

>> Favorite pasttime.

>> Best ever.

>> She was, like and is -- I haven't seen her in probably two years and before that four years. We grew up together, we rode bikes every summer, like, 4,000 miles, that's a lie, again, with my numbers. But, like, we just rode everywhere and we just hung out all the time and had sleepovers and whatever. So, you know, when I finally came out, I was like oh, my God. I have to tell Jenny. She's going to hate me. I already know how she feels

about it, because we would talk about it and she thinks it is disgusting, you know. And I was like, you know -- I don't even know, like, why, like, I finally worked up the courage to do it. She was the last person I came out to, like, I think before my parents. You know, like of my friends. And I remember I called her. I was sitting on my porch and I called her and I just, like, we talked for a little bit. She's telling me random stuff and we're just like laughing and then I was, like, well, I should probably tell you that I'm gay. And she was like oh, cool. Are you happy, Mimi? And I was, like, I'm sorry, what? I was like who is this?

>> Excuse me?

>> Did I dial the right number? Who have I been talking to the last hour?

>> Yeah. It was just like that. She's not really that cheery of a person but okay. It was her version of that. It was probably more like oh, cool, dude. But, like, for her and, like, for her tone of voice it was the cheeriest stuff I had ever heard. It was awesome. And as far as our friendship goes, we now get to be friends the rest of our lives because she didn't think it was weird and whatever. And I love you. Hi, Jenny.

>> Speaking of that, who were the last people you told? That's interesting.

>> Good question.

>> Now I'm going to have to think.

>> Mine were my parents.

>> I have been out for such a long time. When I think about it it is not that long of a time. But to me --

>> It feels like you have been out your entire life. But, like, I've been out for a year.

>> Four years.

>> I've been out seven.

>> I have been out for one year.

>> I've been out seven, I've been out four. I win.

>> I have been out one year and one month.

>> One year and one glorious month.

>> Yes.

>> You totally count at the beginning, too. I remember -- this is kind of funny. When I was a Christian, you have Christian birthdays when you were saved. Stop.

>> I'm not laughing at you. I was raised Catholic. This is very different kind of thing. When I hear these words.

>> Christian over here.

>> I hear these words and I'm like that's so funny.

>> Anniversary when you were saved. Wait, what?

>> Tell us the date of your birth.  
>> December 13, 2007. And I remember I came out --  
>> Remarkable grasp of English for being born then.  
>> Yes.  
>> My coming out anniversary is October 14, 2009. So I have a really good memory.  
>> Yeah, you do.  
>> But I remember that I was celebrating, like, my Christian birthday and the first year I came out and my coming out birthday and it was December 13 of that year. I was like am I still celebrating this? Am I still reborn and saved. So many anniversaries and I'm not even married.  
>> That's impressive. Do you still celebrate it?  
>> The Christian birthday, no.  
>> No.  
>> No, no.  
>> Because it is not the accepting one.  
>> It is not the accepting one. That doesn't mean I'm not spiritual or whatever U' like a sponge. I just want people to talk to me.  
>> The human connection.  
>> I just like intelligent conversation about it. So, that's all, whatever.  
>> Shout out to Hasan.  
>> Our wonderful QPAC leader giving waves outside the studio.  
>> He is cute. If you haven't heard his queer monologue.  
>> It is amazing.  
>> You will sit there with your eyes wide open and be, like, what have I been listen to go? This is beautiful.  
>> My mind just blew up in an awesome way.  
>> Yeah, it is kind of an explosion. But anyway.  
>> Oh, anniversaries.  
>> Who was the last person you came out to?  
>> The last person I told. I mean, like, as in like the big picture?  
>> Yeah, like who knew you before you came out? You come out to people every day.  
>> Yeah, this is very true. Just by, like, walking or how you talk or whatever.  
>> Totally.  
>> I would have to say, I think -- wow, this was a long time ago. Big picturewise I think it was my family this summer. I had a family reunion, and it was the first time I have seen a lot of extended family. I mean not long, long periods of time. I mean Facebook nowadays, Sarah cut her hair. Know what that means. But they came in town this summer for golf and whatever

and -- because that's what my family does at family reunions.

>> Did you say golf?

>> Golf. Love to golf.

>> Can I come to your family reunions?

>> If you teach me how to be a better golfer, you can come.

>> DJ Excellence wants to go.

>> I'm serious. Let's go golfing. Let's talk about this later.

>> I'm like golf?

>> We were sitting there and I wasn't, like, I'm gay. We had the conversation so who are you dating? I'm like no one. No boys? No boys. They gave me this smirk. This is going to be the situation. Next family reunion we are going to take to you Minnesota and get you that girlfriend. It wasn't really a verbal come out but, you know, that was the last time I've told someone and had the whole coming out conversation. What type of girls do you like, whatever? Whatever, whatever. They were, like, let's take you to Minnesota.

>> Let's take you to Minnesota. Best reaction.

>> I didn't know there were cute girls in Minnesota.

>> Oh, yeah. There's tons.

>> Minnesota is a fantastic place. Can I just say that? I have an uncle who lives in St. Paul, maybe Minneapolis I can't remember.

>> Twin City.

>> I love it.

>> Tons of lesbians and in Wisconsin. Probably tons of lesbians in every state but they get per square footage in those states.

>> Can that be a census thing, lesbians per square foot?

>> I think there are.

>> There has got to be some type of map. You know some queer person who is tech savvy, I'm going to figure out how many people identify.

>> The city of the population.

>> Yes.

>> And from that you could do per square footage of lesbians.

>> This blew my mind. I don't know if you guys have ever seen the documentary "Religiless" which is hilarious.

>> I haven't.

>> Oh, it's so funny.

>> It's so funny.

>> I'm not that big of a fan of Bill Meyer but that movie is fantastic.

>> Where was I going with this? Shoot.

>> That's all right. I will tell my coming out story. Thinking about it this was

last week. I was sitting at my parents' house and my grandma was over and I've come out to my grandma but she's older and she used to drink a bunch and can't remember anything, not in a sad way but in a way old people can drink. She had nine kids. Drink, lady. If you want to be drunk, cool.

>> She has permission from the world.

>> Yes. You're, like, 80 plus. Do what you do, girl. But, like, she knows I'm gay. All my aunts and uncles know I'm gay. It's a non-issue. But it was funny. The other day I didn't really come out but she was just like, oh, are you and your friend moving back to St. Louis? And I was just, like -- and you have that split second like -- you're like do I correct this person, whoever it is, do I correct them? Is it worth it? Do I want to? Blah, blah, blah. How do I feel today? And then you add to that it's my grandma, it's blah, blah, blah. I already came out to you. Why is this happening again? And I think the fact is that sometimes with people you have to come out a bunch of times.

>> Oh, for sure.

>> For her, I think it is semantics like language. What do I call her girlfriend again? She couldn't remember girlfriend, but she knows we're friends, so I'll call her her friend. So I was just like oh, grandma, yeah. My girlfriend and I are moving. So I didn't correct her, I just said -- replaced her friend with girlfriend. She was like okay, honey. Why don't you fill me up another Manhattan and that was it.

>> Awesome.

>> I guess about a week ago was my coming out to someone I would consider big pictures.

>> Grandmas are so cute.

>> They are cute. If they're cute. Sometimes they can be mean. I don't have a mean grandma.

>> I have cute grandparents. I love them.

>> That's awesome.

>> Shout out. So many shout outs.

>> So many.

>> I came out to my friends from high school last -- well, that's kind of a lie because, um, my brother got married this summer -- this past summer and he -- so we had all of our relatives in town, of course. So we were in a big room and talking and I let something slip about being gay while my grandma was in there. And she -- I don't -- like, right now it has been months and I still don't know if she and my grandpa know and it's weird. I don't know what's going on with that. But they're very conservative and I'm a little bit scared of telling them. But that time will come. Anyway, aside from them, the last people I told were the people from my high school who I was always so scared

of telling back in high school, and they were mostly fine with it, which surprised me, you know.

>> It is always like a pleasant surprise when a few people that you think will never have a positive reaction actually end up completely defying what you thought.

>> I mean I think I lost --

>> It is very, very nice.

>> I lost, like, two Facebook friends over the whole issue out of, like --

>> Facebook friends.

>> Facebook friends. And one was that I had never, ever talked to and the other one, like, I had met summer camp of freshman year and we sometimes, like, exchanged e-mails about, like, political stuff.

>> Right.

>> I thought he was pretty liberal but then he de-friended me over the gay issue. Okay, whatever.

>> Peace.

>> Later.

>> Absolutely.

>> But, yeah, mine was pretty good. But then the grandparents situation, it's up in the air.

>> It is so awkward.

>> It is. It is really awkward.

>> Didn't we talk about it a little bit last week. Coming out on your own, there's certain situations where you feel like you can come out and certain situations where you can't. That's totally valid. Everybody has their own process coming out and who and who they can't come out to and grandparents I've noticed are a big, controversial idea in that spectrum. People are like they're from a generation where they don't understand. Is it worth it? They're old. Is it worth telling them before they pass away? Is that something that I would want them to know and think about me before they die?

>> Right.

>> Don't only think about them dying. It is a valid question. What do you want your relationship to be like them for the last few years.

>> When I came out to my mom, this was years ago, but, like -- she was, like, okay. I told all my sisters and brothers and you're not allowed to tell your grandma. And I was, like oh, okay. And for a couple years that was kind of where it was. And, like, we come from a huge family. So, like, Christmas, Thanksgiving, you know, so there's nine aunts and uncles and then there's, like, again, with the numbers but maybe 20 to 30 to 40 cousins that I have.

>> What?

>> So Christmas is, like, cra-y and I walk up to grandma and give her a kiss and say Merry Christmas grandma and that's my second with grandma because it is a huge family. So for a long time I was, like, does it even matter? Is it important to me? Those are questions you get to ask yourself.

>> Yeah.

>> For a while, like, it was, like, no, I don't care. But then once I was out to everyone and, like, any time I realize I have to bite my tongue, I'm, like, nope, don't want to do that. And so that's when I was, like, okay, I'm going to come out to my grandma. We would be sitting around and somebody would ask me a question and I would have to think, am I going to censor my speech right here because grandma is, like, sitting a couple seats down and is going to hear? And it was like, no. I don't want to. I'm a grown person.

>> I'm a grown person.

>> I am. And so I was, like, grandma, I'm gay. And she was like, what? I don't know, she said something grandmay.

>> That's as far as it goes.

>> Oh, nothing.

>> I remember my mom's parents are super, super liberal. My grandpa is a priest and I remember when I came out and got kicked out of the church, he invited me over for dinner. And he was, like, Sarah, I would like to have a discussion with you as I pray before this meal. I want to ask you, do you know that you're not sinning? And I was like, I mean, I don't really know. I just got kicked out of everything I believe in. And he's like well, you're not and they're full of a bunch of bunk and you are just fine the way you are. Unfortunately, my grandma had passed before this point.

>> That's really awesome. Sorry. Continue. But that's so cool.

>> My grandma had passed at this point. But she was a super, super big advocate for LGBTQ rights. Always a cute little woman in the wheelchair at the LGBTQ church booth at Pride and sitting there and doing all of these cute things and just being super, super supportive. God, I wish I would have been able to tell her. But, I mean, that side of my family, they're awesome about it. They're all like let's put a sign in the front yard that says my niece is gay or my granddaughter is gay, all about that. My dad's side, they're cool. I don't ever remember -- I'm trying to think if I came out to them. There was definitely a time I cut my hair and started wearing the type of clothes I wanted to wear. I think they could tell. I don't know if we sat down and had a conversation. I think I had my first girlfriend and I was like grandma, would you be cool if I brought my girlfriend to dinner? And she's like wait, what? And I was, like, my girlfriend, would that be okay? And she's like, I think that would be okay.

I think I will have enough turkey. I was like okay, guess that's fine.

>> Turkey, check. Yeah, I was actually -- I was thinking of another coming out story I have. This was the first time I told a human being, besides, like, my brain and, like, my dog what I told last week. I was probably 18 or 19 -- I think 18, yeah. And I had gone to -- I was going to a psychiatrist because I had untreated ADHD which when you enter college environment can be really difficult. So I was, like, you know, I was there. I'm, like, feeling very uncomfortable, again, with the whole thing. Like is he going to find me out, kind of thing. Like he can see in people's heads. I didn't know what psychiatrists did. And so I'm sitting there and he's doing, the, like, intake form. Can you pay attention in class? Nope. Can you read? Not really. And all this stuff. And so, like -- anyway, so he's like -- so he's this sweet, older Equadorian man and I really like them. So he's like, are you a lesbian? And I'm like -- and I looked at him and I was like yes. And he was like do you know why I ask you this? And I'm like, no. He's like I ask this of everyone. This is not a big deal. You don't feel bad. And he just goes on.

>> You don't feel bad. I feel like that's the best prescription for anybody.

>> Just so you know this is not an Equadorian accent and I don't know what I was doing.

>> I liked it. I did.

>> You get my drift. A sweet older man and he just was like this is nothing wrong with this. This you will not worry about. I think it is Russian I'm doing.

>> That's possible. I'm bad with accents.

>> In you will not worry about.

>> It was so cool, especially to hear it with somebody with that kind of weight. Your psychiatrist, you have the deed to know if people are crazy or not, not that I'm calling people crazy, but you know what I mean. And you're, like, giving me the rubber stamp of you're okay. Nothing wrong with you and that really helped. And I still didn't come out for two more years but it did help.

>> No, I remember -- I know we are getting short on time and try to make this as short as possible. I remember the first time I ever got confronted with being gay. I was in Third Grade. Like, I didn't know what any of that meant, but I remember -- this was when AOL got popular and you could play chess with different people on the internet and whatever. It was really stupid. This is really, really stupid. But you could validate your gender with those face icons backwards hat, spikey hair, whatever. I was on chess one night and I was like I think I should look like this and I picked a guy with short, blond spikey hair and talking to girls and the male privilege you have in that and you find out how you feel and other people -- what type of gender.

>> How they react to you.

>> Exactly. I remember telling some friends at school. I talked to this girl online last night. It was fun, we had a good time. I beat her in chess. And I didn't really think anything of it. And I remember the next day some of my really close friends wouldn't even talk to me. And I was, like, what's going on? I got called into the principal's office.

>> Oh, God.

>> This is probably the most awkward conversation I've ever had. My principal looked at me and she was like, Sarah, is there something sexual going on? And I was like I'm 8. I'm like what?

>> Is there something sexual going on with you, principal?

>> What? There are rumors going around that you're a lesbian. I was like, no. I had no idea what it meant. I remember leaving school that day and I was like, mom, I got called a lesbian today. You can just imagine. My mom is like, what? My 8-year-old getting called a lesbian and freaking out. That's the first time I got confronted with what it would be and having that discussion with my parents and I guess that kind of let my mom know ahead of time. I don't know. Not necessarily. Both my parents were blind sided. Not in a bad way. I think they like to look at me like their kid not their lesbian daughter. I remember that being the first time I was confronted with the fact this is what it means, this is what it feels like. And somebody saying that to me and asking, like you said, with your psychiatrist. It clicks in my head. I don't know what it is, but it snaps in your head. That's a word for it. I can identify with it. That's what I'm feeling and that's a very validating experience to sit there and say I have an answer who I want to be for sure and I don't feel alone in this.

>> Absolutely. Thank you for sharing. DJ Dino thank you for coming.

>> Thanks for having me.

>> Join us next week. We're going to be talking about Don't Ask Don't Tell with Commander Mick.

>> It is going to be awesome.

>> It is going to be so cool. Thanks, everybody, for listening and have a great day.