

GREG

(Coming forward) My real name is Sidney Kenneth Beckenstein. My Jewish name is Rochmel Lev Ben Yokov Meyer Beckenstein, and my professional name is Gregory Gardner. Very East Side, and I do not deny it. Born August 2, 1943. The worst thing in school was every time the teacher called on me ... I'd be hard. I'd be *hard!* Really, I'd have to lean up against the desk like this. (He demonstrates) And the teacher would say: "Stand up straight!" "I can't, I have a pain in my side." "Stand up straight." Or walking down the hall, you'd have to walk like this, with all your books stacked up in front of you. I mean, it didn't go down for three years. And the bus, the bus was the worst. I'd just look at a bus and ... BINGO! And there was the time I was making out in the back seat with Sally Ketchum ... We were necking and I was feeling her boobs and after about an hour or so she said ... "Oooh! Don't you want to feel anything else?" And I suddenly thought to myself: "No, I don't." It was probably the first time I realized I was homosexual and I got so depressed because I thought being gay meant being a bum all the rest of my life and I said: "Gee I'll never get to wear nice clothes..." " And I was really into clothes.