

Kevin Sessums

Quotes

Gay, Yale, Thinking, People, Kramer, Writing, Shoes, Looks, President, Mother, Years, Men, Christian, Father, Team, Class, Book, Sorry, Cities, Sex

When one person mentors, two lives are changed.

~Kevin Sessums

"Weenie" was definitely a word we used at Yale back then. But I'm not sure you were one, Larry [Kramer]. Also, you were going by a different name.

~Kevin Sessums

I was not "shoe." That's a misuse of the term "shoe," which is derived from "white shoe."

~Kevin Sessums

We didn't know each other [with Larry Kramer at Yale], but we had a lot of mutual friends.

~Kevin Sessums

I have never heard that referred to before, that term: Jewish men from Yale.

~Kevin Sessums

[John] Winthrop was the man who first said America was "a city upon a hill," which [Ronald] Reagan then appropriated. There are incidents like that all through history. We have been here.

~Kevin Sessums

Calvin [Trillin] has never done anything majorly objectionable.

~Kevin Sessums

I never appear in any of your work, come to think of it, Calvin [Trillin]. And I look.

~Kevin Sessums

I'm persona non grata at the New Yorker.

~Kevin Sessums

I wasn't a [gay] activist, really.

~Kevin Sessums

I believe we really became friends [with Larry Kramer] when we bonded at our fifteenth class reunion in 1972.

~Kevin Sessums

I think it's a Jewish Yale custom. I wasn't aware that other people celebrated Christmas. My wife was very big on Christmas, and I was very big on my wife.

~Kevin Sessums

[Larry Kramer] thinks Charles de Gaulle was gay. He thinks Max Schmeling was gay.

~Kevin Sessums

I could appear in this million-word book [Larry Kramer] are working on. Nobody would even notice me.

~Kevin Sessums

I don't write poetry for the New Yorker. My poems appear in the Nation, mostly.

~Kevin Sessums

It's always been hard to be gay in Washington.

~Kevin Sessums

If there was criticism about [Oscar Wilde], it was because it was written by a straight man who wasn't very educated about the gay world.

~Kevin Sessums

That's why I tried to kill myself when I was a student [in Yale]. I thought I was the only one there.

~Kevin Sessums

[Calvin Trillin] is not writing about things that I can criticize. I can call these other people out for what I think they are not doing. There's a big difference.

~Kevin Sessums

David Remnick [the New Yorker's editor in chief] is about as interested in anything gay as I am interested in anything to do with baseball. It drives me nuts.

~Kevin Sessums

When I graduated [from Yale], I went back to Larry [Kramer]. But when I go to Yale reunions, there are still people who call me David.

~Kevin Sessums

Calvin [Trillin] was much more of a mover and a shaker. That's all I'm saying. I was a "weenie." That was another term back then.

~Kevin Sessums

"Shoe" just meant you were a big jock on campus no matter what field you were in.

~Kevin Sessums

[Calvin Trillin] was very "shoe," which means he was a big jock, a big deal.

~Kevin Sessums

Is it easier for you to have straight friends, Larry [Kramer], since you seem so often disappointed in your gay friends who can't live up to what you expect of them as gay people?

~Kevin Sessums

Tony Kushner has said that Larry [Kramer] thinks everyone always has to agree with him.

~Kevin Sessums

Hollywood needs peripheral people like me. You're not of that world, but you're needed.

~Kevin Sessums

Everyone disappoints [Larry Kramer]. So it's not a problem for him either way.

~Kevin Sessums

I had no administrative function at the New Yorker. I am what we used to call in construction back in Kansas City where I grew up "a dog-ass subcontractor."

~Kevin Sessums

[Larry Kramer] said, when it was all about to fall through, "You betrayed me, Calvin." And I said, "I resent that. I was against you from the beginning."

~Kevin Sessums

There was a lot really awful about that time [in fifties] if you were gay.

~Kevin Sessums

I talked to [Larry] Kramer a little bit about it while I was writing 'Remembering Denny'. Denny was one of those people who took a long time to come out.

~Kevin Sessums

Larry [Kramer] had already experienced so much loss by then from the AIDS epidemic. But I don't think it changed anything between us.

~Kevin Sessums

I'm sorry to keep focusing on the New Yorker, but everybody who was growing up when Calvin [Trillin] and I were growing up wanted to be published in the New Yorker.

~Kevin Sessums

I think I just felt a sadness at some points in my career that what is available to a straight writer is not available to a gay writer.

~Kevin Sessums

One thing I learned in sobriety is to stop being judgmental, to always be discerning. When I drive, that will be my bumper sticker.

~Kevin Sessums

I am a theist. I live life between that "a" and the "t." It's a vast little space.

~Kevin Sessums

Some people say you have to be a Christian to be saved. I had to stop being Christian to be saved.

~Kevin Sessums

I'm not denying Christ by not being Christian. I'm a theist, which involves expanding on the Christ narrative.

~Kevin Sessums

I was raped. That was a hard thing to write about. I never owned that part of it. Guys don't look at themselves as being raped. We're not raised that way.

~Kevin Sessums

To some people, knowledge and science are everything. To me, God is everything I don't know.

~Kevin Sessums

I've done every other thing in life except intimacy. That's the aberration, the thing I've never had.

~Kevin Sessums

I don't think everybody's gay. But I think a lot more people are than the

world knows about.

~Kevin Sessums

We don't like to say that [my wife was Jewish] because her mother was Jewish, which means she was Jewish. So don't imply that my wife was a shikse.

~Kevin Sessums

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