

Transcript – Class of 1988 25th Reunion

Narrators: Martha Gardner, Kasia Welin Grossman, Claire Cavanah, Christine Arbor, and Diana Wells

Interviewer: Wendy Korwin

Interview Date: May 25

Interview Time: 3:45 p.m.

Location: Pembroke Hall

Length: 1 audio file; 74:53

Track 1

Wendy Korwin: [00:00] It's Saturday, May 25th at 3:45 p.m. My name is Wendy Korwin. I am the Pembroke Center's archivist and I am here with members of the class of 1988 in Pembroke Hall.

Martha M. Gardner: I'm Martha M. Gardner. I was originally '87 but ended up graduating in 1988. I now live in Boston, in Jamaica Plain, and I am a historian. I teach U.S. History and History of Medicine, specializing in things like history of the cigarette and antibacterial soaps. And I have four children in a blended family, ranging from 15 to 9. And my wife is a midwife.

Kasia Welin Grossman: My name is Kasia Welin Grossman. I entered with the class of '88 and was here at Brown in 1984 through 1986. I live in Nashua, New Hampshire, and have three children, ranging in ages from 9 to 17. [01:00] And my unspoken, because it wasn't very chic then, goal, when I was at Brown was to graduate and to put things in place so I could be a stay-at-home mom. And I am in the midst of that and have been doing that and I'm here for the class's twenty-fifth reunion.

Claire Cavanah: I am Claire Cavanah and I live in Brooklyn, New York. What are the other questions? I have two children, also, who are seven and three at this time. I've had the same business for 20 years, so I have essentially been doing one thing for 20 years and that's – I retail in sex toys. I am the cofounder of Babeland, formerly Toys in Babeland. It's our twentieth anniversary, so it's all sort of coming together. [02:00] It's kind of fun.

Christine Arbor: My name is Christine Arbor. I live in Pacific Grove, California with my husband, Michael. And I work as a consultant for World Wide Educational Company.

Diana Wells: Diana Wells, I live in the Washington, D.C. area - in Arlington, Virginia, married to alumni Paul Zimmerman, Class of '88. And I am president of Ashoka, Innovators Field of Public, an organization started 30 years ago to launch the social entrepreneurship movement globally. And I went Ashoka straight out of Brown as an unpaid intern, took a decade out to pursue a Ph.D. in Anthropology and came back to Ashoka, been there since '97.

WC: So, to turn back a couple decades, [03:00] I'd like to start by asking you all, what drew you to Brown?

DW: I had a big sister, I have two big sisters. I also forget to say that I'm the mother of a ten-year-old, a darling son. Toby, whose soccer tournament I am missing this weekend to be here. But, I had two sisters. One went to Smith and one went to Mount Holyoke and one of my sisters said, "You remind me of a lot of people I know who've gone to Brown. You should check out Brown." And, but for that, I never would've been here. So, I am eternally grateful to my big sister, [Christie?].

KA: Well, for me, it's kind of funny, but I have an older brother and he applied to Brown five years earlier. And he did not get in, but he loved and he raved about Brown. And, so, when I came around I applied and I got in. (laughter) It's been a problem ever since.

CC: I [04:00] kind of picked out of a hat, like literally, out of the book that you read to figure out where you're going to college. It was, like, early in the book, because it was "B." And I was going to a private high school that was very, very progressive, "lefty," and it sounded the most, like, logical step for me. So, I applied early decision and then just coasted through my senior year. (laughter) High school is fun.

KWG: I'm a Rhode Islander, or had been at the time. I had gone to school in Rhode Island, high school. And so, Brown was always on the radar. And I liked the diversity of what Brown had to offer, and later it proved that there were many things that I didn't even know that I would need and Brown had such a wealth of offerings that Brown was able to turn around and be there and support me. But, what's [05:00] there not to love about Brown? The campus is beautiful and the student body was, you know, articulate and my high school where, you know, I mean, it was a typical public high school, where it wasn't that cool to be interested in learning but some of us did it anyway. Brown was a lot of other motivated students. So, for me, I was delighted. And just before getting into Brown I had gone – a friend of mine – well not a friend – someone I met on the bus on the way to Wheaton – We were both accepted to Wheaton – We were talking, and I don't know which one of us said it, but one of us said something like, "Well, this is nice. But this isn't my first choice." And she said, "Well, it's not mine either." I go, "My first choice is Brown." She goes, "Mine too!" We were like, "Okay! If we get to Brown, we'll be roommates!" We were like, "Okay!" And we were. We were roommates at Brown. (laughter). And, little did I know, her father was a professor so she had a much better chance than I. (laughter) [06:00] But we were roommates both as freshmen and sophomore. And I'm still in touch with her and so that was one of those, you know, hope-for that I hoped. Like, "I hope I have a college friend." You know, that we stay friends for life. Life's not over. But, so far, we're good. So, I don't know. I would answer that by saying, "What's there not to love about Brown?"

MMG: Well, I'm from Fargo, North Dakota, and I hadn't heard of Brown. It was just, you know. But we had lived in the East Coast until I was nine and we had an old friend who was a teacher in a high school who said, you know, "Brown is good." Now, I didn't want to stay in Fargo. I knew that. It was elsewhere. And I always say I got in because of geographic distribution because they do try to, like, represent all the states. And, I mean, I was all right. But, you know, it wasn't the same competition my kids will face, living in Boston. I mean, and also, the world is different too in many ways. So, [07:00] I came. I almost went to West Land. West Land and Brown were the two that I was thinking of. And I decided in the end that something slightly larger would be good. But, looking back, I really didn't really know what I was looking for but it seemed like a good place.

CC: Yeah, I had the same - I'm from Casper, Wyoming. We're bonding about Fargo. (laughter; inaudible)

MMG: Yeah, we had that connection.

CC: Yeah, and I felt like it was geographic distribution too. And I no idea what Brown was.

MMG: Well, two people applied from my state. (laughter)

KA: But, also, I'm from rural Maine. And, so, I was the only student from my high school ever to go to any university. My high school no longer exists so I suppose I'll hold the (laughter, inaudible). But, one of the reasons that I got into Brown and one of the reasons why - What happened, was I was at a - I had heard about Brown and I was looking at Brown. And I was at a college fair [08:00] in Maine. And I had my state championship basketball jacket on and I was walking around. And I walked up to the Brown Table and the person behind the Brown table said, "Oh, you play basketball?" I should introduce you to Maureen Enos, who was the coach at the time. But, it wasn't just that he was nice and so looking to take care of me. You know? And he was wonderful. So, he let Maureen Enos know that I was applying and a recruiter actually came, who was the assistant coach, who I later, of course, knew, came to my high school and watched me play. And even though I had the worst game of my entire life (laughter; inaudible), I did have a lot of rebounds. And we actually lost the game, which my team never lost a game. (laughter) Yeah.

DW: I came through Providence [09:00] and we went by the admissions office and they had a cancellation the day that I happened to be here. And that interview was the most remarkable interview of my college interviews. And the difference was, we talked about issues. We didn't just - It wasn't one of these template job interviews. Instead, it was as if he was testing how I thought, not what I had been up to then. And it had the effect of making me think that people would take me seriously and what I thought mattered. Not where I was raised or who my parents

were or any of that. And it was qualitatively a different kind of conversation.

KA: Well, the other thing that happened for me was, I also – I had done a tour of Brown and loved it, but I also at the same time, or about the same time, did a tour of Harvard and they wouldn't [10:00] let me in the library and were very snooty about it. I mean, it was like–

KWG: They've always been like that.

KA: I mean –

KWG: About the library.

KA: I don't know, it was just very different than the welcoming space that was here. So, I actually ended up not applying to Harvard. I might have gotten in to Harvard with the basketball and with the other stuff and it would've been hard to turn down. So, I'm really glad I did not apply and was here because it was – I mean, I completely loved it here, as much as were rallying on the green and protesting. It was the time of my life.

KWG: I remember one of the things that really struck me is we had one the beginning lectures that, you know, was one of these welcome. And somebody said, "Many of you will feel that you got in for some reason." He said, "But each of you are here because we picked you and know you belong here." And I remember, like, I remember just being like, "Yeah, [11:00] err, you know I feel that way too. Do you feel that way?" Then, later on my dorm floor had that discussion where everyone says, "Oh yeah, I got picked because I was from a small community." Or, you know, "I got picked because of soccer." Oh yeah, "I know you all belong here, but I don't belong here." And we each had a reason that we thought that sort of, somehow, made us less. And seemed like it was sort of lessened over time. But, there was this feeling, like, "I know all of you are wonderful, but I'm not sure. Like, how do I fit?" And that was interesting that that wasn't a unique experience, so much so that he addressed that. I think it was even – Did we have like one of the first meetings in the hall here in Pembroke?

MMG: Probably. (laughter)

KWG: It's one of those beginning –

MMG: I wouldn't want to be an admissions officer, though. I mean, think about it. It would be very difficult.

KA: For four years at Brown, I worked at the Management Information Services or Systems, or whatever, where among other things [12:00], they data entered all the applications. So, I actually did some of that for four years. Just took thousands of applications, among other things that have to be done in the office. (laughter)

MMG: Did you have to data entry all those handwritten – Didn't we have to handwrite, or no?

KWG: And that story about that person –

KA: Well, when you data, not the essays, just the primary info. The - the -

MMG: Like, filling in the boxes.

KA: The Social Security numbers and the humana, humana, humana.

KWG: I heard they don't do this, I don't know if it's true, they don't do it anymore. But, they had us write the essay by hand.

MMG: Yeah, that's what we're–

KWG: Or in hand? I don't know if it's in hand or by hand, but apparently one of our classmates made an outline of their hand so that the story goes and wrote the essay in the hand. (laughter)

That was the –

WC: So, once you got here, do you remember, like, early impressions of being at college?

MMG: Sure! [13:00}

KWG: Oh yes!

KA: One of the first people I met was a man named Gregory Deocampo that I was just Facebooking, but he's not at the reunion. So, I'm from rural Maine and I like, this, right? And he was 18 years old just like the rest of us, but he already had his Ph.D. from Julliard. (laughter) And he had had a car accident that, though he was and is a brilliant pianist, not at the level that would take him to the very best of the very best, because of the car accident. And so, he was just here to go to college because he was 18 years old and he was taking senior level courses freshman year. Brilliant. So, it was like, to be engaged with those – just like the kinds of conversations [14:00] and the kinds of different settings that we all came from. It was just, it was a riot and it was fun and it was exciting and it was all that and I didn't know what an AP course was, so I had to ask. (laughter). So, I probably looked like a fool. But it was all good.

MMG: I remember, I was in Emery-Woolley, and I really liked my floor. There were a lot of friendly people.

KA: I was in Emery-Woolley. What floor were you on?

MMG: Fourth.

KA: Oh, you think third?

MMG: Oh yeah, that's right, I started in '83. So, yeah, I was the slow path. But I remember just the people were very friendly. I had a nice roommate, Becky. And nice counselors. And I got

involved in the Women's Center pretty quickly, Sarah Doyle. Claudia Yellen was one of the first people who I still know. So, who I knew from there. And I felt comfortable here. I enjoyed it. And I took, I remember I took one of the special topics [15:00] class in the biological clock, I think, my first semester. Which, I still kind of remember. Which I enjoyed. (inaudible; laughter) The biological clock? (laughter) Not in that way! It was a lot about birds, too. It wasn't predicting when I would be having children later. (laughter)

KA: Birds and bees.

MMG: People, too, but I mean, the idea of, like, our circadian rhythms and all those kinds of things. It was actually fascinating, it was crossing over all of that. And I still remember it. And I remember the man who, I don't remember his name, but I remember very distinctly what he looked like. And that's distinct from any other of my classes, it's just a few that I remember. It's funny.

KWG: I was also here in Pembroke. I was in Morriss-Champlin. And I remember the first few days the –

MMG: They're dorms, Morriss-Champlin?

KWG: Yeah, they're dorms. I remember that it was the first few days, studying hadn't started, and everybody was on the green and people were playing ball. And it was just sort of an excitement and it was really exciting and interesting. And there were the [16:00] auditions for the different a cappella groups and there were, you know, various – It was exciting and interesting and it was the beginning of what was going to happen. And a lot of people, you know, being interested. And I just remember the things I would say and only after I would see peoples' reactions, I'm like, "Oh, I guess, I guess that's kind of different, huh? You don't have goats, either. We got goats on our backyard." They'd be like, "Oh, this girl has goats!" And I'm like, "I didn't want to be known as the goat lady. It's really not a big deal, like, you know, they're in the backyard. You get milk from them. Like, it's – I have a mailbox too. Does that count?" It was

interesting what things people found to be very different from someone else's lifestyles. Because you sort of, you know – At some point, I wasn't known as the goat lady. But that sort of excitement of "What's going to happen?" and "How's it going to go?" So, open possibilities [17:00].

WC: What kinds of things did you try?

KWG: I tired crew (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

KA: That's an open-ended question. (laughter)

KWG: I think we're talking extra-curricular activities. (laughter) I tried the crew team. Which I will go on record saying turned out, I don't think, to be a – I don't think my trying out was a bad idea. But, I think that the – it seemed like the philosophy at the time was that they would open their arms to anybody who would like to try out and that simply they would, through hard work and effort, burn out anybody who didn't belong. The only problem was I hadn't been an athlete in high school. And I didn't know anything about working out. So, when they said, "Run 10 miles." I did. And when they said, "Go up Heartbreak Hill," I did. I mean, I did everything they told me until about mid-November or October. I was just, I was exhausted. I had nothing left. I didn't know eat to train. I mean, I think about it now, I'm like, (gasp) "What did you do to that poor girl?" That was mean! Like, how did you ask her [18:00]? Could you do just a little survey beforehand? And, oh, I was just like, my heart and soul was in it. And it was just, I don't even know if I could canoe now. I mean, I seem to have some water sense. But, you know, so that ended up being very tough for me. I did try that and then I didn't try anything else because I was busy recovering, you know, for a long time.

WC: You were tired for the rest of your time at Brown?

KWG: It wasn't quite tired. But I had an immunological crash after that. It was really rough. And I look back and I thought, "It's sort of unnecessary." So, I think that was one of the – You know,

when I think of the things, you know, note to past self, you know? It wasn't that I shouldn't have tried but it would've been – I mean, I understand, the crew team is out there to get a winning crew team going. But the intramural aspect wasn't there. I also auditioned for the – I didn't make, but I was excited to audition for the acapella groups. [19:00] And I think I may, I don't know if I'm the only one who has this distinction, because it could be that other people have done this. But, I was actually asked by the members to try out for the Jabberwocks. And, for those who don't know that, it's an all-male group. And I said, "No, no, I can't. They don't want a woman in your group because –" And I went to describe, say why an all-male group should have all males. And what the voice quality and all that. Then they said, "No, no, please do." And I'm like, "I don't have anything prepared." They said, "Sing Happy Birthday!" So, they gave me an application and I – You know the saying, at the bottom of the Morris Hall, I auditioned for the Jabberwocks. It later turned out that this was actually a way to get my name and number and my phone number for a later dating situation. So, I was like, "Wow, do you do that all the time?" That's a very interesting ploy. And I was assured that that wasn't the cause. So, I auditioned for the Jabberwocks.

DW: I grew up in a small town, so four thousand, and my first impressions being [20:00] here are related to what I ended up getting involved in. First, there were so many smart people and that I could sit in a class and be quiet and learn from the class participation, that I wasn't one of the few people who knew all the answers, and one of the only people who knew all of the answers, but could actually listen to everybody else. And that was a brand new experience from the public high school I grew up in. I also joined crew, but I had rode in high school. But, mid-way through spring semester, decided that there was too much else on campus that I wanted to be involved in. And I had rode in high school but didn't have all these other options to get involved. And the opportunity to be engaged politically [21:00] and the activism was not the experience that I had grown up with. The speak-out freshman year, spring semester, was a big moment for me.

MMG: That was my sophomore year, I was going to say.

CC: Yeah, see, that was my sophomore year too. Yeah. (laughter)

MMG: I was like, “That could not have been freshman year!”

KA: That was freshman year!

CC: That was my sophomore.

KWG: That was her sophomore.

MMG: We started the same - we took the five-year.

CC: Yeah, we took the five-year.

MMG: Not totally atypical ground, the five-year plan. (laughter)

CC: I mean, yeah, the speak-out was a big deal.

KA: It was a big deal, a really big deal here.

DW: And it was weather kind of like this. (laughter)

KA: Yes!

DW: And I thought I would stop by and I stood there, rooted, getting soaking wet for I think four or five hours. It was, like –

CC: Riveting.

DW: Yeah.

WC: Can you say more about the speak-out?

KA: Me?

DW: Go ahead [22:00]

KA: So, the–

KWG: It was Take Back the Night?

KA: Yeah, no, it was different. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) So, just a little bit of background with that. I'll back it up a bit. Our freshman year, there was – The first thing that happened was there was the citizen's arrest of the CIA. Which was formed because their criminal acts of – the criminal activity they were participating in Nicaragua. So, there was a citizen's arrest of the CIA.

MMG: And also because of the gay exclusion that was building.

KA: Gay exclusion? Was that really part of the issue then?

MMG: Yeah.

CC: And they were criminals, so they couldn't recruit on campus. (laughter)

KA: So, what happened there – The big thing that happened there is the university made a mistake, from the university's perspective, is that the trial of the students was held in Alumnae Hall. All trials of students that protest later were all held in small, quiet, close rooms [23:00]. It was held in Alumnae Hall. And that was when I was playing basketball, but that was the last year I played basketball because I wanted to spend time participating in what was happening here.

And that trial radicalized a lot of people because it was so obvious that the university was in the wrong. We had common cause lawyers in to defend the students and that the students were interacting with the students with. And what they were presenting just had hundreds and hundreds of people and the trial went on for hours and hours and hours, if not days. So that was –

MMG: You did the arrest, too?

CC: Yeah. We did the arrest.

KA: Sarah Lamberg, do you know Sarah [Lamberg?]? She was one of the people who did the arrest. She married Michael and I. She's now a Unitarian minister in one of the head of the Unitarian Universalist Church. She's one of the heads of the church. She lives in Boston. Anyways, she's great. [24:00]

DW: She was a rower, too.

KA: She was a rower, too! (laughter)

KWG: Check, check, check.

KA: So, that was the first thing that happened. The next thing that happened was the suicide pill referendum. And the suicide pill referendum, do you remember it?

CC: Yeah, now I remember it.

KA: So, the next thing that happened was the suicide pill referendum. And the suicide pill referendum was we voted the student body, about 98% of these were the only votes that 98% of the student body voted, and we voted to stock suicide pills here, at the university in the case of nuclear war. (laughter)

CC: And that was when (inaudible) all the (inaudible) came.

KA: Exactly! And it got international press, including in Russia. It even made the news in Russia, okay?

DW: Sandy Katz.

KA: Sandy Katz. And John [Bomofost?] too, I believe?

DW: John Bomofost, yeah.

KA: And so, that was another big thing that also happened and Paul and, you know, like that. [25:00] Paul's off camera, for those of you – (laughter) So, there was that. So, then you have this build to that build and I think that the next thing that happened was a black student was beaten up in his dorm by three white students. Which completely radicalized the Afro-American, Third World Community and –

MMG: On campus.

KA: On campus. And Paul and I and Diana and others were part of the white kids (laughter) who were supporting them. And there were lots of African Americans. I forget what we called the organization.

MMG: Was it United Against Race?

KA: Students to Overcome Institutional Racism, or something.

CC: There was United Against Racism?

MMG: Was that it?

KA: No. It was students, I think it was called Students to Overcome Institutional Racism or whatever. And then –

MMG: Was it, like, (inaudible)?

KA: We ended up taking the day – We ended up taking over the [26:00] alumni – faculty club dinner. We marched one group of people that way to take over that. That's where all the police went. And then all the black students went into the John Carter Brown Library and actually did the sit-in there, which led to all the stuff. Okay? So, that was that.

DW: And it led to commitment to bring the multicultural student center to where it is now.

KA: And then, also, I sympathize (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

DW: It was in the basement of Churchill House.

KA: I swear that Ruth Simmons would not have been elected, nor would Nelson Mandela, but that's another point. (laughter) Every time. (laughter) Anyways, so that's a longer story for another week. But, then, with all of that going on, at spring break there eight women who were raped. And I remember you in the first meeting [27:00] after spring break. And Sarah Doyle Women's Center, I believe where we met. There was a whole group of women–

MMG: We mostly met at Faunce, but the first may have been at Sarah Doyle's.

KA: Faunce, yeah, we met at Faunce, yeah.

MMG: We met at Faunce, mostly.

KA: I think that Faunce was too tight.

MMG: It was also kind of neutral, it wasn't like, you know, what everyone (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

KA: So, we planned a – I don't think we had any idea of the power – I know we didn't have any idea of the power of what we were creating or what would happen, for those of us who were involved in it. But, it was ridiculously powerful. We planned a silent march from Pembroke over to Wriston Quad. And at Wriston Quad –

MMG: And it was a surprise.

KA: It was surprise. Nobody knew. It was a silent march with placards and we started here and marched over there. I can remember silently, it's still like moving to this day, I remember silently marching over in the rain like this with signs, silently. And people kept just joining us. And joining [28:00] us, and joining us. And we got all the way over to Wriston Quad and we had a speaker and a microphone set up. And we had planned for two people to come up and say various things that had happened to them on campus. But it ended up being five hours of one woman after another woman after another woman –

MMG: Well, with the hopes that other people would –

KA: With the hope the other people would –

MMG: Yeah, we didn't just plan to have two and then we were done. (laughter)

KA: It was the first time, for me, that I got that my experience of harassment and the various sexual stuff that had happened to me, you are not alone. It was every single one of us.

CC: And a lot of those women had never told their stories before.

KA: I had never told mine.

CC: Yeah, that was incredible.

KA: And I just remember, it was ridiculously powerful. And the thing for me that – I actually wrote something to the *Brown Daily Herald* about was – and then got sexually harassing phone calls afterwards. (laughter) Was the people – I now [29:00] understand this much better and have a degree of compassion for it where I did not then. But the people were that were hanging out at a frat behind us were laughing and joking. Which, I suppose is the only response they could have given that it was directed at them, what we were saying. But, they were – It was the thing that was most shocking to me, given what people were saying is how they were behaving.

DW: Was it prompted by hold – Guys in the quad holding up numbers as women were walking?

MMG: A couple of things. Then there was the toad. Do you remember the toad?

CC: The toad.

MMG: The toad right in front of the fraternity. Which I only remembered from listening to that oral history interview someone did with you (laughs) when I was a senior. Wasn't it that it got painted every time someone was –

KA: It was painted every time a virgin got –

DW: Wow.

KA: Yeah.

MMG: Is no longer a virgin, yeah. So, that was the – It was a lot of, like, and during spring break there had been other activities, too, that the fraternity [30:00] –

KA: The fact that there were eight rapes was never public, that was just kind of known among the people who had organized it because not every one of them was reported. But, between the ones reported and the ones that people were whispering about, everybody went –

MMG: And the plan –

KA: It would give it–

MMG: The planning was really carefully – I mean, one of the things – I mean, you were involved, too. You should talk. I'm sorry. I don't mean to be scooping you, but the idea was that it was a coalition. It wasn't – It was people who didn't necessarily agree on everything, trying to make sure everyone felt comfortable being involved. But not agree with everyone, about everything. It was consensus. What we were going to do, we did all by consensus. So those were the coalition consensus, the C words.

KWG: But it also, somehow, even though there must have been – I wasn't part of the group that organized it, but it was talked about enough so that I knew it was happening. And it was, you know, so want to show up and you want to go. And I remember someone who later said to me, was eternally grateful. There was a man who was, I don't know, are we boys or men during this time? But, [31:00] a fellow freshman who was on my floor. And I said, "Listen, I really can't talk about details, but you need to be at Wriston Quad at this time." He's like, "Yeah." I'm like, "No, no. You need to be there." And he's like, "Okay." And he later said to me, "I have to tell you. You saved me," he said, "because had I not been there, that would have also been directed at me. But because I was there and I brought a couple of my buddies with me, and we were the black men that were there, we were then part of the supporting of the women versus those that weren't." And so, he also shared a perspective that there sort of became a little bit of a polarization of like, "Why aren't you there?" and "Why aren't you supporting us?" But, in defense, not everybody knew about it. So, if you didn't happen to catch it, you didn't happen to get behind –

KA: Yeah, we didn't want people to know about it.

KWG: Right, certainly there. But there was some amount of –

MMG: The idea was that we didn't want it stopped, right? It wasn't so much that we didn't want anybody –

CC: Yeah, stopped.

MMG: It was like, keep it from the administration. You know, things like that.

KA: The other thing that happened is that Father, what's his name? Father O'Shea – Father [32:00] O'Shea, I found out before it happened, that he was going to be there in support of the frats. And I went to Father O'Shea and I said, "Father O'Shea, you have no idea."

KWG: But, did they know it was happening?

KA: Somehow! I went (laughter) –

MMG: Our foolproof plan, wait a minute! (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

KA: Somehow Father O'Shea, I don't know how I heard about it, I don't know what happened, but Father O'Shea was going to be there in support of the Frats. And I said, "Father O'Shea, you don't know all the stuff that happened." And he was, like, arguing back with me because – And I was, like, arguing with him. And, then, he ended up not showing up. But, I remember that was one of the most scariest things for me, as young Catholic girl, to go to Father O'Shea. And, I mean, I love Father O'Shea. You know, he was wonderful, Franciscan, wonderful person. He – at that – anyway, it was a very scary thing to do. And that he was arguing with me and not. And he ended up hearing me, which was awesome, sorry. [33:00]

CC: Oh, that's all right. I don't remember. Just, it was a really big thing. I mean, it was like transformative for me and it added to just this sort of accretion of what became my career, I think. You know? Plus, it was like really important in terms of organizing and understanding how to bring people together who don't necessarily agree with everything. And, to this day, I believe, if you want a diverse organization, you have to really get people in right in the beginning because it's really hard to correct it later. You know? It's like –

MMG: And not ask that we all be best friends and that we all agree with everything but have a sense of purpose. I think both of us, we had similar experiences along those lines.

DW: It was definitely a benchmark. There was, like, before the speech and after the speech. And not just in my Brown, but, like, it was a big consciousness shifting.

MMG: Yeah, for me the other benchmark that happened personally, I mean [34:00] part of it is we were a year older. But that first year, before the speak-out, for me, I had come out to myself as a lesbian during the summer before coming to Brown. And I always thought I'd be very private about it. I remember having a discussion with a friend who had gone to Oberlin who was a year older than I was. And I would be like, "I'm pretty sure about this but it's not something I definitely need to, like, make public or talk to anyone about." And then I become lesbian on a campus. I started a dorm outreach program and things like that. So, that first year, like, having that experience of feeling like there are other people around and it was something to be activist about. You know, all of that was pretty central, too. And I had long hair then and I was from North Dakota. And there's some story about a retreat – Sarah Doyle Women's Center retreat that Elizabeth Weed was at as well and I think I talked about being a lesbian at some like, circle thing that she was at too. And she later went to someone, I don't remember who. It might have been Mary Rendet and said, "We've turned Martha, that sweet girl [35:00]." (laughter) I came that way, really. It's just how I was. So, that was like, my benchmark was that. And then this added. So, it was building on it for me. It wasn't as much a transforming moment because it was a successful thing, you know, and I felt good about it. And, just quickly about the CIA, I just wanted to add one other thing about the trial. All of us who did participate got a disciplinary

mark on our records. But I have a letter, you might too, from Dean Widmer, in mine. He was Dean of Student Life then, that, like, says “Oh yeah, she has this disciplinary mark, but she’s and exemption.” You know, all this positive stuff. Because I was a peer counselor and things, too. So, it’s like, we kind of resolve that.

CC: I just remember being afraid that we were going to be expelled.

MMG: Right!

CC: Because that was one of them, right?

MMG: Yeah, it was a serious thing.

CC: Very serious. I was so sure. I am kind of, you know, I didn’t know what I was getting into. I knew I wanted to do it.

MMG: Well, Joanne Scott was on our side. [36:00]

CC: Yeah, but, yeah. Totally. But I didn’t realize I was being expelled, because that would’ve been a big problem. I didn’t know. (laughter)

MMG: It would’ve been a little bit of a problem, I agree.

CC: I don’t know what I have on my transcript, I haven’t seen it. But, I know I have that mark for sure.

KWG: Well, maybe at 25 years they’ll expunge that or something.

MMG: Now I’m kind of proud of it, actually. (laughter)

DW: No, I think of Dean Widmer as he was facing them for fast ten-day hunger strike. It was (inaudible)

KA: But the ten-day hunger strike was the next year. Yeah, I think at the end of that, the first year, though. Dean Wooldridge said something in the *Herald*: “This year I faced 121 written student demands, last year I had two.” (laughter) So, the next year, out of all that, fell the Brown Free Southern Africa Movement and Divest for Brown [37:00], which you know, we were very involved in. And that was amazing, amazing work. You weren’t one of the hunger strikers?

MMG: He was.

KA: You were. Paul was one of the hunger strikers. Paul, [Neal Calendar?], who I saw last year. Bumped into him in Cambridge. (laughs) Yeah, they were.

DW: [Michael Antonucci?], [Andy Farran?].

KA: Yeah. That was also Father O’Shea who – Father O’Shea, there he allowed them to ensconce in the top of the chapel. So, it was kind of like a no-go zone because it was a chapel. And the priest had allowed it. So, they could have a ten day hunger strike. But they were also threatened with disciplinary action if they didn’t eat. They invoked in loco parentis, like the university is your parent; you have to do what it says. [38:00] (laughter)

MMG: And how did it – I don’t remember how it ended?

KA: Paul’s not talking. Do you remember?

DW: So, they were all issued the letter.

MMG: But, why did it stop? How did it – (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

DW: Made the decision to stop the strike and –

KA: We made them miso soup and we brought it to them.

MMG: Wow. That's a hard way to end.

WC: I like that some of you mentioned Sarah Doyle, and I wonder about how you became involved with the Sarah Doyle Center? And then if there are other important key centers on campus that helped connect the people involved in these movements?

CC: Like Martha, I ended up coming to Sarah Doyle immediately when I got to campus. I think there was – I don't know why, though. It was too long ago. (laughter) It's a bit foggy, but [39:00] it was like orientation and go visit this and that and see what's going on. And I got there and that's where I met all of my friends and where I stayed for the next four, five minus one in the middle years. And I actually just went there to do an oral history interview. You should go, I mean, you should arrange for it. They need you. They're doing like another oral history for that. Like, the building and the institution.

MMG: Oh, that's good, yeah. The building that's not there.

CC: I know, right?

WC: Elizabeth Weed saved one of the slates from the roof.

CC: Oh she did?

WC: It's in my office. (laughter)

CC: That's great.

WC: I always through it was a tombstone. (laughter)

CC: You can etch it.

MMG: One of the things that the Women's Center had, was they had staffers all the time, especially in the evenings. So, you had this particular required role that you hang out there. (laughter) You know what I mean? [40:00] It did kind of help build community. But that was part of it. And there was a journal that people could, you know, activists –

CC: It's still there.

MMG: The personal, the rest of it.

CC: And you are in it.

MMG: Oh, God, what did I say? You know, Sue Fendrick's still in Boston and I only overlap with her that first year and she was a staffer extraordinaire. (laughs) Like four years my senior or something. Five? Oh, I don't know. We just overlapped the one year. But, it was just, like, so comfortable for so many people to have that time hanging out at the center. But I do think that it was important, I mean, you know, we had – It was predominantly white. You know, and those were things that we really tried to think about and deal with. And I think the speak-out, not having most of its meetings at the women's center was important because it was this idea that this is not the only population – We're not only going for the people that are here. Which is why it felt successful, I think, that people could walk by and see it. That everyone organizing it wasn't just the same, that they were brought together [41:00] and galvanized by issues that were the same but weren't all just best friends organizing which seemed important.

KA: You know, that's what I just realized. You were the first outwardly gay person that I interacted with. And, not that my brother isn't gay, not that my uncle isn't gay, not that obviously, but it was a side of conversations with you that I began to confront, deal with,

whatever it is that – Nature of the conversation of that time was inside of which I grew up and rethink those issues. So, for that, thank you. And that was whatever challenge it was for you. But, for that, thank you.

MMG: It is funny to think how it's changed, though. Because even if you're in rural Maine now, there are popular icons, you know what I mean? At least in North Dakota, I never met – I'd seen a couple of gay men, but I hadn't met any lesbians before I came out. I remember that. So, it was a different time. [42:00] I didn't have that much harassment or difficulty because of it, I was lucky in a lot of ways. There some – I got my dorm – I had a “Closets are for Clothes” sign up in my dorm room when I lived in – what's the big huge dorm over there? Wrist – not –

F: Keeney.

MMG: Keeney Quad. Yeah, I was a counselor there and someone wrote something. I don't really remember exactly what it was, but it was definitely a slur. So, I mean, I have had a couple of things like that happen. But, in general, I think I've been pretty lucky with that. But, anyway, my lesbian/gay dorm outreach was trying to get people to comfortably get to see gays and lesbians when they hadn't before. That was the goal of the program, I remember. I got tired of educating. I thought – I loved that role for a while. But then, it was like I almost got too much, like – I needed to get internal – I like being a historian now instead being of a – making my career being a lesbian. (laughter) (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) [43:00]

DW: In terms of other centers, the connection between Doyle Center and Third World Center and I was involved with Rights and Reasons. And that was another, sort of space, to – Which brought out a whole part of me. It was a space that wasn't necessarily connected with friendships that I had made outside of Rights and Reasons. And I also wasn't on the stage, I was behind the stage. And George Bass was there and I got to work with Ramona Bass on two of her plays that she had done. So it was, again, a big formative experience. I went on to do my doctorate in anthropology. Ramona was part of that.

MMG: There was activism around [44:00] AIDS and the lesbian/gay alliance and, you know, going to the March on Washington eventually, so there were things around that as well. And definitely that was a community as well that I was part of.

KWG: And junior and senior year? Was there any activity?

KA: Junior and senior year, I think, junior year was more Free Southern Africa stuff mostly. I think junior year was the year we took over the IBM building downtown. We got arrested for –

DW: [Amy?] Carter?

KA: Amy Carter, right. And that one, you know, I look back – I was actually on a plane to visit my sister in Chicago, so I missed the actual takeover. Which, those guys got arrested. So I missed having a criminal record. (laughter) Which I can't say I regret. (laughs) Yeah, so there was [45:00] just more – There was a lot of work. I think both– I don't quite remember. I think Senior year, too, it was just all divest, divest, divest, divest, divest.

MMG: I think. I'm sorry. I think the way the Women's Center moved was to try to make the idea of a coalition institutional at the women's center so we started having paid staff people. So, I was the lesbian one but there were also other ones. (laughter) There were also other ones, there was the library, the gallery, the third world women's coordinator. You know, we had all different ones. And the idea was we should get work done, you know? So we shouldn't just meet and talk about issues. We should get work. And kind of the – Brown in general and the idea of community service, it's not that it didn't exist when we started here, but I think it's become more central and there was a certain kind of pragmatism as years went on for what people did. That's what my impression is, how it kind of shifted to “We still believe in all this,” but being a little more pragmatic about it.

KA: Well, one of the other things that I did [46:00] is I was one of the initiators of the Brown South Bronx summer project. Which one of the first community gardens in the country. And that

was an amazing project.

DW: When did you get involved?

KA: The first year, yeah, the first year. So, Nina Rivera and Paul – different Paul –

DW: And was there an environmental studies center?

KA: Yeah.

MMG: Yeah, People like Emily Bassett, some people who were involved in environment studies.

CC: It's still there.

KA: And downtown community gardens.

KWG: It was also, I know I started that – independent study on learning disability. And that went, right? Cause there – what is the name of it?

KA: So, Kasia was one the initiators of dyslexics and I, for a couple of years, was co-president.

KWG: Oh, that's right. I wrote the pamphlet and you seeded it.

KA: And that pamphlet was one of the [47:00] only written documents. It was amazing, amazing, amazingly useful thing for people with learning disabilities and created a particular environment here at Brown for people with learning disabilities that just wasn't anywhere else.

KWG: When I was a freshman, the *Brown Alumni Monthly* came out with an article and in it were different, sort of flags, and if you looked there were four little banners. And they had the word, like, “read” and “red.” And my father said, “Look, it's us!” And I was like, “Yeah, there

are two lines. They're the same." He said, "No, no, look, they're different! See, look, they're different. See, look, these are reversed and these are reversed and these." And I was like, "Oh!" So, I went and got tested and found out the I was dyslexic. And it was one of the places where Brown really stepped in, wonderful. It turns out that I couldn't read phonetically, I'd simply memorized thousands and thousands of words.

KA: There was a dean at Brown.

KWG: Dean Shaw.

KA: No, not Dean Shaw. There was someone before – some other person who – Dean Shaw was the dean who was accountable for that but there was somebody else who had done research here [48:00] and had caused Brown to be a support of people with learning disabilities. That learning disabilities didn't mean you were stupid. And it –

KWG: So, once you're tested, then Brown offered, free of charge, remediation. And so, at the same time I would be going to the Computer Science to be the first one to finish the hard, hard computer science exam. I would go to the science lab for my weekly phonetic lesson. And I had this cush ball. And I was like, "I have never experience this like this." And my skin felt like it was coming off because it was so intense. And she's like, "Okay, we're going go over open syllables and closed syllables." I was like, "I think I can do this, I swear." And we would go through and I'd be like, gasping. And it was so difficult to decode in that way. But, I did it, I think, for a year. And through that I wrote that – And I found that it was just incredibly hard to go to professors because professors would say things like, "Well, why don't you just try harder?" And I'd be like, "Oh, oh, okay." "Well, why do you need an untimed test [49:00], other people don't have an untimed test." "Well, *mmr-mmr-mmr* –"

MMG: Well, now it's institutionalized. I mean.

KWG: I know, well.

MMG: Maybe as a professor, I'd see that.

KWG: So, we wrote, you know – and I wrote. So, I'd go to a professor and in the moment I'd be like, *mmr, mrr, mrr*, and I'd come back and I'd go “This is what I should've said.” Now that I'm untimed, I have a perfect answer for you. You know. So I wrote those out did that. And from that created a – again, an independent study where we asked [Helen Shupak?] and different people came in. Week by week by week taught us about what a learning disability was. There was 15 or 20 students, I think, that participated in that. And that would've been 1988, sophomore year. So in 1985–86. And then the following year, that Dyslexics at Brown pamphlet became an organization.

KA: And it was sad too - And I, personally, still years after Brown had kept stacks because people would ask me to send it to them. And it was sent [50:00] all over. So very, very well done. It's especially useful because it created a reality that you weren't alone and insane if you read through it.

KWG: But it was also a published document.

KA: It was published and from Brown University.

KWG: It had Brown's little logo on it. And you could say, you know, your teacher could say, “Well, why do you need untimed tests?” And you could go, “Well, on page 33, I don't know really. But it says here, you know –” And it just gave a discussion point. And I did have an interesting experience where, as a sophomore, I was walking down – In fact, I think it was actually – I volunteered during commencement weekend and I was, you know, one of the people who helped clean the dorms. And I was the VIP, you know, person that sat people. And I had a professor who came up to me and said, “You know, I was thinking about you. You were in my freshman class the first semester freshman year.” And I'm like, “Yes.” He said, “I've been thinking that maybe you're dyslexic.” And I was saying, “Oh, well, in fact, right after your class

I was diagnosed.” And he says, “Well, that’s really good.” And then afterwards, I thought, “You know, I [51:00] got lucky.” In a series of just serendipitous events that the Brown alumni monthly came and this happened and that happened and I was able to get help. Because when I hit Brown, I could no longer – You know, Brown was sort of at an academic level that I could no longer throw time and hide my dyslexia. And I got tripped up here or caught, or rather discovered. And Brown was able to help me to be successful. And I certainly, I mean that freshman year was rough, but by my sophomore year it smoothed out. And later I thought to myself, “You crumb! I could’ve flunked and been somewhere else and thought I wasn’t a successful student and really believed that. And yet you had this information early on.” And he was like, “Oh yeah, I was thinking about you.” I’m like, “But you’re a professor and you have my name. And, like you could’ve –” And, anyway, I am very grateful that there were other forces that were much more powerful working in my favor. Because, clearly, he was little behind the ball. (laughter) And I know I’ve said [52:00] a little bit about crew, but there were many people who were really on top of the ball. There were lots of things that Brown did that were really helpful.

WC: Hearing about the independent study makes me just wonder a little bit more about your – the academic experiences and – Maybe, the question is, which ones do you remember the most? Or, which ones have done the most work to shape you?

KWG: You’d almost think we sort of attended classes as a sideline from –

MMG: I actually – I graduated with 28 credits, which people don’t do anymore. Right? (laughs) Because I had so many – No credits. Well, I had mono, that was one thing, but it was also because I activist. So, you know, and I just put my energy there. But, I was a women’s studies major. So, I had only 28 credits. But I did write an honor’s thesis at the same time. So, it was that weird divide. And I remember one of the most important classes for me was Mari Jo Buhle’s Women’s History Class.

CC: I remember you in that class because [53:00] you fit so well. It was just like the perfect fit. I

still remember like that Martha Gardener, this is a fish in water. And I cannot figure out what's going on. (laughter) You know.

MMG: Well, the funny thing is women's studies was such a mixture of like American studies, history, and semiotics theory.

CC: Which was my side of the class.

MMG: And I always tried to bridge it. Like, I could have been an American studies history person, but I didn't want to only be that and I enjoyed bridging the two. And then I ended up getting a Ph.D. in history and focusing. But I wouldn't ever give up having been part of that, at least, next two. But not just next two, thinking about the critical theory and contingent nature of stuff in a very important way, you know? So, it was very important. The academics were very important, more for critical thinking than for content. You know. There definitely were gaps in my content because of the, well, obviously, I've just exposed that I – Part of was my lack of rigor but part of it was that my choices might have been [54:00] different if I hadn't had as many choices. I do think that I could've been advised a little bit more strongly than I was. I enjoyed pretty much everything that I took, but, maybe it's all retrospect makes it look easy to decide. But, there are a few things that if I hadn't taken them and if I had taken other things – Like, now that I'm a historian, I'm like, "I never took a class with Gordon Wood!" I never – You know, the people that I would've wanted to take a class with that I just didn't because I wasn't.

DW: Yeah. I ended up going to grad school because I felt like I had missed part of the Western intellectuals.

MMG: Yeah! That's how I felt too.

DW: But, at the same time, I went back to school. What a thing did that open. I was an independent concentrator. My first week at Brown I had signed up for Chinese because I wanted to take a nonwestern language. And the professor was an ex-Marine and the first day of class was

marching up and down giving drills. And I had enough self-knowledge to know “This is not –” [55:00] (laughter) So, I got a little strip in my mailbox the first week of class that said, “Hindi is the fifth most spoken language in the world. It’s being offered on campus for the first time.” And I said, “Great! It’s as good an argument. My parents will buy that.” I then did an independent concentration in South Asian studies and spent my junior year in India. But, for that mailbox, which don’t exist anymore. (laughter) (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

KA: What happened to the mailboxes?

KWG: You may not know this, but there was in Faunce – but in the far part of Faunce – there were these beautiful, you know, now antiques – We’re antiques, twenty five years – Even then, there were these beautiful, you know, they had two dials. And there were just panels of them and you’d go in and they had little glass. And you could see if you had mail. And if not, you might’ve got an invitation taped on. And you had to be careful because you had to know when to tape the invitations on to when Brown would come and clear. Because it could be that no one came to your party because you put it down and twenty minutes later they all got cleared [56:00] so there became this little thing going. But you’d go to the library, you know, go down to Faunce, and you’d – There’s beautiful little boxes. And when they renovated Faunce Hall, which is lovely in many, many ways. It’s a gorgeous area and it’s the place where you go to sign up for your – Because then, like when I went to sign up for some of the student activities, like kayaking, you go into some area. And there was some dusty little bin in some place and you put your name and you didn’t know if it’ll come back. It felt, you know, kind of dusty and old. But, the loss was the little–

MMG: Not to mention the space for tabling!

KA: The space for tabling! You’d standing and people would come and you’d talk to them and then they come to your rally on the green and all that stuff.

KWG: The rally on the green. I mean, for a little while that was sort of the joke. It was like,

“What’s this week’s rally on the green?” You know? It’s Friday, it must be, rally on the green.

KA: It was no joke.

KWG: Well, no but, but there was a variety of – There was a moment when, you know, every Friday you had to get the right Friday because [57:00] you didn’t want to conflict with someone else’s rally on the green. So. But, yeah, that was the post office boxes. They were very sweet. I really – my psychology class was very pivotal. And it was also my CAP class.

MMG: I don’t remember what CAP was? Sorry.

KWG: CAP is the curriculum advising program. The idea, as freshman, you’d get hooked. You pick one class, something you enjoyed, and that would become your advisor. The thought, I believe, was that if you went to a class regularly and that was one of your first freshman class was your advisor then you could have a connection with that person. And they would know who you are. And you could not get lost on the campus. And I really liked my – and, again, this is before I found out I was dyslexic. I really liked my professor and I’d be at the front of every class. And I’d be there asking questions. And he knew I knew the material. And he’d be like, “I got your test booklet and it was blank?” “Yeah, I looked at the test and I realized I just, [58:00] I don’t know.” But you can throw one out. He’s like, “Okay, but you can’t throw the next one out.” So, for me, it was a real struggle. But the connection with him was really wonderful. Ended up later, at Brown I was pursuing cognitive science. The college that I graduated from did not have a cognitive science degree, so I got a degree in psychology. But it was that connection with him, I think, that sparked that. And I later, just as a – I got my first no credit for that one. And then I, a year later, passed the class with an A, and I was like, “Okay, clearly I have learned something.” How to get through that class. But I also took great advantage, I know this was for many people a throwaway class, but the engineering nine class, which for (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

F: [Spark?] – no – Sparksburg – (inaudible)

KWG: It was an engineering class group – so it was a lecture class, and Dean Hazeltine –

F: I did that course, too.

KWG: – would bring in lectures, and he got in all these marvelous CEOs and, you know, the head of this, and the head of that, and they would come in with these [00:59:00] amazing presentations. And the key is that if you would – all you had to do was show up at the – what’s that called? Not – it’s not the ECDC. What’s the –? Not the Ratty. What’s the one that’s on Morris? The food place, the pizza place?

F: Oh, what was it called?

F: The Gate?

KWG: That’s – the Gate. If you would show up an hour and a half before class, you could have lunch with any of these people at the Gate and I was at every single one. (laughter) And it was amazing because, you know, here – it was a class of 400 students and maybe eight kids would show up. And I’d be like, you’re Ivy League students. (laughter) Here’s an opportunity. What do you mean? And no – and it was really amazing because you could speak to the people, and talk with them, and ask them questions, and say, “So, when you were in college, you know, how was it like for – you know, what was it like for you? What did –?” You know – and they were wonderful, and personable, and it was amazing, and –

DW: There’s a great website tributing – with tributes to Dean Hazelton. You should check it out.

KWG: Yeah. Yeah. Little bits. But that was – I mean, so that – I found that to be a really – you know, a really fun class. But I – I still – [01:00:00] I think, because I was struggling with the dyslexia, and just – I felt – the analogy I often use is that, for me, Brown was like drinking from a fire hydrant with a teaspoon. It was good, and there was a lot of it, and it was rushing out, and

turn out, I mean, every teaspoon I needed, but, you know, it just – (laughter) it was just – I mean, all the resources – again, as I said in the beginning, I – you know, I did– who would’ve known, going in, to pick a college that had good dyslexic support. I didn’t know I was dyslexic, and I didn’t know that the independent study would be so important. I didn’t know what those pieces would be. But there were so many resources available that Brown was meeting us as students. But it really was – for me, it was daunting. And, you know – and when you’re drinking from a fire hydrant, things get muddy around, you know, and your teaspoon gets –

CC: It’s quite an (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

KWG: A splash in its face. (laughter)

F: (inaudible).

KWG: No, and I had a – my study partner, who’s here at reunion week, he would – you know, we would – I would get up in the morning and go down, and we’d eat together, and we’d take a couple classes together, and he’d go through, [01:01:00] and then I would – in exhaustion, having done the crew thing – would go to sleep and try to – and he would go and have, like, another six or eight hours of life, and then we’d get up in the morning, and he’d come and tell me all the things he had done, which I couldn’t have done. And again, I was like, wow. And for him, he came from a far better, you know, preparation, and he could write that paper without it – you know, without agonizing. And he study skills, and he had all those things that made – and so for him, I don’t think – I envisioned him sort of leaning over and getting a nice glass of water from the fire hydrant, you know, while sitting in a lounge chair. But it was challenging, but it – there was something wondrous about campus because everything was here.

KA: Well, I had a (inaudible), Barbara Tannenbaum, Ann Fausto Sterling –

F: Oh, Barbara Tannenbaum.

KA: – Ted Sizer, among others, who just – I think I was in that class with you, the Women’s Studies class – and I forget her name, but I think [01:02:00] I took that class with you. (inaudible) that she fit in.

MMG: Oh, I – Mari Jo Buhle.

KA: (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) – I did Mari Jo Buhle.

MMG: Yeah. I probably had to do that.

KA: Yeah. So I – it was just one thing

F: Ellen Rooney!

F: [It was just?] –

F: Yeah. Ellen Rooney, Neil Lazarus, like post-colonial literature. That was –

KA: I did a class with Bass. What was his –

DW: Ramona And –

KA: Yeah. Just – anyway, I did a lot of Afro. Am. stuff. But –

DW: (inaudible).

KA: But anyway –

F: So –

KA: All of those guys. I mean, it was just – the great thing about Brown was you could shop a class. So any class that I walked in, there was like – and that only happened like once or twice – I just didn't take it. You know, I mean there was just way too many things to offer. I mean, I –

KWG: One thing I really appreciated, speaking of being able to shop, is that the – oh, the English classes were harder to get into, but they had small English classes, where you'd have 10 to 12 – [01:03:00] maybe it was 15 – but a relatively small number. And I knew enough then to make sure that I was taking – I couldn't – I was taking a writing class every time. Even though it was killing me, I was doing it each time. But it was a small number. It was a nice juxtaposition to some of the larger – like, calc. class where you were swimming in thousands of people.

DW: Does anybody remember graffiti? I had this amazing experience the last – back at campus in November, and I went to the restrooms by the gate. And all of a sudden, I was back.
(overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

KA: The graffiti – the second floor of the library

F: The graffiti.

KA: The second floor of the Rockefeller Library in the women's restroom, it was all the information you needed to know about who to avoid for sexual harassment. It was all graffiti-ed on the wall.

F: I don't remember that. (laughter)

MMG: I don't remember that at all. Did we – I think I was down in the basement (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

F: Yeah, me too. (laughter)

DW: [01:04:00] For me, it wasn't the Rock. It was just the quality of the conversation. (laughter) (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) quite like it (inaudible). Nothing since. I don't know what that says about my reality.

KWG: And we didn't capture it, right? We would've needed, like an (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) change. I remember, like, the part of it –

KA: Because they'd come in and they'd paint it, but it would, like – like new, better stuff would come back. (laughter)

DW: Cries for help and the earnest answers right there, and, like, the – you know, the intellectual sparring, and the quotes, and, like – there's something unique there.

F: (inaudible)

DW: (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) [to have that?] experience in my travels since and prior.

WC: I'm so glad you brought that up. (laughs) (multiple conversations; inaudible). I was going to ask if there was, you know, other sort of final thoughts, things that come to mind, along [01:05:00] the lines of your mailboxes or graffiti that you think are important to remember.

KWG: Does anyone remember – there was something about walking on the Pembroke-Brown steps. Do you remember – there used to be something that if you stepped on the Pembroke emblem –

F: Yes.

F: You wouldn't get married or something?

KWG: You would get married – or you wouldn't?

DW: It was one of those. (laughter)

KWG: I think it was that if you walked down the hall and you stepped on the emblem, you would get married, because I remember thinking, I am not going – like, because I wanted to have children and get – I mean, I knew that was – but I would always walk around it, and just because – because it – I’m like, I am not partic—nope. Mm-mm. Not going to – mm-mm. And I remember thinking, like, afterwards – so I went with my husband. I stood on it, took a picture, and I was like – but I remember there were a few of those sort of little, you know –

F: Traditions.

KWG: – the school superstitions or school –

CC: Right. There was drinking from the fountain on Benefit Street.

F: I don’t know this – that one. That was –

CC: If you drank from it, you would never leave Providence, [01:06:00] and so you would have to go pee in it or something. (laughs) But you know, more than one drunken night, I remember peeing in it. (laughter)

KWG: I do remember the card – you know, the card that said, “Providence, where friendship is a one-way street.” (laughter)

CC: Yeah, right.

MMG: Yes, that was a good one. That was a great postcard. This is so nerdy, and not a tradition, but one thing, just to place us in our – I guess, 26 years ago that I, you know, would’ve graduated, is – I had a typewriter when I started with onion skin paper. And I wrote my senior’s thesis on the mainframe computer. But, you know, it was so different it that way.

F: Yes.

KWG: In 1980 –

MMG: And I think about most of my writing, and everything else, and I think that's, like, an important moment, when try to explain that, like, to my – either my students or my kids, it's very (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

KA: I was completely blessed. The person who lived across from me freshman year was Mike Cammer. And he had a computer. He had a DOS-based computer and [01:07:00] WordStar programming, pre – WordStar was the name of the program. You had to put, like, the line height, and the coding, and the blah, blah, blah – up in the top corner. And he – God bless him, because remember, I'm dyslexic, too – he let me write every single paper I wrote at Brown on his computer. I had a key to his dorm room and every single paper I wrote on his computer.

KWG: Well, the freshman – it was the freshman year was the first year that there was a Mac – it was the first, I think, nationally, Apple – the Apple Orchard – it was a Macintosh in the basement. We had the little Macintoshes. It was – you know, it was – the screen was this big.

CC: With the floppy disks.

KWG: And you put the little floppy disk in, and we'd be – and you'd hear everyone going through. And then there was something, like the power would go, (sound effect), and everybody would go (gasps). (laughter) And there was this moment that everyone was, like, "Ah!" And I said, "What happens now?" And someone says, "Did you save?" "What's saving?" (laughter) (inaudible) was like – and we went back and forth, and someone – [01:08:00] and one of the computer geeks goes, "You're always supposed to save." I'm like, "Okay. What is that?" And they're like, "Well, you have to – every now and again, you have to –" You know, there was no auto save. This was, you know – and you had to save. And you didn't – and I remember, I'm,

like, “But I did save. I saved it. It’s on this disk.” Because then everything went – and I had to take the disk, and I had to go somewhere on Wriston Quad to some geek who was able to decode it, and get it, and – somewhere in there – and this is how dyslexically desperate I was. There was, like, some mangled four paragraphs, and I’m, like, “I have to get those back.” And he just sort of pulled that out and got that. But so that was the first time we had Macintoshes, and we still had a [sun lab?]. You still could go to the –

MMG: I didn’t have a Mac. I remember there was a mainframe for us. Do you remember Angela Taylor?

CC: Uh-huh.

MMG: Angela Taylor was – I could instant message with her, which I haven’t done since, but she knew how to do it when you were on the mainframe. I remember that. And I remember when I printed out – I think it was my honors thesis, but it might have been something else – I was, like, feverish, last-minute, as I always was. I didn’t really remember how to – learn how to do drafts until graduate school. [01:09:00] And I printed it – like, rather than up and down, like this, I printed it, like, landscape. (laughter) And I handed it in like that, I remember. It was just because I had no time left.

DW: How did they come printed out from the mainframe? (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) –

MMG: There was a place to go –

CC: There was a place to go to pick it up.

DW: Like, hours later, in a different building and (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

F: It was in a different building, and you had to ask for it, and – (multiple conversations; inaudible)

KWG: Remember – I don't know if we were the first, but we also would – we have the, you know, the Brown – we had the first – you needed to go and get your picture. And we were the first that had these pictures on an ID card.

F: Yeah.

MMG: I don't remember the ID card. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

KA: You could use the ID card to get credit at the Gate.

KWG: Right, because that was the first time that – they were relatively new (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) –

KA: I'm just not – probably –

MMG: I remember that the milkshakes were called cabinets, which I've told my kids since then. Cabinets. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

F: Cabinets. Yeah. Frappes.

MMG: The milkshakes were cabinets. That's a Rhode Island thing.

F: Yeah.

KA: And then the other thing is they had this, like – one, we had phones in the dorm, which was a big deal, because a lot of [01:10:00] students our age in other universities didn't. We had phones in the dorm. And then later on, they had these things called answering machines, which you could purchase and attach to your phone.

KWG: My mother was sure that I was up to no good. She's like, "I called your dorm." Christine and I were counselors at Perkins. She's like, "I called your dorm." And I said, "Okay." And she said, "But I called at 10, and at 11, at 12." Like, "Mom, I'm in a computer science class. I program. You know, when they give the assignment, I program the entire weekend, except from, you know, 4:00, or whenever they shut the computer lab down for an hour and a half." I'm like, "And then I emerge and I sleep for three days." And that's how, like – and then I go to all my other classes at this time." She's like – and she was just so confused. She's like, "But I call you. When do you sleep?" I'm like, "Not on those days. I'm sorry, you know." (laughs) And then she's – "And then I called and it was busy." Well, sure, because when I get to the dorm, I take the phone out because I don't want to talk to you when I'm asleep." But it was bef—pre-answering machines, you know, or just as we were –

DW: Did we have phones in our rooms?

F: We did.

F: Yes.

DW: I had no recollection of –

F: We did.

MMG: I kind of [01:11:00] do remember that.

KWG: It came that –

KA: It came with the room.

KWG: It came that year.

KA: Yeah.

KWG: Or right (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) –

MMG: I don't think – I kind of remember a phone. Yeah.

KWG: No, it was – it must've been – It was the phone that you actually laid – you know, you could lay it down on the ground. Like, it had – at least the ones at Perkins, and I think at – you would – you'd lay it down. When you lift it up, it – you know, there wasn't a cradle for it. It was already down here.

MMG: I remember talking on a phone, and it was way before cell phones, and I feel like I talked on a phone –

KWG: In your room?

MMG: – in my room. So –

F: Yes.

MMG: So that – (laughter) Putting the pieces together, but I might be remembering it incorrectly (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

WC: Well, I hope you do all your organizing. (laughter)

KWG: Well, there were also the little – you know, the little – you know, they still do that, apparently, is they have the little, you know, wipeout boards that you can – dry erase boards that you could leave messages for on the doors, and that's what we did before answering machines. Someone would go and leave a message and – and there was a code. If you read it, you wiped it off. If you hadn't read it, then –

DW: You shared a phone with the roommates, obviously.

F: Yeah. That, I can –

DW: It's so weird. I have no [01:12:00] memory of talking on the phone.

KA: (laughter) I was with my husband, and we – I lived at Metcalf for two years, and we walked in, and we were just walking around, and we saw washing machines. And I was like – (laughter) and I looked at the washing machines, and I was like, did I do laundry at all?

F: I don't remember laundry, either. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

F: I have no memory of laundry.

KA: I must've done laundry once. (laughs) I'm sure that I washed my clothes, but I have no memory of doing laundry on college.

F: I have no memory of that, either.

F: Me, either. (laughter)

KWG: Well, I know some people left their laundry and took it home, like, in – but there was – it was mostly, like, the gross guys that didn't, but –

MMG: Yeah. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) –

KWG: Well, we had to wash (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

MMG: – winter break. That would've been pretty bad. (laughs)

KWG: Yeah, there must've – (laughter) I remember something about laundry soap, but I don't remember – Those were the days, my friends.

WC: [01:13:00] Well, thank you. Thank you all. Here's hoping everyone did laundry at some point. (laughter) (overlapping dialogue; inaudible). Thank you all. I hope you have a great rest of your reunionweekend. I really appreciate you sitting down and talking with me.

F: Thank you for organizing it.

KA: Thank you so much for doing what you're doing.

F: Yeah. Check out the graffiti.

F: (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

MMG: As someone who goes through archives, I'm glad that archivists exists. (laughs)

WC: You know, the basement of Alumnae Hall, which is my sometimes-bathroom has some – I don't think it gets much attention, so some of those stalls are –

F: Some of those last –

WC: I feel like the rest of the place is clean as a whistle. Like –

DW: Well, that hasn't been my experience coming back, certainly in Faunce, but it was the Gate. It was the restroom near –

KA: It was in the gate, the gate.

F: Oh, yeah. I remember the gate. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

KWG: You know, I feel like this is one of those addenda, but one – I will say that coming back to brown, the buildup between the main Green and Pembroke – you know, the Pembroke campus [01:14:00] has created a sense like it's part of the same – it felt to me that so much like – oh, yeah we (inaudible) the women's college, you know – that it was really – there was so much of a difference between, you know, this section and that section, that now, it's just sort of the green corridor, and the buildup, and the – when you have the map, you know, there's all these brown spots between, you know, here and there, that represent Brown, that it feels so much more – so much closer. And I remember – I mean, it seemed like Perkins was just, you know, forty s—

F: (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) –

KWG: I mean, not 47, but 15 blocks away, and now I'm like, it's four blocks – like, it's not that far. And coming to – so the campus seemed very far. I remember going to the athletic facility and that was so far. And I walked that today and it's two blocks from Pembroke. So things have already tightened up.

F: (inaudible), too. Things seem further.

CW: Thank you so much.

F: Thank you again.

F: Thank you.

- END -