

Date: July 12, 1979

Occupation: Student (“one of many”); also associate news editor for *The Dickinsonian*

INTERVIEWER: When did you first hear about the TMI incident?

NARRATOR: March 28 – yeah, Wednesday, March 28. Over the twix.

INT: Over the huh?

NAR: AP wire service. And then I heard it from Lucky Talbott.

INT: Oh wow, what did Lucky say?

NAR: He... I was walking to the Union, and he pulled up in his car and he asked me if I had seen the wires. And I go, why? And he said, because they have a radiation leak at Three Mile Island. And I said no. Then I came down and read the wires.

INT: So you heard it from Lucky first?

NAR: Yeah, Lucky first.

INT: Ok, what’d you first feel – like, when he told you about this?

NAR: I was really excited, because *[both laugh]* – here was a story! *[Laughter.]* Then I ran into the editor of the paper.

INT: Oh, we should give a little background here.

NAR: All right, background, associate editor of the school paper. How much more background do you need? Intending?

INT: Well, I mean, just so, when they read this transcript, they don’t think that you’re – you’re into S&M or something *[laughing]*.

NAR: Oh, okay. *[Laughs.]* Anyway... um... no, I ran into the editor, and he and I decided to – well, it was fortunate because that was the first week back from break. So, we didn’t have an issue that week since it was a short week, and since we had nothing to do that day which, Wednesday is normally a production day, we decided to go out there and try and get a story. Our intent simply... Neither of us really realized what had happened. We just thought “Oh, little puff of smoke or something.” But – the word radiation has an allure, and we decided to go out and try to interview residents and get their feelings on it.

INT: Residents... from where?

NAR: Middletown. Right around, within a radius of the island. And so, we – let’s see. I cancelled my staff meeting that I was going to have. We got, Buddy drove, the editor drove, us out there and I took along of course my camera and a telephoto lens, the whole deal. And then, do you want me to keep telling you what happened?

INT: What day was this?

NAR: This was still Wednesday.

INT: Oh really?

NAR: This was Wednesday, about one-thirty. Two o’clock.

INT: Okay, yeah. Keep talking about that then.

NAR: Okay. So we got out there about 3:00 or so, we weren’t sure how to get out there! *[laughing]* I figured, we just went towards the airport, because you can see the cooling towers on the way to the airport. And since I fly to and from, you know, I’m thinkin’, “ah ha!” *[Laughs]*. We were real professional journalists! *[both laughing]* And the whole time we kept listening to the radio trying to get more reports and background, and at that time, they were like grabbing workers and sticking them on. “Oh it’s a mess in there!” Or, you know, “It’s nothing, just a little mess.” And things like that. So we really didn’t know what we were heading out into, but we figured it had to be safe if people were out – well, *relatively* safe – if people were out there, interviewing and things like that. But we decided to demonstrate that we were indeed serious journalists, and that the Cause, and the journalistic ethic, comes before the thought of personal safety. *[INT laughs.]* And – I guess it’s kind of a nuclear bravado sort of thing *[laughs]*. And, I mean, there was a lot of ego involved also, I mean, we wanted to show that *The Dickinsonian*, this po-dunky little weekly newspaper of Dickinson College was on top of things. Because, we thought for sure nobody from *The Sentinel* was out there. At the time there wasn’t, they got all their stuff from the wire service.

INT: Did they eventually come out?

NAR: Ah, yeah, they sent a photographer out, the whole deal. So, you know. I mean, it was – the story of the century!

INT: But *The Dickinsonian* got there first!

NAR: Not first.

INT: Well, before *The Sentinel*.

NAR: That’s not saying much *[both laughing]*. So anyway, we got out there, and there were like... The gate, of course, to the island, on the causeway to the Island was blocked

off. And we couldn't get out there, not that we were overly excited to go *on* to the Island, that not being our main objective.

INT: Okay, well who was already on the island? Were there already other reporters on the island, or what?

NAR: No, no, no. No one was on the Island, except, to the best of my knowledge, workers who were still there, and...

INT: Like the technicians?

NAR: ...things like that, yeah. No reporters were on the Island. So we went to the observation center, and there were some people from like Penn State, cars all over the place. Most of the people had wandered off, though, had been there, you know, around noon, eleven or so, when it was first reported to the press or something, and they were leaving, packing up and leaving. So – we took our pictures, and we knew it was reactor number two, so – we heard that over the radio, so we took pictures of that and stuff. They wouldn't let us in the observation center but I took some pictures of like guys in the radio – radioactive suits, who were wandering around, who had either been on the island or were coming off the island or something like that, and apparently they were having a big meeting in the observation center, which we tried to crash but we didn't manage to successfully [*laughing*].

INT: Why did it look like they were having a big meeting?

NAR: Well, there were guards and like guys with walkie-talkies in the suits and everything...

INT: And you tried to *crash* this?

NAR: We just tried to go in, we figured it's the observation center, [*both laughing*], you know? The public's allowed? Again we weren't really sure, we weren't aware of the security they had clamped down on it. Keep in mind we just – we thought “story”, and charging out there, so.

INT: Is the observation tower ordinarily open to the public?

NAR: Generally, I am told. Well, weekdays and stuff, because they have, you know, stick a dime in the slot and you can look through the telescope [*laughing*]. That sort of thing. And now it's been opened again because they're showing that TMI movie, of “the holocaust”. So anyway. Then we saw this woman walking her dog in a field, oh about three hundred yards away from, behind the observation center. Oh, and a helicopter was in the field too, it was getting ready to take off, a Met Ed helicopter. Whoopee. I think helicopters are neat! [*Laughs.*] So, we were still kind of, I must confess rather awed with the whole situation, I mean, we weren't sure how to conduct ourselves because we

knew enough to know that we were... on... the... verge of something *big*, in the way of a story.

INT: How could you tell that? Just the atmosphere around the place or what?

NAR: Yeah, well, for us. For our experience. I mean we had never gone out and chased ambulances or chased state police and things like that. Never tried to crash in a closed meeting and things like that. It's just exciting. And plus, it was the first time we've ever tried to get news off campus. And TMI, although it's not *really* close to Carlisle, we figured we could bring it home to students. Because, again, when we went out thinking we'd talk to residents, we'd bring home the idea of nuclear. And on the way up, Buddy and I, the editor – Buddy is the editor. Buddy Blinn. *[Both laugh.]* Buddy and I talked about possible angles to the story, we were thinking of consulting, like, P-laws, and...

INT: What are P-Laws?

NAR: Priscilla Laws.

INT: Oh. *[Laughs.]*

NAR: ...and, um, Lisa Pawelski and people like that, get them to write – and Luetzelschwab. To get them to write about nuclear energy and tying it all together. And – not make it a nuclear issue but we thought we could at least get a full page spread of articles out of it. So we talked to this lady, and she just said how she was kind of uneasy, how she didn't really heard about it except when her husband got to work and heard on the radio, and she was kind of distressed at the lack of... She has a lot of good quotes about the lack of Met Ed informing the immediate public and area, and that how most people heard about it on the radio and things like that. She said that caused, she thinks more panic than was necessary at the time, etc., etc., etc. And she said she wasn't thinking of moving or anything, which was essentially what we wanted. Actually, ideally we would have like the story where everybody was packing up and leaving *[laughing]*. But... Then, interestingly, it was a case of dumb luck, because by this time all the other reporters had gone home. And what had been missing is, okay, Walter Creeds and all the Met Ed spokesmen and stuff like that were giving their careful statements the whole time.

INT: Walter who?

NAR: Creeds. He's Vice President or something like that in Met Ed.

INT: Okay.

NAR: But anyway... they had been giving their statements that were being aired on the radio continuously and stuff. And with the exception of some CBS or ABC correspondent who had been down and just grabbed some worker as they were coming off the island to get him to say something like "it's a real mess in there." And then she said, well, do you think working with nuclear reactors is safe, and he said "no." And

that's, like, the only two comments from a worker. And with the exception of that, anybody who was actually there at the time it happened, nobody could get him. And obviously that would be like prime thing to get, but we hadn't even thought of that, because, quite frankly, we didn't think we had a chance to compete with, well who all...

INT: *[laughing]* National news!

NAR: Jimmy Breslin flew in, you know, all these big names, who you just kind of bow and scrape! *[Both laugh.]* So, anyway. We went walking down one of the streets – like, here's the island, there's the river, the Observation Center is across from the river and the island and then right to the right to the right of the Observation Center, as you're looking at the island, is a road that travels back. We went, started going down that road.

INT: Did you know where it went?

NAR: Of course not! *[Both laugh.]* We didn't have, we weren't *going* someplace, we were going down to get some more houses and talk to some more people. We didn't think our article could consist of one woman and her dog! *[Both laugh.]* I mean, be serious, we want to have at least *two* sources. *[INT laughs.]* Um... Shhh, which reminds me, we forgot to send her an issue of the paper. We said we would. *[Both laugh.]* Oh well. Well...you know...

INT: Send it to her now.

NAR: Yeah. I don't have her address, Buddy does... I think. Well anyway *[both laugh]*. So anyway, so we started walking down this street. And as we were going down the street to the left there was a really new house, I mean, barely had grass, it was freshly sodded, and you could tell it was a new house because you could see the foundation and the dirt around the foundation and stuff. And there was a car in the driveway, with one of those River Rescue strikers on it, "Remember the River Rescue." So we went up there, and knocked... No we didn't go up there at first, we went to another house, and then we –

INT: Was this all residential area?

NAR: Oh yeah. And farm. But we went down – We skipped that house, and went down to the next house because we thought no one was at home at the new house, we thought it was still being built. Went down to the house after that and tried knocking, and the woman wasn't there, or the man, whoever lived there wasn't there. And after that the houses started getting farther and farther apart, it was getting late, and Blinn's like – "Do we really want to go walking all over creation and try and find people?" *[Both laughing.]* And I'm like, "hmmmm." And he goes, "How about if we just write an *account* of the events?" *[INT laughing.]* And I'm like, "hmmmmmm." And he goes, "you know we can just get a phone book, and call these people." *[Both laughing.]* And so, since we were both getting tired and hungry, and he's like, "hmm, wonder how much radiation we've absorbed." We were still joking at this point, though. We went back to that one house and I said, "Hey, Blinn, let's go to this house and knock and see if

somebody's there. Because there's a car there." And our intent then was to ask if the reactor being on Three Mile Island had anything, influenced their decision to build a house there in any way. We thought we'd go with the real estate angle since we were really bombing out as far as people go. So, we went to the door and we knocked. No answer. So we started back down the drive, and this guy comes to the door – clad in jeans and nothing more. *[Laughs.]* And he goes, "Were you knocking?", and we're like, "Yeah". And Blinn's like, "Shit!" *[Both laugh.]* "I wanna get back." So he goes, "Well come on in," he goes, "I was in the shower, come on in." So he invites us in. We explain who we are – we're still feeling kind of foolish at this point *[both laughing]*, but we explained who we are, what we're doing there, etc., etc., etc., and we ask him who he is and everything, and would he consent to an interview. And he goes, "Sure." And we go "oh." And he goes, "As a matter of fact I work on the island, and I there when the alarms went off."

INT: Oh no!

NAR: Oh yes! *[laughing.]*

INT: Oh, what did he say? *[Both laughing. Voice in the background: "Oh, I've gotta stay for this one!"]*

NAR: Okay. So, as it turned out, we had a man – Mike Donelan's his name.

INT: What does he do there?

NAR: And as it turned out, he worked in the supply department for Reactor Two, for the complex for Reactor Two. And his job, essentially, is – He receives all the parts and the sh – and the equipment and stuff, checks them out, and then takes them to where they're needed for construction and whatever's going on. It's not a very glamorous job, but we found out that he has access to every place on the island, with the exception of, like, inside the reactor where you have to wear the protective clothing and stuff. So, here we had somebody who had – he works the eleven-to-seven shift, or worked the eleven-to-seven shift, on the island. So, as we pieced together from him, this was before we knew times, from the radio and the wire service and things like that. The initial release of radiation or when the turbine tripped or whatever was around four AM or so. He told us all about the events between four and seven AM.

INT: So he was there from eleven in the night until seven in the morning, and it happened at four in the morning?

NAR: Right, yeah. And, see, our first question was – essentially, what happened? And he told us to the best of his knowledge, and it's all recorded in our nuclear issue, *The Dickinsonian*, the story we wrote. A lot of details were edited out that we really couldn't fit into the story. But essentially the tone is still there. But what he told us – and it was really quite exciting, because we had, I mean, it was like staring us in the face, this prime opportunity, somebody who had been on the island. Because he said, he said right away

that he was there when it happened, and that he just got out the gate before they kept everybody on. And he said, the alarms were going off, signaling, stay on the island. But he said, "I wasn't gonna stay around, I worked my shift," and he left. And he left at seven. And people who tried to leave at seven fifteen, the normal time, couldn't get off the island. They sealed it at that point. So we're like, "Yay!" [Both laugh.] So we talked to him, we were there about two and a half hours talking to him, about nuclear, TMI, the whole deal. And before going out there I'd never heard of Three Mile Island, other than, you know, I'd never made a connection. And I never realized there was a nuclear power plant in Harrisburg [laughing]. It's just, you know – Carlisle is so far removed. [Both laugh.] We got other things to worry about. So – This Mike Donelan told us a that the turbine tripped around four A.M., I believe. Signaling that... um, the steam that generates the turbine somehow, the flow of steam was interrupted. And he said that you can't mistake a turbine trip because sirens go off all over the place. And he said that, that was at the point where he said that the turbine had been tripping quite a bit lately. I mean, they were quite common. And what he and his friends said in the stockroom, was they said "Oh, there she goes again." Which, we – One thing I might just say is, we asked him, and we confirmed everything that he told us, because – you know. We didn't know. We couldn't trust just his word, but we asked him to repeat himself quite often and made him positively absolutely sure he knew what he was saying. And so he said that the turbine tripped around four, and that general policy is to bring the turbine back on line. He explained to the best of his knowledge, and I had this later confirmed by a control room supervisor that I talked to. But he explained that when a turbine tripped, the safety system is automatically engaged, which shuts down the reactor. Because if the flow of steam is interrupted somehow and the turbine's not going, there's no way to get rid of the steam, so to prevent more from building up they, like, lower the rods into the reactor and cool it off. He said that the safety system went into effect, and no one thought about it anymore. But he also said that in the time that the safety system goes into effect, there's a second back-up safety that goes into effect after the first one's been activated, but there's like a time span between the two. And he explained that, in that time span, what tried to do was bring the turbine back on line. And keep generating power.

INT: Is that normal policy?

NAR: Yeah.

INT: Okay.

NAR: It was at the time. With all the regulations and everything, and I haven't been following the NRC hearings so I'm not really sure what new policy is. But, he said that they normally try to keep it on line to keep it producing electricity. Well, today I just learned that it's costing Met Ed fourteen million dollars a month to supply its customers with power by not renting, by having to buy it from other power companies. So obviously time is money, I mean, fourteen million dollars a *month!*? So...

INT: So what happened in the time that they tried to bring this on the line? Between the two safety...?

NAR: So he said that – He assumes they were trying to bring it on the line. And it didn't work, and the safety system started – engaged. The second safety system engaged. He said at that time, or shortly thereafter... I think yeah then, he said that the radiation alarms went off. Now the radiation alarms are a different set of alarms, signaling that there has been a release of radiation from the reactor. And he said those are like ear-shattering, they just kind of like *floor* you. Because they want *everyone* on the whole island to hear that there's been a radiation accident. And he said that was when he decided that the shift was over, because it was shortly before seven. So he left. And he – He said if he were contaminated, which he doubted, a shower takes it off. Interestingly enough, before he went to work for the stock, he was a radiation technician. And, what he did is he worked with the people who handled radioactive materials and stuff and cleaned them up and things like that. And tested levels and things like that. And he said that what he learned then is if radiation ever goes off, the island immediately dispatches teams to go check, like, pre-designated spots within like a mile radius, they all go take soil and air samples and stuff and report back, instantly, like over walkie-talkies, so that if there's ever – or two-way transmitters, if there's ever a significant sample a mile from the plant, then that's when Met Ed notifies people. So, his story got really thready after that, because he kept going back and forth to other things and things like that, but that's essentially the way he told the – the events.

INT: Why was there the radiation release in the first place?

NAR: He said, that's what we asked him and he said it was probably because they tried to override the second safety system and keep the turbine... in the time between the two safeties, tried to override it to get the turbine back on line and keep it producing power, however the malfunction was probably more serious than they had thought. Because normally when a turbine trips it's something very minor. Like – a stuck valve for a second or something. But he said that apparently it was much more major than they realized at the outset. And the build-up of steam and pressure got to be so great that it just – He said, the way the safety system works, um, if you think of it as kind of like a pressure cooker, with a pipe going off of it, and he said the pipe going off of it leads to the turbine. And if that breaks down, they immediately cool the reactor, so that the pressure cooker reactor doesn't blow its top. Well apparently it didn't cool, or when they were trying to get it back on line and work the turbine again, apparently the top kind of like – burped, and let loose some radioactivity and the steam, but, again he didn't think it was anything much. He was terribly unconcerned about the whole thing. And so, at that time, both Buddy and I thought, “Hey, this is great. Great story,” you know, minimal risk, on our part, we figured our chances of getting hurt were greater driving there and back then being around there. So we came back, we got back about six-thirty or seven that night, might even have been as late as seven-thirty. And we'd listened to the radio, and no new reports or anything. Except that Met Ed was now beginning to say that they were getting extremely distressed by how much clean up there would be involved. So we came back and we still, it was Wednesday night, so I went over to see some friends and

told, I told them how we were out there and stuff, and then it started the “gee, you glow in the dark” jokes. You know, it was fun for about the first two, and after that it got kind of boring, it’s like, “no I don’t glow in the dark.” Buddy got back and immediately went home and took a shower. *[INT laughs.]* He wasn’t taking any chances. I didn’t, I washed my face and hands.

INT: So he did that on purpose, because of the radiation, went back and took a shower?

NAR: Yeah. *[Break in tape. Aside, to someone else:]* She’s doing her laundry. Yeah. Yeah. Thanks a lot.

[Break in tape; other voices in background, NAR and INT laughing when tape resumes.]

INT: Okay.

NAR: So he deliberately went back to take a shower. Buddy’s – conservative and timid by nature! *[Both laughing.]* So I figured – oh, I figured at that time, you know, what the hell, I get as much radiation sitting in front of the TV or something. I really... I didn’t want to give in to alarmism, like Buddy had. So I deliberately didn’t shower until the next morning. *[Both laugh.]* “You have hair falling out!” *[Unclear; both laughing.]*

INT: Wow, you’ve answered a lot of my questions so far, but I’ll just keep going here. So you didn’t feel at first that it was a serious situation at all?

NAR: Well...

INT: Or what?

NAR: I did and I didn’t. We knew it was quite serious by the fact that – I mean, obviously the steam when we got out there, just looking...

INT: Yeah, describe the scene when you were out there.

NAR: Okay. Well, when we got out there – it was about three o’clock, I guess. When we got out there, there were state police, quite a few state police out there, and all the reporters’ cars and things like that, a couple camera crews. *[Laughing.]* And we laughed at one anchorwoman... One anchorwoman was primping in front of a mirror before she went on camera. It was pretty funny. So we were riding, just walking around, and we got the feeling that we were there after like, the major press announcement or something like that. By the same token we were kinda glad that we were the only two wandering around snooping as it were. But the observation towers about a half – about a quarter of a mile up from the entrance to the island, that was sealed off. And two police cars sat there, and there were like some official cars, and a lot of people around the gate. So we didn’t even bother trying to go up there, it was just too congested and stuff. At the Observation Center, there were like all these official trucks, there was the Met Ed helicopter, a couple of people wandering around in the radiation suits, everybody had a

hard hat and their walkie-talkie or whatever. And there were a couple Met Ed security cars, there with their holsters and guns and things like that, in the Observation Center. So it all had a sense of melodrama, it was great.

INT: How did you feel while you were up there?

NAR: I was thrilled to death! *[Laughs.]*

INT: Really?

NAR: Well... Keep in mind that... there's always... On *The Dickinsonian* we've always felt... kind of slighted by the rest of the campus, that we feel... patronized. And, everybody kind of ignores us, and they only bitch if the paper doesn't come out, that sort of thing. And so, much of our attitudes from working on the paper, and kind of... our snob complex, thinking we were more on top of things and things like that. So when we were out there, it was like, "This is great. What a story we have to tell," that sort of thing. It was a great deal of ego out there. And, you know, we were just really excited to be involved. And we kept saying over and over, if this were production night, we couldn't, if we had had to have put out an issue the next day, we would've missed the story. So the timing was really good as far as we were concerned *[both laughing]*.

INT: Well besides being thrilled because you're getting this story, were you scared at all?

NAR: No, not really. Not even talking to Mike Donelan because – we were too busy thinking ahead of what we had to do with the story, and what we were going to do with it, and things like that, to really to really reflect upon whether or not to be scared. Throughout the whole week or whatever, the only times we really got concerned, alarmed, scared, panicked, was when we were by ourselves. Then we started comparing all the information we knew, that a lot of other people didn't know, and so – we were our own worst enemies in that respect. But like on the way back from TMI, Buddy's like, "well I'm going to shower and I suggest you do the same thing!" And I'm like, "Sissy." *[Both laugh.]* That sort of thing, but even then, no fear really set in.

INT: Were the other people up there, when you first went up there that Wednesday, were they – did they seem to be scared? Or not?

NAR: Uh-uh. No, it seemed like a routine assignment. It's –

INT: A news story.

NAR: It's accepted, it's like foreign correspondents reporting the war and stuff like that. It's all along that line of thinking, I think, that it's like part of the job. And, really you don't stop to think about the risk or anything.

INT: Okay, you said that the only time you got scared or panicked or whatever was when you and Buddy were alone and you started comparing notes and stuff?

NAR: Yeah.

INT: Okay, tell me about, if you can, like what day this was, or under what circumstances and what kind of information made you scared.

NAR: Okay how about if I answer that by telling you what happened from then on in chronological order?

INT: Okay, sure.

NAR: Because that'll put everything in perspective for you.

INT: Okay.

NAR: Okay, that was that day. And that night – well, that night we didn't think much about it, I studied for a test I had the next day. And it's like well we oughtta get, we'll work on it, this story on the weekend. Thursday – and we watched the news but the news wasn't a great deal of help then, it was still very early on. The next morning, Buddy and I between us bought, we bought like eight newspapers, and we read everything about TMI in all of them. I mean, the *Times*, the *Post*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *The Sentinel*, *The Patriot*, um... *The New York Daily News*, etc. etc. And we began to piece things together, because we had a lot of gaps in our information. Here we had Mike Donelan, someone who had been on the island. And he gave us his telephone number too, which was very nice. But – we didn't know exactly the chronological order of events. So, in one respect we were very well-informed. Yet in another respect, we lacked even the basic details of what had happened. So Thursday, essentially, went to class, and spent most of the day down in *The Dickinsonian* office, pondering what we were going to do. Thursday we didn't do all that much, we just – it was still dawning on us how big a story it really was, by then I guess there were the other radiation, another radiation, release of radiation of something like that. And so the thing was kind of snowballing at this point. And the press was taking what people had done before, I believe. It was kind of sensationalized stand by the bulletins and things like that. *[Break in tape; NAR talking and background voices; starts and stops again several times, then resumes.]*

INT: You're on, I'm off. *[Both laugh.]*

NAR: Um...

INT: Thursday.

NAR: Thursday. Thursday was nothing. We read the papers, more and more came out, etc., etc., etc. Thursday night, called Pat Flinchball, friend of ours who had worked on

the paper who's at grad school, journalism grad school at University of Michigan. And anyway, what Pat told us was essentially that we should quit being stupid and fucking around with our story, and sitting on it, that we should get busy and write it and sell it.

INT: The one that you interviewed that guy with?

NAR: Mm-hmm.

INT: So immediately we got the Woodward-and-Bernstein fever. *[INT laughs.]* Buddy saw dollar signs, and I saw fame and fortune, turn it off for a... *[NAR laughs. Break in tape.]*

INT: On. *[Background voice: "Sorry."]*

NAR: It's okay. *[INT laughs; NAR laughs.]* Massive editing on this tape. So anyway, Flinch told us to quit screwing around, and do the story and sell it. Which sounded like a real good idea to me. *[INT laughs.]* Still waiting for a check for it, too. But anyway, we then started scouring the papers and listening to all the news reports and everything, to find out whether or not anybody else had talked to a worker who'd been inside when it happened, because that was our angle, the only thing that made our story unique. So, essentially, from Friday night, Friday afternoon – skipped classes Friday. And from Friday till about Sunday afternoon, we spent trying to get Donelan again, to reconfirm all that... to get ahold of, Donelan also gave us a name and a number of somebody else who was a shift supervisor. And a shift supervisor in the control room being boss, but for unit number one, the one that was down for refueling, instead of unit number two, so we were trying to get ahold of him too. So essentially – oh, man, did we run up a phone bill that month. Um, essentially, we stayed up till like one or two, calling, and then we got up really early to call again, figuring, we knew when Donelan worked. Although he wasn't sure he'd go back into work since the island was sealed. So we kept trying to get ahold of him, we kept trying to get ahold of this other guy. Finally, it was Saturday night about one o'clock, I got ahold of the shift supervisor, and interviewed him, and apparently he and his wife and his family were leaving town that day, the next day, or that morning, later that morning, to visit relatives in West Virginia, and I asked him if it had anything to do with TMI and he said, "Yes!" *[Laughs.]*

INT: Oh wow.

NAR: So, that was my first account of – well in the meantime,,,

INT: This happened Saturday now?

NAR: Yeah. To back track a minute, on Friday, the Associated Collegiate Press called. Ah, they're a press service we belong to, equivalent for a wire service for a better paper, they send out weekly reports and stuff. They called and wanted a story, about the effect it had on campus, from us which we agreed to write for twenty cents a word, or a nickel a word, something like that. Some incredible sum. *[Both laugh.]* We were at this point,

we were really caught up in the materialistic [*laughing*] – It was becoming very profitable thing, and because we were working so hard on the story and stuff, again, we really didn't think about the dangers and stuff. And like when my roommates were freaking out and things like that, people all around us were starting to get very concerned, I suppose with just, who am I to say whether it was for just cause or not, although we treated it as though they were being silly. Partly to reinforce our sense of security and make us feel braver by scoffing at their being concerned, and partly because we were so caught up with, again, getting a story done before anybody else got it. Because it's really a cutthroaty thing, anybody could've scooped us. And we wanted to be the first. So anyway, he called up and asked for a story from us, the Associated Collegiate Press guy. We agreed to give it to him. At that point, he talked to me on the phone. And I said, yeah, a lot was happening on campus because people were starting to leave then, and stuff like that. And to finish up that so I'd get that loose and out of the way, as it turned out we didn't have time to do the article properly. And he called up Monday expecting it and we didn't have it for him. And he was really pissed off but what could he do? So he essentially talked to Jeff, and got some notes, and wrote it himself. And when the release came out, he quoted *me* in the release, saying that I said people were hitchhiking out of here they were so scared and stuff like that. That parents were roaring in in the middle of the night and taking their children and stuff like that. At which I point I called him up and yelled at him, and told him that first of all that what I had told him before was nothing of what was printed. I mean, it was wrong, and I never told him that, I mean I wouldn't make up something about hitchhiking out. And I said secondly, that he didn't tell me I was being interviewed for an article. I mean, we were two professionals at that point talking. I called him unethical and stuff, so we had a fight over the phone. [*Laughs.*] And later he wrote me an apology letter but, still.

INT: So what was this for?

NAR: This was for Associated Collegiate Press. Press service that's generated out of Wisconsin. It goes to newspapers, subscriber newspapers all over the country. Mostly college papers, some not college papers. So I was rather concerned that my name was all over it. But anyway, so we got ahold of this guy, Dale Pilsitz, who was the shift supervisor, and...

INT: For Reactor One?

NAR: For Reactor One, for the control room in Reactor One, and he told us about – He confirmed everything about normal procedures to keep, if a turbine trips, to keep it back on line, keep the unit on line, um... not at all costs, but... That the ge –

INT: Was that to save money or what?

NAR: Yeah, to keep generating money, because whenever the unit – Well – we called the NRC, we called all sorts of people. And the best I can piece together, the regulations and everything we heard, is that if there's a turbine trip, depending on the severity, there's a time limit. Like within seventy-two hours, Met Ed about within seventy-two

hours to report to the NRC. Three days, you know, a lot can happen in three days, and generally what they'll try to do is get it back on line so they can report, "went off line, say at 8:06, online at 8:10", or something like that. Radiation leaks they have to report immediately and that was a big angle right there because the first radiation leak occurred about seven, but nobody was really notified till about ten. And they're supposed to be notified immediately. So all these discrepancies kept appearing, and then we talked to Dale Pilsitz and he was the one who told us they keep the reactor online and make money, essentially whenever the reactors are idle it costs them a great deal of money. So he confirmed a lot of what Donelan told us... Again up until as I was trying to get a hold of Donelan and Pilsitz, and he was the one who told us that they keep the reactor online. To make money, you know. Essentially, whenever the reactors are idle it costs them a great deal of money. So he confirmed a lot of what Donelan told us. *[Background voices; break in tape. Resumes.]* Jesus Christ. We'll get this done one way or another! Um... so again, up until... As I was trying to get ahold of Donelan and Pilsitz, essentially I did all the research for the story and Buddy did all the contacting newspapers.

INT: You were talking about the guy in the first reactor, the supervisor?

NAR: Yeah well, Dale Pilsitz. When we finally got ahold of him, he confirmed everything Donelan said about overriding the second safety system, and standard control room policy is to keep the unit online... "dot dot dot", no matter what, whatever you wanna say. And he – Oh, another thing that Donelan said, Donelan said there's a great deal of human error involved and all. That's when the first human error thing came up, when we heard about it. 'Cause Donelan said that, working in stocks, the stock room in supplies, he'll see there are two things there, qual – what they call Q pieces and non Q pieces, Q pieces being quality, super tested, designed for like inside the reactor and stuff, guaranteed against defects by the manufacturer. And then non Q pieces are the normal things like you would buy, you take your chance, most of them are pretty good, but every now and then one might be bad. And he said that a great deal, he said like a Q, a little filter, maybe four-by-four inches, if it were a Q product it could cost as much as six hundred, seven hundred dollars for a little four-by-four inch piece of mesh. Whereas non-Q obviously is much cheaper. So anyway, he admitted – well he said in roaming the plant, whenever he'd seen many people get sloppy in what they were doing and not paying attention, he said he himself contributed to worker carelessness by not paying attention to Q- or non-Q parts to see which one he delivered. So, right there, he gave the attitude like, what the hell, you know?

INT: So there's a possibility that they get mixed up?

NAR: Yeah, and he said there're some days when he didn't feel like working so he figured, you know, the hell with it. And he said the work reflected that attitude. If workers had a, I mean, they were less than conscientious every minute they were on the job. And Pilsitz, he didn't comment on any of that, but he did say that human error could be a factor in the turbine trip, and trying to override the safety system and stuff. He said it boiled down to judgment and stuff like that. He was quite honest *[laughs]*, for my getting him out of bed and stuff. Um, so that was essentially all we had to work with.

Until we had, what Buddy was doing, Buddy immediately, he'd decided we weren't going to approach *The Sentinel* or *The Patriot* with the story.

INT: Why is that?

NAR: He had something against them. *The Sentinel* has been less than good to us at times with printing and things like that, and he thought they were too local and too backwoods.

I mean he was – We had high aims, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *New York Daily News*. They wanted it, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* knew about it and they were interested... *Time*, *Newsweek*, we tried the wire services, I mean, we did a great deal. We finally ended getting called at *The York Daily Record*. *The York Daily Record* is a medium-size newspaper, circulation about twenty thousand. Had just, right before TMI, had just concluded a six-part series on nuclear energy and Three Mile Island. And one article dealt with, if there were ever a mishap on the island, York would be wiped out, because they didn't have a suitable preparedness plan or anything like that, and they were right downwind, and all this...

INT: So you called Wiley Burke?

NAR: Yeah, and he volunteered, well, *[laughs]* he volunteered the services of his paper so to speak. He said he'd buy it. On the strength of Donelan alone, and Buddy told him we were trying to get ahold of Pilsitz, to confirm all this.

INT: Now, this is for *The York Daily Record*?

NAR: Right. They were going to buy the article on the strength of one source, but it'd be better if we had two. And he said he wanted it for Monday's edition. So he would've like to have seen it... Sunday.

INT: So what day was this, Saturday?

NAR: This is Saturday, when he... And Buddy said we'd get back to him. So we finished calling 'round Saturday and stuff, we had a couple more conversations with Pat about what to do with the article, and she had called *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and they were very interested in it, but they had never got ahold of us. Probably I think because we were on the phone the whole time and they couldn't get through. Marsha Connors' son-in-law works with *The New York Daily News*, and they wanted to buy it, she, because we had been consulting with her, and she talked to him and he said he wanted to buy it. But we decided to go with York.

INT: Why?

NAR: Umm... Primarily, I wasn't picky. And...

INT: Are they both about the same, or what?

NAR: Oh! *New York Daily News!*... [Both laugh.] Circulation of millions! ...Well, hundreds of thousands. We decided that, with *York Daily Record* being in York, we could control the article. And being a small paper we had much better chance of what we wanted – we wanted to be paid for the article and we also wanted by-lines so it would be a clip. So we decided that we could get more with a local paper. Yet it was, *The York Daily Record* was a cut above *The Patriot* or *The Sentinel*. We felt if it went to New York, we'd have to call it in over the phone, and we'd have no way of seeing what happened to it. We'd have no assurances that we would be paid or get a by-line or anything. So, we sold it to *York Daily Record*. And we also...

INT: For how much, can you tell me?

NAR: Fifty dollars. [Pause.] Well, no wait, I take that back, we didn't sell it to *The York Daily Record* for fifty dollars. We haven't gotten a check from them yet.

INT: Was this fifty dollars for the whole thing?

NAR: For one article, yeah.

INT: Or fifty dollars apiece between you and Blinn?

NAR: Well, I'm not – well, see I'm not sure, because we haven't been paid by them yet. Our check's been hung up, because we missed... It's a mess, but our check's been hung up. But by the same token what we did – and this is really – We wanted to get as much mileage out of the article as we could, so I sold it to my uncle's newspaper in Shamokin, which is out of the circulation range of *The York Daily Record*, sold it to him for fifty dollars, twenty-five for each of us, with by-lines... I sold it to my hometown paper, in Hamilton when I finally went home, when classes were cancelled, for another twenty-five dollars, and... we sold it to the weekly in Mechanicsburg, *The West Shore Times* to get some penetration into Harrisburg. But that was only for like twenty cents a column inch, that was for nothing, we never collected on that, because we just wanted the exposure at that point. So, it was in four newspapers. The same article, plus *The Dickinsonian*, five newspapers. So we got a great deal of mileage out of the article. And it was interesting, it was rewritten in *The York Daily Record*, it was rewritten to be much better than we wrote it, but they still put our by-lines on it. Yet, in all the other newspapers it appeared – well, I take it back, in my uncle's newspaper, and *The West Shore Times*, the weekly, it appeared as we wrote it, and in my hometown newspaper, which I had a big fight with them – they wrote an article about *me*, going to Three Mild Island, and didn't even mention what we learned in the article. Because they were afraid. To print it. And...

INT: What do you mean they were afraid to print it?

NAR: Oh... Their attitude was, I was some cocky college kid coming in off the street offering to sell them an article, which was very hot property at that time, and I had no references whatsoever, they couldn't get a hold of Donelan or Pilsitz to confirm that I had

talked to these people... For all they knew I made it up. And what the editor told me, he said quite frankly that if I were one of his staff, he'd print it without a moment's hesitation. But because he didn't know me, they'd have to check into it. So when they finally... So what they did is, they had one of their reporters interview me. Which, he called me up and asked me where I went to school, what I was majoring in, did I like journalism, and how I, how we got ahold of – *[laughing]*, you know, *stupid-ass* questions. And asked me how we stumbled on the article, which I told him. And that was what he wrote. I thought it'd only be like an ed note, and then they'd print out article, which would absolve them of most of the responsibility for it. But instead it was "Local Makes Good" type article that newspapers invariably run, which is poor – *[laughing]* they're *stupid* wastes of space anyway you look at them. So they wrote that, and I thought it was really... I didn't like it. I *hated* it. And I called them up and yelled at them, and then I sent a letter to the editor, saying that I thought that they were irresponsible for ignoring the biggest story of the century in favor of writing a "Local Makes Good" article. And I said that...

INT: Did they print the letter to the editor?

NAR: Yeah. And they responded to it, too, which is also very bad taste.

INT: What did they respond?

NAR: Oh, they just said that they couldn't trust me, and they were sorry I felt that way, but because I had no credentials they really didn't want to take the chance. It's such a conservative newspaper, they don't even have an editorial page and write editorials. *[INT laughs.]* So, you know, I ended that, and the *Journal-News*, my hometown paper, can blow up for all I care. They're all just wimps and douches. *[Both laughs.]* I mean... words do not...

INT: *[laughing]* And we've got that on tape!

NAR: Words do not express the hatred I feel for those people! Because, in my mind – It's not that they made me look stupid in the article, because I could care less about that. As far as I'm concerned, I mean, the longest I'm ever home is two weeks, or the month that we have for Christmas break, I spend the rest of the time in Carlisle. So as far as I'm concerned, that's no big deal, it's just... I'd like to think of myself as a practicing journalist and it just galls me to think that they would ignore a story. Because at this time even when I tried to sell it to them and it was... about a week or eight days after the original March 28th accident, and still no one had gotten hold of a worker to interview. It just galled me, I mean, even if it weren't my article, even if it were someone's article that I was bringing with me, the fact that they would ignore the news of an interview with someone who worked in the plant at the time it happened, to go with a "Local Makes Good" type story. It just...pissed me off. So anyway, to get back to the weekend, we exhausted most of our options and we decided to go with *The York Daily Record* – papers we could control, because we were very protective about this article. And when Pat in Michigan called *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and told them about our article, she also told

them our sources. Which made me really mad because I thought for sure for, why would they bother to buy our story when... wouldn't they just send a reporter out, woulda had a reporter there, why wouldn't just tell him to go interview the guy? Fortunately, I think he skipped town. *[Laughing.]* So no one could get ahold of him. But it was my fear then that we'd be scooped. And all that work...

INT: And someone else would get to your sources.

NAR: Because at that time, it was Sunday morning when we decided to quit stringing along all these papers because we were telling too many people what we had. And it was getting out of control. So we just decided to go with *The York Daily Record*. And he said he would print it Monday. They don't print on the weekend. So we had to have it down there by about five o'clock Sunday afternoon. So he called... This is Sunday when we finally confirmed the deal, Sunday about one o'clock. So we wrote the article... *[laughing]* It was funny, whenever the editor, Buddy, and I write articles we lock ourselves in one of *The Dickinsonian* offices and labor over it. And it generally turns out that he dictates, and I write it down, and then I read it back to him, and we make changes, etc., etc., etc.. And then he reads it to me as I type it. And we still make changes and then we both proof it. And with that we left to go to York. It was about... we got to York about five-thirty with the article. And no one was there but the city editor who read I and was really impressed with it. She loved it. She read it – and then she just started laughing and she goes, “This is what everybody's been looking for.” Then she just looked at us and she just kind of shook her head, and said, “How'd you guys get it?” *[Both laughing.]* Dumb luck. Which it really was at this point. We were caught up in something I think that was out of our... really was not of our own doing. And we just had sense enough to go with the tide, I think. So anyway, they printed it, second page of the newspaper. And gave us special correspondent status.

INT: Oh wow.

NAR: The whole deal, it was great. Professional clips. And that was Monday. And about Sunday- April 1st I believe, is when they started the community meetings. Well, I'm sure you have documentation of all of the on-campus events and stuff. Kept kind of a journal or a log of what went on. So anyway, we listened to all that. And people started going, etc., etc., etc. And we listened to it, and we really weren't scared. Again, Buddy and I really weren't scared. We had on our attitude, devil-may-care, you know, there's nothing to be afraid of, and if people said, well, aren't you afraid – this is the bubble too, and all that garbage – “aren't you afraid it's going to blow up, da da da da?” “Well, we gotta stay and report it” and stuff. And we were looking forward to a possible evacuation to the College because then... there was another article! *[Both laugh.]*

INT: It's just so weird, you know, hearing – looking forward to this after, transcribing all these tapes. It's like, *Aaaahhhh!*

NAR: To be quite honest, we were... It was more of an adventure. Because we really didn't believe there was any danger. I mean, we knew there was a great deal of danger, but we didn't believe that we were close enough, to it.

INT: What do you mean, close enough being in Carlisle?

NAR: Yeah. And...

INT: Just, you never mentally made the connection, somehow? *[laughing]*

NAR: And mentally we never, we never made...we never really made the connection. I guess it's kind of a defense mechanism, looking back on it, I guess I oughtta say it was one. Because as long as we kept an eye on it if there was any danger or anything like that, we could keep functioning and turning out our articles and things like that. Come Monday, classes had been cancelled and we thought, this is great. Monday...well after we unloaded the article and stuff, things were kinda slow, and then it got really rainy and gross, and the wind changed. And of course *everybody* noticed the wind changed! *[laughing]*. That's when they started, you know, the soil samples all along and it's like, "Hmm... radiation was found in a soil sample." Or something like that. I guess it was like, Goldsboro or some godforsaken place – it was not even close. But because we didn't have anything else to do, you know...and it was really lonely on campus without a lot of the students around. And...

INT: This is Monday or Tuesday now?

NAR: This is Monday. Monday afternoon. And... Actually, it was all day Monday. And we're like, "Hmm." And, "Hmm." *[Both laugh.]* "Is there really a danger?" *[INT laughs.]* "Hmm!" And this was the time that Buddy and I would sit alone in the office because we had decided, we had an emergency ed-board meeting Sunday night or whenever. And as it turned out, everybody went home on the staff, except Buddy and I. And Buddy and I decided we were going to put out an issue – a nuclear issue the next week on Thursday – come hell or high water. It might only be four pages long, but we were going to put out an issue. And it would only be the two of us. And we made arrangements with *The Sentinel* and things like that, and we're like, hmm *[laughs]*. It would have been a brutal two days, up all night, because I'd be doing all the type-setting and production work, and Buddy would be doing most of the writing. Because he has no, very little production skills, whereas I know enough to produce an issue. So that's essentially how our duties were divided at that point. Monday night until... Monday night, we had an argument, it was funny. A couple of my... like Julia Dover *[?]*, Lisa Fitapaldi *[?]*, couple close friends of Buddy and I were still hanging around. Because they were helping Bob Cavanaugh, and Emergency Preparedness. And it was funny because Julia was helping down at the Courthouse, and she called up and asked Lisa to come down right away. And immediately I grabbed my camera and go trotting off with it, and Lisa's like, "No, you can't go." And I'm like, "You're going to stop me?" And it came to a point where it would have – ended our friendship had I followed.

INT: Well, what was she going to that you wanted to particularly come along?

NAR: A meeting of all the civil defense people.

INT: Ohhh, I see.

NAR: The heads in the county. Which I wanted to go to. Because that was when talk of the evacuation was loud and clear.

INT: So you ended up not going?

NAR: Right, because... I backed down because she said she'd call if it were anything important, she really would. Because I told her if she didn't... I would never talk to her again the rest of my life. *[INT laughing.]* Back to the, *[laughing]* well...

INT: Journalism before friendship!

NAR: That's what it... It's an awful choice to have to make, and in this case, I mean I leaned from the fall. *[Both laugh.]* In this case, I decided to save the friendship, the hell with journalism. And as it turned out there wasn't anything, they were just toading *[?]* and pulling out maps and stuff. And Xeroxing, things like that, it wasn't anything. I mean, they were just starting to get ready for what they were going to do. And I just thought, oh boy. *[NAR laughs.]* And I'm trusting my life with these people? *[INT laughs.]* I think... that, and the contradictory reports coming through the press. Again, I'll defend the press during TMI. Media has been blamed as being... sensationalizing the whole issue and everything. Except they only reported... I'm talking about local media. They only reported what they knew. Which, oftentimes was contradictory, etc., etc., etc. So – and admittedly, like Philadelphia and the New York papers and *The Washington Post* all had us *dead*. Things like that, and halfway around the world, you know, we were all wiped out. The, I think that directly reflects on the distortion, through word of mouth which is essentially what it turned out to be. You know, reporters calling in and stuff like that. Um... It's not the media's fault. It's just human nature, I think. And people did the best they could, I mean, Buddy and I were doing the best we could, trying to maintain our professional calm and everything, and to go about our jobs. I mean, we were really sucked into this. Great deal of ego involved. *[NAR laughs.]* You know, thinking we knew more than everybody else, and things like that. And then it started to dawn on us that, well we really didn't. And then we started disbelieving everything we heard. And we just...

INT: And this is around about Tuesday now?

NAR: Yeah, this is Monday night. Going into Tuesday. And the bubble was a big thing right then. And Julia came back from that meeting, Julia and Lisa came back from that meeting. And Lisa and George Joseph went drinking, and Julia came down to talk, because at that point we were copying and pausing *[?]* maps for Cavanaugh and Tom Smith, to be used by the emergency preparedness officials. And they left about midnight

– that’s midnight Monday. And Julia and I, and Buddy, were talking in the office. And Julia was explaining – see all this time we kinda quit reading the papers to make any connections, we just read to keep up on what was going on. But we never really gave serious thought to the bubble and things like that. So Julia was explaining exactly what the bubble meant. And Buddy totally absolutely utterly freaked out. I mean, the jokes stopped.

INT: What did she say that the bubble meant?

NAR: Oh, she was just explaining where the bubble was, and how if they couldn’t reduce it or whatever, it was highly unstable and things like that and if, you know, it got to the point where it was so large that it could explode or whatever. And she was being really calm about the whole thing, just sitting there and telling this, and Blinn was getting whiter and whiter. *[INT laughs.]* And I’m just sitting there thinking – chewing on my finger nails thinking, Jesus Christ! And then she started laughing at us, she said, you know – “here you are, the two newspaper people of the campus and you don’t even know about the bubble?” Which is true, because we only knew what we wanted to know. The exciting part. We didn’t want to deal with the realities of... *[both laugh]* maybe being blown off the face of the earth. I exaggerate now. It was pretty funny. But that’s when we really, for about an hour we just kinda freaked out. And that’s where we decided, no issue, we were going home the next day. *[Both laugh.]* But then... And then we regained our sanity a bit, I mean we just had that, it was utter panic. Because I kept thinking... I kept thinking not so much in terms of the bubble going off. See Buddy goes east, so he’d have to go right through Harrisburg. I go west from here, you know, I had no problems. One nice thing about living in Ohio. But I just kept thinking, if there is an evacuation, traffic is going to be bumper to bumper. And we also thought with an evacuation, you don’t have a choice on where you go, you’re just told to go someplace. And I think what really upset us the most was the fact that we were pausing *[?]* maps for the civil preparedness people to use, and when Cavanaugh and Tom Smith were sitting down here trying to draw in 81 because the map in which they were copying didn’t have 81 marked on it. And I just really seriously questioned the competence of these people! *[INT laughs.]* I mean it’s really quite frightening to know that these people are planning the evacuation routes and they don’t even have a goddamn map that has 81 marked on it! *[NAR laughs.]* And they’re giving it to students to pause *[?]*, and copy. And I’m just thinking, “Oh my God! They’re idiots!” And Cavanaugh and Tom Smith are really good people, I mean they would never be like this. And I just thought, “If *they’re* like this, think of what it’s like in the Courthouse with assholes *[INT laughs]* called out of their beds!” And I kept thinking about the fire company, like the firemen who live across the street from the apartment we have now. I swear to God.

INT: On Pomfret Street?

NAR: On Pomfret Street. I mean they came back from a fire one day – the driver told his friends, “Well, I got the one street, but really couldn’t find the other street.” And when he said that – I mean, these people are – really I question their competence! *[INT laughing.]* And I guess it boils down to the old snobbishness between college and

townies. I mean, we do things because we're being educated, we're so much better than them. And, that played a great deal because I just kept thinking, right then I didn't believe that anybody except myself knew what was going on. And I didn't even know. And I'm like, "I'm getting out of here." And the whole time Buddy and I had been calling our parents. Like I'd call my parents like three times a day, because my grandmother was getting all upset, she heard distorted reports... And I'd call my parents one minute and say "I'm coming home", and call them the next and say "I'm not coming home – but I'm coming home the next day after that", you know? And my phone bill for four days calling my parents was thirty-six dollars! *[Both laugh.]* It was great. So, we decided that – Shit. See, I had a problem in that – Buddy, it takes him three hours to get home to New Jersey, it takes me ten. So I really just couldn't pick up and leave in the middle of the day. I mean, I'd have to stop over, it's a major – for me to leave this school, it's a major thing. But then Lisa and Julia – who had been really sane through the whole time – all our friends were starting to go. And I'm like, "hmm, should I stay and work, or should I go?" And when they decided to go, I decided, "The hell with trying to be brave. I've had enough fun and excitement and adventure", you know? Every man for himself sort of thing. So I decided on Tuesday that Wednesday I'd go home. And so I packed up Tuesday night and I used as an excuse to go home to celebrate my birthday which we did. And to take all my winter stuff home and things like that. So I went home Wednesday. Finally. After everything was all over. After the bubble started to go down *[laughing]*, I go home. *[Both laughing.]* So it was really anti-climatic, you know? I mean – I was just like behind everybody else in my reactions, I think. It was pretty funny. And then, see Buddy came back, it was funny because Buddy came back on Friday. He went home Wednesday and came back Friday.

INT: When did you come back?

NAR: I came back Saturday. Because – I was gonna come back Friday, to have dinner with Dr. Banks and Buddy. But my car conked out. So it was Saturday before I could get back. And so I came back Saturday, Sunday, you know. See at that point, too, all my suitemates were gone, and had been gone for two days. It's really lonely living in a suite in McKinney Suites when you are about one of five people left in the entire building, and the only one in the suite. And it was just really scary *[laughing]!* And, again, a lot of it built up in your own mind. It was pretty funny. The whole thing was really funny, looking back on it... I mean looking back on it I am somewhat embarrassed by my reactions. But then I think, "Hell, everybody else had them." So, you know. It was just – it was really exciting for me, because of the articles and stuff. And we overdid it when we got afraid and stuff, sure, there was reason to be concerned, but I think the days that we went so long joking about it and everything finally... It just got to the point where we ran out of jokes. And because we didn't know anything and we had built all this up in our own heads, and essentially Buddy and I reinforced these feelings about the whole thing. So, we were just really not good for each other at that time. It was, that's essentially what happened during that week. It was great, no class. Paid for it later though. Didn't do any work. *[NAR laughs.]* Promises, promises.

INT: Okay, well, if that's all you want to say about that week, I can run through these questions real quickly and then add anything, or whatever. A lot of them you've already talked about, but I'll run through them anyway. Like when you first hear about the incident, I have a question here that says, "did you then seek out further information?"
[INT laughs.]

NAR: Yeah!

INT: And I think you've already covered that. Let's see. Oh, how did your attitude change between first hearing about the incident and then during the incident? You've already described how you got more panicky and stuff, but...?

NAR: How my attitude changed... Well, I think we kinda went out there, you know, we were being really, I guess childish in our excitement. You know, new adventure sort of thing, and TMI was nothing to be worried about. But as we learned more and more I think we kind of... it was a wake up and smell the coffee sort of thing and our attitude... what we did now was... we were more cautious. Not overly cautious, but we thought about what we did. We wouldn't go rushing off to the island every time there was a new release. We became more wary of the situation, I think. That's pretty much it.

INT: How did you feel about other people's reactions to it?

NAR: I laughed at a lot of people. I mean I laughed and I scoffed at a lot of people for getting really upset, and for parents calling and thing like that. Um... Looking back on it, my attitude I think I was just an extreme, kind of my way of shielding myself from it or blocking it out. But... Again, going out there gave me a different perspective. And I thought, "well I went out there, and I'm fine." And I just thought that, I was really kind of outraged when people were, like crying up and down about how awful it was. Because I really... I thought, I kept thinking, well they weren't out there, what do they know? Which really wasn't fair of me, but... you know, you can't help it I guess. So that's basically what I thought of other people. I was just really, kind of... I looked down on them. For their attitudes, for their fears, which were not – which I had later. So, towards the end I started to empathize more *[both laughing]* with people. And then I felt inferior because there were those people who stayed. And I felt really badly that I went home, because I thought it looked very cowardly. And that was the last thing I wanted to be, a journalist running. But then again I guess I can take some consolation in the fact that I went home after it was all over! *[laughing]*

INT: Uh-huh. You followed a lot of the news, like through other papers... How about like the radio or TV, did you follow them at all?

NAR: Well, I listened to the news each night. Didn't listen to the radio...

INT: What, do you mean news on TV?

NAR: Yeah, news on TV. I didn't listen to any radio except WDCV. I must confess, I was very jealous of WDCV during this time.

INT: Why?

NAR: Because they had immediacy. They had the wire service. They had the news out as soon as it came over the air, and everybody was focused on WDCV. Everybody knew they had the AP wire in there, announcements could be made from there, it was immediate. And no one even bothered to ask... It all goes back to DCV-*Dickinsonian* rivalry. But no one even bothered to ask anybody on the newspaper about Three Mile Island. They all went to DCV for information. And that kinda hurt me because we had always thought we enjoyed the reputation of being much better than the radio station at getting at the news. But we couldn't compete with the fact that they were immediate and we weren't. And there's just no way that two people can put out an issue, or spread the word. So, as far as that goes, that's the extent with which I followed the news and things like that.

INT: Did you follow the news more than what you ordinarily would have?

NAR: Well...

INT: You said you specifically looked for TMI stuff?

NAR: Yeah, yeah. I would say – yes and no. I mean, I generally read *The Patriot* and *The Sentinel* each day. Just to keep up on local news and stuff. And I catch, if not the eleven at least the five-thirty news on one of the stations. Sometimes both. As far as listening to radio news and stuff like that, I never did. So, in that I increased my awareness of the news. And the fact that I only looked for TMI stuff and practically – and *ignored* everything else, I guess a sign that I increased my interest in the news and stuff then.

INT: Okay, you said that you would support the media handling of the incident. I want to ask you about how you felt the government handled it, and how you felt Met Ed handled it.

NAR: Ah, I have to separate that to then and now. As far as the media handling, both then and now I defend the media. I have a particular bias, I'm part of the media, in a sense. Um... I have a bias against television news, I think. Because... because of their immediacy I think they took advantage, they might have taken advantage of it, by the hourly updates, half-hourly updates, every fifteen minutes an update on TMI. I think that's very important, because people really wanted to know right then what was going on. I think the media handled it in the only way they could do. I mean there was some bad reporting but there was some very very good reporting that came out of Three Mile Island. Both by print and television journalists. They reported what they knew. And it was a situation in which – simply they had to rely on what they were being told by the government officials, the NRC officials and Met Ed. Because there was no way they

could determine for themselves what was going on. So it was a case of, they did the best they could with the resources at hand. And, in that, I think people fail to realize that they did only what they knew how to do. And – well, right now, as an aside, the Presidential Commission on Three Mile Island, in my internship now one of my less rewarding tasks is to xerox every radio and television script that WHP, the CBS affiliate in Harrisburg, ran between March 28th and April 7th on Three Mile Island. Which is quite a bit of material. Everything that came over the wire and stuff. I think the Commission is looking into – and they’re checking into editorial policy, before, during, and after the accident and things like that. And I think, not as a primary focus but I think as an aside, that the Commission is going to come out with some sort of statement, coming down on the media for the way they handled it. I really believe so.

INT: Do you think they are doing that as a scapegoat kinda way, to get out of it?

NAR: Yeah, that’s what I think so. They need a scapegoat. Met Ed... I think now people have reached a point where they’re really sorry for Met Ed. I mean, bankruptcy and everything like that. Sure there’s this distrust, and no way that people will let TMI be reopened and stuff. But I think they’re looking for a scapegoat, and the media has traditionally been the scapegoat. Coverage – the Supreme Court and all the rulings and stuff, have been very anti-media. And I think that that’s indicative – indicative of, well, this is all my Nisbet [?] research, too. I mean, *[laughing]* a lot of elements are coming into this answer. But I think the way people are so down on the media, in retrospect, is because of the trend to choose the media as the scapegoat, when the people desperately need a scapegoat to, I think to explain why they were so afraid. “Well, the media sensationalized it.” Because it is embarrassing to think that you were that terrified when really there wasn’t a just cause – as far as Carlisle was concerned or something like that.

INT: So you think the government and Met Ed are looking for a scapegoat in order to *[unintelligible]* the media?

NAR: Not the government, not... Well – the government and Met Ed, possibly, but I think again it’s mostly the people. Like, you have that Middletown housewife on the Commission, the Presidential Commission of TMI. It’s the people who are looking for the scapegoat, and all people have come out very much against the way the media handled Three Mile Island. Yet, perversely, had the media just said, “Well look, we can’t accurately report this”, or whatever, or “We don’t think we’re doing a good job”, and just withdrew from Three Mile Island, again, the public would be all over ‘em. I mean, they wanted the news now, but now that it’s all over and people are kinda embarrassed about how they felt – I mean I confess to being embarrassed, the fact that I was scared. I mean, the first thing I think of, well, I panicked, by Buddy, Buddy’s fears, or something like that. People can say, “Well, the newspapers sensationalized it” or “television sensationalized it, and how was I to know they weren’t right?” The media’s... the Golden Age of Woodward and Bernstein and the media being the champion of right is fast fading. And, people are tending to be much more critical, of just – human beings trying to job as best they know how, with the limitations of the human biases and things like that. And as far as the media goes, I mean I have nothing but support for the way

they acted during Three Mile Island. Sure it was frustrating, etc., etc., but ah – what can you do?

INT: Well what about the government? How do you feel...?

NAR: The government...

INT: How do you think they handled it? Badly, well? A little of both, maybe?

NAR: Again the government, you have to reduce it to the people. I mean you can't just say the media, or Met Ed, or the government. You have to reduce it to the people that are in the government as far as, if you wanna – I assume you're including the NRC in the government. Harold Denton, I mean now he's, they sing praises to Harold Denton and he's been given an honorary degree in science.

INT: Well what do you think, how do you think he handled it?

NAR: I think the NRC and the government basically did a fairly good job. The big, the urgent thing was the public's need to know, and to have a calm and stuff. And like Carter coming to visit and things like that. I think the government handled it very well. Met Ed, on the same token... then, I thought – government in my opinion stayed the same both then and now. Met Ed, then, I didn't believe anything they said, because they were the bad guys, and actually, they were the ones losing money. But, in retrospect, I think they started out very badly. But – I can't help think, but why would they lie? I mean all that damage was done. And so they just reacted the only way they knew how and I think they ended up telling us what they perceived to be the truth. So, I guess I've mellowed [*INT laughs*] over this time and my criticisms aren't as harsh as they once were.

INT: Do you think that the people who were in control...? We can continue this another time if you want.

NAR: It's okay, we might as well finish it up. It's not too long; I don't have much more to say! [*Both laugh.*]

INT: You'd be surprised at the questions I have. Do you think the people who were in control of the plant at that time, who were in charge of the plant at that time, were in control of it?

NAR: [*Pause.*] Yeah, and no. [*INT laughs.*] Yes they were in control by virtue they were the only people who knew what was going on, essentially, in the final analysis. And no, they weren't in control at times, because if they were in control that would have never happened. So again, you know – it's all relative, I guess.

INT: Did you find anyone that you particularly trusted at this time, or mistrusted?

NAR: Nah.

INT: *[laughing]* Neither?

NAR: Neither.

INT: You're just skeptical about everyone, or what?

NAR: Well – Harold Denton. You believed him because you had to. I mean, I essentially believed everything I heard through official sources with a grain of salt, with the normal grain of salt.

INT: Official sources being what, government?

NAR: Denton. Like, Denton as reported in press conferences and stuff. Or the wire service. Things like that, not people on campus. I mean I believed him simply because you had no choice. And I figured as much as it was painful to believe them, then to torture myself with, “well, what if they're wrong?” *[INT laughs.]* And again, you just temper it by asking, what do they stand to gain, by lying? Sort of thing.

INT: Did you make plans any different from what you would have ordinarily have made? Like, you did go home, from Wednesday to Saturday right?

NAR: Yeah, that was different. *[Both laugh.]*

INT: Did you take anything, or did you want take anything with you specifically home?

NAR: No, I didn't. No, I didn't take any valuables or anything home, because I didn't have anything here that was quite that valuable. Most, I mean, I don't keep much here at school. I mean, I didn't pack up the stereo or anything like that.

INT: *[laughing]* What about a favorite stuffed animal, or something?

NAR: No, I didn't. I didn't take any – I took home my winter clothes because I didn't want to have to move them from my room to my apartment I was going to live in this summer. *[INT laughs.]* So anything I didn't want to move later I took home, and I left it home, which was pretty funny. I did take my camera home, and my negatives, because I wanted to do some prints of TMI and stuff. So I suppose that's as much significant stuff I took home.

INT: Did you expect to return to school soon, when you left Wednesday?

NAR: Yeah, because I knew right – I knew when I left Wednesday that I'd be back Saturday at the latest. So it was no big deal, I just went home essentially at that point... to dump off my stuff! *[laughing]*

INT: It gives you a good excuse, huh?

NAR: Of course, the best excuse. It felt much safer at home, too. *[Both laugh.]*

INT: More miles away?

NAR: I mean, have my grandmother fuss over me... *[Both laugh.]*

INT: Did you have any mental pictures of what was happening at TMI or what might happen?

NAR: None whatsoever really. Until, like when Julia described the bubble and I just kept picturing a pressure cooker blowing up. I think that was part of what kept us going so long, is that we really didn't picture in our minds or let our imaginations run wild. And being out there also, I mean I saw what the place looked like. So it would have taken a lot of straightening on my part to exceed the sights I saw. I mean, you saw all these wires and – you know, the buildings and stuff. They looked very impressive. Something out of Space 1999. *[INT laughs.]*

INT: Did you ever think about, during that time did you think about, *what if* the worst would happen? Like say during that time you panicked?

NAR: Yeah, that's – that's when we figured the worst that could happen, the bubble would explode and we'd have to evacuate. I never thought in terms of death.

INT: Never?

NAR: Nah. I just thought in terms of...

INT: Your death, or...?

NAR: Anybody's. I just kept thinking in terms of...

INT: Evacuation.

NAR: ...And I just thought that was a very *unpleasant* thought. *[Laughs.]*

INT: So what did you associate with evacuation?

NAR: Wall to wall, bumper to bumper cars! *[Laughs.]* And then I thought they'd evacuate south. Because I figured, that was generally the plan, to evacuate south, and I figured...

INT: Do you know that for a fact, or do you just, kind of figure, like from talking with these guys...?

NAR: Well... I knew it for a fact from a third source twice removed, for whatever that's worth. *[Both laugh.]* Hey, I have all these sources! *[INT laughs.]* And, I wasn't so much scared of the thought of evacuation, just – would be very irritating because, I wouldn't want anybody to tell me where I had to go. Because if I had to go, I wanted to go home. I mean, I didn't want to mess around. And I had an offer to go visit like, Julia, in Virginia and stuff, but I didn't want to do that. If I was gonna leave, I was gonna go home. *[Laughs.]* That's all there was to it.

INT: Were you at all concerned about your health at this time?

NAR: Nah, not – even now, I'm not. Because I figure... they have so many alarming reports about red dye number two and things like that. And I figure, if it were really that unhealthy somebody would have flagged us by now, and said, look – you know, go get a physical or something.

INT: So you're not worried about your health now. How about in the future? You're not worried about anything like that?

NAR: Nah. Nah, I don't need more to worry about. *[INT laughs.]*

INT: Did you picture in your mind any effects of radiation on the life around you?

NAR: No, I didn't dream of flipper babies, *[INT laughs]* and things like that.

INT: As a matter of fact I was just going to ask you, if you had any dreams? About TMI during that time?

NAR: No, I had no dreams or nightmares about TMI or anything.

INT: What about daydreams?

NAR: No even. Ah... Actually, for all that I was involved in, you know, writing the articles and stuff, I thought very little about it.

INT: Yeah, and it sounds like you were so caught up in *doing* things about it that you really didn't have...

NAR: Didn't have time to think about it, yeah. That's essentially it.

INT: *[laughs]* Until when you panicked!

NAR: Well. See what happens late at night after a couple drinks? *[INT laughs.]*

INT: Okay, did you think about God?

NAR: No.

INT: No?

NAR: No.

INT: *[laughing]* Did you pray?

NAR: No! *[INT laughs.]*

INT: You were talking before about responsibilities, you felt journalistic responsibilities, and then other responsibilities like to Lisa?

NAR: Save my own skin, *[laughing]* sort of thing.

INT: And, these conflicting responsibilities, like friendship and journalism and things like that... Were there any other responsibilities that you particularly felt, like, to act a certain way? Or to not act a certain way?

NAR: Well I suppose to act a certain way. I assumed that going along with the journalistic responsibility I should act... as unafraid as I could, and as calm as I could, again...

INT: Is that in spite of anything, or...?

NAR: Pretty much, yeah. *[INT laughs.]* Course, then I decided my first responsibility was to myself, and that I wasn't going to stay around if no one else was staying around *[laughing]*... It's, it's just how my attitude changed. I decided to give up the altruistic journal... ***[Side A ends; side B begins.]*** But then again an evacuation here might be, I figured it'd be more irritating. I mean, wandering around with people all over the place? *[INT laughs.]* Be serious. I'm a creature of comfort.

INT: Okay, let's see...

NAR: God, that's quite complicated, your question of lists. List of questions.

INT: Oh really?

NAR: This is a real ego trip, too, boy – being interviewed. As you probably well know.

INT: Hey this is an excellent interview, too. *[Unintelligible.]* Really. Really. *[NAR laughs.]* Um... At the time while this was happening, did the events at TMI bring to mind any past events from your life?

NAR: Nah. No, I don't have anything with... *[Laughing]* Ha, ha, I know what this is leading towards! *[Both laughing.]* What, in "the collective culture of the race"...

INT: *[laughing]* Anthropology, what can I say?

NAR: Well I wasn't in the Holocaust. *[Both laugh.]* So I can't compare it with that; I wasn't in the bombing of Pearl Harbor. *[INT continues laughing.]* So quite frankly in my twenty years there has been *nothing* to compare it to, but although, through my history books, yes, I suppose I can compare it to – the Holocaust, or the bombing of Pearl Harbor, or any other national strife we've been under.

INT: But at the time, you didn't associate it with anything?

NAR: No.

INT: Now, would you logically associate it with anything like that?

NAR: Only if I want to appear to be a brain in anticipating your questions. *[INT laughs.]* You forget, I interviewed the Bechtels and the Kassovics and... Malmsheimer... *[INT laughs]* about all this.

INT: They're gonna be reading this too, so they're gonna hear you, so be careful.

NAR: And they explained all, how they're looking for, the *cultural* experience. *[Laughing]* I mean, really!

INT: Okay, well just don't be mean, and not say anything that's significant here.

NAR: I'm not being mean! I'm not being mean, I'm being – blunt. I don't think that way, I'm not smart enough. *[Laughs.]*

INT: To get right to the point...

NAR: Point? What point?

INT: Is this more or less frightening than say a flood, hurricane, war – *[both laughing]* your basic disasters in history?

NAR: *[laughing]* Well, I haven't been in *any* disaster before, so... I don't know, I'm...

INT: Well, do you think this is more frightening than a natural disaster? Or the other way around?

NAR: No. Well, yes and no. Yes, it's more frightening, because you don't know what's going on. I mean, you only can guess what's going on. And your mind, I mean, you become your own worst enemy then. As evidenced the time when I freaked out, with Blinn, and we made up all these things in our head that could happen. A natural disaster I think though, as far as comparing an actual experience had I been through one, I think that'd be much more frightening because – there's nothing, I mean, that's quite real. And

this was like... a big *if*, that peaked, and then died out, in my mind. Whereas a flood, wiping away my home or my family or something, I think that would be much worse. Because that's irreplaceable. Here I just had the experience of – I lived in an accelerated state for a few days. Whereas with a flood, I mean, or a natural disaster... It's just everything's gone then. But by the same token, like Hurricane Bob down south.
[Laughs.]

INT: *[laughing]* Hurricane Bob?

NAR: Well, the first male... *[both laughing]* the first hurricane to be named after a male! I feel nothing about that. I mean if it were a natural disaster down there, I feel nothing about that, because I'm so far removed from it. Where I think the common experience of nuclear reactors – like people were protesting all over the world, and, in Cincinnati there's a reactor, outside of Cincinnati and stuff. So I think because of the nature of the accident it went – it affected everybody, to a degree, naturally the people around here more intensely. Because everybody who lives near a reactor can think, what if? Whereas a natural disaster you can't. But I still say a natural disaster is much worse, in terms of the experience.

INT: Okay. During this time did you think of any TV shows, or books, or... *movies*?

NAR: *[Laughs; singsong voice.]* I bet a lot of people said *The China Syndrome!*

INT: You are right! *[Laughs.]* At the time did you associate this with any of those things?

NAR: Not really. I mean people around me kept talking about *The China Syndrome* and stuff, but I never did because I didn't see it. I knew then I wanted to see it, it would be interesting to see it. But I didn't see it until I was home, the last couple days.

INT: What did you think after you watched it?

NAR: I thought it was pretty funny. *[Laughs.]* I thought it was really funny.

INT: It's impressed. *[?]*

NAR: It was remarkable how close it was. But by the same token I just kept thinking, again, all these people in the movie theater are like gasping, and I'm just like, "Oh, this is nothing." *[Both laugh.]* You know.

INT: You should be at the real thing!

NAR: True.

INT: Did you find yourself singing any songs or thinking of any lyrics?

NAR: No. *[INT laughs.]* I can't sing.

INT: What jokes did you hear about the TMI, or radiation?

NAR: Oh, God the flipper jokes, the mommy-mommy jokes.

INT: Can you tell me any?

NAR: I can't tell you any. I don't remember them all. Although I do know who sent in the limerick about Met Ed and its head, sent from Nagasaki, PA. Martha Lester from WHP sent that in.

INT: What is it? I've never heard it.

NAR: It's something the Kassovics got.

INT: They already have it?

NAR: Yeah.

INT: Okay.

NAR: It was sent in, like right after TMI. It's about, "there once was a firm named Met Ed", is how it starts out. "Whose radiation went to its head," or something like that. And on the envelope the return address was Nagasaki, PA. Well I know who sent that in. *[INT laughing.]* So there!

INT: Ooo-kay! Did you see any posters or graffiti or hear any new words or funny remarks?

NAR: Um... no, well, all that I heard, again all that I heard, I heard through the Kassovics when they were showing me examples of what they'd gotten in their solicitation.

INT: Oh. Okay, well I mean the stuff you heard from people. *[Laughs.]*

NAR: Not really, aside...

INT: ...Not that the Kassovics aren't people, but... *[Both laugh.]*

NAR: No, nothing really. Again, we were working so hard on the story that we were really kind of removed and isolated from everybody else.

INT: But you did say that you and Blinn, though, were joking around?

NAR: Yeah, we were joking around, well not like flipper baby jokes but like, “gee, should we shower sort” of thing. Kinda – not really joke jokes, but kind of keeping things on a bantering level.

INT: Why do you think that bantering level existed? With you and Blinn at the time?

NAR: ‘Cause neither one of us really thought about – well, A, at first we never thought about how... much danger there might be. And B, when we started thinking of all these terrible things that could happen. At least *he* was thinking terrible things, *[INT laughing]*, I was just keep thinking, “I don’t want to evacuate.” I think we just kept joking about it so we wouldn’t scare the other person. And at one point we had an argument about – We were both staying to put out an issue. He was staying because he thought that I wanted to put out an issue and he didn’t want to appear like a coward. And I was staying because I thought *he* wanted to put out an issue and I didn’t want to appear like a coward. Then when we both found out neither of us wanted to put out an issue, we both wanted to go home. *[Laughs.]* So, so much for our bantering.

INT: Do you remember any jokes from other crisis or disasters? Such as Pearl Harbor, the Kennedy Assassination, Jonestown? *[INT laughs.]*

NAR: All the Kool-Aid jokes for Jonestown. But other than that, no. A very narrow experience here! *[INT laughs.]* Hey, I’m WASP. We WASPs don’t have any problems! *[Both laugh.]*

INT: Especially down here in *The Dickinsonian*.

NAR: That’s the truth.

INT: Have you developed an opinion about nuclear energy by this time? Or did you change your opinion on nuclear energy?

NAR: I really have no opinion one way or another. I mean, it was just something that existed and I never really thought about it because I never had to.

INT: What about now?

NAR: I’m not against it. I’m not violently opposed to Three Mile Island being reactivated.

INT: You’re not *violently* opposed, what about just plain opposed?

NAR: I’m not really even opposed. Of course I would put restrictions on, I mean I would be very, very sure that... everything is safe, as safe as it could be, you know, and check out Babcock and Wilcox reactors... *[Both laugh.]* They’ve been having such unfortunate luck. But – I mean – I guess it sounds very pompous of me to say this, but like my parents and I talked about it, essentially, we’ve reached the point in this country

where we need energy. And we've reached the point where gas and natural resources are no longer enough. And since we are not willing to make the sacrifices we need we have to go to alternative forms. Sure I'd like to see solar energy. But even solar energy probably wouldn't be enough. I mean – the technology, there are problems with technology and stuff. And I think that nuclear energy is – I think it can be an acceptable risk, because we have to accept a certain element of risk in exchange for the energy we want. And, it's just a question of, you know, we all have choices in the matter. You can live near Three Mile Island, or you can live far away. I mean, quite frankly, everybody has a choice. So, as far as my opinions... they haven't really changed, and I haven't become anti-nuke or pro-nuke, and I could swing one way or another at this point. But again, and you just have to think. It's great to be idealistic and think, "no nuclear energy", but what are you going to do in the mean time? I mean, you gonna pay forty-one dollars a barrel for oil? Which is what eventually it'll cost, if OPEC had had its way, if *Libya* has its way in *Qaddafi!*

INT: You said you were talking about his with your parents, what did people in your hometown think when you went back? About the nuclear...?

NAR: Nobody was really impressed. *[INT laughs.]*

INT: Nobody really cared that much, or...?

NAR: Not really. People followed it, but... I think I'm the only one from my hometown in this area, really. And, well I'm sure some people have relatives out here and stuff. But the concern that was there was only, like, within immediate family and stuff, like my parents weren't actually concerned.

INT: Did they call you up and ask you to come home?

NAR: No! They didn't call me at all, I called them. They don't call me. And they never asked me to come home. They just – they left it entirely up to me, and I decided. And Dad was like, "Well, you are welcome to come home anytime you want to." And I'm like, "Gee, Dad." "But you can stay out there, too." *[INT laughs.]* So, I mean, I'm sure, they were concerned, they said they were concerned. But, again, they knew better, they knew that I knew better than they what was going on, and they trusted my judgment in the matter. And as far as, like, friends and neighbors... Mom would say, "She was around Three Mile Island", and they were like, "Oh, well that's nice." *[Laughs.]* Or, "Did she have fun?" *[INT laughs.]* That sort of thing, you know, there was really very little concern. It wasn't like, like the protests in West Germany and stuff. People really weren't affected by the matter. So much for the enlightenment of Hamilton.

INT: Those are all the questions I have to ask you, do you have anything to add or...?

NAR: *God, no!*

INT: Oh come on, you want to take it to four? Four sides here?

NAR: No! No, I don't want to take it to four sides.