

Date: June 5, 1979

Occupation: College Student

INTERVIEWER: Can you remember when you first heard about the Three Mile Island incident?

NARRATOR: Very distinctly. I was somewhat oblivious to the whole business until Friday afternoon. It was one o'clock. I walked down to Reed with one of my friends to get her results on a psych test. Another friend of mine who'd been in Washington with me came out of that building and said, "Did you hear about Three Mile Island?" And I had heard something about it, but I thought that everything was out of danger. Do you remember, there was some first talk, and then they said it was okay, then it came up again. It was really a beautiful day, it was like this, really blue sky, and hot, it was one of those first hot days we had. And then, all of a sudden, we said, it was my roommate, we said, let's go back to the room, and listen. And we went back to the room. And for some reason, I had to be by myself, I was waiting – I guess I was waiting for Steve. And I went back to the room, and I spent the whole afternoon in the room listening to the radio, and I was getting really tense about the whole business. And then I didn't know there was the meeting, until he came over and got me, and said there's a meeting at five o'clock, let's go listen. But that's exactly, I can remember that whole afternoon very clearly.

INT: Okay, so let me clarify, you had heard about it?

NAR: I had heard details, but it didn't affect me.

INT: ...but it didn't affect you. And then it clicked in.

NAR: Yes.

INT: On this Friday afternoon. And you sought further information from there on. Had you known that there was a reactor there before this happened?

NAR: Yes. And I have a very clear picture of it in my mind because whenever I go to Philadelphia on the turnpike, it's a landmark. The steam is a landmark coming back to Dickinson, because you can tell you're only about 20 minutes from Harrisburg once you see the steam, or once you saw the steam, from Three Mile Island, and that's about the only association I had with it, other than from an environmental science class when we discussed it. Discussed its being there, the pros and cons of nuclear - this is a year and half ago, now. And we had had a scheduled visit to there that had to be cancelled because of some problem in the plant.

INT: Oh.

NAR: Minor problem.

INT: *[Laughs]* How far is TMI from here?

NAR: From here? About 22 miles.

INT: Let's see now. You told me what you thought about it at that point, you followed up with... now then, you sought out further information... Did you then talk with friends, or family, or coworkers or anything about it?

NAR: Definitely.

INT: Can you remember how you all talked about it?

NAR: From...In my group of friends, we were all somewhat skeptical about leaving. As you know, I stayed, I stayed for the whole time. And I have to admit, I was very curious just... I never felt really, really frightened except for one, I just felt that, when it was over, I felt that maybe my staying might have been... harmful. But at the time, I felt calm in a strange way. A lot of people were panicking. But I didn't, I felt – I wanted to see what was going on. My curiosity got the better of me. And I remember talking with my parents. My parents are very sensible, very reasonable, and they said, well look, and this may be something that had to do with it, because I think if they had been panicking themselves, the whole situation for me would have been different. But I talked to them first on Friday night, and my mother said she had not wanted to call because she didn't want to get me alarmed, and she knew that I would call her. And then I called again on Sunday, after the information session where they announced that classes would be suspended, and they said to me on the phone, Okay, do what you think is best, stay, but in any case, don't come home unless it's really really necessary. Go west, go see your friends at Denison, or go see our relatives that are farther west, unless it's a real emergency, in which case they would be notified. I'm very close to Steve's, (my boyfriend's mother, and she was panicked, and so my parents called her and calmed her down. I know, we were just trying to keep very calm about the whole thing, and see what happened, and go from step to step that way.

INT: Okay, how did you feel about other people's reactions?

NAR: Oh, I was fascinated by it really. It was hard for me to understand... why some people were so frightened, and on the other hand – I couldn't, I was a little annoyed by people who were laughing it all off, too. And the people that just took off and went to Florida really, it really bothered me. I don't know, I felt that if you had to leave, you should leave because you felt the need, the moral need or whatever, and to just take it as a lark, at the time I remember being really annoyed, having talked with some people about that. And, you know, I felt, too, that... I guess what really made me feel that way was when I heard they were going to use Carlisle as an evacuation site.... Now if I had heard otherwise that they were going to evacuate here, I might have differently, but I felt here well maybe there would be something I could do. You know, the general thing that they were going to use...

INT: So there was some sort of code of behavior that was informing what you were doing?

NAR: Definitely.

INT: Can you describe it?

NAR: Well, I felt it was almost a moral obligation in a way, not a strict thing, but just that perhaps, that this – there are people that might need help here, that I might be of assistance, and from what I could tell, I guess I followed the cult of the physics professor, Priscilla Laws, if she was calm, and she said it was okay... *[laughs]* but I felt somewhat reassured. I felt that... I should stay... to that point.

INT: Would you say that was the person who you looked to, or trusted in the whole thing, Professor Laws?

NAR: Definitely. Yes.

INT: You said you followed the radio? Did you follow the media in general more than you usually do?

NAR: Yes, but not the newspapers. I didn't read the newspapers 'til after. But I listened more to, well, I'll call the college information sessions media, I went to those religiously *[laughs]*, and whatever written material they had, and the radios, and TVs. I remember, was it Sunday night, there was a TV special, and I can't remember anything about the show except they kept flashing this sign "Danger" or "Terror at Three Mile Island", something like that, between shows, when they want to tell you what's on, and they showed the reactors behind, and it made it sound like it was –the disaster had already happened.

INT: Do you remember where that was?

NAR: It was on one of the TV stations.

INT: You don't know which?

NAR: No.

INT: Was it national or local?

NAR: This was national. That's what impressed me about it, because it was national. But the newspapers I didn't read as much, any more than normal, I try to read it somewhat regularly, and I don't remember reading them any more until after, I remember the *Post* and the *Times* were running the series, after it was all over, and I liked reading it

then, to see the difference in interpretations from some of things that we had heard and how it was covered.

INT: How did you feel about the media's handling of the situation?

NAR: I guess – I felt – I had very mixed feelings about that. I can remember really wanting to just trust them, really wanting to believe that someone had an objective answer, but I was really getting annoyed with national TV, because I know that's who – My grandfather in Portland, he lives in an island in Portland, Maine, we *never* hear from him, he's a semi-retired, alcoholic *[laughs]* And we just – we don't hear from him. And he called my father. And that is really a significant event in our household, because, he had heard that this was happening and he thought that it was practically on the site of the school, whereas my grandmother, on the other side of the family, didn't realize how close we were, and once she found that out, she was – they were all panicked. What I guess, you know, not hearing that much of the national reports, things were blown out of proportion a lot more. There was a whole different perspective given than we had here. And I know they were getting quite upset. And I remember that was getting me really anxious.

INT: I can see... *[break in tape]*

INT: Yeah, it's all right. But anyhow, next question. Then, I'm going to ask you, how did you feel about government officials handling the incident, if you can separate them out?

NAR: I know who I was blaming, and maybe this isn't exactly the answer to the question, but I did feel really mad or angry or upset with the officials at the site of the plant.

INT: You mean with industry?

NAR: With industry. I felt that they were the people responsible for the accident to begin with, and for the way it was being handled, for all the cover-ups and the misinformation. I blamed them.

INT: You felt that their attitude was, what?

NAR: Was – well, was wrong, to be more specific, wasn't responsible, was typical of corporate behavior and trying to, you can see... I felt there was a money motivation in keeping things covered up, in keeping things quiet, let's just make a small report out of this, we don't have to get anyone alarmed, when in fact, there were real questions to be alarmed about. And as I say, I wasn't completely panicked, yet I was concerned, and what I didn't like was the feeling from a lot of these people, they were trying to say, oh everything's okay... Now, everything wasn't totally wrong, but I don't think you could say everything was okay, either, and that really bothered me. As far as government

officials, I don't remember them more distinctively, more than any other group. I guess I – since I don't have a really bad feeling, I think I must have felt that they were doing...

INT: NRC?

NAR: NRC... I do remember being concerned that there were so many conflicting reports coming from so many different sources, even within the government, and different, depending upon the level, of who was... I really got annoyed when Carter flew in there.

INT: Why?

NAR: It seemed like such a publicity stunt. To use that was a vehicle for a publicity stunt for bettering his image, which I really think, whether it was true or not, I think that's why he did it, really made me mad, really seemed like an abuse of the situation. Perhaps his thinking, perhaps the whole reason – rationale behind that, was to assure people that it was safe, if the President of the United States went there, well it must be. But I hope he's contaminated! *[Laughs.]*

INT: *[Laughing]* Oh, dear!

NAR: No... *[both laughing]* if he went there for his own personal benefit.

INT: Was there anyone in the middle of it, apart from Professor Laws, that you found particularly reliable? That is, anybody from the media or from government, or from the Metropolitan Edison Company?

NAR: Oh... I think I filtered everything through the school and everything, I was just very skeptical. Just, I'd listen and I'd try and make some balance in my own head. There wasn't anyone that I believed word for word, any of the other sources. As I say, Priscilla was closest to that of anyone.

INT: You've already said who you particularly mistrusted.

NAR: Yes.

INT: Did you feel that those in charge were in control of the situation at that time?

NAR: No.

INT: What made you uneasy?

NAR: They're using... Sometimes I felt as though I were on an airline that was going down, and you know how the pilot and the stewardesses will talk to you very comfortingly; they learn a whole routine. Oh, look at the left wing *[laughs]*, and, let's see scenic view over there, just because the right wing fell off. *[Laughs]* No... they're trained, and I know that from working with kids at camp. If you're in a panic situation,

you don't let it show yourself and you try to get the people's minds off that, and that's the whole idea behind that little week of Chautauqua classes, or whatever that was that Banks set up. And Banks' whole personality, whole coming into the college, I'm sure that was for the same reasons. But I just felt... it was a big front. And I could see why, I'm not criticizing it, them, for doing it, yet I never... I could see, I felt I was seeing through it, I felt that they were doing it, sort of in a spirit of bravado almost, that they had to do it. I think there were many times, especially when all the conflicting reports came, especially when the bubble was there, when none of us really didn't know what was going on, including many of the officials. I mean, once Priscilla Laws said she was unsure, I became unsure— *[laughing]* the voice of wisdom there!

INT: Do you feel now that they were in charge, contrasting times?

NAR: In charge... in control... if you mean of Three Mile Island, no. Of the college situation, yes.

INT: Are they in control now?

NAR: Of the nuclear...? I think we – I feel that, I'm not thinking about it, I'm not concerned, I don't listen with bated breath for every siren I here anymore, there was a while when I was doing that. I've sort of let it go back to them. But I still feel very ambivalent about the whole situation.

INT: Still uneasy?

NAR: Still uneasy, not, the prevalent – continuous uneasy feelings I had during that time.

INT: You were obviously worried. Can you put your finger on what worried you most?

NAR: Yeah. I know just what... I was worried, I guess I was trying to get at this before when I said I was calm until the end. I'm really worried that... for my own children. Because I really want to have kids I'm worried that unbeknownst to me there was something harmful here. I know they said their levels were okay; it's maybe not even on a rational level. I really think that, if, for some instance, if a child of mine had any kind of genetic defect, I would wonder if perhaps it had to do that I stayed during that time. And there's no proof either way that that's true, you know, from any official sources, but that's a fear that I have, that I may have, you know, through my own curiosity and sense of wanting this for my own selfish reasons, I may have endangered my own children's health or well-being. I haven't even – *conceived* a child, this is future oriented, but that's my biggest fear of the whole thing.

INT: Do you think that other aspects of your health might have been affected by it?

NAR: It might have been. Again, I have associations with breast cancer, or – a lot of reproductive fears. I have – this might be – I had problems anyway, that I have to have

medication for, and I just think, I just have these very strong associations with that, that for some reason this might have endangered me. Basically cancer fears. Yeah.

INT: Cancer fears. Were you concerned about the food or the milk from the area?

NAR: I stopped drinking milk, for about...

INT: Did you stop drinking milk? Have you not...?

NAR: Oh, I've drunk it now, since then, I'd say, within a week or so. For a while, I did stop.

INT: Do you have any mental images of the effects of radiation, or...?

NAR: Just – thalidomide babies, I think of.

INT: Why?

NAR: I don't know, just the deformities. Not even so much – the flipper babies or any of that, but just, I get images, I remember... I saw one in Washington last fall, a girl, now, those kids are about 14 or 15 now, and she just had, you know, the stubs, and one leg was a stub, and I could – and I know it was thalidomide. That's the image I just get. You know, maybe that's just...

INT: Did you have that image at the time?

NAR: Yeah. I did. I get it later. See, I had this sort of... I was determined to stay. I almost felt like, "I'm going to stay through this thing." You know that kind of camaraderie there was with the people that did stay. I really, I wanted that. And then it was towards the end of the week, when everyone else was sort of relaxing – well not everyone else, but – people were returning to campus... That's when I started getting a lot of these anxieties.

INT: Kind of a delayed reaction to what was going on?

NAR: Yeah, I don't know exactly why, but that's what I have.

INT: Do you think other effects have been felt on the community? Did you see other effects on the community, other than, well, you were talking about, particularly health, seeing them sort of in a... both you were seeing them in a delayed fashion, and then you also conceived them as something that is the future, in the future. Do you think it affected the community in any other ways?

NAR: Well, there's an awareness about nuclear energy, whether it's negative or not, I'm not sure, but there's an awareness there that I remember, from a year and a half ago when I had environmental science, and we were all discussing that and trying to find literature

on it, and... There's a wealth of scholarly information in selected journals, but general reading for the general public, was practically non-existent. Today, people are a lot more aware, you know, maybe they've been shocked into being aware. And it's become, I think it's going to be a much bigger issue that it has been in the past. You hear it on the radio now, every little accident. Again, I'm not sure whether I'm just more aware of it, or not, but on the radios, I'll notice they'll mention when a reactor shut down for a time period, and a lot of the protests that have been going on at different nuclear plants. I know there were – was it Lovees, or Lovetree, or the man, I know we saw a film about a protest up in one of the New England plants.

INT: Clamshell Alliance?

NAR: Yeah. I think people, the general public, has become more alerted to nuclear energy, I think that's one of the biggest... And again, going along, to have this gas situation coincide with this, I think you have a lot of anxious people. A lot of anxious people.

INT: Sure. I'm trying to see what we've actually gotten... Did you think of your own death at any point?

NAR: Only in regards to the bubble. When they had, it was just about... I can remember that very specifically, when they had the bubble, and they didn't know *what* was going to happen with that, and there were a couple of questions as to, if it did blow up, could we be blown up? And I remember when they said, well, you'll have 20 minutes, I thought of this stupid movie I saw around Thanksgiving, about the comet coming to earth... I think I was telling you about this, and the comet came, and was striking either Tucson or Albuquerque, and people had about that same amount of time to evacuate, and they showed just panic scenes of trying, of cars trying to get off the parkway, and people in big city parking lots places getting crushed by the cement [*laughs*]. And that was the time. When I thought of the bubble bursting, I really had no concrete image of what it would be like, but I thought of that movie when I thought of the 20 minutes.

INT: Did you think you would survive?

NAR: Yeah. But I don't know why, [*laughing*], I guess I just think I'm immortal!

INT: What reassured you?

NAR: I don't know.

INT: Did you think about God during the incident at all?

NAR: Yeah.

INT: Did you pray?



NAR: Yeah.

INT: Can you tell me what about?

NAR: That I'd survive and that Steve would survive. *[Laughs.]* It was very selfish. Yeah.

INT: Did you think God had anything to do with all this?

NAR: Well, that gets into my own concept of God, and I guess in a general... I don't see him as directing. I don't think he was up there with a, you know, like a video set or something, programming this to happen, but... in general, I think there are purposes to most things that happen. Not in the way, not in the way – you know, not in a – a deterministic view, that, you know, I was born to go to hell or heaven, not in exactly that way, but I think there was a reason. I think there's a general order. I hope – I'd like to think there's a general order.

INT: Do you think there was some kind of message in it all?

NAR: Yeah. I think... as far as being careful with our technology. See, I don't know if I would really say this is the message in it, but this is what I got out of it as far as a code for human behavior, or what we could learn from it, that... I see the whole reason for nuclear plants coming about so quickly as a money motive as, this is a quick, the fastest, this is an inexpensive way to deal with the problem of energy sources, and with our high, to keep up our high standard of living. And we let very real repercussions, that we could project, go to the wayside, because... because they are so profitable, they can be so effective. And I think – the basic problem, as I see it, in nuclear energy is human error. And we don't like to think we can make mistakes so easily, and it only takes a very small mistake, a wrong button, or just a very minor mistake, to cause some really big, far-reaching problems. And, if any, if we could get anything out of that, we could have maybe – a reconsideration of how fast we implement these things, how careful we have to be in what our values are, which isn't the way they make decisions anyway, but that's my own— *[Both laughing]* I'd like to think that people would, would do that.

INT: Did you think of last judgment at all, or end of the world?

NAR: Not too much. Not... I thought of it, I thought of this after I heard people talk, remember when they had that little, when you first talked about it, and then it occurred to me. But on my own, not unprompted, it didn't really come to mind. I guess because I did feel it was a somewhat isolated event.

INT: Did you go to church during the events?

NAR: No, I didn't. I had to work. I remember, that might be something I could just mention to you about working, you know, I worked outside, I worked in Carlisle, and the people there were all so unconcerned.

INT: Oh really?

NAR: They were very unconcerned, and they felt that the college kids were just wimping out, or that they were being very, you know, spoiled brats who could afford to just pick up and leave, and that type of attitudes that I was getting. Yet they *were* hearing from relatives from Brooklyn, from Florida, people outside this community, were calling to them and saying, are you okay. Yet they were going on with their lives, relatively unconcerned. This could be the type of people they have there, that happen to work at this particular restaurant. They – *[laughing]* Hell or high water could go by! And they'd still be...

INT: Do you think that they were reinforcing each other in those attitudes?

NAR: Oh, probably. It's sort of a spirit – that, you know, if you don't let on anything's wrong, maybe it'll go away.

INT: Let's see here... Well, you're talking about job or work, was that affected by TMI?

NAR: Yeah, as I was saying, the people at work *were* talking about it, but they didn't really want to accept it. Now, I watched a lot of the people in the restaurant the following week talk about it, and many people had left. You know, this is just in Carlisle, and many people were coming home, and they had – a couple tables had come back, had come out to eat that night because they had been away and they didn't have food in the house, enough food in the house, or they just didn't want to bother. And especially the families with small children from this area had left, I found that to be – now that's a very unscientific statistic, but almost the families I talked to, if there were small children involved, they went away.

INT: You have talked about feeling that there were things that you could do here, which was one of the things that brought you to stay, that there was certainly a code of behavior involved here and so forth. Did you feel that you had any other kinds of responsibilities during the incident?

NAR: I felt I had to stay calm, I had to try to stay rational. And try to interpret what was going on to the best that I could.

INT: Did you feel any conflicts in responsibilities?

NAR: That's, as I said, that's sort of tied into that delayed reaction I had about my own health, and my children's health. Because, I guess another reason I stayed was because Steve stayed. If he hadn't stayed, I would have taken off. I mean, that's, it was a very...

We both had singles, it was a very nice time for us, too. Oblivious of everything else. We could just *[laughing]* go take off to the bedroom, and it was fun. *[Both laugh.]* Yeah, maybe I – that’s maybe one thing I turned to, as a... as, as to relieve anxiety, I don’t know.

INT: It’s very possible.

NAR: It’s certainly higher than my regular, weekly...

INT: Ah!

NAR: ...I don’t know what you’d call it. Not abstinence, the opposite of abstinence *[both laughing]*. Indulgence. Or just, for us, well, just because we don’t live together, we have, well – It was never, the opportunity, and with school work, but *this* was like a... special time.

INT: Open week.

NAR: Open week. Right.

INT: Did you... well, did you *have* things to do *[NAR laughs]*, that you otherwise might have done?

NAR: Funny you should ask that!

INT: Can you think of anything else out of the ordinary?

NAR: I worked more than I had.

INT: On your school work?

NAR: On my school work.

INT: And that wasn’t disrupted by this, you just kind of...?

NAR: No, I found it very... matter of fact, that’s when I read *Zen*.

INT: A very interesting book, you’re reading.

NAR: Yeah, I – well I always like to read, I tend to retreat to my reading, it’s a thing I always use for myself in situations, so I did a lot of reading, and a lot of planning... of planning ahead for the rest of the semester, the rest of the year. A lot of people I know said they couldn’t study, and it was funny for me, I could study more. I had the days, you know, when there weren’t any classes, I’d go to like, one of the sessions, you know, one of the sessions that they would have, and then I’d have pretty much a free day to do work,

and I waitressed more, you know, I worked at the restaurant more, and I spent more time with my friends.

INT: Did the event bring to your mind any experience from your past?

NAR: Um... Again, I'm trying to think back to the time, because I have a lot of memories now... As far as being on campus, it was sort of like being here during senior week. That's very separate from the dangers, but the feeling that was on campus. It was very, it was special, it was different than the typical Dickinson semester, or week. But, I guess I just felt – really as though I were in any of those situations, where, just watchful. I felt – it reminded me in some ways of when patients, or, when family members have been ill, and I've been waiting to hear. The whole time I felt that we weren't really at the crisis, that the crisis was to *come*.

INT: I want to follow that out. The crisis was to come, and you were watching for the signals. *If* the worst had happened out there, what did you envision?

NAR: Blowing up, like soap suds, I guess I, and when they said “the bubble” I would think of soap suds, and *that* kind of a bubble or the kind of bubbles that kids would blow. And I don't know, I was very frustrated, because – the whole thing with the radiation is that you can't see it. And I remember thinking, well, how will I, how will we really know anyway? It could have happened without us even knowing. But if the worst had happened, I just thought of just general chaos. And blowing up.

INT: Yeah, you talked about the film, and the panic, and that kind of stuff.

NAR: Right. Right. The same thing.

INT: Did you have any notion of what it would look like afterwards? Or effects of radiation on life, and that kind of thing?

NAR: No, just the last scene of – it's funny, it's another movie, it's not even the last scene, you know in *Planet of the Apes*, when you see New York City, but it's supposed to be a long time from now...also *Canticle for Leibowitz*, I had to read that freshman year and I thought of that a lot... There's this one, *[laughs]* oh God, you know the glowing woman in it? And when...? Now this, I don't know if I thought of on my own, the fact that she was glowing, I thought of that book until I heard all the jokes people were making about glowing. But then that was my association. There's a woman in there that has two heads and one's laughing and one's crying; it's after another Holocaust, and that's... she's a saint, she's considered a saint in that book, and she's really a weird-looking, you know, just in the description in the book, it's a character you don't forget.

INT: And you had flashed on that in the course of the week, when you heard of the notion of glowing and so on?

NAR: I don't think, I'm almost sure I didn't think of that, I didn't fall back on that when I first heard it, but I remember when I was hearing all the things...

INT: The way you got into this imagery was talking about radiation being very difficult because you couldn't visualize?

NAR: Yes. And the only thing I was thinking of was soap suds, or... *[INT laughs]*

INT: Did any historical events occur to you?

NAR: Not too much, really, again, once I heard people talking about it, but I didn't, myself, think of them. I think I, you know, I may be too young. I just have never *lived* through, never been part of anything.

INT: Did you find the incident more or less frightening than say, a flood, or a hurricane, or a war, or anything like that?

NAR: It's hard to say, because... again, you couldn't see anything. You couldn't taste or see. None of the senses could come into play, and from that standpoint, it was more frightening – in a deep down way. But on the surface, it was much easier to go about daily life than when there were hurricane watches, or even a thunder storm to me is more disruptive *physically* than this was.

INT: Was your sleep disturbed?

NAR: *[laughs]* Well... um, no.

INT: Did you have any day dreams?

NAR: *[pause]* I could see myself out there helping, you know – like a little *[laughs]*, in a white nurse's uniform, I'd just imagine, I know I wouldn't have been given one to wear anyway, and I saw – When they were talking about Carlisle, Dickinson being used for the old people, I just imagined them on all the paths, rolling these people around and putting people, I don't know why, but I imagined the beds being outside, you know, just on the lawns there, putting people in cots.

INT: And you were in a white uniform, helping out in support?

NAR: Yeah. *[laughing]*

INT: Did you have any real dreams, sleeping dreams?

NAR: God, I can't remember right now, if I did...

INT: Do you think this changed people in any lasting way, apart from... you've said about, you know, they may be looking at... *[telephone rings]*

NAR: If you'd asked me this immediately, or a week... I would have said, oh yes, there'd be a lot of changes and people are really going...but... *[Airplane sounds overhead.]*

INT: What was that? Must've been an airplane.

NAR: Must've been the Shadow. *[Both laugh.]* I knew they were late, but... *[?]*

INT: Nothing closes off the sun! *[?]*

NAR: Really! *[resumes]* ...But... you can see already, it's fading in perspective, and - just like so many events that happen that have caused this *huge* furor, and should cause a huge furor, and then... People in general like to get on with their daily routine, I think. I think this was very disruptive. And even though at the time they were scared to death, they'd rather have their routine to follow. Even a lot of kids on campus were, they wanted to get back into - *[two sharp tapping sounds.]* "get on with their life", let's say, even though this could endanger their life many times again in the future, that's not what you think about now that it's over.

INT: You've talked about the health effects that you still have fears about, now do you think apart from those that this has effected you in any lasting way?

NAR: In my general... ambivalence towards, toward corporation or business values and handling of public property, I've generally felt... I just have a bad image of it, I don't even think I could work for many businesses, just because I don't agree with some - of what comes first to them, and this has just confirmed it for me.

INT: Did you hear any jokes about radiation or Three Mile Island?

NAR: My T-shirt. *[Laughing]* This one. "Dickinson College..."

INT: "Radiation Break."

NAR: "We Survived, Bring on the Rays... *[INT laughs]* "...with a beer mug and an SAE in the suds." *[laughs]*

INT: *[laughing]* Any others? That you can remember?

NAR: Oh, there were *so many* at that time, all the flipper jokes, and the radiation—I saw in a newspaper, the radiation, "Canned Radiation" - was a powder that you could mix in your toothpaste to make your smile brighter. "Apply on..." Wherever... "your erogenous zones, to improve your sex life, and light up your room, save energy." You know, the ad, it was sort of like the pet rock scheme. Two dollars a can.

INT: Steve Kassovic bought one of those and ran it backwards this summer. *[NAR laughs.]* The can! Um... Have you developed any opinion about nuclear energy?

NAR: Yes, I don't think that we should be using it at this point. I don't say that we should never use it, but there are too many potential dangers, both with its implementation and with its... its use in the public. In this case, a lot of the problems weren't so much even the incident, the isolated incident itself, it's public reaction. And public... and the panic that people had, there were very real fears people had. And if something... if a necessity, like a utility, causes that much widespread fear, widespread problems, even if it isn't, even if the problem doesn't lie in the technology, that's still a big problem for us, to wonder about using it in force as we do.

INT: So what do you think we should do?

NAR: I think we should really stay – I think we should continue research, the research for that has been great, but there could – And other, I think alternate forms of energy could be used. There's no reason why solar energy couldn't be used more on the household level for heating. I've seen it, there's many areas, and many homes in this area that I know of, that we were taken to see in environmental science. People have very simple solar heating units that take care of all their water, heating needs, that you can use passive heating in your architecture, in the way you put your windows in, the way you – just build the house, you know, common sense things, like putting the north wall, making the north wall solid, things like that that could be used, on a local, like on a grass roots level, without tampering with all the problems that nuclear energy brings about. It's a very tempting solution, the nuclear energy. It seems it would be wonderful, solve all our oil problems, our coal, and the pollution problems, but to me it's just too big a gamble – in other ways that aren't quite measurable, by sun cost, or you know – economic terms.

INT: Is there anything else that you would like to tell me about all this?

NAR: I know when I first went home, again, this is about, well, two weeks ago, which is approximately a month later, after the... at the end of the semester. I started having to talk about with all my friends, it was almost like a, sort of like a celebrity: "Oh, you were *there*?" *[INT laughs]* And three of us went to Bernardsville Movie Theater in New Jersey to see *China Syndrome* just last week, and we'd wanted, we were going to wear our shirts, but we forgot to, and we were making... And we making, I noticed, we were all very vocal in the theater line, to make people know that we had been – you know, in *Pennsylvania* during the time. And – I got a lot of the jokes at home from my brother and sisters, about, "Oh, don't come near me, you're gonna make me radiant, and I don't want radiation from you..."

INT: Oh, jokes from them about *your* contamination? Why do you think that?

NAR: Probably from what they had heard. Certainly not from me, because I stayed, and

I didn't feel – My parents were very careful, I'm not really sure even what my parents really thought. They probably knew I wanted to stay here with Steve *[laughing]*, but – you know, as far as any of their fears, they didn't express them. But the kids had seen a lot on TV.

INT: So you think the kids were expressing fears?

NAR: Yes.

INT: Getting rid of some kind of tension about those fears.

NAR: Yes. They may have been more scared about me than they would let on to me, vocally, than they would express clearly. And I found the same pattern again when I saw relatives, not close, not immediate family, other relatives. A lot of jokes. “Oh, yeah, you were there, huh...” *[pause]* Is there anything else, I'm trying to think... That's about it.