

October 8, 1979

Occupation: College student

INTERVIEWER: When did you first hear about Three Mile Island, about the actual incident, from whom?

NARRATOR: Shortly after it happened I was in my apartment and I happened to turn on the television and on came on an emergency report about the Three Mile incident. I guess it was on Wed. March 28.

INT: Did you know that the reactor was there before the incident?

NAR: Not really. No, I had heard some general talk about a nuclear reactor in the area but I didn't know the location.

INT: Do you know how far it is from Carlisle?

NAR: Now I do. It's about 25 — 26 miles.

INT: What did you think when you first heard about it, what did you think of it at that point, as to did you think it was minor, serious, a crisis? Why so?

NAR: On first opinion after hearing the initial broadcast, no, I wasn't too alarmed. I found it more sensational than anything else but I really didn't think it would be any disaster at all.

INT: Did you seek out any further, more, information or any other avenues of information?

NAR: No, not at that time.

INT: Did you have general talk about it with friends or co-workers?

NAR: Well, it seemed to be the prevalent topic of conversation wherever you went. Everybody had either heard about it or was just hearing about it and was talking about it.

INT: Was there any kind of general . . . In the general talk was there any kind of basic thing . . . like what did most people seem to be talking about within the incident?

NAR: Most people were immediately concerned with how it might affect their personal health. With expressions such as flipper babies going about and it seemed in general then that people were concerned for their own personal safety and were very worried about what may happen.

INT: How did you feel about other's reaction to the incident? Specifically, how did you feel about the jokes, for one and also then how did you feel about the actual concern some people had about the incident for their own health and safety?

NAR::I thought the jokes, first of all, were very entertaining to say the least. Because people, I considered then and I still consider it now, overreacted to the whole situation. It seems that the students at Dickinson College were the first ones to panic in the entire area.

INT: Do you remember any specific jokes or graffiti that made you laugh and did you pass them on?

NAR: Well I can't recall any particular ones except the aforementioned one about having flipper babies.

INT: Why do you think people were laughing at that?

NAR: It is sort of a safety outlet I imagine, for some people. By laughing at it they may have sought to reduce their own secret inner fear of the situation and others I believe just thought it was funny and weren't that concerned about the problem at all.

INT: Did your attitude change?

NAR: No, not significantly. I grew slightly more curious. I won't really say apprehensive, but slight more curious as time wore on and more facts came to light, more speculation on various parts but that's about as far as it went. I was never really afraid of what was going on.

INT: How did you follow-up on this curiosity? TV reports? Newspapers? Radio? Any particular source, on it?

NAR: I watched the TV news almost every night and during various television shows as I recall they would come in with news briefs about how the situation was progressing and I also attended several sessions at Dickinson College for the student body conducted by President Banks.

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

NAR: I think it was the major contributing factor to the overreaction of the situation causing turmoil, chaos, and unneeded worry among people that didn't, had enough problems of their own and didn't need this. And they just I guess I could sum up by saying just blew the whole incident out of proportion.

INT: How about the way the government officials handled it? Anyone from Carter down to the NRC, head Herald Denton?

NAR: I think Carter did basically what he could do, being in a layman's capacity on the subject and coming down himself to Three Mile Island in an obvious ploy to bolster confidence which even realizing the ploy does make sense at this time and that the whole government in general seemed to be un-disorganized on the whole project. There didn't seem to be one cohesive group with a lot of commardardery and were able to work together and get to the bottom of the problem as quickly as possible. I think that was the one thing that was lacking on the part of the government.

INT: How about Metropolitan Edison, the utility in question, how do you feel about their presentation of the incident; their handling of the incident?

NAR: I think what you could say that would really summarize the whole thing, they were just trying to save their ass, save as much face as possible, save as much money as possible and escape with as much as they could.

INT: Did you find . . . As far as getting information, did you find anyone or any particular source more reliable or whose word you trust more than others or anyone who you particularly mistrusted?

NAR: Well after the first few days I never really trusted the media as a whole, the mass media, the newspapers, TV. What really convinced me more than anything was listening to people that had a degree of proficiency in the field like the Laws' and another professor in the physics department who lives very close to it and they were not panicking and they had young children. They lived much closer than I did and I saw that they were still around so I felt I had nothing myself to worry about.

INT: So did you feel . . . You felt comfortable with, I guess, local experts, but did you feel that those in charge at TMI were in control of the situation? What reassured you or made you uneasy and how do you feel about those in charge now? Do you think they are in control now?

NAR: Well, for the first part of your question it seems that what bothered me more than anything was the conflicting official reports that would come out and you would read in one source that one thing was happening and you would read in another source about something else that was happening. For example the size of the bubble inside the reactor. On almost the exact same period of time one source would quote it as such and such a size and another source would quote it at a far different size and it was more not knowing what was going on in the confusion that probably worried me more than anything.

INT: So you feel that these people now have their stories together and tend to be, they're in control?

NAR: Well they're in control without a doubt. But I don't think as far as stories go that that will ever be together and I'm sure the people in charge, still don't know totally what is going on.

INT: So what worried you most? Was the conflicting reports?

NAR: Yes, I would say so. Not knowing for sure what was going on.

INT: Did you make any plans different from what you ordinarily would have done for that weekend, or the ensuing, throughout the incident?

NAR: Well, I talked about it with different people. If the thing blows we are going to get out of town on the first boat or whatever but I'm sure that there wasn't one person in Carlisle that didn't have thoughts cross his or her mind about having to leave town in case an emergency happened.

INT: So did you leave during the incident?

NAR: Yes I left on the next Tuesday evening I went home for a few days.

INT: And what brought you to leave?

NAR: Well it wasn't anything directly to do with the reactor but rather the offshoot of it that College was cancelled for the week and I decided to take an opportunity to go home which I hadn't been able to do for a while.

INT: Well Buff, in leaving what did you think about taking with you and what did you actually take with you?

NAR: The only thing . . . I took my dirty laundry with me because I went home like every normal college student does, but other than that I took nothing home. No important personal possessions because I expected 'em all to be there unharmed when I got back.

INT: Was there someone in your life that you were watching in order to decide what you would do? Beside from making a decision as to media or other input, was there one particular person who you were following a lead?

NAR: I would have to say probably Dr. Laws who I considered to be probably the most reputable source I would hear.

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

NAR: Well, not really because I'm not familiar with the nuclear technology at all. It's something you just hear about, well more so these days than last year, but no I don't really didn't have any mental pictures of what could happen.

INT: Do you think that anything that happened there that in fact did happen might have affected your health now or in the future?

NAR: No, I don't think so.

INT: Do you see any other aspects of your life that might have been affected or the life of the community?

NAR: Well I think that that is a difficult question to answer. Well, my life, I really don't think so. It's something you tell your grandchildren, you know, I was at the first nuclear accident. I was 25 miles away from the first nuclear accident. But, as far as the community goes it is really hard to tell. I really don't think it will have any profound dramatic consequences. Well, that's speaking of Carlisle of course, but communities closer such as Goldsboro or Middleton could be different.

INT: If the worst had occurred, what do you think might have happened?

NAR: Well from my knowledge of it radioactive materials would have escaped into the atmosphere, perhaps in a rainstorm it would have got washed down into the land contaminating the farms, the water table making it very difficult for this whole area to be habitable.

INT: Do you have any present concerns about the food or milk from the area?

NAR: No, not really. It is pretty much all gone from mind.

INT: Did you at any point think of your own death or that of others?

NAR: No, not really because I was not that worried at any particular time that a major catastrophe was going to occur.

INT: So the question of survival, okay, so the survival really wasn't . . . conscious

NAR: No, not except something I'm sure, like I said before, that everybody talked about. If you heard something did happen just being ready to leave the area.

INT: Did you think about God during the incident?

NAR: I really can't recall. Probably surfaced and disappeared but nothing major.

INT: Any actual praying, time out to meditate on the abstract questions of religion or God?

NAR: I really don't think so because of that incident again because I really didn't believe that it was overly serious.

INT: During the incident, did you feel you had any certain responsibilities for example like to your job or to the community or to your family and did you see any conflict if there were these responsibilities?

NAR: As a happy go lucky college student there were very few responsibilities. I guess the only responsibility I would have had would have been to myself to get my ass out of there in case something would have happened.

INT: Did you do anything or have things to do that which you otherwise would not have had to do?

NAR: Well, uh, it was great having that extra free time from classes and studying. Just had a good time partying around and doing things I wouldn't have had time to do ordinarily.

INT: Did you have any ideas about how it would be best to behave in such a situation? Like ethical moral or like responsible or responsibilities did you try and modify the behavior toward any kind of ideal behavior in this kind of situation?

NAR: Well I guess the only thing I really thought of was not panicking then and even in case something bad would have happened. But other than that I really don't think that I had any responsibilities or anything like that.

INT: As far as not panicking, was there anything that made it difficult for you to not panic, like was there any urge to panic?

NAR: No, I don't think so. It seemed the situation after the first day or two just seemed to be a stagnant situation where an aura of crisis really didn't emerge because it was a stagnant situation.

INT: Did this event bring to mind any past experiences or events or did anything like this happen to you before like a flood or a hurricane or anything that might be traumatized?

NAR: Not really, this is I guess the expression goes the first act of God that I have really been near to. It really didn't remind me of any other situation in my life.

INT: Did any TV shows or movies come to mind?

NAR: Not really other than the fact that believing that they were just trying to capitalize on the situation and make some money out of it.

INT: What? Who was trying to capitalize it?

NAR: Movie people, television people, things like that.

INT: Did you find yourself singing any songs, Buff?

NAR: Not that I can recall except maybe in a drunken stupor.

INT: Did you have any daydreams that you remember or sleeping dreams at that?

NAR: No.

INT: Was your sleep disturbed in any way?

NAR: No, I think I probably slept better.

INT: Did you notice any changes happening in to people around you during the incident?

NAR: Yes, people that were ordinarily calm, mild mannered people like Clark Kent were becoming very hyper and almost to the point of panic and just acting totally irrational.

INT: So do you think this changed them in any lasting way?

NAR: Maybe in a broad sense making them more skeptical of various things but other than that, I really don't think so.

INT: Do you think the incident changed you in any lasting way?

NAR: No, Not really.

INT: A question as to the joking, you say you can't remember specific jokes but I wondered if you'd like to expound on why you think there was so much joking going on and can you tie it in with joking that you may have heard, or recall from Kennedy assassinations or Vietnam War jokes, Nixon jokes or probably a little more applicable, Jonestown Guiana jokes and why do you think this was happening?

NAR: As far as the jokes themselves went I think again that one of the reason for them on many people's part was to relieve their own fears by talking about it and joking about it somehow making themselves less concerned about it and I'm sure another partial reason for it was that it was shall we say in to make jokes about the Three Mile Island incident. I think difficult to compare it with the Guiana incident because there many people were killed and it was . . . I consider it to be very sadistic and uncaring in that situation to make bad jokes about it but I really don't think you could make a really bad totally out of taste joke about Three Mile Island incident, precisely because no one was hurt at the time.

INT: An editorial question, is that what it is going to take, you know nuclear hurt, to get people to look at the nuclear question, nuclear energy questions seriously or?

NAR: I think so. I think it's going to take obviously the wheels are turning slowly now. Much more slowly than people thought after the incident. In relation to nuclear power I'm sure right afterwards many people thought that nuclear power would be if not totally discontinued but really cut back to examine much more closely but today as I understand it they . . . although there have been more strict regulations and inspections passed, nuclear power is continuing to be an important part of our country's energy.

INT: Have you developed any more of an opinion on nuclear energy other than that question - that nuclear energy as to the energy situation as a whole as to safety as to regulations, as to your life, your health?

NAR: It has made me realize that nuclear energy is an important and I believe in fact something we do need. We cannot do without it but I think it also must be much more closely scrutinized than ever before to insure that our . . . as I see it growing dependence on it will not lead us into a very serious trap.

INT: Is there anything else that you would like to say about all this. Any of your answers or anything related to the TMI?

NAR: Just that I hope it, shall we say, wakes people up to the possible dangers of something like that and since that I believe there have been 2 or 3 other incidents — one in Tennessee and one in Minnesota that have still hasn't alarmed people enough and if I guess I had one thought I wish that there would be much more closely scanned and analyzed so that it could continue to be the important energy source for our country that it is.

INT: Could you tie that scanning and analysis into the government presentation or representation of the incident. I'm not supposed to put words in your mouth? But do you think we are being told everything?

NAR: No, not really. It's like anything.

INT: Do you think we are being told anything?

NAR: The barest essentials. I think that if we were in danger we would be told. But I'm sure we will never know what happened like for instance the aforementioned John F. Kennedy assassination. That there are certain things that the government just will not tell the people to save their own face, to cover up for their bungling or for various other instances.

October 7, 1979

Occupation: Law school student

INTERVIEWER: When did you first hear about the Three Mile Island incident?

NARRATOR: I think I heard it over the radio.

INT: That first morning?

NAR: Yeah. I guess it was March 28<sup>th</sup> when it first happened.

INT: Did you know the reactor was there before the incident?

NAR: Yes.

INT: Do you know how far away the complex was from Carlisle?

NAR: I knew approximately where it was located in relation to Harrisburg.

INT: Upon hearing that first report on the tube what did you think about as far as the situation, seriousness, a crisis, or just an event perhaps?

NAR: Initially I was very concerned because radiation is supposed to be extremely harmful especially in the long term and I didn't know how much . . . the figures that they were throwing out I had no idea what they meant in relation to my health being in Carlisle. So initially I was very concerned about what the effects could be on my health in Carlisle and whether it could spread that far.

INT: Did you then seek out further information and where did you go for that information?

NAR: After reading and listening to more radio reports and news reports, I tended to . . . well in combination with testing done by the physics professor, I forget his name, who uh...

INT: Laws?

NAR: Yeah, I guess it was Laws, whoever did the study in Carlisle of radiation in the air, I heard that report and he said that there was minimal radiation, if any, that had spread as far as Carlisle so then my concern as far as that . . . as far as radiation spreading that's affecting my health, greatly diminished and the other thing I had heard is the possibility of explosion which would be my other main concern were very minimal because they said that first it had to . . . the whole thing would just melt-down. And it seemed to me from reports that I was hearing then it would take quite a bit of time even if just 24 hours that it would take that long for it to totally melt down before there would be any sort of explosion and so my fears regarding that were also eliminated and I figured that if it started melting down and started getting out of control I would hear about it and would be able to leave in plenty of time.

INT: Did you talk about this with friends, family or co-workers, general talk or specific talk?

NAR: Oh yeah, it was obviously the big topic of conversation with everybody for a while there and of course everybody was concerned either for their own health or health of anybody, any friends in the area, etc.

INT: How do you feel about others' reactions to the incident?

NAR: I think many people blew it out of proportion especially here. I think people that left the area around Three Mile Island were very justified in leaving the area but as far as, I know a lot of people that left the Carlisle vicinity and they left initially not because school was closed but because they feared for their health and I think that was a little bit extreme especially considering the air test done by physics' professor which showed there was negative radiation in the air and the fact that there could not be any danger from explosion except over a period of time in which you would find out about that in plenty of time to leave so I think the people that left panicked a bit too much. I don't think it was that much of a danger to us in Carlisle and I think that overall I think there were many people that just panicked too much over the whole situation.

INT: So... Am I correct in saying that your main source of information was Professor Laws, the physics professor?

NAR: Right.

INT: How did you feel about the media? The general overall media, radio, TV, newspapers' handling of the incident?

NAR: I think it was a serious incident but I think it was an incident which all the media could play upon and exaggerate a little bit. In that, you know, everywhere you looked in the newspaper, the whole front page was TMI, TMI, TMI the second page was TMI, TMI, everything was TMI. I can see that to some extent because it was a serious incident and something that was the first time in the United States that something this serious has happened, but the local newspapers and radio coverage used it to try to exaggerate things



a little bit as I would think news reporters such as that would do in a situation like this since its something that has such national impact as far as nuclear reactors across the nation and they can use that because here it is happening here in our hometown and they used that to blow it out of proportion.

INT: How about the handling of the situation by government officials say from... specifically from local government but also NRC and even higher up, national, not only the local NRC chapter but National and maybe Carter also?

NAR: I think as far as local government officials such as state officials, I think Thornburgh did an adequate job in the situation. He had evacuation plans if necessary. I think there was probably a little too much talk of evacuation but like I said it was a serious incident and they had to have the plans and they might have been local news media that blew the evacuation thing a little bit out of proportion more so than the government officials themselves. And I think they had to have evacuation plans. They had to make sure that everything was ready in case that there had to be an evacuation and yet they held off the evacuation as long as possible to avert total panic by residents and I think that was good. As far as national officials I think there wasn't. . . I don't think their coverage, their handling of the situation was adequate. In that this is not the only nuclear reactor in the country. There are many, many nuclear reactors and it is a very important source of energy in this point in the country even though it is a small percentage. It's a percentage that makes a difference as far as taking some of that energy source away from electricity companies etc. and I think in that regard they should have been much more involved with what was going on because it probably isn't going to be the first or the last time that it is going to happen and it just didn't seem that they were . . . especially like government officials, Federal Government officials, such as Carter, were as concerned as they should have been about the whole incident and what was going on so they could prevented it in other places.

INT: How do you feel about Metropolitan Edison's handling or portraying of the incident, the utility in question, owner of the Three Mile Island?

NAR: Alright, okay. Met Ed is obviously trying to protect their liability in the whole affair well as hopefully not losing Three Mile Island as an energy source in the future so I think whereas the newspapers and the radios etc and the TV, goes to one extreme in exaggerating the whole impact of the incident, I think they, Metropolitan Edison, are on the other extreme in trying to keep everything as cool as possible while still getting the situation under control. As far as their handling at Three Mile Island of what was going on I wouldn't be able to say whether they did a good job or whether they did a bad job because I'm not familiar with what it would take to shut down the reactor to stop the radiation and obviously they were being an incident of a first time incident . . they sorta had to play it by ear too and try different things until they got it down to having the incident under control. If anything I think they should have been better prepared before the whole thing happened so that if something like this did happen they knew what to do. But . . . I don't know if they could do that or not.

INT: Do you feel that they were . . . Do you feel that those in charge were in control? During the situation and if not did you feel uneasy about it or what was the reassurance? Do you think they are in control now? And maybe a little more abstract. . . ?

NAR: I still don't think they know totally either like. . . . as far as control. . . control during the incident was very tenuous. They were trying . . . they were doing steps which I think they thought would work, but more or less it was sort of like they hoped it would work and I think even now that they knew more about the situation and they knew more about why it happened and maybe what to do to prevent it, but I don't think they have total control of the situation whereas I don't think, I think there can be other things that could go wrong that once again it would be a hit or miss thing on their part as far as getting it under control once something did happen. I think in general they are using nuclear power as an energy source but then they don't . . . they are not fully aware or aren't fully protecting themselves and area inhabitants against dangers such as this. So if something would happen they would know exactly what to do in that given situation. I think there could be many situations with nuclear reactors where once again it would be a hit or miss sort of thing. So I think yeah, they took steps that were logical steps on their part like once again I think it was more hit or miss on their part too. They said they had a number of steps which was to say we'll try this and if this doesn't work we'll try this and if this doesn't work we'll try this and that is control to some extent but it would be better of course if they would know if this happens then we'll do this and that's going to stop it and I don't think they are at that point now or anywhere in the country they are at that point at the energy companies which are running nuclear reactors.

INT: Did you change any of your ordinary routines or make any plans different from what you ordinarily would have made that end of the week and weekend?

NAR: Not really. Initially I was concerned and I thought I might leave but after hearing the reports about there is no radiation in Carlisle and hearing the report that it would take a period of time if there was a melt—down or to be serious danger to an extent that maybe Carlisle would be affected, no, there were no change of plans. I had that in the back of my mind and I made sure that if there was some sort of melt—down at the reactor and if there was a big change there I was fully prepared to leave but other than that . . . no.

INT: Aside from Professor Laws is there anyone in your life that you were watching in order to decide what you would do. . . Be it Carlisle, Washington at home, in your own apartment?

NAR: I think I just watched the reactions of a couple of my friends. I tried to make sure I wasn't too far off base in my sort of calmness to the whole situation and there were a couple friends that I watched their reactions but they basically had the same reactions as I did to the whole thing so if they came up to me and said the thing is much more serious and we better get out of here I think I would have probably left and irrespective of or regardless of what the news people were saying and what Harrisburg officials were saying etc. But throughout the whole thing they had the same reaction to it that I did and none of us had left.

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

NAR: The mental pictures I had came basically from newspaper reports that I read. There was a leak and there was radiation coming out of it and the whole melt-down idea [interruption] The mental picture I had about what was going on was basically from the

newspaper reports like I said and the picture I had of it was that there was radiation leaking out of these contained nuclear reactors which wasn't supposed to happen but that situation wasn't . it didn't seem for me in Carlisle to be that serious and that for it to become serious in my mental picture that I had was that the heat and I guess that's the picture I had was that the heat would get so out of control that the thing would start melting down into the ground and that seemed to be the real danger of the situation if that happened then I had a picture of just massive radiation escaping and I pictured all the radiation that was within the reactor escaping as well as going into the ground, perhaps getting into the water supply and that's when I saw it as being very, very serious. Then I would think it would have affected me in Carlisle. But I guess that is basically the mental picture that I had. I didn't have a full understanding of what was going on as far as . . . they talk about the melt—down. I didn't fully understand how it would melt—down. I don't really have a very good picture of how that would have happened. The only thing I seemed. . . they seemed to be stressing is that it would take some time and there was no danger of explosion and that would seem to take some time before a melt down would become very serious would happen, so that's basically the mental picture I had.

INT: Do you think that anything that indeed did happen at TMI has affected your health now or perhaps in the future?

NAR: No, I'm very confident that the radiation hasn't affected me nor will affect me in the future as far as what happened. Again if I was in a position where I didn't know about Laws' radiation study in the air in Carlisle I think I would have been much more skeptical and probably would have left and would even still be skeptical about how this might affect me in the long run, but I was confident and am confident now of his study that there was no radiation in the air here and that there is no need to worry.

INT: Well how about in that worst possible instance . . . the melt-down, how do you think that would scenario have affected your health or other aspects of your life?

NAR: I don't think it would have affected my health that much because of the time element that they seemed to be stressing if you can believe that time element, which I have no reason to doubt what they were saying regarding the time element that would be involved in a melt—down that I would have left the area and I don't think it would have affected my health. Now how it would have affected other things, obviously because if something like that did happen, what happens to the school, can I come back to Carlisle and be safe, or is the radiation level just so extreme that I don't even want to come back to Carlisle cause it might be hazardous to my health and so it could have been very disruptive I think if a melt—down had occurred and that most serious situation had occurred because not so much for my health because if it was that serious as far as radiation levels in Carlisle because of a melt—down, I wouldn't come back here my health would be more important to me than coming back here and going to school and continuing my job.

INT: Presuming school to come back to . . .

NAR: Right. Well I don't see . . . I don't see an explosion just wiping out Carlisle but I would see something like that radiation from it escaping and becoming total. All the radiation that was in the reactors just leaving either through air or through the ground into

the water and a situation like that I would not want to be living in Carlisle. That is definite.

INT: I apologize for that prejudicial interviewer question. Do you have any present concern about the food or milk from the area?

NAR: No. Once again that's if I can believe the newspaper reports considering . . . not considering but concerning the radiation effect on milk. It seemed to be pretty minimal if any and once again I don't know how much of the milk that I buy comes from Harrisburg area as opposed to being processed right here in the Carlisle area and I think if I did know it was coming from the Harrisburg area I would be more concerned about that. At this point I would say no, I'm not really that concerned about it etc. Like I said I don't think my health has been affected at all by any contamination through milk or water etc.

INT: Did you think . . . At any point were you thinking of survival or perhaps your own death or the death of other's?

NAR: As far as the death of others, I would be concerned about the people in the immediate vicinity. People that stuck around within say a 10 mile radius of the place. I would be concerned for the effect on their health but as far as the effect on my health and possible death to me being in Carlisle, I wasn't that concerned because it would once again come back to the time element involved in the melt-down and I was fully prepared if a melt-down began and I was listening to the radio reports etc. that if such a melt down occurred I was going to be long gone so I wasn't too worried about my own personal safety or health but other people in the area I was concerned about especially closer to TMI. There seemed to be a number of people within that area that stuck around and kept going to their jobs etc. and maybe they should have been a little bit more concerned about what was going on and maybe their health will be affected a little bit more than they think it will be in the future other than that I don't know.

INT: Did you think about god during the incident?

NAR: No, not really. I think if I had been closer to it if I had to evacuate or if there would have been a possibility of just a total explosion happening at any time that could have affected me here, then I would have perhaps thought about God, but as it was, no I didn't.

INT: Did you feel any particular or certain responsibilities during the incident and did any of these possible responsibilities seem to conflict? Perhaps as to school, to job?

NAR: I think they would seem to conflict. I didn't feel that I should either leave school or leave my job. I continued both through the crisis. At the same time I saw a responsibility towards my parents and toward myself and toward some friends that I would give a ride to out of the area if the situation became very serious. Some of these friends were very more concerned about it than I was. They wanted to leave and I didn't want to leave and so there was some conflict there as far as responsibilities towards school work on the one hand and friends and family on the other hand so I think there would be a conflict there but I think if things had gotten serious. . . more serious than they were as I see it here in Carlisle, then the responsibility of myself toward my family and for my own health and towards my friends would have taken over my responsibilities toward school and towards work. I think that would have been much more important and I would have left.

INT: Could you perhaps expound a little on what you felt to be the best behavior in this kind of situation? Relative to these people or ethical, moral for yourself?

NAR: I think the best behavior was to do what you felt was right according to your understanding of the total situation. I had friends that left the area, not because school was just closed but because their jobs were temporarily shut down for whatever reason. I think anybody had to go by their gut reaction to this situation. I don't think anybody that left . . . I don't look down as being foolish. . . anybody that left the area, from Carlisle, because it was a situation where you really didn't know what was happening. You didn't really know if the radiation was really affecting you. I think you could see Professor Law's reports said that there was no radiation here in Carlisle but what about the effect of radiation on the milk supply or the water supply for drinking and I tended to just go along with my daily routine and not really worry about it too much that was my reaction to the whole thing and then being prepared to leave. I don't look down as foolish on anybody that did leave the Carlisle area for the sake of their own health. I don't think anybody really did know what was going on totally. There was indications that it wasn't bad in Carlisle but who really knows and like we could be affected by milk or by water or by something like the food you eat and anybody that left I wouldn't look down on as foolish. To be concerned for your own health is the most important thing.

INT: Did this event bring to mind any past experience or past events either intimately associated that you associate with or that you can indirectly associate with personally or historical?

NAR: I think it would be akin to some sort of natural disaster. This is obviously a manmade disaster but I think it would be along the lines of a very serious flood or something along those lines, which I haven't been personally had to evacuate anywhere because of a serious flood but I have friends that had to leave areas because of a flood and other friends that stayed because they didn't believe reports of seriousness of flooding and then they got themselves in trouble because when the flood did hit they were isolated in the crisis and they had to deal with the crisis rather than leaving the area and coming back after the initial danger.

INT: Which do you think is more frightening?

NAR: I think the man-made is much more frightening because . . . to the extent that . . . like I said before I don't think Met Edison or any energy company totally realized what could happen in a nuclear reactor. This is something that went wrong at TMI and eventually they got control over the situation. . . as much control as they could over the situation, but I don't think. . . I think there are other things that could probably go wrong with a nuclear reactor that once again it's hit or miss and whether they can get control of the situation and to me that man-made possible catastrophe is much more dangerous than natural catastrophe. I think natural catastrophe you can guard against better than the man-made and naturally you know what is going happen. If you know the river is going to flood severely, you know the river is going to flood severely, there isn't much you can do about it but you also know the extent basically of what is going to happen. If it is going to flood badly, its going to flood badly, its going to ruin your home or whatever but you can leave and come back and deal with it then. If it is something like man made like this they could be saying that there can be no explosion, it would have to be a melt—down first,

but what if they're wrong. I think they were only guessing too and an explosion such as that would happen instantaneously and there would be no warning and I think that is much more severe.

INT: Did any, were there any stories or TV shows or movies that came to mind in that period? What might have made you think of that?

NAR: All your catastrophe movies like. ... I can't remember the names of them but they had a big movie on about an earthquake and there's this movie on about a big fire and a hotel and a big trap...and things such as that in my mind sort of paralleled this situation that there was a crisis situation. Such as that it wasn't . . . you didn't have an enclosed area such as a fire in a hotel or something such as that. It was more open area but I still saw it as a crisis with people panicking etc. and no one not really knowing what totally is going on and being able to control it. So I think all this natural and man-made catastrophe films that have been on the air.

INT: Did you find yourself singing any songs?

NAR: Hahaha. No, I can't say that I did.

INT: Any fraternity rally around the reactor tunes?

NAR: Hahaha. No, I don't think so.

INT: Did you have any daydreams or sleeping dreams that you recall from the time whether or not they were associated with the incident or not?

NAR: Right. I can't recall anything that would be, would seem to me to be, like connected in any way with TMI. It didn't seem even remotely connected with TMI.

INT: Was there any disturbance . . . Was your sleep disturbed in any way? I guess there was no disturbance directly related to TMI, like nightmares. But you indeed did have night time mental activity?

NAR: I think I had have some night time mental activity, yes. But I don't think it was once again at all caused by TMI, it was the usual night time mental activity.

INT: Okay, I deserve that. Just to backtrack briefly what changes happened to the people around you? Did you notice any behavioral changes and anything you think would persist in a lasting way?

NAR: I don't think there was any behavioral change that would persist in a lasting way. I don't think any one of my friends was affected from . . . to an extent that they would be changed for life because of the incident, except for maybe being totally against nuclear reactors. I think there are a lot of people who justifiably have that opinion especially following TMI but especially during the incident there were a few people that they seemed to panic more than I thought that they would. They seemed to have things blown a little bit out of proportion but again it is a situation where you really didn't know exactly what was going on. It depended on who you believed and what you wanted to believe and a couple of my friends surprised me in that way in that they did leave right away and I would think that they would have stayed but once again it is a situation where you believe what you wanted to believe and in the interest of safety it didn't surprise me that much that they left, just a gut reaction to the whole thing.

INT: Do you think the incident changed you in any lasting way?

NAR: It's a big question. I don't think it changed me in any lasting way except for the fact that before I didn't really have as much a negative reaction toward nuclear power. It changed me big in that way and I think nuclear power seems to be very important . . . well some sort of alternate energy source beside electricity and oil and gas is extremely important but before to me nuclear power was a legitimate means of providing an alternate energy source whereas now I would debate that very sharply. I think we should delve our efforts and use our money in other areas such as solar energy as opposed to nuclear energy and I don't think that's happening as rapidly as I want to see it but as behavior change and a lasting effect on my personality or anything, no.

INT: Jokes, do you recall any specific jokes or graffiti or funny remarks or fad words that came out of the incident?

NAR: Just your basic remarks about flipper babies . . . other than that I don't think I remember any jokes.

INT: I guess they were pretty general and ongoing. Like did you pass them on? Were they passed on to you? Were they meant to be funny, did you react to them in a comedy like way or did you question?

NAR: Yeah, I think I reacted in a comedy like way especially being here in Carlisle because I didn't view it as being very serious at the time to my health. I would think that a joke such as that if it were traveling around Middletown like right where the reactor was would be . . . perhaps not in good taste because you don't know. That could have very easily I think had that effect and they still have that effect on people from that area in the future. Like I haven't heard anything about any deformed kids directly related to the TMI but maybe in the future I will. I think in that sense it wouldn't have been funny but here in Carlisle it was funny. I could afford to joke about it, without that . . . and it wasn't that much of an ease of tension because I didn't see it as very serious to me.

INT: Do you care to expound on why you think there was so much joking going on?

NAR: I think some of it was a release of tension. I think there were people who stuck around and didn't want to seem that concerned or worried about the whole thing but really were and . . . everybody was really concerned about it and you just didn't know where to keep your perspective on things and try to keep your daily balance intact and one of the ways to do that is to joke about the whole affair and just laugh it off and just sorta laugh through the whole incident even though you know it is very serious.

INT: Do you think that is common to other crisis such as maybe the political assignments or war situations or like the Jonestown massacre?

NAR: Yeah, I think there are a lot of things happening in general in the daily world as well as the major crisis that if you thought about them really seriously, would really bug you. If you had any humanism. I think one of the way to keep your perspective on things would be to keep going and sorta joke about it even though it is serious and it does bother you. You can't let something like that bother you to such an extent that it ruins your total daily life and I think that if it is something that you are not directly affected such as a catastrophe like if your home is flooded, there is damage to you or to your property then it becomes a bit more serious and then joking about it is much more difficult. It is a lot

harder to laugh about it and it has affected your life and you have to deal with that affect on your life, whereas especially here in Carlisle . . . where like a political assignation excepting that it affects your life but at the same time it does not directly affecting it except that its there, you think about it and you don't think it is right but there isn't anything you can do about it and one of the only things you can do about it is to laugh about it and joke about it just to keep your head on.

INT: Would you care to put forth your opinion on nuclear energy once again specifically it came out a little earlier but the opinion that has developed since the incident?

NAR: That would be before I viewed nuclear energy as a very important particularly future needs of providing energy for the country and that has drastically changed now to the extent that one, if nuclear energy is going to stay around as potential energy source of the future, I think they have to do much more in depth study of the dangers. They've got to refine the system more than it has been refined. It was one of those things that they jumped into maybe a little early and they didn't know totally what the dangers . . . maybe they knew what the dangers were but they didn't know how to prevent those dangers and sort of went ahead and had all these reactors and you hear more and more reports about things happening at the reactors and I think if nuclear energy is going to be a source of energy in the future they've got to spend a lot more time now in development of nuclear plants and on refinement of existing nuclear plants to the extent that they are much, much more safe than they seem to be at this point and particularly as far as public opinion goes, government officials are going to have a rough time making nuclear energy a viable source of energy in the future because of . . . TMI is going to have a big effect on that nationwide. Not just on people in this area and at the same time I think we got to go to something. We can't just use oil, gas and electricity. There has to be another source of energy in the country and I think nuclear energy can still be that viable source but I think we got to do much more work on the safety of nuclear energy. This just can't happen if this is going to be a viable in the future which is important. I would also think that they should energy sources like solar energy and anything else that technology could that is safer than nuclear energy because it doesn't seem that they have the nuclear energy as far as the dangers of nuclear energy and whether control of it, I don't know. If they could, yeah, I would think it would be still very important otherwise there is no way that I think they should do it, either for the safety of the people within the immediate area of the nuclear reactor or from the public opinion aspect, there would be no way to push it on people anymore.

INT: Is there anything else you would like to say or address yourself to any previous questions at all?

NAR: I don't think so.