

Interview with Northern Michigan University students, September 21, 1994 Marquette Michigan. Since this is going to be an interview with three individuals, I would like the three people to introduce themselves.

ML: My name is Michelle Lee.

BD: My name is Brain Denman.

RH: My name is Robert Hendrickson.

RMM: This interview will discuss their life on campus as students.

RMM: What I'd like to do is ask you series of questions about your life as students on campus, and I would ask you when you're answering the questions or when you want to add something maybe to what someone else says, I would ask that you wait until they stop so that we basically have three individuals talking individually, separately, so when recording it, it doesn't get all chaotic. We can start in any order that you want. Start out with the question, How did you come to Northern Michigan University, How/Why did you come and when?

ML: I came here as a transfer student, to Northern, this is my first semester. My husband was in the military and he got so we came back home. I'm originally from the UP, from Ononogan. I'm coming here as a junior.

RMM: And where did you go to school before?

ML: I went to three different schools. I went to Gogebic, which is in Ironwood, Michigan for a couple semesters, and I went to Tidewater Community College in Virginia Beach, and I went to St. Leo College, it's a Florida school, but I went through an extension program in Norfolk, Virginia.

RMM: St. Leo's, it's still around?

ML: It's still around.

RMM: I thought it was down by Tampa, and I thought they tore it down.

ML: No, it's still there.

BD: I came to Northern, this is my fourth year. I chose this University I would have to believe because it was in some respect a ways away from home, but it still in the state of Michigan. My father was stationed at KI Sawyer, a few years after VietNam, and he took some classes here, and I do believe that had some influence on me coming up to this University.

RH: I came up to the University after getting out of the service, because I wanted a quiet environment to slow down my life. And

just to basically spend time with my father because he came up here to work on the Ropes Gold Mine [in Ishpeming] before it shut down. And there just happened to be a University here so that was two years [1992] ago and I'm here and I'm a junior.

RMM: Now that we got you on campus, could we just run by your, well Michelle you're going to be limited in terms of your experiences here on campus, but at this point and this would be kind of interesting to hear what you say after you're here for a while, but probably just tell us a little about your impressions, your very earliest impressions of campus, campus life and probably just give your names.

ML: My first impressions of campus life, let's see. It's been a little different, I've always commuted to school, and I haven't lived right on the campus so from that aspect it's

RMM: So you're living in student housing. Well then explain a little about student housing.

ML: I live in the student housing, it's not wonderful, it's alright. It's a little older than other buildings, well, I'm in Center, I guess the town houses are a little newer. It's nice to be able to go home in-between classes, and being close to the campus you can get a lot of work done campus without having to drive and make special trips.

RMM: Do you find given your married state that you interact with the campus much, do you attend campus functions, some of the movies that they've had or anything?

ML: We haven't yet, my husbands in this school too, so we are both full time students. We've been pretty busy.

BD: I live in the dorms here, last year I was in ? apartments, and I once again tried to get there this year but some things fell through so I live in West Hall. I enjoy the campus life, the area; I like the atmosphere. I've seen some changes over the four years in the Marquette community itself and at Northern Michigan University. I like these changes that are happening around, you know, adding on to the University facilities. The town itself Marquette is growing and I enjoy that. I enjoy seeing the growth and development of a smaller community. I do a lot of interaction with the community and the area and the University itself. I'm involved with our house government; I work for the athletic department so I get to enjoy a lot of the sporting events here, which is really enjoyable to me, because I love the sports. I like the winter area here, in Marquette. I like the atmosphere.

RMM: What's the dorm life been like? You've been there for four years?

BD: Yes you could say that.

RMM: Do you have any interesting insights, observations, funny stories?

BD: Dorm life, there is a lot of funny, interesting, different times that I've had or experiences throughout living on campus. Wild and crazy people coming in late at night, being loud, I could do without that. But I've enjoyed my experiences with the people, the residents advisors, the residents directors, they've been very helpful. I think that's really a benefit towards students who are living in on campus. They seem to care; They want to get you involved with the activities, with homecoming events and other events that go throughout the year. They get you involved with, broomball that we have in the winter time, the ice-sculpting which I find that really enjoyable.

RH: I've kind of had all three. When I first got up here there was no place to live so I spent the first semester in the dorms in West Hall. And it was fine. I got good friends and everything. And I felt like in comparison, after living down town, we were in the ghettos, that's practically a nickname for what it's called, the ghettos, it's like the only dorm that's off by itself. And it doesn't have a lot of the amenities that down-campus dorms have.

RMM: Now where is West Hall located?

RH: It's located behind the UC where Gries Hall used to be, across the lawns from Cohodas and from Public Safety and from Spooner Hall.

RMM: But now you're at the center point of campus.

RH: Yes well you're in the center of campus but it's kind of like you got to go to the UC to do stuff or you have to go to the other buildings, whereas in the other dorms they've got TV rooms, they have weight rooms, they have a sauna and it's right there in their dorm. And the friends and stuff I have are pretty neat. That's one thing I miss about living on campus. Second semester I moved off campus cause it was just too much like a barracks, too much like a military barracks and I wanted to get away from that after five years in the military. Living off campus singly, you don't really have that much connection because there hasn't been that good off-campus representatives in the student organizations to try and keep the off-campus students involved. Basically you go to class and then you go home. And now I'm off-campus and married so it's completely different aspect to it, because you spend a lot more time with your wife when you're not studying and everything. One thing I have noticed though, is that both myself and my wife we're constantly going back to the friends that we made in time our in dorms. They're still maybe in the dorms or they're maybe off-campus themselves too but it's just like those friendships lasted and we haven't really made anymore friendships above that since we

moved off-campus. The dorm life is basically ?
on campus. Keeping you connected.

RMM: Are there any organizations on campus, is there much of any kind of organization that keeps you kind of tuned into the life of the University?

RH: Not per say for commuter student organization, but

RMM: I mean like history organization or chemistry club or and English club or something

RH: I'm involved in Phi Alpha Theta and the NMU Historical Society, and I'm going involved with Sigma Phi Delta, which is the English Honors Society and golden Key things like that. They keep me involved. And my wife's involved in ASNMU and those kind of things keep us involved with. You kind of have to go looking for it if you live off-campus. Whereas it comes to you if you're living on-campus.

BD: I've thought about getting involved in the NMU Historical Society, last year I do believe I was part of the group, but I kind of had really busy schedule, that tied me down. This year I'd really like to get involved with that. ASNMU is also something I'd like to get into. I went to a few of the meetings so I enjoy that aspect of. Model UN I was involved in last year, which I found really enjoyable. With Dr. ? it was really nice organization. It was different so that was a good aspect of University life. But as Rob stated, you do have to, there has to be an outlet, and I guess when you're close to campus, you're close to campus life, you see more of an outlet than per say commuters or non-residents of, residential students of the University.

RMM: Do you think anything could be done to help students or do you feel married students here? Which is sort of a different life style than say the single students, single student living in the dorm, single student living in the apartment? You have you're own activities as a married couple so you're not going to do that. Does that tend to cause a problem in terms of not interacting? (Being married and living off-campus) Are you more like faculty members or something where you're a student your off-campus married life is into itself and coming to campus is just taking courses and going home.

RH: That's the way it really is right now. It's not that we don't want to be involved it's just that we don't hear about things until the last minute, or until their over with. Whereas in the dorms there is signs up all over the place. Don't forget this and don't forget that, and I think that my first semester off-campus - student elections for the following year for the student representatives off-campus and on-campus and everything, and that was the main picture. The off-campus reps, is we're going to do

more to get the off-campus people involved, we're going to have off-campus student meetings, fliers going out to them. Then well the things like the fliers and stuff to let off-campus students know what is going on, Northern pulled the rug-out from underneath that. The administration per say said, "No, you can't do that, there is no funding for that, you have to find some other way." And that kind of took the fire out of the representatives and so they just kind of coasted through the year and left. I think if we could find someone to get the reps to do and involve all of the off-campus students, there would be more of an effort to do that.

RMM: Just for the problem of communication.

RH: Right. I think the University this year had done a I mean the off-campus students are more involved this year with the in the UC. Because they have that whole big lounge for them now on the first floor, and the dens a lot bigger and such that there is more of a place for us to go between classes and such. That has kind of helped. The University, I don't want to give the impression that their the bad guys, they're trying to be the good guys with what they have.

RMM: This is something new, and it will be a useful in the future, but you don't realize know. you just think you're doing an interview, but I'm kind of curious about what you're saying about the University Center, and I'd like to get the other two remaining people to make some comments. How do you view the University Center? Do you use it? It is it like Rob said it's kind of become a place to put your coat and hat. I mean a place to stop. How do you view the new University Center as say, now you've been here before, so as say the old University Center?

BD: I like it a lot better now. I like the atmosphere; I like how it was, it's ironic I would say a couple days ago, I saw some friends of mine that I haven't seen since my freshmen year that are still up in school here, and they went off-campus and kind of lost touch. I've seen them and sat and ate lunch with them, and it's like wow, how you doing. It was really nice to be able to see people that I haven't seen in a long time. I like it because I seem to go there after classes, pick up some coffee, take off and leave, and being able to have a little interaction with other people. You see a lot of the faculty and administration themselves take up on the UC. I've seen numerous professors that I've had before, and I know I've seen Ed Niemi and some of the other Jim Kadinski and some of the other faculty members administration members, excuse me, so I think it is beginning produce a better campus life. You know the things that they offer, the downstairs, the bookstore is really nice. They have a game store, I've shot pool in there one night with my friends, and it was fun, a different alternative. It's a lot bigger, it's nice. And in respect to down-campus and the Wild Cat den, I think it's a lot

better. I think the University Center is a lot better now, and I like the more interaction with maybe faculty or people you haven't seen in a while, and I enjoy that type of an atmosphere.

RH: I like what he is saying about faculty interaction and administration interaction because I used to work in Cohodas and previous things that we had been talking about are basically Cohodas is set up like a fortress and the administration kind of had that kind of idea you know to get a lot of the people over there were forgetting the fact that they are working for the students. You know, you got the famous Northern Shuffle and nobody wanted to do more than they had to, and they had their own lounge up there and so they never left the building. They never had any contact really with the students, except for maybe President ? when he did his little walk around campus. Or he ran into someone when he was on his little break or whatever. And when they first opened up the den, the food court, a lot of people still call it the den. Even though the den doesn't really exist, it still is the Den. But a lot of people, when they first opened it up especially during the summer it hadn't really opened, opened yet it was just there and they didn't have the grand opening yet, they had to come down from the Presidents office saying go over there. They had to get some people like Mike Roy or the Deans and a couple other, you know, the high up to set an example. Go over there, sit down, eat lunch, and it was like they were there, they ate their food, and they left. And now like Brain is saying, it's like President Vandamen, you'll see him show up at 11:30, and you go back in there at 1:00, and he is still sitting there food half cold on the plate and talking with whoever happens to be there. A lot of the other professors are doing that now, too. And I think also when they finish Grece hall, and I'm surprised, for once the something that the University planned, the administration planned and that is actually working. Because it didn't seem to work that way before, when it was the old den. The students were in the den; the administration was up there in the Cohodas lounge, and the faculty were hiding somewhere.

RMM: Very good observations, because the whole idea is to what you're saying is happening, we are bringing everybody together in that building. One of the Spanish teachers has, the younger Spanish teacher has is table over there, so he's over there from one to two, on every Thursday he has lunch over in the food court. And so if you want to go over and talk Spanish, whether or not you're in the class, you can go over there and sit and talk or do whatever you want. He has a little sign that he will put up and anybody can join him, but you have to speak Spanish. But one of the older faculty members has the German Cellar, and they're in one of the eating rooms in the basement of the learning resources center, all tucked away out of the way in the cellar. And so number one, you don't, you never have the opportunity to maybe walk by and see them and say hello. So it's still the, that person will be coming from the old school, let's stay over here in our little

underground cellar here, our lunchaeon.

?: Things like that are taken off Dr. Steve Platt does that too with his Introductory Psyc course, ? he has once iach semester, the first two weeks nothing happens but after people start getting a feel for him and a feel for phsycology, he starts ? where, it changes each semester, depending on what students can meet there, like this semester it's every Friday at noon. Whoever wants to show up, and you can talk to everything from capital punishment to ? juvinial ideal. Everything from apples to oranges.

RMM: What, somebody presents something or that's just the topic for discussion?

?: No you just sit down and it's like OK, what do you want to talk about today. And you may start on one thing and you end up on another. Such entirely what is crazy because it doesn't have to be just people in his class. Anybody that has ever had him or knows who Dr. Platt is or knows somebody in the class can come in and sit down and start yapping. And you may never know who this person is they just came up with this great idea I think.

RMM: Do you have any early observations of the, you know, have you used the facilities over there in the University Center?

ML: I haven't used the University Center. I guess it's easy living on campus with your own apartment to go in and grab your coffee and make your lunch.

RMM: Also save money.

ML: Well sure. So I haven't used the University Center. It does sound from what you've said, it does sound interesting. I guess I haven't really heard of it.

RH: I did find that when I lived on-campus, when I lived in West hall, it's right next store to the University Center, but it's kind of like I went to the cafe, I got my meal. Or I went to the bookstore, got my books and left. We had to actually plan as a group to go to the game or to the bowling alley, that's not there anymore, or anything. But now that I'm off-campus, it's automatic. If I want to know where to find my wife, I go to the UC, it's a sure bet that she is going to be there. It's an unspoken meeting place for both of us now that we're off-campus.

BD: I see that with students a lot. It's really nice, a lot more action, you know, where the people around you just a week or so ago, I was in the bookstore getting a book and I was just coming out and I saw Dr. Baren History Dept. and we sat on a couch and just talked about the summer and what not. And you see a lot of just the interaction not with just me and her per say, but you see

there is a life that seems like is around the University Center. And sometimes I've heard somebody play at the grand piano there. It's really nice walking by and you have this nice soft music in the air. Just the whole atmosphere and the way it looks, that's really, I really like that particular change of the University here I think it's a change for the better. And I think it is only going to get better than it is now.

RMM: Then in the future thing, your going to be graduating...

BD: I have another year after this...

RMM: Everybody will be around when they eventually have all the buildings connected, which sounds crazy but when I think when it is done it's going to further tie that together. The university center, and Gries Hall there is going to be a bridge connecting Gries Hall and the university center and then you can go through there in the tunnels or walkways. Then Seventh Street will be closed so then you will walk in this tunnel over to Jamrich and then the library and West Science and I think Jamrich will have underground tunnel's. They are all going to be interconnected you will be able to go... well you could take your coat off in the university center and just walk across campus. What I think is going to happen is that walk; when you are in a tunnel not a tunnel a walkway it is going to be a lot shorter then the way it is now when you are dodging cars, it will be a straight line right across the lot. Your not going here and there, wandering waiting for the cars to cross so when that gets done what your talking about now will even be further magnified with the use of that building. The only people that won't have ready access to it except it fits our classes around it would be the faculty that have their office's down campus or student's. But student's I think are going to go between classes will then use the tunnel to go too the university center because you have an hour and it takes you five minutes to get over there and you know your friends are going to be there and you could read or meet somebody or what ever have a cup of coffee, see faculty might be there. Probably do that I would imagain after awhile faculty might go over there just for a cup of coffee and meet the student's there in the food court. Okay, any other observation's?

RMM: What did you want to add there about the movement of people up campus?

RH: Does thinking about the fact last year when they were doing the ?????? and getting set to do that everybody was questioning since the university center is no longer in the center why are they bothering putting all this money in there when it is out of the way and people aren't gonna go. You know the renovations are going to be a waste of money but not all the faculty are in there and the administration in there , and the student's who live off campus even the down campus student's who have a meal plan and are

supposed to be eating in the Quad 1 cafeteria are coming up campus to eat in the food court and basically ignoring where they are supposed to be eating, it's a ????. With the worries weren't relevant.

BD: In respect to Rob, what he said that is true. You see a lot of the campus life shifting towards the U.C. and that for me living down there and Summit, then here in West I have noticed the campus life has been shifting you see a lot of people traditionally from Quad 1 down there. I think that is the beginning of things too come I believe.

BD: What I'd like to do is ask you series of questions about your life as students on campus, and I would ask you when you're answering the questions or when you want to add something maybe to what someone else says, I would ask that you wait until they stop so that we basically have three individuals talking individually, separately, so when recording it, it doesn't get all chaotic. We can start in any order that you want. Start out with the question how did you come to Northern Michigan University, how/why did you come and when?

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BD: And where did you go to school before?

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