

TAPE ONE SIDE ONE

Amanda Roth: Today is August 1st 2002, and I am in the Special Collections Reading Room of Skillman Library with Liza Lucy, Class of 1974. Thank you for being a participant.

Liza Lucy: Thanks.

AR: First, can you tell me a little bit about your family, your childhood, and where you grew up?

LL: Yes. I grew up in Honesdale, Pennsylvania, which is the north, most northern eastern most corner of Pennsylvania. So, I'm northeast of Scranton. And was a small town that I grew up in. My family had the town department store. We were one of a small number of Jewish families that lived in the area. They had settled there in 1849, so a long time ago. I went to boarding school because the local high school was not particularly good. And I went to Wyoming Seminary in Kingston, Pennsylvania, which is next to Wilkes-Barre. From there I came to Lafayette. Got two younger brothers who went to Hampshire College¹, and my parents are still living in Honesdale, Pennsylvania.

AR: Can you describe the boarding school you attended?

¹ Hampshire College, Amherst, Massachusetts.

LL: Wyoming Seminary was a coed school. Methodist in affiliation. I'd say two thirds of the students there were day students, and a third of us were boarders. I was a boarder. It was always coeducation. And at least ten of us from that class came to Lafayette. That's actually kind of interesting. It had a fair number of post-graduate men who were there in order to spend some time before they came to Lafayette to play football. So that was the bulk of the ten who came there. It was a fairly mediocre boarding school, you know, nowhere near the class of, you know, George School² or Lawrenceville³ or places like that. But it had a good education. And I, I made a lot of friends there. Had a good education. I would not send my children there.

AR: At what point during high school did you decide that you wanted to go on to college?

LL: I always was going to go on to college. That was just not an issue. I was just headed in that direction.

AR: And how did your family feel about higher education in general and especially for women?

LL: Higher education was a given. My, even my grandmother went to law school. So women were educated in my family. It's a fact.

² The George School, located in Newtown, Pennsylvania, is a college preparatory boarding and day school for boys and girls in grades 9-12. It was founded by the Friends (Quakers) in 1893.

³ The Lawrenceville School, located in Lawrenceville, New Jersey is a college preparatory boarding and day school for boys and girls in grades 9-12. It was founded in 1810.

AR: So would you say that most of the females at the boarding school went on to college?

LL: All. Yeah, we had a hundred percent on to higher education. That, that was a very big source of pride for the, the school.

AR: What was your process of finding and choosing schools to apply to like?

LL: I knew I wanted a smallish liberal arts school. I depended on my teachers and advisors to indicate to me schools that would be good. I was very interested in going to Bucknell⁴ cuz that's where my father had gone. I was also interested in going to Kenyon⁵ which is where my favorite professor had gone. And I applied to them, and I applied to Lafayette. I knew nothing about Lafayette except that they didn't require an essay on the application, so it was just a matter of sending fifteen dollars and an application. And I thought that, well, that looked pretty easy, so I did it.

AR: What role if any did coeducation play in your applying to schools?

LL: I don't think I would have considered an all woman's school. I had been in a coed environment always, and I, it just didn't appeal to me. I liked boys.

⁴ Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.

⁵ Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio.

AR: Why did you choose to come to Lafayette?

LL: I got in. It actually was something I was considering to do for only a semester. I did not get accepted to Bucknell which was my first choice. I did get accepted to go there for their second semester, so I could have started at Bucknell in January rather than of September. So it was my feeling that I was gonna spend a semester here, and then, then transfer after six, a few months, or, or wait until my sophomore year and transfer. I also got into Kenyon, and I thought that would be a wonderful place to go, but at the time I was applying to schools I was teaching skiing in the Poconos⁶, and I didn't want to give up my weekend gig. So Lafayette made it possible for me to keep skiing, and I, I fell in love with it after the first few months, and there was no considering moving to Bucknell.

AR: Before you got here how did you feel about being in the first class of women?

LL: I thought it was kind of exciting to be in the first class of women. I didn't see any downside to it. My very closest friend was going to Princeton⁷ and being in their first class of women. In, in my class this was a pretty normal thing. There were a lot of schools were going coed the year I was changing over. And, and you have to keep in mind also this was the middle of, of the Vietnam War, and people were choosing schools for all kinds of odd reasons. Men just to be able to get a student deferment. Women

⁶ The Pocono Mountains are a popular vacation spot in Northeast Pennsylvania. There are several ski resorts in the region.

⁷ Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.

because education was now more open to them. And so they were choosing schools for a huge variety of reasons. I guess I'm losing my train of thought here on that one but...

AR: Do you have any memories of what it was like the first day you moved in?

LL: Yeah I have a strong, strong memory. I remember what I was wearing even. I remember my parents bringing me here and standing on the steps to register at Marquis Hall. Going and getting an eating pass and some books and a few other things and getting my room designation. I also remember meeting a number of students that day. One person I met that day, and I remember vividly is the man who became my husband about fifteen years later. I, I, I remember I wore a dress that day. I don't think I wore a dress after that in four years. (*Laughter*) But I do remember that. And I, I knew, as I said ten students were coming so it wasn't unfamiliar.

AR: Did your feelings about being in the first class of women change at all in your first few days here?

LL: Yeah. It was really odd that one. It was a rather hostile atmosphere from the upper class men. I was the only woman in a couple of classes. We had heard that the men were, who had been here, not the freshman, but the others, had made choices not to date Lafayette women because they were ruining their school. They had come here to an all male school, and we were ruining their lives. There was something... There was a freshman handbook with pictures in it which got passed around from fraternity to

fraternity getting marked up on who were the cute girls to date and who weren't. I found this pretty offensive, I've got tell you. And so the book was called the "Pig Book," but then it became known as the "Hogg Book" after Hogg Hall here. So it was interesting that fraternities would be posting Hogg pictures, and, you know, where the cute girls were living and such. It was, it was really appalling. There were, there was a period of time really early on where we were having a hard time studying because the boys were standing outside in the evening yelling, "Panty raid. Panty raid. Panty raid." Well they never did anything. So the story I'm telling myself, and if you had the newspaper clipping for this I wouldn't be surprised. You also have to keep in mind that I was one of the few girls who had been away for four years. So I wanted to study. You know, this was not novel to me. I had slept away from home for four years already. And there were noisy guys outside yelling, "Panty raid. Panty raid. Panty raid" not doing anything, so I called a meeting of all the girls in dorm, and I said, "Well if we want this to stop I suggest we do a jock raid and put an end to it." So we went screaming out of the dorm through their drawers and threw jock straps all over the lawn, and they stopped yelling "Panty raid" every night, and we got back to studying. Do you have a newspaper clipping on that Amanda?

AR: I don't have that one with me.

LL: Oh shoot. It figures. (*Laughter*)

AR: Can you tell me about living in New Dorm?

LL: Ah, you knew it's called New Dorm. It's got a name now I think.

AR: Yeah, it's Ruef.

LL: Ruef Hall, yeah. Really interesting thing about New Dorm. One of the things that we noticed very early is that all the girls were in rooms with basically roommates the same size. So there would be two tall girls and two short girls and two rounder girls. And I do remember also the black girls having roommates who were black. And, so it seemed as though we had been put in with like similar girls, and it turned out later on that they told us that some board of directors or dean or somebody had thought that girls liked to swap clothing, and so that putting us in with someone the same size was gonna be something girls would just think is swell. So, so, so a floor consisted of, you know, a room of tall girls and short girls and so on. Anyway, it, it was terrific. My roommate and I stayed roommates for four years and two years after that, and we're still in contact. We had a very nice, very good floor. We all stayed pretty good friends throughout the, the Lafayette experience. And I'm still in touch with a few now. I loved it. It was great. One, one funny thing is that we were in the room that was right over the furnace, and so we had a hot room. And this is something I remember as, you know, in the middle of winter having our windows open, and sleeping, you know, just with a t-shirt on. There's a hot room over there.

AR: What was the dorm like in terms of regulations for male visitors?

LL: Well that was something else that sort of happened in that early party raid meeting. We were told that there were gonna be, we were gonna make our own rules. And we did have meetings to determine what the rules were. And I had taken the point... Well actually early on we had a, there was a sign in and sign out sheet. I mean, it was almost like my being back in boarding school, and I found it oppressive. But there was a sign out and a guard at the door, and you had to sign out and sign in. You know, it was, it was not very free feeling. It felt like we were under lock and key. And so I took the position as did a lot of women who I think had been away and had been, were pretty secure in this that if we had no rules, we're all gonna be a lot happier. To police ourselves and not, not have the feeling that we were in some kind of gilded cage. And so we, we voted among ourselves, and it became no rules.

AR: How much exposure to men then did you have in your first year here?

LL: A lot, but they were mostly freshmen. The freshmen men did not come here with the attitude that they were going to be in an all male school. The upper class men still had a bit of a time. Some, some of them starting to come around, but it, it... I think most of the women had a fairly normal relationships with the freshmen men and less so with the older guys. We also ate together. But as the women started to join fraternities as eating members they became more integrated into the community, it, it wasn't such a big issue. I, you know, clearly there were a lot more guys here than women. But we were taking freshmen classes with freshmen men, and it, it seemed pretty well integrated,

except as I said I had one class that I was the only female. There may have been two of them. It was, it was unusual.

AR: Can you describe the typical mealtime in Marquis Hall?

LL: It was craziness. Well, it was cafeteria style. And, food, food was, you know, pretty mediocre. But, you know, we had a good time. There, there was a big push to join fraternities just to get out of there to eat well. And there was a snack bar in the basement too so you could have just a... I remember one of my friends had Tab floats everyday which always seemed kind of ridiculous to me to have diet soda and ice cream but... So you, you could get your basic burger and fries and a shake in the basement if you wanted to. It was... I remember it as being completely integrated male and female. But again those were all freshmen men.

AR: And what did you do for eating your sophomore, junior, and senior years?

LL: Well my freshmen year even I formed, we formed an eating club on our floor. And a bunch of us put in five bucks a week which, you know, back then was real live money to buy groceries. And we cooked a couple of evening meals. There were, there was a kitchen on every floor. And so even freshmen year we, we were cooking some of our own meals. By sophomore year I had joined along with my roommate and several other girls on the floor a fraternity, one of the motels, I don't even remember which number, name it was. But they had a reputation for having a pretty good cook. And so we'd walk

down there for lunch and dinner, and I think for breakfast we, you know, did cereal in our room. Everybody had a fridge. And after that I lived off campus, and we cooked our meals.

AR: Would you say that the women generally stuck together?

LL: Very much so. Yeah, we were good friends. Yeah, absolutely. It wasn't an us versus them kind of thing. It just was we were a small community, and we all knew each other. I mean with only a hundred women or so I, you know, it was easy to know everybody. Yeah, absolutely.

AR: Were, were there any cliques among the women?

LL: Yeah. I mean it, it, it was definitely, you know, freaks versus cheerleaders. No doubt about that. And although, yeah the cliques were casually friendly to each another, there wasn't a whole lot of understanding between the two groups. There were those who had bras on and those who didn't. You know, sort of split right down the middle.

AR: What kind of group were you involved in?

LL: I didn't wear a bra. Yeah. (*Laughter*) I was definitely not one of the cheerleaders, but... Yeah, I definitely came out of the more sort of freak, brainiac kind of...

AR: Were there any barriers between women based on race, class, religion, or sexual orientation?

LL: Yes. The black girls hung together. Found that very strange because where I had gone to high school there were not a lot of black students, but, it, but they did not hang together. It, it was much more integrated than when I came here. And as I said, the roommates were black girls with black girls, white girls with white girls. It, it was odd. It, it felt odd. The, the black kids had their own meetinghouse that was separate. And so it was almost as though there was a black fraternity and a black clique and, and they did not, they didn't, they were not well integrated in the community. Which is not to say I didn't have black friends, cuz I did. In fact one of my best friends in later years was, was a black man here. But, no it was definitely segregated. And as far as sexual orientation goes in those days I don't think anybody even acknowledged that there was anything but heterosexuality at, at the university. I mean it just wasn't even considered.

AR: What kinds of things did you do for fun?

LL: Hung out. You know, I mean there were wild fraternity weekends. I was certainly not one of the, the more drinking types, but, but everybody went. Everybody did, went to the fraternity houses. And you didn't go to one specific one. You would, you know, sort of roam around all weekend from here to there, and wherever the best music was you'd, you'd dance. Really it was a time of hanging out, getting high. Just really enjoying life, and making friends. Listening to music. Music was important then. And it was a serious

time. If the guys drop... fell out of school, if they did poorly they were going to Vietnam. It was, it was a strange time.

AR: What kind of music did you listen to and how did that affect your experience here?

LL: Big Grateful Dead⁸ fan. Used to go to concerts to see them whenever they were in the area. I liked, I liked rock 'n roll. I mean it didn't much matter who's. I mean, my tastes ran from, from James Taylor⁹, The Beatles¹⁰, Dead, Pink Floyd¹¹, Fleetwood Mac¹². I mean, it was varied. Pretty normal for the time. I went to Woodstock¹³ before I came. So, highlight of my life.

AR: Would you say that the social life for women was any different than the social life for men?

LL: Yeah. Yeah. Absolutely. The social life for men really was centered around the fraternity house. And I don't think the men went from fraternity house to fraternity house. They, they were sort of stuck at, with their, their own. I think the women roamed

⁸ The Grateful Dead was formed in the mid 1960s in San Francisco. The group was known for its improvisational and psychedelic music and was one of the most successful touring bands in rock and roll history.

⁹ American singer and songwriter who was popular in the 1970s.

¹⁰ British musical quartet that achieved worldwide popularity in the mid 1960s.

¹¹ British rock band that popularized the psychedelic music of the 1960s.

¹² British blues band that became extremely popular in the 1970s. Their 1977 album "Rumours" is one of the biggest selling albums of all time.

¹³ A three day long music festival that took place in upstate New York in August 1969.

Approximately 400,000 people attended to see performances by such groups as The Grateful Dead, Janis Joplin, The Who, and Jimmi Hendrix. Billed as "three days of peace and music" it has been associated with the hippie movement of the 1960s.

a lot more. The men drank a lot more. I mean that's not to say that there weren't some serious drinking problems among the women, but there were very, very serious drinking problems with the men. There, there was a lot of alcohol on this campus. And an awful lot of their, their social life for the men here revolved around it.

AR: Was there anything you were unhappy with at Lafayette in terms of your living space, eating, or social life?

LL: You know, I, I would have liked it if we had sororities back then perhaps. Although it wasn't a necessity it would have been nice to have a, a woman's club, but on the other hand that's what our dorm sort of was because there were so few of us. No, I mean, it was a good time. It was a good education. Wonderful things. I'm pretty happy.

AR: How did you feel about fraternities?

LL: You know, I saw them as a necessity because Lafayette was so isolated from a real town or, or culture in any way. It's its own little, little world. And so without fraternities I'm not sure how much social life there would have been. So I felt fine with them. I, I liked some more than others based on the population of people who joined. I liked the ones that were much more laid back, and I guess I didn't hang out too much with the jocks. But, it was okay. And, and there were even two eating, not eating clubs, there were two social clubs that were non-fraternities which were just a tad cooler, and I don't

even remember the names anymore, but there were two of them. The non-fraternity fraternities.

AR: What were your experiences like living off campus?

LL: We lived right across from what's now the Watson apartments. Those by the way were active I think our last year here, maybe last two years. So we were pretty much on campus. I mean, we were at 107 McCartney which is now a lawn. So I don't think it was living off campus. We, we just happened to be in a house where we made our own meals and paid our own rent. But we were completely a, a part of the campus. I, I was closer to Pardee than many other students physically.

AR: There was a lot of emphasis on the male/female ratio that supposedly would mean a lot of dates for women. Did that turn out to be true?

LL: I don't think so. Again as I said, there were a lot of upper class men who were not interested in dating us for reasons that, that we betrayed the, the situation that they had come into. They wanted to go to an all men's school, and they got betrayed. It got a little easier as time went on. But I had, I had a fair number of dates, and they were, they were good. But I mostly dated freshmen, well people when I was a freshmen, freshmen males. People my age. And I ended up marrying one.

AR: Would you say it was important for women's social life that they have a date?

LL: Yeah. It really was. Yeah. Absolutely. There was, there was a tremendous amount of, of coupling off that I, I think you were pretty lonely if you were not coupled. Yeah.

AR: Many women who were here in the early 70s talk about the fishbowl feeling...

LL: Yeah.

AR: Do you know what they're talking about and do you identify with that?

LL: Well I mentioned the "Pig Book", the "Hogg Book." I mean, that's very much how we felt. I mean God forbid you had a bad senior picture taken and you were actually attractive. (*Laughter*) I mean, I think you were probably in real trouble then. Yeah, I mean, there was that whole thing where they stood around and yelled "Panty raid." There were... In class where, where you were one woman of many men, you felt odd, a little bit out of it. The women also ran a very much higher grade point average than the men, and there was a lot of resentment about that. I, I remember when the first semester was over and our grade point average was, you know, very high and the guys' was quite low for the same class. There was a lot of talk of, you know, boycotting women, never date them, don't go near them because, you know, they're, ruining life here. You know, there was that sort of feeling. The more mature guys didn't pay much attention I guess.

AR: Would you say that then you ever felt disrespected by the men here?

LL: Oh gosh, that's sort of a new concept disrespected. No. I, I guess I felt more rejected and ignored. Yeah, there were, there were gross slob out there, but I thought of them as individuals, not as a cluster of gross slob. Nah. But I'm I'm pretty confident person so maybe I was ignoring it.

AR: In the spring of 1974 there were a few controversial letters and articles printed in *The Lafayette*. One news article on streaking stated: "Of course, the opportunity exists for the women of Lafayette to streak, but that wouldn't be too unusual. After all, dogs have been running around the campus naked for years." In the same semester a woman wrote to the paper complaining that a group of ten Lafayette men had "rated" her as she passed them at lunch. A man calling himself Studly responded that she sounded like a six year old, that women's lib had no leg to stand on, and that fifteen percent of Lafayette women were organ teasers. In later letters he stated in a somewhat joking manner after trying to seriously defend himself: "I'm all for Women's Lib, as long as they are in the kitchen by five," and "Personally, I love girls; each guy should own at least two of them." Do you remember these incidents occurring? Are you surprised that they occurred in 1974? How would you have taken them at the time, and what do you think of them today?¹⁴

¹⁴ For copies of the articles referred to in this question, see *The Lafayette* from March 8, 1974, and subsequent issues in March and April of that same year.

LL: It was a different time. Streaking is a separate thing, and I'll get into that in a little bit. Gosh, I'm not surprised, although I was unaware of all this, but then I was a senior that year, and I wasn't anywhere near Marquis Hall where this incident would have taken place. I, I think my... I think similar things happened when I was a freshmen. And I think that for the most part the women just ignored them and decided they were individuals with boorish behavior, and they were just simply losers. And that's how they would have been treated, as, as pariahs, not as, as, as some big, you know, social cause. You know, it's interesting because at the time women's lib meant that we wanted an education, and it was, it was less focused on some of the issues that it's focused on today. We all wanted equal pay and an equal education. And, you know, all, all the more sexual stuff I think wasn't as clearly dealt with as it is, is now. But the streaking thing was a whole other story. That was way much just a lot of fun. It was taking place on campuses all over America. It was on TV. I think the Emmys¹⁵ had a streaker that came through, or the Oscars¹⁶ on TV. It was, it was a joke. And the streaking that took place at Lafayette was I recall was an intercollegiate streak. I think guys came from other campuses and were on top of cars and running across campus. And as I recall TV cameras showed up. I mean it was, it was just stupid. It, I don't think it had anything but fun attached to it. I don't recall any women streaking. I, I think we were all probably a little bit less drunk than the guys so they probably wouldn't have done it. And, you know, I just see it as a separate issue. The thing about rating the women I feel disturbing. I find it disturbing more now than I probably would have then. Then I would have just

¹⁵ The Emmys are an annual award for achievement in music. The awards are made by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

¹⁶ The Oscars are an annual award for achievement in film. The awards are made by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. During the 1974 ceremony a streaker, Robert Opel, appeared on stage during an award presentation.

thought it was just individuals. If this happened to my daughters, I'd kill somebody. I'm not surprised.

AR: Do you still keep in contact with many of your male and female friends from Lafayette?

LL: I keep in contact with my roommate. We're gonna be fifty this year. And my doctor is one of my classmates. I'm in casual contact once in a while through emails with a couple others. I've, I've been to a couple reunions. No, not, not really. I don't keep in contact with a lot, a lot of people from Lafayette. I'd like to. It just didn't happen.

AR: Why did you choose to major in psychology?

LL: I find people interesting. I find psychology interesting. I wanted to work with sick kids. I wanted to work with autistic children which is what I did my last two years. I worked over at Allentown State Hospital¹⁷, and I was in a program doing that through Lafayette. I just find human behavior fascinating. And I, I have to say that if, if I were to go back and sort of start over I think perceptual psychology is what I would have, really would have loved to have gone into. It's something I found fascinating. I liked the department here. Great people.

AR: What was the male/female ratio like in most of your classes?

¹⁷ The Allentown State Hospital is located in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

LL: Since I was in psych I'd say it was maybe between ten and twenty-five percent women in, in all my classes. I, I was not in engineering. Those women had, were only women in their classes for the most part. Very few were mathematics. But psych was very, very mixed.

AR: How did you feel in the, I think you said you had one class where you were the only woman, how did that make you feel?

LL: I felt awkward. I, I remember the class was opera. It was in the Music Department which was kind of a puny little department at the time, and I felt awkward. I, I made a couple of good friends who stayed friends for many years after that in that class. They were guys who did not hit on me. They were friends friends. And that, that was nice so... Yeah I remember that really clearly as being an awkward situation. But not terrible.

AR: How did most professors treat you?

LL: All the professors were very welcoming, and they were terrific. One professor I had was really gruff and rather tyrannical. And I think he had spent years dealing with boys, and so he, he hadn't yet learned to tone down his, his manner for people who cried when they were attacked that way. (*Laughter*) So I, I think it was a learning process for him to deal with women, as much as it was a learning process for us to have to, to deal with the

behavior of a professor who was gruff. We turned out to be pretty good friends, but it was a learning process for both of us.

AR: Did you ever have any negative experiences in the classroom or with professors outside of the classroom?

LL: No, not all. No. I felt welcomed by many of the professors. And professors' wives too. I worked for a while as a student intern with Planned Parenthood¹⁸ with two of the wives of English Department faculty. They, in fact, the wives I think were a very big part of making us feel welcome here. There were not very many women professors. I'm trying to even recall if there were any our freshman year. And I don't recall any.

AR: Did you ever have a female instructor at all?

LL: I think two. I think English once and psych once.

AR: Were those experiences any different than having a male professor?

LL: No. No different. No.

AR: Did you ever notice if the males reacted any differently when it was a female professor?

¹⁸ Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPA) promotes the right of each individual to manage their own fertility. PPA also provides reproductive health care services.

LL: Oh, boy you're, these are old brain cells you're trying to make me tap into. You know, I don't, I don't think so. But then my experience with female professors was pretty small. So no.

AR: Would you say you had any mentors or favorite people on the faculty or administration?

LL: Absolutely. Absolutely. I mean the Psych Department was wonderful folks. Howard Gallup¹⁹ made a large impact on my life, somebody I really feel very affectionately for to this day. William Weiss²⁰ who was my advisor who I was crazy about. He was also the, the shrink on campus, and he worked with me on my honors thesis about getting a counseling center built. That was what we did wrote thesis for, cuz there was no such a thing at the time. And the, and the other members of the Psych Department, Sy Weissman²¹ and a few others I became close to. Enjoyed them. I felt welcome in their homes. Could hung out in their offices.

AR: Did you ever consider leaving Lafayette?

LL: Not after the first few months here. I came in with the idea I was leaving, but no, not at all. I loved it.

¹⁹ Howard Gallup, Psychology Department.

²⁰ William Weiss, Psychology Department.

²¹ Seymour Weissman, Psychology Department.

AR: What kinds of activities, work experiences, or sports were you involved in here?

LL: No sports here. I taught skiing on weekends for my first couple of years here. So I would go away to the Pocono area either on day trips or went up and would stay with my parents. So I did a lot of skiing when I was here. The sports that were open to females were, you know, more sort of intramural kind of things. It, it was not hugely important. There just wasn't much of a facility for us. In, in fact there weren't many facilities for us in lots of things. I mean there... The theater was unbelievably pathetic. The Art Department, I mean, maybe two rooms big. And, and music same thing. So the things that you consider, you know, liberal arts, fine arts is just, was almost nonexistent. And sports as well.

AR: Did most students stay here on the weekends?

LL: Yes. Most people, most students did stay here on weekends. Yeah. And there was a lot of partying.

AR: How did Vietnam affect your time at Lafayette?

LL: Vietnam affected my time at Lafayette in a number of ways. Our, my class was the last year of student deferments. It was also the first year of the lottery. I remember radios on and kids sitting around radios waiting for their number to be called in the lottery. And a really grim and scary time that was. I, I remember a fire/bombing of the

ROTC²² building. I remember thinking that the ROTC guys were nobody I wanted to have anything to do with. I remember that a lot of the guys were here just to stay out of the war. They, they, they should have had another year to grow up. They were immature for freshmen, but they just needed not to be cannon fodder. It, it was a scary time. And it was scary for the women as well. I mean, we had danger of loosing our lives, but it was, it was a tough time. I remember, I remember protests on campus. Kent State²³ was the year before I came here.

AR: What was the economic status of most students like?

LL: I think most students were fairly well off. It, it was clear that most of the women were in pretty good financial shape. There were so few of us, and we were so selected to make sure that we made a good impression and did well, and, you know, I guess trying to prove to the alumni that it was a good decision to let women in, that I don't remember anybody having a tough time of it, truly tough time of it financially. There were, there were clearly kids on scholarship who had a tougher time. One of my best friends' mom worked at the College here so she could have her education here, and they, they did not have a lot of bucks. But I think she was somewhat more the exception, not the rule. Which is not to say kids here were really wealthy. They weren't. I think they were decidedly middle class.

²² Reserve Officers Training Corps. ROTC training was a requirement of all Lafayette College freshmen and sophomores until October 1968.

²³ Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, was the scene of an anti-Vietnam war protest in May 1970. Four students were killed by the Ohio National Guard during the protest.

AR: Was religion ever a divisive issue for students and did you as a Jewish student ever have any issues to deal with?

LL: I don't think it was divisive. There was a Hillel²⁴ group that I attended a couple of times but it was not, it was not very big. And it didn't become important to me. I think it was important to some students. I don't recall anybody ever going to church on Sunday, which the chapel did have services, but I don't ever remember anybody going. I don't remember every feeling unavailable, you know, as a potential date because of my religion, or, you know, ostracized in any way. I do recall that fraternity houses were still keeping Jews out, that there was a Jewish fraternity which was a crazy place, and that there were Jewish students in only a couple of the other fraternities, but for the most part they were not well integrated... the Jewish kids or black kids. Jewish fraternity is where the black kids joined. It was off campus. It's now a hotel. I don't know how they ever cleaned it up, but it's now a hotel.

AR: Do you know of any women who transferred from Lafayette and why they left?

LL: One of my best friends transferred to Cornell²⁵ to be near her boyfriend. I don't remember anybody else. Yeah another very good friend transferred to Florida to be near her boyfriend, by the way, who was a Lafayette graduate. She dated an upperclassman. He went to Florida for law school. She followed him down there. So my only recollections of women leaving had to do with, with romance and not for academics.

²⁴ The Hillel Society serves Jewish students and faculty and sponsors social, cultural, and religious events.

²⁵ Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

Maybe if I thought back thirty years I'd come up with a couple of others, but that seems to be the case. That's what I remember.

AR: Would you say that relationships and even marriage were something that most women were looking towards during their college years?

LL: I think we were very split on that. Again the cheerleaders versus the freaks. The cheerleaders were very much looking for an M-R-S degree. It was, it was clear that women getting an engagement ring and graduating, getting out of here with a husband was important to a certain group of girls. That was not true with me and my friends, although many of us did meet our future mates here. And I was one of them, but I don't, I don't ever remember really much wanting to get married out of here, but I did want to have a relationship. So yeah it was important for me to have a relationship coming out of college, but not, not an M-R-S degree. No, not at all. Didn't get married for many years after.

TAPE ONE SIDE TWO

AR: What did you think about feminism while you were here at Lafayette and what do you think now if anything?

LL: I'm a, I'm a feminist. I think feminist means equality for women. It's plain and simple. I can't understand why anybody would pretend not to be for that. I'm the mother

of two girls. I had two brothers. I'm no different than they are. I'm entitled to all of the privileges of the world that they are. So having said that I don't remember feminism as being an, an issue here. I remember being just an independent woman trying to get a degree to go onto graduate school. I, I do remember being part of the group of women who would not put on makeup daily. Having said that we did blow our hair dry I guess. But, you know, we were not going to class to look good, and there were other women who going to class to wear their nicest outfits. And so it was, it was a split class for sure. But I, I think of myself as being a feminist or as it says in those articles, a "women's libber". You know, the language has certainly changed. I've been consistent all my life. This is how I feel. I was just, you know, thinking back to a class we had in psychology on human sexuality, and in psych women tended to be pretty liberal. And one woman stated in the class, it was a mixed class with men and women, that being a virgin to her was the most important thing going into marriage which she intended to do and to... And I remember all of us jumping all over her about how ridiculous she was being and how uncool, but you have to keep in mind this is a different period of time. We had the pill. We did not have herpes. We did not have AIDS. And free love was the name of the game. People were having casual sex partners. And I think that the group of women were divided along those lines as well, those of us who were much more casual about sexual things and those who were indeed not casual. The world has changed a lot. That kind of attitude would get me dead now or sick.

AR: Can you tell me was, was birth control available on campus, and how did women feel generally about abortion?

LL: Birth control was not available on campus. Planned Parenthood had office hours up at the Easton Hospital. And I was one of the few people on campus with a car and I would drive people every, I think it was Thursday. I actually worked for Planned Parenthood one year as a student intern. I would drive kids to go and get their, their pills, their exams and so on. I know that freshmen year the doctor on campus was very unfamiliar with females and female problems. And one of my friends went there with very, very, very severe menstrual cramps, and I mean, he gave her an aspirin and go home. You know, just... He, he was clueless. And so that, I do remember having a big change on campus when they even got a nurse or somebody who had seen a woman once, you know, (*Laughter*) in their medical life. So the campus was not prepared for us medically, that's for certain. I don't remember anybody being against abortion. It, it was a given that in our particular socio-economic group and during this time that getting knocked up was, was a real bad idea. And abortion was something to be considered. One of my friends did have a child before she came here, and I don't know what her circumstances are or why she did. But it was clearly unusual. And I do think women having abortions was not unusual.

AR: The first women's studies class to use today's terminology was offered in 1974. Was there a push by female students for such a class?

LL: Gosh, I mean, I don't know. That would have been my senior year, and I wouldn't have taken it, I don't think. There probably was a push it. There was a push for a couple

of other things. I remember there was a push to have a teaching degree, an education degree so we could be teachers coming out of school. So I do remember that there was a push for those sorts of things that hadn't been here before. So yeah, my guess is there was a push. I just wasn't aware of it.

AR: Do you ever remember women wishing there were more female professors, and do you think having more of them would have been beneficial for you?

LL: I think it would have been beneficial, but I don't remember anybody really thinking it was an issue or wanting them. The education that we had here was good. And I was in the Psych Department where the guys were very cool teachers, so you know, I, I didn't think of them in terms of their gender. They were just really good teachers.

AR: Can you describe the kind of clothing that most women wore in daily life?

LL: There we are. Right down the middle again. There were those of us in blue jeans, t-shirts, and no bra. (*Laughter*) Sandals. Long hair that was either ironed or straightened or whatever, and granny glasses. Those are little pink glasses. And, and the African-American girls had big hair, fros. And then there were the girls who were getting dressed in their Ladybug or Villager skirts, matching little sweaters, and the circle pins. There were many fewer of them, but two different groups entirely.

AR: And were the men split into two groups also?

LL: Nah. The men, the men were mostly jeans and corduroys and t-shirts. I remember this one fraternity where the guys sort of made attempts at wearing ties and jackets a bit, but... nah. No. Not that I noticed anyway.

AR: Today some of the big issues for women on campus are date rape and safety. Were these issues for you as a student at all?

LL: It's interesting you bring up date rape. One of my best friends was raped freshman year, and by the same guy who had raped another girl on a date. And at the time not only did you not report this sort of thing, you hung out with your girlfriends, you cried about it perhaps, but there was, there was a feeling of there was no place to go to report it. And the feeling also was that in some way that you deserved it for going out and getting drunk with this guy. But it became very clear that women knew not to go out with him. And I remember to this day who he is, and, and who he did this to, and, and what happened. But it was nothing anybody became vocal about. And it did seem to be rather isolated. I also recall that there were sort of prostitutes that fraternities would bring on campus and gang bang for lack of a better word on a party weekend. I, I know that, you know, there were stories of, of this sort of thing, but I never witnessed it or anything. It was talked about, and nothing was done about it. What was the other part of the question? Date rape and...?

AR: Safety on campus.

LL: Safety, nah. No worries. You could be out at all hours going anywhere anytime.

No worries. None.

AR: How would you characterize the politics of Lafayette when you were here as a student and compared to today if you have any sense of that?

LL: It was very liberal. But then, everything was for the most part. The war had a lot to do with that. By the time we came here the war was no longer in favor with most of America. So there were very few people who would have been supportive of it. I think that's why the ROTC guys were considered so other here. My feeling is things have gotten more conservative, but then I think the entire world's gotten more conservative. It worries me, and I don't like seeing it happen. But at the time I think we were all pretty much on, on the same page. And watching Richard Nixon resign²⁶ just after we graduated was something that I think was pretty unanimously agreed to as a good idea from this campus.

AR: What was the Lafayette ideal in the early 70s in terms of what the administration looked for in a student and what the students themselves strived to be like?

LL: I don't know if there really was one. I'm not aware of them thinking there was an ideal. I, I, I don't think I mentioned to you that I was taken on a dog and pony show. Did

²⁶ Richard Nixon (1913-1994), the thirty-seventh President of the United States, resigned from office on August 9, 1974, over the Watergate scandal.

we get this on tape? My freshman year I was taken along with several other women back to the Scranton Wilkes-Barre area to a country club to talk about our Lafayette experience to alumni donors. I they needed, they, Lafayette wanted the donors to see that Lafayette women were okay things. We weren't scary or going to change their, their beloved campus or anything like that. So I do think that they wanted to... I don't think they would have taken us if we hadn't been dressed nicely for instance. I do remember wearing a dress that day too. And I think Lafayette just wanted to graduate productive, productive citizens. Clearly my professors wanted me to go to graduate school. So, you know, I don't recall an ideal student. This was a time of people being allowed to be very individualistic.

AR: What did you do right after graduation?

LL: Right after graduation I went to Washington, D.C., to go to graduate school in clinical psych. And I worked part-time in a needlepoint store in the Watergate complex. And I really enjoyed that. I've always been somebody who did a lot of handcrafts. And my interest in retail and designing became more interesting to me than graduate school. Also my two roommates who went down with me did not go to school that year, and I think it was very hard for me to watch them go out and have a good time while I was still trying to study. So I think it was a bad idea to go right, right into graduate school, and I dropped out and got into retail.

AR: Just generally what kinds of things have you been doing since that time?

LL: Opened a retail store in Washington, D.C., for needlepoint designing. Did that for a number of years. We did a lot of original work. We did work for the White House and for the Vice President's house so it was, it was pretty gratifying, with a lot of news correspondents and senators' wives, and it, it was a pretty heady time in Washington. Sort of backing up there I, I also when I left Lafayette my boyfriend at the time went into the Navy. He spent four years here trying to stay out of the draft and then gets out of here and joins the Navy to learn to fly airplanes. But the war was over, and it was a different time. And so he ended up back in Washington, and we did end up getting married. And soon he was flying planes with the Navy, and we lived right near, behind the Pentagon, and I had a store in Georgetown. And he died. He died very suddenly from a toxic reaction to a lawn care pesticide. And it, it changed my life completely. We... I stayed in D.C. for another year. I closed up my business because I no longer could take seriously the problems of whether or not a lady was going to get her needlepoint cushion in time for her Christmas party. And I became very active with the environmental movement in an organization called the National Coalition Against Misuse of Pesticides. Was involved in a, in a, an important lawsuit and became president of that organization's board of directors after that for a number of years. Then my needlework passion became, sort of took over again, and I hooked up with a man from England by the name of Kaffe Fassett to write quilting books. And we've now published two quilting books, and in the meantime I married my husband's best friend who I met at Lafayette. Although he didn't go here, he would come here to spend weekends. And we now have

two kids. And I write quilt books and own an online retail business. And life is, life is good.

AR: Do you feel that Lafayette prepared you well socially and academically for your later life and career experiences?

LL: Yeah, I would have to say so. I, I think I use the stuff I learned in psych every single day. I think it helped me in raising my children. It helped me deal with customers. It helps me understand the workings of design and color because of perceptual psych. So I think I've used my education in a very non-conventional way. It certainly prepared me for life in that I found a mate who, who's incredibly important to me, who changed my life in more ways than I can tell. And, you know, I don't think that was Lafayette's doing, but it is certainly the result of having been here, getting an education, falling in love, and, and moving out into the world.

AR: Would you say Lafayette failed you in any way?

LL: No, Lafayette didn't fail me. I mean, if there was any failure to be done it would have been me dropping out of graduate school, and that's certainly on my own. Lafayette did not fail me. Never. Umm mmm. I, I take individual responsibility for my own failures. (*Laughter*)

AR: Do you feel that the college was adequately prepared for coeducation in 1970?

LL: Well, sort of, no. I mean I mentioned the doctor not having ever seen a woman's tonsils before. I, I, I, you know, I recall the... they put bathtubs. Do you realize they put bathtubs in the dorm because they found, thought women like to take baths? And, and they put kitchens on the floors, and they put us in rooms according to our height and weight so that we could exchange clothes. I mean, this is all sort of very charming in, in stories now, but nah, they weren't ready for us. They were not ready for us.

AR: How do you think your experiences would have been differently if you had gone to a coed college that had had an equal ratio of men and women?

LL: Gosh I suppose it would have been somewhat similar, would have had female professors. That would have been interesting, but, yeah, I, I can't think of having a better time or better education anywhere so it doesn't occur to me as something I would have wanted to do or go elsewhere. I, I can't think of a difference. I really can't. But then I didn't have that experience, I had this one.

AR: Obviously since we're interviewing you for an oral history project, we think that your being in the first graduating class of women was historically significant. What do you think about this?

LL: Yeah, sure it was. I mean, breaking down barriers. Isn't that what people of my generation wanted to do? We wanted to change the world. The world had not, not been

so very kind to women up until that point, and people didn't question their government up until that point. The world changed a lot from our period on. I, I think for the better. And children will not have to do lots of the same kinds of adjustment. You know, my, my kids, all of their doctors, their dentists, their orthodontists, their eye doctor, their... they're all women. And I remember taking them to, I don't know, another doctor for something and being amazed that doctors could be men. That says a lot from our time on.

AR: If you could do your college experience over again, would you do anything differently?

LL: No, I really don't think so. It, it, it was, it was pretty wonderful. I would love my kids to have even half of the good experiences that I did. I, I don't think I would change a thing. It was, it was interesting times. You know, I hope my kids have interesting times the way I did. You know, I think the, the world has gotten a little bit benign in the last twenty years, and I don't think kids of today, how should I say, feel some of the passions and drives we had for social change. It's kind of sad to me that they don't get riled about much of anything.

AR: Is there any advice that you'd give to an incoming college student?

LL: Wow. Yeah, I mean, enjoy aspects of being here for the social and emotional and friendship that, other things as much as studying. I mean, studying is quite wonderful

and, and, and learning is certainly what I was here for in theory, but I learned as much not in the classroom as I did in the classroom. Enjoy yourself. Have, have a wonderful four years. This is, this a time to grow and enjoy all aspects of what, of what is available here, from sitting on the quad to sitting in the classroom. Take it all in.

AR: Do you have any advice for Lafayette? Anything you'd like to see the school do?

LL: Nah, they're doing it. My, my senior year I wrote a honors paper on the, the difference between religious groups' acceptance of psychological counseling. I wrote this with Bill Weiss. And he was after getting a counseling center here, and I was a student who was a good guinea pig for this. So we found out that parents of all religious groups wanted their kids to be able to get counseling here. And now there's a counseling center. Driving up today I saw the Visual Arts Center down at the bottom of the hill. I don't know how they get there except with a elevator in the winter because those steps are treacherous. But how fabulous to have a Visual Arts Center. You know, we had, we had a room that was filled with sculpting dust and some oil paint and that was about it for fine arts. So, I mean, this school is fabulous. It's rising to the occasion, and having a much wider range of students that it had. It's not just a engineering school with a little liberal arts anymore.

AR: Is there anything that I haven't asked you about that you thought I would or would like to mention?

LL: Yeah, I thought you were going to ask me more about drugs on campus. I really did.

AR: Do you want to tell me more?

LL: Yeah, there were drugs on campus. And again the students were very split on kids who did drugs and kids who drank. And my perception was then and is now that drinking was way more social, greater social ill. There were kids who would get really, really drunk and really sick. There were alcoholics in our class, you know. And also there were kids who were smoking a lot of dope, and, and taking a lot of acid. But the kids doing the drugs seemed to be getting through and by and better academically than the kids who were plastered all the time. So it's interesting to me today as I, you know, I wonder and wish for my children what's going to happen because I think that kids experiment. You know, how do I feel about this? There are a lot of drugs, and, you know, nobody... You know, now drinking is considered to be something to be terribly wary about much more so now than then. Fraternity houses had bars in the basement, you know, with spicketts. I mean, these, these people were all drinking underage, and it was completely okay. I'm not sure it should have been, but it was. I think that's probably not so anymore. Do they still have bars in the basement for kids under eighteen?

AR: I don't know if they have bars, but there's still a lot of underage drinking.

LL: There is. How about drugs still?

AR: All I've really seen is marijuana.

LL: Interesting. It was a different time. I mean, there were, there were times when kids would get together and take acid and sit around and look at black lights. You know, it really was... Well I just saw *Austin Powers*, and it was just way too familiar. I gotta tell you. (*Laughter*) This was very, this was a lot of fun. Thanks for memory lane-ing.

AR: Do you have any other stories or anything else you'd like to bring up?

LL: There were a lot of dogs on campus, wandering around. It's... I liked it here. This was, this was a place of fond memories. I'd like my kids to come here. This would be theirs. No, I think that we covered it.

AR: Okay. Thank you very much for participating then.

LL: Thanks, Amanda.