

Interview with Christine Grant

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Interviewer: Ellyn Bartges

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A Note to the Reader

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Grant: What is this, the twenty-ninth?

Bartges: Today is twenty-nine, yes, August twenty-ninth. I have a few set questions, but a lot of what I do is based off of what you say and following up. And I want to get a little bit of background information about you. I had the—Charlotte sent me one of the AIAW [Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women] CDs.

Grant: Oh yeah, uh-huh.

Bartges: Which I really enjoyed listening to. So I have a—I think that that's a pretty comprehensive look at some things. My interest is in Charlotte here today—

Grant: Okay.

Bartges: —and your professional and personal relationships and the years that you've known each other. My dissertation will be on her, but it will be housed around the events from what she says her first earliest memory is until date, to the present. And that span of years is staggering.

Grant: (laughs)

Bartges: It's from December 7, 1941 to now. So the social changes—

Grant: Oh, wow.

Bartges: —are exponential. And I'm in the kinesiology department. I study sport history, sports sociology, women and gender and sport.

Grant: There was another piece.

Bartges: I think there is. Yeah, here.

Grant: Only did one on that one.

Bartges: I think the first time I met you was—(laughs) probably would have been 1993, maybe 1992—whenever Vivian Stringer's husband died, whatever year that was.

Grant: Oh, yeah.

Bartges: I was coaching at University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Is that running out of ink?

Grant: I think so.

Bartges: I don't know if I have another one on me.

Grant: Oh, if I could just use a regular one?

Bartges: Yeah, that's fine. I just—I like fountain pens. I was an assistant coach at UNC [University of North Carolina] Charlotte and you stood in, or maybe you would have had a role anyway, but we had dinner out at the Amana Colonies. All the teams did.

Grant: Oh, yeah.

Bartges: And you spoke out there.

Grant: Oh, yeah. Yeah, that was our Amana Classic.

Bartges: Yes.

Grant: Yeah, uh-huh.

Bartges: That was the first time I had the pleasure of meeting you personally and then over the years. I coached at Penn State with Rene Portland.

Grant: Oh, did you?

Bartges: Yeah. Rene and I have been friends for twenty-plus years, almost twenty-five years. That's how I got my start in coaching, and I still see her regularly.

Grant: What's she doing now?

Bartges: She is taking care of her grandchildren.

Grant: Oh.

Bartges: Christine has two daughters, and Christine's husband is an assistant coach at Indiana in women's basketball.

Grant: Oh.

Bartges: And she looks good. She sounds good.

Grant: There you are.

Bartges: Thank you. She's somebody that has always supported me and stood by me. I may need to borrow that pen just if I want to make a note. (laughs) I feel so far away. My parents are both Iowa alums.

Grant: Are they?

Bartges: Yeah. You'll get a chuckle out of this. My mother was a Highlander.

Grant: Oh, yeah. Heavens above.

Bartges: And she worked for Forest Evashevski¹.

Grant: Oh, goodness gracious.

Bartges: She was his student worker. (laughs)

Grant: (laughs) He was something else.

Bartges: Well, that's kind of what she said. She's been dead a long time now, but my first

¹ Forest Evashevski was an American Football player, coach, and college athletics administrator. He served as the head football coach at Hamilton College in 1941, Washington State University from 1950-1951, and the University of Iowa from 1952-1960.

time coming to Iowa City was probably about 1967.

Grant: Uh-huh.

Bartges: And you know this town has changed so radically.

Grant: Yeah.

Bartges: But she took us on a tour of the facilities, and of course Carver-Hawkeye [Arena] wasn't there. And we went into the recreation building, and she showed us where she worked. And she said, "He was good to me, but he was a devil to work for."

Grant: Yeah, I bet. Yeah, yeah.

Bartges: (laughs) But, yeah, they had good memories here. The connection coming full circle is always kind of interesting to me. I'm going to introduce myself. My name is Ellyn Bartges. I'm a graduate student at the University of Illinois. Dr. Synthia Sydnor is my advisor. I'm doing work on an ethnography of Charlotte West. And Charlotte has identified you as her closest friend, and I would consider that a very high compliment.

Grant: It is.

Bartges: I first met her probably in 2004. I did a history of girls' high school basketball in Illinois from 1968 to 1977. And again, they were oral histories, and that's how I got connected with Charlotte originally. And as I have gone on, I wanted to—I felt that this was a voice that needed to be heard and documented—

Grant: Good idea—

Bartges: —from a social standpoint. I can't imagine not having a Charlotte West in the State of Illinois and nationally, and people like yourself as well, so I do really appreciate your time on a Saturday, a nice Saturday when it would be lovely to be at a field hockey game. (laughs)

Grant: I know.

Bartges: Match, I know. When you said that, I was like, Oh I'd love to go to that. Unfortunately where we live in Macomb, Illinois, they don't have that kind of activity so—

Grant: North Carolina is here as well for this weekend.

Bartges: Are they?

Grant: Yeah. This is the Big Ten ACC [Atlantic Coast Conference] Challenge.

Bartges: Oh yes, okay.

Grant: I should have realized that when you asked me about today, but the summer's gone past so fast I almost can't believe that hockey is starting.

Bartges: Oh I know, it doesn't seem right. When I was at Penn State I had never seen field hockey before. I went to Iowa State as an undergrad and then I went to Penn State to graduate school. And I saw field hockey and lacrosse for the first time and they were fascinating to me. I thought, Oh I wish I could have learned those sports.

Grant: Great sport, yeah.

Bartges: Yeah. And when we lived in North Carolina, when I was at UNC Charlotte, we used to go to Chapel Hill. My partner is a Chapel Hill alum.

Grant: Oh.

Bartges: So we would go over there to see Mia Hamm play soccer or to watch lacrosse and their field hockey programs. It was great fun. So I'm sorry you're missing that so I—

Grant: That's all right.

Bartges: —appreciate. (laughs)

Grant: My fault—(laughs)

Bartges: Well, and like you, the summer got away from me. And this weekend got away from me too because I found out I have a job interview in Minnesota in like ten—well not even ten days, the end of next week unexpectedly. And so I thought, Well, I need to get this done. So if you could give me a little bit of background information—introduce yourself, education, brief professional experience, maybe some places you've lived. I know you came to Iowa as a graduate student in 1969—

Grant: Yeah.

Bartges: —Nineteen sixty-eight somewhere?

Grant: Um-hmm.

Bartges: And just a little bit of background on that.

Grant: Okay. Well, I was born in Scotland. And I lived in Scotland until my mid-twenties. So my undergraduate work was done there at Dunfermline College of Physical Education.

Bartges: At what school?

Grant: Dunfermline College of Physical Education.

Bartges: Okay.

Grant: It's D-U-N-F-E-R-M-L-I-N-E. And sport has been an absolutely essential part of my entire life. I started competing when I was about eleven, and I can't really quite imagine my life without sport. After I'd been teaching in Scotland for four years, five years, and I decided to go to Canada, which I did. And that was 1961. I went to Vancouver. And I linked up with some friends I'd made on the Canadian field hockey team. Sport is such a wonderful experience in so many ways, but one of the best aspects of sport has to be the friends that you make. And I have now friends all over the world through field hockey. I lived in Vancouver for three years, I lived in Ottawa for one year, and then I lived in Toronto for about six years. And then I decided that I really needed to go to graduate school and came to the University of Iowa. Came down in the summer of 1968 for summer school, and then I came down as a full-time student in 1969. I had absolutely no intention of staying here. I love Canada. Canada is one of the most beautiful countries in the world, and I really intended to go back there. But what happened was I couldn't understand or fathom the discrimination against women in sport here. That was—it hit me between the eyes when I arrived.

Bartges: It wasn't that way in Scotland?

Grant: No, and it wasn't that way in Canada either. I'm not going to say there wasn't discrimination. There was in both Scotland and Canada with boys and men getting better opportunities, but nothing like here. Young girls and women were actively discouraged. I'd never seen that before. Discouraged from participating in sport, which was a sin. Anyway, that was unbelievable to me—just totally and utterly unbelievable. And that's really when I became a feminist. And then Title IX² was passed in 1972. I was still a graduate student and an instructor in the department. And I just—I got caught up in the whole revolution that was about to take place. In 1973 our president, Sandy Boyd, decided that he was going to elevate twelve women's club sports right up to varsity status, and he was going to

² Title IX is a portion of the Education Amendments of 1972, and it states, in part, that "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

create a position of athletic director for the women's sports. And the head of our department at that time was Dr. M. Gladys Scott, and she encouraged me to apply for the position. And since I was up to my ears in debt (laughs) and feeling pretty strongly about the fact that we should stop this discrimination, I decided to apply. And I got the job. And then once I had that job, I mean—that just seems like yesterday because I was just caught up in this entire revolution. So that's it.

Bartges: If somebody said, "Who is Christine Grant?", how would you describe Christine Grant?

Grant: Someone who has a passion to help create fair opportunities for little girls in sport, and big girls.

Bartges: (laughs) One of the—and Charlotte and I have talked about this as well—one of the misconceptions by many people who are not either integrally involved in sport or they're over-involved in some way is that people who are feminists or liberal feminists want to oppress the other gender to advance themselves. How do you respond to that?

Grant: Well, I think my track record speaks to that fact. I have always been one of the most vocal supporters of our so-called minor sports for men. I don't like the term minor sports because I don't think any sport is minor to those who are participating in it. And I feel pretty strongly that the pattern of discrimination that occurs over in men's sports is dead wrong. Certainly in Division I, we treat, at many institutions, football players and men's basketball players like gods and kings, and we treat our other men's sports like paupers, and philosophically I totally and utterly oppose that. But I am a strong and ardent supporter of sporting opportunities for both men and women and boys and girls. I know what sport's given me, and I would like to ensure that little kids have fair opportunity to experience what I experienced.

Bartges: Did you have or did you experience change in your career from bolstering what other people would call "A" sports up to a point and then realizing that those were successful now and the other sports needed to be put forward, needed more attention or a boost?

Grant: Well, one of the wonderful things about AIAW [Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women] was the philosophy that all sports should be treated in a comparable fashion. And I was—Charlotte and I were two of the strongest proponents of that particular approach. I never have believed in major/minor sports and neither does Charlotte. And I think both of us have tried to treat our student athletes in the same fashion. Even in women's sports today we haven't achieved that. We've allowed basketball and sometimes volleyball to be treated in a significantly different fashion, and I don't agree with that.

Bartges: Is that as a result of the NCAA [National Collegiate Athletic Association] merger? I use that merger word loosely.

Grant: It's not just that. It's the fact that in the mid-seventies the separate departments that had existed for men's athletics and women's athletics were merged and not one woman that I am aware of ever got the head position. So the positions were going to male athletic directors who only knew the male model of sport. And so since the mid-seventies that—I remember the Big Ten [Conference] being pressured ceaselessly by athletic directors to pick two sports that we were going to treat in a different fashion, which I refused to do. And some of the other women at the Big Ten supported what I was trying to do, but they were all in large—except Minnesota and Iowa—they were all in large programs, and they were not the key decision makers. So the women's sports gradually moved toward the male model. I haven't given up all hope (laughs) that we might be able to change that. I keep thinking that maybe if we go bankrupt, you know—(laughs)

Bartges: Which is possible.

Grant: Which is highly possible. (laughs)

Bartges: I thought the conversation in the AIAW tape from this spring was interesting and right on the money about salaries and where that's leading. It's stunning.

Grant: It is. It's unethical what we're doing in my opinion.

Bartges: Did you feel safe in your position here at Iowa, if you will, or did you feel like you had to sort of tiptoe around or walk on eggshells? You've been a leader, a very vocal leader. You must have felt some comfort in that, or you didn't care?

Grant: I think every professional has to care about survival, you know. But I was inordinately lucky. The person who hired me, Sandy Boyd our president, was the strongest supporter of both me and the program, and I knew that I could say exactly what I thought and there would be no repercussions. And since that time I've worked with other good presidents. They might not have agreed with what I was talking about, but I was free to speak my mind. And then that just became very important because as I looked around the nation, I saw women being silenced—silenced because they had been forced into—I can't call them mergers. They weren't mergers. They were submergers. And some of the women just did not speak up. And so there were only one or two of us who were in positions to really say what we thought. And Charlotte was one of them. Donna Lopiano was another. But there weren't that many, and so it became a responsibility to speak up.

Bartges: In the Big Ten, were you the only female that was a consistent voice like that? I try to think of other voices and I really—

Grant: Oh no, Minnesota was separate. Belmar Gunderson was the first athletic director for the women's program up there.

Bartges: I'm not familiar with that name.

Grant: She was a tennis player.

Bartges: Oh, I should know that.

Grant: She was a professional tennis player. And, of course, Merrily Dean Baker became an athletic director up there, and then Chris Voelz. And so I think Iowa and Minnesota were the two institutions where the women felt free to really say what they felt.

Bartges: And that was because they were separate?

Grant: Because they were separate. I was reporting directly not to a male athletic director but to the president of the university.

Bartges: And that makes a difference.

Grant: It makes a huge difference. And the same was true up at Minnesota. Structure matters.

Bartges: Yeah, I think sometimes people—and Charlotte and I have talked about this, about the amount of detail and the involvement and the attention to detail that administrators in the AIAW had and how prepared they were, and they were aware of the structures. And I think sometimes that is lost on people. You don't have to necessarily be quoting Robert's Rules of Order, but you do need to understand how things work.

Grant: Yes, you do.

Bartges: I work—I have a job, I'm not just a student. I'm too old for that. But (laughs) I work in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Access—

Grant: Oh—

Bartges: —at Western Illinois University, and we report directly to the president. And I can't imagine not reporting to the president in those kinds of positions—the safety of that is imperative, and the confidentiality of it too. I mentioned to you earlier, Charlotte—one of the questions I had asked her early on in our relationship was what her earliest memory was. I'll ask you that same question.

Grant: My earliest memory of?

Bartges: Of anything. I mean—

Grant: Anything?

Bartges: Like an event that would really stick out.

Grant: Oh goodness. Well, my—

Bartges: (laughs) I'm here to test you.

Grant: My earliest recollection is not a happy one because I was born just before World War II. And so I was a child during the war. And one of the things that I do remember is that the sirens would go, and then I would be put into my what's called a siren suit like Winston Churchill had, a one-piece where you zip it up, and then carried to an underground shelter which my father had built for us, which gave me claustrophobia which I still suffer from a bit today—and being petrified.

Bartges: I'm sure.

Grant: So that's probably—that's a very strong memory that I have.

Bartges: And one that is foreign to people in this country. We don't have an understanding of that.

Grant: Yes, um-hm.

Bartges: Where did you live in Scotland? Where were you born?

Grant: Just outside of Edinburgh, place called Bo'ness, B-O'N-E-S-S. It's on the Firth of Forth. And it's very close to the Forth Bridge which was being bombed by the Germans because that was a link up to the northern part of Scotland.

Bartges: Okay. What barriers or hurdles did you face in your journey through life to this point in time? What kind of barriers? You can name specific ones, but maybe larger themes?

Grant: Well, it wasn't until I arrived in the U.S. that I discovered that women were discriminated against. (laughs) I must have sailed through my first thirty-five years half asleep (laughs) because I didn't understand what the feminists were talking about. And one thing that really helped me understand it was when I was a graduate student—and this was 1969. The university decided we needed a recreation building, which we did need, we desperately needed. And it would be

partially funded or almost exclusively funded by fees that were imposed on all students—all men and all women, right. And this was to be a wonderful recreation building. And the architects came out with the first set of plans, and there were no locker rooms for women and no restrooms for women. So we were to pay for this facility but be denied access to the facility. And I'm sure that that was the trigger that made me a feminist. I mean, I just—that blew me away.

Bartges: (laughs)

Grant: (laughs) And then I discovered—

Bartges: The nerve.

Grant: (laughs) Then I discovered that women weren't allowed in the field house, and that blew me away. I'm thinking, The greatest democracy in the world, that's what the U.S. always claims to be. Well, it's only for a minority of the population because women are the majority here. So that was the start of a real understanding of how this world works.

Bartges: I thought it was interesting, and accurate too, when they asked Peg Burke sort of the how did you or when did you become a feminist, what Peg Burke said about—

Grant: (laughs)

Bartges: Well, the joke was funny, (laughs) slapping the doctor back.

Grant: (laughs)

Bartges: I thought, I need to meet this woman. But once that curtain is raised or once your eyes are open—

Grant: You can't go back.

Bartges: There is no going back.

Grant: No. None. Not a hope. I mean you just cannot. You cannot pretend.

Bartges: No. The luster is gone; the illusion is gone. Everything becomes very clear.

Grant: Yes, it does.

Bartges: When did you first meet Charlotte West and what were the circumstances?

Grant: Well, I don't know exactly when, but I do know that she and I were at the very

first delegate assembly.

Bartges: Which was?

Grant: It was 1973, and it was in Overland Park—

Bartges: Kansas.

Grant: —Kansas. And that was—that was an experience I will never, ever forget because—this was a meeting of women who loved sport, who had been denied their fair opportunity in sport, and who realized that they were being given an opportunity to be in on a revolution, and it was electric. We stayed up I think it was until one or two in the morning writing a constitution and by-laws, and then we were up and at it again by seven o'clock the next morning. And Peg and I, Peg Burke and I, had gone to that to represent the University of Iowa. I'll tell you, we drove back and we never stopped talking for six or seven hours, and we never stopped talking for another month after that. I mean, it was absolutely fantastic to have been a part of that.

Bartges: How many people were there?

Grant: Oh goodness, there were quite a few. I don't remember for certain.

Bartges: Were they all administrators or were they physical educators? Was this—

Grant: Well, Peg was not—she was not in athletics at that time. I would imagine a lot of them were physical educators and some of them were running the women's program. And usually at that time, early seventies, it probably would have been the women athletics housed in physical education departments for women at most places.

Bartges: Yeah. And when I was at Iowa State it was still that way. I played tennis at Iowa State. And the Rabinowitz twins from Iowa always used to just—

Grant: Oh, yeah. I remember them—

Bartges: —kill me. (laughs) But it was AIAW and we had—I understood they were still separate then, the departments.

Grant: Yes.

Bartges: I understand the structure of how that is.

Grant: Barbara Forker was there at the time. She was a good supporter.

Bartges: Barbara and—she—and then Elaine Huber?

Grant: Hieber.

Bartges: Hieber?

Grant: Uh-huh. She just retired a couple years ago.

Bartges: Yeah, they named the PE—well no, they named the PE building after Forker.

Grant: Yes.

Bartges: Were you on a committee there with the writing, or was it a committee of the whole? How—

Grant: It was everybody, everybody who was there. (laughs) I mean, AIAW was different—(laughs) Absolutely the best organization I've ever been associated with by—head and shoulders. I mean really, it was a phenomenal organization. And what they created was excellent.

Bartges: You say you think you probably met her first at the delegate assembly. When you have a cognizant knowledge of Charlotte, what were your early impressions of her as a young professional?

Grant: Well, first of all, the Illinois delegation was very vocal. Laurie Mabry—in fact we used to have bets about how many times Laurie would go to the mike [microphone]—

Bartges: (laughs)

Grant: —and whether Donna Lopiano would beat her. (laughs) Anyway, my first impression was that these Illinois people sure talk a lot. (laughs)

Bartges: We had a lot to say.

Grant: But Charlotte—Charlotte didn't go to the mike [microphone] that often, but when she did I listened. She's a very even-tempered person, you know. She doesn't rant and rave. She's—when she's got something to say, most people listen—and that's my early impression about Charlotte West. I remember particularly I thought—and I may be wrong here, I'll have to check but Char—I thought we were on opposite sides with athletic scholarships, but now I'm not sure about that. You know, we debated—because AIAW was never sold on full-ride scholarships.

Bartges: No.

Grant: I mean we got pushed in that direction because of Title IX and the fact that we were being sued by a couple of people in Florida. But we were pushed into that, and eventually we did pass a resolution saying that we favored—if we were moving in that direction, we favored a maximum of tuition plus fees, no room and board. And we came close to getting that through the NCAA as well. It came very, very close but we lost. Anyway, that debate was very heated. Because actually some people—when we moved in that direction, some people resigned because they felt so strongly about it. They didn't want to be in the organization that started athletic scholarships.

Bartges: So that would be the group of people then that basically took their ball and went home and didn't—they went back to academics?

Grant: Yes, they did, uh-huh. It was—they couldn't live with that philosophically because they so disagreed with it. And looking back I'm not sure they were dead wrong.

Bartges: Would you say that that was one of, if not the single biggest, dividing issue in the AIAW?

Grant: That was one. That was not the only one. We also had huge debates over restrictive rules. I don't know if you know that or not but—

Bartges: Restrictive rules?

Grant: Yeah. You know how now under the NCAA student athletes have got to have a higher GPA than anybody else? They've got all these restrictions that are put on them. AIAW didn't believe in these restrictive rules. They wanted the students to be students and be treated as students. And so that really divided us. There were those who really wanted more stringent rules for the student athletes and those who didn't want that and they wanted them treated as all other undergraduate students. So that was a very heated debate on that.

Bartges: Was that more divisive than scholarships?

Grant: Yeah, I would say so, um-hm.

Bartges: I've not really heard much talk about that. I interviewed Laurie Mabry in—oh jeeze...2004, somewhere in there, as part of my master's project on Illinois girls' high school history, basketball in Illinois. And some of the things that she said—I bet her and Peg Burke in a room at the same time must have been very interesting.

Grant: It was. (laughs)

Bartges: And I haven't met Peg. The only thing I've seen of Peg is from that video, but I

can tell that must have been extremely interesting.

Grant: Peg's feisty. (laughs)

Bartges: Laurie was very interesting. Did you serve on committees with Charlotte ever? Any kind of committee work or—

Grant: I'm trying to think.

Bartges: Did you operate in separate spheres and you were just—

Grant: I was really involved in the State of Iowa AIAW and then in Region 6, and Char [Charlotte] was involved in her state organization and her regional and then at the national level. I don't think we actually served—I can't remember that we served on anything before I became president-elect and Char was past president, and then we were on the executive committee together. And that was when I really, really got to know Char.

Bartges: What year was that?

Grant: Seventy-eight.

Bartges: So you were the president of the AIAW in 1979?

Grant: Seventy-nine, eighty, uh-huh.

Bartges: Okay.

Grant: When we lost the organization.

Bartges: Yeah.

Grant: Officially we didn't lose it until 1982, but it was—the January, 1980 NCAA convention that they put it in the Division I championships, and we knew we were lost then.

Bartges: It's hard to believe that they didn't have a structure for that already, that that didn't exist, those Division I championships for the NCAA.

Grant: What do you mean?

Bartges: Maybe I'm misunderstanding what you're saying. I'm interpreting what you're saying as that the NCAA did not have Division I championships until 1980.

Grant: No, they didn't. And they—in 1979, January of 1979 they had voted to have

championships for women in Divisions II and III, okay, and the next year they came back and they voted to have championships for women in 1980. And when they did that, we knew AIAW was doomed. They had been trying to do that for—well, all of the seventies. I mean, more than half of our work—in fact, I would say three-quarters of the work of every AIAW president was fighting off the NCAA. I mean, how we did the running of AIAW, the fighting of NCAA, and our own full-time jobs, I don't remember how we did it. Billie Jean³ is very funny because she said she's tired today because of all of the things she did in the seventies.

Bartges: (laughs)

Grant: And I think (laughs) that's true. I mean—

Bartges: I would think you'd feel like a slacker sitting around. You need to find something to do. I asked you about Charlotte, but who would you say Charlotte West is at this point in time? I mean, how long have you known her?

Grant: Since, I would say, 1973.

Bartges: Thirty-six years.

Grant: She is one of the most influential women of the twentieth century in the area of intercollegiate athletics.

Bartges: That's a pretty weighty statement.

Grant: I know, and it's not one I make lightly.

Bartges: I'm sure. What makes you think that? What has—

Grant: I've just watched her since 1973 work her heart out for women in sport.

Bartges: What makes Charlotte stand out—and this might not be a fair question and I'm not saying other people didn't contribute or haven't contributed—but what makes Charlotte stand out more than yourself or Donna Lopiano or Carole Oglesby or somebody like the woman from West Chester.

Grant: Sharon Taylor? You've mentioned phenomenal women, and I think so highly of all the women that you've mentioned. But with Charlotte, she has done this for so long and she hasn't stopped. She's never allowed herself to become diverted.

³ Billie Jean King is a former American professional tennis player. Over the course of her career, she won thirty-nine Grand Slam titles and the Battle of the Sexes tennis match against Bobby Riggs in 1973.

She's still doing it today.

Bartges: It's amazing.

Grant: We have our little show that we go on the road with, the two of us.

Bartges: She speaks very fondly of those.

Grant: Oh yeah, we have a wonderful time. But you know Charlotte's, I think, seventy-five—

Bartges: Maybe even older.

Grant: And I mean, she is just—she's right in there, feeling as strongly as she ever did; in fact, maybe even a little bit stronger—

Bartges: (laughs)

Grant: —because, you know, we're both coming toward the end of our lives, and there's still a lot to get done. That's what's phenomenal about her. She never gives up and she's utterly consistent from here to there.

Bartges: Which is unusual—

Grant: She never changes. And she is absolutely one of the most reliable, trustworthy, predictable people I've ever known. And she stands up for her principles. That puts her head and shoulders above most people. I mean, she's—on the surface you'd think Charlotte's quiet. And she does tend to be a bit quiet, but she has a spine of steel, honest. And when other people are struggling and they know they should say something and they can't bring themselves to say it, Charlotte's quiet voice comes through. That's what makes her phenomenal.

Bartges: What do you think her legacy will be or is?

Grant: She has single-handedly in some ways affected millions of girls in this country simply by having worked so hard for so long. You know, we watched Ted Kennedy this morning. The two of them have a lot in common with regard to doing all the hard work to get results. All you've got to do is pick up her resume. She has served on more committees, I'd venture to say, than anybody else, anybody. And she did that in the AIAW and she did it again in the NCAA. And she is so respected, like Ted Kennedy, by people who may not agree with her. Now that's a sign of a very effective person.

Bartges: Yeah, and that's a good point. She told me a story about—I can't think of the name of the fellow that told her this, but she was frustrated about something when

she was younger and the fellow told her, "Sometimes, Charlotte, you need to learn to circle more (laughs) before you land."

Grant: (laughs) She does—I mean there's no question about it, there are so many things that need to get changed in our society, you cannot possibly take them all on so you have to pick and choose. And Char's good at that—know when to keep quiet and know when to speak up.

Bartges: It seems that she accepts—she has the ability to move on after something maybe doesn't go her way or the way she would like to see it.

Grant: Yeah, she—again like Ted Kennedy she builds relationships with people and because of that, she can disagree with them but it's never done on a personal level. And she's never vindictive or petty or any of these negative things. She is always so respectful of people. And that's why the respect is reciprocated. And that's how you can get people from this position here maybe over to here. It's an art but it's also got a foundation of just deep respect for one another.

Bartges: Were you—now I know that after the AIAW was taken over, you and Charlotte were one of the few people from an administrative standpoint that were leaders in the AIAW who moved on into the NCAA eventually.

Grant: Yes, we did, but Char moved faster than I did. I took, I would say, a couple of years. I just didn't want to be associated with that. I had—I'd been spending so much time with AIAW, I felt as if I'd been shortchanging Iowa, and so I decided to put all my energy into Iowa for a while—because I didn't want to get associated. And actually it was Char who helped me make that transition over to being active again.

Bartges: How did she do that?

Grant: Oh, we just talked. We'd talk all the time and she'd say, "Come on, you've got to get back into the fray." Well, I was in the fray in the Big Ten. Believe me, there were some royal battles going on there. And I felt for I'd say a couple of years, two or three years, that I really didn't want to get involved with the national level.

Bartges: You were hurt pretty deeply by that?

Grant: Yes. We all were, yeah.

Bartges: But I think some people—well, people handle that sort of thing differently.

Grant: Yeah, they do.

Bartges: I would be more like you. I mean, I'd have to chew on it for a while.

Grant: Yeah, I did. I did.

Bartges: (laughs) Charlotte called—she said she had sort of a cooling-off period—

Grant: Yeah—

Bartges: —before she got back into the NCAA.

Grant: But she did get in faster than I did.

Bartges: And once you got into the NCAA, then were you able to work together on things or were you in different areas again?

Grant: We were really in different areas, yeah.

Bartges: Of the people that you know, and having known Charlotte for so long, who would you say were her closest friends and colleagues, were or are?

Grant: I think there's a very close bond among all of the AIAW presidents. I think that came through probably in the tape that you saw. We enjoy each other, we really do. Iowa had brought all the presidents together in 1980, getting ready. Iowa wanted to do a history of the AIAW. We were already thinking that maybe the NCAA might win and we did not want the history to disappear so we brought everybody here for a week and we taped the sessions. And actually my very last Ph.D. student is working on these tapes right now.

Bartges: Oh really?

Grant: Yeah, uh-huh. She found all the tapes and—I'm not involved in her dissertation since I'm one of the subjects but—

Bartges: What's her name?

Grant: Amy Wilson.

Bartges: Okay, that's the name Charlotte (unintelligible).

Grant: She was the one down at Florida who was asking the questions of all the AIAW presidents because she has all of this background.

Bartges: I know you guys all mentioned tapes, but I didn't know exactly what you were talking about—

Grant: That's what we were talking about.

Bartges: (unintelligible) tape?

Grant: Yeah, uh-huh. And so—

Bartges: Is she digitizing those?

Grant: They were two—they are now to the extent they can be, but we had lost a lot of the detail of the tapes. I have not seen them, but Amy said you can make out who it is, but it's very difficult. But you can hear fairly clearly so—

Bartges: Oh okay.

Grant: Anyway, I'd say the bond among the AIAW presidents is very, very strong. Because we all turned to each other during our terms, you know, because we were such bright women and dedicated women. And people like Sharon Taylor. I mean, Sharon should have been an historian. She is a historian. She has—she makes it her mission to know everything about AIAW. And she's been a tremendously effective administrator. She's—I know that Char thinks highly of her. Jeanne Rowlands—you probably don't know her. She was at Northeastern. She just died a year ago.

Bartges: I've heard the name.

Grant: She was a very strong influence in AIAW, and I know that Char and I really, really respected her. There are a lot of women that—it's amazing when you stop and think how many women friends you have through that organization. And it's just not the same in the NCAA. Going to AIAW was like getting a shot every January that kept you going until the next January. It was a really highly supportive group of women. And we were all fighting for our lives, in many ways, at the institutional level, at the conference level, at the national level, and there was a bonding that was created because of that.

Bartges: Where did you meet in those meetings? Did you always go to—did you go to Overland Park or did you go to different places?

Grant: Oh no, very different places.

Bartges: What's your favorite story or memory of Charlotte?

Grant: (laughs) Oh, I've got loads of them.

Bartges: Well, do tell. (laughs)

Grant: (laughs) Charlotte talked me and Karol Kahrs from Illinois—and who else was in

it—into doing a tap dance at the NACWAA [National Association of Collegiate Women Athletics Administrators] Fall Forum, which is now called the annual convention. (laughs) And so she taught us to tap dance. Char is a great tap dancer.

Bartges: She's been holding out on me. (laughs) She never mentioned tap dancing.

Grant: Oh yeah, she's very good. She's really good. What else? Char loves ice cream. I remember when we were both on the executive committee and we would be in Washington, D.C., meeting, and inevitably after our meeting was over I would say, Let's go and get an ice cream. Silly things like that.

Bartges: She directed us to her favorite Dairy Queen in Carbondale.

Grant: You see what I mean. (laughs)

Bartges: I'm an ice cream hound too, too much so. What to your knowledge has been an event that had a great impact on Charlotte—something that maybe she talked to you about or something that you observed? It could be good, it could be bad.

Grant: I think she was deeply hurt at not being chosen as athletic director at Southern Illinois.

Bartges: After her (unintelligible) there?

Grant: She should have been. She should have been. She's—honestly, she's one of the best administrators I've ever met, and I don't say that lightly.

Bartges: No, I mean—

Grant: You know. She's better qualified than 90 percent of those who are athletic directors today. That's what—oh boy, I can get angry so fast. Really. What a waste of talent.

Bartges: Why do you think she wasn't selected?

Grant: Because she's a woman. That's it, period. Very angersome. So ethical, so honest, so well organized, so good with people. What else would you want in an administrator? You couldn't get a better administrator than Charlotte West.

Bartges: No, her ethical standards seem—

Grant: They're phenomenal.

Bartges: Did she ever look somewhere else after that, you know, thinking that, Maybe I

could be an AD somewhere else?

Grant: I don't really think—I think Char's heart was with Southern Illinois, you know.

Bartges: Um-hm.

Grant: That was why it was so hurtful. It's a very sexist society we have, especially in sport.

Bartges: Yes, which is one of the reasons I want to do these kinds of projects, because I think that there's a very clear demarcation of leadership. And it scares me as a former coach and as an athlete and even in my job now as an equal opportunity officer. I see a decided lack of—well, unfathomable lack of knowledge of history. And that's what really generates me. But a lack of appreciation for what we have. And I'm not saying—I was one of those people that had to put seven people in a station wagon and drive to Manhattan, Kansas, from Ames, Iowa, get out of the car, play, get back in the car, and go back the same day because we had no hotel room.

Grant: That's right, yeah.

Bartges: And tennis players don't travel light. They have a lot of stuff. (laughs) You have to have a few rackets, you need some clothes. It was crowded. But we didn't complain. You got a sack lunch downstairs off your own meal ticket and you took it with you. Nowadays—I mean when I—and when I was coaching it was just mind-boggling to me. And that's all happened pretty quickly—

Grant: Yeah.

Bartges: —in the big scheme of things.

Grant: In the large scheme of things.

Bartges: But it's still unimaginable. Did you go to the 1972 AIAW Women's Basketball Championship in Bloomington, Illinois?

Grant: No. No.

Bartges: Okay. Jill Hutchison is another one of the people that I've talked to—

Grant: She's a terrific person, yeah. Wonderful, wonderful person.

Bartges: Very engaging.

Grant: Yes.

Bartges: Interesting to talk to. Where are the other Jill Hutchisons in that age group?

Grant: They must all be very close to retirement. And they didn't have an easy path to hoe either. I know the coaches today do feel discriminated against, particularly some sports more than others, but it was nothing to the discrimination that the Jill Hutchisons faced and helped change. I see one of the big problems that we currently have is a lack of knowledge of the history of women in sport and very little interest in learning about it, which is sad. I just weep when I realize that some of our women today have absolutely no idea about AIAW—never heard of it and don't care to hear about it either. You've got to know your history.

Bartges: Well, it's amazing to me—and as I want to move from administration to academics—that so many PE departments, kinesiology departments, have dropped their sport history classes or their history of physical education classes. They incorporate it into a unit in a larger class. I think that that's a horrible loss.

Grant: It is.

Bartges: And it's very, very frustrating. If you were going to talk about—and I touched on it again earlier—if you were going to talk about a legacy, what would you say is Charlotte West's legacy as one of her closest and dearest friends? And I may need to change the tape here on that.

Grant: Why don't you do that?

Bartges: You might need to stretch your legs. The history part just kills me. I'm actually on one of your websites. I was one of those coaches in the eighties that sued over pay and a number of other things.

Grant: Good for you.

Bartges: It was expensive.

Grant: Oh, I know.

Bartges: And more than money. But when I worked at UNC Charlotte there were seven women's sports and five of those sports the head coach was—five of them were full time, two were part time. The head coaches that were men, and I think of those seven sports four of them had coaches were men, and their average salary was forty-something. And the two other—two of the coaches were part time. I was a part-timer as the head softball coach, but I also coached basketball. So I had a split appointment. And so the men were making \$45,000 and the two women head coaches were making an average of \$11,500.

Grant: Good lord.

Bartges: And then when I started looking at some other things, it came—they were out of compliance in all these prongs of Title IX and eight of the ten subareas, and so I filled a complaint with the OCR [Office of Civil Rights].

Grant: Good.

Bartges: The OCR came back, You're out of compliance in all three areas and these eight subareas—travel, money, everything. So one of the things that they did was because I was a part-time coach for softball and a part-time coach for basketball, they said, Oh okay, the OCR has said we have to make these positions full time. (laughs) So then I had to interview for one of my own positions. And that's how they got me. They—first they did basketball. They ran a search for a full-time assistant basketball coach and they hired somebody else. And then I lasted one more year as the head softball coach. My partner was done with her Ph.D. then, and it's like we need out of here. We've got to get back to reality. But it's very interesting how you read some of that stuff. If you're not integrally involved in it, the stuff that they put out there becomes reality.

Grant: Yes.

Bartges: And that's the kind of information that drives me nuts. So yeah, I get on your—what is it called—the wic—it's the University of Iowa. You have all your (unintelligible) on there.

Grant: Bailiwick.

Bartges: Bailiwick, yeah. (laughs) Okay, this is tape number 2 on video tape. It's August twenty-ninth. I'm still talking with Christine Grant, and I just asked her a question about legacy for Charlotte West.

Grant: Well, Charlotte, as I'm sure you know, was the commissioner for championships for AIAW. And, you know, (laughs) it's hard to imagine how she managed to get everything done that she needed to get done with that particular job. That was more than a full-time job in and of itself, running I don't remember how many championships we had that particular year when she was doing it, but there were a whole slew of championships in all three divisions and she was responsible for them all, you know. And she was the athletic director at Southern Illinois. So she was up to here with the actual opportunities to participate in sport. I mean, she helped build them for the young women across this country. Every young woman who participated in AIAW championships has got Charlotte West to thank for setting up a fantastic foundation before the NCAA took over. So that's part of her legacy. But I think even more important is the part that Char played from the moment AIAW came into existence until the moment it closed its doors, which

was the legislation that she helped pass. And that legislation reflected what I consider to be the wonderful philosophy of AIAW. And so any young woman who participated in any AIAW championship at any level—the state level, the regional level, the national level from 1972 until 1982—owes a mountain of debt to Charlotte West because she was really one of the main people who got key legislation through and very, very important legislation—the transfer rule where we allowed our young women to transfer without penalty from one institution to another, the Pell grant, athletic scholarships. I mean you name it and Charlotte's hand was in a lot of that legislation.

You see, part of her success was the fact that Charlotte did her homework. She was absolutely relentless. She knew everything about a piece of legislation. She was more prepared than anybody else I know and therefore she became more effective. And then she took her skills and took them into the NCAA and started influencing their legislation. If you analyze NCAA today in 2009, you will see the influence of AIAW in many of its practices today. And where did that come from? Charlotte West, directly. So it's not just young women who've benefitted from Charlotte West. I would say it's all of the young men and the young women who currently participate in the NCAA. You know, Charlotte was the one—and may still be (laughs) trying to do this—to get fair student athlete representation at the national level. At AIAW 20 percent of all of our positions went to student athletes. If you're running programs for student athletes, shouldn't they have a say? We thought so. Before Charlotte West went into the NCAA, if you had said we would like you to consider having student athlete representation, you'd have been laughed out of the room. We've got it today. It's not as good as we want it to be but the reason we've got it is Charlotte West. More liberal transfer rules. Who helped get that? Charlotte West. Who helped get into the peer-review system that now exists for Division I, a gender equity element that's very, very important? Charlotte West. Analyze the NCAA today and you will see the effects and the legacy of Charlotte West. And it's all been done through committee work—the hard work.

Bartges: That's very impressive. She talks about some of the things that you've mentioned—the humanity of sport and how organizations treat their athletes.

Grant: That's right.

Bartges: And she's obviously very passionate about it.

Grant: Yes, she is.

Bartges: And she still gets fired up about it, which is good to see.

Grant: Well, the foundation of AIAW was the welfare of the student athlete. It is the reason for the existence of AIAW.

Bartges: And did those things come about through a consensus within the organization and then Charlotte was the driver of the truck, or was she the originator of some of those ideas?

Grant: I can't honestly answer that question except to say that if we had tapes of all the AIAW delegate assemblies, I would venture to say that Charlotte was the instigator of a lot of that stuff.

Bartges: You're—

Grant: But we had to build consensus around it.

Bartges: Right. Your graduate student, Amy Wilson, doing the work on the AIAW tapes, are there notes from those meetings? I mean, did you guys keep minutes?

Grant: You mean AIAW?

Bartges: Yeah.

Grant: Oh yeah. They're all in the archives at the University of Maryland.

Bartges: Okay, so that's part of what—and I can't—Charlotte said there was a box missing.

Grant: Yeah. She sent her stuff in and the—she had—I think two or three boxes and one box was completely lost, which is totally unbelievable that that happened but—

Bartges: I know. Were those—was Joan Hult involved with those?

Grant: Yes, she's—she used to be in charge of the AIAW archives at University of Maryland.

Bartges: There's a fellow doing that now—

Grant: I don't know—

Bartges: —I think is what she said. Something you said—Pell grants. Did the Pell grant exist before the AIAW? Was that something that already existed, or was that something that was sort of instituted for athletics?

Grant: No, no, it wasn't instituted for athletics, nothing to do with athletics. And the reason that came up was the NCAA at one point didn't allow a student athlete, a male student athlete, to take a scholarship and a Pell grant.

Bartges: Right.

Grant: AIAW did. And that was another thing that we got changed, Charlotte got changed at the NCAA. That's a good example of a difference. It makes a huge difference to student athletes.

Bartges: Yeah, and I remember our athletes at Charlotte when they could get that money, that Pell grant money. It did make a huge difference for them.

Grant: At first those in men's athletics couldn't believe the AIAW was allowing this. I mean, they mocked it and—but it was being fair to students. That's what it was all about.

Bartges: Who were some—and this is the frustrating part of history because people sometimes don't—are not as forthcoming with people who maybe they had differences with or who were adversaries. And history doesn't exist in a vacuum.

Grant: No, it doesn't.

Bartges: It doesn't exist in only one level either. Who—and I know some about Walter Byers and the former USOC chair.

Grant: Dick Schultz?

Bartges: No, not Dick Schultz. I can't think of his name. He's from Illinois. He headed the Olympics, the Olympic—United States Olympic.

Grant: Oh, Harvey Schiller?

Bartges: I'm sorry?

Grant: Harvey Schiller?

Bartges: No, after that—maybe before that. The name isn't important in that instance but who were some of the major adversaries that Charlotte would have had to deal with?

Grant: Well, we all dealt with Walter Byers⁴. He was the strongest adversary, yeah. He was not a very good man in my opinion. And he single-handedly, I think, convinced the NCAA that they absolutely had to take us over, put us out of business.

⁴ Walter Byers was the first executive director of the National Collegiate Athletic Association. He served from 1951-1988.

Bartges: Was that a personal thing for him?

Grant: Don't know. He was a man with a huge ego, didn't have much time for women. He was all about power. Not my cup of tea nor Char's. But he influenced so many men that I kind of despise because they didn't have the spine to stand up to him and say, You're wrong. They just went along like sheep. And that's what makes it hard to talk about because a lot of these men may not have been inherently bad men, you know. They just were weak men. They didn't think for themselves. They didn't seem to have principles by which to live. And as I say, they just seemed to follow orders. But there were a lot of them that were very difficult to deal with, very difficult.

Bartges: Were they interested in the status of the type of position that they had?

Grant: Oh yeah. I mean they still are today, I think, in athletics. Because athletics in this country is such a huge part of the culture—and it is huge—being in sport is seen—being in athletic administration is seen as being extremely powerful, extremely prestigious. And if you're of that ilk—if you've got a little bit of power, you've got to make sure you don't lose it. And so you go along with what you're told to do. And that's what we were facing as well, we in AIAW.

Bartges: Were the women of AIAW like that?

Grant: No. No, they were—that was one of the things that made the organization so different. There was not this power fixation. It was a much more cooperative venture trying to put the student athlete welfare at the center of everything that we were trying to do. I mean, you—I think you only have to look at the men's Final Four. I don't know if you've noticed this or not, but it's almost laughable to me. You see this huge row of people who are all in some official capacity. God knows what they do. I have no idea. They must be forty of them, very powerful (unintelligible) people sitting right on the edge of the basketball court. I sit and laugh at the television. It's so funny. I mean what's with this? This has nothing to do with students—

Bartges: And rows of them.

Grant: —having wonderful opportunities, right? It's a power thing. I've no time for that.

Bartges: Just to get a ticket to go to one of those things is impossible.

Grant: Well, who would want to? (laughs)

Bartges: Well, yeah, I've never been to a men's. Like you, I see it on TV and you see the rows—there's maybe six rows worth of people. They're not all forty across like you're saying but it's—I do wonder is it media? What are they? Who are they,

and why are they there?

Grant: You see, it's that part of the NCAA that's viewed as being all powerful. That's what a lot of people aspire to right? That is exactly the opposite of Charlotte West, (laughs) exactly the opposite. She's more concerned with drafting good legislation that's going to make the experience of the student athlete infinitely better.

Bartges: How often do you guys see each other?

Grant: Oh goodness, well, we—we do a NACWAA/HERS [National Association of Collegiate Women Athletics Administrators] usually in Denver, and we do a NACWAA/HERS in Atlanta in the summer. And that's two definite occasions when we see each other. And then we usually do another one in and around November or December for the Coaches Academy, the NCAA Coaches Academy. And then we do another one back East for one of the smaller conferences, Division III conferences, and that's usually about February. These are the ones where we do our dog-and-pony show. (laughs)

Bartges: She's very proud of those. She talks about what percentage, particularly the Coaches Academy, the number of people who come who then—

Grant: Oh no, that's the Snell Symposium. That's the one back East in February.

Bartges: Oh, okay. Snell?

Grant: Yeah, Snell Symposium. The Snell-Shillingford Symposium. It was Jen Shillingford that created these symposia that have been so successful in getting young women into coaching. So we see each other at least on these occasions.

Bartges: How often do the AIAW presidents get together?

Grant: We don't usually. I mean, this was a very special event this past February. We wanted to—well, we're all getting on in age. We wanted to have as many who could come together as possible. I'd still like to get all ten together if it was possible.

Bartges: You're going to have to do it in central Illinois (laughs) from my understanding.

Grant: Yes, I know.

Bartges: Are most of you in good health?

Grant: I believe so, uh-huh. I think so.

Bartges: Do you talk to Laurie Mabry?

Grant: I haven't talked to her for—we talked in and around the February thing because I was trying to convince her to come, but she really does not like to fly so—and it wasn't possible to drive so—

Bartges: Maybe sometime if you guys are doing that, I'd drive her. I'd take her down or wherever.

Grant: Yeah.

Bartges: She's not that far from me.

Grant: Oh, she's not?

Bartges: I mean, it's a wee bit, but it's not a big hike at all.

Grant: Well, it was really—it was a wonderful time we had in February. There were only five of us there, but we had a terrific time together.

Bartges: It showed.

Grant: That's good.

Bartges: You could kind of see—I've never seen anything where you all worked together. And it was interesting to watch the dynamics, very interesting and quite revealing for me actually.

Grant: How so?

Bartges: How so?

Grant: Um-hm.

Bartges: I could see where Charlotte was someone who listened and someone who when she did start to speak, you know—it was a very respectful group. I'm not saying that you talked over people collectively, but it seemed to quiet down a little further. You could see that Peg was—or that's my interpretation—that Peg was a large personality.

Grant: Uh-huh.

Bartges: Morrison is a little more quiet.

Grant: She's quiet, uh-huh.

Bartges: Merrily is also like the youngest daughter.

Grant: Outgoing

Bartges: Yeah. But the central—you, Charlotte, Peg—the dynamics there—you could tell the influence. I could. I could see—and I'm not talking about power but about respect and about—some of it is intellectualism. And I know Carole went back and was a scholar and a prolific scholar.

Grant: Yes, a terrific scholar, uh-huh.

Bartges: I actually did not realize that Lee Morrison was still alive. I don't know where I lost track of that, but I was pleased to see her—

Grant: She's a wonderful person.

Bartges: She seems very nice.

Grant: No, she's wonderful, really she is.

Bartges: Does she live in Harrisonburg still?

Grant: Yes, uh-huh.

Bartges: Charlotte talked about a championship in Harrisonburg and a ref getting hurt and how—

Grant: Oh yes—

Bartges: —how Lee had—(laughs)—how they had to be innovative and try and get a full staff on the floor.

Grant: Yeah.

Bartges: I think the level of schools—it's just such a unique group of people, but I could kind of see some roles. Merrily was obviously much younger than the rest of you, and it was almost like she was the little sister in some ways.

Grant: (laughs)

Bartges: I did that too—but in a good way—as an outsider, just watching it when you see a group of people, the group dynamics. I do want to interview Bonnie and Peg.

Grant: They live just across the road there. Well, just around the corner.

Bartges: Oh, I was going to say, really? I'll have to do that another time. I don't know, I've thought about doing a joint interview with some people. I've not done that before so—I prefer to talk one-on-one. Is there anything else about Charlotte over the years or something—anything that comes to your mind that you think is an important component or piece of information if you were writing a biography about her?

Grant: Oh yeah. Charlotte has a wonderful sense of humor that I think is invaluable. I mean really. The ups and downs that we've gone through really require you to have a very good sense of humor. And that's one of the reasons that she's able to keep going. She doesn't take herself too seriously, but she does take what she's passionate about very seriously. But that sense of humor is wonderful. We were talking about the weekend down in Florida. You only saw us when we were being interviewed. I mean, the rest of the weekend we were laughing ninety percent of the time. We were just having a very good time with each other.

Bartges: That's good.

Grant: Yeah.

Bartges: Did she tell you about her hole in one this year?

Grant: No.

Bartges: She didn't?

Grant: No.

Bartges: Oh, you are kidding me.

Grant: When was this?

Bartges: In June, like June 13th or something like that. And the only reason I know that is it happened—we went down there, I interviewed her over a period of two days. And it was June 12—11 and 12 or June 12 and 13. And on Friday morning, I did an interview with her and then they were having a golf thing, I think, for the Women's Center there at Southern. And she wrote me that night—I had written her an email. And she wrote back and she says, "I got a hole in one today."

Grant: Good—I'll have to phone her. (laughs)

Bartges: She was so proud of herself. That's amazing to me.

Grant: She loves her golf, yeah.

Bartges: Yeah, I mean she talks about traipsing all over and all the golf tournaments and how Marie's going to fire her because she's not on her game.

Grant: (laughs)

Bartges: But it's pretty interesting. I am amazed—and this is really where sport becomes a factor for quality of life.

Grant: Oh absolutely. Yeah.

Bartges: It's not just something that you do when you're young, but it's a lifestyle and it's a commitment—

Grant: Yeah.

Bartges: —to be healthy and to do those things. And your generation is really, to me, the first generation of women that I see particularly now who are healthy and have been active and do all those things, and that all comes from sport.

Grant: That's right. I know sport gives you so much. That's why I said at the very beginning I can't even—I can't begin to imagine my life without sport. I just—I cannot imagine what I would have done without sport.

Bartges: I can't either. I met Birch Bayh.

Grant: Oh, he's one of my favorite people.

Bartges: He seems—again, I only had the opportunity to meet him once. And it was actually at that Title IX conference in Cleveland.

Grant: Oh yeah, uh-huh.

Bartges: And I mean, I'm forty—I was forty-seven years old, and I could not help myself, I started to cry when I thanked him for what he did because that changed my life forever.

Grant: Yep, that's right.

Bartges: And I still get verklempt just thinking about it. And I'm sure he probably thought, (laughs) Who is this idiot?

Grant: (laughs)

Bartges: But that's such a tremendous thing, to have that kind of permanent effect on

people in a positive way.

Grant: Um-hm. And you see that's what Char's done as well.

Bartges: Well, I'm going to enjoy writing this. I still want to talk to more people.

Grant: Who else are you interviewing?

Bartges: That's a good question. I've talked to Charlotte. Over the years I've talked to Jill Hutchison, Laurie Mabry, Lorrie Ramsey, about aspects of ball and athletics in Illinois, but I need some other people to talk to. I don't want to only have people that are affiliated with the AIAW because I think that you then only get a—

Grant: Uh-huh. You could talk to dozens of people in the NCAA because Char's worked with so many committees.

Bartges: Well, and Chris Voelz is a possibility because I interviewed Chris. She was a high school basketball coach.

Grant: That's right, um-hm.

Bartges: And I'm from suburban Chicago originally.

Grant: Um-hm.

Bartges: And so she was at, I think, Main South. And we talked. So that would be one. That's kind of why I asked you if there were other people that—

Grant: Sharon Taylor would be a very good person.

Bartges: Is that S-H-A-W-N?

Grant: S-H-A-R-O-N.

Bartges: Oh, Sharon?

Grant: Sharon.

Bartges: I'm sorry. I don't hear very well.

Grant: Oh. I don't say it with an American accent either.

Bartges: I love your accent.

Grant: She's at Lock Haven.

Bartges: Oh okay. Oh see, and that's very doable for me. My family's from Pennsylvania.

Grant: Well, she would be a wonderful person to talk with.

Bartges: I wanted to talk to Carole Oglesby.

Grant: Jane Betts would be another one, and Jane lives down in Fort Myers as well.

Bartges: Okay.

Grant: She was at MIT [Massachusetts Institute of Technology].

Bartges: And Sharon was at West Chester, is that right?

Grant: Taylor?

Bartges: Yeah.

Grant: Lock Haven.

Bartges: Oh. Oh, that's where she was employed. I thought you meant she lived there now. She still lives there in Lock Haven?

Grant: Yeah, um-hm.

Bartges: Oh okay, I'm sorry.

Grant: Yeah. The other person you might interview is Jennifer Alley at NACWAA because, as I say, Char and I have been doing NACWAA ever since it started. And that's another part of her legacy. She has influenced so many of the up and coming young administrators, young coaches.

Bartges: Where is Jennifer located?

Grant: Wilmington, North Carolina.

Bartges: Those are good suggestions.

Grant: But you should also find out—and Char would be able to tell you—the names of some good men that you should interview. Because that was one of Charlotte's real strengths—it's not that she worked well with women, she works well with people and she's worked with so many men in the NCAA.

Bartges: Yeah, and that's a very important point because I think that too often people

think—well, like we talked about early on, if you're feminist or if you were a proponent of Title IX, you're anti-man.

Grant: I'll tell you who else you must interview, Patty Viverito because Patty knows her tremendously well.

Bartges: Is she in Chicago?

Grant: No, St. Louis.

Bartges: St. Louis?

Grant: Um-hm.

Bartges: Patty's one of those next generation that really did well.

Grant: Oh yeah. And Char's been a mentor to her.

Bartges: Who was the basketball coach at Iowa during this period in the eighties?

Grant: Vivian Stringer.

Bartges: Before Vivian?

Grant: Before it was—

Bartges: I can't remember.

Grant: I can see her. Goodness gracious. She came from the West Coast. Oh, isn't that awful? Judy McMullen.

Bartges: McMullen?

Grant: Um-hm.

Bartges: I want to talk to Karol Kahrs.

Grant: Oh yeah. Yeah.

Bartges: Partly because of that Illinois connection. And I thought about talking to—I can't think of her first name—Bell from Northern Illinois.

Grant: Bell?

Bartges: I think her name is Bell, her last name is Bell, Mary Bell.

Grant: Mo Bell yeah, uh-huh.

Bartges: And I don't know if that would be germane or not.

Grant: Well, she was very involved at the very beginning of AIAW.

Bartges: I'm not sure why I asked you about that Iowa basketball coach. When I was at Penn State, one of the assistant coaches was one of Iowa's finest.

Grant: Oh, one of our—it was a point guard, wasn't she? No?

Bartges: No. She would have probably been a for—Cindy (unintelligible).

Grant: She was at Penn State? She worked for Rene?

Bartges: Um-hm. Not for long, but she did. She was there when I was there.

Grant: My goodness. Yeah, Cindy was—in fact she's still got, I think, the scoring record at the University of Iowa.

Bartges: I think she still has some records.

Grant: Yeah, um-hm.

Bartges: I remember watching her play because I was at Iowa State—I took the scenic route through college—1978 to 1985. I got residency, took a couple years off, played around. But I remember seeing her play. She was big for a woman back then.

Grant: She was. She was a good player.

Bartges: Good shooter. So yeah. Well, if there's not anything else that you can think of that would be unique that you could tell me, I think I will call it a day.

Grant: Okay.

Bartges: (laughs) Do you have any questions of me?

Grant: No, but I should like to read it when you're finished.

Bartges: Hopefully—

Grant: What's your timeframe?

Bartges: I want to graduate summer of 2012 probably.

Grant: Oh, that's a long way off.

Bartges: Yeah. I'm in my last year of coursework. I'm collecting this data—I have not proposed yet, but when I had my two-year review, I talked to the committee and they were very gung-ho about the idea. They said, You won't have any problems. And my concern from a selfish standpoint is that a lot of the people that I want to talk to are not spring chickens and although Charlotte's in great health, I want to make sure that I don't miss an opportunity to have the one-on-ones with the people that—

Grant: Yeah—

Bartges: —were so influential. I would just be sick if anything happened. So they're letting me go ahead with that.

Grant: That's good.

Bartges: This will be my last year of coursework. I'm trying to get a minor in gender and women's studies, so I'm taking some extra courses. But I'm done with the pure credit limit, the minimum of credits. And I work full time too. I'm only permitted to take six hours a semester.

Grant: Oh yeah.

Bartges: So it kind of limits me. And the more I get into it, the more I want to just punt the job and be a full-time student so that I can get done, but I'm at a point in my life where I can't do that.

Grant: Yeah.

Bartges: My retirement would be—that would wreak havoc with my retirement.

Grant: Yeah.

Bartges: And although we—my partner's a professor at the university and she plans—she says, I've always planned for two, (laughs) because as a coach I didn't make a lot of money. But still, it would be hard so—hopefully—I'm going to try and do some conference papers to get writing some of this stuff up for papers through the sport history association, NASSH [North American Society for Sport History].

Grant: Oh yeah.

Bartges: And a little bit of sociology with NASSH, try and get started into chapters that

way. I'm not exactly sure—methods have changed a lot and I'm really doing—I want to look at social movements and it's one of the things—I'm a little hesitant in how to get into some of the information. One of the things that really interests me is GLBT [Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender] concerns. And on the tape with you guys, somebody mentioned it about women in women's departments and the stigma of being single and then being labeled a lesbian. That is—I'm very interested in that because I wonder how much more productive or how much different people's lives would have been if they could have just been themselves. And we're lucky. We made a choice, and we're not out marching in parades but we're also not—we are who we are. And I think that that was impossible for people then. The amount of influence that a huge segment of lesbians in sport have had on so many people's lives is undocumented.

Grant: That's true.

Bartges: And I respect people's privacy and I respect their choices, the choices that they make or that they live, but I would also like to hear some information about—some stories about how maybe they would have lived their lives differently or how they live their lives—the personal side of that story. We don't go through life untouched by other people and that comes with sorrow and pain and it also comes with great joy. So, I don't know.

Grant: Interesting.

Bartges: I meant to turn this off. So—and I don't know whether that would be—I've talked to some people—historians, older women that have—they're like, Well you know that doesn't really matter. People's personal life doesn't impact their professional life. But I disagree with that. I think that that's part of a social movement that is continuing to move. So any suggestions? (laughs)

Grant: Well, (laughs) I think you'd better get finished with this first—

Bartges: Oh yeah—

Grant: —before you veer off. But that would be extraordinarily interesting to do research in that whole area. What's her name—Pat Griffin. I'm sure you've run into her work.

Bartges: Yes.

Grant: And I haven't kept up with her research recently, but that's her whole area of interest. And she was one of the first ever to come out openly and talk about it. And I'll tell you, doing her life story would be really interesting because she was on the forefront of having people understand the need to come out. And it was—I've watched her on several occasions. And there are some people in the audience

who are tremendously uncomfortable even listening to her. So while there's progress that's been made in that area, there is a whole lot of education that needs to be done.

Bartges: Yeah. And it's ironic to me—and again these are my own observations. I interviewed Chris Voelz as part of my master's work as I told you.

Grant: Um-hm.

Bartges: And she runs or she's part of an educational program through the NCAA that has to do with—it's part of Pat Griffin's work. It's very interesting to me to watch people when you ask them questions like that and how they respond. And I have to say—I didn't ask her a question about any personal thing, but I asked her if homophobia was one of the reasons that women's sports was slow to develop. And she was visibly uncomfortable with that. And here's somebody who that's what they do for their job, and she's that uncomfortable with it. So I can't even imagine how people who are even more uncomfortable, how they would deal with it.

Grant: Well, I watched Pat speak with basketball coaches and a lot of them were struggling to even listen which I thought was not a very good sign but—

Bartges: Basketball coaches are the most homophobic group of people that there are—

Grant: Oh, is that right?

Bartges: —in my opinion. I coached and I played, and having been a part of that particular sorority, I would say yes, they are the most homophobic. And I take a lot of flak from people because of my friendship with Rene Portland, a lot of flak. What's your name?

Grant: Pumpkin.

Bartges: Good name. (laughs) Are you a Shiba Enu?

Grant: Yes, she is.

Bartges: Hi, Pumpkin.

Grant: So is the other one.

Bartges: Really? Okay.

Grant: Yeah, they're sisters.

Bartges: Oh, a white one. I know they come in different colors, but I've never seen a white one.

Grant: Yeah, there are three. There's that color, white, and black-and-tan.

Bartges: My friendship with Rene—and this is one of those things that I kind of dabble in in sports sociology, is a problem for a bunch of my friends. They're like, Ah, she is the wicked witch of the west.

Grant: (laughs)

Bartges: And Rene will describe herself as that. She has a wonderful sense of humor. I don't know if you know Rene or not.

Grant: Oh, I know her but I don't know her well, no.

Bartges: She has a marvelous sense of humor. She's brilliant in terms of basketball. I mean, to go to practice every day with her was like going into a library every day that was just basketball. It was amazing. But you know, she has a set of values and opinions that I don't agree with but it doesn't preclude me from—she's always been there for me. The whole thing at Charlotte [North Carolina] and the stuff that I went through with that lawsuit and the Title IX stuff, she was the only person who stood by me. And she knows my partner. She knows us. I stay at her house, we stay at her house. It's just such an odd hypocritical kind of—not hypocritical, but it's just an odd thing. I know all of her kids. So where so much of that comes from—it's just an interesting topic. Interesting woman. And her husband John is a saint. He has to be (laughs), I mean he raised those kids. It has to be hard—

Grant: I'm sure it is—

Bartges: —for women. I think that he really was the reason that she could coach. And it's unfortunate that more women who have husbands and partners don't have that kind of support.

Grant: Oh, I know. Yeah, that's another barrier I'm afraid that has yet to be fully broken down.

Bartges: Yeah. He did it seamlessly. He's really the first person that I ever witnessed do that, the first male, and did a good job.

Grant: That was true also of Bill Stringer.

Bartges: You know my—this is another way that life is funny—my mother's family is from very close to where Vivian is from.

Grant: Oh.

Bartges: Vivian's from Nemaquin, Pennsylvania.

Grant: Uh-huh.

Bartges: Well, my grandmother taught her in kindergarten.

Grant: Oh, for heaven's sakes.

Bartges: And—it's weird. It was something that I came across quite accidentally when my grandmother was still alive. So it is a small world.

Grant: Now you're going back to Illinois today?

Bartges: Yes. I have to get ready for this job interview. I have a presentation in class on Monday too, and I need to kind of look at that. This is really usually a pretty quick trip. We ran into some construction traffic today that was just mind-boggling. I have road rage, so I'm not a good passenger.

Grant: (laughs)

Bartges: And I was reading on the way over, so Laura was driving (unintelligible).

Grant: Now is this your tape recorder right there?

Bartges: Yes. Get that, get all my little doodads.

(End of Interview)