Linda E. Markin '77
Dartmouth College Oral History Program
Dartmouth Community and Dartmouth's World
April 25, 2013

DONIN: Today is Thursday, April 25, 2013. My name is Mary Donin. I'm in Hardwick, Vermont, at the home of Linda Markin, Dartmouth Class of 1977.

Okay, Linda, first of all, can you tell us how you ended up at Dartmouth, whether you got guidance from your high school guidance counselor or you were—I think you were a legacy. Is that right?

MARKIN: I'm a legacy. I was a legacy.

DONIN: So was it assumed, as you were growing up, that Dartmouth was your place—

MARKIN: No.

DONIN: —even though, obviously, they weren't taking women while you were growing up.

MARKIN: No, not at all. Not at all. I never had any pressure from my parents to make any particular choice of school. At the time, in high school, I did have a boyfriend, and he was going to—he was a year older than me. He was going to Case Western Reserve in Ohio, so Oberlin was my first choice. I wanted to go to what I thought of as a better school. I wanted to be close to him but not *that* close.

DONIN: [Chuckles.]

MARKIN: And so that was my first choice school. And I went there for an interview in my little—I had a little suit—you know, skirt and matching jacket, and I was very kind of Dartmouth looking: corporate Dartmouth looking, not Oberlin looking.

DONIN: Right.

MARKIN: And I was rejected there. I did not get in to Oberlin.

DONIN: Really!

MARKIN: Yes. And I don't remember if it was right then—it must have been right then and there that the interviewer said to me, "Where else are you applying?" And I told him where else. And he said to me, "I think you'd probably be better off at Dartmouth than here."

DONIN: Really? I didn't know they did that!

MARKIN: Yeah. Yeah. And I think—at the time, I didn't have any context for it, but I think Oberlin is a very liberal school with a lot of artists and creative people, and he didn't see me that way.

DONIN: Right.

MARKIN: And, you know, he didn't think it was going to be a good fit,—

DONIN: Right.

MARKIN: —which I think is very interesting. Now that I have perspective on it.

DONIN: Right.

MARKIN: And it was the best that—I mean, the relationship with the boyfriend ended very quickly, and there was really—you make all kinds of decisions at 18 that are not very informed, intelligent, and I'm glad that one was taken out of my hands.

DONIN: Yeah.

MARKIN: My next choice was Brown, and I was wait-listed there. My mother was a Smithie, and my dad was Dartmouth. I applied to both schools, got in to both, and also to Middlebury and to—my back-up school was SUNY-Albany. So I had those to choose from. And I knew at the time that I didn't want to be at the all-women's school, so Smith I knocked out, SUNY-Albany I knocked out, and it really came down to Middlebury and Dartmouth. And I made the decision based on the size of the library, the resources available, basically, which I think was a smart decision,—

DONIN: Yeah.

MARKIN: —a smart decision.

DONIN: Yeah. It's a lot smarter than some—the way people make choices about where to go.

MARKIN: [Laughs.] And I thought being in the second class of women would be exciting.

DONIN: Yeah.

MARKIN: I never imagined what I was actually going to find there.

DONIN: You'd be a pioneer.

MARKIN: Yeah, in a very difficult way.

DONIN: Yeah.

MARKIN: In a very difficult way.

DONIN: What did your dad make of Dartmouth going co-ed, taking women?

MARKIN: Well, my parents had two daughters so, no sons, and I never felt that my dad *wanted* a son. You know, it wasn't important to him to have a son. He was thrilled I was going to Dartmouth.

DONIN: Great.

MARKIN: He was thrilled that I was going. He wasn't so thrilled that I ended up coming out—

DONIN: While you were there?

MARKIN: —halfway through. And he blamed Dartmouth for that.

DONIN: What?!

MARKIN: Yeah.

DONIN: How?

MARKIN: Well, it was a very polarizing place. The men were very nasty.

DONIN: Oh, the men behaved so badly that you just decided—

MARKIN: So badly.

DONIN: —yeah. [Chuckles.]

MARKIN: Yes.

DONIN: That's really simplistic.

MARKIN: It is very simplistic, yes, but not crazy.

DONIN: No.

MARKIN: I mean, it was the height of the women's rights movement. Much of feminism at that time *was* about rejection of men and patriarchy, and so there *was* some of that going on in my head as well. A woman without a man is like a fish without a bicycle!

DONIN: But one can look at that as sort of pure survival in this sort of male-dominated world that you were in.

MARKIN: Yes.

DONIN: Led by the likes of Marysa Navarro. [Laughter.]

MARKIN: Yeah! [Laughs.]

DONIN: So let's back up.

MARKIN: Yes.

DONIN: So had you—you had visited there before you applied 'cause your dad was going back?

MARKIN: A few times, yeah. It must have—yeah. I'm sure. You know, I don't remember any particular instances, but I think we must have been up for a reunion or a football game or something. And I love the campus. I'm a camper. I went to camp as a

kid, YWCA camp, so the mountains and the waterways - outdoor activities were important to me.

DONIN: That was good.

MARKIN: So Middlebury and Dartmouth, either one— I could ski from either place.

DONIN: Right, right. What about the rural location? I mean, I don't know where you grew—where'd you grow up?

MARKIN: I grew up in a suburb of Rochester, New York.

DONIN: Oh, yeah,

MARKIN: It was called Brighton.

DONIN: So you didn't find Dartmouth particularly remote, or it didn't bother you.

MARKIN: It never occurred to me that it was remote. When I left Brighton, I had been driving for a couple of years, but my world was pretty small, so the fact that I lived in a very big city didn't really penetrate.

DONIN: Right, right.

MARKIN: I really lived in a small community – framed by my school, my synagogue and my friendship circle. I didn't know much about the broader city.

DONIN: Suburb. Right, right.

DONIN: Did you know anybody else going to Dartmouth?

MARKIN: I knew that there were people from my school who were there, but I did not know them personally. Brighton High School was not a small school. I think there were four or five hundred in my class, so—no, it was pretty big.

DONIN: So what did you find when you arrived there? I mean, like, what dorm were you assigned to?

MARKIN: Well, I'll tell you what I looked like when I arrived there. Once I decided to go to Dartmouth, I put on green sneakers.

DONIN: [Chuckles.]

MARKIN: I wore a green hat. You know, I was gung-ho. I was so—

DONIN: Green blood. [Chuckles.]

MARKIN: —excited. I was just into it! Okay?

DONIN: Yeah.

MARKIN: So I arrived on campus in time for the fall trip, in my green sneakers and—rah, rah, Dartmouth. The dorm I was assigned to was New Hampshire Hall, fourth floor, and I had two other roommates. And you were asking what did I find when I got there?

DONIN: Yeah, not literally, but, I mean, how was it when you got there?

MARKIN: Yes. Well, I thought New Hampshire Hall was great. I didn't have any reason not to like the dorm, and I was fine with the triple.

DONIN: At that point, was it floor by floor gender divided, or was it just all mixed up?

MARKIN: It definitely was not all mixed up. I think there was a central staircase and a wing—

DONIN: Oh, I see.

MARKIN: —on the fourth floor that was all women.

DONIN: Just women. Okay.

MARKIN: And the other side might have been all men.

DONIN: Just men. Okay.

MARKIN: I think that's what it was. It was, like, the end closest to the Hop was all women, all floors down.

DONIN: I see.

MARKIN: And the other wing was all men.

DONIN: Right. Okay. And did the roommates work out?

MARKIN: One of them is still one of my closest friends.

DONIN: Great.

MARKIN: The other one, we picked on, and I feel badly to this day about—but we had a nice interaction at a reunion recently, and I think she's forgiven me. [Laughter.]

DONIN: And did you feel prepared academically? Were the academics okay?

MARKIN: Yes. Yes. I was not valedictorian, salutatorian level at Brighton, but I was probably in the top 5 percent of the class, and it was a good school. I took AP classes, and I worked in high school. I wasn't so bright that I could just appear in the class and do great. So I studied and worked, but not *that* hard. I didn't have the best skills because I didn't need to have them, and I wasn't motivated to be an A^+ student. A's and B's were fine with me.

DONIN: Right, right.

MARKIN: When I arrived at Dartmouth, I was amazed to meet so many high-powered, *really* intelligent people, people that really blew my socks off. And I knew that I was not gonna be in the top 5 percent, but I was pretty sure that I could be in the top quarter. And I think I did do that. You know, there's the summa, the magna—

DONIN: Magna, summa and there's another one.

MARKIN: The third one—I was at the third level at Dartmouth. And that's with not always motivating—you know, not doing my best work.

In fact, I'd like to tell you a story about Marysa Navarro, since you've talked with her. I took a class from her, and I took it

because of who she was, not so much that I was interested in the course work. In fact, I don't remember what the course was now. And in the class I just wasn't that excited about the material, and a paper was due. I wrote a paper, and I turned it in, and she gave me a D.

DONIN: Ooh!

MARKIN: I'd never, ever received a D from anybody before. And I went in to talk to her and cried, not because—you know, I wasn't one of those kids who thought, *Oh, God, I can't have a D on my report card*. I knew that I had disappointed her. That's what was killing me. And I asked to do it over again. And she said, "Well, you know, the top—you're not gonna get an A, no matter what, but, yes, you can do it over." And I still wasn't that motivated by the class or the coursework, but I did push myself to do a better job, I think I came away with a B^{-} and felt like that was okay.

DONIN: Yeah. Yeah.

MARKIN: [Laughs.] But that—The teachers that I remember in my life are the ones that didn't let me get away with stuff.

DONIN: Right. Challenged you.

MARKIN: And she was one of those.

DONIN: Yeah. So in general, how was the classroom experience? I mean, did you sense ever that there were professors who were still having issues with women being in the classes? I mean, mind you, you got there, what, a year after—

MARKIN: Yes.

DONIN: You were the second class.

MARKIN: Second class.

DONIN: So did you experience any sort of hostility?

MARKIN: Not from faculty. No, I didn't. I don't remember a lot from my freshman and sophomore years. By the time I got towards the end of my sophomore year, I had found the philosophy

department, philosophy and sociology departments, and the women faculty. And so I did a lot of work with Victor Menza in philosophy. Have you heard his name?

DONIN: Nn-nn.

MARKIN: He's no longer there. And there's an interesting story that might be worth your looking into about him being tossed out of the college. Actually, I think there was an attempt to commit him for mental illness, and I don't think that was going on at all. But he was an outrageous teacher, and I took every class I could with him. He challenged all my most closely held beliefs and made me really think.

DONIN: Oh, great.

MARKIN: I also worked with—oh, gee! I'll remember the names. They'll come to me. Sheryl Denbo in the sociology department, no longer there. And there's a woman whose name is escaping me right now, but she's a dean at Hampshire College now, and she did huge work in [the] reproductive rights movement.

DONIN: At Hampshire.

MARKIN: Yeah. It'll come to me.

DONIN: It'll come to you.

MARKIN: It'll come to me.

DONIN: We can fill those in. It'll come to you at three o'clock in the morning.

MARKIN: [Chuckles.] Yes. I actually looked her up recently and put her address in my book, so—Marlene, Marlene Fried, Marlene Gerber Fried—

DONIN: Oh, cool. Great.

MARKIN: —who was really brilliant and such a strong feminist. So I just—I gravitated to the teachers who were there for me, and I didn't have bad experiences with faculty.

DONIN: When you say they were there for you, was that in more of a sense than just being a—were they mentoring you as well as teaching you? I mean, did you—

MARKIN: Yes, I felt that they were friends. I don't know that they were mentoring per se, but we were conversing. You know, we had conversations about the classwork but beyond that, too, about the world and what was happening. They were people I just really respected and appreciated.

DONIN: Well, I should think that women undergrads during those early years needed all the support they could get.

MARKIN: Yes, that's true.

DONIN: In that sea of men.

MARKIN: Yes.

DONIN: Not all of them welcoming, to be sure.

MARKIN: Yes.

DONIN: So let's talk about that. Did you experience, yourself, personally any sort of aggressive or unfriendly behavior from the students, the male students?

MARKIN: It was all around me all the time. I did my best to remove myself from the situations where that might happen. By sophomore year, I was living off campus.

DONIN: Really! Your second year.

MARKIN: Second year, yeah. As soon as I could. I wanted out of the dorm situation. And I interacted with very few people at Dartmouth.

DONIN: Had you found already freshman year a group of women that you could live with, that you went off campus with?

MARKIN: No. Actually, at that time what happened—well, I was involved with a guy, and I took my roommate with me, Jan, who had been my freshman roommate—I didn't really want to live with him if she didn't come along, too. [Pause] If I'd

been paying attention, there was a lot I might have learned there, but—[Laughs.] I didn't put it all together at the time. So the three of us lived together off campus sophomore year. And that year, I think I met more women that I was interested in being friendly with. One of my close friends from freshman year, though, was Susan Dentzer—

DONIN: Oh, Susan!

MARKIN: —who lived in New Hampshire Hall on the second or third floor. Can't remember which. But one of 'em.

DONIN: Oh, that's great.

MARKIN: And she's one of those that—you know, I just said, *Oh, wow!* She—I mean, that intelligence just blew my socks off.

DONIN: So how would you describe who your community was ultimately that first year, when you were living on campus? How did you find them? Was it through classes or—

MARKIN: Mostly it was the dorm.

DONIN: Dorm stuff?

MARKIN: Yeah, mostly it was dorm mates. Susan and I became good friends. She took me home over one holiday freshman year, made me a dress. [Laughs.]

DONIN: Amazing! That's great.

MARKIN: Yeah, because I wasn't into dresses.

DONIN: Yeah.

MARKIN: And I didn't have anything for the party that she was putting on.

DONIN: [Laughs.]

MARKIN: And so she said, "I'll make you one."

DONIN: Multi-talented.

MARKIN: And she did.

DONIN: [Laughter.] Good for her.

MARKIN: Yeah. That was amazing.

DONIN: Now, were you involved in sort of extracurriculars? I mean, were you athletic or musical? Wha'd you do outside of the classroom?

MARKIN: I was athletic, but I did not participate in sports. I'm five foot one and not very fast. I'm coordinated, but I was never capable, even at a high school level, of playing anything other than intramural sport. So what did I do? Well, I did study quite a bit, but I hiked, I skied. I fulfilled my swimming requirement and I remember taking a karate class. Came away from that with black and blue forearms.

DONIN: So you really embraced the outdoors.

MARKIN: Yeah.

DONIN: Did you join the Outing Club or anything like that?

MARKIN: No clubs. Like I say, I removed myself from as much of Dartmouth as I could.

DONIN: Why?

MARKIN: 'Cause it felt dangerous and unwelcoming. Maybe if I had been braver, I would have ventured into things, but I saw an environment that was not welcoming and said, *How can I survive here? And what do I need to be happy?* I had a core group of friends, and the schoolwork and the great outdoors, and that was enough.

DONIN: You're not the first who's said the way—this was a guy, actually, a Native American guy. He said, "The way I survived was basically, after my first freshman term, I never went back to campus except to go to class."

MARKIN: Uh-huh.

DONIN: That's very sad.

MARKIN: Yeah. In a lot of ways, it's very sad.

DONIN: So you were able to find a community, though, that supported you.

MARKIN: A small group of people, and it grew over the four years that I was there, and I still have a group of four or five friends that—we would go anywhere to be— and we have— to be together and to take care of each other.

DONIN: So there was no temptation to do any of the sort of traditional social stuff on campus.

MARKIN: You know, I wasn't a big joiner in high school, either. I participated in a few activities. I was on the student council government, but I didn't play organized sports in high school. I did do intramural sports there. And I remember throwing a ball with a friend on the Green at Dartmouth. So I just—we just kind of were friends and spent time together. And, of course, there was a lot of talking, a lot of conversation with people that took up a lot of time. And once I was living off campus, there was shopping for groceries and making a life happen, taking care of ourselves and the politics of living in a— We lived, at some point, I think for at least two or three terms, at 64 Lebanon Street.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

MARKIN: We used to call it 64 Lesbian Street. [Laughter.]

DONIN: I know exactly where—

MARKIN: You know where that is.

DONIN: Yes, yes.

MARKIN: Yes, and I think there were four or five women living there at the time, so there was negotiating who had what space in the refrigerator, whether we were gonna cook together or not and who was going to clean and all those kinds of things to work out.

DONIN: And this self-discovery you were going through in terms of your sexuality—you found support for that among your group of friends.

MARKIN: Well, that's an interesting story, too. It's hard for—the chronology isn't totally there for me any longer, but self-discovery was for me a combination of things – some parts intellectual other parts emotional and physical. There was the coursework that I was studying. With Victor I was focusing on Marx and Freud, and so there was a lot of politics, psychology and sexuality, a central idea in Freud. With Marlene and with Sheryl in sociology, I was reading about feminism and about the civil rights movement. There was my own burgeoning sexual awareness, a few experiences with men that were—that I did not feel good about. Nothing that approached rape, for *me*, but just that didn't make me feel good about myself. And some strong attractions – emotional and physical to women. You know, it's still hard for me to really pinpoint what was key, what part of it was my nature, what part was the era, and what part of it was just being young. It's very hard to tease apart.

And so there was all that happening, and I believe it was my junior year—and I'd love to know who it was—who brought Maya Angelou, Adrienne Rich and Mary Daly to Dartmouth to speak.

DONIN: Wow.

MARKIN: And that was really key for me, because I was thinking about— *Why am I so attracted to this woman?* And then I had Adrienne Rich talking about lesbian feminism and Mary Daly talking about separatism right on campus. And so for me, it was really a combination of physical, personal changes and the intellectual and political coming together at the same time. So, you know, in some ways, I think my father was right. [Laughs.]

DONIN: Well, I mean, it's not just Dartmouth, though.

MARKIN: No, it could have happened anywhere. It could have happened anywhere, and it probably would have happened anywhere.

DONIN: Right. Well, of course.

MARKIN: Yes.

DONIN: It was bound to happen.

MARKIN: It was bound—yes.

DONIN: And there was probably some extra—some of these outside sources that you were exposed to helped you on your—

MARKIN: On my journey.

DONIN: —journey of discovering this.

MARKIN: Yes. I have a friend who is a year older than me, I believe, who went to Middlebury and came out as a lesbian ten or twelve years after she left Middlebury. She married her best friend from the college and had a couple of kids.

DONIN: Oh, yeah. Lots of those stories around.

MARKIN: And struggled with, *This doesn't feel right*.

DONIN: Well, it's like John Crane.

MARKIN: Right. But I had a conversation with her once about, "What would my life—would my life have looked more like yours if I'd gone to Middlebury?"

DONIN: [Chuckles.] Ooh.

MARKIN: You see what—

DONIN: Wha'd she think?

MARKIN: She never expressed an opinion about it one way or the other. But I think it might have. With less of the gender conflict.

DONIN: Well, there were some pretty powerful women at Dartmouth at that time.

MARKIN: Yes.

DONIN: And there was, I think, a group that Marysa was talking about called the Women's Caucus, you know?

MARKIN: Mm-hm.

DONIN: The women faculty were beginning, of course, to try—well, there were all sorts of efforts to not only increase their pay scales and also to increase the curricular offerings—

MARKIN: Mm-hm.

DONIN: I mean, that was the beginning of women's studies. I don't think that that actually got off the ground until about 1977 or '78, when you graduated.

MARKIN: Yes.

DONIN: But there was an amazing group of—

MARKIN: There certainly was.

DONIN: Brenda Silver.

MARKIN: Brenda Silver.

DONIN: Marysa, Mary Kelley.

MARKIN: Yeah.

DONIN: There was a whole—

MARKIN: And the two that I—

DONIN: And the two women that you—

MARKIN: Yes. I don't think Sheryl stayed much longer after I did, but I think Marlene was there for a few more years.

DONIN: Yeah, it was a fertile group of women there in terms of launching a lot more academic—

MARKIN: Yes.

DONIN: —as well as social support for the faculty and for the whole female population there.

MARKIN: Yes.

DONIN: So it's no surprise. It was—

MARKIN: Yeah.

DONIN: So maybe your father was right.

MARKIN: [Laughs.]

DONIN: We've come full circle. [Laughs.]

MARKIN: Yes. [Laughter.]

DONIN: That's great.

So what did you see going on around you in terms of your female classmates, how they were managing this super-masculine atmosphere at the college? I mean, did a lot of them leave campus like you, or did they have other ways of escaping or dealing with it?

MARKIN: Well, my friend Susan was seeing a fraternity brother, so she was engaged in—

DONIN: She was right in the middle of it.

MARKIN: She was right in the middle of it, and she's one that—you know, I don't want to tell her story, but I *heard* stories *from* her that just horrified me—shocked me, horrified me and did not make me want to go anywhere near fraternities. I never set foot in one except once, to rescue another friend who said, "I've had too much to drink, and this guy will not get off me, and I need some help." I was living on Lebanon Street and we had a phone there. I happened to be home that night when she called and as I ran out I grabbed a kitchen knife.

DONIN: Is that right?

MARKIN: Yup. And I still had that—I mean, I was little compared to this big man.

DONIN: Yes.

MARKIN: And I really had to bully him and threaten to use the knife to get him to release her.

DONIN: Unbelievable.

MARKIN: Yeah.

DONIN: Well, there are unfortunately too many of those stories from those days,—

MARKIN: Yes. Yes.

DONIN: —you know, women feeling that if they didn't engage *there* in those basements, there were no alternatives.

MARKIN: Yes, there were no alternatives, so I made my own, you know, in a living room at 64 Lebanon Street. And I lived—I lived even much further out later on: Enfield, Canaan area. Yeah.

DONIN: Wow, that's really distancing yourself.

MARKIN: It was, yep.

DONIN: So you really were totally removed—I mean, you've said this already—totally removed from the—I mean, other than attending classes, you were gone.

MARKIN: Mostly I was gone.

DONIN: If you weren't in the library, I suppose.

MARKIN: And I spent a lot of time in Stanford Library, one of my favorite places.

DONIN: Sanborn.

MARKIN: Sorry, Sanborn, yes, Sanborn Library. [Laughs.] And I worked there, too.

DONIN: Oh, did you?

MARKIN: I served tea and cookies.

DONIN: You did the tea service!

MARKIN: I did the tea service. I loved it. What a great job!

DONIN: They're still doing it.

MARKIN: Yeah. I loved it.

DONIN: And that must have been—I mean, that was very much a self-selected group that was hanging out in Sanborn.

MARKIN: Yeah.

DONIN: To be sure.

MARKIN: Yeah. I didn't do a lot of socializing there, but I loved hanging out there. And I studied. I studied, and I worked. Yeah.

DONIN: Right. Yeah, that's a pretty good job.

MARKIN: I did have two good male friends, one that I've tried to keep in touch with, but he's lived in Trinidad for years, and we haven't connected very much, and the other was George Jepsen, who I have not been in contact with in years but—

DONIN: Why do I know that name?

MARKIN: He's a legislator from Connecticut, I think. State level.

DONIN: Oh. Yeah.

MARKIN: But very accomplished politically. You know, he did great things with his life.

DONIN: So he didn't fall into the—

MARKIN: He was a *good* guy. He was a good guy. And Todd Gulick was the other guy who ended up in Trinidad. They were just—they were nice men who were good friends.

DONIN: Well, one has to assume that there was a certain percentage of the men who were perfectly decent human beings.

MARKIN: Of course! But I think what I saw more than anything was that—I don't remember particular instances, but I saw men behaving badly, and I saw other men letting them.

DONIN: Right, right.

MARKIN: And that's—you know, letting them was just about as bad.

DONIN: Yeah, absolutely.

MARKIN: Standing back and watching it happen. And I think guys like George and Todd would not have let that happen. If they had seen that misbehavior, they would have stepped in and stopped it.

DONIN: So how 'bout in the classroom? I mean, did you feel that there was an attitude—the men were sort of—I'm talking about the students this time—was there a gender difference for who was speaking up in class and who had the last word in class in terms of discussion?

MARKIN: Not that I remember. You can probably tell that I—

DONIN: Well, look—

MARKIN: I'm an extrovert and fairly confident, so I was never intimidated. I never felt shut out. If I had had a teacher who directed all his questions to men or asked *me* for the women's point of view, that would have been a problem for me, but I didn't have those experiences. So I never felt like I couldn't participate. I remember mostly being in seminars, very small classes.

DONIN: Oh, great.

MARKIN: That's what I gravitated to after freshman year, and so I had plenty of opportunity to participate and did participate a lot.

DONIN: Do you have any memories of John Kemeny? I mean, did you interact with him at all?

MARKIN: I was kind of a Luddite at Dartmouth.

DONIN: [Chuckles.] A Luddite!

MARKIN: I was kind of anti-technology, anti-computer—[Laughter.] I mean, I'm embarrassed about it now because I love technology, I love computers, I'm a gadget hound, but that's who I was then. So, Kiewit? Never went there. Oh, actually, I think I went once. There was some program that somebody had written that was an attempt at an interactive program in psychology. I think it was kind of like a dating program. I don't really remember. But you answered a few questions, and then it talked to *you*. It was kind of weak, though, very weak. I mean computing at that point was not very sophisticated.

DONIN: Very clunky. It was very clunky.

MARKIN: It was very clunky. BASIC was the language, and I learned something about BASIC after I left college, but nothing on campus. I was impressed with Kemeny, that he brought coeducation, that he made that change. I don't think that—At the time, I felt like they didn't do *enough* to prepare for women. There were still urinals in various women's bathrooms, you know, that just didn't make you feel like you were really welcome. And then to be literally told you're not welcome —it would have been one thing—if the infrastructure had not been changed and the people were all for us, we would have been forgiving, but to have all of it happen at the same time—the discrimination, the bad treatment *and* the infrastructure not being there—it just did not feel like a welcoming place.

DONIN: And some of it came from the administration.

MARKIN: Yes.

DONIN: You were there when the dean of the college was—

MARKIN: Did the Hums thing?

DONIN: Yeah, Carroll Brewster.

MARKIN: Yeah. I just—when I read, in one of your transcripts, about *You Laugh*. I was off campus when that happened. Not that I would have participated, and I've done some thinking in the past couple of weeks, after talking with you, about why I would not have participated. Because politically I would have been right there. I don't know if it was my—I never thought of myself as not being a courageous person, but looking back on it, I think those women who made *You Laugh* were very courageous, moreso than I was, and also I think I would have dismissed Hums as "you can't change them," which was a mistake, too.

So I came to visit you last week.

DONIN: Oh, where was I?

MARKIN: Out.

DONIN: Aw!

MARKIN: I didn't know—I had a meeting in White River Junction.

DONIN: Oh, yeah!

MARKIN: For work. It was a board meeting, and I finished at 1:30, and I told my executive director that I was going to take the rest of the day off. And I went to Dartmouth, and I went to Rauner Library and asked if you were around, and was told no. And I said, "Well, she wasn't expecting me. I didn't call in advance." I wasn't sure I could meet with you, but I went mostly to see the video of *You Laugh*, because I'd never seen it.

DONIN: Did you see it?

MARKIN: Yes.

DONIN: Great.

MARKIN: I did.

DONIN: Oh, great.

MARKIN: Have you seen it?

DONIN: I saw it about ten years ago, when I first started—

MARKIN: The quality of the video is—

DONIN: Oh, it's terrible.

MARKIN: Terrible. But the audio is pretty good. The audio is not bad.

DONIN: Yeah, it was okay.

MARKIN: Yeah. Well, it's not like this [Points to recording equipment].

DONIN: We're so spoiled now.

MARKIN: But it wasn't bad. And I even recognized Liz Epstein.

DONIN: Yes, Liz Epstein.

MARKIN: Yeah. Who was not a close friend but an acquaintance.

DONIN: Yeah, yeah.

MARKIN: And, you know, I could make her out, just the shape of the body more than anything.

DONIN: In fact, she's giving to the archives the original script,—

MARKIN: Oh, wonderful!

DONIN: —which is fantastic.

MARKIN: Wonderful. And I don't think that the video caught the *whole* performance.

DONIN: It probably didn't, no.

MARKIN: It ended in the middle of a dance routine, and I thought, *There must be more*. But there was plenty there, and I'd had enough, honestly, by the time [laughs] it crapped out anyway. But it brought back so much. It just brought back so much.

DONIN: Was there a sense on campus among the women that you were sort of together in pain and together in fear—

MARKIN: Yeah.

DONIN: —and sort of watching out for each other?

MARKIN: Yeah, very much so. But not a wide group. And I've run into women since Dartmouth, who were there, but they deny that there was horrible stuff happening, who—

DONIN: I've interviewed some of them.

MARKIN: —who were so into Dartmouth and—I mean, I think there *were* other ways to find a good community that were not as separatist as my way. Joining sports teams was one, although the Yale women's crew, the Red Rose crew—do you know that story?

DONIN: No.

MARKIN: Oh, you've got to get *that* film! Get *Red Rose Crew*—

DONIN: All right.

MARKIN: Yeah, you've got it there.

DONIN: I've got it, yeah.

MARKIN: Yeah, you've got enough to write it down. Yeah, the Red Rose crew happened at the same time—you know, Title IX—

DONIN: Yep.

MARKIN: —was huge for women in sports, and crew was a big way of getting women involved in sport. However, the schools were not interested in throwing a lot of money at the women's sports, still. You know, they had to get the women in, but they got the worst of everything, and I'm sure it was the same at Dartmouth as it was at Yale, but the women had to use the boats at three o'clock in the morning or four o'clock in the morning, something like that, instead of at seven o'clock in the morning. They had horrible locker room facilities.

DONIN: Oh, terrible. And their uniforms were just—

MARKIN: On and on and on.

DONIN: Yeah, bad.

MARKIN: And the women on the team were going frequently to the administration to ask for better conditions, and—oh, just on and on and on, getting nowhere. They finally decided to invite the press—

DONIN: [Chuckles softly.]

MARKIN: —to a protest, and they entered some room—a dean, the president, the coach—I don't know—I can't remember which—with their shirts off, no underwear, with something written across their chests, and made their requests and their grievances known. And they got their way.

DONIN: [Chuckles.] That's great.

MARKIN: And that story, [laughs] that—yes.

DONIN: That's a great story. [Laughs.]

MARKIN: Great story, yeah.

DONIN: As you said, there were some incredible—

MARKIN: Incredibly brave women.

DONIN: Yeah.

MARKIN: Yes, incredibly brave women.

DONIN: So it's fair to say that you were transformed by your four years at Dartmouth, not necessarily all because of good influences, but you were transformed.

MARKIN: Absolutely, absolutely. Yeah.

DONIN: And, again, we've established it could have happened anywhere, at any of these schools—

MARKIN: Yeah.

DONIN: —that were going through this transition to having women on board, but there were actually so few of you, still.

MARKIN: Yes.

DONIN: What? Four hundred, five hundred?

MARKIN: The ratio was one to eight, I believe. Not the whole time I was there, but I think my freshman year.

DONIN: 'Cause it took them until—

MARKIN: It might have been my senior year that it was one to eight. Maybe it was even worse before. I don't remember the specifics. It took me years afterwards to drive into Hanover without feeling anxiety. I've lived in Vermont ever since.

DONIN: So once you left Dartmouth, you stayed in—

MARKIN: I stayed in the area.

DONIN: Oh, yeah. That's cool.

MARKIN: Yeah. Well, by that time—you know those speakers that I mentioned?

DONIN: Yes. Right.

MARKIN: The lesbians in Vermont came out of the woodwork.

DONIN: Oh, I bet they did!

MARKIN: To *be* there! [Laughs.]

DONIN: And that was an eye opener there.

MARKIN: And I looked around, and I said, *Oh, wow, I'm <u>not</u> the only one!* [Laughs.]

DONIN: That's great.

MARKIN: You know, after those speeches, women from the community went out to have drinks with the speakers, and I tagged along. I wanted those phone numbers. And I made connections with women in the community, and so I had a group of slightly older women than me—

DONIN: Sure. Talk about an instant community.

MARKIN: Instant community, yes, in Vermont and New Hampshire, who welcomed me. Yeah. Bright kid, young. I was cute. [Laughs.]

DONIN: Yeah. Had you not identified any friends at Dartmouth who were also lesbians, at that point?

MARKIN: I don't think so.

DONIN: Wow.

MARKIN: Yeah.

DONIN: I mean, surely they were there, but they just hadn't self-identified.

MARKIN: Yes. Or we were just all in hiding.

DONIN: Wow. Was that lonely for you?

MARKIN: [Does not immediately reply.] [Laughs.] I…I made fr- —I turned some of my friends into my lovers, yes. And I don't want to—I shouldn't put it that way. It's not—I guess I recognized they were ready for that, too. But that's what happened.

DONIN: Well, you found your community.

MARKIN: I found my community, yes.

DONIN: Yeah, yeah.

MARKIN: And we were talking together, exploring and discovering at the same time, yes.

DONIN: Well, I mean, that's the age.

MARKIN: Yes.

DONIN: That's the age.

MARKIN: Yes.

DONIN: So it was bound to happen, whether it was you or somebody else.

MARKIN: Yes. I believe that.

DONIN: 'Cause it's so interesting, the stories that we're hearing about people saying, "It was not a problem for me at Dartmouth." These were people in the '50s saying, "No, it wasn't a problem for me. They're there. They're there."

MARKIN: The gay people were there.

DONIN: Yeah.

MARKIN: Yeah, the men talking about—yeah.

DONIN: Exactly.

MARKIN: And they found each other.

DONIN: They found each other.

MARKIN: It's amazing to me, really, that that happened. I remember once going back—it was for a reunion of some sort. I think the first reunion that I went to was the coeducation celebration?

DONIN: Oh, the 25th?

MARKIN: The—

DONIN: Or maybe—no, 25th was—no, that would have been just before your 25th class reunion.

MARKIN: Yeah.

DONIN: Or maybe it was the 35th? There was also a 15.

MARKIN: I think it was that one.

DONIN: Okay.

MARKIN: It might have been that one. The first reunion I ever went to was about coeducation; it was not for my class.

DONIN: Oh, okay.

MARKIN: I didn't have any interest in going to my class reunion, and I wanted—I was ready to talk about how painful it had been, and I wanted to talk with women of a variety of ages, and I wanted to hear about how it was different. And I remember walking into the Hop—what did they call it?—downstairs, where all the mailboxes are.

DONIN: Hinman?

MARKIN: Hinman. I walked into Hinman, and I saw all these rainbow stickers—

DONIN: Ohhh!

MARKIN: —on the mailboxes, and I started to cry.

DONIN: I bet you did, yeah. Amazing. Talk about progress!

MARKIN: I said, *That can't all be gay kids. They <u>can't</u> all be gay kids.* I mean, it was, like, you know, half had these stickers. And I was just blown away.

DONIN: Yeah, yeah.

MARKIN: And I asked, I just asked one of the kids going by. I said, "What's with the rainbow stickers?" And she said, "We're just people expressing being allies."

DONIN: Yeah, yeah. Right.

MARKIN: That was just un- —just—

DONIN: You didn't even need to be there anymore. You got what you were looking for.

MARKIN: Yeah, that's right. That was what I came for.

DONIN: That's great. But 15th. That would have been '72 to '87. That could be right. Seventy-two—

MARKIN: Yeah.

DONIN: Eighty-seven. Jim Freedman was president. That was his first year when he was president,—

MARKIN: Yeah.

DONIN: —when McLaughlin left.

MARKIN: Yes. Yes, that was—

DONIN: And Mary Kelley did a speech—yeah, that was probably it.

MARKIN: Yeah.

DONIN: Was that the first time you returned to the college?

MARKIN: It wasn't the first time that I went back to the campus, but it was the first time that I went for anything official. I had gone—because—well, let's see, 19-—Marie and I joined our lives together in 1979, so that was just two years after I left college.

DONIN: Fantastic!

MARKIN: Yeah.

DONIN: Lucky you! Was it here in Vermont?

MARKIN: Yeah. [Laughter.]

DONIN: That's great.

MARKIN: She was an artist, and when I told her I had gone to Dartmouth, she said, "I want to go to the Hood Museum." So

we would go down for the Hood. But every time I would drive into town, my heart would start pounding,—

DONIN: Ohh!

MARKIN: —and I'd have that anxious feeling. It probably took ten years for me to get over *that* feeling of just—

DONIN: Was it not belonging?

MARKIN: Oh, yeah. Not belonging, bad memories—

DONIN: Afraid.

MARKIN: Afraid? Not anything as clear as that, honestly. You know, it was just anxiety because—[sighs] because there had been so much anxiety. I think it was just physical memory more than anything.

DONIN: Right, right.

MARKIN: Mm-hm.

DONIN: But you belonged on so many levels. I mean, you were a good student.

MARKIN: Mm-hm.

DONIN: You were an outdoorsy person. But one aspect of your life can make you feel that you *don't* belong.

MARKIN: It's a huge aspect.

DONIN: Of course.

MARKIN: It's a huge aspect, in social—you know? In your college years, to feel like you don't fit in with the kids. [Laughs.]

DONIN: Right, right.

MARKIN: It was huge.

DONIN: Yeah. So this 15th anniversary of coeducation was the first time you could go back and feel like, *Okay, I belong here.*

MARKIN: Yeah. And I loved it. It was a great reunion, and I don't remember if the next one was a class reunion. I don't think it was. I think the next one was an all-class queer reunion. That's what they called it.

DONIN: Awesome.

MARKIN: Yeah.

DONIN: Really!

MARKIN: Yeah.

DONIN: Well, had the DGALA started yet?

MARKIN: It must have. It was two thousand something—I just reconnected with DGALA about the history, and Pete Williams told me 2002 was the first all queer reunion. I was not there in 2002 for that one. I went in 2004.

DONIN: Cool.

MARKIN: And I loved it. I just loved being there with multi-generational—

DONIN: Absolutely.

MARKIN: And hearing the different stories, and then I went back for another reunion as well. That's when I met that Thomas—

DONIN: Thomas Song?

MARKIN: Just blew me away.

DONIN: I can't wait.

MARKIN: Yeah, that's going to be a good interview for you.

DONIN: Yeah. And also it sort of—these reunions must sort of validate your whole life!

MARKIN: They totally, totally.

DONIN: And being with these people and having the college actually show up—

MARKIN: The banner!

DONIN: Yeah!

MARKIN: You know, a huge banner that says, “Welcome to GLBT students”—aye yai—I mean, alumni. Aye yai, it was just breathtaking. Breathtaking.

DONIN: Too bad it took thirty years.

MARKIN: Yes. And then to hear what’s going on right now—

DONIN: Oh, I know.

MARKIN: I’m so sad about it, so sad.

DONIN: Some of it’s, though—you know that whole thing about the 18-year-olds.

MARKIN: Yeah.

DONIN: Their brains are still not func-—their reasoning powers are not fully developed.

MARKIN: That’s clear.

DONIN: And I’m not making excuses, but as the mother of three teenagers, they’re just jerks sometimes.

MARKIN: Yeah, yeah.

DONIN: And it can have terrible repercussions, especially when you’re in these rather closed environments the way a small college community is.

MARKIN: Yes.

DONIN: And it’s very painful. You know, they canceled classes yesterday.

MARKIN: I know. I saw that. Yeah.

DONIN: It's very painful.

MARKIN: Yeah.

DONIN: Very painful. But, you know, some of it is just—sometimes I think the college tries too hard to respond appropriately these days, and they're actually reading more into it than sometimes there is. Sometimes it's just bad behavior—

MARKIN: Yeah.

DONIN: —that's obviously unacceptable, but they're not going to—I don't think these sort of Band Aid efforts they do to fix it are gonna change the culture.

MARKIN: Change anything, yeah.

DONIN: I mean, it's like the whole Green thing.

MARKIN: Could we take a brief break?

DONIN: Yeah.

[End File 1. Begin File 2.]

DONIN: So, Linda, I think it's fair to say that your relationship with Dartmouth and feeling like you belong there has certainly improved since you graduated in 1977.

MARKIN: Yes.

DONIN: Yeah. I mean, that pain and anxiety that you felt on your first return—hopefully that's gone and done with.

MARKIN: Yes.

DONIN: And that's because the community looks so different to you now, there.

MARKIN: Yes. Well, the world looks different.

DONIN: Yes, it does. You're right.

MARKIN: You know, it's—

DONIN: Yeah, that's a very good point. You know, all of this that we've been talking about pertaining to Dartmouth—it's not just Dartmouth.

MARKIN: No, it's not just Dartmouth. And I'm a different person. I'm no longer an 18-year-old. [Laughs.] Or even a 22-year-old. [Laughter.] I'm a more courageous person now, and I took on a lot after leaving Dartmouth. I've been very involved in gay rights politics here in Vermont, and we've achieved tremendous things in 25 years.

DONIN: Leaders in the nation.

MARKIN: Absolutely, absolutely. And, you know, I was in the center of it with some of those people in that photograph. I'm very proud of that work and the change that has happened here, and I'm proud of Dartmouth for coming as far as it has. And the work is not over, obviously.

DONIN: There's always more work to do.

MARKIN: There's always more work to do.

DONIN: And we're just reminded of it on a daily basis. [Chuckles.]

MARKIN: Yes.

DONIN: But keeping in mind that, you know, they have taken baby steps along the way to improve—and hopefully we'll keep doing that, keep doing that.

MARKIN: Yeah. There was one idea that we didn't fit in earlier that I wanted to share with you because I had been thinking about community in relation to your questions and also Marie's project. I was walking and thinking, which is my usual way—you know, out in the woods—and saw community in terms of a Venn diagram. Do you know what I mean?

DONIN: No.

MARKIN: Do you know what a Venn diagram is?

DONIN: No.

MARKIN: This goes back to philosophy classes and logical constructs, but basically a Venn diagram—the simplest form of a Venn diagram is two circles that intersect but not completely; they don't completely overlap, and the intersection is where the two separate sets share common characteristics. And when I think about high school or even college and I think about community, I think about a very simple Venn diagram maybe just two circles because my life was very narrow then. I was a student. I had teachers. I had friends. They're all in one circle. You know, maybe there was a little bit more—there might have been one other circle with a little bit of overlap, but not much more.

Now my life is—now, I'm 58 years old. I've had so many different experiences, been involved in so many activities. What is my community now? I would be hard pressed to tell you specifically what my community is. I see a Venn diagram with lots of—

DONIN: Lots of overlaps.

MARKIN: —overlaps, yes, and, you know, connections that are meaningful to me but—even though you're part of it, this other part would have no meaning to you at all. Yes.

DONIN: Right, right. Well, and that's—I guess all of us hope for a life like that—

MARKIN: Yes.

DONIN: —when we get into that age bracket. I'm beyond that age bracket. [Laughs.]

MARKIN: [Laughs.]

DONIN: And I'm still hopeful that, you know, we're going to add to that diagram.

MARKIN: Yes.

DONIN: But you're right: We're so unformed at 18.

MARKIN: Yes.

DONIN: It's just the beginning. You said, I remember, in your 25th essay, that you felt you had your whole life ahead of you when you graduated, and that's really—18-year-olds think they know it all, as we well know. It *is* still all ahead of us, to add to those circles.

MARKIN: Yes.

DONIN: Yeah, that's a great way of looking at it.

MARKIN: Mm-hm.

DONIN: Great. So is there anything else that I haven't asked you or that you want to talk about or mention? No pressure, but I just like to give people an opportunity.

MARKIN: Yes, another opportunity. There *are* other things that I've thought about. The questions or the conversation today just didn't lead there, but I thought that it might. One of the questions you asked in our correspondence was, "what formative experiences did you have before Dartmouth and what was your life like"? Or maybe you didn't ask that exactly, but that's how I took it.

DONIN: Right. And we sort of skipped over —

MARKIN: We kind of skipped over that.

DONIN: Yeah, you're right.

MARKIN: So I thought I'd just tell you another little story. Like I said, I grew up in a suburb of Rochester. It was called Brighton. It was the Jewish suburb of Rochester. There was separate—not exclusively separate but close to that—separate sections by religion of the suburbs in the 1950s, '60s, '70s, and so there was a Protestant suburb, a Jewish suburb—my family belonged to a Reform synagogue, and the Jewish country club.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

MARKIN: And the country club scene was very segregated too. There was a Catholic country club, and there was a Protestant country club, and people played at each other's clubs but wouldn't *join* another club.

DONIN: So this would be interesting to know what your dad's experience was like at Dartmouth.

MARKIN: Yes. My dad was Class of 1952. And I've asked him the question.

DONIN: Talk about not belonging.

MARKIN: Actually, he didn't feel that way. I think the worst of the anti-Semitism happened before he was there. Or maybe he just had great friends.

DONIN: Well, they were certainly working on that, at least through the Greek system at that time.

MARKIN: Yes, yes. And he was—there's his mug down there on the floor.

DONIN: Oh, yeah! [Laughs.] Nineteen fifty-two.

MARKIN: Yep. Nineteen fifty-two. He didn't want the mug anymore. I said, "I'll take it." I wasn't ready to get rid of it yet.

DONIN: No. No. So he was not conscious of being—

MARKIN: No.

DONIN: —discriminated against.

MARKIN: Yeah. And I've tried to research a little bit about whether there was actually a quota at the time. I don't remember what I found.

That's my dad there at close to 22.

DONIN: Oh, yeah!

MARKIN: I think he was 23 or 24 there. [Laughs.]

DONIN: Is that your mom?

MARKIN: That's my mom, yeah.

DONIN: Great. So this is their wedding picture.

MARKIN: That's their wedding picture, yeah.

DONIN: At first I thought, *That's a prom picture*, but she's wearing a veil.

MARKIN: Yeah, that's their wedding picture, yeah.

DONIN: Oh, that's great. Oh, so that's interesting. 'Cause I would have thought, even in the '70s, people would say to you, "You don't want to go to Dartmouth. It's filled with anti-Semites."

MARKIN: Well, actually, the story I want to tell you is about first experiences of discrimination, which I didn't really recognize as discrimination at the time, but you probably remember—it was probably a pervasive thing in the United States in the late '60s, early '70s. People, mostly kids, would talk about "JAPs."

DONIN: Oh, yes.

MARKIN: And it was not about Japanese people.

DONIN: No.

MARKIN: It was about—

MARKIN & DONIN: Jewish American Princesses.

MARKIN: And I remember hearing a lot of that, and mostly from Jewish boys. But that could have been because most of my friends were Jewish.

DONIN: At Dartmouth, or was this in high school?

MARKIN: It was high school, in high school.

DONIN: Well, it's one thing for Jewish people to use that term; it's another thing for—

MARKIN: Ehh, yes, except that it's not mostly about being Jewish.

DONIN: Oh, it's about women.

MARKIN: Yeah. Yeah. Jewish boys. You know, there were Jewish American Princes, too, but did you hear about them? Not very much. Not really at all.

DONIN: How interesting.

MARKIN: Really, it was sexism at work. At that time, I identified so much with the boys that I didn't see it as sexism, and I took it as—you know, there was something meaningful in that criticism about being materialistic and having too much, and that was the part that I took to heart—you know, that I didn't want to be that kind of person, focused on having things. But I didn't recognize the sexism in it. And it was the beginning for me of rejecting my Jewish heritage because I didn't want to be a JAP or be associated with JAPs. It took me many years, really, to come back to what was beautiful and wonderful about being raised Jewish and to understand the sexism in that term.

DONIN: Did you consider yourself a tomboy when you were growing up?

MARKIN: Mmm. One of my worst experiences, 11 years of age: My dad told me, "I've been watching those boys tackle you out there, playing football. You can't play that anymore. They're goin' for your chest!"

DONIN: [Sharp intake of breath.]

MARKIN: And I said—I just cried.

DONIN: Oh, it must have been crushing.

MARKIN: Crushing! I can't play—and I knew he was right. I knew he was right. But, "I can't play football anymore?" Oh, it was horrible.

DONIN: Right, right.

MARKIN: [Laughs.]

DONIN: Yeah, that's a very interesting point about the JAP thing.

MARKIN: JAP thing, yeah.

DONIN: But that wasn't part of your experience at Dartmouth. I mean, did you—

MARKIN: No, it was just really clear sexism *there*! [Laughs.]

DONIN: It wasn't decorated.

MARKIN: It wasn't decorated. It wasn't dressed up in anything else. [Laughs.]

DONIN: So that was your first consciousness-raising experience,—

MARKIN: Well, honestly, it—

DONIN: —or did it take a while to—

MARKIN: It didn't register until much later, much later.

DONIN: Yeah, no, and you're absolutely right, but I've always seen it as a sort of anti-Semitic slur.

MARKIN: Yeah. You're not Jewish, yourself?

DONIN: My husband's Jewish.

MARKIN: Okay.

DONIN: And our kids were raised Jewish,—

MARKIN: Uh-huh.

DONIN: —including my daughter. And, yeah—I mean—

MARKIN: Yeah.

DONIN: So it's definitely a familiar term.

MARKIN: Yeah.

DONIN: And our boys did the same thing. You know, “Ugh, she’s such a JAP.” In high school.

MARKIN: Uh-huh.

DONIN: And it really is a form—I mean, it’s more than that.

MARKIN: Yeah. Yeah, I really don’t think it’s about anti-Semitism as much as it is misogyny, especially when coming from Jewish boys.

DONIN: It’s not the religion, yeah.

MARKIN: I think it’s really mostly about, you know,—

DONIN: Putting down women.

MARKIN: Putting down women. Girls, young girls, really who—I did not have girlfriends in high school. They were too focused on boys and—

DONIN: Stuff that didn’t interest you.

MARKIN: Stuff that didn’t interest me, yeah. At Dartmouth I found women, yeah.

DONIN: But different models of women, I would think, who are strong, athletic,—

MARKIN: Yes.

DONIN: —smart,—

MARKIN: Smart. And most of them heterosexual. I didn’t care. No problem there. [Chuckles.] I wanted to be close to all of them because they were smart, they were engaged, they were doing things. Their whole lives did not revolve around boys.

DONIN: And the flip side of that, though, which goes on still, is these men who refer to the smart, strong, athletic women as dykes or butch.

MARKIN: Exactly. Yup.

DONIN: You know, it's name calling.

MARKIN: Yeah, because the guys want adoration. They want the focus on "me." Blaghh.

DONIN: Very interesting. Well, I'm glad you added that.

MARKIN: Yeah. I'm glad I did, too.

DONIN: I learned something today.

MARKIN: Yeah.

[End of interview.]