

Interview with Dave Bonsall, June 7, 1995
Northern Michigan University Campus

RMM: OK, we'll get started now with the first question Dave, could you give us your birth information?

DB: Sure, I was born March 24, 1951 in Madison Wisconsin lived there until I was two, moved to Milwaukee lived there until I was four and then we moved to Kingsford and I grew up in back and forth from Iron Mountain and Kingsford. I came to Northern in the fall of 1969.

RMM: OK what I would like to do is ask you, have you comment a little about life per student at Northern and then you might want to make some comments about the campus and observations of that ??? But what was as a student coming in here in 1969 what were some of your observations?

DB: Well for me it was just an explosion of experiences coming from a small town in the upper peninsula and coming to a campus which was at that time just vibrant, new resident halls open door policy, students on campus, 7 or 8,000 students total. A lot of activities as it was the war years, civil rights era and a kid coming from a small town in the U.P. where not much happened this was just a whole new phenomenon. I lived in Dakota house in Halverson Hall and this was a tremendous group of guys and this was when everyone had to live on campus who was under 23, the only way you could be off campus was if you were over 23 or veteran and so that was not too many of us so we basically had the same group of people almost the whole time we went through school. Out of 55 guys approximately living in our house for the whole 5 years I was living there we had over 40 guys back every year so very much its own unity but an interesting time in just that students were so involved with the major issues, like student rights on campus, the war years, the civil right thing, you could just, and these were discussed on the regular. You couldn't just make a statement like well I don't really have an opinion on the vietnam war, students were just so intense and so involved with ?? issue that they forced you to have an opinion ??? It was just an interesting, interesting time to be in school.

RMM: Do you think that there are that many people who didn't have an opinion, I mean or was it just that the times were such that people just automatically ??

DB: I think people automatically talked about it and again a very serious, very intense, very involved discussion and you had to be able to state your own opinion and back it up and it wasn't just in the residence halls these discussions happened in classes, just about everywhere you went on campus. Very different time in that the students were very involved in issues. There was the thirteenth of every month there was a war

moratorium day that happened on the university center lawn and it would some times be a couple hundred people and sometimes be three or four hundred people which is still a pretty good gathering and there would be some music and people would stand on the rock, the rock that is still out there and that was kind of a podium that is what people spoke from. And they talked about the war and then usually the same night there was a candlelight march and there would be a hundred-two hundred students that would light up candles and walk down third street a few times and back up and some nights they even, I know one night they even ended up on President Jamrich's lawn across the street, about a hundred people with candles and started a bonfire, he came out and talked to them and it was a just very interesting time to be in school. But the significance of that ??? that ??? is still in the ????? and Kent State happened in 1970 in the spring, of course college students everywhere including Northern's wanted that friday off as a memorial day and Northern like a lot of schools wasn't sure if they wanted to do that. Well students sat in the hallway on the whole second floor of the university center and they finally got president Jamrich to come out and he stood on the rock, which is pretty symbolic, and called classes off for that friday. So there were just instances that were just protest, demonstrations, and it was a very alive campus. I remember when I was still in high school you know we used to get some of Northern's basketball games on tv and one night I just happened to be watching and they were playing ?Pan-American? University. A group of black students sat on the basketball court during half time and I believe it was related to the job corp situation and it forced them to cancel the second half of the game and so it was a really interesting time to be in school.

RMM: I guess I have to, at the time they had the president come out, at that time the president's office was in the university center?

DB: Exactly it was on the second floor of the university center.

RMM: Now to go back to that rock, it is a kind of interesting part because a lot of this has ??? a lot of this is just in people's memories but originally the rock was, in May of 1966 when they found ??? Northern News the rock was a memorial put up by fraternities, a memorial to the war veterans?

DB; I had heard that, I think I might even have remember seeing the inscription on that?

RMM: Yes, there was a little inscription. Now is my thinking about this correct that over the years here after 66 it became more of a symbol of the vietnam and the center of protest.

DB: very much so, that was again, that was the center of every time they had a war moratorium ???, the rock was the podium, that

is where people spoke at, I believe that is true.

RMM: OK, then at some point if I remember right at some point some one took that little plaque, the holes are still in the rock

DB: yes, right I know that the ?? fell off of there

RMM: Now is that done as a sort of an anti-war protest?

DB: I really don't know Russ how that happened and why.

RMM: All I know is that it happened there is some connection to that, I don't have ?? light on that.

DB: The other thing is that is interesting in addition to the issues that were going on in the late 60's, early 70's were the social traditions on campus, I came in right at the tail end of the real ?vocal prentice? years. My first year the halls were still either male and female and there was visitation, I believe it was from 6 until 10 on the evenings and you had to sign in your guests name on the bulletin board and sign them out when they left and again talking to the people that lived in the house the year before visitation was still about once a month on a sunday afternoon, you had to be signed in/signed out, doors had to be ajar. When I was in school my first year it was still if you had even an empty can of beer found in your room you could be suspended for that. Again, the year prior to my coming here there was still room inspections where ??? would go through and check the cleanliness and you could be written up if your room wasn't clean. Still had on Sundays you had to wear a shirt and tie to the dining room if you were male a skirt if you were female and even when I was here my first year-year and a half, women still had hours in their residence halls and they had to sign in/sign out and if they got back into the hall late, I think on the weekends their curfew was midnight and on week nights it was ten or eleven and if they got back late they had hours and that a week or two weeks that they had to be in in the evenings and again this was the force of the times; the late 60's/early 70's, that was just swept away from the age majority went through was eighteen, I believe the visitation had already changed before that but by the time I was a junior visitation was twenty-four hour open visitation. Drinking changed from getting kicked out of school for an empty beer can to you could have beer in your room, you could have kegs in your tv rooms, many houses turned their study rooms into social lounges. I know we ?? and we had, called it the den we had a bar in it and we had card tables. You could have parties in the basement, we had five or six kegs of beer and two or three hundred people, it was just crazy, it was just two or three years that way and then gradually it got back to drinking if your 21, but it went from very, very restrictive freedoms to just about anything goes. Of course the drugs were phenomenal on campus in the sense that things like marijuana were

all over, readily in available, probably every hall on campus had a number of people dealing drugs and especially like the ones like marijuana were pretty accepted that smoked marijuana and residence hall staff made an effort to control it but it was extremely ??? at times.

RMM: Do you remember some of the other drugs of choice?

DB: LSD of course was a drug of choice at that time and I was not a drug user myself so I am not really sure what was out there but I know LSD was very, very available.

RMM: Somebody told me that there was so much of this going on that just walking down the hallways of the dorms that you pretty much become affected by the

DB: That is very true, in fact one of the things they would tell freshmen at the beginning of the year is here is how you weatherproof your door to try to keep it out in the hallway but still you could smell it up and down the hallways in the residence halls. There was a house in Hunt, that I can't remember the name, it might have been ??? Ashberry house, which would be appropriate but it was just referred to on campus as the drug store because it was just known that you could just buy about anything that you wanted to at any time from just about anybody living there and there used to be times where there would be rumors about raids by public safety and I know even living Halverson, you could hear toilets flushing up and down the hallways, people got rid of things and in ?? Ashberry house, I think that was the house the one year they just made it that no one could move back there that lived there the year before but the next year it still had the same reputation. Somehow people kept the tradition alive over there but again kind of an interesting time.

RMM: And how did you perceive with all this activity going on, what was the because at that time there was also some movement, the buildings and so on, do you remember the sort of academic end of things, the classes the actual moves that were

DB: Yes I do, I still remember when I came to summer orientation the summer of 1969 and that was the right over the days when Neil Armstrong had walked on the moon because I remembered orientation everyone in the basement watching the tv and watching him do that. I remember I came up to Kaye Hall and I was advised by John Ashby who ??? and I still remember my first semester of classes everything was in Kaye Hall, most of my classes so I had to walk up to Kaye Hall, what a great building, it was just the auditorium was neat the foyer area was unbelievable, the students would just, it was one of the social centers of campus. People sat on the stairs and talked that was kind of a meeting place and I just thought it was a neat building it had that real collegiate

field to it and then by my second semester classes most of the classes were moved to Jamrich Hall so it was shifted away from that. But academically yeah I think most of the classes probably not too much different from the orientation through what they are today with the exception of some of the social sciences were again the kind of the issues of the day kind of became major topics of conversation. I will never forget a class that I had with Bob McClellan but I can't even remember the name of the class but it was a history class and we walked in and on the first day of class we were told that Bob made the statement that I am not going to be responsible for anybody flunking out of this school, and being eligible for the draft and being sent over to that war and so he said at the end of this class you are all going to grade yourselves and put down what you think you deserve and what you need and that is your grade. And he did it and the whole class for the entire semester was basically a discussion, came to class and there was kind of an ongoing string of topics and very heated debates sometimes, arguments. There were several african american students and white students and we would get into race issues, a lot to do with the war and I am sure it probably didn't accomplish the objectives of what that particular course was but it surely was a learning experience of this great discussion and becoming exposed to some different things of looking at things, it was a really neat class.

RMM: Were their any other instructors that ????

DB: No that is about the only one that really stands out for me in those times.

RMM: When you talk about the ???, was Bob ever involved do you remember since you had him in class was he ever involved in these ???????? days?

DB: I don't remember Bob being out there, then again I didn't spend a lot of time out there. I didn't really remember that but of course the story that I remember about Bob was but again this was about the year before I came to Northern, when he called together, at the time Northern had these plans that the campus was going to be 20,000 by a certain year and they were buying a lot of land and they had bought a number of houses right off across from the residence halls and Bob got together a lot of the owners of the other houses and just explained, here is the deal, they are buying out this property and sometime they are going to ??? your houses and they are just going to take it because that's the direction they are building in. At the time Northern was very upset with him for doing that and they fired him. A bunch of students the next day basically boycotted classes and he was reinstated and again I don't know if that would happen today.

RMM: What kind of a change, you have talked about some 25 + years ago, what kind of changes do you notice today on campus.

DB: Everyone talks about students becoming more seriously academically and I would say that is true, but I don't, I look at it from a very different vantage point I think, it was almost after 74-75 everybody was just exhausted by that whole gap and people just all of sudden just moved on in a whole new direction, careers became important, students were very career conscious but I think a lot of that had to do with again during the war years there were a lot of students who were on campus who may have never otherwise had gone to college except that ??? so naturally the student body is going to appear much more academically oriented because you had the students who were really in the pursuit of a degree because they wanted the degree not necessarily to just get out of a war. Students today actually, and again sometimes you hear people talk about aren't involved in issues anymore, they don't do this and they don't do that I think that is really, that may have been true in the late 70s and part of the 80s but I really feel students today have come back around where they are very socially conscious and may even do things in a quite way but feeling I am going to contribute as an individual and I am going to do something today, and I am going to make a difference. And a lot of students do that, it doesn't ??? fanfare the big protests, rallies and demonstrations but it is probably just as effective or much more effective in a very different way.

RMM: Today are they more working with in the system?

DB: Definitely, volunteerism is very big with students, just that sense that I owe something back, and I understand that I have been given a lot and the more I can contribute I should contribute, that seems to be a very common ???

RMM: Now is there anything further that you would like to mention about the past? What I would like to do is ask about the present.

DB: OK

RMM: Something ??? very characteristic ??

DB: I don't think so, I think it would be a mistake to characterize those years, it is much of a feeling where all the time was spent demonstrating and all the time was spent drinking, all the time was spent doing drugs that was ?? things that were very commonly available in the college experience here at Northern as it was on most campuses but there were still a large, large number of students that went to classes and got their degrees and moved onto careers so it wasn't like that was the whole scene at that time.

RMM: One thing and I heard about in a women's history class is that one thing that the students dwelled up and I bring it up now is do you have any comments or observations about the sexual

activity of the students at that time, was it very, because a lot of people said that the 60s are the sexual revolution, other people ?? and so on so is your perception as a student of that time was it that wide open

DB: I don't think it was that

RMM: revolutionary

DB: Well it was revolutionary I don't think it was any more wide open than it is today and maybe not even that wide open it is just that it baring that time of great transition from when I am not going to be able to put this in a ??? like sexual activity was in the 50s but I know with colleges at least up until the mid to late 60s they still felt that responsibility to monitor things like that and they went to great efforts to make sure that students were not having sex with each other, either in the residence halls or even in off campus locations. There were students who got in trouble for going off to a hotel room together. That of course all changed in the 60s and that sex became, I am sure that sexual activity increased in the 60s I think it was a much more feeling that it is a good thing to do and you don't have to, it was the value of that really changed but part of it too was that colleges no longer looked at it as it was our responsibility to make sure that students were not having sex and that had a lot to do with that.

RMM: In terms of your present job, what is your present job here on campus?

DB: My job right now, I am the director of student activities and leadership programs and I have been in this position for 16 years so actually it has changed from director of student activities to activities and leadership program. That reflects a lot of the changes in job responsibilities have happened over the last 16 years.

RMM: Now when did this particular office begin?

DB: This office, boy that is a good question Russ, there are records here that I have seen that go back to the early 60s, I know it is very possible it goes back before that time but I do know, come to think of it I think I have read things that talk about when ?Carol Huntoon? was first hired into this job in the 60s and again her job started as one who helped out with student organizations to help students organize concerts and key lectures for major events and things like Homecoming and Winterfest are not as, that was Carol's job at the time. And Carol was in this for 10 years and then she left and I believe she left in about 1977 and ?Ron Stump? was in it for a couple of years and Ron did it as, part of as a ??? of his regular job and then I followed Ron Stump into the job and again when I first started this my job

was very similar to what it was under Carol. I was responsible for basically social programming, concerts, comedians, hypnotists, bands, we did some work with lecturers, we had a ski club, we worked with registered student organizations with support services but again that really has transformed in the last several years we have gotten really heavily involved in things like leadership programming; we have a leadership scholarship program, leadership library, the student leader fellowship program which is a national recognized leadership program we have a skill builders workshop series so a lot of our energy is on our leadership program. We also have a volunteer center for students now, we are doing some work with service ?lording? to try to acourt faculty members how to incorporate service lording into their curriculum. We are starting a program this fall in leadership in careers, we will work with academic departments and students in academic areas to ?? a leadership program which can be a short-term thing that is geared specifically in what their career interest is so again our focus has really changed. We still do the comedians and the hypnotists and the bands and the other things but our roles have really expanded in the last several years.

RMM: Now has that been, is that something that is peculiar to this campus or is was it something, as many of these improvements, because of something that is happening in the academic setting around the country?

DB: I think a little bit of both, we became involved in leadership programming before we had our student leader fellowship program. We had a group of us here, Karen ?Reis?, Carl Holme, Jim ?Grizenski?, Ed Niemi, ??? and probably a few other people, several students who did leadership programming as far back as probably 1979, 1980, 1981. We are definitely one of the first colleges involved in that area, you know I am sure there are a number of others at the time but it was very much of a pioneering stage and right now leadership programming is a hot topic on campuses but I don't think it is so much of us following the trend but we are certainly right with it and the same with the volunteer center, that's gotten to be very popular. I think that other offices has done that too we just ??? the term student activities from saying that means going to major events on campus, that is still a part of it but student activities are also things that individuals do and really I think it was a move to connect what happens extracurricularly to what happens curricularly. And ??? is a good thing for students.

RMM: Now you went from the student to working at the university?

DB: Well not quite, I was a student from 69-73 and I ended up being a house president for a couple of years and then I was the RA for the house my last two years and I really liked that idea and so I definitely didn't know what I wanted to do as far as a

career so I went down and applied to be a hall director and I got hired at Northern for a hall director so I was a hall director from the fall of 74 to the spring of 77 and I also worked summer orientation a few summers and then I left for a year. I worked for the publishing company, I worked two months with an insurance company found out I didn't like that, went to work for this publishing company and I lived in Lansing Michigan and I had just, I had been working for about 6 months great people, they moved me down there, paid for the move, just sent me to a conference in San Francisco and this job came open and Karen Reiss called me and asked me if I would be interested in applying and I knew it was the job that I had always wanted to have so ??? So I thought I will just apply and see what happens. And so I did that and I interviewed and they offered me the job and that was probably one of the hardest phone calls I have ever had to make was to call these people and tell them I was leaving their company after I had just ??? been so nice to me but I knew it was what I really wanted to do long-term. I knew there was probably not going to be a great number of opportunities to come back here with it.

RMM: Now you mentioned some names of people, were there other students of your era that kind of followed, you mentioned Ed Niemi, was there others that sort of followed in your ??? or you followed them?

DB: Well it was kind of interesting, my second year as RA was Carl Holmes first year as a hall director in Halverson and so we actually worked on the same residence hall staff together and then of course Carl went on to be the director of housing. Ed Niemi was a RA in Dakota house a few years after I was there and he is still here. So those are the major connections, but more of the other nice things is that there have been a number of students that have worked here and have gone on to work at other colleges and universities in student life positions.

RMM: Have you maintained connection with

DB: Yes, with several that I. Some of them I only see every year or too or get a note from every year or two but there are some that every few months I will get a call from them or I will call them.

RMM: Where do you see the future of this office being?

DB: I think we are really positioned, again the last three or four years we have undergone major changes I think for right now at least for the foreseeable future I think we are positioned right where need to be in terms of contributing to a student experience which is meaningful in terms of making up, they learn more by doing the things that they do with our office so they are going to be better skilled when they leave Northern and have a

better chance to get a type of job they want and they are going to be productive members of the community. And I think as long as we can keep contributing to the development of students like that we are going to be where we want to be. I think we are going to keep (end of side one) ????? that really contributed to what students stand academically that highlights what is going on academically I think is a really important one that we have begun.

RMM: What kind of students, do you get a certain type of student on campus that becomes involved with your office, you know is there a certain type of student and how do they become involved with you?

DB: Well we get all types of students, Russ and especially in our leadership programs we get mothers that are 44 years old in it, we have international students, we have had african american students, native american students, we have traditional 18, 19, 20 year olds. But I would say predominantly, and I would say in the last several years have had many, many more commuter students starting to do the type of things that happen in our office but I would say predominantly there is the traditional age type student who probably because they have more disposable time, time they can spend with something like this and again that is why we are looking at service learning and leadership and careers as ways of taking some of the real good experiences that happen here and putting them out in the classroom, where students who may be really pressed for time can still benefit from some of this.

RMM: So the students then just get involved by events that you have?

DB: In a lot of different ways Russ. We do presentations at orientation, a lot of them have a special interests like they really want to help with concerts or whatever may seek us out. Different student organizations have displays at different times of the year very actively. Student groups themselves recruit a lot of members but our leadership programs for example we get students who have seen a presentation at orientation, remember it. We do mailings to group of students that indicate interest or who have certain grade points, we get students who see advertisements for it. We go into classes lot and have the professors give us a few minutes and we will talk about things like the student leader fellowship program and get students ??? bush or chucking it out. That is a good question though because we have really changed the way we recruit, it used to be that we would do a lot of it in the residence halls where we would set up tables once a year and that was it. With more and more commuter and non-traditional students we look at things like mailings, getting into the classrooms, putting them in the north wind different ways of getting to the students that way. But it is different ???? student stops and says well there is that I am

interested in and I am willing to make a commitment of time and effort to do that.

RMM: Well good unless you have final thing to say

DB: no I think we are good

RMM: OK thank you

RMM: Ok in between ??? and ??? we talked about or I mentioned the problem that we had in the spring of 1970 and the question of guns ????

DB: Ok, well I was a freshmen in Halverson Hall at the time and at that period of time you could have a riffle, a pistol, anything you couldn't keep it in your room but you stored it at the residence hall desk which was right down stair and all you had to do was say I want to check out my gun and they would give you your gun and supposedly from there you went hunting or whatever with it. I wonder what black students were becoming more and more upset about having guns available on campus and everybody at that time said nobody is going to get hurt. It is kind of like and some black students were even claiming that they had been shot at and in fact in Payne Hall in the lobby area at that time, it might even be there today, there is a hole going through the top of what looks very much like a bullet hole and I remember saying that is ridiculous, no one has ever been shot at on this campus. Three or four years later I had talked to a student that had lived in Payne Hall and he was a short term student, someone who had been here for a year or two, and he swore he knew a group of four or five students who used to go up on the rough of Payne Hall and did not shoot to hit black students but shot in the vicinity of black students on campus, in the evening and I was just amazed because I had never heard of anybody that was being shot at but he swears that that is true and that it happened on more than one occasion. So in retrospect it was a really healthy move to get guns moved to public safety because there are a lot of students that have guns. This being the U.P. and a lot of the kids hunted, there are just a lot of riffles stored and just the access was just so easy you just had to ask your ?? who had and there was no provisions at that time about being kicked out of school if you had a gun in your room, no you couldn't have your gun in your room I guess but you weren't supposed to have your gun in your room but it was no big deal if you had your gun you had your gun.

RMM: ??????

DB: Well you know that.

RMM: ????

DB: So that was pretty interesting. The other thing that we talked about Russ that I just thought I should mention is not something that I knew a lot about first hand but I certainly remember hearing about the time that Al Niemi was the dean of students. Now the way that I had heard the story was that a black student in Gries Hall was suspended for having a female in his room and this was in the years before visitation was allowed and after the student was suspended, I guess the claim was that he was suspended because of it because he was a black student and there was white students doing the same thing and a group of black students one afternoon went down to the dean of student's office, went into see Dr. Niemi and there was a fairly large number in his office and so he was talking to them about the whole situation and it got to be time to go home and he got up to go home and they said where are you going? He said well I need to go home and they said you are not going anywhere and kept him in his office that night. But those are the kinds of things that are just hard to imagine those happening on a campus today, ?? special ??? and circumstance I guess.

RMM: As evidence ??????

DB: Just elected amazing edition because ??? the headline is "Kaye Hall Fire Bombed" a big strike down on the picture and Dr. Jamrich calling off classes. The next page talks about the charges dropped against six blacks, that was the court case ??? There was another picture of the students sitting in the university center hallway waiting for Dr. Jamrich to come out and call classes off and the editorial is guns are a danger and then again there is these other things mixed up; there is an article about fishing, there is something about a play coming out, there is something about mud fest which was a major event at that time, that used to be down, the intermural fields which are down by the armory and there used to be two, three, four hundred students that would participate ??? just a big pit of mud, they did it there my first year and then they did it ??? Spalding and Halverson my second year. A big pit of mud and they would water it down and they had all kinds of games like ?? ball and softball and smoke biting contest where they had the relay and four guys on a team and each one had to bite ten smoke heads off. That was a big thing here with smelting and they finally quit mud fest because first of all it was breaking the washer and dryers all those clothes being thrown on, but secondly especially ?? Payne and Spalding there was people being thrown into the mud who were on their way to class, things of that sort. One of the other anecdotal things that was really funny was after I started this job I was looking at these old files and one of the events at mud fest used to be a greased pig chase, after a while a pig was greased and you would have to go to each hall or organization have a contestant to chase this pig and you would see how long it took them to catch it and Carol ?Huntoon? had a file on mud fest and in it was a letter, a note, from her to student government

saying that she thought that the greased pig chase should be discontinued, that it was inhumane, that she just didn't think it was a good activity to have and right next to it in the file was a letter from Jim ?Kalamika? who used to be a hall director here who had gone on to ??? State saying Carol, I'm out here, we just think starting mud fest would be a great idea, we would love to do things like the greased pig chase would you please send us the rules for it.

RMM: Now you refer to these files, you have files on these

DB: We do have files on some of these things

RMM: and the rules that go along with it and all

DB: mmhm, one of the other interesting competitions that used to happen, I think it is a part of winfester, was a drinking contest. And again each organization had a participant, it was always held at a bar and it was to see how much a student could drink in half an hour and they would have pitchers lined up and they would just drink and drink and drink and they had barf bags and everything else and boy you can imagine that in today's time. But that was also at a time when fraternities had, I can't remember the name of the event,

RMM: the rhino run?

DB: the rhino run, they would have a list of ten to fifteen bars and each one would have a different drink and it was a contest to see who could get through it the fastest. And even as an RA, I can remember when I was an RA we were looked at, I mean as a house we were, it was eighteen year old drinking age and even before that but we would have keggers on the beach any where a long there by Whitmarsh landing there and I as an RA, when drinking was eighteen, we were looked at as you are not doing your job if you do not organize at least a couple of those every fall semester so students had a chance to get out and get to know each other. And of course now if an RA even contributed money to one of those they would be fired because of the liability of that.

RMM: Another topic of the times, I think we repeated this last semester so it is still going on and that is phenomena of streaking, could you comment on that?

DB: Well streaking happened in about 1973 maybe was the year. But it was a big craze, almost nationally and I still remember hearing on the radio once coming back from Northern they said, this announcer had said "and streaking has come to the U.P. the Escanaba Burger King was streaked at noon today" it was like a major cultural happening but streaking one spring here on Northern, it was just a phenomenon. I was a RA in Halverson and

Payne/Halverson courtyard became kind a like the Ampa Theater for streaking that spring. We had, it started with just a few guys going out and streaking and one of the eight or ten guys went out running in a lap and then it got to be eight or ten girls running out a lap around the courtyard and back and then it got to be where students from all over campus came down to that ??? kids from Gries, kids from Gant, girls from West and they would streak through. That was the thing to streak the courtyard in Payne/Halverson and there was a student on the second floor that had speakers in his window and he was like the unofficial announcer and he announced different groups coming through. "And we have a group of streakers from Gries Hall ??? and they would come in and do their lap and there would be four or five police cars pulled up and public safety and the city and I don't know if they were there just to watch or if they felt there was a problem with it. But I still remember I was standing down in the lobby area with Paul Holme the director and Jerry ?Busch? the director of Payne and Jerry was kind of adjitated by this whole thing and he said "well I think we should do something" and Paul Holme said well what do you want to do ask them for ids?" Because of course they had nothing with them, well that was an interesting time, the streaking.

RMM: Did the streaking occur, did they come from some part of campus streaking or

DB: well I think a lot of them wore a blanket around them or something until they got down around in the area and then they would drop everything and

RMM: would they just run around

DB: Well a lot of them would run around the courtyard eight or ten times and then they would leave and another group would come but there were all kinds of people streaking.

RMM: and then what would the rest of the people do, they just clapped or

DB: Oh yeah people watched in their rooms and yelled and hooted and it was kind of like the social event of the times I guess.

RMM: and then how long did this

DB: mainly just that one string and it probably lasted for about a month/ a month and a half and then by the next fall it kind of died out as a trend.

RMM: So this was the spring of seventy-?

DB: I believe it would have been the spring of 73 or 74.

RMM: and then it discontinued ???

DB: Oh every once in a while, maybe every several years you hear that some streaked something but it is by no means a phenomena any more.

RMM: Could you just comment on some of the activities that exist today that you are involved in, that back when you were a student weren't really any interest to you?

DB: Well I think some of the interesting ones are the traditional activities like homecoming and winfester and there are lots of records that show that these were big events in the sixties and probably in the fifties but by the late sixties and at least all of my years as student here things like homecoming and winfester were just looked at, and again this was the war years and the civil rights era, they were just looked at as extremely irrelevant and I don't even know if there were things like homecoming and winfester every year. Broomball we named as huge sports everybody did every year they went there, but students didn't do it because it was a part of winfester they just did it because they liked to play broomball but other than that the celebration of these as festivals or activities were really downplayed. I think it was about 1975 that a group of students really went into homecoming with the idea that we are going to reinvigorate homecoming and then make it a major activity again. But it had been several years there before it was a big thing again. Another thing that I should mention Russ that really changed alot, when I came to Northern there were 15 fraternities and 9 sororities about 1000 students that were greek. The greek system was huge there were some fraternities that had, I would say that the standard size was anywhere from 40 to 60 and the TKE's at one time had over 100 members. And then you know like, during the war years things like fraternities and sororities took a decline nationally, like many those things that the trend hit the year, probably two years after it did nationally. But by the mid 70s the greeks were really starting to nose dive and by you know mid to late 70s they were down to maybe two or three fraternities and a sorority and 50 people, and that had gone from 1000 students to maybe 50 in six, seven, eight years there so that was a huge decline there but at one time this campus was very much, almost dominated by greeks, greeks ?? intermural sports they won all the major things like student government president was always greek and at one time greeks were very influential and they have made a modest comeback but they are still nowhere near where they used to be. One house that used to be really interesting and it is no longer here was the Delta Sigma Phi house which was on east arch street it was a huge house, they had forty guys living there, they had a bowling alley in the basement, they had volleyball courts that was three floors high and they would do these friday afternoon happy hours with a

band in the place and they would have two/three hundred people over and of course ??? but at one time the greeks were very prominent on Northern's campus.

RMM: Now these fraternities, how many of them actually had houses or how did they, did they ????

DB: No they never, the TKE's at one time were living in this one house in VanAntwerp it was never officially designated as that, they never really had that on campus, it never really worked. But Lambda Phi had a house and still has it, Delta Sigma Phi had a beautiful house one of the best I have ever seen for a fraternity, it was donated to them. Phi Kappa ?Tella? had a house, which eventually ????? and I believe those were the only three that had houses.

RMM: ?????? with a house

DB: The only one that really has a house right now is Lamba Phi Alpha

RMM: ???

DB: That one is on fourth street.

RMM: alright