Oral History Interview with Peg Rees

Interview conducted on July 9, 2018

By Professor Judith Raiskin, UO Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Linda J. Long, Curator of Manuscripts, UO Special Collections and University Archives, UO Libraries

For

The Eugene Lesbian Oral History Project

Peg Rees, ca 1990

Peg Rees, July 9, 2018

Recorded in the University of Oregon Libraries

Preface

This is an ongoing community-engaged oral history project. Linda J. Long, Curator of Manuscripts in the University of Oregon Libraries, and Professor Judith Raiskin of the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department at the University of Oregon, conducted video interviews with eighty-three narrators in the summers of 2018 and 2019. The interviews were held in the UO Libraries' recording studio. This collection includes the video interviews and the bound and on-line transcripts. Associated with the interviews are materials collected from the narrators, including photographs, diaries, flyers, business records, letters, posters, buttons, and T-shirts that document the businesses, organizations, and cultural and political activities discussed in the interviews. These collections will be made available separately as individual archival collections and can be searched and retrieved using the Library's Online Catalog.

In the 1960s-1990s hundreds of lesbian-identified women came to Eugene, Oregon from across the United States. These women founded cornerstone organizations central to Eugene's history and influenced Oregon's political landscape. They created and worked in collective businesses, ran printing presses, and founded cultural organizations (theater companies and dance troupes, music bands and choirs) and gathered in lesbian cultural spaces (book stores, martial arts studios, restaurants, bars, and softball teams). They became leaders of Eugene community service agencies and worked in City and State government positions. A number were instrumental in leading important legal challenges of discriminatory policies at the county and state levels regarding employment and housing protections, benefits, lesbian and gay adoption, and marriage equality. Those who came to study or teach at the University of Oregon were influential in making institutional change protecting the rights of lesbians and gay men.

The artist Tee Corinne, whose papers and photographs also reside in the University of Oregon Special Collections, asserted, "The lack of a publicly accessible history is a devastating form of oppression; lesbians face it constantly." The Eugene Lesbian Oral History Project seeks to preserve a specific and vibrant history that otherwise is lost. This collection of interviews captures a range of engaging and important stories that reveal new angles on lesbian history, women's history, the counterculture movement in the 1960s-1980s, Oregon history, feminism, sexuality, intentional communities, and women working in jobs reserved for men. Looking back over twenty-five - fifty years, the narrators reflect on the complex relationship of individual aspirations and larger social

movements in times of dramatic historical change. Many of the narrators have retired and continue to be involved in vibrant artistic, scientific and political work.

Abstract

Interview conducted on July 9, 2018. Peg was born in Pomona, California, but grew up in Compton her first twelve years. She experienced the race riots in the Los Angeles/Compton area in the 1960s. Her family moved to Beaverton, Oregon, when Peg was twelve. Peg came to the University of Oregon in the fall of 1973 to study physical education. Peg knew she was different but didn't have the words for it. She discusses being closeted and not having role models to help her come out. She discusses the risks of being out in college athletics. She talks about the women's athletics teams at UO at that time. The University was a part of the AIAW—the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women, a precursor to the NCAA for women's athletics (at that time the NCAA was only for men). The NCAA fought inclusion of women's sports after Title IX was passed by filing a lawsuit against the United States, but lost. Peg talks about the initial consequences of this for women's athletics. Peg talks about the student protests on campus. Peg was unaware of the student gay group on campus at that time. After graduating and working, Peg returned to UO to get a master's degree in 1982. She describes the pains she took to conceal her sexuality from friends and family. She explains that she quit coaching because she wanted to live an authentic life, and she started to come out. Peg discusses the anti-gay ballot measures. She talks about her employment at UO in the Physical Education Department, eventually becoming director for twenty-three years where she was out. Peg then talks about her legacy. Peg finishes her interview by sharing a painful homophobic experience with a physician.

Additional subjects: Aging; Aker, Joan; Assimilation (Sociology); Athletes; Ballot measure 8; Ballot measure 9; Bridges program; Closeted gays -- United States; College sports for women -- United States; Coming out (sexual orientation); Domestic partnerships; Feminist bookstores; Gay People's Alliance; Lesbian community; Lesbian teachers – United States; Martin, Chicora; Morgen, Sandra; Mother Kali's Books; Parenting; Student athletes; Student movements -- Oregon – Eugene; Student unrest; Watts Riot, Los Angeles, Calif., 1965.

Transcriptionist: Rev.com and University of Oregon Libraries

Session Number: 001

Narrator: Peg Rees

Location: University of Oregon Libraries, Eugene, Oregon

Interviewers: Linda Long and Judith Raiskin

Date: July 9, 2018

Long: This is an oral history interview that is a part of the Eugene lesbian oral history project. The recordings will be made available through the University of Oregon, Special Collections and University Archives. This interview is with Peg Reese on Monday, July 9, 2018, taking place in the University of Oregon Libraries' recording studio, in the Center for Media and Educational Technologies. The interviewers are Linda Long, Curator of Manuscripts in the UO Libraries' Special Collections and University Archives and Associate Professor Judith Raiskin of the UO department of women's Gender and Sexuality Studies. Peg, please let us know if you agree to be recorded for this project and that you give your permission for the university to preserve and make available your recorded and transcribed interview.

Rees: I agree.

Long: Thank you. Okay, let's start out with some basic questions. The first one is: Please tell us where you were born, where you grew up, and something about your early background.

Rees: I was born in Pomona, California, but lived in Compton, my first twelve years. So, experienced the riots in 1965 in the L.A., Compton area. My family moved to Oregon when I was twelve. I was just about going into junior high, we moved to the Beaverton area. I went to junior high/high school, up near Portland. Went to Aloha High School. And I came to the University of Oregon because my sister was a student here, and I visited her many times. I enjoyed the area, and I didn't like my sister growing up, but I liked her when she moved away. And so it was fun to be where she was later.

Raiskin: What year was that, that you came to University of Oregon?

Rees: I came to Oregon in fall of 1973.

Long: And did you identify as a lesbian at that time?

Rees: No. I knew I was different, but I didn't have a word for it.

Long: Okay. When you came to campus, did you notice that there were other people that possibly could be like you?

Rees: I think I did, but I didn't know how to connect. As I started to understand myself, and understand where my attractions had been, and then finding words for that, I knew enough to know it

was taboo. And that coming out wasn't safe. I didn't know there was such a thing as coming out, but I knew I couldn't tell anybody. I felt I couldn't tell anybody what my feelings were. There weren't enough role models or examples of that, and that being okay, but you would hear things that let you know that this is not going to be good. And I didn't beat myself up about it, I didn't hate myself. But I started to negotiate what it meant to be and feel one thing, but act completely differently, and I felt like I could earn an Oscar by the time I was out of college, because I came to fully understand my sexuality and where my attractions lie. But because of the time and because I was an athlete, I think, added a layer to being closeted, unnecessary layer. I felt like I had become a really good actor, and knew how to stay safe. And stay the person that my family thought I was, and that my friends thought I was, and so, you learn to walk a pretty significant tightrope to maintain that.

Raiskin: Can you talk a little bit about the effect of being an athlete on your coming out? Your social environment.

Rees: Sure. Well, the irony is that when you're an athlete, you're likely to be in company of other lesbians. We do tend to enjoy sport. I know that's a stereotype, but stereotypes exist for a reason. And yet we didn't come out to each other. We felt we would lose our position on the teams. We felt that either not knowing where the coach stood, or their level of comfort, or the athletic director if they were to catch wind that all the softball teams got some lesbians on it. Which of course it did. But we didn't know what they would do. So

we didn't roll the dice. If you wanted to play, you were quiet about it.

I didn't have relationships with anybody on the teams. Actually, I had what I call—oh, what did I call those? I didn't call them relationships, but, I had a term for having a sexual experience with somebody. Because it was almost always extremely brief. And then, it's almost like you never talked about it again. "Glancing blows." I called them "glancing blows." I had a couple of glancing blows with teammates. That really never amounted to anything that we would consider a relationship. Because it just wasn't safe. My sports activity was my primary identifier. I was not going to lose my place on a team based on— it sounds sad to say— based on my heart. My team experience was too critical to me. And so I was quiet.

Long: Can I ask a clarifying question? When you came to UO, you studied physical education?

Rees: Yes.

Long: Okay. And then, were you on— at that time, did they have teams for women? I mean, were we a Division I team? Did they have that ranking then?

Rees: Well—

Raiskin: In sport, did you play—

Rees: Yes or no. There was a Physical Education Department, which is an educational part of the university and then there's the Athletic Department, just as there is now. And so, yes, there were eleven women's teams, which was extraordinary in a way, because it was pretty early. But we belonged to an association called the AIAW, Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women. It was a precursor to the NCAA. But NCAA existed but it was men only, and actually the NCAA brought a suit against the United States of America, when Title IX was passed. They wanted to— their point was that it was unconstitutional. They actually fought the idea that women would have a place in athletics in America. They fought it, and they fought it, and when Title IX stood, and it was clear that there were going to be resources for women's athletics, they co-opted the AIAW, they just took it over and they said, "Well, then we're going to run it." And of course, by that time, they had the resources, they had the structure, they had everything that you needed to run a national organization. They've been doing it for years. And so, that was one of the unintended consequences of Title IX, is that, Title IX brought us all kinds of progress, but then it put us firmly in the purview of men. Whereas before, we had been led by women coaches, women administrators, and then those people, for the most part, lost their jobs. Title IX really was an advantage for student athletes, but not for coaches and administrators.

Long: And, when was Title IX implemented? What year? Do you recall?

Rees: Well, it was passed in 1972. I was a junior in high school. But schools were given about four to six years to really start to comply. It was going to be a big deal. It was going to mean massive change in education. Sport was just a piece of that, a side piece of that, but it's become one of the major focuses over time. It was passed in '72, but schools were given at least four years to really start to take steps to comply. Ironically, I was graduating college about the time that the university had to really show that they were complying with Title IX. I was in that purgatory between passing and implementation. But I saw some progress in my time here.

Long: What was campus like when you were here then? Do you recall approximately what the student body population was?

Rees: I don't know what the percentages were men to women or anything like that. Campus was great. I love this campus. I love Eugene and the school. I felt like I became a person here. When I left home at eighteen, I pretty much never went back. I would go back for holidays, occasionally, but I loved the freedom of being close enough to my family that I could be there in case of emergency but far enough that they didn't know what I was doing on a daily basis. And campus was beautiful. It was politically lit. We were known for our anti-Vietnam protests. We were known for bombings on campus that students would set around the administration buildings or—

Raiskin: In PLC?

Rees: Yes. There was a lot of political anti-war uprisings on campus. My father almost didn't let me come to school here, because he didn't like how politically charged it was. But it was just another kind of awakening for me, that this campus provided. And yet we felt safe, we just felt like, you got a view of the country and of government and the world that you just didn't get in high school. No matter how many history classes or social studies classes you took, it didn't resonate, until you saw your classmates marching, yelling, and yelling at the administrators. Oh my God. That was wild. And it was exciting and it was scary and it woke you up. You all of a sudden you had to have opinions about things because, if you didn't you were dead inside. We started to think about things that really mattered. And so, I really felt like I came alive in my years here.

Raiskin: Were you aware of students involved in gay alliances on campus or any socializing—

Rees: No, it always shocks me when I go back and I read something later that would say something about a gay alliance group existed on campus. I was like, "What! Where were they? Where was I? How did I not hear about this?" It would have scared me if I had, but I think it would have inched along my awakening and my awareness. And I think because of my athletics, I would have never gone near it. Which sparks a memory. I think I did find it in the basement of the EMU, at some point, and I would have never stepped in the door. The guilt by association, even just if I would

have been interested in it, would have been frightening. I wouldn't have gone there.

Raiskin: Was it frightening personally, or you were worried about your position on the team or—

Rees: Definitely worried about my position on the team. I don't know if I would have called it frightening personally. I'd actually would have liked to have also live during that time, just as a regular student, to see where I would have gone, to see what I would have done. My athletics dictated my direction, which kept me closeted much longer than I think I would have been if I hadn't been in athletics. Much longer.

Raiskin: After you graduated, what were you doing?

Rees: I was an education major, so, I got a job as a PE teacher, big stereotype. And a coach at Lebanon, Oregon. For five years I was at Lebanon, then I moved back to Los Angeles, and worked at an all girls school, whose population was ninety-seven percent black and Hispanic. Which was another wonderful awakening into the world of diversity, and race and experiencing a whole other discrimination there. Seven years total as a physical education teacher and coach at the high school level. And then I returned to the University of Oregon in 1982, to start working on a master's degree.

Long: And the notes say that you had a GTF?

Rees: Yes.

Raiskin: And what was that about?

Rees: Well, I had two positions, one after another. My first GTF was, as a graduate in physical education department, I was working on a master's on sports psychology, which didn't pan out for me over time. I switched to an interdisciplinary master's after a couple of years. My first GTF was with the Physical Education Department. I taught some classes on campus. And then a GTF opened with the volleyball program, the varsity volleyball program. And that was one of the sports that I played in college. I played volleyball, basketball and softball. A lot of women played multiple sports back in the day. There weren't so many of us, that we didn't need to kind of share the wealth. So we went from one sport to another. That was not unusual back then. But I was the last athlete they allowed to play three sports at Oregon until thirty years later, when Jordan Kent was allowed to play three sports. Because the seasons overlap and the coaches want your full attention.

So, I played those three sports, and then a position opened with the volleyball team, a GTF. And I applied for it and I got it. And that was just right place at the right time. If something had opened with basketball, I would have applied for that. And I would have been probably a little more qualified than I was for the volleyball, and if softball had opened up, I would have applied for that. And I would have been most qualified for that. It was just what was available,

and I ended up staying with that team. I got promoted to assistant coach and then first assistant, so I was with the program for nine years.

Long: And during that time, our notes say that you were closeted.

Rees: Absolutely.

Long: During those years.

Rees: Yes.

Long: Can you tell us what that was like?

Rees: Sure. When you're recruiting student athletes to the college of experience, you're going into people's homes. And you're basically promising their parents that you're going to take care of them for their four years, that you're going to be their surrogate family. And over time— Well, I had been closeted all along. First of all, that was a default position. But secondly, over time, I learned that it needed to remain a default position. For a number of reasons, I've come to be— to explain it by saying that, I never wanted a talented athlete not to come here because either they or their parents were afraid of me, or what I might do. Because the mythology is that we're sexual perverts, right? So, the student athletes, it turned out, as I've talked to them later, never had an issue with me or would have had a problem. It was always their parents. The parents were the basis of the fear lie.

So yes, I was closeted, but also, I worked for a man who was the head coach, who was a Christian who felt like I was going to hell. I knew his opinions about gays and lesbians, and that we were on a straight path to hell. And he would have fired me in a heartbeat if I were out to him. And I never wanted anybody else to have that kind of power, to be able to decide what my career path was going to be. I wanted to hold that. And that it really mattered to me. Coaching at the college level was an absolute goal. It was what I wanted to do. And I did it for nine years. But it was extremely unhealthy for me.

I actually think I got sick being so intentionally closeted for so long. And because I was a public figure kind of highlighted that. And there just came a point where I had to choose my health. And also I was having this mental and emotional awakening to the idea of living an authentic life. I got to a place where that outweighed my career goals. And so I left coaching because I realized that some of the people I cared about most didn't really know me. And that was— my father had died when I was twenty-five. I had experienced the loss of a parent that I loved. And thought, he never really knew me. And I thought, that can't go on. I have my mom, I've got siblings, I've got extended family, and I'm a good person. And they need to know who I am. And so, I quit coaching in 1993. And for me, it was stepping off a cliff in a couple of ways, not just the coming out, but I'm a person who needs security. Financial security, emotional security. This was way out of my comfort zone. But I just had this realization that I was not really living.

Raiskin: Can you describe what being closeted meant on a daily basis?

Rees: Oh! Wow. Yeah.

Raiskin: What was being what it? What did that mean?

Rees: What did that mean? How did that look like? Well, yes. Imagine every social setting when everybody used to sitting with, talking with, having lunch with, meeting with, are talking about what they've done with their family. And my family, I did have a— what I would call a very good relationship with a woman who lived forty miles away, which was almost necessary that I get out of town to have my relationships. Everybody's talking about who they had dinner with and what they did and what their kids are doing, and one thing and another, and I don't have any stories. I'm just a listener. Being closeted is, you either just listen and don't participate or you lie until you devolve. And so that's one of things about acting, is that you, I don't think of it as lying so much as creating these scripts. I would create these scripts. And I actually, a couple of times would purposely go on dates with men. So I'd have something to talk about. Right? I go out with another GTF, who was an athletic department say, like, I can remember specifically, I went to a Whitney Houston concert with a guy who was a GTF of football. He was a good friend of mine. But I called it a date. And I milked that for about four months. With people, "Oh, yeah. Went to Whitney, went to dinner, went to Portland." And I would tell different pieces of that story, over and over and in different context,

so, it would last. So, I would actually do things so I wouldn't have to lie. Go out with guys occasionally. And they might not think it was a date. But that's how I would paint it for the people around me who I thought needed to hear I had a life too, and I was pursuing a life that they could live with, not a life that I could live with. Pursue a life that they could live with. And you learn what people want from you, and hope for you. What my mom would hope for me. I knew that, and so you create it in ways. But then you have to remember everything that you've told, and who've you told what, and that's the downside of lying, is that, it doesn't last, the truth always comes out.

Long: And you could have been lying to somebody else who was also lying.

Rees: Right. That's an excellent point. And I'm sure I was because as I would tell these stories, and I would have other friends who were closeted. Those could have been potential relationships. They could have even been potential friendships that had more substance, and more quality, than what we allowed because we kept so much of ourselves. I would typically live alone so that, when I did have a girlfriend, she could stay with me.

I would go out of town, if I want to go dancing, or meet somebody, or when I got the nerve up to do that, which took quite a bit of time. So, that's being closeted too, is you don't have the guts to go to a gay bar.

Raiskin: And you mentioned that you were hesitant to go to Mother Kali's, the women's book store?

Rees: Mother's Kali's had three locations that I was aware of. When I first realized or heard about it, that there was a women's bookstore, which was I think, an adequate, an accurate description, but there was a lot of lesbian material in there. I didn't know if such a thing existed. So when I found out about it, I drove past it a few times, kind of to case the neighborhood. And it was in an area that was in a neighborhood. Homes around it. It wasn't on a busy street. It felt like I could possibly go in there. I'm in graduate school by this time. I'm in my twenties. Later twenties. Twenty-seven-ish, when I come back for graduate school. And a friend of mine who we were out to each other, a fellow classmate, told me about a book that she had read, a novel. I'm like, "There's a novel with lesbian characters?" I'd never heard about this. I was fascinated.

Choices by Nancy Tudor, is the first book I ever read that had lesbian characters in it. And I think it was a sad book, as they so often were, I think the rule was that the lesbian either had to die or go to a mental institution. This might have been a little past that but it was still sad. But, I went into Mother Kali's, and I asked for the book, so I didn't have to take any time looking for it. And I bought it and I left. I didn't look around, I didn't spend any time, and my heart must have been racing. And then Mother Kali's moved to Franklin Street, opposite which is now Matt Knight arena, which is a very busy street. And I was so bummed because I'd gotten to

where I could go in and look at books and shop a little bit. And it felt safe when it was away from humanity. Then it was on Franklin, which is one of our main streets. But I would go in, but luckily, they also carried textbooks. So you could have the excuse of going in to look at textbooks. And cards, and gifts and other things. It wasn't all just lesbian stuff.

I would go in there. By the time it moved there, I was a little more freer. And then it moved on campus. And you had to be so comfortable with yourself and out to be able to go into the Mother Kali's on campus. But by then it was a main source of textbooks for the campus. It was—

Long: That was on Thirteenth.

Rees: Correct. So people had that as the smokescreen if they needed it. But, also by that time, the State of Oregon had gone through so much political progress and been through Measure 8, Measure 9, Measure 8, Measure 30, on and on and on, that the idea of our neighbors, our teachers, our ice cream vendors being gay and lesbian was not such a shock. And, I know it was not a big deal to go into Mother Kali's by the time they were on campus.

Raiskin: Can you talk a little bit about your experience of those measures, living through those and Eugene?

Rees: Well, in a word heartbreaking. Because, you would see the signs, and the political signs, and people's yards supporting Measure 8,

which, if I recall the first ones were to ensure that there were no gays or lesbians in our public schools, teaching. Among other things, but that would be one of the outcomes. And so in the public conversation on a daily basis, or your friends, your family and your neighbors, talking about how they're going to vote on your life, on the quality of your life. And I'm a teacher at this point. I was a high school teacher for seven years, I'm on campus, I'm a coach. But it was about ensuring that there were no teachers— gay or lesbian teachers, and/or curriculum, and/or mention of gay and lesbian history. So, it was about all of that as well.

As we had come out over years and gotten more and more comfortable being out, we were going to be forced into another closet, where you would know what jobs you wouldn't or couldn't apply for. Or you'd have to stay closeted. And this was the external pressure I'd known all along in athletics, is that, you just knew you couldn't be out as a coach. And so, now it was being spread across all of education. And it was sad and frightening, and as the days to vote got closer and closer, you're just holding your breath thinking Who in my family is going to vote in a way that's going to ensure that I don't have this job tomorrow? And that was a possibility because I was still not out to my family at the time—I'd— I'm not exactly sure. No, I would have been out to my family at the time in the measures in Oregon. Yes, I would have been out—

Long: Can you tell us what that experience was like?

Rees: Coming out to my family?

Raiskin: Yeah.

Rees: Sure. When I told my mother, I remember telling her I wasn't exactly straight. Softening blow.

Raiskin: A little bit.

Rees: A little bit. And we were sitting in her car in a parking garage where she lived in San Diego. And I just felt like, it's time. And I think I was twenty-nine. And so I told her. And she was pretty quiet. And she had a disappointing but the classic reaction was, she was scared for me, but then she said, "Honey, was it anything I did?" Parents don't want to negatively impact your life. And at that time, that would have been considered a negative impact. I don't think we're there anymore, overall, certainly we— there is plenty of that still. The idea that it's a lesser way to be in the world.

But I said, “No, I have three siblings. If it was something you and dad had done, wouldn't my siblings also be gay or something else that you were worried about?" And they’re not. And she said, Oh, OK.” She had this personal fear. I didn't know at the time to say, "Well, this is not about you, Mom." But I understand that concern. And then her only concern she's ever had since was my safety and my happiness. And I appreciate that. That's what moms do. They care about your safety and your happiness. And my siblings were like, "Duh.” My sister said, “I knew you were gay since you were

five." But like, "You could have told me. Help me out here." And then she would tell me stories that made her think that that was the case. And I remember telling my brother and he was like, "Yeah, well." And we were at dinner in a bar, and he was like, "So, who do you like here?" And he's like, "I don't want to hit on somebody you're going to hit on. So let's just get our cards on the table."

He's a funny guy, and he was very open and also was like, "Well, yeah, I know." But again, I was twenty-nine. These people had been around me a lot. It wasn't a surprise to them. It was just more scary for me. But, and this is what I say even to this day. And like to the parents of kids that I know are gay, is that, when you come out to someone, you have to be prepared to lose that person. And that's how it's been my entire life. I have to be prepared to lose you. And so, when I'm telling my mom that I'm gay, I realize she could— that could be the last day I have with her, because that had been the experience of most of my friends that were lesbians at that point. Most of my friends had bad experiences, and I was just rolling the dice and hoping that my mom was different. And my dad was already dead.

Long: Did you lose anybody? By coming out to them?

Rees: No, not in my family. Friends, and not even good friends. I would say more acquaintances. And, to be honest with you, I'm not even sure how accurate that is. I may have lost some friends but, I think my memory is selective, anymore, and it's not as sharp as it used to

be. Which is interesting because I think coming out to someone does, if they're not on board with you, is it puts them in a closet. Now they have to decide. Am I going to pretend like I'm okay with you? Or am I going to be honest? And so you turn the tables on somebody and put the decision in their hands.

Raiskin: You say that you were turned from coaching to pursuing a more authentic life?

Rees: Mm-hmm [affirmative]

Raiskin: What did that look like for you?

Rees: Well, at the time, I was lucky to be doing some TV broadcasting on the side of coaching. I was coaching volleyball, which was year round, but our competitive season was in the fall. So occasionally in the winter and spring, I could do some sports broadcasting for women's basketball and softball. And so, I had done just a little bit of that. And that would be a part time experience. I knew I had that. And then I had to find something else to do, full time with my life, and I didn't know where I would land. But I thought I could probably go back to teaching high school, which I didn't want to do. But, I came across the river from where the Athletic Department is out at the Casanova Center. Came back to campus, and I went to the Physical Education Department where some of my mentors were still in the department. And I asked Lois Youngen, Dr. Youngen, who was the head of the Physical Education Department, if she had any need for teachers. And it was

summer, so she did. She actually had a couple classes I could teach in the summer.

I got that part-time job, and then just by, again, which feels to me like luck, or being in the right place at the right time, she asked me if I wanted a half time job. I said "Yes, absolutely." I got a teaching job in the Oregon PE department. And I taught about five or six classes, with a half time job. Five or six one-credit classes. And then, I was also doing the TV, then that can grow a little bit, because I had more time. So then, I picked up doing volleyball, basketball and softball with TV. I did that for eight years.

But then, after one year of halftime, my supervisor, Dr. Youngen, asked me if I wanted a full-time job. And I said "Yes." And so, then I supervised some other teachers and I continued to teach about seven classes a term. It's a busy life in the PE department. And then, I oversaw some graduate students and some other teachers, and then, the following year, the director job opened up. And the women who were running the department or were in the department, had been my teachers and knew me and they suggested I apply for the job and would like me to run the department, which I did for twenty-three years.

Long: And that was headquartered in Gerlinger?

Rees: Esslinger.

Long: Esslinger?

Rees: Esslinger.

Long: Oh, okay.

Rees: Yeah.

Long: What was that facility like?

Rees: It's old and it's— linoleum floors and, turquoise walls. Very '70s, I think Esslinger was built, well, Mac Court was built in 1926. And I believe Esslinger was already there. It's an old building.

Long: So it's really old.

Rees: Yeah. And we've improved on the— we've built a couple of recreation centers as part of the Department. It's a physical education and recreation here on campus. We've built some beautiful facilities in a couple of phases over time. It's a wonderful place to work now but, back then it was something like *Ghostbusters*, some very old and out of date facilities.

Long: So, now you're totally in the new building, and Esslinger is used for something else, is that correct?

Rees: Esslinger is office space.

Long: Office space.

Rees: And there are four classrooms in there, and it's office space. We still have a presence in Esslinger. Our business office is there, and some

of our full time PE faculty have our offices in the Esslinger. And then the Rec Center is just around the corner, and is the place where we teach most of our classes, and our Recreation Department is housed.

Raiskin: Okay. So you had twenty-three years directing?

Rees: Yes.

Raiskin: What would you say your legacy is in those years of what you contributed? And how that relates to who you are.

Rees: Part of my legacy is that I successfully maintained what was always a very good and robust program that my mentors had established. My mentors are women who are still in town, at least three of them, that are in their '80s and have fabulous stories themselves. One of them played in the All American girls' professional baseball league during the war. They were very dedicated professionals. And they were very serious about the educational component of physical education. And they had established a physical education department that was far more than throwing out the ball. We taught technique and strategy and history and rules, and we taught skills and drills and we did some competition or we did— we really tried to build on people's understanding of fitness for something to have for a lifetime, and we gave quizzes and tests and students earn their grades.

And so, I maintain that. And I grew it. At one point, I had sixty-five instructors. I had the largest faculty on campus. And we offered 500 and some classes per term, and I misspoke. I got my numbers. We offered 190 classes per term that had over 5,000 students at it. That's where the five came. So, 190 classes, sixty-five faculty. And it was robust. And at one time I had a registrar do a survey and 74 percent of Oregon students graduated with the physical education credit on their transcript, and it was elective. They didn't have to.

We served, I think, one of the largest student populations, maybe Writing 121 got everybody, but we got nearly everybody. I think my legacy is maintaining what was a robust, legitimate program. And did get smaller towards the end of my tenure. As tuition has gone up, students have quit taking as many electives because it's just too expensive. But, I think the faculty is still about forty-some and the number of classes is about 140. It's still sizable and students love it.

Raiskin: Were you able to make any inroads in the atmosphere around homophobia in athletics?

Rees: In athletics?

Raiskin: In athletics, and in the department?

Rees: Definitely in the physical education department. Part of the reason that I took the job when Dr. Youngen offered it, is that, I felt that I could be out on campus. I remember what happened for me, I just

remembered an important turning point. When I was in the last year or so of my coaching, I took a Women's Studies 101. I'm in my late twenties, and I've decided to take the entry level class because I wanted to get a clearer idea of what the topics that were critical to feminism. Because I've always had this feminist brain, and you couldn't trust what was in the *Register-Guard* that they were covering the latest in feminist discourse.

So I took Women's Studies 101. And towards the end of that term, they had a four-woman panel of lesbians. And I was mind-blown. There was a grad student, and there was a woman from the Counseling Center, who I later had an eight year relationship with. We met that day. That day did a couple things for me. It taught me that you could be out on the Oregon campus and not lose your job. And I didn't know that was the case. Because when I started working on campus, I believed you could lose your job if you were an out gay or lesbian.

She was the first— she started the first gay and lesbian counseling job. Designed it and held it on a university campus. Her whole clientele were the gay students on campus. She was on the panel, like I said, a grad student. Somebody I think from, possibly another faculty member. Anyway, there were four lesbians sitting there live and in person talking to us about being out and being on campus and what their lives were like, and I was blown away, and I learned that day you could be on campus and not lose your job. And that also helped me realize that if I stepped away from athletics, where I

didn't think, I still thought I'd be fired, because my head coach could have fired me for whatever reason. I thought, but I can still work on campus. And so I did apply for that job and thought, well, they can't fire me. So, I was always out. And I was always welcomed, and I started doing diversity work on campus, which included being on the Bridges panels for about ten or eleven years.

Raiskin: Can you describe the Bridges panel?

Rees: Yeah. Bridges is a campus organization that is run by students, but, they put together panels of LGBTQA et cetera, students and faculty to go to different classes and essentially talk about our lives. We go to history class, we might talk more about the history of gay and lesbian life, but then we would just field a lot of questions from history students. Or we would go to a psychology class and talk about that, or we would go to women's studies class and talk about our lives. And generally in context of what the class was about. But I've been to science classes. And different kinds of disciplines that you might not expect on LGBTQA panel would be going to, and we would generally use the whole hour, or hour and half. There would be four or five of us, and we would tell a coming out story.

So, they get a flavor of who we were. And then, we answer questions from the students. And, the faculty often wanted the questions to be related to the content that they would be studying in class, but you never know where the questions would go. And one of our things was, you can ask us anything. Some people may

or may not answer them. But you can ask us anything. We were an educational forum. And like I said, I did that every term for ten or eleven years, and I would usually be the only faculty member in the group, it was mostly students. And so, I became the historical mom role for everybody.

Somebody would ask a historical question and the panel would look to me, like "Peg?". But I loved it. I mean, it was healing, it was part of what— if I was unhealthy and inauthentic in my coaching career, I completely reverse that in my teaching career on campus with the blessings of the university and the structures that we have here. And my department was happy to see me out and about on campus and representing us in a positive way. And, so it was, like I said, every coming out is you have the chance of pissing somebody off or losing somebody. You're doing that over and over and over. And you never know who I'm talking to in class that I've had in class, or that I will have in class, and I'm outing myself, and that can be positive or negative. But it was one of the most healing processes I had done, because I hadn't talked about myself for so long. I almost couldn't stop talking about myself. And it was wonderful.

Long: That's powerful. What years were that?

Rees: Well, I retired in 2016. I probably quit Bridges around 2014. I'd say—.

Long: Ninety-three?

Rees: Yeah. [actually, 2003]

Long: Ninety-three? Wow! Long time.

Rees: Yeah. [actually, 2003]

Raiskin: When did you take that Women's Studies 101 class? What year was that?

Rees: That would have probably been 1991 or two. Deltra Ferguson was the instructor. Some things you never forget. I mean, my memory comes and goes now but that was a great class. And I was mentored on this campus by Sandra Morgen and Joan Acker. I've had some wonderful connections with women on this campus, because I got my master's degree and then I connected with those two women. I got a graduate certificate in women's studies, and I connected with a few more. And so I've been very lucky that way.

Long: How did the sports coaching change over time?

Rees: Not near enough, it almost still hasn't. I'm not sure what the number is but the last number I remember, which would have been in the last five years is that there are seven out coaches in Division I sport in America. Two of them were in Oregon, two of the seven were in Oregon one time but, maybe only one of them continues to be. It's still not safe. People will recruit negatively against you. It's still the bane of American existence to have gay people in your world evidently.

Raiskin: Can you explain that by—

Long: So, recruiting negatively.

Rees: Yeah. So it's actually illegal, but we know that it happens quite a bit. And so, recruiting athletes is a highly competitive process. And you want the best athletes to come play at your school. And so, if anybody had known that I was out, then the schools in our conference specifically or anybody that was after those students would tell the parents of that student, "Well, Oregon's got a gay coach. Your kid is not safe there." And they would perpetuate the myths, without knowing me as a person at all. But that happens. Even single women who— straight single women would be the target of negative recruiting, because of the potential that, why aren't they married? They must be gay. People would negatively recruit against your program.

It put all kinds of pressure on women. And then actually, it's even harder I think, in some ways to be a gay man in sport. Guys can just be so brutal about their masculinity and can really come down hard on anybody who appears less than macho, in the athletic arena. For coaches, I would say it has not gotten any better, for student athletes, it's completely different. And students these days are far more advanced than most of the rest of the older generations. They grow up knowing gay kids, they grow up going to school with them, they grow up liking them, knowing who in their family is gay, et cetera. It's like, no big deal. Coming out is not

what it used to be. There's a young man who's the son of one of my best friends who's twenty, twenty-one now. And, I've always thought he was gay, and he never came out to me. And I thought, how could he never come out to me? And we just have had this conversation recently, it's like, what's that? It's like, there were people he was nervous to tell that he was gay, because there still is this thing, but it's not the deal it was for us. For many students, it's not live or die. And it was for my generation. And, he's like, "Well, if I lose a friend, I lose a friend, you can always get another friend. My family loves me." And that's incredibly progressive compared to my era.

So, our student athletes live in a time where the athletic department is hosting Bridges panels, they're hosting mental health panels, they're hosting panels for student athletes. And now even a couple coaches have, well actually now Oregon has an out coach. I just realized that. And I'm not sure if she's out nationally, but she was sat on a panel, in the athletic department, with their entire staff and some student athletes. And these student athletes were talking about their lives to coaches, and to staff members, bringing along the older generations, and talking about the lives, the real lives of some of our student athletes. And how can we serve the student athlete better? It's gotten far healthier, and some of that is thanks to Chicora Martin, and Mauri.

Raiskin: Stephanie. And they were in charge of the, what's the—

Rees: What's the— yeah.

Raiskin: Center for LGBT Education Support Services?

Rees: Yes. We started to do Bridges panels for them. And then they I realized we can do a Bridges panels with all athletic department athletes and we just have to find who will be comfortable. And that took a while. But I've gone and sat in the audience of a couple of those. And watched that process happen. It's far healthier for the student athlete. The reason that it's not come any further for the coach is because your career is based on your ability to draw the talent. And there are people out there talking about you behind your back, you've got to be squeaky clean as possible. And we still live in a time where being gay and lesbian isn't in the squeaking clean vision of some folks.

Raiskin: Over the years that you were contributing so much to the university, were you, and getting more involved with lesbian community in Eugene? Or what did you know about the lesbian community in Eugene?

Rees: By the time I was out in my work, I don't think there were, for instance any gay bars left in Eugene. There were when I was in grad school, and I can remember occasionally going to bars and dancing in town—

Long: Was it the Riviera Room?

Rees: I never went to the Riv Room. That would have been off balance for me [would have been out of bounds] when I was— that would have been when I was closeted to everybody, including myself, in ways. But, the gay McDonald's, we called it, they had—

Raiskin: Neighbors.

Rees: Neighbors, that was a converted McDonald's restaurant on the east side of campus. So, that was the place. But there was also a couple places, off and on downtown. There's also a group that came to town, and I don't think they do any more of the "Hot Flash" dances, and they would be around town. I went to those quite a bit. I would occasionally go listen to Soromundi sing, the lesbian choir. There were some social things that I did. Not a lot.

Raiskin: Were you friends with any of those women in Soromundi or any of those organizations?

Rees: My partner was, as I said, was a counselor in town. And she had a lot of lesbian friends, and felt much more free to have them when I hadn't felt it. I had just left coaching when she and I got together. That first eight years of me being out, I was putting my toe in the water here and there and starting to do things, but not a lot. But yes, definitely. I mean, far more than I had been before. And it was fun. It was great. It was interesting to go from the world I knew to all of a sudden being in a room of my people. And there is something about that. I'm not a segregationist and I'm, but I think there's something about safe spaces for women and for men, and I

think there are safe spaces for black people, and for Native Americans. I think we need to allow people to meet where they see themselves, that's legit.

Raiskin: There were some restaurants that people go to like L & L Market.

Rees: L & L was a hotbed for lesbian breakfasts. Yes.

Long: Where was that?

Rees: I did know about that. On Willamette Street.

Raiskin: It's where Bier Stein is.

Rees: Yeah, the Bier Stein now. But what a happy memory! We're smiling at that, and it's gone. And part of it is, in a way do we need it anymore? We used to need to create spaces where we could go safely and gather and see each other. And it's a real loss, though, that we don't have L & L anymore, because I don't think we see each other as much anymore. And we certainly don't in groups as much, you have to go out of your way to participate in your community.

Long: I guess that's a consequence of mainstreaming.

Rees: Absolutely. Well, it's like I said, with Title IX, there were the unintended consequences of coaches and administrators losing their jobs. We didn't know that was going to happen. It's the same thing with mainstreaming, is that as things have gotten healthier

for individuals, for the groups, you have to go out of your way and seek out the experiences where you're in a room of lesbians.

Raiskin: Has marriage equality changed your life in any way?

Rees: Well, it came too late for me, I believe. I've had what I would think of as three significant relationships. I think if we'd had marriage equality, I might still be in my first one. That's the first way it impacted me. My first partner was not out to her family while we were together. She was a high school teacher, didn't feel like she could be. She has since won the Harvey Milk Award in Corvallis. But we were well past our relationship and we were on a different pace for coming out. So marriage inequality negatively impacted my life, not having the social support and resources to navigate the bumps and the challenges of marriage. It's easier to step away than if you're married. And think, Well, you know, let's figure this out. We took a vow. When you're just girlfriends, it's like, get your couch out of my living room. And it's easier to do. I have a little anecdote for you though. I feel like I'm the answer to a trivia question, because I've never been married, but I'm legally divorced. My last partner and I became domestic partners on the day that domestic partnership became legal in Oregon. We went down to the courthouse and stood in line and we got our domestic partnership. But we have since split, and so now that there is legal marriage, equal marriage, to dissolve a domestic partnership, you have to get a divorce. So, never married, once divorced.

Long: That's so bizarre.

Rees: I mean, they get you coming and going, right? It cost me $60 to get partnered and about $300 - $500 to get divorced. Unbelievable.

Raiskin: I'm wondering. I have a couple of more questions. Does being lesbian affect your experience of aging?

Rees: Well, I think it will. Because back to the marriage situation, one of my partners and I tried to adopt for a number of years, it didn't work out. We were doing open adoption. I think we were more a sideshow, than going to be really chosen. We had some nibbles, but didn't get chosen. I don't have children. I personally was never going to carry a child, but I was hopeful that a partner would or could adopt. And so not having the stability of marriage— Also, I didn't ever get or continued to pursue parenting. So, in that I will be single and without family as I age. That's going to be an issue. I haven't given a lot of thought of how being an elderly lesbian will impact me. I can't imagine that it won't, because we're still dealing with issues, if not on the huge, or still national level, we're still dealing with issues over time, but I think, as I think about this, and I haven't thought a lot about it until your question, I think the inability to get married will impact my aging more than just being a lesbian will, but I don't know until I experience it.

I haven't known many older lesbians. And so I haven't asked them the question or thought to ask that question. The older lesbians, even some that I think I know are older lesbians, don't call

themselves that still. I know a couple that have probably lived together for forty years, who refer to themselves as roommates. And I don't think they're roommates, I think they're together. But that's where their comfort is. I'm in a different generation than that. And so hopefully it will be better than that. But I don't know.

Raiskin: You don't have a lot of role models.

Rees: I don't have a lot of role models. Yeah, that's a good point. But I also would have liked to have had children, and I just— because that didn't work out for me. I think about my siblings' children. And I think, we grow up having some sense that will take care of our parents, but I don't think we grew up thinking we're going to take care of our aunts and uncles. I think my nieces and nephew do have a sense that I hope they'll be there for me. But I've nurtured those relationships over time as if they were my children. I think I'll have the benefit of their care if I need it. But that's something you can't count on. Definitely being an older lesbian has absolutely informed how I have planned my financial life, my retirement. It's even how I managed the end of my last relationship, was thinking about being an older lesbian and what that meant to me, and not having children to take care of me. It's definitely defined how I've managed my financial picture.

Long: What kind of decisions did you make that were reflected by that?

Rees: Well, I hope I've ensured that I'll be able to afford Long Term Care if necessary, because I'm not moving into my kids homes, right? So

when I can't cook for myself, I don't want my nieces and nephews to have to pay for my care unless they want to, but I'm not counting on it. I hope I've set myself up so that I can get care without impacting their home lives. I've also set it up so that I hope I leave them something. I want to be a positive financial piece for them.

I've always wished that simple rich relative would die and leave me something. Never happened. I want to be that person for my siblings' kids. I have great relationships with them. If somebody were to have handed me $25,000, I would remember that person fondly all my life. I know that's a bit bizarre, but I have that in my head, I think they will take care of me some. And, I want to give them something when I go. I have it set up so that they are the direct beneficiaries of anything I have left when I die.

Rees: Can you imagine what it might be like to be a lesbian in assisted living or retirement homes or the range of choices that are available for older people?

Rees: I just wonder if you don't just go back into a closet. Are we talking— I mean, I hope that we're talking about our lives in meaningful ways then. I mean, I intend to, I don't feel like I'm going to go back into a closet. But I wonder if there's a point of what you— Do we quit talking about those kinds of things? And we're talking about the jello, for dessert or, we're talking about the crafts we're going to do the next— I'm not sure. My experience, I actually worked in elder care when I was in high school. For some

months, I worked in an elder care facility. And it seemed to me that the folks there talked about why they were there. They talked about their illnesses that they were experiencing, or their lack of familial support. And those were the main things in their lives.

Long: Was that more of a nursing home though, rather than a retirement center?

Rees: Yes, it was.

Long: Because I could see maybe a group of women would go into a retirement center where you could still have a vibrant life and do activities on your own direction, and develop a community.

Rees: Yeah, and that could be a cool thing. That could be something that— a place that I could land. I'm a fairly social person.

Raiskin: I do wonder about, like, Cascade Manor. What would you like to be? I don't know any lesbians there or any out people. What would you like to be an out lesbian in your eighties at Cascade Manor?

Rees: Well, I'm going to find out because the women in my family live into their '90s, and I'm not going back into anybody's closet, and I don't own one anymore. I'll bet it continues to be a part of the conversation because I bet even as we continue in those parts of our lives, we're going to continuously come across people who haven't either availed themselves the opportunity to get to know some gays and lesbian people, or haven't acknowledged the people in their families—

Raiskin: Including our health care professionals.

Rees: Yes.

Raiskin: As we deal with more and more doctors.

Rees: And I'm continually coming out to health care professionals. That's a part of my interview process if I have to get into health care professional, because I had a very hurtful and very bad experience once. One of the most painful experience of being a lesbian was with a health care professional in this community. And so I ensure—

Raiskin: Can you talk about that?

Rees: I will talk about that. I ensure that every health care professional I meet and I'm going to support their career is going to support me in every aspect of my needs, in terms of health.

I land on the androgynous to butch side of the spectrum. I love femininity and most of its forms, but don't feel an ounce of it in my body or in my psyche, or in my reality, in my choices, femininity is just not something I identify with. And I was born with larger breasts than I have now. About 1912, well, I've been thinking about it for years but in— 1912! I'm not that old.

In 2012, I started looking for a doctor to get a breast reduction, significant breast reduction. And I identify as a woman, but I wanted to identify as a woman with much smaller breasts. It was

just going to be more comfortable for me and who I am in my head and my heart and so I got a reference from my primary care physician who was wonderful woman, who said, oh yeah, you should totally do this, and encouraged me and sent me to a guy here in town. And I set up an appointment, and in the phone intake, I mentioned my partner, Emma.

And she and I got to the first appointment with this person and didn't get past the desk. The women who were in charge of meeting patients had been given the task of making sure no lesbians got past this desk. And they didn't say it in those terms, but I will guarantee you everything that I hold dear, I will bet that they said such ridiculous things as we don't have an appointment for you. And I said, "Well, yeah, actually you do." And I could explain back to them the full conversation I had with on the intake interview.

And, Emma was with me, she was going with me, with this experience. So first they pretended that I wasn't on the calendar. Then I explained to them I was on I had talked to Sally, the woman that does their scheduling. Let's get Sally out here. Sally came out from behind the curtain. And then by the time I was done with them, there were three women standing there. I never saw the doctor. There were three women standing there, and they then pretended to go into my file and say, “Oh, yes. Oh, yes, I see now we have you here. Sorry, you didn't make it to the calendar. But the doctor has stated that you're not a good candidate for surgery.”

Long: Without seeing you?

Rees: I'm fifty-eight years old, I'm an athlete. I'm healthy. As the next doctor told me, "You're like the best candidate for surgery." And so they lied. And they did everything they could to say, "We're not treating you." And I guarantee you it's because I said my partner is Emma. And I had her with me. And they were prepared to turn me away, and they did. And I was so shut down and so hurt, and part of it was because by that time my walls were down. I was out and proud and supported in my work and my family. I live in Eugene because it's a safe place. And it's a bit of a bubble in some ways.

I've had opportunities to live other places, and I've not taken them, because I know what I have here. And then boom, I got hit with that, that level of homophobia. And it was a pain. I just didn't remember, I hadn't experienced in years. And I could barely breathe that day. I went back to work, but I was there for a little while just looking at the walls and I left. I just couldn't hardly even function. I just didn't think that was happening here anymore. But it's happening still in places. And probably here. I mean, I think the guy is still practicing. Anyway, I found another practitioner and I had a breast reduction, and I have felt more myself since 2012 than I did the whole rest of my life.

And back to my mother who had a little bit of a disappointing reaction when I came out to her when I told her I was gay— and she was the last person I told I was going to get breast reduction,

because she doesn't quite get being gay on every level, but she's been loving and fully supportive, mostly supportive. And I told her I was getting a breast reduction. She said, "Oh, honey, I wish you had done that thirty years ago." Like mom, I wish we'd have talked more genuinely thirty years ago, because she would have supported me knowing that my big boobs were not a help to my athletic career. They occasionally got in the way. I mean, you learned how to compete around them, and I would have liked to have competed without them. I feel like my body is more who I am authentically now, and no thanks to this guy in Eugene.

Long: What has been your greatest joy about being an out lesbian in Eugene?

Rees: Wow, that's a good question. I think we all, on our journeys, strive to know who we are, understand what our opinions are and our thoughts and our beliefs and our loves and our values. And I think we're— I like to think I'm learning all the time and still developing and learning. But part of our journey as humans seems to be figuring out who we are and where we fit, and what is the best version of ourselves. And living in Eugene allowed me eventually, to be on that path, and to break down the walls that I had built.

My niece calls it having a armor. We walk around with our armor up so much. And Eugene has allowed me to be out and mostly safe. I've experienced some homophobia in this town besides the jerk in the medical office, I've experienced other things. But I haven't felt

that much that my life was in danger. I think the greatest thing is to be able to join the rest of the world and finding my authentic self finding my true voice. Actually, I would say that being a lesbian has completely added to the richness of my life. Because my stories are different than most of my family. My experiences are different, and they're interested in them, and they love me for who I am. And they want to hear my stories. Sometimes, something will happen at a family outing, and I will mention how that impacts me as a lesbian, and I can almost see them get quiet and like, "Tell me." And there's this welcoming space. And I feel them, they have the pain when I tell about hurtful situations, they experience the pain with me. And in a way my life is richer, because it's different. I wouldn't have said that thirty years ago, but I know it's true now is that— I understand the straight world because it's most of what my role models have been, and what you see in movies and magazines— I get it.

I understand the man's world, because as women it's mostly what we see, we see the men in power positions, and when you're— where I'm going with this, is when you're a part of a minority, you see the majority world from a perspective that they don't see it. And it does add richness along with some of the problems it adds. But, I feel like I understand the world better than my straight family do, because they don't see it from an objective viewpoint. They see it from places of privilege, and I have life that's from a place of privilege to being white, being middle class, working on a university campus, there's a great deal of privilege in my life, but

being a lesbian has opened my eyes to discrimination, and what it's like to be the minority.

And so I have a great deal of empathy for every other minority. And I feel like I can see what privilege looks like, and I can be in tune with my own privilege better because I'm in tune with the rest of my family's privilege or my friends' privilege. There's a richness there that, I think you've got to embrace and be glad for.

Long: Thank you, Peg, this has been fabulous.

Rees: Thank you.

Long: Really appreciate it.

Raiskin: Wonderful.

Rees: Thanks for the opportunity to talk. It's healing.

[END OF INTERVIEW]