

Interviewee: Mittan, J. Barry
Interviewer: Brent Newman:
Date: October 14, 2008
Category: FSU
Status: Open
Tape location: Box #58

Newman: I just want to see if the microphone will pick us up alright, so to start real quick this is Brent Newman. I'm interviewing Mr. Mittan in his residence in Tallahassee FL I'll be talking about his experience at Florida State. Some a little bit of background information where are you originally from?

Mittan: Pennsylvania.

Newman: Pennsylvania, what inspired you to go to Florida State University?

Mittan: They had a journalism school when I applied.

Newman: Did you have any siblings that went to universities?

Mittan: My sister went here.

Newman: Did she go before or after you?

Mittan: Afterwards, I put her through school.

Newman: That was very nice of you. Did you take journalism courses or classes in High School?

Mittan: No, they didn't have them there at that time but I did work on the newspaper and the Yearbook.

Newman: Ok. What was it like coming down from Pennsylvania to Tallahassee, Florida?

Mittan: Well I had lived in Ft. Walton beach before, so it wasn't a big difference.

Newman: So, what organizations were you involved with at Florida State?

Mittan: All the five student publications, Omicron Delta Kappa, Gold Key, Phi Eta Sigma, air force ROTC, the FSU Flying High Circus, and I was the staff photographer for the FSU athletic department. Probably a few other things I can't remember.

Newman: A whole list, were you employed as the staff photographer for the athletics?

Mittan: Yea that was one of my jobs.

Newman: Did you serve in the air force?

Mittan: No, I had a congenital... I had a problem with my throat that's why my voice is strange it was very constricted, and they figured I wouldn't survive. But a few years later someone actually who had been in a position who had been in Vietnam figured out a way to correct that. I was actually the first person to survive that operation.

Newman: Wow. Pretty amazing. So did you have any particular favorite sports to photograph?

Mittan: No, not really, I enjoyed all of them at that time.

Newman: Are there any moments or games or meets that sort of stick out in your mind?

Mittan: Probably not when I was a student. I mean the first time that FSU won a game after a long series of defeats in Miami was a pretty exciting game.

Newman: Always makes you feel good.

Mittan: That was after the oh and eleven season which most people hear about. *Inaudible* don't even remember anymore.

Newman: We try not to think about it. While you were at the university did you live on or off campus?

Mittan: I lived in the dorms the first quarter or two, they were on the quarters then, because it was required for freshmen to live on...on campus, but I lived off campus after that.

Newman: Ok. Did those first couple years did you live in co-ed dorms?

Mittan: No, they didn't have co-ed dorms at that point.

Newman: Ok. They came a little bit later.

Mittan: I was in Smith and Kellum.

Newman: Mostly I've just looked through a lot of your photo books that you gave to Mr. Woodward. So, that where I got kind of a lot of my background information. Saw a lot of kind of interesting photos of like skits and cart races and one of turtle painting, were they from events like homecoming?

Mittan: I'd have to look at the pictures to see.

Newman: Ok.

Mittan: I mean, between the five student publications we photographed almost anything that occurred on campus over that period of time. So it's hard to say.

Newman: To exactly single it out. Did you continue to serve to work for all those publications as a graduate student?

Mittan: By that time most of them had been...disappeared. The Flambeau which was the newspaper at time, was kicked off campus and went private. The yearbook ceased to exist. In fact the last regular hardcover yearbook was done in the summer time after the school year by the editor and myself.

Newman: Oh wow.

Mittan: Whereas previously, they had a staff of twenty to thirty people doing it. And then it disappeared. The other publications, literary magazine, and the humor magazine I think they were all outlawed by the administration. So when I was a graduate student there were essentially no on-campus publications.

Newman: No opportunity.

Mittan: Now I worked for a community newspaper at the time and I continued working for the athletic department.

Newman: Sounds like quite a bit of work, just the two of you putting together the whole yearbook.

Mittan: I worked a standard hundred hour week so that wasn't any different. In fact when I was going to school we were only allowed to work twenty hours a week I worked sixty because I worked three twenty hour jobs which were...not such that you could they could find one.

But I put myself through, completely with no help and so I needed to go through fast. I mean I was I was the last person to arrive in my class and the first to graduate. Cause I took I took a full load every time and worked my sixty hours. So it wasn't any different for me.

Newman: Did they have a lot of summer classes at that time?

Mittan: You could take a full load in the summer.

Newman: In the summer, was it very popular or was campus?

Mittan: No, it was very unpopular *Inaudible* the campus was virtually deserted in the summertime.

Newman: A little bit more lonely.

Mittan: There were four quarters, but you were not required to go all four. You were not required to go in the summertime.

Newman: And the *inaudible*

Mittan: Completely voluntary.

Newman: And the summer was the fourth quarter?

Mittan: The summer was the fourth quarter.

Newman: Alright, can you tell me a little bit about the flying high circus? How did you become involved with?

Mittan: I guess the first, well the first day I was on campus I started working for the publications, and in the first week or two I was sent out to take pictures of the circus for publicity for their coming home shows, and the director liked my pictures... wanted me to do the pictures for the circus. So I started doing that in addition, and the students in the circus actually invited me to join it. They said you're, you know, as athletic as we are so you know you can probably do an act. Now, I did not have a lot of time so I couldn't do one of the high profile acts so I just did stuff I could teach myself on my own.

Newman: – Were...was it volunteer to be the photographer for the circus..or?

Mittan: The university paid me for some of the...for pictures that were used in publications and stuff that they sent out. The other work that I did for keeping the photo archives of the circus itself, that was voluntary.

Newman: Ok what...?

Mittan: And I still do that.

Newman: Oh really. How often did they put on shows when you were going to school?

Mittan: Usually there were six home shows and then there were a couple of road shows.

Newman: Do you travel with them much today?

Mittan: No, because I'm travelling elsewhere.

Newman: Right.

Mittan: And usually the timing of their shows does not match the timing of when I'm in town. I still do the shows in Tallahassee.

Newman: When you have the opportunity.

Mittan: When I'm when I'm here, right.

Newman: – Alright, what events did you perform in?

Mittan: Just the home shows and one road show and on the bicentennial down in Wakulla county.

Newman: What events

Mittan: Most of the time people who went on road shows were those who did multiple acts.

Newman: Ok.

Mittan: Because they wanted to carry as few people as possible.

Newman: Save expenses.

Mittan: To save expenses. I mean, if it if it was something local I might go by, but I didn't go on long distance ones.

Newman: Right. Take you away from everything else too.

Mittan: Right.

Newman: Which, which of the events...which of the different...I'm not sure the exact ...different skills

Mittan: Acts?

Newman: – Acts, Yes!

Mittan: I juggled although I didn't do that in the show I did slack-wire and of course I did did the rigging and I was one of the web spinners.

Newman: Did you have a favorite act that you performed?

Mittan: Oh, the slack-wire was my main act.

Newman: Really, alright

Mittan: In fact, I did it for many years after I was actually in the circus. Probably another twenty years I would do it on and off.

Newman: Oh wow, where, where did you have the opportunity to do something like that?

Mittan: Oh just community event things, I think the last one I did probably around '96 at the skating club in Boston I was between two big skating competitions. One in one in mass... and Springfield, I think it was Springfield, Massachusetts and the other one was in Canada somewhere nearby Ottawa or Montreal and a lot of the skaters had, you know, wanted to know about my act so I set out, I'll send it up to, my stuff up to the skating club since I've got a couple of days in between events and there is no point in going back to Florida. So I set up in the parking lot of the skating club of Boston and did my act out there in November in the wind. Then I set the wire up about six inches off the ground and had all the all-American skaters see if they could actually even try to stand on the wire. But none of them could.

Newman: *Laughter.* Different kind of balance.

Mittan: Yeah it's a different kind of balance, but after that I had much more respect from the skaters after that.

Laughter.

Newman: I bet. Lets see, I saw many pictures about the Florida State Reservation, was that a popular place?

Mittan: That was a big place for people to go in the summer time, back in those days. There wasn't really a whole lot going on in Tallahassee in the summer and it was closer than driving to the beach.

Newman: Did they have canoes and kayaks and things available?

Mittan: Yea, they, I don't recall kayaks but they did have canoes, they had picnic areas, the beach, you had your grass places to hike around.

Newman: Was there much construction on the lake at that time?

Mittan: Virtually none, the occasional house, but they were far, out nothing much near the reservation itself.

Newman: Really, actually I was just out there the other day, they are doing a a lot more work trying to rebuild one of the check in places. So getting a little bit bigger. I also saw some of the pictures of Westcott burning was that a big event on campus?

Mittan: That was a big event at the time it was it was one of those totally unexpected things. And especially during that era there was a lot of concern that it might have been deliberately set by radicals or demonstrators for or against either by left wing ones that were opposed to some of the schools policies or right wing ones that were opposed to school. So that was pretty exciting, those of us that graduated that year actually have diploma covers that are actually burnt.

Newman: Wow

Mittan: That actually have the burn marks on them.

Newman: That's a pretty big memory I guess then

Mittan: Yes I still have that around somewhere.

Newman: Do know about how long it took to reconstruct Westcott?

Mittan: A couple of years, a couple of years. It was closed down I don't know how many but it was a couple.

Newman: Do you, did it affect registration for the following quarter?

Mittan: No, registration was never in Westcott usually it was in Tully Gym or...but Westcott itself was administration and the big auditorium. The auditorium was used for some of the large classes I mean I recall I had Psychology 101 in there, but they had so many classes that had 500 -1000 people in the class were held in there. But that was the only affect. I think the police department was in there, too. Bu the administration had to move out, but there wasn't any effect on registration or that kind of thing.

Newman: Speaking of registration, I think we are kind of pampered today being able to do it over the internet, was it pretty chaotic trying to get everything...

Mittan: It was a difficult process, especially if you were incoming, because you had no idea what was going on and they'd routinely register 20,000 people by hand, and this was done by hand. This before computers, I mean originally the first couple of years they would have cards and if there were 30 people in that class they would have 30 cards and you would go stand in line...I mean each department each thing there'd be a card for English, a row for English for psychology, et cetera after you'd gone thru the regular stuff and paid all your outstanding bills and things you needed just to get into this building. And of course that was in August and September and most of the lines were outside and it was very hot and it was very uncomfortable.

And you know you go in there to your department or whatever and you'd have your list and there weren't...there wasn't much in the way of priority, it was first come first serve. I can't recall they might have let the seniors in first if you were nearing graduation but in any case. You went there and if there were no courses you could take then you had to go to another one and you kept going until you got as many as you could get. I mean, the process, and of course everything was on index cards all the students names and information and such. One of my jobs originally was to work in the registrars office where I had to alphabetize the names of the cards of every student at FSU. And all of their class cards behind them.

Newman: Wow

Mittan: And then I think in '69 we finally went to a computer which was...the long slotted cards but again you had to pick them up at the place I mean you didn't there was no computerized register of any kind the entire time I was there. The fact is it got slightly easier, but not by much

Newman: Right, but was that done at the beginning of each quarter?

Mittan: Each quarter

Newman: Wow

Mittan: And if you missed out some people would end up having to go additional quarters because they couldn't get the classes the wanted

Newman: Right

Mittan: Now I was fortunate, because I was initially...when I was there as a freshmen it didn't matter because I was trying to fill all the basic requirements but later on because I was there in the summer I could pick up stuff in the summer that was difficult to get.

Newman: Right

Mittan: Plus working at the registrar's office I knew how many courses or seats were available which classes. And I had a heads up on where to go first.

Newman: Right, whether it was worth standing in line for. I know you mentioned the journalism department attracted you to Florida State where there any teachers or classes that stood out in you mind?

Mittan: They abolished it that Fall. They did they decided only the University of Florida needed to have a journalism Department.

Newman: Did you...

Mittan: I was already here.

Newman: Right

Mittan: And I came from an extremely poor family and I wasn't going to have an opportunity to move.

Newman: Right

Mittan: I mean, I came here with 97 dollars and a duffel bag on a train and a bus from up North and there wasn't going to be any chance for me to move, to move would have put me behind. I probably wouldn't have been able to go through if I'd had to move. So I was kind of stuck

Newman: Right

Mittan: So basically I got my journalism training on the job. First with the student publications and the community publications and I majored in Psychology and Government. Because those were things I could use. This being a government oriented town and psychology is extremely useful in journalism. Especially if you are having to interview people those things end up being very useful. So I was obligated to stay.

Newman: Right

Mittan: So, and that's when I decided I had better get out quick.

Newman: Right buckle down and breeze through.

Mittan: Because I wasn't going to have a degree in Journalism when I got out.

Newman: Right

Mittan: I was going to have work experience but not a degree

Newman: Makes it a little bit more difficult. Can you tell me a little bit about the Masters program you went thorough?

Mittan: I went in Urban and Regional Planning. I had started work, one of my jobs was with the state and that was field that was rapidly expanding at that time. And since it was a new department on campus it was more flexible than many and I could work around my many jobs. Actually I had already started work in a planning related job in the department of transportation

and since you could take courses there was a fee way for state employees related to your field. That helped. But on the other hand it took me longer to go through there, but I was already working, I had already gone up to 80 hours a week at that point. Cause I was working full time for the state and full time as a photographer.

Newman: Right, what kind of photography work were you doing at that time?

Mittan: Anything I could get.

Newman: – Really?

Mittan: General photography. I did a lot of sports. I still did the circus stuff. I didn't do, I did weddings, I did models, I did whatever was available at that time.

Newman: Did you take...

Mittan: Because at that time I was putting my sisters through school. And then after I got married I was having to put my wife through school.

Newman: You put a little bit of everyone through school, huh?

Mittan: Well it got harder and it's not everyone that can work those kind of hours and still go to classes.

Newman: Mm, that is very impressive

Mittan: You have to be very focused

Newman: Absolutely, that's a lot of time to be spending. I think it is kind of interesting that you decided to go into the Urban and Regional Planning when it seems like your passion was in photography. Did they have many photography classes?

Mittan: No, they had virtually none. There were one or two in the Art Department and it was all artistic photography and the basics I already knew. I taught a couple of classes and some points probably don't exist any more it was called CPE Centers for Participant Education, it was like students teaching students

Newman: OK

Mittan: And I did teach classes on photography and dark room techniques at that point. But I already knew all the basics then and when you get into journalism it is all a question of eye. I mean, either you have the eye or you don't have the eye. And for sports you either know when the moment is correct or you don't. At least in that point time, at that point in time the most you had was 36 shots now you can take well over a 1,000 continually like a movie camera,

just hold it down like a machine gun.

Laughter

Newman: Right

Mittan: And let someone pick one. But at that time you didn't have that many opportunities, I mean, you had 36 shots on a roll at best. I mean, when I started there actually only 12 and you had to know what you were doing, and it was expensive.

Newman: Absolutely.

Mittan: So I in fact never ever used a motor driven camera, all of my pictures were single shot. Because I studied the subject and knew when to take it

Newman: What to expect.

Mittan: Cause I dint have money to waste on a lot of shots. I wanted to basically sell every thing that I took. Or very close to it. And that's nor something you can teach easily, I tried to teach people that, but the work in advance is so difficult that most people wont do it. And that is why I became a specialist. Up until probably 1980 when I was a specialist in football. I covered every team from Maine to Miami to Texas.

Newman: Oh, wow.

Mittan: I was the photographer for everybody in the ACC, everybody in the SEC, every independent, every body in the Southwest Conference. I would do a game a year for whatever, maybe two, but I did two games a day everyday they played. If there was a Friday game I did a Friday game, if there was a Thursday game I did a Thursday game. So I would drive around and shoot these games but I would know in advance all the players they particularly needed and I knew when to take the shot. They could get them all in one game. So it was a lot more cost effect for them to have me come for one game than to have somebody for a whole season.

Newman: Right, absolutely

Mittan: And the same thing when I went into figure skating, I mean I went into gymnastics after that, and circus is very much like that. I don't know if you have ever been to our circus, but there are many things in the way of every picture, wires, and nets and poles and people running around. You have to know the exact moment that each picture is taken in, especially since there doing sometimes two things at a time and sometimes three and you have to be able to get all of those. So you it s not like you get to stand and wait I mean you have to do it you have to know exactly what to take when.

Newman: And be in the right position

Mittan: And the same with all of my things. That's not something you can really teach. I had it when I was very small. I have pictures from forty years ago still on display. In each area I have, I have picture that were very heavily run nationally or internationally.

Newman: If you have the skill you have the skill

Mittan: That's right. You either have it or you don't.

Newman: You said you had a lot of the background information, did you pick that up at home or in high school or just personal experience?

Mittan: For which?

Newman: For the darkroom techniques and the basic photography...

Mittan: I learned how do darkroom work in high school and the basic stuff. My next door neighbor was a photographer for the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, DC and he had a darkroom in his basement. And I learned the darkroom stuff from him and most of the actual camera work I taught myself.

Newman: Lets see, you mentioned there was belief there might be protest when Westcott was burned down, where there a lot of protests or demonstrations on campus?

Mittan: The first couple of years yes, it was very heavy. Because that was the height of the Vietnam War. There was a... it was just after the main part of the Civil Rights Movement, in fact we were still in a fairly major phase of the Civil Rights movement, the Free Speech Movement was very active at that point. And there were protests on campus of one kind or another on all of those issues, I mean the university was undergoing a change then from basically its role before that was *en pater familias*, in place of the family, and until the late sixties you were expected to go just from your family and then the university was your family and then the president was your dad and you did whatever the heck he said. With the counter culture movement in sixties and the hippies and such coming in that changed dramatically but the administration was very slow to change. There was heavy censorship of the student publications, there were very restrictive rules on students and people of that generation definitely did not like it. In addition this town was heavily racial, blacks were not tolerated well in Tallahassee, they were in their area and that was it. We had the first blacks on campus at that point in time. John Marks, mayor, is actually in our political party when we on campus. So there was a lot of issues with black and you had an awful lot of people who were very conservative rednecks on campus then you had a lot of people who were very liberal and there was a lot of clashes between the two there was a lot of problems because of ROTC because we had full ROTC contingents on the campus. I was in Air Force ROTC, but a lot of complaints about military on the campus at the time. Anything that happened the university would call in full riot police, who would attack the

students. Which did not improve matters any. I mean no one was killed here but they did charge with fixed bayonets. You won't see that in many histories. But I saw the Sheriffs Department of Leon County charge students with fixed bayonets. At the direction of the University president. And again you won't see that, that's covered up

Newman: Right.

Mittan: A lot of the more radical students were arrested mostly on trumped up charges, something people wouldn't even think of today. There was a lot of good reasons for protests. That was one reason all the university publications were eliminated, was because of the censorship issue and the university said you will print only what we say or that's it and the students weren't going to take that

Newman: Right

Mittan: And the conservative students weren't willing to do the work and so they died. Simple as that. The Florida Flambeau survived and moved off campus it was run by liberal students. But everything else, we just didn't have enough people to support, it just died. And the Flambeau survived just barely on advertising mainly from the more liberal causes and such around town. But, there were big battles on virtually every issue there. But then as that died down the women's liberation movement as heavily in effect, so it moved from one phase to another. So you had battles on every front. The only one that really hadn't occurred much then was the gay and lesbian issue which came in you know toward the end of the time I was involved in all. Even so, the others were very heavy. There were marches on virtually every week on some...something or other. Saw many protests and many, many clashes of varying kinds. Some peaceful and some violent.

Newman: Right, did you wear your uniform pretty regularly as a member of the ROTC?

Mittan: No, because I had to switch immediately to some other job, I was in for a year or two. I forget, at the point where you had to go through the physical to the...to go on and be funded. At a certain point you were part of the military and got a check. And at that point because of the congenital problem that I had with my breathing they decided that they probably couldn't fix it, so they kicked me out. They said well sorry. You know, you have done well, we hate to lose you! But we don't think you are going to survive. I proved them wrong.

Newman: That's good thing I think.

Mittan: Well my father was in the Air Force, I had people in my family in the military back to the Revolutionary War. So, not like it is unusual for people in my family to be in military service.

Newman: Right. Were there any incidents where men or women in uniform were particularly

heckled?

Mittan: There were and there some were they heckled the more outrageous hippies. It went both ways on both sides.

Newman: Pretty divided camps? Pretty contentious times?

Mittan: It was divided. Fairly contentious.

Newman: I know you said there a lot of demonstrations, to you remember any particular events around integration?

Mittan: I don't recall any specific ones because there were so many. But, there were a lot.

Newman: Do you remember the specifics around when the sheriffs department charged the students with bayonets?

Mittan: I believe that was because a sit-in at the president's office at Westcott. I am not sure, that was probably a free speech issue. But I am not a 100 percent sure. We remember it as the night of the bayonets. But what set it off is not exactly as clear. I believe, Lieberman was, one of the more radical students. I don't recall if he was in SDS or not. But he was among the more radical anti-war students. And I am not sure whether it was the censorship one or the anti-war one that set it off.

Newman: SDS?

Mittan: Students for a Democratic Society. It was one of the more radical student groups in the sixties.

Newman: Was that a national organization or...

Mittan: A national group. Yea I think that Radical Jack Lieberman was the main radical at that time. I think he sells insurance in Miami now.

Laughter

Newman: How times change.

Mittan: Yea.

Newman: Um, I remember seeing something about Richard Nixon coming to the Tallahassee Airport and there was a lot of arrests and things at that time as well.

Mittan: Yes there were a lot of students who were protesting the war that protested Nixon.

I mean I had covered the Republican National Convention in '68, which was in Miami Beach. That was, it wasn't as crazy as the Democratic one but there was still a lot of protests outside. Whenever anyone from the administration visited Tallahassee there was always a lot of students who were not happy with their visit.

Newman: And they went to demonstrate?

Mittan: Yup.

Newman: Did you have any...I'm sure you had pictures that they wouldn't allow you to show but you didn't have anything seized or hidden away, any of your particular photos did you?

Mittan: I kept all my negatives for the most part. I mean a couple were lost over the years but for the most part I still have them. Some places of course they would prevent you from taking any so for those I had none.

Newman: Right. Was there any negativity surrounding students that were willing to serve in the Vietnam War?

Mittan: Yes but it wasn't...in most cases, because the war was at its height at that time if somebody went...was drafted or sent to Vietnam they didn't come back during the time the other students were there.

Newman: OK

Mittan: Like I said there were protests against the ROTC and there were generalized protests against the war but there weren't a lot of students who would get up on a soapbox and say "I'm for the war, I'm for the war, go go" that kind of thing. If there were returning veterans and I am sure there may have been a few, the pretty much kept it to themselves. I don't think there were very many veterans campus at that time because the war was still going on and continued on past the time that I was there and anybody who came in would have come in after I was there, because they wouldn't be let out of the service until after the war was over. Then they would have to start. Even if they did start they would start as freshmen and I would have been in graduate school by that time and really would have had little interaction with them. Because when I was in graduate school I didn't have much interaction with the general student population I mean I would come in from work do my class and go back to work. Then I would go to the circus, I was involved with the circus not much with the rest of the school. And for the Athletic Department I would go and do games but I wouldn't do a lot of other things.

Newman: Right, do your events and get out?

Mittan: Yea

Newman: I have heard about some controversy involving the University President Stanley Marshall was that around the same time as ...

Mittan: That was the same time. There are numerous books out on that. Stanley Marshall was president during the night of the bayonets. He was very old school. And he did not compromise with the students at all. For Marshall it was you do it my way...it's my way or the highway. Was pretty much Marshall's words. But uh...he wouldn't have lasted five minutes in today's environment. But at that time and backed up by the police department, at that time the police department was very redneck. They hated blacks, they hated students. They probably hated women for that matter, but any kind of protest they were happy to come club heads.
Phone rings

Mittan: Excuse me.
Tape turned off

Newman: You had said there were demonstrations almost every week. Did that interfere with classes very much?

Mittan: Sometime, but not that much. Occasionally a building would be taken over. But for the most part they were on places like the Union Green, which probably isn't there any more, or Landis Green or around the Westcott building, places of that nature. So unless there was a sit down in a building and usually that was in like an administration building. Or the like the Chemistry Department and they were doing research on napalm or something of that kind. But they usually didn't interfere with the classes that much. And a lot of things were at night, like candle light vigils and things like that. So you didn't see that many during the day, that were during the middle of class time.

Newman: Right, and when they took over a building...

Mittan: I would go to class very early in the morning for the most part. Early morning classes were the easiest to get because students didn't want to necessarily get up. So I took early morning classes so I could be done and try to work afternoon and most of the stuff appeared in the afternoon.

Newman: That's one thing that definitely hasn't changed.

Mittan: I don't think that probably has

Newman: Easy to get parking early in the morning. When students took over a building did they just get in the way of everything or what was involved with that?

Mittan: It varied by the circumstance, but mainly they would try to...everybody would sit on the floors in the hallways and whatever and try and make it difficult to use it. And usually that

was limited to, like, the area around the president's office and things like that. There were more marches or more group demonstrations...I guess now they would be equivalent to a pep rally where people would be out on Landis Green and there would be speakers and people would sit and wave signs and do stuff and maybe at the end of that they would march somewhere to protest some individual thing. But there wasn't large numbers in the buildings except like in Westcott.

Newman: When they had kind a of demonstration like that was there always a sizable police presence?

Mittan: Almost always. The University would call them in almost immediately. Even if it was fairly innocuous.

Newman: They figured better safe than sorry?

Mittan: Um, no I think it was more of a case where they wanted to show their power.

Newman: Really?

Mittan: When there was actual safety issues the police were generally absent. They weren't there for traffic control, they weren't there to help injured people, they were there just to club people in the head and enforce the university's will.

Newman: Did...I'm sure how you dressed had a lot to do with it but even just on an average day was there negative interactions between the average student and the average officer, I mean, just around about town, for instance?

Mittan: I couldn't say, generally speaking they weren't receptive to students.

Newman: Really?

Mittan: But, most students stayed on campus or right around there. At that time there weren't big shopping malls or other places where people go. A lot of people did not have cars, everybody went by foot or by bicycle. I mean the police would stop anybody in a car with long hair on any pretext. No question about that. But again, most people stayed near campus. I of course rarely got into town unless I was on some kind of assignment.

Newman: – Not nearly as important, but were there many of the streaking events while you were there on campus?

Mittan: Quite a few actually.

Newman: Really?

Mittan: There was...when the streaking phase hit especially in the Spring, the Spring semester it was very common, that was like April to June. The semesters pretty much follow the quarters of the year. In the Spring it was very common, I saw Spring streakers in all kinds of places. I mean when I first came to FSU the big thing was panty raids. Which probably don't even exist anymore. That was when there was boys dorms and girls dorms. I guess now there are co-ed dorms it really doesn't make much sense but usually by Greeks, when one group of fraternity boys would go raid one dorm to see how many panties they could retrieve. Before the matrons ran them out, because at that time there was chaperones for everything. But probably '69 or '70 I think the big streaking craze was. There was first one or two, there were a couple of group ones that I saw. That would zoom by. I never saw the point myself.

Newman: Right! So it was just for kind of personal enjoyment not necessarily for protests of any sort?

Mittan: No, I think it was mostly personal...I never saw anybody streaking for a cause.
Laughter

Mittan: We did have bra burnings during the women's liberation thing. But I can't recall anybody streaking for a cause. I think that was just good fun.

Newman: Good clean fun.

Mittan: Yea it was a laugh during the day as you were going to class, "Ah there goes the streakers again"

Newman: Something to talk about. Lets see, some of your photos looked like kinda of some famous folks here in Tallahassee. One of them almost looked like Ray Charles. Did he perform here?

Mittan: Yea, Ray Charles was here. They had fairly robust artist series at that time. We had...
Tape ends

Mittan: That was a pretty interesting one. Jane Fonda was here. That invoked a lot of right wing protesters.

Newman: Really?

Mittan: She gave a pretty good speech. But there were quite a few that would come in on either the artist's series or the lecture series. And of course during campaign years various politicians would appear.

Newman: Of course.

Mittan: As they still do.

Newman: Were the series organized by the students or by the administration?

Mittan: I don't really recall who the organizers were. Student's originations would bring in people at various times. But I think those were probably... I think the artist's series was by the university and I believe that one lecture series or at least some of them were by the student government. But that's back in the recesses of my mind. Who organized them was not an issue for me at that point

Newman: Were most of them free of charge or did you have to pay admission?

Mittan: Most of them were free although some of them were some minimal charge were it was free for students and you had to pay for outside folk.

Newman: Do you...was it mostly, do you know why they canceled yearbook production? Was it expense or was it...

Mittan: No it was mainly the censorship issue.

Newman: Really?

Mittan: The university told the year book staff everything had to go through the president's office, everything had to be approved by them and most of the students who worked on the publications were liberal minded students and they objected to the censorship.

Newman: Right.

Mittan: Their point was free press is guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States and just because we are students doesn't mean the Constitution is suspended for us. They said fine if you want to censor it feel free to do it yourself. And they couldn't do it, They couldn't find conservative students who would do that amount of work for free. I mean there were a few paying positions of varying kinds but not paying very much. Like minimum was a buck an hour or some ridiculous price for 20 hours a week and that was only if you were like the assistant editor or some thing, but, no they basically censored it out of existence. And once something like that is gone, trying to get it back is an enormous amount of work. Because you have got to renegotiate everything with everybody, I mean, normally there is a historical memory, you know? The editor passes it on to the assistant who passes it on year after year, all the things that you have to do in an enterprise of that size. You see the yearbook and you think, oh that is cool, you don't realize the amount of work that is done back behind it to put it out. I mean it is an enormous task and then of course once it is gone then you don't have people buying it in

advance. Because yearbooks are...you buy them in advance. At least half way through the year and usually at the beginning of the year. You want to but your yearbook. Well, OK you buy your yearbook in advance and no yearbook comes out. Therefore you don't have one from last year to look at well what's it look like that I'm buying. You don't get ay buyers. And you got into...once it was gone they made an effort I think the next year to have one done independently and they couldn't get enough subscription because they didn't have a product to show and the didn't take big group shots of all the fraternities and all those things and they didn't take head shots of everybody. I don't think and they ended out putting out a soft cover version that was more a big cartoon book of Doug Marlett's cartoons than anything else. And then they couldn't afford to put out another one. I don't know if they still have one yet, I don't know if one has come back yet or not. But for many years Florida State was the only university in the United States with no yearbook.

Newman: Really?

Mittan: And a lot of historical records for most of the seventies and probably most of the eighties at least is totally gone because there was...the yearbook was where you kept it all. When you go to Google or these sites and find all this stuff they got it from the yearbooks and those yearbooks don't exist for Florida State. I mean there are big gaps in the records for all of the honorary societies. I mean people do not know who was in Phi Beta Kappa unless they go to national organization. And for the local ones, like the local honorary societies, like Gold Key and such, for FSU, they have no idea who these students, who were elected in the seventies an eighties and such. Its totally gone form the record.

Newman: Its pretty unfortunate. And you said you and the editor pretty much...

Mittan: We did the...

Newman: The 1970?

Mittan: The last one, I think the '70 was the last one I would d have to look.

Newman: It is a pretty, um, pretty impressive book. Real thick.

Mittan: Yes it was '71. But yea, in the summer time. I gathered all the extra pictures that I had for whatever and, we had used in one thing or another and had come back to me and we did some new ones...but it had already been paid for by everyone at the beginning of the year, before the censorship issue came up. Just as it had for decades and decades and we felt strongly people should get their money's worth but I did the photography work, I did some of the layout but the editor did most of it really, she didn't go to school all she did was work on the yearbook. She wasn't taking a full load of classes like I was. But she felt a personal responsibility to get the book out and she did it. But after that you couldn't find anyone that would do it under those restrictions.

Newman: That was volunteer work on your...

Mittan: Most part. I don't recall being paid for any of that, like I said I mainly donated, found pictures I had from other things or I would do in them in my darkroom at home. I mean, they may have given me a box of paper or something to work on but pretty much volunteer.

Newman: I helped with my high school yearbook a couple of times and that was an amazing amount of work, I can't imagine just the two of you full the whole university, pretty impressive. I think they have the yearbook back now but it is pretty minor, not too extensive any longer unfortunately.

Mittan: No, you have to be able to have a fairly large staff and you have to devote a lot of time to be able to do a quality product. And it is not something you can do in a half ass way and make it so people will buy it. That's another thing in the seventies and eighties the Green Movement was in and people weren't into consumerism and "ooh we don't need a yearbook and who cares? Waste of paper, kills the trees"

Newman: Right

Mittan: Sometimes you go over board. I am a big believer in retaining a historical record. The fact is if you forge it you repeat it. I have seen that too many times and it is more important to keep the historical record.

Newman: I am a history student and if it is not written done or well documented it definitely changes over time or, uh, something completely different comes about. Do you know how much longer Stanley Marshall served? Was the president throughout your time at the university?

Mittan: I am not sure if he was still president I graduated or not, probably that's documented. You would have to (inaudible) I didn't have that much to do with that when I was in graduate school cause like I was say would come from work to my class and back. After your first year in Urban Planning a lot of the stuff is individual projects, maybe you'd meet once a month at the school. But for the most of the part you did it in a group and you did planning projects and they were outside. Since almost all, a lot of the people were also working it was easier for us to meet after work, off campus some time than go in the middle of the day. So we didn't have much to do with the administration at that point.

Newman: Were there any. I know I asked you this earlier, where there any classes or teachers on the Urban planning department that kinda stood out?

Mittan: I cant recall that...any outstanding teachers in graduate or undergraduate.

Newman: Really?

Mittan: I mean there may have been some who were better than others. But none that particularly struck me...I mean I was trying to survive and get through.

Newman: Right. Absolutely.

Mittan: And I was concentrating on my work even when I was an undergraduate, I mean my work was 75% of my day. My classes were only 25% and I could go through the stuff very fast I could do my homework very quickly. My concern was speed. And I wasn't someone who went I for a lot of teacher conferences or things like that. Especially back in the olden days they didn't have all these exemption things that you can get now. When my sister went through she was in the perfect time, between the two systems of exemption. And she exempted out of two years of class. When I came in they had lost my test score, even though I was in the top half of a percent and under normal circumstances I could have excepted two or three years instead because they exempted them I had to take basic courses. In fact I had a math course my first year which was lower than my junior high school math course in level and it was graded on a curve after the first test because of the way it was graded my score was so high that everyone else in the class had failed and after the first month they had me teaching the course, assisting the teacher. They said you have an A period just teach the course. And I went through the first year like that, I went to classes where I, literally, if there was no attendance policy, I went the first and last day and had an A without any difficulty. Because they were, I had gone through a fairly advanced high school where I was and my family traveled so I knew a huge amount about geography and history and all the basic stuff you had to take, mostly I knew it all already. So for an entire year it was basically wasted.

Newman: I was going to say it most have been kind of aggravating.

Mittan: I mean I got a huge amount of credits. With almost no work but it was still wasted years.

Newman: Your spending that money.

Mittan: So I spent my time on work I mean I learned some stuff in some classes but I would have to say the first year was basically a waste. And that was basically because they lost my test scores. They should have put me in at several levels higher than I was and by the end of the first year I was working full time at my three jobs and learning a heck of a lot more on them than I was ever learning n class out in the field.

Newman: Absolutely, it is amazing how much more can learn when you actually get your hands dirty. And there was no opportunity to retrieve the test scores? I mean the weren't too concerned about that I am guessing?

Mittan: No by the time the found them it was essential in the system and you were out of luck. Remember this stuff wasn't on computer then it was cards and pieces of paper you misfiled

a piece of paper and it doesn't reappear.

Newman: Its gone

Mittan: It's gone and its not like you can re-test the stuff. You cant re-take your Florida 12th grade test which they no longer have probably, when your out of 12th grade and you cant take the National Merit test once your past a junior in high school you cant re-take that you have a specific time, date, place you have to take them and that's it. I mean I was screwed when I was a junior in high school because when you took the test for all the scholarships because the day of the test, and you only had one chance , my school bus broke down and I missed the entire first quarter of the test and missed qualifying for scholarships by one point.

Newman: Wow

Mittan: That's a quarter of the test I missed and I missed by a point.

Newman: That must have been...

Mittan: So I got no money, it was only me putting myself through. With one more point I would have had a free ride.

Newman: Oh, really?

Mittan: With the first section I would have been at the top of the rank. But there is nothing you can do about it.

Newman: Just plug on I guess.

Mittan: I mean with my siblings I made sure that on test day they got there.

Newman: Right absolutely, pretty important

Mittan: So nobody else had to pay for college but me.

Newman: On the aggravating side I can imagine. Where most of your family still living in Pennsylvania at that time?

Mittan: No my father had retired and he was moving to Orlando. They moved in the summer of the first year I was here. Because I came in January, I didn't have money to go in the fall, so I actually started in January. I didn't start in the fall of '67 I started in January of '68. And they came down in the summer to Orlando.

Newman: Were there more fees for the fall semester or was it just time so you could work

and save up some money?

Mittan: No, because I had not been able to get the scholarship money I had to work to acquire enough to go by myself. And out of state tuition was high at that point and I really couldn't afford to wait a year. Until my family moved down, so I got enough to make it to the first, to pay the tuition and stuff for the first semester that I could go and I made that. I paid that in advance. Because you had to live on campus, so you had to pay for your first quarter tuition, books, and housing and food plan, I think it was. You paid for all that in advance. Then like I said, I had 97 dollars to come to the (inaudible). I figured I could get a job, which I did the first day I walked in.

Newman: Oh, really?

Mittan: Jobs are always available for those that are willing to work.

Newman: Oh yea if you're willing to work you can definitely find something. So, just kind of an overall question, we talked about early some of the pretty chaotic and...events that when on while you were at Florida State, what do you think was one of the biggest changes that happened at the university over your time there?

Mittan: Well what was a major change in the university then is that students were considered people by the time I left. When I came a student was just one more can of soup to be processed. The administration had total control of everything. They took your money, they sent you to class, you were supposed to do your...everything. It was very tightly controlled. You were in the dorms and you had your chaperone, there were rules for this, there were rules for that, there was none of this there was none of that, there was no cars for freshman. You name it, there was a huge rule book and the university was supposed to be able to do whatever the heck they wanted. Student input was not something they ever liked to see. By the time I was totally finished in '76, the reverse was true. Things were more student oriented, they were designed for the benefit of the student, the students had much more flexibility and much more flexibility in where you could live and more flexibility in what kind of classes you could take, there was more flexibility in the kinds of things you could do. The university had no dress code, there was no...most all the big rules had gone, there was a lot more freedom by the time I got out.

Newman: Was there a dress code when you originally arrived?

Mittan: Yep.

Newman: What did it include?

Mittan: I don't recall, that was one of the big issues in the first year I was there. And for me who had very few clothes it really wasn't an issue, because I had my couple of clothes to wear and they fit the dress code and that was it.

Newman: Absolutely.

Mittan: If I had thousands of clothes to choose from that may have made a different thing, but if you have two pairs of pants and three shirts, you know, and you found out in advance what the dress code and made sure they fit it. Well, hey.

Newman: At least it didn't take you too long to get dressed in the morning.

Mittan: No.

Newman: Do you think this shift was a shift in the mindset of the administration or just a newer administration?

Mittan: There was a shift in society in general and that kind of forced the administration to go along with it. They would have ended up losing too many students to other places that were more liberal minded had they continued on that and parents don't like to send students when there is a protest everyday and there are riots and there are pictures of police bashing people on the head, mom and dad don't want to send junior there. And you're going to lose enrollment and if you lose enrollment, then it is just a downward slide. In an economic way and socially they were forced, I don't think they did it willingly. Really some of those faculty and administration added to it (inaudible) for years after that, the old line faculty. But a lot of those old line faculty had come in with the College for Women still. I mean, many of my professors were still from the Florida State College for Women, that had only been 20 years before. They still had that very parochial attitude and the administrators followed that. I mean when you got to some of the later presidents they came from an era where things were more acceptable, where blacks were allowed on campus and where women were allowed to speak out. It was strange for FSU it went from all women to where it was totally dominated by men to where it became equal again. It was one of the few schools that went in that particular fashion. I mean most of them went from totally male dominated to female acceptance or they stayed completely female. There weren't many that went in that particular pattern, it was an unusual pattern and that probably engendered some of the problems. Because a lot of the attitudes from the college for women, a lot of the rules from that era persisted through the intervening years until there was finally some major change in the mid-seventies.

Newman: I imagine that was kinda of difficult getting used to, it seemed like the professors from FSCW would be a lot more kind of task master-ish, if you will.

Mittan: Yea a lot of the stuff was very rigid, very rigid. And that's one reason why it wasn't as much of a learning experience for me, cause places people would talk about in theoretical terms were places I had already been or things I had already done. It wasn't out of a book for me and I knew things that were incorrect. In addition I had been in cultures where blacks or Asians were not unusual. I lived in Korea, I lived in Japan. I talked with people in Korean, I

talked with in Japanese, I went out into their villages. It was not unusual for me to see anybody of a different color, I knew dominant women, women professionals. It wasn't like women were only housewives, maids. So my perspective was somewhat different and you know that took a while for the university to catch up to that I guess.

Newman: Unfortunately.

Mittan: And the other advantage to living in other cultures, in addition to taking psychology, which was one reason I did that, was because you could manage to get by in whatever culture of that particular environment in which you were in. So, I managed to get by in the university culture of the time and as it changed. Event though my views were much more liberal than the university, though I didn't make a big issue of it. I got by very well. I made my changes in smaller more effective ways. The university really has improved dramatically in the intervening time, I mean, even by the time I had left the culture had...the only thing that was huge permanent lost was the lost of student publication. That was an irretrievable type of lost. Students still, I think, get all their news from off-campus sources rather than from on campus sources. And I think that is bad.

Newman: It is unfortunate, it still hasn't made the rebound in that long of time.

Mittan: No, and we're talking more than thirty years down the line and still not recovered. And I do blame the university for that. It is firmly on the shoulders of Stanly Marshall for destroying that tradition at Florida State.

Newman: It is such an unfortunate thing that someone could be that unwilling to compromise, but...

Mittan: Well, there wasn't much compromise at that time. The students weren't in a compromising mood either. But, they did have the Constitution on their side.

Newman: That's a hard document to argue with!

Mittan: And that was my point.

Newman: When blacks came to campus, I'm guessing as freshman they were required to live on campus. Was it segregated housing or...?

Mittan: No, because...I'm not sure how the housing worked. Because there were only one or two initially. I mean the black student union would have more information on that. I know they had a hard time. But the numbers increased dramatically over the time I was there. In fact, they ended up with a black homecoming queen while I was there, because all the liberal students just voted for the black girl, period. There was a lot more acceptance in the last years I was there than in the first, that's for sure. They integrated fairly well and part of the protest...one of the concessions the university made was not requiring freshmen to live on campus, in campus dorms

during their first year.

Newman: OK, that was around the same time?

Mittan: I think that was around the same time as the number blacks were there,

Newman: You might not have any experience but do you think the University of Florida's campus was a little more liberal? Was it kinda the legacy of having been a women's college that made Florida State pretty unique or you don't really have experience?

Mittan: Don't know really. Two guys from my high school went to the University of Florida but both flunked out after the first quarter. I went down there to visit them my first quarter there and that was it.

Newman: No opportunity after that, huh?

Mittan: After that Seminoles did not party much with gators.

Newman: Well, do you have any other events that you would like to discuss? Or...I don't want to take up your whole morning.

Mittan: No, just what you were interested in. I mean, I was involved in lot of stuff while I was there.

Newman: Absolutely.

Mittan: But we are talking 40 years in the past now. I could probably...if I sat and thought about it for a log period of time, thought about things that were significant. But for the most part, I remember the circus most while I was there. I most heavily involved in that. The circus is like a second family. I think some athletic teams are kind of like that but not to that extent, because its co-ed. You know, in the circus you are depended on other people to do tings that keep you safe and if the screw up the can kill you. It doesn't happen but it's theoretically possible. I know several people that had been in the circus and went on to professional circuses and somebody screwed up and they did die. Or were seriously inured, so you're talking about people who your live depends on them and they depend on you and you're going on the road and you're living together. It's like an extended family. I still see people from the circus from the very first time I went there in January of '68. I still see people frequently, frequently. I can't say that about the general student population. I mean, every now and then I'll see some of my roommates that I lived with, because I lived in a rooming house. Three of us lived in one room of a rooming house on Macomb, which is right across from where the law school is now. There is probably nothing there now, for a couple of years. Because, if one of us shared one room I think our rent was 21 dollars a month and we were poor. And I see them every now and then or I e-mail them every now and then. But I still don't see them as much as the people that were in the

circus that we were with. But that is a totally different environment than most if the university. The closeness is really unique for a university.

Newman: I bet, for a school event...

Mittan: Closer than a fraternity or a sorority, because, again, it is co-ed. But, one level higher than a fraternity or a sorority, I guess you would say.

Newman: I mean the dependence factor on each other, defiantly bonds you together.

Mittan: It's the sort of thing were one person is teaching another, one person is helping another, people are combining together on acts, you learn a lot of stuff from there, I mean you learn a lot skills that are useful in the workplace, in life in general from there just from that environment. You don't find many circus people who are not successful, because they've learned how to do everything while they were with the circus

Newman: I bet, a lot of determination to master those skills, it is amazingly...

Mittan: Time management is a useful skill to have, the ability to work, all those things, to be outgoing, how to present yourself to people all those are very useful to skills that you're not necessarily gonna have something else, that your not going to have any other activity on the campus.

Newman: That's for sure, since you are so involved with it still, I bet you see a lot of return performers coming back to watch.

Mittan: Every year, it varies with the years. Certainly on the anniversary years, you have huge numbers. On the tenth anniversary years you have hundreds, the in between years not as many, but you still have a pretty good number every year. And when I'm traveling and I m in a city where there are circus people I know I stop to see them. People come by to see me when their in Tallahassee. When I was in Paris last year I had dinner with one of the performers, who lives in Paris now. If you can find a circus person in that town they will be happy to see you.

Newman: I had a question on the tip of my tongue now it escaped me. Umm, Did...I know you said some people went into professional circuses did any people go into things like skating or gymnastics from the circus?

Mittan: No, we did have a couple of figure skaters and gymnasts who came to the circus from previous activities, but nobody ho went into that. Those are disciplines, I covered gymnastics at the Olympic level for a while and of course figure skating heavily for the last fifteen years or so, but those are discipline where you go into very young and you finish very young.

Newman: Really?

Mittan: Usually in both, not quite as much now, well still for gymnasts by the time you college age as a gymnast you are pretty much done. In figure skating, with the exception of ice dancing, you are mostly done by the time you are in college, ladies almost certainly. You don't go from that to college then to a professional career, it doesn't work that way.

Newman: Ok

Mittan: I mean you go directly to a professional career, then you go back to college, maybe. If you hadn't made any money. So, you don't see nay cross over like that.

Newman: Ok, umm I think that's most of my questions.

Mittan: Ok.

Newman: Again, is there anything else you would like to add?

Mittan: No, no, I pretty much go with...I'm a documentarian for the most part, so, what you ask me I will answer. I mean, I interview people all the time because I write the majority of profile pieces, I guess you would call them, on figure skaters world wide. Probably 800 of them in the last ten years or so, so I'm used to interviewing people. But I have a list and some tangents, if there is Some particular thing. But I go through it and I write them down. I don't go into ethereal questions "What do you think of the state of the universe" that kind of thing.

Laughter

Mittan: Mine are documentarian, but if you have anything else you can go ahead and ask.

Newman: Well, this is kind of my first protracted interview, so hopefully I will get a little better from here on out. But I think that was most of the events...

Mittan: Your gonna have trouble because, like I say, if you are interviewing people from the late sixties and seventies trying to find any background on them. I would have to hunt down one of my old, old résumés to list all the student organizations I was in. That's something you don't use once your out of college much and that's going to be the same for everybody. Unless you're an athlete or the student body president and I don't even know if they still have the list of all the student body presidents. Unless your something really major, of course your in fraternities or sororities, they would have their own record but unless your in something like that the general organization people aren't going to keep records for periods of time and without yearbooks or newspapers to go back on there is no way to find.

Newman: It is really amazing that important of a record...

Mittan: It's all gonna be word of mouth. I mean really FSU's history for the last 30 years has been the equivalent of Revolutionary War times.

Laughter

Mittan: No seriously, *seriously*. Even when we did the circus, the fiftieth and sixtieth anniversary stuff, except for mine, when I went to the university for stuff they didn't have it. A lot of stuff they dumped, if it had no particular use, or it was lost. I remember we had a big flood on campus, probably sometime in the seventies or eighties there was a big flood and a lot of stuff go flooded and they think "Ahh well" it just went out, there wasn't any attempt at reconstructing the archives, they were just thrown out. And just gone. There is no finical interest in keeping that stuff, costs to keep it, but it doesn't cost us anything to throw it out. And we're not making money from it. Surprisingly so, I was surprised when I went and tried to find stuff for the sixtieth anniversary of the circus when we were trying to expand on some of he stuff I had. I covered forty years of the history but I don't cover sixty, but there was nothing, virtually nothing, except stuff old performers brought in, the university could supply us virtually nothing at all.

Newman: It's amazing.

Mittan: Yep, You have period of budget cuts, and they come every now and then, during budgets cut historical documentation is one of the first things to go and they just go in the shredder. And if it's on the computers they just wipe the databanks.

Newman: Yea, even computers you gotta pay for upkeep and technical support and it s just that easy to erase it all. Well, hopefully Mr. Woodward's Heritage Protocol will save few of things. Hopefully I will be able to start scanning and digitizing some your photos, that you donated so I might have to get back in touch with you to found out a little bit of information.

Mittan: Well, like I told him the file books there, those negatives I have, they can be scanned from the negatives. I don't have prints of those. Trying to scan from the contact sheets is not going to do you much good. But during the winter I am frequently gone and when I am not gone I am working at a very frantic pace. That economy, like everything else is on the downswing so I got to do a lot of different things, because the travel costs are up and the income is down so each year I gotta do more things I didn't do before, I mean, this year I have to do, not on-ice, but, write competition coverage that goes right on to the net, which I never had to do before. I do my pieces afterwards. So I have to pictures during, I have to write during, then I have to write afterwards, so a lot of stuff I would be doing during is now pushed back to after I came home between events. So I am going to have to do huge amounts of photo work in between and I am not going to have time for much anything else. I've skipped the first two events this year because I haven't got that many clients and I am still not finished rebuilding my house the tornado and the tropical storm, I still got wok to do. But starting November 10 I have to go, then it is all huge major events. And their all overseas and 10 days or so at a time and then a bunch of work afterward and then I m on the next one and a bunch of work after it and it goes on like that until the end of March. So from November till March I am very hard to find, I mean if you give

me several days, well actually a couple of weeks notice for the most part, I can pull negatives for you, but not a rapid process.

Newman: Absolutely, I don't want to interfere with what you have going on.

Mittan: Well, I just physically can't get to it. I am either gone or trying to do all my work, with the internet everything is a lot more immediate than it used to be. Even in the figure skating when I started pictures would be published six months after and this was only 15 years ago. And stories would be six months to three years afterwards, now it immediate, pictures go up immediately online and stories go up immediately online and nothing is more than a couple of months old if you write something that doesn't get published for three months every blogger in the world is saying well this is obviously from three months ago, this and this and this and this has happened. Only in the summertime when I have my botanical gardens open here is the only time I am really available for any length of time.

Newman: I will remember that.

Mittan: And this year will be worse than usual, because I haven't time in the summer to do all the research, that I would normally do. Because I have been doing repair work instead of research for my figure skating scene, so I will be doing all that on the fly and on the plane and I won't have a lot of time to do it and when I am at home I will be frantically going. Well, like I say if you give me enough notice I'll try to pull something

Newman: I appreciate it very much and again I don't want to interfere too much with you so definitely if we need anything get to you as long as possible in advance.

Mittan: Alright, but anything you can wait till April for the better.

Newman: Ok, absolutely, shouldn't too much of a problem

Mittan: Because once April comes I am pretty much here for the summer.

Newman: Ok from April on.

Mittan: I don't do the shows and tours any more, not enough market, better to be home where I have no costs and everybody comes buys stuff.

Laughter

Newman: That's the way to do it, well, I have to thank you again and I appreciate you spending time with me and...thanks

Mittan: Ok.

