

BRIAN LINDBERG  
MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN  
MARCH 28, 1989

SUBJECT: Student Life, Dr. Russell Magnaghi, HS 211

START OF INTERVIEW

BRUCE J. F. (BF): For the record, could you please give me your name and your date of birth?

BRIAN LINDBERG (BL): Brian C. Lindberg. I was born December 23, 1969.

BF: One - childhood. Could you please tell me something about your childhood, like a childhood memory?

BL: Okay. I remember in third grade. It was in February. We went to Florida. Me and my sisters and my family. We went for two weeks. And we went to Disney World, Sea World, you know all those places down there that everybody goes to when they take vacation in Florida. But we really didn't have a place to stay when we got there because my uncle was down there, and he just moved down there, my uncle was down there and they were living in this vacation village thing. And at first when we got there we really didn't know if we could afford to stay there because it was kind of a higher class kind of an ordeal but we got the money together and rented a house for a couple weeks.

BF: Could you please tell me anything else, like perhaps what about going there or coming back?

BL: I remember when we drove back, when me and my parents drove there we came up here to pick up my uncle's car in Negaunee because he had already moved down there and they already had sold their house up here. And they were relocating to Florida. I remember we got the car, we were driving down there. My dad, it was around two o'clock in the morning, my dad took a wrong exit around Chicago and we wound up going through Cabrini Green for two hours.

BF: What is Cabrini Green?

BL: It's the south side of Chicago.

BF: Which is? Racially?

BL: The black section of Chicago.

BF: Could you please elaborate on this experience?

BL: Well, I remember we didn't stop at any stop lights or stopped at any stop signs and we locked all the doors and we rolled up all the windows. And we went over the speed limit until we stopped at this gas station that looked kind of decent and we asked directions and we got back on the freeway and we stayed the night at my grandma's house in Naperville, Illinois. Which is right by Chicago. After this day at my grandma's house the next day driving went pretty well and I think we got as far as Kentucky or Tennessee and we stayed in another motel for then night. And after we woke up and finished sleeping we got back in the car and we drove the rest of the way to Florida. We stopped in Tennessee to take pictures of the Smoky Mountain Range. Which was really a quite awesome site. But you have to see it for yourself to appreciate it. Words can't describe what it looks like. I do have pictures back home. We took pictures all the way through the trip. And after the Smoky Mountain Range we drove to Florida, got on the turnpike, found out where and how to get to or around Orlando. And we stayed in Vacation Village which I already describes, and we spent two weeks down there. I remember getting solicited in Orlando in the mall. It was the Sears Mall in Orlando, Florida. I remember I was sitting down and this old man came up to me and asked me if he could take me home and we could have some fun.

BF: Your age please, at the time?

BL: I was around eleven. Ten, eleven, twelve years old.

BF: Excuse me for asking this, but are you really serious?

BL: I'm totally serious. I mean, what does an old man seem to an eleven year old? Probably, I'd say he was around what, how old my dad was at the time, probably late twenties early thirties. I mean, well, after he asked me the question, I remember getting up and running as fast as I could back into the mall where I found my parents and they took, we immediately went back to where we were staying.

BF: After this experience I'm sure you thought about leaving, what in your opinion do you miss about Florida the most?

BL: Basically, the warm weather. Being around the city. City life is a lot better than where I lived. Because where I live there are no jobs, there's jobs, but there really aren't any real jobs.

BF: Which was?

BL: Ironwood, Michigan.

BF: Even though this experience happened to you, would you still want to live in Florida?

BL: Yes, I would. And I did go back two years after this happened. However, I didn't go back with my parents, I went back with my uncle and my aunt and a few cousins. We all crowded into this little Ford Escort station wagon. It was, I'd say seven people with all of our luggage because my cousins, they drove two cars up to Ironwood. And my cousins sold their car up in Ironwood for, to make money off of it, but, and they didn't want to rent a car to go back. So we all crowded into this little Ford Escort station wagon

and we all had to sleep on each other's laps and everything because we went a day and a half straight through of driving because we changed drivers during the trip to avoid staying in motel rooms.

BF: End up in Cabrini Green this time?

BL: No, we didn't. My uncle knew the way. He's been back and forth several times. He knew all the exits to take and all of that sort of stuff. But once I got there, I was, did feel like I was at home again. They made me feel as if I was at home because my uncle had his house done in Clermont, Florida which is about forty miles from Orlando. We did go several times to Orlando, but we never went back to that shopping mall.

BF: Section two – Religion, childhood, and now. How did the church play an early role in your life, like CCD?

BL: What do you mean by early? How early?

BF: Like between ten and fifteen years old.

BL: Okay. I was born and raised Catholic, until I came to college, where I changed my views radically. CCD did teach me something. It did teach me, it taught me morals. It taught me what anybody would expect from religion. To have a goal and aim in life and to try to live by some of the values that you hold. Which I do try to do to the best of my ability, however, sometimes it does get to be too much. And religion is a facet of mankind to fall back on in times of trouble and in times of need, but I do find this kind of strange that all mankind wants to do is to try to believe something and take it on only faith and something that I really can't accept because to me everything in life has to have some kind of proof or some kind of, I don't know what the word I'm searching for, but some kind of proof or some kind of way of knowing that something is real and that something can be proved and that it will be always be there no matter what. Religion isn't like that. Religion is something that you have to take only by faith and you always have to try to believe that something will be there but is not always there.

BF: How have these religious views changed since you have come to college and why have they changed?

BL: Why have these views changed? Well, first of all, I really don't believe in anything that can't be proved. I don't believe in anything that if there is even a fraction of a doubt that something could be true it really isn't true because there always could be a case where something or some other thing or some other aspect of life could make or prove that it or some kind of theory or belief or anything that you want to believe in is false. And since then I have come to reject religion. I have come to reject God. It's not that I hate God or anything. It's just you could call me an agnostic, I don't believe in anything.

BF: So you are an atheist rather than an agnostic?

BL: No, I'm not an atheist. I do believe there is something out there, something all controlling. But I don't think it's called God, I don't think it should be worshipped and glorified like religion wants you to

do. Religion is a sound, I've come to find that out, that all it is is mankind's way of saying, 'this is the way you should live, this is perfect.'

BF: And you believe it's not to be so?

BL: Religion isn't perfect. Religion is something that, I don't know, you probably couldn't even describe it in words, of what I am trying to say, but religion isn't perfect. Religion starts wars. Look at it in history. And it causes other things. Religious conflicts are a source of arguments and basically everything that God, or the Supreme Being if you want to call him that, did not intend.

BF: Part three – school, life, and major field of study. For the record, please state your class standing.

BL: Freshmen status.

BF: Your major?

BL: Pre-med.

BF: Why such a tough field of study?

BL: I think the main reason I want to become a doctor is because I want to help people. I like helping and working with people. People work is one of the hardest fields of work that you can possibly do. But, I do feel that I have the capability to become a good doctor. And I do want to do something that nobody else in my family has ever done.

BF: Who or what inspired you?

BL: Inspired me to become a doctor? I'd say it was back in high school. Back in tenth grade when I had that Human Biology course, I'd say the teacher that I had for it inspired me to become a doctor because she was always pushing me and pushing me to know everything because she knew that I had the capability to remember, and it's not so much remembering human biology, it's understanding it.

BF: Her name please?

BL: Mrs. Harhey [phonetically spelled]. But she knew somehow that just because I was, I got As in the course, but that she asked me one day if I had ever thought about becoming a doctor. And I said that I had given it some serious thought, but I was considering it, and she more or less prodded me into saying that I could become a successful one and she did think that I had the capability of doing so. It wasn't just her though. It was my mom. My mother, since she did work at the Grand View, she knew people, she knew Fortunato DalPra who was I think the school superintendent at the time. He had two sons that went through Gogebic and Northern and then on to medical school. And they are successful doctors. AHe did think that I had the capability also. So do my parents.

BF: Do you believe the doctors of today should perform abortions and why?

BL: Not generally. However, if I'd say the mother is in danger of losing her life or if it was from a rape or something where as she'd have justifiable overwhelming cause of not to have the child that a doctor should make his own judgement of whether to perform the abortion or not.

BF: Do you believe doctors should be paid high for their work and why?

BL: I do believe doctors should be paid as high as they are getting paid today because being a successful doctor is a highly stressful job. Anybody that works seventy, eighty, to ninety hours a week should be paid for their work. And it does fit in with the concept of if you save a life you should be paid for it highly because life is something that should not have a price but the price should be high.

BF: Meaning?

BL: That life is one of the most important aspects. Something that nobody can put a price on but if you want your life you shouldn't have to pay for it.

BF: If you become a doctor, would you operate on a patient with AIDS?

BL: Yes, I think I would. I think I would treat an AIDS patient just like I would treat anybody else. AIDS is a disease something whether it be transmitted sexually or not or between a certain, say, group of individuals that are in mostly everybody else's mind immoral. However, human lives do have intrinsic value, meaning that they should be saved no matter what the cost. An AIDS patient to me would be no different than any other.

BF: But what about the risk to you?

BL: I think that it's one of the risks that I'd have to take. You know, something that as long as I'd have gloves. But gloves are used for everything. Any kind of surgical operation of where you have to go in to the human body and do surgery and take organs out and suture them up and whatever you have to do to them.

BF: You have become a doctor. Someone is brain dead and on life support. You want them on the life support, but they family wants them off of the life support. Who's wishes do you honor and why?

BL: Do you want what the states or my personal opinion?

BF: Please state what the law states then your opinion?

BL: And? Okay. Well, I guess from what I understand what the law states is that the family's wishes should be honored. That if a person is clinically dead, they cannot make the judgement for themselves. And whoever is the guardian or next of kin should make the decision of whether he should be dead or he should die because there have been documented cases of people being in a coma for years with no chance of them ever coming out. And that is what the law states, that the next of kin should make the decision. However, when you become a doctor you take a Hippocratic Oath which means that you should do, you should try to do everything to save a person's life that is ethically moral or whatever you want to state of that, but I'd say that I would want to try to keep the person or I would try to persuade the person or family to keep the patient on life support for what I would think would be a necessary amount of time.

BF: Which would be?

BL: Which would be recovery period depending on what kind of surgery was performed on the person.

BF: Section four – break time, student life. When you get a chance, what do you do for your social life?

BL: I really don't have much of a social life, if you want to call it that. I like to bowl. I like to go skiing. I do like to go to parties. I like being with a lot of people at one time.

BF: Have you gone partying since you've been at NMU?

BL: Yes, I have. I've gone to a few parties. Enough to satisfy my longing to be with a lot of people. I usually do get, go to one party at least every weekend, which are I'd say go to the Alibi, do a little dancing, then go home and go to bed.

BF: Could you please tell me about a party experience you've had, you do not need to name names.

BL: Well, a recent party that I've been to was when a few of my friends came up from Ironwood to visit me. We did get a couple bottles of alcohol. Wine in particular. And I do remember one of my good friends got quite drunk and spewed wine all over me.

BF: Person X?

BL: Yes, let's keep this Person X for the record.

BF: And what else happened after this?

BL: Well, after this, me and X and her good friend Y,

BF: For the record,

BL: Did, we, we all went to the Alibi. And on the way there we went through several trails, pathways or whatever, which were quite icy. They were especially inebriated, if you want to use that term. Whereas I had some of my faculties, but not all of them. And she did slip on the ice and supposedly broke her foot. Where she did nothing more than pull a hamstring muscle on the back of her leg.

BF: How did this effect your night?

BL: Well, we had to help her to the Alibi, we had to take her by the arms and practically carry her there. And when we got there we sat her down in a chair and she didn't have any fun, until she sobered up and then the pain started coming on and she did start experiencing the pain whereas she didn't before because she was too drunk to know what was happening or what was going on at the time.

BF: After the Alibi incident, what happened?

BL: Well, she was quite drunk still at the time when the Alibi closed at two in the morning. And we had to drag her back here.

BF: We being? These can be named.

BL: Myself, and you, but, once we got her back here I wrapped her foot up. Which really wasn't broken, it was just scrapped. She was just complaining that her ankle was hurting when it really wasn't. It probably was hurting from the cut, but it wasn't broken. She kept telling me that she had a broken femur and I said that could be quite impossible because it takes a lot to break a femur which is a thigh bone.

BF: But even after all this happened did you still have fun?

BL: Oh, you could say it was an interesting evening, one that I will never forget. But, I did have my share of fun that night. It was nice of them, it was nice to see them come up. However, it was even nicer to see them leave.

BF: And why was this?

BL: Well, I don't know. It was just more or less, trying to pack two or three other people in a dorm room which is meant for only two people, which does not work over a long period of time.

BF: And this long period of time was?

BL: Two days.

BF: And could you say that it ended up being a helter-skelter weekend?

BL: It was a helter-skelter weekend, you might as well say that that weekend was shot.

BF: But even after this weekend happened did you make amends with the people who were offended by it?

BL: Yes, I did make amends with everybody that I offended that weekend.

BF: Section five – person you are living with. Who is the person you are living with?

BL: Greg St. Martin from Munising.

BF: How long have you been living with said person?

BL: Winter semester '89.

BF: Why only the winter semester?

BL: Because I moved in here after the fall semester because me and my previous roommate did not get along.

BF: And why didn't you and your previous roommate get along?

BL: Because I didn't like his girlfriend and she didn't like me.

BF: Are you getting along well with your new roommate?

BL: Better than I did with my previous roommate.

BF: Why do you say only better and not superb?

BL: Because we have argued about a few things.

BF: Such as?

BL: Such as cleanliness of the room, that I make the mess in the room, and that he never cleans the bathroom, and I and my suitemates always end up cleaning the bathroom. And he never does.

BF: Do you think this will ever change?

BL: No, and I'm not going to attempt to make it change.

BF: What is a good point which you see in your roommate?

BL: Well, I do get along better with him because he is from the U.P. We don't have any discrepancies like me and my previous roommate who was from Illinois.

BF: His name please?

BL: Mike Brinker.

BF: What type of discrepancy?

BL: Well, Mike couldn't really adjust to living in a small town. He was from a bigger city in Illinois which was near Chicago. And he couldn't adjust living to Marquette because Marquette was a lot smaller than his previous home in Illinois. Whereas myself and my new roommate, Greg, are from the U.P. and Marquette is the biggest city we have ever lived in.

BF: Section six – a final retrospect. In retrospect, what changes do you see about yourself after coming to Northern Michigan University?

BL: Since coming to Northern I do feel that I have become a more open and more readily, I can more readily accept changes and I'd say that I've developed a tolerance towards certain people where as I wouldn't have before.

BF: Are these changes for the better or for worse and why?

BL: I do think they're for the better. It is good to be more open to change and more open to certain kinds of people. It's good to meet a lot of different people, it enriches your life.

BF: What do you think the ultimate role model is?

BL: This is kind of a tough question, but, I do think the ultimate role model, I'd say - are you asking for a person or just what I think?

BF: What you think would fit a certain role what the public looks for towards perfection.

BL: I'd say that they'd look for somebody that would be open, ready to connect with other people, at face value and not put some certain stereotypical images upon people.

BF: Such as?

BL: There's any number of them.

BF: Could you name a few?

BL: Well, homosexuality, against black people, and whatever, you know, everyone says that blacks have natural jive, but I kind of don't believe it. Like that's a stereotype. It's just, I'd say that everybody is stereotyped into a world that nobody really wants to be in, but nevertheless we are all in together.

BF: Do you think you could ever fit that role and why or why not?

BL: I do think I could fit that role because I am open to people. I will, I'd say as a doctor, I would be non-prejudiced. I would operate on people that I really don't want to operate on, more or less for the reason that, you know, they are a person, they are alive, you know, we have to keep, we have to save that

person and do everything we can for them. Even if they, whoever it is has done damages towards me. Or any kind of prejudice.

BF: So as a whole, you believe that all mankind should be treated fairly?

BL: Yes, I do.

BF: End of interview with Brian Lindberg.

END OF INTERVIEW