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NARRATOR'S NAME JEFFERY ALLEN LEMERAND

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[Interviewed by: Norman L.  
Carlson]

Jeffery Allen Lemerand --Generally about Northern Michigan  
University, between 1984 and 1989.

Q. Jeff, why don't you give us a general background about yourself.

A. I was born in 1966 in Dearborn, Michigan, we lived down there for three years and moved up to Charlevoix where I went to school at Charlevoix High School and graduated in 1984 and came up here the following year.

Q. Okay, what were your reasons for attending Northern Michigan University?

A. My brother came up here in 1982 and I visited him maybe three or four times and everytime I'm up here I really enjoyed it and I've always liked the outdoors so when I came up here, and of course Marquette is quite beautiful, and the outdoor I enjoyed it alot decided to come up here mainly for that and I had four other buddies attending from Charlevoix so I was like a whole group of us came up together.

Q. Um hum, you lived in the dorms the first part?

A. Ya, I lived in Halverson Hall for one year, the first year, and then I moved off campus my sophomore year because we had bought a house and I think it was halfway through my sophomore year I transferred to Central.

Q. Umm, why did you transfer to Central?

A. I transferred mainly for the business program and I though I shouldn't have moved out of the dorms and probably got away from all my friends and I started hanging around more of my brother's friends. I was out of my age group, kind of alienated and I went down to Central where more of

my buddies were and I really didn't enjoy Central a lot. I liked the school but the area of Mt Pleasant was unpleasant.

Q. So you enjoy Northern's area a lot better?

A. Ya, that's what basically made me transfer back up, that and I practically flunked out of Central.

Q. Umm, did you do any extra-curricular activities down at Central?

A. I played basically just rugby and racquetball with friends and stuff like that and that's when I first got involved with rugby.

Q. And then when returning to Northern did you continue with rugby?

A. Ya, I continued for almost a year, I probably played three quarters of the year and then I quit.

Q. Do you still play racquetball up here?

A. Ya, occasionally, I don't play as much as I'd like to.

Q. Hum, how would you compare Central to Northern or vice versa?

A. I think Central's a lot larger university, it's prettier campus, the older buildings are a lot prettier. There's way more people, that's what makes it so much different, you don't see the same faces everyday. There's a lot more buildings, it's more spread out. I think you get a lot more personal care at Northern, it's more one on one relations with your prof's and I think that's a great benefit. You speak out more in class, at Central your more or less a number. Sometimes at Northern

you feel that way too, but with thirty people in the class it's a big difference than having sixty.

Q. Um hum, you say your a business major?

A. Ya, I started off as a no major declared, then I thought I wanted to go into criminal justice but after one class and talking to my father and brother, I decided that's not what I wanted and I should go into business. I think it's really tough to make a choice right off the bat and I've been a business major declared I think since the end of "85".

Q. Are your parents businessmen?

A. My mom is a branch manager for a bank, I think about as close as they get to business. They used to a long time ago own a family store with my grandparents.

Q. Is banking what you want to go into or something more along the lines of bigger business?

A. I think I want to go into sales right now and work my way into a management position or a marketing position. I had to do a major on management and marketing so it gives me an option.

Q. Umm, what professors stand out for you in the business department?

A. Dr. Zangelein, Irv. Zangelein, Dr. Z he seems to be a really knowledgeable fellow. When I first came back, he was my advisor. He kind of got me on straight and narrow, told me I had to keep grades up and told me what classes would be good to take and stuff like that. Dr. Camerius is a

professor and he's a very knowledgeable man, I'll have him for three more classes. I have him for two right now and he seems like he develops your thought a lot and makes you think a lot in class, and that's really good. And I think Dr. Drosian operates analysis, I think because he makes a complex class, complex study, whatever, really easy brings it down to terms. He breaks it down real easy for you and something you'll understand, I think he helped out a lot too. And one other person was Grace Wise in accounting. In accounting I was really struggling in accounting I, in fact I was getting a "D" and with her help I brought it up to a "B" and I took her for accounting II and it was a lot easier because I could relate with her, she helped out a lot.

Q. In your business classes at Central, were the professor's as helpful?

A. A couple were, but a lot of them you had to sign up to see them or call and make an appointments, where at Northern you just dropped by and if they're there they'll help you. There's more lab work. The labs at Central were huge areas, I mean people walked around and helped you when you can. And a lab at Northern's a small room with one person taking care of four or five people but your getting a lot more help at Northern.

Q. So it's more personalized?

A. Yes, definitely.

Q. Is all the other classes you've had at Northern seem to be about the same as Central?

A. I think most of the classes I took here, the beginning classes, the

lecture classes, I don't really like lecture classes and I think that's another reason I didn't like Central. Because, you just feel you can't contribute and I don't get involved in the class. The classes I get involved with, like your English classes and stuff like that, they were a lot different up here too. It was a lot smaller classes and a lot of professors demand more from you I thing. It keeps you on your toes and keeps you interested.

Q. So the business education that you got at Northern seems more than adequate?

A. I think it's an extremely good program now that they are getting accredited and it's causing a lot of hectic switching it over to credits and stuff like that from four to three and renaming the classes but, the program's getting definitely better.

Q. Now stepping back a little bit, you said that you once lived in the dorms?

A. Ya, in "84" when I first came up for that first year, I lived in Halverson.

Q. What were they like then?

A. I think the dorms were a lot more wild back then, lot more trouble. Halverson Hall definitely was probably the most rambunctious hall. It was definitely a lot dirtier and not as nice. They had the old built in desks, instead of the nice furniture they have now. A lot of dents and holes in the walls a lot of broken stuff. They kind of let the kids run

loose up there back then. Now, what I hear from others is there is a lot more tighter rein. What I've seen of the dorms, they seem nicer, they seem cleaner. I think living in them, for some people to have like their own room off or like their own space and then to be thrown into a room with another person, is really a tough adjustment. I lived with a really good friend and even both of us got on our nerves quite awhile but it made it easier living with a good friend. It brings a lot of people close together because you got, I don't know how many live in a hall, thirty. They're jammed into one area, you get to know everyone, you know what everyone's doing, you know just their background, you get to know them really quick and you develop some really close relationship and get to know a lot of people in the dorms. I think they have changed a lot and I think it's good that it's becoming more disciplined because all the destruction stuff that I seen in dorms, we had people breaking windows and just going crazy. That had to stop somewhere because sooner or later people get hurt or the university gets a real bad image. It all has to be really cleaned up.

Q. Those were the years that Northern was rated as one of the tops party schools in Playboy wasn't it?

A. Ya, in "83", "82".

Q. Do you still keep in contact with some of your suitemates and hallmate?

A. It seems like a lot of my suitemates, roommates graduated, another suitemate transferred, another one graduated. One I keep really good contact with is Dan Ramon and a few others everytime I see them it's just like I

always, you know, we always go out of our way to talk to each other.

Their guys that I'll always know and always relate to, we spent like a year and that close together you become close relationships.

Q. Since attending Northern have you participated in any intermurals or any of the other extra-curricular activities here at Northern?

A. I think I've always participated in some intramural, at least one a year. Softball, basketball, floor hockey and football. In the dorms, intermurals a big thing. It's a great way to get you out of the dorm and you know, relieve some tension. Broomball is another. Of all those games are quite fun. Like broomball definitely has its roots deep in Northern it was a big thing for everyone to do, it was really fun. Basketball, it gets you, you build that little competition and gets your team going between the dorms and it also gets you to know other people.

Q. Did you ever have the opportunity of winning one of the championships?

A. We were my freshman year in the dorms "84". We won the basketball championship, which was a lot bigger tournaments back then, lot more games were played so it was quite a drawn out event and we've come close in softball a couple of times and we went one year, even though I wasn't officially on the team, I went under another name. That was off campus though. Mainly it's just I'd win a couple of games and we'd come out of the tournament. It's all in fun, it's all exciting.

Q. Looking at Northern now, from when it was before, what were some of the problems that you had in the earlier years, "84" and "85" on campus, were there any problems that stand out to you?

A. I think there's always been the McGoff off problem was there. I remember that being when I first came up here and the stickers were all over "McGoff off". People raised a fuss about it and it went away and then it came back, that was kind of strange. I remember when it came back last year, and he finally withdrew his funds in "88". I thought it was quite funny how it went away and came back.

Q. What was it about?

A. He had money from South <sup>Africa</sup> ~~America~~ and the anti-apartheid groups definitely did want him off campus. He had donated money to the university for a lecture series and they thought this to be dirt money or you know, bad money from the apartheid. Personally, I had no feelings either way towards it. I thought that he had given the gift to the university and it really didn't matter.

Q. Now there's a problem parking, why do you feel there is one now?

A. I think the main problem is they are letting students out of the dorms a lot earlier. So you have more students living off campus and also I think there is an increase in commuters. Students definitely don't want to live in the dorms so, more people not living in dorms mean more people not walking to class, mean more people are driving, mean increased parking. There always, I think, been a parking problem. I was thinking about that earlier and it always seems to be a shortage. I think it's grown worse though now and there is definitely going to have to be resolved within the next year or so.

Q. Um hum, what are some of the proposals that they have, do you know?

A. Proposals I heard are building more parking spaces off campus or there's even one I've heard of is building a ramp of some type. I think a ramp would be ugly but it might be more practical, depending on how they build it and designed it. And that's all I've really heard.

Q. The ramp being ugly, that seems to be one of the bigger concerns on campus, of keeping it's beauty?

A. Ya, I think Northern definitely has been improving its beauty on campus since President Appleberry took over. I think he took over in "84" my freshman year. He's improved the campus a lot with new signs and everything, that's helped out a lot and overall the university has gotten a lot better looking. They're planning sculptures and stuff like this, but I think a few trees would help.

Q. In your social life, comparing it to now and when you were a freshman, what has changed in, what new things have come about.

A. I think socially when I was a freshman are main deal was partying in the dorms or go to a party off campus. It helped that my brother lived off campus, we go to know about a lot of off campus parties. Or go to the Alibi. Now, since I'm off campus, and a lot older, I really don't go to too many bars anymore. Last year, the big deal was going to the "Pub 88" as a junior, we seemed to go there every Thursday, it was like the big hangout, college hangout there for power hour every Thursday. Parties are still the same, except they're more a small group of people. Every so often I go to big party, I don't really like them I think that now

that I getting older I'm liking the small group getting together so you can hear each other talk, there is no hassle at all. And I think the police have definitely curbed the big party scene at Northern with them coming around at 10:00 and breaking up parties and stuff. And I think this is also stemming from more people moving off campus, you know, moving in with the area, it's not really college. It's a college town but it's moving college kids in the middle of blocks where people have lived there all their lives. There's people that lived definitely on our block that's lived here for forty years easily. And we start going here causing noise and their definitely going to want to sic the cops on us and I don't blame them at all.

Q. It seems to be one of the bigger problems. What hall did you live in when you lived in the dorms?

A. In Halverson.

Q. What was your name of the dorm?

A. Blackfoot.

Q. Is that by Dakota?

A. Ya, that was right by the the Dakota Hall.

Q. Isn't Dakota Hall that used to have the big parties?

A. Ya, Dakota used to have an annual Dakota Bash and it was held at various spots, mostly out by Little Press. And I thing the first one I heard about was my brother brought back pictures when he was in Dakota Hall of

his freshman year. I couldn't even really relate to the sizes, because in the picture you can only have so many people in it. And my first one I went to I was in awed by the size of the party, it was amazing it seemed that everyone at that whole university had to be at that party because it was nothing but people. And nothing but kegs and it was more organized and it was they cleared it through the DNR and I think the people were less worried up here about people crashing their cars. Like now they are a lot more worried in damages and under age drinking. Back then I think the law was a little relaxed and definitely the UP's laws a little more relaxed. They let kids get away with a lot more and now they're cracking down.

Q. Probably because of groups against alcohol?

A. I think this is more of an awareness now in drunk driving, a few things have happened up here, they're finally waking people up. Probably takes a few people to get hurt or killed you know, shake people up and realize well we can't let this go on anymore. I know that a lot of places get, a lot of bars still get busted for under-age drinking but when I was a freshman, it was no problem walking right into a bar and buying yourself a beer never even asked about any ID. It's different now, you get carded everywhere you go, it's a lot more awareness. Definitely for the better.

Q. I agree. How many kegs did you say they went through at that party?

A. The record was set last one I went to they broke the record so I'm not even sure what the record was, but the first one I went to they went through forty-two kegs. It was just amazing, when you come from a town

where if you have two or three barrels, its like oh that's the biggest party of the year. It's like hardly putting a dent in the forty-two.

Q. You mentioned earlier that you liked the outdoors, coming from Charlevoix which is a fairly nice community, what do you do with the outdoors up here, what activities?

A. I do about a lot of things in the outdoors. When I first got up here, we weren't too involved in hunting and fishing because we didn't know where to go or mainly in the dorms you didn't have your equipment either. We used to hike a lot. It used to be the big thing for us to go out and hike up Sugarloaf or Hogsback or go out by Harlow in areas that's beautiful and something a lot of people never really will get to see. Then I got involved in fishing through roommates that they fished or they were real knowledgeable where to go or stuff like that. Eventually, kind of Salmon fishing up here and I deer hunt and I grouse hunt and it's really fun, it's good hunting and fishing up here.

Q. How would you compare it with back home?

A. It's comparable both ways except that around here it's different because there's more hills and everything so you have to get used to hunting. It's the same thing, we have Salmon in Charlevoix, they have Salmon here. I guess it's getting to know where to go. That there both compatible.

Q. Do you have very good luck when you go hunting and fishing?

A. I'm yet to bag a deer up here, but I can always seem to find the grouse, and catch the fish. If I'm going for Salmon fishing, I have pretty good

luck I say.

Q. Where are some of your favorite places to fish up here?

A. Dead River definitely when the Salmon are up in their spawn. That's a big congregation down there. Going out on the piers in the spring or even ice fishing on any lake is fun. This year we're bringing the boat up here and we can advance a little bit further in our fishing. Harlow Lake it seems like I've always enjoyed going there and fishing for ice fishing.

Q. That sounds fun. Do you think that coming to Northern being a fairly small school about six or seven thousand, has helped you or hindered you in dealing with people?

A. I think it's definitely helped. You've got to speak out a lot more in class. With a larger school I think you can just easily just sit in the back and take your tests and take your notes and pass and get an "A". But if you get a "B" in a class here, where your speaking out and developing personal communication skills or dealing with people, that's going to help you a lot later on in life. Because if you cannot deal with people, definitely a lot of jobs like in teaching and in business and whatever, your going to have trouble because you may have all the knowledge in the world but if you don't have personal communication skills your going to be struggling.

Q. Looking back at Marquette over the years, how have you seen it changed?

A. I think there's a been a resurgence downtown. I see the stores are

starting to look a lot better, they're painting them up a little bit. When I first got here, there was quite a few years where you'd drive by and the store were boarded up, they were out of business. There's a lot of places just from the mine struggling, I think mines coming back has helped. I think them now concentrating on the students themselves, the university growing is helping and overall the Olympic Training center coming in here has helped out to. I might bring a lot of new business, we haven't seen the effects too much of that yet but it should help. And then I think it's just been more community awareness more communities realizing if they're going to have to put some money into this town and beautify it. It was getting run down for awhile its definitely on the upswing.

Q. If you could do all this over again, straight out of high school, what do you think you'd do?

A. I'd still go to Northern. I think that I would concentrate on declaring a major faster. I would've realized that those classes I thought were boring and stuff and really couldn't concentrate and in the beginning, they were not boring classes like your intro to Psych. and stuff like that, they were just so, I don't know, maybe they're straight out of textbook, mass testing, I could have easily done a lot better in those classes. I did not like them and not liking not a good reason. I think I would have definitely concentrated more in my major. Now that I'm into my major, I'm enjoying it a lot more and getting a lot better grades. And I wouldn't have transferred. I should have thought that through more and I think that

would have helped if I would have done those first two things, I wouldn't have not transferred anyway. And not transferring I probably would have graduated a lot earlier. It's taken me five and one-half years I could have probably easily gotten out in four and one-half years without that transfer.

Q. On future plans, what area in the country do you plan on living?

A. I probably am going to go downstate and I like the Lansing area. I don't want to go too far down in Michigan, I really don't like the Detroit Metro area down there. Lansing's close enough for if I want to get away from it all or want to zoom up to Charlevoix I can do that. I still plan on being very accessible to the UP. My parents are going to retire up here, I plan on visiting them an awful lot and I eventually find this area a great place to retire eventually.

Q. Somewhere down the lines. Okay Jeff, I'd like to thank you for your time and I appreciate your cooperation.

A. Thank you.