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## Interview with Allison Adams (FA 1293)

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Interviewer: Chloe Brown  
Interviewee: Allison Adams  
Date: April 7<sup>th</sup> 2017  
Topic: Women's March

#### Allison Adams Interview

CB: Alright. Let me find a good place to... Okay. This is Chloe Brown interviewing Allison Adams and it is April 7<sup>th</sup>. Is that what we decided?

AA: Yes.

CB: Okay. So before we get started, I just want to make sure I get you on record consenting to having the interview archived in Special Collections.

AA: Yes, I consent.

CB: Okay.

AA: I do.

CB: Good. So why did you decide to participate in the Women's March?

AA: Just because, with everything that was happening politically, I felt like it was the only thing that I could actually do that would make a significant difference. I knew that if I participated in something like that, I would be part of a much bigger reaction or chain of reaction. And I also just didn't think that I could live with myself knowing that I sat doing nothing that day, knowing that the world was what it was. I needed to take some action.

CB: So you marched in Nashville, right? Can you walk me through that day?

AA: Well I went with a bunch of friends, one being Conor, but we went with two of our other friends as well, and we had a sign party the night before, and it became a very communal event. And it was really, really just-we kept on mentioning just how happy everybody was. It was the first time we all felt really, really good since the election, essentially, because it was such a massive amount of people. And they had speeches before everything started. When we first got there, there was people shouting out, "Oh, I love your sign!" Everybody just being very, very communal. They had people-they had music, and they had speeches before the actual march started, and then when the march started, it was just-it was a very, very communal feeling.

CB: Yeah.

AA: Communal environment, communal-

Conor Scruton: Atmosphere.

AA: Atmosphere, yeah.

CS: Positive.

AA: Yeah, it was very, very positive. Yeah, so we marched from-I don't know the actual locations, but we went over a bridge, and then we marched through the downtown area to the main government building in Nashville.

CS: Yeah, it's from-I think it's called Cumberland Park, or Cumberland something Park, so the one just to the east of the river, and then we went over the walking bridge, and then up to right in front of the capitol building.

AA: Yeah. That.

CB: Okay. Can you-I forgot to ask you, but can you just give me some basic information about yourself?

AA: Yes. So I am 25. I am a millennial, nice and stuck in there. I'm at Western, getting my MFA in Creative Writing, with a concentration in screenwriting. I'm originally from California. And I have always been-I've had kind of a slow introduction to politics. I came from a very, very conservative family. But not even so much conservative in the sense that my parents were jabbing me down the throat with it? It was always just kind of there. Like how my mom would always say things like "Oh, just the words. Democrat is just an uglier word than Republican. Wouldn't you rather be a Republican?" I'm like, "Yeah! Sure." And so, I-once I became an adult and I moved to Los Angeles and kind of got out of the red bubble of Orange County, I had a very-I wouldn't say slow because it was actually pretty rapid. But a pretty seamless switch in terms of my ideology. I was originally registered as a Republican up until this past election, and part of the reason was because I was too scared to register as a Democrat. Because I was like "my parents will disown me." And then once I was registered Republican, I thought to myself "well, at least I can vote Republicans in the primaries, and I can try to get a decent person in that way and then cross the line over for the actual election." But then moving to Kentucky, I was really, really concerned about, you know, obviously going into such a red state and everything like that. Because I had pretty much solidified myself in the blue, blue, blue of LA. But honestly, coming here-and I think it's just because I'm part of the university environment and all of my friends are from the university? I didn't feel that. I can't remember the original question now.

CB: Something about telling me-you were just telling me some basic things about yourself.

AA: Yeah, it's kind of how I-and in relation to the Women's March and everything, I felt like this was my first group-my friends back in LA. I mean, granted, it was a different political time as well. But they were very, very far left. A lot of them weren't Americans, so they identified as pretty strong socialists or Marxists or communists, and we would always just have discussions. And I feel like moving here, and being around such liberal people at such a tumultuous time, it just seems a little bit more active, in the sense of political involvement with things. While before, everything seemed very abstract in terms of politics. Now everything seems much more concrete, I guess, of how I identify.

CB: Yeah, and you're still registered to vote in California, right?

AA: Yeah.

CB: Have you taken any additional political action after the marches?

AA: Yeah, so I started making phone calls. The first one was actually the one that you [Chloe Brown] sent us in the group, about transgender rights I believe? And then I made probably in total five or six calls on different issues since then, just because I realized it was so easy to do. I had never called my congressman or anything, but I would always call as a Kentuckian, which I don't know is technically allowed, but I used my address and they-I figured if they were actually going to check, then they'll just know that there are people in Kentucky, like I have an address, I have the things. But, yeah, so I did that. I went to a couple different marches as well, against Betsy DeVos and the Muslim Ban when it was first passed. But now it's getting to the point, which is frustrating. It's that thing where it's-the news cycle is so much every single day. Like how what's his face just got confirmed?

CB: Yeah. Gorsuch.

AA: Yeah, and it's almost too much. And it's just beating me down in terms of how I feel-how much change I can actually enact, I guess. But at the same time, maybe I'm just being pessimistic. Because I do see some things, like with the Muslim Ban, and stuff like that. I don't know, it's very disheartening.

CB: I think people come in and are very energetic, and then they take breaks.

AA: Yeah, and that make sense. I think a lot of it-I was always really, really concerned, because it's like of the people who I know who are very against marching and against everything. It's like oh, people take it-especially white women, take it as a social event. And then with that Kylie Jenner, or Kendal Jenner, commercial that just came out, that was essentially just like "it's a party! Let's have a Pepsi!" kind of thing, and so I'm always very aware of that and worried about that in terms of, you know, why am I actually marching and everything like that. And making sure that it's not just for me to put on my social media, if that makes sense.

CB: Yeah. So you said that it was-you said the atmosphere was communal? What do you think made it feel communal?

AA: I think-I mean, part of it was just the mass of people in Tennessee, because it was down in Nashville. And I mean, I had friends who went to the LA marches, and friends who went to the DC marches, and I-and they all had similar experiences, saying that it was all just happy and communal and it was just such a positive atmosphere. But for me, marching in Nashville and knowing that it was a red state but seeing such a mass of people, that was-I think that added to a lot of me feeling very, very proud to be a part of it. Just kind of a reminder of "oh yeah, just because it's a red state doesn't mean that people are complicit or happy with what is going on." You know, I'm not a single person in this bad situation. Because I think it's very isolating, and part of-and I think that's one of the reasons why I get so much energy out of the marches. It's

just because it's so much people. And it's so many people who do care. No matter what reasons they're doing it for, it's like they're still there. They still care on some level. And so it's kind of like—that's just nice to be around. Instead of being around a group of people where it's like "oh, I can't say anything against Trump because so-and-sos here." Or I can't express actually how upset I am about something. Like, we were all screaming and yelling, and it was just a nice release.

CB: So the sign party that you had, can you talk to me about that a little bit?

AA: So we all got—we went over to my friend Lena's apartment and I had gotten a bunch of cardboard, paint, and everything. And it was really, really nice, just because we were—number one we were just deciding what to put down on the signs. And I think it was a nice reminder to think about well what are the issues? Even though it's a woman's march, it became bigger than just the woman's issues. So it's like what are we actually are we talking about? So my friend Conor, his said 'all love' on it, there were just a lot of love based signs. And it was also, it was a mini march in the sense that it was very communal because it was just my core group of friends, and that was also a nice reminder of the people here who I know, who I trust, and I love are in the same spot with me and we kind of stick together. We can—and that's the thing. It sucks but these marches are some of the happiest times that I've been in this administration so far, and it's just because it's so much—you're surrounded by so much positivity and like-minded people. Otherwise, you feel so isolated against. So the sign party, it was really just the four of us talking about planning for what we were going to do that next day, talking about what we were putting on our signs, why were putting it on our signs, and talking about how we felt about the future and what we were about to do, what we were about to partake in. It was really...

CB: What did your sign say?

AA: I had a double side. One of them was...

Conor Scruton: "America can't be great until black lives matter."

AA: Yeah, one of them was—I was trying to think of my pussy one though. It was something along the lines of "if you're grabbing women by their pussies then you don't know how to fuck" because I was trying to be funny. But the flip one was a more serious one. "America can't be great until black lives matter."

CB: So why did you choose to use those particular phrases?

AA: Well, the pussy one because that one just had—the whole grab them pussy, personally really affected me. I was like hearing that and hearing—not just hearing it but having people, hearing people defend it or kind of being like—not even defend it, but pushing it under the rug really pissed me off. And it just—I think it was a petty sign because I think I was essentially getting down on their level, but it's like—I feel like because the people who are defending it, they are the people that are so hyper-masculine. It's like, "You're not even good in bed so the one thing you think you have, you're awful." And that was just petty. And then the black lives matter one—I did it for a couple of reasons. I've been very interested in the Black Lives Matter

movement since it started. Because like you said, I came from Orange County and my high school had 3,000 people in it and six people were black. So it's like—and we were diverse in other ways. We had a high Hispanic and Asian population, but in terms of black people we didn't have any at my high school. So I didn't have any black friends until I moved up to L.A. and I remember, I used to have—I would say because, also, I don't have a lot of friends. So it's like—I would say that in my core group of friends in L.A., maybe like 30 to 40% of them were black and then my best, best friend was black and we used to have a lot of conversations about race. So that—one of the things that were literally like me being a very ignorant white person—he had to re-explain to me all about racial issues. I was kind of like, “Oh, deh deh deh. Okay.” And then seeing him struggle with it, seeing—then I became much more involved with it through him. And then with the Women's March, I was reading a lot of things about how it was—people were saying it wasn't very inclusive to the Black Lives Matter movement, and so I was just like, “Well, if I'm going to go and I do want to go, I'm aware this other conversation is happening that is not inclusive.” So I'm like, “If I'm going to go, then I may as well be inclusive about it. I care about that issue. So why not?”

CB: Nice. So what message did you want to communicate by marching?

AA: I wanted to communicate—well number one, to be a part of something that was not even just national, it was global that was going on. The global community was rebelling against what was happening with the administration, and to be a part of that and to be able to—because I always think about—I always compare this administration to Nazi Germany which, whether I'm right or wrong that's not the point, but it's kind of like how—it's so easy to think how could that happen? Were people literally just standing by? And no, people weren't standing by, and maybe we weren't able to see people fighting against Hitler and all the things because we didn't have the media, we didn't have the social media that we have today. And I just wanted to be very, very clear in my own life. No, this is not something that is okay with me. This is not normal. This is not what I approve of, and it's not what I think the majority of Americans approve of. And so with the Women's March, particularly, because I knew it wasn't just going to be a regular march, it wasn't going to be just another march against Washington. It was going to be this giant, global message to the administration. And that's pretty much what I wanted it to be, and I wanted to be a part of it.

CB: Do you think that the message was communicated?

AA: I think it was communicated to the people around Trump. I don't know if it was actually communicated to Trump, because I don't know if he's capable of understanding exactly what that means. That the amount of people who were marching against him, particularly, around the world, around the country. I don't think he's capable of comprehending that, but I think it—I think the message that it did—I think it did send the message that it needed to really the rest of the world. I feel like that, to me, that's almost more important than sending the message to the administration. It's more saying to the rest of the world like, “Hey, we're not cool with this. America is still a safe place. America is still a place that you still want to come to that's still welcoming. That's still a loving, compassionate country.” And so, it's like that's more what I wanted to communicate with it. Is like, “Hey, we're all here together.” And then the fact that other countries were joining in with us was just—that was the part that was like, “Okay, the rest

of the world doesn't think we're completely crazy. The rest of the world understands what's happening and together we're going to overcome this madness."

CB: Did you post about your experiences on social media?

AA: I did? Didn't? I was tagged in a lot of things.

Conor Scruton: Yeah, I don't know if you posted anything from the actual Woman's March, but then we went to the—before the Betsy Devos confirmation hearings. We marched downtown between Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul's offices. And I know you posted photos there.

AA: Yeah. Yeah I posted there. I, personally, have never been a big social media poster. I'm a social media stalker. I'm not a poster. And actually, it was through the election that I did start to post more politically until I was told that I'm not allowed to do that anymore. So right now, I'm not allowed to post politically which is a separate issue that...

Conor Scruton: By who? Can we ask that?

AA: It's part of the conversation we will have later. But yeah, right now, I've been told to tamp it down in terms of my political posts down to my likes on Twitter and what I share on Twitter, things that I like. So I've been told that I'm not allowed to...

Conor Scruton: Told by someone of which sex? Which gender?

AA: Oh, by a white male.

Conor Scruton: Yeah.

AA: in a position of power.

Conor Scruton: Let the record show... Sorry.

CB: It's okay.

AA: That's all I can say about that. But, yeah, I don't know if I actually posted anything about specifically about the Women's March other than all the things that I was tagged on my wall. So I was associated with it. But after the election, I was definitely posting much more politically driven posts, things on my Twitter—much more politically driven recently.

CB: So how do you think that going with—it was you, Conor, Erin, and Lena?

AA: Yeah.

CB: How do you think that kind of changed your experience?

AA: Well, it definitely solidified—well because we ran into Dr. LeNoir. I don't know if Erin also told you this. It was amazing. So we were marching, and we were all yelling. It was when

we were actually walking, and all of a sudden we see Dr. LeNoir and his wife. And it was so great, and he took our picture. And then he goes, “Oh, it’s the Wild Bunch. It’s so great to see you.” So now we call ourselves the Wild Bunch whenever we hang out and it’s just the four of us, it’s the Wild Bunch. We’re like—the four of us, we all four went to the Betsy Devos. We all four went to the Muslim Ban march, and so I think it solidified our small group as the politically minded.

Conor Scruton: Can I also just say that LeNoir and his wife showed the fuck up. They had—you know how you get like a campus to actually paint on how it’s like a wooden frame?

AA: Yeah. They had fancy signs.

Conor Scuton: Yeah. That’s what they had. They had—it looked like something you buy at the home décor section of a Target, but they were like incendiary, political posters.

AA: Mine were cardboard from Walmart and like Amazon boxes, and theirs was fancy. But, yeah, I think that going—we actually commented on that a lot, especially at the Muslim Ban march. Because at that time, that was the third march we all went to together. And it’s like, “You know what? I’m really glad we four are going,” because we were saying, “we feel like we’re all here because we really, really care and we’re not just here because we want to hang out with friends.” All that kind of stuff. And so we, the four of us, I think it made our friendship a lot stronger and it also just kind of made us solidify...

CB: It put another aspect to it.

AA: Yeah, yeah. I think it definitely did because it’s like you were there at Emily Atkins’ house after the initial thing and it’s like that kind of vibe, it’s great but then it dissipates. And then with the Wild Bunch, I felt like it didn’t, necessarily, dissipate the same way. And so that was nice to be a part of that, to know that in my own head I’m like, “Okay, at least I know that I still have these people who actually do care about these issues and aren’t just being upset for...”

Conor Scruton: Social gain.

AA and CB: Yeah.

CB: So would you say that the march was like a catalyst to solidifying this group? Do you think it would have happened if you hadn’t attended the march?

AA: Probably not in the same way because it’s like—it was my first march I’ve ever been to. I think it was—it wasn’t Lena’s because Lena’s very politically—she went to Occupy and everything. But it was yours?

Conor Scruton: It was mine.

AA: It was yours. I’m pretty sure it was Erin’s as well, and I think that was also a big part of it that 3/4<sup>th</sup> of our group, it was our first experience into it. And, like I said, the experience was so



full of love and happiness. It was such a great way to spend the day. That we're like, "Fuck, why aren't we doing"—it's the same feeling I had when I first called the congressman. I'm kind of like, "This is so freaking easy. Why aren't I doing this more?" Like it's so easy to be heard. And so—I forgot the question again.

CB: Was it a catalyst?

AA: Yea, so I think it was definitely a catalyst in terms of I don't think I would have gone to the Betsy Devos march. And that one was very, very small. It was essentially, just like Cherry Hall teachers and we were like—Fabian's kid. It was a very small march, but it was just as fun. I don't think I would have gone to that, honestly, even though Betsy Devos friggin terrifies me. And even the Muslim Ban march, that was a very last minute thing. It happened and all of a sudden: Wild Bunch initiate. And we were all like, "Okay." And I don't think that would have happened without the Women's March.

CB: Yeah. Do you all have a group text or...?

AA: Yeah. It's the Wild Bunch.

CB: The Wild Bunch, okay.

AA: Yeah, it's called the Wild Bunch.

Conor Scruton: It's how we knew about both of the subsequent—it's how we informed each other of both of the subsequent marches we went to.

CB: Cool. So I know that there weren't pussy hats at the Nashville march or were there pussy hats?

Conor Scruton: There were many.

AA: I think there was, yeah. We didn't wear pussy hats though.

CB: Yeah, but they seemed to have become like a symbol for the march. And so what do you think that they mean?

AA: I was confused with the pussy hats at first because I didn't think—I don't know if we've been correct with this, but at first I thought they looked like uteruses. Because I thought the points were supposed to be going in like the fallopian tubes. And I only just realized, like maybe a month ago, oh pussy like cat and those are the ears. So I was confused at first. Primarily, I mean I think—again, I'm not the most, in the same way that I'm social media, I'm not a super extroverted person. I'm not somebody who is very forth coming with my own opinions. I'm not the type of person to wear a pussy hat. I think, at the same time, it's a nice symbol considering the red trucker hat that became such a symbol for Trump. I think the pussy hat is a nice symbol for what the movement was. Because again, just like the Women's March, I think the pussy hat encompasses a lot of different things. It's not just about women's issues. It's just—but, yeah, in

terms of—I don't have a pussy hat myself. If somebody gave me one, I would like it. I don't know how often I would wear it. I probably would wear it. I like beanies, but I wouldn't be wearing—it's not—that's not how I show my activism, I guess as much.

CB: So you're viewing it as a counter to the red trucker hat?

AA: Yeah. It's one of those things, kind of like how I don't have any bumper stickers on my car that are political, but whenever I see somebody else with bumper stickers I'm like, "Oh, good for them," kind of thing. Where it's like that's not personally how I show my stuff, but I think in terms of what pussy hat actually is and means, it's very, very important and an important symbol for what the movement is. I just personally don't have one.

CB: Yeah.

AA: But it wasn't like, "Oh, I'm not going to get a pussy hat." It's just not naturally something that I do. I don't know where to get one or how to knit.

CB: Yeah. So I know the Women's March kind of encompassed a lot of different groups and different ideas. What do you think—how would you define it? It seems kind of difficult to put down.

AA: I think the reason why it was able to be encompassed by so many different aspects or so many different groups is because the idea of, "Oh, it's a women's march and all these different groups identify partly with womanhood," if that makes sense. Women are often parts involved in all these other groups, as well. And so I think that's where the inclusion came from of—woman is so broad of what that actually means. That a lot of people identify with just that, I guess. What was the question again?

CB: What is—what do you think—what is the group mean, the group that attended? How would you define the Women's March as a whole.

AA: Yeah, and I think it's also just the fact that it, again, it's—women are 50% of the population. I think it just lent itself to be such a massive march, and that it lent itself to be, essentially, an anti-Trump march opposed to just women's issues. Which I think was positive for it, that it came into so much more than woman's issues even though woman's issues are important. But it was like—I thought that what it was meant to be, it was so much more than just that.

CB: Yeah. So are you aware of a lot of the criticisms of the march?

AA: yeah. I mean I wouldn't say that I'm super well read on them, but even before the march, I was hearing things about it's not necessarily the best thing, blah blah. So I definitely heard criticisms and, yes.

CB: So maybe what criticisms have you heard and do you think that after going to the march itself, do you think that the criticisms were valid?

AA: so the main one that I heard was that the lack of intersectionality. That was the main one that I heard prior to the actual march. After the march, I heard a lot of people or negative things that people were saying: Oh there's not violence, this is how you march kind of thing. And people were essentially like, "Yeah, when you get a bunch of white people together, it's not going to be handled the same way. So, of course, there were no arrests or whatever." And I think all those points are obviously valid, but—what was the second part of the question?

CB: Do you think it's valid after attending?

AA: Yeah. I think it opens up—I think it's valid because it opens up the conversation to what it needs to be. I don't want to—I don't think the Women's March was a bad thing. I think it tried to be as intersectional as it could and it probably failed in some parts. It's one of those things that it's like it's trying. It's going and failing a little bit, but it's at least trying. And in terms of the whole there's no arrests. Of course that's a good thing that nobody died or there wasn't giant riots, but at the same time, I think, "Okay, that's good that that happened. Now let's have a conversation about why that didn't happen and why it didn't turn into a major thing." So I think it doesn't devalidify—is that a word?

Conor Scruton: invalidate

AA: Invalidate, thank you. It doesn't invalidate it, but at the same time I think the criticisms were valid. But all those criticisms are also part of—are also coming from more progressive people. I feel like the criticisms that were coming from the right were—I heard a criticism about how marching just doesn't matter and how it's a waste of time. And personally, I don't agree with that and I don't think that. And I don't think that was valid in terms of my experience with the march. Because I think, yeah, I'm walking around and yelling, technically doesn't immediately do something, but at the same time when you look at history it's what's striking. It's what that does happen. So most—I feel like the criticisms that were coming from progressive people or at least more left progressive leaning people are more valid than the criticisms that were coming from the right.

CB: Okay. So do you think you would have preferred to have been in D.C. or was there something—what were the merits of being in a smaller march?

AA: I, personally, like being in Nashville because I think, also—well number one what I was saying with the red state. I think it's important that people in red states or—I always hear—it's like a meme like, "oh there must be a lot of coastal weeds in this fly over state because look how giant this—that idea that, yeah. I think it's really important that the states that are seen as Trump's country kind of thing. It's like, "No, no there is." And I think that's more important. And I think it's more important that it was happening all over the world. And so I think it's like everybody who went to D.C. that's fantastic because the fact that they couldn't even freaking march because it was so many people. Like that's what needed to happen, but, at the same time, that was done essentially. So I'm glad I was in a smaller city. And, honestly, I'm really happy that I even wasn't in L.A. or a very liberal city. I'm glad that I was marching in a conservative red state.

CB: Yeah. So were you impressed or were you underwhelmed by the march?

AA: I was impressed up until it ended. It was a really awkward ending because we—it was speeches in the beginning and everything and we marched and then we got the building and we were like, “I don’t know what to do now.” So we kind of like hung out for a little bit and was like, “I guess that’s it.” And then we kind of walked through the city. So that was interesting, but of my experience, other than the Muslim Ban march, it was just like crazy because we were walking the streets. You were there. Did you stay for the...?

CB: We thought it was over.

AA: it’s like we stayed because—

Conor Scruton: --we did too but we stayed for a while.

AA: We were screaming across the street and everything like that. We were having so much fun, and then we went into the streets and everything. And then by the time that—because I had to go to my acting class so I was the one who had to be like, “You guys we have to go.” But we were all dead. We were so tired. All of our voices were raspy and gross. That one had more of a “huh” feeling to be done. But the Betsy Devos one with the Women’s March was very kind of—we’re yelling but we’re not going to yell anymore.

Conor Scruton: I will say just about the Nashville march, I’m trying to mansplain and just jump in.

AA: No, you’re fine.

Conor Scruton: But like, I’m trying to jump in when logistical things—I remember that. They were having sort of like a post rally, similar to the pre-march one, but—I mean you could hear it. It was past the Capitol building, over to the side of it, but we were also kind of towards the back of the group marching. And so it was one of those things like we could kind of tell in the distance that there was something like wrapping up—there was another rally going on, but we weren’t really sure what was up with that or anything. So we kind of just peeled off.

AA: Yeah.

CB: I think I’ve actually asked almost all my questions. So do you see the Wild Bunch being able to be activated again now that there’s been...?

AA: It is currently active. No, I definitely—actually, I was going to post something about the Wild Bunch for the tax day, tax march. Because that’s in like coming up next week. No, that’s the thing, the Wild Bunch is one of the things that I feel like the next time I go to the march in this general vicinity, it’s going to be with the three of them. So I think it’s alive and well and thriving, the Wild Bunch.

CB: So you're planning on participating in tax day?

AA: I was. I hadn't even talked to them about it, but I'm assuming that they will also.

CB: And there's also the March For Science coming up.

AA: Yeah.

Conor Scruton: I think I actually may be in Ohio for the Bowling Green one. The Bowling Green one is the 22<sup>nd</sup>, I think. I think it was a week ahead of the—because the Washington one is April 29<sup>th</sup>, I think. Maybe I'm misremembering it.

AA: I don't know.

Conor Scruton: So I may not be right. Just watch me fall apart. I'm sorry.

AA: After I had it on the record.

CB: So I have two more questions. Do you feel like the Women's March is, the people who attended, in itself, do you think that they're a community? Kind of broader than your small group.

AA: Yeah, I think because they—I know Lena knows a little more about it than I do, of the smaller communities in Nashville area, specifically. But even just the Bowling Green group, because we started going to the Unitarian Church and then we met people who are apart of that Bowling Green—I forget what the name on my Facebook is...

Conor Scruton: Indivisible?

AA: No.

CB: There's the Social Justice Clearinghouse, is that what you're talking about?

AA: Yeah. It's some social justice group on Facebook for Bowling Green. And so I feel like—and those types of communities, I wouldn't have been around at the Women's March. And so I think there's definitely a broader sense of community. But it's even back to the pussy hats thing. It's kind of like if you see someone walking around with a pussy hat, you can say, "Yay!" It's like being a Harry Potter fan kind of. I'm just like it's—we're connected in a broader community in a way because we're connected through something that's very near and dear to our hearts. So it's like the same way that if someone is wearing a \_\_\_\_\_? \_\_\_\_\_ shirt it's like, "\_\_\_\_\_ hey!" there's no question about it. They'll smile and like immediately will be friends. It's like—I feel like it's the same thing with the Women's March. So even if—even for people who aren't maybe active in the community, if they are wearing a pussy hat...

CB: So if you see someone wearing a pussy hat, what do you automatically think of?

AA: Oh, that they're a good person. They're like a decent, fucking person. No, but it's like one of those things, even with the safety pins—because I know there were like issues with that, the whole aspect of the safety pin, that it was nothing. Like there was criticism of that. But I think at the same time, it's also like nice to be able to know that this is somebody who I can share—if it's a stranger. Somebody that I don't know very well, especially living in a red state, it's like I don't want to say anything that will purposely offend somebody. I'm not going to actively try to instigate something, but at the same time with the new cycle happening constantly on a day to day basis, that is what's on my mind. That is what I want to talk about. So it's like those kind of identifiers that is nice to be in the community. And like oh this person, I can say something and it's like we'll be on the same page, hopefully.

CB: Yeah. So the final thing, if you could kind of sum up the experience in a couple sentences, what would be the most important things to say?

AA: I guess just that, going back to idea of communal community. That's redundant. But the idea that it's at such a divisive time and feeling so divisive. I like ended relationships and I ended—I got to the point with my parents where I was kind of like, “If we have another with politics, I might not be able to talk to you again,” kind of situations. And so that's, if anything, the Women's March was like, “Oh, no. Don't worry. You're not alone in this world. Here's a group of people who...”—so I guess giving back the community. At least having a community to go to.

CB: Yeah. That's great. Okay so I've asked all of my questions. Is there anything that we didn't talk about that you think is important? Or do you think we covered everything?

AA: I don't know.

Conor Scruton: That was a really good interview.

AA: Yeah. I think—I mean I pretty much, yeah. Does Conor need to consent since he's on the video?

CB: Conor needs to state his name and maybe one sentence about you because I'm probably going to ask to interview you now.

Conor Scruton: Okay. I can't at the moment, but in the future, sure. Yeah, my name is Conor Scruton. I am a teaching assistant in the master's program.

AA: Just got his thesis.

Conor Scruton: Just successfully defended my thesis for a masters in English Literature at Western Kentucky University.

CB: Okay. Alright.