

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW  
RAY BOURHIS AND SALLY LANYON  
AT THE OSU ARCHIVES  
APRIL 10, 2014

Q. This is Tamar Chute, University Archivist, at The Ohio State University. It's April 10, 2014, and we are conducting an oral history interview, and I'm going to let you both introduce yourselves, because I will slaughter your last names if I do it myself. So, go ahead.

Sally: All right, I'm Sally Lanyon. I was born Sally Lanyon Huber.

Q. All right, Ray?

Ray: Ray Bourhis. I was born Ray Bourhis.

Sally: Raymond.

Ray: No, Ray. You're right, Raymond, but I disavow that.

Sally: Was it Frank?

Ray: If you want to get technical, it's Francois. However, I think we can skip that formality.

Q. Our transcriber right now is probably wondering, what is going on? So what we wanted to start out with, before we get into the creation of Brutus, what we wanted first is, if both of you could talk a little bit about where you grew up and how you decided to come to Ohio State, to lay the groundwork a little bit for our later discussions. So, Sally, do you want to start, and we'll let Ray go second.

Sally: Certainly. I was born in Florida but grew up in Mansfield, Ohio, from age six months until I left Mansfield to go to Ohio State. I really wanted to go to Bryn Mawr, but that wasn't in the cards. I looked at several small colleges around the state, but my dad and I had a discussion and he said, "You know, Sally, everybody starts out at some small

college, then they transfer to Ohio State. Why don't you just start out there?" I thought that sounded like a good idea. So I applied, got in.

Q. And what year did you start?

Sally: 1963, fall of 1963.

Q. And you graduated?

Sally: March 1967.

Q. Ray, how about you? How did you get to Ohio State?

Ray: Oh boy, I don't know how much detail you want. You have a lot of tape for your tape recorder?

Q. It's a digital recorder. We can go as long as you'd like.

Ray: All right. I graduated from high school in New Jersey, from Cliffside Park High School. When I was in high school I was planning on establishing myself as a gas station attendant. That was going to be my career. I liked working on cars. And then my last year of high school, an English teacher by the name of Mrs. Troisi, who was assigning the various themes for students to write about, and she did so with our class. She asked me to stay after class one day and she said, "Did you really write that?" And I said, "Yes." She said, "What are you doing next year? Where are going to college?" And I said, "I'm not planning on going to college. I've got a job." "A job," she said, and looked at me like I had just shocked her. I said, "Yes, I'm working at a gas station. I like working on cars." And she said something to the effect of, "If you really wrote this, and you're not going to go to college, I'm going to get into a lot of trouble, because I'm going to kill you. And then of course, I'm going to have to kill myself. You're going to college." And she used some expletives to re-enforce the point. She said, "I'm going to give you some additional

assignments. I want you to write some things.” Mrs. Troisi was gorgeous. She looked actually like Sally. And so I would have done anything that she told me to do, of course. And over the next several months I wrote a number of these things, several of which I think I still have someplace. And she wound up saying, “Okay, you’re going to go to college next year. You can forget about working at a gas station.” And I said, “I’m not going to be able to get into colleges. With my grades, are you kidding?” And she said, “Okay, well, we’ll get you started in night school.” And actually the funny part of the story is that, many years later I won a six-pack – but he has never paid me – from [Democratic political commentator] James Carville because I had a bet with him about who had done worse in high school. Carville or me? And I’m the only one that’s ever won that bet against him, because he had done pretty poorly. So I went to night school for a year, got straight As, because I had wonderful professors that were teaching, most of them were on leave or moonlighting, to teach in Teaneck, New Jersey. And during the daytime their real jobs were at Columbia and NYU. These people included an economics professor, a creative writing professor, and so on. I got straight As because it was so fascinating, learning from these people. It was an experience I had never had before. Certainly not in high school where my history teacher doubled at working in the cafeteria. So I hadn’t really been exposed to anything remotely resembling the kind of experience I had at Fairleigh Dickenson University.

That summer a group of us decided we wanted to go to California. And none of us had ever been west of Pennsylvania before. So four of us piled into a Volkswagen Beetle, if you can imagine, four pretty big guys. I’m 6’4” and one or two of the other guys were over six feet, and here we were in this Volkswagen Beetle headed to California. And you

can't get to California from New York without going through Columbus, Ohio. So somebody said, "Let's go see Ohio State." So we pulled off the road and went to see Ohio State and I was just blown away. I had never seen anything so beautiful. The Oval, the beautiful brick buildings, the ivy-covered buildings, everything about the University was just shocking to me. We went and looked at the football field. In those days it only held 87,000 people before the most recent additions and so on. But I remember thinking, "My God, this is 20,000 more people than Yankee Stadium." I could not believe that a University could have a stadium like this. We stepped out and talked to some of the students that were there, went to the admissions office, and I picked up an application and filled it out. I think I mailed it back from Nebraska or wherever we were, Oklahoma or some place. By the time I got to California I had been admitted. At this point I figured, "I can do anything. I got straight As." I could have transferred almost anywhere that I wanted to go in the country. And I chose to go to Ohio State.

I decided I wanted to be a doctor and because I loved kids, I wanted to be a pediatrician. It didn't slow me down that I had never taken a science course in high school. I had taken courses like woodshop and made nice lamps and bowls and things like that. But never took a science course. And so I walked into this class, organic chemistry, and I saw the periodic tables on the board and everything went downhill from there. After a couple of weeks a wonderful guidance counselor that I had – I can't remember her name right now, but she was like my grandmother, she was absolutely fantastic – called me to have a serious discussion about whether I wanted to continue to pursue my interest in medicine. Ironically, right now in my law practice, I represent neurosurgeons, orthopedic surgeons, micro surgeons, cancer surgeons, brain surgeons,

etc., representing doctors in claims that they have against their long-term disability insurance companies. And so all of these people who have had remarkable academic accomplishments in their own right, in an area that I could never possibly have succeeded in, are my clients. And they are calling me all the time asking me for advice. It's just hilarious. But in any event, the guidance counselor asked me what I liked to do in my spare time. So I threw out some ideas. The main one was hanging out with Sally. But the others included reading, News and World Report, Time, Newsweek. I loved international affairs and things like that. She said, "Have you ever thought about taking any courses in political science?" I said, "No." I hadn't even thought about it. So she enrolled me in one and I got an A in that, and then another one and another one, and it went on and on and on. And I found my little niche in political science and then for my remaining time at Ohio State I was involved in all kinds of activities, including, I'm the one who put a fountain in the middle of Mirror Lake. It used to be a stagnant pond. You'd walk past Mirror Lake and you would run as far away from it as you possibly could. So I came up with putting that fountain that's still there, in the middle of Mirror Lake, and did a bunch of other things. I was the founder of the pre-law club at Ohio State. They didn't have pre-law club before that. If I had realized how significant that was to the law schools, I probably would have gotten into Harvard or Yale or someplace like that, because all of those were impressed with the fact that I had started a pre-law organization. Sally was a co-founder.

Sally: Yes, we co-founded it, Ray, and then I was President. You were President the first year, and I was President the second year.

Ray: Right.

Sally: Hey, Ray, that was a long answer.

Ray: That was a long answer. So there you have it. That brings us up, no it doesn't. It brings us up to the whole subject of fraternities and sororities at Ohio State. And Sally's father, who was a Republican, was not crazy about me because I was a liberal Democrat, and I wasn't from Ohio. I was from New York. He wasn't crazy about New York or New York politics, and so on and so forth. And he wanted me to be in a fraternity. I snooped around for a short term at the Beta House, and I decided I wasn't interested in being in a fraternity. So in any event, the point is, there I was at Ohio State and had met up with Sally. She lived in Siebert Hall, the dormitory, at the time I was living in Stradley Hall, right across the parking lot from Siebert. And we met and that's it. The rest is history.

Q. Thank you. Now Sally, I wanted to ask you: Ray talked a little bit about the activities he was in. If you want to talk about your extra-curricular activities that you were involved in, and then we'll get into the discussion about the mascot and how we get from one place to the next.

Sally: All right. Fine. I was involved with my sorority, Pi Beta Phi. I was pledge trainer there one year. I was on the Junior Panhellenic Council. I was on the College of Arts Student Council, or Arts College Council, I believe it was. Did something with one of the two [student government] political parties. I think it was the one Tom Sawyer was involved in, Buckeye Political Party. Was that it? So did things with that. One summer I was a Freshman Orientation leader. I took tours of incoming freshmen around. That was something you were selected for. My final piece was the student response speech that I gave at the March 1967, graduation.

Q. Which we have and we found. We'll make sure that we link back to them, whenever we have this all set [online].

Sally: And then of course the most important thing was creating Brutus.

Q. Let's get into that and we can kind of go back and forth. And if you two talk over each other, that's fine too. Why did you decide that Ohio State needed a mascot? Or did you decide?

Sally: I didn't decide. That's where Ray, being the outsider that he was – I was the small town girl that had no clue that Ohio State didn't or did have a mascot, or that other schools did or didn't have them – but Ray being worldly like he was, understood that Ohio State did not have a mascot. So he was the one that first said, "Hey, there's no mascot here." So you take it away from that part, and then I'll tell how I made it.

Ray: Okay. Let me just tell you, of all things, I've got a radio interview at 12:15 California time. So when it gets close to that, I may have to call you back if we're not done at that point. But I can't change that, unfortunately.

Q. That's fine.

Ray: So the question was, how did Brutus come about?

Q. How did you decide that the University actually needed a mascot?

Ray: Oh, because we didn't have one. Other teams had Bears and Wolverines and various things dancing around on the football field, and Ohio State had absolutely nothing. We had the marching band which of course is the best marching band in the country, but aside from that we didn't have a mascot. So we were sitting around the Pi [Beta] Phi House, preparing for Homecoming, as I recall. I believe it was the Minnesota game that was coming up in a week or so down the line. So the Pi Phis were making floats for the

homecoming parade. So they had all this chicken wire and papier-mâché laying around. And I came up with the idea, I think, or Sally and I came up with the idea, why waste our energy making a float. Why don't we make a mascot? I'll let Sally take over the actual building of the mascot at that point, but suffice it to say that, we marched Brutus out on the football field and nobody expected this to happen, not the marching band, not anybody else. But nobody would stop him because he looked like he was part of the half-time show. And everything came to a grinding halt at that moment and we'll tell you more about that in a bit. But that's how we came up with the idea of building Brutus in the first place.

Sally: So we just took the regular things that you made floats with in those years, and I think that was the first year that we'd had a homecoming parade. We just made a frame out of wood sticks. And then on top of that put the chicken wire, then on top of that, did a bunch of newspapers and the flour and water paste, and just slapped that on the outside. And then inside made a harness so that somebody could put it over their shoulders. It was really just a big round ball with an opening in the bottom and some harness straps inside, and little openings for the eyes. We took it inside the sorority house at night. Barbie Tootle reminded me that our house mother got really mad at me. I have blanked that part of that out. But the house mother got really mad because this thing would be dripping wet and we took it in the basement of the Pi Phi House at night to let it dry. So we messed up the basement. Then after it dried, we painted it.

Q. Did you have ladders?

Sally: We did have ladders to get to the top of it. And there were how many of us? Three or four of us that actually put it together. Becky Niومان-Hollenbaugh was one of the Pi Phi's who was there building it.

Q. So was the intent initially just for it to be in the parade?

Sally: We didn't think it was going to be in the parade. It was just that we were using parade materials to make it. We really intended for it to be on the field. But we were a little nervous about it. I thought somebody might get arrested. We weren't sure.

Ray: We snuck it in.

Sally: Maybe we snuck it in, yes.

Q. So my next question is, was going to be, if you didn't intend it to be part of the parade, the parade would have been the day before, the night before?

Sally: I don't remember at this point.

Q. Or that morning or something. So then you can't just walk in with a Brutus. How did you get in?

Ray: We walked in. Who is going to stop a mascot getting on the football field? Nobody would have dreamed in a million years he wasn't supposed to be there. So we got this guy and put the harness on him. It weighed a ton because it was papier-mâché. It was very heavy. He had a spot for the mouth and the eyebrows because eyebrows downside up and upside down. So you could be mad or angry or crafty or whatever. And the smile turned into a frown.

Sally: The smile, I think, was on the second one, Ray, with the fiberglass. I'd have to look at the pictures again.

Ray: No, no, no, the original one.

Sally: The original one had the mouth go up and down?

Ray: Maybe you're right.

Sally: The second one was a darker brown. The fiberglass one. That one had the eyebrows that went up and down. It was so clever. And then the smile that could turn around. It could either smile or frown. It was just a half-moon smile kind of a thing. And then it could flip around the other way and be mad or it could be happy. Those were the two expressions.

Q. So who wore the mascot, who wore Brutus that first day? Do you remember?

Ray: I don't remember. Sally, do you know?

Sally: No, I know from talking to Dave Hocevar who was Brutus No. 2. Someone named Alan Kundtz was No. 1, but I never got it clarified, whether he was the Brutus No. 1 with the fiberglass one, or if he really was the one that wore the papier-mâché one. So I don't know for sure. (Note: Alan Kundtz was the official first Brutus starting Fall, 1966. We still do not know the person who wore the costumes during the Fall of 1965.)

Q. I'm thinking the logistics here. You say you just kind of walked him onto the field. Did you bring him in at half-time?

Ray: At half-time, yes. He walked right on the field.

Q. So you stored him for the first half somewhere?

Ray: I don't remember where we put him. It's hard to hide a five-foot-tall Buckeye.

Q. Yes, I know, well that's why I was curious, is how you would hide him? Did the cheerleaders have anything to do with it? Yes or no?

Sally: We had a lot of Pi Phi cheerleaders. I can ask them, to see if they helped get him on [the field]. I don't remember. I just remembered my fear, that's what I remembered. Fear of this kid getting arrested.

Q. So one of the things that people always ask when they look at the original pictures is, why was he so large? Right? Because they're used to Brutus today, with the head being on top of a regular person. Is it mostly because that's the material you had?

Sally: Partly it was the material. The other part was that I only got a "C" in art. I was not that clever. And I had not seen other mascots from other schools, and they weren't as evolved as they are now.

Q. Sure.

Sally: It was just a function of primitive art.

Ray: With the emphasis on primitive.

Sally: Thank you, yes.

Q. So after that first game, what was the reaction of either your friends or the football team, if they even knew about it since it was half-time?

Sally: I think the crowd was really into it. Do you remember that, Ray?

Ray: We have a bad connection, so I'm not hearing everything. I'm sorry, what was the question?

Q. The question was, what was the reaction of other people, either your friends or the University?

Ray: 87,000 people went nuts. They realized immediately what this was. This was an Ohio State mascot for the first time in the history of Ohio State.

Q. That's good. You never know when you do something like that, if it's going to be a positive thing or a negative thing.

Sally: It was immediately recognizable as a Buckeye.

Q. Did anybody come up to the person who was wearing it afterwards? Do either of you remember? Or during the game say, “Excuse me, what are you doing?”

Ray: I don’t remember.

Sally: I don’t remember that either.

Q. Okay.

Sally: I was not down on the field with the mascot. I was up in the stands.

Q. Okay. After that first game, was the same costume or papier-mâché used the rest of the season?

Ray: No.

Sally: Well, one or two more times before you found that company that was able to make the fiberglass. So by the end of the season we had the fiberglass, but it was for a couple of games. Then we realized that this thing – it was heavy, and it was just bulky, and it was papier-mâché – it was going to fall apart. So we realized it had to be something more permanent, if it was going to go to out-of-state games. So very quickly, within I’d say a couple of weeks, Ray, is my memory of it.

Q. Who accepted it?

Sally: We went through Ohio Staters – were you already a member of Ohio Staters then? I know we went through them to help legitimize it and to do the contest.

Ray: Ohio Staters might have had something to do with the fountain in Mirror Lake, but I was doing all this stuff on my own.

Sally: Right, but I think they helped us, I thought they helped us with the contest. Who helped us with the naming contest?

Ray: I don't remember. They might have gotten involved somehow with the "Name the Buckeye" contest.

Sally: Yes, that's what I think they helped with, because we needed to have a way to get to an all-student election or have the nominations come in. I think we probably put something in The Lantern. We had all those nominations come in. I remember being at a really long table in some room. It was a dark, like mahogany table, and I'm sure those guys were, I'm not sure, but I think they were Ohio Staters. And we were all reading the nominated names. And there were a lot of them, but Brutus was the one that stuck out.

Ray: Okay, you want to know the truth about the name?

Sally: No, I don't believe you.

Q. All right, so now that we're taping this, you're going to have to explain the controversy here over the name. Go ahead.

Sally: Because it was Kerry Reed's nomination.

Ray: I wanted his name to be Brutus and I didn't care what the other names were that were being recommended. I made sure the name became Brutus. It was the first example of the State of Ohio being engaged in ballot-box stuffing. Brutus launched a whole new idea for the State of Ohio. Ballot-box stuffing. I don't remember, it's possible that Brutus actually won the election anyway, but I'm not so sure.

Sally: On a campus-wide election, I think the nominations came in from all over campus. But I think it was our small select group that actually picked the names. That's my memory of it. We have different memories.

Ray: Wasn't there an election, a student election on it?

Sally: I didn't think so. I thought it was just the solicitation of the nominations for the name, and then Kerry Reed of Dublin was the one that submitted that. But you might have influenced everybody to pick the name. I agree with that. You're good at influencing.

Ray: That takes a big weight off my shoulders. For all these years I've been feeling guilty about that. I'm now happy to learn that that wasn't the case.

Q. Well, the only thing is, in terms of whether or not it was a campus-wide vote, we can check that in the Archives. So we can see what we can find. Now Ray, how did you get a company to agree to make a fiberglass version of the papier-mâché?

Ray: I think I just looked them up in the Yellow Pages under fiberglass. I picked a company out of the phone book. I don't remember the conversation specifically, of course. It was quite a while ago. But I think it was probably something along the lines of, "How would you guys like to build the Ohio State mascot?" And they jumped at the chance. They did it.

Q. And so it was a Columbus company that did the work?

Ray: Yes.

Q. And was that the one that had the mouth that turned up and down and the eyebrows that changed?

Ray: Right. That's right.

Sally: It was a dark brown. Then I painted a lighter brown circle on the top for the Buckeye part of the nut. And then painted those eyes. The eyes were very different from the first one. But it was the way the thing was molded; it just lent itself to a different look.

Q. So you know who at least the second person who wore it, right?

Sally: Dave Kocevar. He's No. 2.

Q. Depending on who wore it the first game.

Sally: Right, right.

Q. How was he chosen?

Sally: At that point it got taken over by the cheer squad. So very quickly it got legitimized and taken over by the cheer squad. In fact, that was a good move by the University, because Ray and I were going to graduate and there was no way it would have a life of its own if it weren't adopted by the cheer squad. So that was really beautiful. They are the ones, then, that helped morph it to several different configurations and then finally the way it looks now. And they gave it more of a personality. You couldn't do much with just your legs hanging out. It really wasn't animated or anything. It was just like a bowling ball on legs, is what it was at first.

Q. Do you know what happened to the first, either the papier-mâché or the first fiberglass one?

Sally: I think the papier-mâché [version] just must have fallen apart. But the fiberglass, they had it somewhere for a while and then brought it back. I read in some history. They found it and brought it back for some game after the terrible-looking one, the one with the angry face, was replaced. They brought it back shortly, but then I don't know what happened after that. I was long gone at that point, so I don't know. That would be interesting to know, if it's somewhere, in somebody's basement.

Ray: We could make one out of bronze and put it next to the entrance to the stadium.

Q. The Ohio Union one is the new one. That would be good, to put the original next to it. Although I wonder if people would get it. That's the only thing.

Sally: Well, you would have to have a sign saying, "This is the original."

A. Right, right, yes.

Ray: Is it okay if I get off the call and make my other call that I have to make? Can we reconnect in half an hour? Is that possible?

Q. Those were most of the questions I had. I guess before you go, if there is anything you want to add, and then we'll let you go and we can continue to ask Sally the same questions. So if there is anything you would like to add, go right ahead.

Ray: Yes, a big story has to do with the telephone call that I got from Sally after many years, in the middle of the day in my office in San Francisco. I'll give you the fast version of it. She called me up and left a message on my phone saying, "Hi, it's Sally." I listened three or four times and the voice sure sounded familiar. I thought, "My God, it's Sally Huber." She said, "I'm calling you from Tucson, give me a call." So I called her up. I'm giving you the fast version here. But I called her up and we chatted for a while about the whole situation, and Sally said, "You know what? Brutus had a big birthday last year and we weren't invited." So I said, "Why weren't we invited?" And she said, "Well I don't know, I figured you could find out." So I got on the telephone and I called The Columbus Dispatch and got hold of the reporter during the non-football/non-basketball season and he had nothing to do but sit around eating pizza. So I got him on the line and told him about the birthday party and we hadn't been invited. And he said, "Well, why do you think you weren't invited?" I thought for a minute and said, "Well, Sally and I were not married when we conceived Brutus and maybe the University is embarrassed, and he would become known as Brutus the Bastard." So the reporter started laughing uncontrollably and he said, "This is a story." And the next thing I knew, I got a telephone call from the President of Ohio State about a week or so later, and she told me that the

story was being picked up all over the State of Ohio by the wire services, and they wanted us to come to Columbus and were going to name their next Homecoming after Brutus. It was going to be called “Where’s Brutus?,” the following football season. So Sally and I agreed. We met up for the first time in many, many years, in the airport in Columbus. We went onto the football game and all of that stuff. We rode in the Homecoming parade in the Brutus Mobile in a tremendous torrential downpour, went to the game the next day, met up with Brutus the night before and so forth.

A couple years later, I went back and brought my son, Matthew, to meet his step-brother, Brutus, and we all got together with the cheerleaders at the French Pavilion before the game, the building adjacent to the St. John’s Arena, and we had these wonderful photographs, including – which I can send you – one of a cheerleader who has a tattoo of Brutus on his derriere., I have a photograph of that cheerleader. And all of the other cheerleaders that were mobbing my son, Matthew, and me, when they found out who we were. And that was a great reunion. That took place recently. Then Sally and I came up with the idea, this is going to be Brutus’ 50<sup>th</sup>. And so we started figuring out what we were going to do. We came up with a plan which Sally can tell you about, having to do with a scholarship, raising money for a scholarship fund, and getting the marching band to play Happy Birthday to Brutus, and maybe doing a half-time show around that subject and so on, coming up with one of the games during the 50<sup>th</sup> year. So I’m sorry to run through it so quickly, but I wanted to let you know there was this other aspect, if you’re interested in pursuing that.

Q. All right, well thank you very much. I'm glad we could connect and we're going to let you go. If you would like to send us anything, or if you think of anything, just feel free to send it to me by e-mail.

Ray: Okay, that's terrific. I'm so sorry that I didn't realize that I had this interview, but I have to do it.

Q. That's fine.

Ray: If I hang up I hope I'm not going to disconnect you guys.

Q. No, no, you're fine. Thank you. Bye.

Ray: Thanks so much. Bye-bye.

Q. So you were saying, in 2006?

Sally: In 2006 Ray and I were invited to be part of the "Where's Brutus?" Homecoming parade. We were in a Model A, the Brutus Mobile – there's a couple that has turned their Model A into the Brutus Mobile. At first we thought, "This will be good. We'll be in the front part of the car." No, we were in the rumble seat, and then did it ever rain. We got totally drenched. But I did do my queen wave. That was really a fun event for us, to get to acknowledge that we were the co-creators of Brutus.

Q. That's very nice.

Sally: That was very nice.

Q. Now the 50<sup>th</sup>?

Sally: It's in 2015. So it's a year and a half from now.

Q. So are there plans to do something?

Sally: Well, we are hoping to work with the cheer staff. Right now there's an interim director of the cheer team, but when the permanent one gets appointed, Ray and I have tossed

around a lot of ideas. We would like to get the marching band involved and maybe the football coach and the president and Archie Griffin is President of the Alumni Association. [We want to get] everybody to recognize this. It really is an amazing thing and we just think it's worthy of having a good group of people thinking about all the different possibilities. And Ray did not say this, but it's one of Ray's life-long dreams, to dot the "i," so I think that he and I need to dot the "i" [in the OSU Marching Band's formation of "Script Ohio."]

Q. We'll let other people try to figure that out. I have no power.

Sally: I know you have no power, but that's a wish list, a dream list.

Q. One question I had, in just thinking about, there are a lot of competing theories about Brutus over time. And one of those I know is that Block "O" and Staters kind of got back and forth in terms of who they feel is responsible for, maybe not the creation, which you and Ray are part of, but sort of the ongoing. I think we heard from Ray. Ray was a Stater.

Sally: He was in Ohio Stater.

Q. No, it wasn't a Stater project but he just happened to be a member.

Sally: Right, they all had to do a project to become part of that group. And so his project was the Mirror Lake project.

Q. The fountain.

Sally: The fountain.

Q. Because I'm not sure when Block "O" starts in comparison to Brutus. I'd have to look it up.

Sally: I don't know and I don't know the logistics of what happened after his creation. There were a lot of people that adopted Brutus, that helped him grow up. So that was really

important to us, even though we were the birth parents, that there were some other parents that brought him along.

Q. What happened to the original papier-mâché?

Sally: That's what we talked about when you went out of the room. But it really just disintegrated, I'm sure.

Q. Got thrown in the trash.

Sally: Yes, it would have had to. And it was so cumbersome and unwieldy.

Q. Was it like a cross? Everybody has a piece?

Sally: No.

Q. Go ahead, Rick. Rick Van Brimmer is speaking now.

Rick: I'm just curious as a bystander. When you were at the game, and then they started using it, who kind of all of a sudden said, "Hey, that's a good idea." I'm interested in the connection of how it became something on the front yard, to something the University actually brought out at the games. Did the cheerleaders start carrying it? How did all that evolve?

Sally: That's a good question for me to ask my cheerleading girlfriends, because a lot of the Pi Phi's were cheerleaders. I'd say over half. One of them is coming tomorrow. We can ask that and get those pieces of information. But to me it was amazing because it was accepted so quickly. And it just took off.

Q. I think the reason people have that reaction is, today if somebody from any group on campus wanted to suddenly add something to a football game, it would take a miracle. And so I think that's why we're asking the question, it seems unfathomable that you just

had one and you just walked on the field. But how did that work? So I think that's why we're asking the questions.

Sally: It just did. And I think there was a need and a recognition. It was a joyous thing, so I just think that people liked it and wanted it and wanted to see it some more.

Q. Certainly, if there are other things that you think of over the weekend, with the other activities you're doing with the sorority, if you come up with other things, just definitely let us know.

Sally: I do know that I've read different histories about how it happened, and they're basically not accurate. One of them said it was an art major that designed it. I was a Sociology major, not Art. So there were just a lot of incorrect things. I do remember Nancy Kuyper-Lashutka – she married Greg Lashutka, she was his first wife – had sent something in to one of the, I think it was an alumni magazine, it was in some official magazine, about the founding or beginning of Brutus, and she said, “No, that is not the way it happened. The Pi Phi's created it on the front lawn and I was there and saw it.” And the retraction or the correction was printed, but that never got connected with the original story, so people keep repeating the original story, mistaken story, and then it never gets put together.

Q. Well, one of the things, as part of the 2015, we can talk about maybe a little bit later, is I do a column for the alumni magazine, and maybe we could point to this oral history. We could point to the celebrations going on, and if we put it in the August-September alumni magazine?

Sally: How fun would that be. Sure.

Q. Something to clarify. And then it will be out there in print for someone to look at. So that's a possibility. On a very sort of completely different note, can you tell us a little bit

about the student response speech that you gave at commencement? Because you are a captive audience right now. We've never had anybody talk about that. So I'd like to know how you got asked and why you decided, "Yes, this is something I want to do," and where you were? Was it in St. John's?

Sally: Yes, the graduation was in St. John's. I was a member of the Arts College Council. I believe it was the advisor to that was also a speech teacher. I may have had speech with her, too. I'm not sure. But she invited me to potentially be the speaker. I don't know if there was a run-off or a selection or whatever happened with that. I don't know the behind-the-scenes piece, but I know that I was asked to be the student response speaker. There was only one for each graduation. There was the commencement speaker, the President of the University would speak, and some other dignitaries. And then they had one person from the student body, representing the entire student body, speaking on behalf of the students. I remember creating that speech and running it through Walt Siefert who was my PR professor, and he helped me shape it. So that was really a fun thing. I just sat up on the platform with the rest of the dignitaries. I was up there. And looked out at everybody sitting there. The gym floor had folding chairs on it. And stood up at my time and spoke it and sat down, and that was it.

Q. So was everyone getting their diploma? Did you get in line to get your diploma, or did you kind of get the fast track?

Sally: I think I got to do the fast track on the diploma. They couldn't have called everyone's name. No, no, no.

Q. You just go down the line in alphabetical order. [Assistant University Archivist] Kevlin [Haire, who is attending the interview] is asking me to ask you if you were nervous when you gave it?

Sally: I'm always nervous to this day when I give a speech. Just recently, after I retired, I joined Toastmasters. I'm always nervous, so I must have been nervous. But I'm also comfortable at a podium. So it's a combination of the two.

Q. What was it like in Arts and Sciences Council?

Sally: Truthfully? We talked about things but I don't remember anything that we did that had any lasting import. We probably did but we talked about issues, what was going on, and I remember a few other people. James Westbrook and Nancy Doyle, they were on the council too, and walking with them after meetings, but I don't remember anything in particular. So that would be kind of interesting to go back and look at minutes and see what we really did.

Q. It's very hard for us to document student activities on campus. So part of the benefit of doing these oral histories is trying to get at what activities were taking place throughout campus or extra-curricular, so that's why I ask.

Sally: Well one time I remember being asked to be part of a group that walked into the Administration Building when there were some protestors laying all over in front of the President's Office. A couple of us went across all these bodies that were protesting and walked into the President's office and had some sort of meeting.

Q. Was that the free speech movement protest, or was it, I'm trying to think of timing.

Sally: '67, I don't know. Kent State was after that right?

Q. Yes.

Sally: So it was Vietnam, there was a lot, toward the end of our time here, there were some student protests. So it was one of those. It was a sit-in. Whatever they were sitting in for, that I remember being part of the establishment. I was not a protestor.

Q. I guess, are there any other things, either related to Brutus or other things about the University, that you want to say, before we turn off the tape?

Sally: I think it was a wonderful opportunity to come to Ohio State and I was glad I didn't go to one of the smaller universities. I found that being in a sorority was really a good thing. We were there in the house for two years, but we were in the dorm for the first two years, so I had that kind of mix of being able to make a lot of friends. But then having a group of people that could be life-long friends, and truly I have life-long friends from that experience.

Q. Talk about your career a little bit.

Sally: I got into training and development and then became a Six Sigma black belt, and everything that I learned in sociology really helped with that. All of my learning, how to network with people, came from my experience at the University. Some of the training, being a freshman orientation leader and Pi Phi pledge trainer, that training piece that I picked up was important. It was just an exciting thing, and then being part of an alum club, Ohio State Alum Club. I've been an officer in the alum club in Tucson, Arizona, the southern Arizona chapter, and to see that carry on and the excitement that we have as alums, getting together to watch the football games and some basketball games some year, and doing other events. It's really cool.

Q. That's good. Again, if you think of other things, always send it to me by e-mail and we can do conversations on the phone as well. We can always add to it.

Sally: Thank you, I appreciate this, Tamar.

Q. Thank you very much.