

Victoria Eddy-Heleneck, Part Two

Audio file

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Transcript

00:00:03 Speaker 2

Do you feel that maybe women should not? Pursue higher education unless they.

00:00:08 Speaker 1

[Cross Talk]. Oh no, I don't think that at all. I think that women they need to be very careful and selective and figuring out what it is that they really want and love, and recognizing that. Yeah, they're must be moms out there and their families that function that way. We are pretty much a matriarchal family society. I mean, the women tend to be the ones who are running the home in the sense of keeping track of everyone's schedules and clean socks, and whether or not there's food in the fridge and toilet paper and those sorts of things. I mean it's, I think that there are some, you know, 50/50 households out there, it's it's a lot of a lot of things and just the the fact that when you have kids, you find them so incredibly fascinating. And I mean I have been here [inaudible] and I haven't shown you my pictures yet. [Laughs.] [Inaudible.]

No, they're — and I waited and I had children and marriage very late in life and I was in my mid 30s, I've I've been married to my husband [inaudible] ten years and my kids are my my son just turned seven, my daughter's four now. And you know the career research had been a certain demanding, and I've been wanted to always do that because it was, yeah, but it it became much more afterwards. You don't want to pick up and travel. You don't want to. It's or. It's just not easy to do. I mean, we're both working, so I think you need to be selective and recognizing that the field you choose may limit the options you have and then if you choose to have family, it may limit the careers that really [inaudible]. We can't you know they told us we can't have it all. They never told you that after you had it all, you'd really want to put some of it back. I have too much. I you know, it's.

00:02:03 Speaker 2

[Cross talk] Not enough time

00:02:05 Speaker 1

Yeah. You have too much and you can't do all of them to the love, we would like to do them. It's not humanly possible to do, you know, to be the Supermom and just super performer and the Super. You can't. You have to start trading off things and then you think okaywWhich one of these things am I going to say I have to scale this back? It sounds like there's really a choice there. But can we look at your four year old and seven and say guys, can you be on the back burner, for the next few years I'm having [laughs].

00:02:44 Speaker 2

I'm having a good patent year.

00:02:46 Speaker 1

Things at work are going over there. The the researchers you know is mostly remorse and a lot of disappointment right now, not much development. That's what we are indeed remorse in these, [inaudible]

00:02:57 Speaker 2

[Cross talk] Especially the four year old

00:02:58 Speaker 1

So yeah, do you think you could keep your, like you know, maybe you could drive yourself to your dance classes. Try to get a ride with another little girl. You can't do that. Do that well, it's a and I said when you have it all the first thing you realize is you'd really like to put some of it back. So that's one of the reasons I'm exiting the company.

00:03:25 Speaker 2

Do you feel kind of? I don't know, this is kind of a personal question, but would you would you kind of wish that you didn't have to be the one to leave your job? That maybe your husband did?

00:03:38 Speaker 1

No, I wish that the world were different. I wish that the world valued parenting more and recognized that, um, It's it's an important job and that regardless of whether it's the women or the man or both that are doing it that basically to to run a company in a way that says look, we're putting in, It's a pure competition. And when you come in, you are young and fresh out of school and highly energetic and very determined and you have almost no other commitments. You can perform it at a low skill base perhaps in terms of of practical experience, but that you'll build quickly and you're willing to do superhuman things and you can do superhuman things. And then as you mature, I mean hopefully you get a lot of experience which helps your productivity. But I think that family life causes productivity here, but you still have to compete against those who aren't in the family life and you have to compete against those whose family you know lives are already

00:05:01 Speaker 2

[Cross talk] Settled like older kids.

00:05:03 Speaker 1

Well, you know the. Yeah, the kids are gone and it's having a delayed [inaudible] from my 20s into my 30s. It sort of puts me out of register and that many people my age, their kids are already grown or at school or whatever, requiring a lot less intervention in transportation but. So it's, those things are not valued for that company. It becomes a we just can't afford the fact, I mean my son became ill last year and I had to take a lot of time off, you know and it is not perceived well that it was a, literally, can we get someone else? So excuse me, my son has a disease that may have life threatening disease HSP, which is a

Henoch-Schonlein purpura. You can look it up on that. But it's basically just an immune response when your body it's a vasculitis. So you'll learn this as you go on.

00:06:02 Speaker 2

Very soon.

00:06:05 Speaker 1

And what happens is your blood vessels just start bursting. It's called purpura because the bruise you get bruising all over, especially in the joint areas and of course, in highly vascular organs such as if you're pre-med you know. The liver. Kidneys.

00:06:19 Speaker 2

The liver, yeah.

And that's what I was thinking it's not a good thing.

00:06:23 Speaker 1

So you get bleeding in the kidneys, you get liver function impairment very quickly and you have to keep on top of it very quickly and the treatment is steroids because it's like an allergic type response and so then, you know my case, you take a six year old boy who's very ill and can easily damage himself by you know in the beginning, You couldn't move initial he was a cube. I mean literally got up that lay down the couch and couldn't get out, but I just started to see how these bruises and they but, people on steroids, and they think they're super, but they still have to be kept quiet. So to me it was like, you know, I can't. And they, I mean this is one of those 85% diseases. When you really only want your children to get 99.9999. You know, as in 85% of the children who get this disease, they have a good outcome. Wait a minute. I want to sign up for one of those 99.9999999 diseases, not an. You know what? What about the other fifteen percent?

00:07:26 Speaker 2

Fifteen Percent, yeah.

00:07:27 Speaker 1

Is a very high complication rate, and what you're talking about is liver and kidney failure. You know, when you start reading this stuff under that, they're like, should the kidneys fail? This too much patient must go on dialysis in preparation for it. I'm like whoa.

00:07:38 Speaker 2

He's six. He's mine.

00:07:40 Speaker 1

Yeah. Yeah. And they're like, can't you get someone else and they can't hospitalize him because the risk of infection is something that they don't want to get them in the hospital because they're liver is under such stress. If they go in the hospital and get an infection and let's face it, people do that all the time. They can't. The antibiotics may take out his liver. They may not. You know that they may be one of those

trade-offs which is worse than infection or the damage, but do to the liver. So it was just a a nightmare and that really was one of the things that started just souring me against them. Because it was you know, I'm sorry, priority one and you're not it and that became a real, you know it became very obvious. Okay, it's like they're not her first priority anymore. Yeah, that's a tough one. That's when you say, okay time to get out.

00:08:31 Speaker 2

Time to get out. I think gives me something to think about.

00:08:46 Speaker 2

Okay, I just have a few more. I forgot to ask you in the beginning, why did you come here? And were the requirements for women to come here higher?

00:08:58 Speaker 1

I don't think so. I was the valedictorian of my high school class. I was one of those, you know, they were like everybody. Every other person was valedictorian when they arrived here at that time but that was. I didn't want to go too far from home I grew up in Saratoga County. Just close to my family, so I was leery of going too far. I didn't want a school. That was too big. Although I'm not entirely sure, I did have a preference for private versus public school. It was a beautiful campus. Still is. Yeah, it just it put a lot of things. They gave me a a good financial package to come here. In the end, it was probably this versus Saint Lawrence, Cornell, RPI. RPI just didn't care for the personality, although I went to grad school there later it was. It was okay, but it was RPI was even more male dominated than Union.

00:09:59 Speaker 2

Still is.

00:10:00 Speaker 1

Yeah. So that was one of the and it was just it was not. I didn't find the campus to be attractive. So like it was a, it was a beautiful place. They offered a good deal. When I came for that Spring tour, it was one of those beautiful spring days and everybody was out playing frisby and life was beautiful. So I I really it was just a very pretty place, the socioeconomic issues that I encountered here I probably had I known going in how limiting those might be. I probably would have reconsidered that decision.

00:10:34 Speaker 2

Really? Was that was that I guess important or that binding? Because there's still some of that here.

I mean we're all males like had to be in fraternities to be.

00:10:49 Speaker 1

Yes, pretty much although ZBT, even though they were a fraternity, were never considered cool by the others. That is primarily a Jewish fraternity. When I was here, the student body was more than half, Jewish. So that wasn't like that wasn't making any, but they tended to be even more devout, I guess they were a lot less. The other fraternities were more [inaudible]. ZBT was really, really keeping with [inaudible]. ZBT was fun, fun fraternities for women when they were [inaudible].

00:11:20 Speaker 2

Okay.

[Crosstalk] We have one of those too.

00:11:23 Speaker 1

They were all so studious.

And every day at three, they rushed to lunch. I am not kidding, they did everyday [laughs]. And they weren't like. They weren't embarrassed about it. It they were, So that's one of the things that was cool about, they were like, But they were who they were. They weren't putting on airs for people. So is really other fraternity [inaudible]. You got the feeling it was all very. It was all window dressing. That they were just like, hey, we're nerds. We study. We watch General Hospital.

00:11:48 Speaker 2

Any questions? We do not abuse the women.

00:11:49 Speaker 1

Really no. No, only that they don't. It was just a they were very comfortable guys. They were nerds.

00:11:56 Speaker 2

What were the Male, female interactions at the school like?

00:12:03 Speaker 1

There was the huge fraternity social type thing, so that was, I'd say that was dominant.

00:12:11 Speaker 2

Did women did? Did men treat women as you know like did they?

00:12:16 Speaker 1

There were some abuses on campus there were, I think that a lot of things back then were very hushed but there were women were, women were hurt on campus and some, you know, criminally and things were not always done, sometimes things were just done, very privately. So that you know, no one's future was wronged. Yeah, it was another thing.

00:12:41 Speaker 2

[Cross talk] And the school was not besmeared.

00:12:42 Speaker 4

Thing that yeah, it was another reason why I tended to be because I said I was pretty young and still I'm risk averse. You know, probably the last one that you know you don't want to be one of the last ones that one of the parties travel with, you know, travel with the partner with the girlfriend. And don't you know, don't abandon each other. If somebody's leaving, you're both leaving. It was, I guess I was just much

more cautious so I didn't. I didn't get into as many tight situations, but I run into tight situations. Like does no still mean no.

00:13:28 Speaker 2

Let's see what else did I want to ask you? Were you aware of, like any women's movements? Or were there a lot of women type of issue things at the school?

00:13:41 Speaker 1

There wasn't much in the way of a woman's movements, I guess the closest thing to a women's movement, was that Tri Delta was founded while I was here and that tended to be where it says that the Sigma Delta Tau was a beautiful people sorority and DG was an athlete sorority, Tri Delt was trying much more to be The All American Cross Mary sort of thing that was a, you know, where students were here, they would, I'd say that was as close as you as I saw to a woman's movement.

00:14:16 Speaker 1

BLAS was one of the more active social organizations at the time.

00:14:20 Speaker 2

What is it?

00:14:22 Speaker 1

BLAS was the Black and Latin American Students Association and they were trying to make the very small minority population feel less [inaudible]. That might have even happened, I think the Asians might have been in it too, if it was Black, Hispanic and Asian. It was not. There weren't enough of them for them to each have their own organization, I think. And we had some mission type things on campus there the Chaplain. And there was a Assistant Chaplain was a woman, Sister Pat. Sister Pat would come around her door and chat. Especially around exam time and we would all be stressed and of course there were Jewish services on campuses there was [inaudible].

00:15:29 Speaker 1

Any real life questions?