

UD0018
University District Oral History
Interviewer: Christina Berninger
Interviewee: Aaron Marshall
1/30/07

- 0:00:03 "This is Aaron Marshall"
- 0:00:06 Aaron's childhood and where he lived growing up in the university district
- 0:00:40 the war zone of south campus
- 0:02:57 why he did not go to OSU for college- "I love my folks but..."
- 0:02:55 "My whole life has been here"
- 0:03:16 a change in the amount of neighborhood kids
- 0:04:03 the south campus bars he used to go to as a high school student
- 0:04:50 "In old days"
- 0:05:49 because you don't have anything else to do when your 14
- 0:06:29 the timeless act of going to the bathroom as soon as you get in the club to wash off the big x stamp they put on your hand at the door for any underage person
- 0:06:50 "Mean Mr. Mustards"
- 0:08:00 gaining "street smarts" through diversity
- 0:09:18 how living in the university district has made him better prepared in the real world/ real life
- 0:10:11 "Dangerous is a relative term"
- 0:11:53 university does a "piss poor" job of looking over its own neighborhoods
- 0:12:40 another point- getting thrown out of clubs
- 0:13:25 now there are not as many bouncers at the clubs so more residential parties are taking place in the neighborhoods surrounding campus
- 0:14:06 "Danger is relative" a comparison between the university district and other parts of Ohio
- 0:14:36 a funny story- Norwich Fest
- 0:16:23 "You guys wanna cover a riot?"
- 0:17:34 knee knockers
- 0:18:40 the massing of the shirtless guys against police
- 0:19:09 what ended up happening
- 0:19:56 the "cat and mouse" game on the college side
- 0:20:46 the repercussions from the campus and the police to the students because of the riots
- 0:21:45 something else- what the CVS is now
- 0:23:30 "I'm good at Donkey Kong"
- 0:24:17 students are not neighborly
- 0:25:53 what made him come back after college at Ohio University
- 0:27:02 my dad always says, "IBM a neighborhood guy"
- 0:28:20 the state house reporter, his current job
- 0:28:40 the struggle of being back in Columbus
- 0:30:00 change in diversity, campus is moving north
- 0:31:06 everyone used to live on campus, now students live elsewhere
- 0:31:46 no good things about Bowling Green

- 0:32:20 live and die Buckeyes
- 0:32:35 "Whose the bigger Buckeye fan?"
- 0:33:20 torn
- 0:34:03 "Sports in my family are huge" – memory of a Michigan game
- 0:35:00 Michigan riots
- 0:35:28 shops have been boarding up the windows since his childhood
- 0:36:50 "Is the change you see in the university positive or negative?" The open debate
- 0:38:09 why he moved north of campus
- 0:38:59 what he likes about the university district
- 0:39:28 his special route to the games from his old house
- 0:40:10 making money during the games

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- 00:00:49 There was this ice cream place called Gordan's Ice Cream that had every flavor of homemade ice cream and chocolate dipped strawberries
- 00:02:02 The arcade under the Burger King called Tilt that was popular with the young kids in the 80's
- 00:02:41 The great times at Stash's rock club where I saw the Red Hot Chili Peppers
- 00:03:26 "I remember thinking that Flea was a freak man!"
- 00:3:57 Being at Stash's made him feel like a grownup when he was young
- 00:4:28 "Stash's was so beloved, I can take you to peoples houses who have bricks from the actual building when it was torn down"
- 00:05:24 Stash's was torn down and replaced with a few meaningless business like a pizza place and a tanning salon.
- 00:06:00 The mayor's idea for street cars on High Street will give the University District personality
- 00:06:37 "They kept the arch up, but knocked down beautiful Union Station"
- 00:07:20 The smaller business are being squeezed out making the University District less personal
- 00:08:14 The foot traffic seems to be down on this side of town
- 00:10:23 Stash's being torn down affected the University District in a negative way
- 00:11:07 The types of businesses in the University District now are less personal to the community
- 00:12:00 "Larry's bar is one of the oldest bars in Columbus"
- 00:13:13 Face to face communication is lost due to the impersonality of the new businesses on High Street
- 00:14:23 The Blue Danube has been there forever and has not changed
- 00:15:17 "I just remember campus as a good mix of things to do"
- 00:15:59 The movie theater that showed movies like Pink Floyds's "The Wall"
- 00:17:07 Monkey's Retreat and the grown men having the "in-depth comic book dork conversation"
- 00:18:29 At some point you just become numb to the change in the University District
- 00:18:53 he goes by the Scarlet and Grey Café and still remembers Gordan's
- 00:19:42 People may feel disconnected with the community because of the big corporate takeovers
- 00:20:58 UCA has there pancake breakfast that his parents never miss
- 00:23:36 People just want better opportunities in their lives, that's why they leave the University District
- 00:23:53 There seems to be a cycle of every six to eight years where places close down and new one pop up
- 00:25:08 Never really had any dates in the University District, they were always outside of it
- 00:26:12 There was a lot of bands around in Columbus in the early 90's that were really great
- 00:26:52 When he was in High school, all of my friends wanted to come to his house because he lived on campus
- 00:27:58 "I get more parking tickets- Gimme a break city!"
- 00:28:15 Parking at the Gateway however is good
- 00:29:43 He also think people should stop being such babies about walking a few feet from their car in the city
- 00:30:58 In the mid 80's the shops on High Street looked like a town in North Carolina before a hurricane hit
- 00:32:26 The riots have always been around, but he has never seen anything crazy happening
- 00:33:55 The coffee shops kind of bring back the personal feel of the University District
- 00:34:00 The head rush at the Hookah bars- "That tobacco laid me out!"

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Transcript

In the Old Days

This interview was recorded at Cup O' Joes coffee house off of High Street. There are lots of background noise in conversation and music, but they only help the setting. In this transcription Aaron Marshall is speaking of his childhood memories of going to the bars and clubs on campus as a high school student. We are sitting in lunge chairs drinking our coffee and discussing how south campus has changed and all the bars that used to be there.

-So do u wanna hear about the south campus bars...that I used to into?

*yea! (laughing) sure!

I can't wait to see... have my parents listen to this....

-but like when we were in high school ok...

- well I was the only one who lived in the campus area, but a lot of my friends...

-I mean when your like...

14...

15...

16...

you know...

-you don't really have that much to do...on the weekend

-you know maybe one of your friends has a car and that's sweet or whatever

-but your not really...

-you know

-you don't have a lot of, entertainment options that you consider to be fun:

-so what we, uh,

what we used to do...and this is back:

-this is like in the old day, I feel like a grandfather here, but: *laugh

in the old days lets just

that there pol... their door policies were just a little bit more relaxed then they are

now a' days:

*laugh

and uh...so uh...it started off maybe when I was like 14, or 15

-and because all off the action was down on south campus: and they have these: used to have these guide wire that would run along the sidewalk

-like think about where gateway area is now

*uh huh -if that was just like a row of...like kind a rundown seedy bars that everyone was trying to get into:

and they had wires to keep the drunks from falling into the street

And you would like drive by or walk by, and I mean it was just...

The whole sidewalk would just be packed...

*laugh

-in activity, and people yellin...and screamin...
kind of like proly what you can see kinda outside of Lido's or whatever now
-but: way...on a whole different scale
-I mean... it was like...I compare it to like uh...Court Street in Athens where I went to school
*laugh
-where its just Friday night, its just wall to wall people getting into the bars
-so any way...so when your about 14 or 15 your thinking yea it would be pretty fun to go hangout down there
*laugh
-cuz you don't have anything else to do -not really that your gonna get in... or girls are gonna talk to you or anything, your 14!
*laugh
-but so anyway...but I have like... some fond memories of like... me and my high school buddies going down there and trying to hang out with the older crowd and...you know...I don't know what we told my parents we were doing...
*laugh
and then as we got a little bit older and got to be like maybe like...juniors or seniors in high school we could kind of like... fit in like maybe we, were going to OSU
*you looked a little bit older
It looked a little bit older
-then we started doing the whole...you know...I don's have my ID on me...and then they would...
and then they would stamp you low and give you like an x on your hand
*uh huh
-But then you could just do the whole go into the bathroom and wash it off move, which, I'm gonna guess will never go out of style
*laugh
and uh...and so...I also had some memories of being like 16/17 and being in Mean Mr. Mustard's which was this great:
like bar... that was I guess today you would call it like a Goth bar or an industrial bar or somethin...that you walked up the steps to get into, and being like 17...and being in like a real bar, I mean it was...aww man
*what was it called again?
It was called Mean Mr. Mustard's
*Mean Mr. Mustard's
It was, it was, it was a great:
Ugh:
It was over ugh:
God (softly):
Kinda near where
Roughly across the street from where that army/navy store is... * yea,
just south of um...like Gateway:
*Uh-hum
And uh...so you know...I have memories of being there, saw my first bar fight in there
and

*laugh

Nothing really that crazy other than we were sneakin in and tryin to sneak beers and stuff, but...

*uh-huh

It wasn't like that wild but:

Just to be like a part of that and to be in high school and stuff was so, cool

*uh-huh

one of these distinct memories that I have...

and I just figured, instead of you know:

I could tell you boring stories forever,

*laugh

that's...but I think that's part of...um, you know, uh, growing up on campus is like being part of university whether its going to athletic events:

But I think part of it too is to kinda grow up but with a little bit more knowledge about street smarts or whatever, because you see the whole range, of, of, of...people, experiences

-that, that was another point I wanted to make during this is just that...when I, like when I got to college, my uh, base of experience and the like people that I had grown up near and dealt with and you know different races... and different, ages, and, all of that was a lot different then some of the people I went to school with

*uh-huh

who kinda just grew up and everybody was sort of the same, and looked the same, same, made about the same money and you know, there is a real diversity in the university area that has definitely served me well, going forward in terms of being able to talk to people and relate to people, and I think part of that, you know, is the whole nature vs. nurture thing. Part of it of course is your parents, but also part of it is your environment. So that was the point I wanted to make.

*So you think that living in the university district (loud noise in background creating a pause) has prepared you for the real world growing up?

-Yea, I'd say so.

Key:

- sharp beginning/end
- ... slowly drawing the word out, or a long pause
- indent split in the sentence
- : long pause between words
- * interviewer speaking
- ! excitement in the voice

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Transcription Key:

Bold	Words are said with emphasis
<i>italics</i>	Faster speech than normal
~ words ~	Slower speech than normal
?	Rising intonation
.	Falling intonation
,	Natural pause
...	Irregular pause
/ /	Overlapping speech
xxx	Unintelligible speech
{ words }	Said while laughing
-	False start/stuttering
CB	Interviewer
AM	Interviewee

This interview was recorded at Cup O' Joes coffee house on High Street. There is background noise like people talking, music playing and coffee grinding. In this transcription Aaron Marshall is speaking of a time when he visited a bar called Stash where many famous musicians have played before it was torn down.

00:02:24

AM I remember uh... I think I was telling you about uh **Stash's**...

CB uh huh

AM Stash's was a, rock club, down an uh...uh, *its across from where Dicks Den is now...*

CB uh huh

AM and uh... it was open until maybe...I don't know... *SSSix* years ago or so...

and uh, I saw some of my first rock shows there, *I saw the Red Hot Chili Peppers there*, uh, when there was like maybe 200 people in the bar and...- before they, you know were well known... um, *I wasn't there* ~Nirvana played there~ before their...big album hit um, but just... -cats like that, ya know?, and... the Chili Peppers show -I remem, -'bout the only thing I can remember about it was thinkin, **wow these guys are gonna be, big**

CB laugh

AM and... thinking that {Flea was a fffreak man!}

CB laugh

AM -because he... was ... agh God *I think he had some type of, like loin cloth on or something, -and no shirt*

CB laugh

AM Jumps up on like this uh... table *knocking everybody's drinks over and he's wailing around on his base, ..and just, you know, freakin out and... doing Flea stuff but, at the time you know, no one knew who he was...*

well -I mean, - I guess a few people did

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This interview was recorded at Cup O' Joes on High Street. There is background noise like people talking, music playing, and coffee grinding and brewing. This narrative is about the time Aaron Marshall went to a street party to cover the story for his news paper.

00:19:50

AM Ok I'll tell you this... I'll I'll tell you this sstory, this is a funny story, I was working for the other paper at the time which is an alternative paper in Columbus, *it's a weekly*
CB uh huh

AM and there was, oh god I wanna say this is maybe in 2001 or 2002, and there was... uh a riot... umm...in the spring time, so it wasn't a football game- but there was a big riot in the spring time um... and then there was – and then the next weekend was, was 4:20 which is a term that has significance among uh... your marijuana users

CB {uh huh}

AM so there was gonna be a big party uh, huh **Norwich fest** *I think it was gonna be called, it was gonna be down on Norwich* and that was the next weekend, and like, there was this, I mean it was in the news you know, like we had done a story like, hey you know, stuff might jump off down at Norwich tonight...blah blah blah, I mean the cops knew, the, pretty much everybody in the city was like, ok, stuff might happen down at Norwich fest, so-

CB is this, is this the night of the game?

AM there was no game, this was just in the spring time

CB oh, ok

AM I thought it was during the football game but it wasn't, because it was during the spring time ok, it was on, it was on, April 20th or around April 20th

CB yea, ok, laugh

AM either 2001 or 2002, I could check for you

CB laugh

AM so anyway, you, so I went down there I was like *I'm gonna cover this! Im a reporter!*

CB laugh

AM so I show up at about 1 am, down on Norwich because I'm thinking probably about the bars close is when this is gonna take off...-sure enough, actually I took a couple of friends of mine with me, just because I said like, hey, you guys wanna, you guys wanna go cover a riot?

CB laugh

AM so, I show, so and one of friends had a six pack with him, so, I, I never told anyone at the news paper that but so we had beer and we were going, a, to cover a, a riot, so anyway we show up, its about 1am and the cops are just coming down the street, and they've got like all their riot gear on and *they've got like the ~mask~ and they've got like the ~car~ it's some kinda tank thing*

CB oh no!

AM and they are saying over the loud speaker, ~please clear the street, you know, you are in violation of the city codes~, *such and such*, so there comin, from ~Indianola down to High Street~, so they're comin... I'm terrible with directions, east to west,

CB laugh

AM and so there comin down the street, and there, and then they start ~shootin~ tear gas, er *it was either pepper spray or teargas, I remember it as teargas* and the crowd is slow, is in the street,

CB oh my goodness

AM there slowly moving back as this tank and this you know, ~line~ of police officers is, is coming down the street and, and then the cops start shootin, I don't know, *we called them knee knockers*, I don't know, they like, I don't know

CB {knee knockers}

Am they like, you shoot them into the ground and they bounce up; and then they hit you in the knees or whatever they're like rubber ~pellet, bullets~ *or something, I don't know what they are*

CB laugh

AM so they're shootin knee knockers are just taking people out right and left

CB oh my gosh

AM now **I'm trying** to like, .I know you know its not very professional of me to have friends with me that have beer but., **I was there to cover** so I'm like trying to like scramble around and get a good vantage point, on what's happening, and also I'm not clearing the scene which is what they want me to do

CB uh huh

AM because there trying to clear the scene, I mean to them, I just look like another college student, I mean you know, I wasn't dressed any differently, this was like, you know, maybe when I was 28 years old, so, you know so um... so anyway at one point, and and so then there's people start lobbin bottles at the cops

CB oh no!

AM and there's enough drunk guys, and it was almost all ?males that were participating in this thing?, *.the women they were watching but they weren't really trying to face down the cops.*, at one point, the drunk guys kinda mass up, and most of them were shirtless... I don't know why...

CB laugh

and so the cops, and the shirtless guys are like comin face to face... and theres bottles comin in from like you know, the sides, like from slightly higher ground, and at that point, I thought, there's gonna be some, stuff is gonna really jump off now

CB uh huh

AM and um what ended up happening was the... uuuh, a couple cops took a, a bottle, you know, um they had protective, so they didn't take it in the head, but you know off their shield or off their, and they just decided, we've had enough of this, and they just, (makes shooting noise) and just, I mean just unloaded with the teargas

CB oh

AM to where, to where I mean it was just like a fog of it

CB laugh

AM and then, just everybody was pushed back, *I mean some people were, I mean these students were ready to roll man*, they had the handkerchiefs dipped in water

CB laugh

AM you know they were totally ready to roll and then they kina cleared the street.

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This interview was recorded at Cup O' Joes on High Street with Aaron Marshall. He had just told a story of how he and his roommate used to charge people to park their cars in the yard of their double during the OSU football games. After the yard was full, Aaron and his roommate would leave until late that night, avoiding the confusion of trying to get all the cars out.

00:41:28

AM This one time it was really funny, *I think it was maybe the Michigan game or something, because we were parking cars in the front yard, we were also parking them on the ~side~ like in between... our house and the next house...and so they were kind of...hidden, you wouldn't necessarily, you kinda had to remember where it was kinda in between two houses, well anyways some guy, you know, obviously he got too drunk or whatever*

CB laugh

AM and there was like a **car** {parked in between our two houses for like **four or five days**} after the game

CB laugh

AM and then finally like on Thursday or Friday after that Saturday game... you know like shows up for his uh, some type of sports car... and got it

CB oh, a sports car

AM I don't know, I just remember that we were like is this guy ever gonna remember
where he parked his car Laugh

CB laugh

AM and our landlord never found out about it, and we totally made money and
everybody, *the guys that live next door to us* were ~kinda~, a little bit pissed off that we
weren't cutting them in on the profits but...

CB laugh, well tough luck

AM hey as I, yea as I told them told them, hey why don't you guys go buy a case of beer
then, .oh wait, you cant.

CB laugh, that was funny

AM laugh so that was kinda fun