

Washington Post
Peter Brant, childhood friend

Peter Brant: I do consider him a friend in the sense that we knew each other so well. But by the time that he left around 13 to go to New York Military Academy, I think that I really didn't have much contact with him until he came back to New York and was in business for -- you know, he's a success coming into the New York. I didn't really see him very much, hardly at all until the '80s and then I kind of reconnected with him in the '90s and we were social friends. I played golf with him. He'd been to my house several times in the '90s.

Michael E. Miller (Washington Post): This one here or --

Brant: No.

Miller: Connecticut?

Brant: No, I'd been to Mar-a-Lago, not a member there but my sister is. I was a member of the golf course that he has here in Palm Beach but only because it was a corporate membership. And my partner at that time, who is my cousin, who'd been my partner for many, many years and whose father was my father's partner, loves to play golf and he was a member. So I might have played there twice in my life, you know. So there's no real connection then. You know, he would write me a letter every now and then, just talking about marriage or whatever and --

Miller: Seeking your advice on things or --

Brant: No, no, no, no, no.

Miller: Telling you how it was going or --

Brant: No. He did that a lot when he was five to thirteen, not after. Donald's not the type of guy that really asks for a lot of advice, you know. But I think that it's very much -- it's very interesting because we kind of -- we were very, very close and Donald as a kid was a very competitive guy, a very good athlete. I mean it's truly not talked about how good an athlete he was. He's a really good baseball player and he was a really good soccer player. We played on teams with kids much older than we were so we were precocious in that sense that we played kind of varsity soccer as 9th graders. It was a small school but it was in a very active --

Miller: This is Kew-Forest?

Brant: Kew-Forest. It was a very active school in terms of the athletic program. I mean, I played tennis, you know, I played number one singles for the school and center forward on the soccer team. And we played basketball and baseball. We played in the Little League and --

Miller: That was a Hilltop League? Is that what it's called?

Brant: Yeah and I think that's what it was called, yeah. He was a catcher, which for a young kid was kind of a brave

thing to be because playing hardball with a swinging bat in front of you all the time, you were in a mask, and you know, you've got to flip it off as a pop-up and get hit with a lot of balls, you know, especially at that age because the pitchers are a little more wild. So, he was a really good athlete.

Miller: What did you play in baseball, the position?

Brant: I played shortstop.

Miller: Okay, I was just talking to somebody else last night, I guess, it was. I met a guy, I think Bob Naktigo [phonetic]. He played some baseball with Trump and I don't know if it's the same team and he was a pitcher. You know, he said, the most athletic kid played shortstop, so I guess that was you [indiscernible].

Brant: I mean I'm 69 years old. I'm playing in the U.S. Open now in polo in my adult life. I would see him a lot at the polo. He would come out and give out the trophies at the time when probably our team was one of the most dominant teams - the White Birch team and --

Miller: I read you're number one in the country.

Brant: Yeah, I was the highest -- I personally was the highest amateur player for 25 years. But when he'd come out there to give the award, it wasn't because I was out there. It was because he just wanted the showmanship, kind of handing out the award when Palm Beach Polo developed like in the '80s. And

then I remember when Prince Charles came here and we played -- it's funny because I was just looking at an invitation that came today that Prince Harry is coming to play at Wellington. Of course his father played in Palm Beach Polo, in Wellington in the '80s for a couple of years and I was on the team. Once I was on his team and once I was against him.

But I remember that very well because when we were all there playing, Donald had invited them to Mar-a-Lago. And we went to Mar-a-Lago, myself, and Prince Charles, and I recall Geoffrey Kent who runs that travel company, Abercrombie and Kent. They do a lot of the African photographic safaris and we went there. So that was like the first time that Donald kind of met him. I remember Armand Hammer of Occidental Petroleum. Armand Hammer was the founder of Occidental Petroleum. He gave a big dinner for Prince Charles. So he was connected to the polo but he had nothing to do -- me, I was just playing.

Then in the '90s we became friends. I would see him at some dinners, I would see him at parties but we really weren't in the same kind of social circle. He went in a completely different kind of way than I did. I guess that people talked a lot about whether he was a Republican or was he really a Republican. I knew his family really well.

My family was always Democratic. My aunt, Sophie Toledo [phonetic], was a big kind of soldier in the Democratic Party of

New York. So she had convinced me when I was very young, like ten years old, to ride my bike and deliver flyers for Adlai Stevenson. It was like that was my idea of being a Democrat, and she was very active in the Democratic Party. So I remember very well that Donald would like come the school with the I-like-Ike buttons on. His family, I mean, they were Republican. So we were very competitive obviously and very close friends. He was my closest friend from kindergarten, in the same class from kindergarten to 8th or 9th grade and --

Miller: So you guys are both like in Kew-Forest the whole time?

Brant: Both the whole time. Now the only difference with me would be that I went to summer camp. He went to like -- you know he played different kind of leagues around Jamaica Estates or Long Island.

Miller: Baseball most of the year?

Brant: Baseball. I, on the other hand, I went to camp in the Adirondacks. So I was like always playing ball. Also I noticed that he says a lot about being a good student and everything like that; he wasn't a good student. And neither was I, you know.

Miller: The impression I got from reading that Gwenda Blair book was that you guys both were kind of cutups or you know, rebellious kids.

Brant: Well, you know, I don't know where -- I didn't read that book. I never read that book and when you put it in your email to me or in the text to me, I didn't really know what you were referring to. I can't remember if I ever spoke to that lady, probably not.

Miller: It seems like it. I mean yeah, you're quoted in there, so I assume --

Brant: Oh really?

Miller: Yeah.

Brant: Well, cutups. I guess --

Miller: She describes you as --

Brant: Compared to cutups today, we were like Cub Scouts, you know. But I guess at that time you could say that. We were just behaving like boys behave, you know. I mean, we were not good students. I would say we had -- I don't know how accurate this is but it's around -- you're around 26 kids in class, 25 kids in the class and he would have been 21 or 22.

Miller: In terms of the grades?

Brant: The lower grade beat, the lower not the pink [sounds like] letter. I would have probably been 17 or 18 so definitely in the back half of the class. And I know that very well because I had a cousin that was in the same class.

Miller: I think I read about her. Her name, right, Fina?

Brant: Fina Farhi [phonetic]. I see her every now and then but not very often. She was probably number two or three in the class. So truly very, very, very bright and never really did anything with it, I mean, other than live her normal life, but she was a very good student.

So we were not and that's because we were really interested in sports. I mean it was like we would be sitting there and looking out the window at the ball field. I think a lot of that reputation came from probably Fred Trump, Fred C. Trump. Well, I think he thought we were too rough, you know. When I say rough I mean cutups, you know that --

Miller: Unpolished or something.

Brant: No, not unpolished. That you could never say about -- I had European parents, that my father spoke 13 languages. He was a very cultured guy. I can't say that and my parents really liked him a lot. My father and mother made reference to him many times until they passed, you know what I mean? They really liked him a lot, and I think he really liked my parents a lot. He said to me, several years ago, he said to me the one thing I will never forget about your parents, about your mom, she had the best sheets.

That's a strange thing to remember, right? I mean because we would spend like sleepovers at each other's house. If we are playing in a game on a Saturday morning, go there at Friday and

go together. I remember he had a housekeeper that made like the best hamburgers I'd ever tasted. But I spent a lot of time in his house and I got to know his family. I remember his mother always left an impression on me. She was like a very kind of solid, sort of Scottish lady that was - whatever impression you could leave on a seven or eight-year old or a ten-year old. I'd always remember her.

Miller: He talks about her being kind of like the more theatrical parent.

Brant: Yeah, Fred didn't say much. But one thing I do remember about Fred now was that he was one of the few guys that I ever knew at that age that had a limousine. He had like this dark Cadillac limousine. And at that time, limousines were not like limousines today. It was in the '50s and it was really people that were builders on big sites, I guess, had them, and like gangster had them. It was not a very common thing. I remember he had a chauffeur but when he would pick up Donald, he would drive that limousine himself.

Miller: You mean from school or from sports or --?

Brant: No, from sports. I guess like on a Saturday. Let's say like on this Saturday, we were playing hardball and there'd be like a cook out or something afterwards. He would come and he would pick Donald up with the limousine, driving it himself.

I'm just saying that because that's the kind of man he was. He was really, very kind of tightfisted. He did not give like Donald a whole bunch of rope. And I remember that very -- more so even than my father who I was very close to my whole life, but he was never with me like overly strict. He was strict if he had to be. So I think that -- you know, I was watching a biography of Donald that was done in the '90s which I had never watched before.

Miller: This was just recently?

Brant: Recently. And they interviewed his sister called Maryanne.

Miller: The judge?

Brant: Uh-huh. She said -- she was trying to tell the Miller that her father was pretty stern with Donald. So she said one day Donald came home and Peter so and so - she's talking to the Miller - she said Peter blah-blah-blah has a brand new glove. It's like the best glove you've ever seen. I'd really would like to get one. She said the glove was like \$30. There was no way that his father would pay \$30 for a glove.

Now, it's like if I told that to you, you might not understand the importance of that glove because that was the time when the gloves changed. They didn't have those kind of like Ty Cobb-looking gloves. They went to the big glove that

had a real net in it. And there was definitely an advantage to -- [unrelated comments]. They definitely --

Miller: Yeah, it's a huge difference that glove would make.

Brant: Huge difference. So, I knew she was referring to me. And I remember very well when Donald said my father won't let me get the glove. And I remember I got my glove because I was like my dad said he would pay for half of it if I worked for the other half of it. And I remember that I did some work in the house. I took some bottles to the deli to get, you know, they used to refund. So I was collecting bottles. But I remember very well that he wouldn't get it for him.

And the other thing is that he was never a braggart like that. He was never a person that would -- he was always competitive and it's like if I see him now on television it's the same guy I recognize just in a different way. He would say he has a very schoolyard kind of mentality, like a choose up sides kind of mentality.

Miller: And he had that back then?

Brant: Yes. Like we used to play choose up.

Miller: What's that?

Brant: You got team guys - it's like two captains, you choose with your hands, one strike [sounds like] for you to shoot. The winner picks the first one and the next guy picks

the other one, so you go through the crowd. He was the kind of guy that would say -- Nah, I'm not picking him. He doesn't look like an athlete. He doesn't look like he can play anything -- that jokingly kind of thing. So he did have that mentality. I mean he was a very competitive guy, definitely a winner out there. He's the guy you wanted on your team because he would give it his all.

Miller: But after you guys chose you'd what, play baseball or play sports or what?

Brant: Yeah. We would play soccer or play baseball or, you know, whatever.

Miller: It's funny, I meant, that sounds similar to kind of what he does now on Twitter, you know, he just kind of calls out people, sizes people up, you know.

Brant: I don't read his Twitter but --

Miller: Oh, even in his interviews, you know.

Brant: In his interviews, sure, yeah. And he's off the cuff on so much, it's unbelievable. I mean I guess --

Miller: Would he say kind of zany things back then? Well, you say he wasn't like a braggart but would he say kind of outrageous things?

Brant: No. He was very quiet, very -- he didn't try to lead people. He is not like the leader of the class or anything like that. He developed in a whole different way. I mean the

interesting thing is I met his wife, his first wife many times, a lot of times without him. I just would meet her because when -- after they got divorced I would see her in different places, in Palm Beach, in New York. And I always thought that it was maybe her then because nobody else in his family is like that. Robert is a very kind of demure guy, that he runs the father's real estate company.

Miller: You mean you wondered who kind of made him like want to lead other people or be like number --?

Brant: No, like be showy like that, be like caring about how much *Forbes Magazine* recorded his wealth. I mean things like that are just not things that make -- they make me think it's not the guy that I knew, you know, that would be like that. It's not the same guy that wouldn't buy the baseball glove because he thought it was too much money for it. It's not just the same, I guess, the same style.

Miller: I guess, I can see how it might fit with the whole like sizing people up like in a playground type of thing.

Brant: Yeah, that for sure, that for sure.

Miller: You know, like oh, well, he is not a big guy, like I'll take this guy, I'm worth this much, he's worth this much, right?

Brant: Right, exactly. I can understand that. I can understand that.

Miller: It's interesting I mean when I did my story on New York Military Academy and clearly that kind of -- that time changed him a little bit, you know, made him more focused, made him really want to be a leader in a sense because I think he graduated as one of the top cadets.

Brant: He did.

Miller: So --

Brant: Okay, well, that's incredible because that's completely different than in Kew-Forest. That's completely different. I never -- I knew that he went there and I always thought it was like -- I mean I always said to myself is there something I didn't know about his past that would make his father send him to military academy. I mean it was certainly not -- he wouldn't be sent to military academy today for doing what he did. I'll give you some examples of what we did that might -- that pissed his father off and pissed my father off.

Miller: Uh-huh.

Brant: I stayed in Kew-Forest another year and then I went to a school called Cheshire Academy which is in Cheshire, Connecticut. And that school was a boys' prep school, very athletic school, very athletically-oriented, a lot of big teams, post-graduates on it. I wasn't a post graduate but I played tennis there. I played soccer there. It was a school sort of

an-hour-and-a-half from where I lived. It was a boarding school.

My dad sent me there not because I was friendly with somebody like Donald Trump. But I had, you know, I was getting interested in girls and the most interesting girls were at the local high school. So I kind of had a lot of friends in the local high school. And sort of after Donald left Kew-Forest and that -- the kids in the high school were if you think what two kids in Kew-Forest did cutting up, these guys were - using the same comparison - these guys were like Eagle Scouts. They were really into -- there were drugs around, there were things like that around. And my dad wanted me out. He met some of my friends and he wanted me out of there. And I went to Cheshire Academy and then I went to the University of Colorado.

So, at Kew-Forest like Donald and I would -- he made reference on that in an interview that I heard recently as he was running. He said I'm all about diversity, he said. I love diversity. See when I was a kid I used to go into these neighborhoods with a friend. I'd go into the neighborhoods and we'd just like look at people and look at things. We'd go to the Hispanic ones. We'd go to all the different ones. That friend was me. So I know that what he said there was factual.

We used to take the -- you know, he lived on the end of the line at the E & F train. I lived in Forest Hills which was two

stops closer. And our school was the stop in between, might have been another stop there, I don't remember. So on like Saturday we would like tell our parents we're going to play baseball or something like that. I'm talking about 12-year-olds. We would take the subway which was much safer to take at that time. We went to school by subway. So we would take the subway and we would go into Manhattan. And we would go to places like Times Square and that was like two 12-year-old kids walking and you will be walking like watching everybody around you because it was like going into the jungle. It was really a special thing for a kid that age.

And we would love to go into the curiosity [sounds like] shops that sold magic or sold like hand buzzers or hot gum or things like that. Whoever got the coolest trick that would be -- it was that sort of thing. And that's what they consider rough. I mean for us to go into a place like that. So one time as we've been in there six, seven, eight times, going into different neighborhoods, we -- and as we get older we would be like go pick up some clothes or something, you know, a new pair of shoes. So he and I bought some switchblade knives and --

Miller: Like the button-pressing and popping out?

Brant: Button one and that comes out the side, like that. So we bought those knives. And we started with like a small one and then wound up with one like that size. And when his father

found the one that size, he called my father and that was it, the cat was out of the bag. We didn't do anything with those knives but like we would play 'Land.' We would play like where you throw it into ground, you put your leg there and then the other guy throws it and he puts his leg there. It's a game. It's a knife game.

Miller: Like throwing near one each other?

Brant: No, no. I mean you would throw it. I mean nobody ever got hurt. We never got hurt but it was -- we were just kind of like using the knives to play this game called land. It was no big deal.

Miller: Well, would it be like me and you like throwing something in the distance or is it like macho like don't move I'm going to throw it next to you type of thing?

Brant: No, no. It was not like throwing in a distance. It was like throwing down by your feet.

Miller: Oh, okay.

Brant: But you're throwing it like that. You're not throwing it at the person's foot. You're throwing it down. And the idea is to figure out where you put your -- kind of geometry kind of thing, where to put your foot. Nothing really -- we just wanted to do something with it. We weren't in gangs or anything like that. It was nothing serious. But to older guys

or your father it had that sense, but there's really nothing there.

Miller: Do you remember what I guess Fred Trump called your dad and do you remember what he told him or what your dad said to you afterwards?

Brant: He told him that I found a knife and then my dad said where did you get it? I guess Fred Trump wanted to know the same thing. And then he found mine and he was like really annoyed. I mean my father taught me how to -- my father was a hunter, so he taught me how to shoot a gun when I was 10 or 11 years old, you know, a rifle. It was really no big deal.

When I compare like my kids with what I've had to go through, I've nine kids, it was just different things. It was just a different time and a different sensibility. I think it was very good that he went to military school but that seemed to me to be so far off the radar.

Miller: So I mean was it really, that was it? That's what sent -- his father, sent him to military --?

Brant: No, I can't say that was it, no. He left not too long after that. I don't know if he was doing other things at home that Fred Trump didn't like. I'm not a party to do that, I just know that in school, he was not doing anything that you'd write home about. I mean it was like --

Miller: I know Donald in his autobiography, *The Art of the Deal*, he talks about punching a music teacher in the face. I think he's talked about it more recently. I just wonder if you remember that?

Brant: No.

Miller: Really?

Brant: No.

Miller: I think you would probably if it happened, right? That would be a thing.

Brant: I don't remember that. And I think I would remember that.

Miller: Right.

Brant: I'll tell you what I do remember which is a nice memory to have in this great country, and that is we were playing soccer in 1958 or 1959. And there was an announcement on the loudspeaker that at 10:30 or 11:00 we had to go the playground. Everybody had to report to the playground because the president of the United States was passing by the school. It's a big thing.

And so we're playing soccer, he and I walked over there together. It's on the Interboro Jackie Robinson Parkway which was the Interboro Parkway. Before the Interboro Parkway, when we went to school there, it was called the Idlewild Parkway because Kennedy was called the Idlewild at that time. So we

walked up there and I remember it like it was yesterday, really like it was yesterday. He and I were standing there and we were like trying to get on our toes looking over the fence and couldn't really climb the fence because probably they told us not to or whatever. But we, coming out of the underpass right before you see the school -- the distance where you could see him between that and disappearing is between here and that edge. Here comes Dwight Eisenhower standing up waving to the student body, and in an Imperial, a Chrysler Imperial convertible standing up. That was like before the Kennedy assassination. They used the open car. [Unrelated conversation] So, this guy is running for president now. I mean it's like we met something that you -- it's a very special thing.

Miller: Do you remember him saying anything or what did you guys say or think?

Brant: No, I think he liked Eisenhower. He's a great general. He liked Eisenhower also because this is post-World War II, a great general. His father was a Republican. He probably talked a lot about him in the house. He ran against Stevenson who I worked for, you know, who was known for having a hole in his shoe. He always had like a hole -- his shoes were so worn out, he got a hole in his shoe.

And it was -- he was the president of the United States. It was a great thing for me too. I mean later on I became a

history major in school. I've always been very interested in American History. And it was just a very special moment in my life. I guess, I was kind of a Reagan Democrat. That was the only time like I really voted Republican because I was one of the early contributors to Ronald Reagan's campaign in the state of the Connecticut.

Miller: So you guys were how old when this happened, when you saw Ike?

Brant: We were probably 11 or 12.

Miller: So in --?

Brant: 1959, 1958.

Miller: That would have been like 6th or 7th grade or something?

Brant: It might have been about the time that, maybe a little bit before Castro came to New York. And we used to play baseball like in the summer time when I wasn't in camp. We played right where Creedmoor -- Creedmoor is a mental institution. There were some fields there that are still there that we used to play, we used to play baseball. You know, we tried to get pick-up games, different places. But we were very serious about our athletic -- but to me as a kid I have nothing bad to say about him. I mean he just basically was a really good kid. And now when I see him it's -- in that sense, he's a

really good guy. I mean there's a lot of really good qualities that he has in terms of getting to the average guy.

Miller: Yeah, I interviewed him a couple of times and he is just a really charming guy. I could see how you'd want to be his friend.

Brant: Yes. He's a very charming guy. We talked about -- I don't know, Hillary Clinton. I have met her once, twice, and Bill a few times more, but I don't really know them. But I know a lot about them. Donald, I really feel like I know. I feel when I connected with him later I -- even though he's a completely different person -- I mean my wife's not very high on him, just you know, the star [indiscernible]. I think that to be a leader, to really make a difference in the world is a very hard thing to comment on until the moment comes. It's just one of those things.

And I think that there are times in a country's history where they are almost forced to take a risk on a person that will change things for them and other times not. And to comment on whether somebody would be a good president or not be a good president is just a matter of your guess as to how they would perform in a pressure situation that concerns many, many people all over the world. And that's a whole different ballgame. Sometimes the person's that is the academic [unrelated conversation] -- it's like dealing with an addicted person, you

can't -- sometimes what are the logical ways to go are not the right ways for those because they can't relate to the logical ways.

Miller: Do you think you might vote for him, for Donald?

Brant: Well, you know, for the purpose of the interview I'd rather not say.

Miller: Oh, it's fine. Yeah, I just --

Brant: Because of the fact that --

Miller: Sure.

Brant: Because of the fact that there's no question that I would very, very much like to see a person that I went to school with as president of the United States.

Miller: Sure, yeah. I understand. It would be pretty interesting, yeah.

Brant: That would be a really great thing but I'm also a history major [inaudible] foreign policy. And I am a very, very big fan of Hillary Clinton.

Miller: Yeah. I get that totally and obviously you know, you -- I came here to hear more stories about your friendship as kids because that's -- I mean you guys were closer than pretty much anybody. So in terms of insight into him and him at a young age, an impressionable age, that's fascinating to me, totally invaluable.

Brant: Yeah, it's also one of those things where I can't explain why but it happened to me a few times in my life where I've had somebody that's had a very -- you know, somebody that I've really liked, a very good friend or a girlfriend that I was very, very close to and then all of a sudden lives changed direction and I really lost contact with them. And sometimes I think to myself while I still have the memory of that person but for some reason or another I never really pursued kind of going after them. We live in the same city. I took us a long time to --

Miller: Reconnect?

Brant: To reconnect, and I would say now we're probably not reconnected. We're not connected because I think my wife Stephanie is -- she had a friend who dated him or whatever, I don't know, but she basically --

Miller: This is post-Marla Maples or when --?

Brant: Post-Marla Maples, yeah.

Miller: Yeah.

Brant: Lee [phonetic] --

Miller: You said that friend didn't have nice things to say or your wife just has her own opinion of Donald?

Brant: She has her own opinion. I don't know what the girl said. She has her own opinion. I think she just -- and Donald might not like her either, so I can't --

Miller: Yeah. Let me ask just another quick kind of current event story.

Brant: By the way, I just wanted to tell you they asked me, NBC asked me to do a biography that they were working on for Donald. They asked me if I would be interviewed and so on and so forth. I said no because I just didn't want it to appear like I was involved in the campaign of Donald Trump. So it's not the case. I'm not there. I'm an expert on five to thirteen.

Miller: Right. Just one more quick question before talking more about those years. I mean, I guess obviously Donald's in the news a lot nowadays for occasionally saying things that are controversial. I guess when that happens, what do you think -- do you think -- can you still see your childhood friend in him or you might see a different person? Do you think it's just for an effect or --?

Brant: I see my childhood friend. Don't ask me why because a lot of what he said -- there's a lot of things that he says that are absolutely a 100 percent true but there's absolutely no legitimate solution that he's come up with for those things. But he does make a lot of sense for the American blue-collar worker like the guy in Queens, the guy in Bay Shore, wherever he was last night. It does resonate to those people.

A lot of the things that he says about the deals on trade and everything like that are true. But they're not thinking what the ramifications are of changing that. Yeah, they probably don't always have the -- they probably don't take enough in negotiating and a lot of times they don't give enough in negotiating. It depends who's doing it and how it's being done.

And yeah, there's no question, as an individual person doing a project like building a building or something, he would be the person. But there's too much at risk here. I guess the strongest quality he has is to basically rally up a crowd or rally up a bunch of people. But it's not like Reagan could do that but in a more international way. He appeals to like an American blue-collar crowd but I don't know how it resonates diplomatically to other countries.

I just feel that, yes, as a person I still see that, but he's kind of somehow or other somewhere along the line he decided to take himself very seriously. That sometimes can change a person. So I think that as far as his picture to the world is Donald Trump, that's not the, you know --

Miller: Yeah. I guess that's why I asked about whether he said kind of outrageous things as a kid, I mean a comment about Mexicans or Muslims, you know. Nowadays -- just I wonder if he

did that as a kid. Did he provoke people in a playful way or in an aggressive way?

Brant: No, I think that he was very -- I don't think he was bigoted in any way. He was in a class with Jewish kids, Catholic kids. If he was restrictive at all, it would be more from an athletic point of view than anything else. He just hadn't reached that point.

What really comes down to me -- it's like when you're looking for a rosebud you're -- I think what really tells the story is Mar-a-Lago. I mean I think that's about as clear -- it's the clearest way of analyzing what happened to him or where he went. He bought this architectural landmark. That was the Post family mansion here in Palm Beach. And he just made it into a club. He did that successfully but you could ask who would want to live in a club like that. If you were a successful business person, you know, when you want some privacy, the answer is no.

The answer is that he basically has, you know, where he has changed is he has become a public persona. He wants to be. The other thing I've noticed here because I've been playing in this U.S. Open between that and the Gold Cup tournament, when I go out to Wellington I pass his plane all the time.

Miller: The big Trump label on the side and all that?

Brant: The big Trump label on the side. I must say, this guy, he's clocking some hours. I mean he's really -- because you see the plane here. It's there for like 10 to 12 hours and he's gone. So he's obviously working really, really hard. My wife and I did go on the plane in the end of the '90s or maybe early 2000 because he chose Stephanie to be a judge in the Miss Universe.

Miller: That's the one-time thing that you guys did on there or --?

Brant: No, no, it was the --

Miller: The final or something --

Brant: That was the only time. It was we flew from New York down to Trinidad where it was. I think my wife is one of them. Patrick Demarchelier a friend of mine who was a photographer was one of them. I think Holyfield was one of them. And Stephanie is a famous model, so that's why -- she's been working as a model since she was 15, so he thought she would be a good person to judge and I went along for the ride.

Miller: Yeah.

Brant: So I went in the plane.

Miller: How was it? I mean was it strange to see your childhood friend kind of at the center of this production? I mean that was before the whole presidential run.

Brant: I mean, a complete mystery. I thought he must have done this to sort of meet girls or something like that. Why would you do it? But then he -- you know with *The Apprentice* and everything -- I was not on *The Apprentice*. My son appeared on *The Apprentice* by accident because part of the task that they chose was to organize a charity polo game in Connecticut, and the person that was -- my son who now runs the paper company, his job then was to manage the Polo Club for a couple of summers. And they took all their contestants, and they made half of them report to the Polo Club to who did the best job at getting this charity function done. So my son worked with them, and then afterwards -- I like never have seen Donald after that where he didn't say to me, "Chris was like, he's a famous guy now, right? It was like everybody knows Chris, right?"

Miller: So Donald kind of took credit for that?

Brant: Yeah, he kind of takes the credit for that one, when this kid is like really ruffed. I mean that's probably the least impressive thing he's done. It's always like with Donald, the dialogue you watch, if you're talking to him, it won't go 30 seconds or 60 seconds without the conversation turning back to him, and a kind of faux love.

Miller: My very inexpert theory is that at some point he realized just how valuable his image and brand could be, and then at that point, you know, it's hard not to use that.

Obviously, he has been very successful at building buildings, I mean like his father in a different way. He's very good at that. But at some point, I guess you realized that like using the name Trump, or appearing on *The Apprentice* that there are other ways of adding value, making money.

Brant: Well, I think, what's very important is the fact that -- and I think, where they really were the most successful is -- I think where he really cleaned up was in the gambling. During that period in the '80s, that Taj Mahal made a lot, a lot of money. So, I'm sure that that was the real fuel that got him going. But then when it went bankrupt, which is not his fault, it's just that Atlantic City went down, and he had to adjust to that. I think he did a good job negotiating.

I think he realized how important his name was when he went bankrupt because all the bankers insisted that he stay in. They all insisted that they just didn't wipe him out. They left him with a little bit of a stake, and they wanted to continue to use his name. And then when they did the yards on the West Side, when the Chinese came in, and they wanted to use his name -- I think after going bankrupt and basically like Donald would say he had a negative net worth, to really build himself back up to whatever it is now - it's always inflated - but whatever it is, that's a very important factor.

People say that how could you do that? How could you vote for a president, of a guy who declared bankruptcy or packaged bankruptcy to the business he was involved in? Well, in terms of running a country, I'd rather have a guy that has been through a couple of bankruptcies than somebody that hadn't, because that's the kind of dealings that you're going to have to have if you're the leader of a country. Because there are always things in a country that are bankrupt. The concept that the public has of what a leader should be made of, a lot of it is fiction. So I don't hold that against him. I think probably his biggest asset is the fact that he has been through that. It's like if you're in a paper mill, if we're hiring somebody from another paper company, we don't want to hire a guy where everything went well in all those paper mills, the great staff. You want somebody who has been through it.

Miller: Who has been through it, yeah. Just to kind of jump back to your childhood a little bit, were you guys Brooklyn Dodgers' fan, Yankees' fans - both of you guys? I ask because it must have been an interesting time to be a Dodgers' fan, I mean, the first ten or so years of your life that was the Jackie Robinson era, right?

Brant: Roy Campanella, and Jackie Robinson, Duke Snider, Carl Furillo, Clem Labine --

Miller: You remember your favorite player --

Brant: Duke [cross-talking].

Miller: -- and Trump? What about Donald's?

Brant: I think I know that Donald liked Mickey Mantle a lot of the Yankees, another he really liked. That's another reason that you could say we cut up. Okay. We, for sure, got caught a number of times in class listening to the World Series because that was when it first came out with the transistor radios. We would put the ear thing up our sleeves and have the radio there, and we would be like looking at the teacher and listening.

But that was -- the World Series was like the most important thing to us at that time, and a lot of those series games it was the Dodgers against the Yankees. I used to go to Ebbets Field. My dad was not interested in baseball [inaudible]. I would like try to recruit him to take us as often as I could, but it was always difficult. But I remember, I could tell you what the tickets looked like and everything. It was Ebbets Field, it was great to go there as a kid.

Miller: So you and Donald will go together sometimes, or -
-?

Brant: We went to some games together. We have for sure.

Miller: Mostly Dodgers' games?

Brant: Mostly Dodgers' games. But I think he also liked the Yankees. He also liked the Yankees.

Miller: One reason why I'm curious --

Brant: He liked Yogi Berra a lot because -- he liked Yogi Berra and Roy Campanella because they were good catchers. He was a catcher.

Miller: Right. I guess one of the reasons why I'm curious is because you know I've talked to a lot of people about Jamaica Estates, and the neighborhood, kind of this idyllic place in a lot of ways, but America was changing at that time. And so if you look at Jackie Robinson on the Dodgers, do you guys talk about that? About why there was black-white issues, race issues? I mean growing up together was that --

Brant: You know that's an interesting question. There are different ways to look at that. My introduction to, from the time I was a little kid into race, into black African Americans, really comes from film, television, and the black kids that I went to school with, and the black kids that I associated with on the playing field.

Miller: That would have been later mostly though, right?

Brant: No. At Kew-Forest -- I don't know if we had any black kids in Kew-Forest but at Cheshire Academy there were a lot of black kids. I don't know about New York Military Academy.

Miller: I don't think there were any at that time. Not at that time.

Brant: Okay. In Cheshire Academy there definitely were, and the University of Colorado, there definitely were. So at least half of the football team was black, and at least 10 percent of the students in a classroom were black. But I always looked at it in a very different way because I really liked black people. I like their humor. I like their -- my heroes, a lot of them were black because they were great athletes, great basketball players, great baseball players. My favorite artist later on in life, one of my favorite artists, Jean-Michel Basquiat was black, and a lot of his work was about black culture.

So, I saw a different -- my parents were European, they looked at that differently. But it was playful, and there was humor. A lot of that humor that I saw, that really made black people more endearing towards me, it was like take *Amos 'n' Andy*. I don't know if you know *Amos 'n' Andy*.

Miller: Yeah.

Brant: *Amos 'n' Andy* was originally a radio program, one of the most popular radio programs in the late '40s and early '50s. The people that were playing the black characters were white, but then they made a television series of it where it would be on every Sunday night for an hour at about 9:00 PM, and it really took place in Harlem, and it was about this men's club lodge hall they called it, where all the black taxicab driver,

lawyer, whatever, would hang out, and it was like comedy. It was real comedy. They would emphasize --

Miller: Still, with actors in a black face, or with African American actors?

Brant: No. Actors with black -- yeah, the characters were Kingfish Stevens. Amos was the cabdriver, and they would get into situations, and they had wives, and they would get into such comical situations. It was kind of like *The Honeymooners* except -- you know what *The Honeymooners* are?

Miller: Uh-huh.

Brant: Except it was a black comedy, and it was unbelievable. If you got some of those and rented them today, you would laugh your head off. It was so great, but a lot of black people considered that very demeaning. But in a sense it was a very positive thing culturally to break the racial barriers down.

Miller: Yeah. I mean what's your sense of how Donald was introduced to those issues? Whether he was watching Jackie Robinson, whether he was dealing with, I guess, his father's black chauffeur?

Brant: His father's chauffeur was black.

Miller: That's what I read, yes. That's what I mean.

Brant: I remember he was black, and he was a good guy. I don't think that there was any feeling at all, negatively -- you

know look there was a lot of anti-Semitism in the '50s as well, and I never felt that Donald, or his family, had any kind of feeling about that.

Miller: Or race?

Brant: Or race.

Miller: Yeah.

Brant: But I think I have read where in the real estate business, he was - the father - was investigated about not wanting to rent to black people. That would be nothing that I would be aware of. I actually only read that a very short time ago because I was trying to look up -- somebody told me that Fred Trump was not German, and I knew that he was German. So I looked it up. I wanted to look up whether his parents were -- whether he was born in the United States, or he was born in Germany. He was born in the United States. So that's how I --

Miller: His father Frederick was German.

Brant: Yes. So that's where I came across the fact that he was investigated for rentals.

Miller: But you never saw any sign of that in Fred or Donald?

Brant: No.

Miller: There's a great photo, I'm not sure you've seen, of you, and Donald and a couple of other people. I think Mark Golding, a classmate of yours.

Brant: Yeah. Mark, I remember him.

Miller: Eric Sabin [phonetic], another classmate.

Brant: He's around today. I know Eric Sabin.

Miller: It's at another classmate's, Paul Onish's bar mitzvah, and you guys are all kind of like huddled around the table or something, in your suits and everything. It's a great photo, and I was talking to Paul Onish.

Brant: I never saw it.

Miller: I'll send it to you, and he, Paul Onish --

Brant: I have a photo I'm trying to find for you. It was in my desk drawer for years. I showed it to Donald, because my mother gave it to me. It was taken at the Roney Plaza Hotel in Miami. Did you ever hear of the Roney Plaza Hotel?

Miller: I don't think so. No. What is it now? Does it still exist?

Brant: The Roney Plaza Hotel. I think now it's called the Roney Plaza Quarter or something like. It might be apartments but it's not a hotel. But in the '50s - and this also could go back to Donald's father, his mother - because in the '50s, before the Bahamas became popular, the best resort hotel in America was the Fontainebleau in Miami, and the Eden Roc, which was next door. So, they were built in 1956. Lapidus was the architect. Those are landmarks today, those two hotels,

especially the originally version of it which is still there.
So I would stay at the Fontainebleau with my parents.

Miller: Was this during the summer?

Brant: This was during the winter. This was during spring break in like March, end of March, beginning of April. So, one year his parents were going down the same time that my parents were going down. So that was like great for us. His parents wanted to stay at the Roney Plaza. The Roney Plaza was this kind of very good hotel in Miami from the 1920s, latter part of the '20s, and it was considered very whitebread, you know very kind of restricted in a sense, and the Fontainebleau was like rock and roll. The Fontainebleau was -- you have Sinatra performing. You like have Johnny Mathis performing there. It was really the place to be.

So he invited me to go to the Roney Plaza for the day. I went there for the day, and we hung around the pool and everything, and there's a photograph of him and me in the pool that's sort of like 11-years-old, and you can see on top of the water the swim fins. I thought it was really cute because it was kind of like that's when swim fins really became popular for the --

Miller: Like scuba fins?

Brant: Like scuba fins.

Miller: You guys both had them on?

Brant: Yeah. We both had them on. Why would you put swim fins on a pool? Because you could go a little faster, right? It's a cute picture.

Miller: I guess I'm eager to hear any other stories that kind of jump to mind. As I mentioned, I read a couple in the books I've read but do you remember anything that led to any like real discipline at school because I had read that you guys kind of -- whether it was the radios, or the spitballs, and smoke bombs, and things like that?

Brant: Yeah, maybe, we went to some -- like went to movie theaters and --

Miller: Played hooky?

Brant: I used to play hooky and go to the racetrack, because later in my life I became very involved with horses. I won the Kentucky Derby in 1984, and I had a big stable of horses, and I won the Breeders' Cup. Normally, I would go in Saratoga near where I went to camp, but after -- Donald never came to the races with me. I started going to the races probably at 14, and you weren't allowed in the racetrack at that time. So I'd go out and ask somebody to take me in, kind of like their son or something just to get in. So I loved horses.

Miller: Can you bet or no? Just watching?

Brant: No. I would -- no, I can't say I didn't bet. I probably bet, but it was because the horses were like Duke

Snider to me. I would go there and watch Carry Back run and Kelso run, the great racehorses in the great New York racing. That was a great thing for me. But when my father found that out, that's when he sent me to -- so a couple of times, Donald, his father got called to the dean, a couple of times I did but, you know, who doesn't? It's like --

Miller: What do you think that was for? I mean do you remember any specific things like you said going to the movies, you guys would sneak out and go to movies together, or --?

Brant: No. We go usually on Saturday mornings to the movies. Why would we have gotten --? It could be, I don't know, following a race there and somebody. I don't know. Things like that. It was not serious stuff. We never got like suspended or anything like that. It would just be they would call. All the time I went to school, I was probably called to the principal twice.

Miller: There were some people who went to Kew-Forest who are not in your guys' grade, so I don't know if they know what they're talking about or not. But some of them thought that Donald might have been expelled.

Brant: No. Absolutely not. I would have known that, no.

Miller: So it was more like his father at the end of the year decided, all right, now we're sending you to --

Brant: Yes. He may have done something where he lived, or he may have done something, I don't know. I'm not familiar with that.

Miller: But not at school.

Brant: Not at school. We never had any run-ins with the police or anything like that ever.

Miller: I wonder, you know, like because he does tell that "I punched the teacher" story, I wondered --

Brant: That could be but I didn't ever hear about that.

Miller: And you think you would have? Yeah.

Brant: I should have heard about that. Music teacher? I mean music was like a joke, right, at that time. Things were different at that time.

Miller: Do you remember your music teacher?

Brant: No.

Miller: This guy's named Charlie Walker [phonetic], Charles D. Walker.

Brant: Did he remember me?

Miller: He's dead, unfortunately. I was trying to figure out if Trump really had punched him like Trump said, or if it's kind of a tall tale or something, but I know that --

Brant: Why did he punch him? Did he say?

Miller: He said in his book that he punched his 2nd grade music teacher. I don't know if he meant 7th or if he meant 2nd.

He said he punched him because he didn't know anything about music, and Trump felt he knew better. The music teacher, his son and his widow, they told me that when he was an old man, the music teacher remembered that Trump was a real character, like "a pain in the ass" I think is what he called him, you know. So I don't know if you remember anything like that from music class.

Brant: Maybe a music teacher could think that but music was like -- that was kind of like, I guess, a period where you thought you could talk. They're cut up, you know what I mean. It's like taking art. Neither one of us had any ability at all in art, although that became a large part of the rest of my life, I couldn't draw a straight line.

Miller: Were you guys like hyper kids, do you think? Nowadays, they treat everybody for ADHD, or whatever. Were you like hyper, do you think that was part of it, or do you think you're just more interested in sports?

Brant: No, I think we were passionately interested in sports. I could have - he probably could have as well - recited to you the *Baseball Almanac*. That was where our heads were. We both were fanatic collectors of baseball cards, and that kind of stuff.

Miller: Do you remember -- there's an interesting passage in that Gwenda Blair book where I guess she quotes you talking

about -- at soccer matches, you guys would eat whole oranges to intimidate your opponents, you know, just with the rind on them and everything.

Brant: I never said that.

Miller: Really? I guess I'm just curious if you remember any --

Brant: That's not me. I never said that.

Miller: -- any moments from playing in sports? Do you remember like --?

Brant: I just remember we were really good.

Miller: Do you remember Donald like hitting a walk-off homer, or anything like that, or any moments that stick out in your mind, good or bad, or --?

Brant: Donald was a good hitter, as I was. I'm sure that happened. He was really, really good.

Miller: What type of a hitter was he? Like power hitter or disciplined?

Brant: No. He was a disciplined hitter but also a power hitter, same as me.

Miller: Like Sammy Sosa swinging into the fences hitter?

Brant: No. I might have been -- I don't know whether he was -- he batted third and I batted fourth, or vice versa. I don't remember but I remember that we were -- I remember also in soccer, we had a great soccer team. We had a guy called

Delahunt [phonetic] who's our coach. Did you ever come across that name?

Miller: No. At Kew-Forest?

Brant: He was a big part of Donald's life.

Miller: Really? Would you remember his first name? I'm guessing he's passed away but --

Brant: Probably -- Delahunt. I don't remember his first name but he was definitely our coach for many years. He taught us how to play soccer. He taught us how to play baseball. He was a really nice man, but he was very strict.

Miller: You said you were a forward, a striker, so you were a goal scorer.

Brant: Center forward.

Miller: What did Donald play?

Brant: Center halfback.

Miller: Okay.

Brant: That's for sure.

Miller: What type of a soccer player was he?

Brant: Great.

Miller: I mean like a physical bruiser, or an intelligent player?

Brant: Both, both, very, very good.

Miller: I know he played for, I think, his senior year, at New York Military Academy.

Brant: He did?

Miller: Yeah. He left it. He didn't play for I think his first four years he was there, and then he played at senior.

Brant: That shows how good he was. He was really good, very good range, good anticipation, really good. And I played center forward. I think maybe one year I played inner wing. I played left inner wing, and then I played at Cheshire Academy.

Miller: Was Donald at all kind of conservative in, like, dress or music?

Brant: Interesting question because I was just thinking when you said tell me some stories, I was just thinking he was a little awkward in his dress. He's still a little awkward in his dress. He's a little like there is something off in the way he dresses, super long tie, and I think what that brings back to me is he's certainly wasn't a good dresser, and I say that because I was really interested in clothes. I remember very well that he had shoes that he bought at Thom Mcan. Thom Mcan's, you know, a big shoe store for the big public school, you know, low priced shoes, very big in the 50's and 60's. So he bought a pair of flapjacks. He used to wear them all the time, black flapjacks. Flapjack is a shoe with the tongue is like on a metal hinge. You just like you get up in the morning. You put your foot in there and then there's no laces or anything like that, and that wouldn't have been considered the chicest for a

kid, you know, at that age to wear.

Miller: Well, he was kind of a bigger kid. It seems like he'd be kind of clumping around in them, right?

Brant: You know, he wasn't that big, but I used to make fun of him wearing those. I remember. So I don't know. Also, at Kew-Forest we had a uniform. So the thing that stood out were the shoes and the tie and the sweater, if you wear a sweater. So yeah, Kew-Forest had like the girls wore like these checkered skirts and blazer, and the boys wore grey slacks and a blazer. So there was a picture at a bar mitzvah, but Eric Sabin was in a different class, I think.

Miller: That could be. I think it looks like a friendly gathering at the bar mitzvah, you know?

Brant: Because I know Eric. He ran an oil company in Long Island, and I have a house in Long Island in Sagaponack where he has a house.

Miller: Was he close to Trump as well?

Brant: I don't think so. No.

Miller: Did Trump have any other kind of close friends or were you guys kind of it for each other?

Brant: We were the closest of friends. There was a kid there called -- there was a decent athlete called Johnny Reese, his name was.

Miller: Okay. I saw his name. Yeah.

Brant: Johnny Reese was there. Mark Goulding was a good student. There was a girl named Belinda Freed [phonetic], Tina Farhi [phonetic]. The girls didn't like Donald because we didn't like girls. We were like interested in sports. It was pre-puberty. So it's kind of like maybe later on that's all we were interested in. It was not like we talked to the girls, and that sometimes happen with boys there.

Miller: Sure. Busy.

Brant: Yeah. No, not busy. They're focused elsewhere.

Miller: I mean, it's funny because you guys have both gone on to have high profile romances, I guess.

Brant: Yes, he's had a few, but yeah. So I've been married twice for 20 years, 20-plus years both times, and I think that one of the interesting things between us is that aesthetically, he went off on a different course than I did. Sort of I think he's -- I don't think he's ever been interested in art or in, you know. I think culturally he is a bit removed.

Miller: Do you remember any signs of that when you were kids? I mean like going to art museums together or --

Brant: I never went to an art museum with him.

Miller: Or even like movies, you know? Was he into like the blockbusters and were into the more interesting films?

Brant: You know, it's different. My dad took me to the movies twice a week.

Miller: Really?

Brant: Yeah. Twice a week. And I used to go to the movie theatre a lot that my father would take -- there were really two big theatres then, the Midway in Forest Hills, and there was a big one in Jamaica near his house, near Donald's house, which was on Jamaica Avenue. So I, my dad would take me to the movies, and I am very much of a movie buff today. I produced some movies as well. I'm very much of a movie buff, and I really owe that to my father because a lot of times I see these movies and I remember exactly with my parents when I saw them when I was a kid, and I think they were pretty liberal with me in terms of what they would allow me to see because I recall now looking at films when I was 10, 11 years old that were pretty progressive films for that time. So yeah, I went to a lot of film. I don't think he did.

Miller: Really? What were his parents --

Brant: Culturally, it was a different thing because two guys couldn't be so close yet be so different in terms of he's never been interested in collecting them. I went on his plane. He had, you know, reproductions of Renoirs and Cezannes.

Miller: That's funny. I was reading an article. It mentioned those. It said nobody was really sure if they were real or not. Nobody seemed to care.

Brant: I knew right away they were reproductions, not like

painted reproductions.

Miller: Oh, it was printed?

Brant: Yeah, they were like printed.

Miller: Was his household just more conservative? Could you cuss as a kid in either one of your households or no, not at all?

Brant: Nope. Absolutely not. My father would never let you back in the house.

Miller: And his parents were the same way?

Brant: Very. I remember the house very well. It was a colonial house, sweeping staircases, had white columns in the front. It was what appeared to me to be like an absolute mansion compared to my house. I lived in Forest Hills in a small house probably about half the size of this house, and I lived here from the time I was born to I moved out.

Miller: I read that Donald's house was like 23 rooms or something, which is huge especially for that neighborhood, but that Fred Trump had built it kind of without the best style or taste perhaps I guess is the nice way to put it.

Brant: It's interesting. I don't remember it as that.

Miller: Really?

Brant: No.

Miller: You remember it pretty nicely.

Brant: I remember thinking wow. This is a beautiful

house. Wow, this is really -- this house is really special. If I saw it today, I might think something entirely different, but at that time, it didn't give me an impression that these people had bad taste. I read about it now; I would think, nah, it doesn't look like they had good taste but at the time --

Miller: I guess the way the author put it was not that it was really tacky or bad taste, but rather it wasn't like a bold architectural vision. It was just Fred Trump did a small house on a bigger scale, you know.

Brant: It's a version of colonial revival, of which there are some really great houses. You know, a house can be a revival house and be very good taste, or it can be a revival house and it can be terrible.

Miller: You remember anything like interesting or peculiar about the house? Like, you know, does his father have a gun mounted on the wall? Or you know, like anything, hunting trophies or something like that?

Brant: Don't think so. I would have noticed that. I don't think so.

Miller: Nothing sticks out in your mind?

Brant: No. I just remember the sweeping staircase, and, of course, he had a big family. You know, Mary Anne was a very good student. She went to Mount Holyoke. She was very smart. Mount Holyoke was one of the best schools in the country at that

time. I remember Elizabeth. She didn't seem to be that bright to me.

Miller: What was the dynamic?

Brant: I didn't know Fred, the young Fred.

Miller: Yeah. What was the dynamic between Donald and his siblings? Was he friendly with all of them? Were they antagonistic like a lot of siblings are?

Brant: I knew Robert because he went to the same school in a different grade.

Miller: A couple of years younger.

Brant: Couple of years younger. He seemed really nice.

Miller: I've heard they were very different, right?

Brant: Very different.

Miller: Personality is very different.

Brant: Robert's very quiet, conservative, but Donald was a little like that too. Donald really changed. I'm sure the first wife really must have pushed him to go out and about, and I think Donald's probably his biggest successes as I'm not -- I didn't learn this in talking to him but by reading about him over the years a little bit, it appears to me that his big successes was out of the box, you know like, the first sort of 10-12 years of being in business. That seemed to be --

Miller: Yeah, I think it was the Commodore Hotel was the huge one. It has a pier there, the skating rink and some other

things.

Brant: The Bonwit Teller Building where he built Trump Tower on that.

Miller: I mean it's interesting you kind of remember him being more quiet. I spoke to another; I think the baseball teammate I mentioned. He remembers maybe just because Donald was the catcher, but he would always kind of chatter during the games, like, you know, hum it on in here. Throw it on in here, like, he'd be like a talkative kid.

Brant: But that's maybe the coach told you to do that. You know in the ball field, he would be talkative. I'm just talking about he was just not a showy kid. He's not a kid that, you know, had his bank account on the wheels of his car. That was basically his car, you know, if all he had was this amount of money bought a car for that, that's it.

Miller: So like those shoes for example. He didn't buy those because they were flashy. He bought them -- why did he buy them?

Brant: He bought them because they were easy to put on, probably. I wouldn't have bought them. It's just basically, I think what I'm trying to say is that he came from the American kind of dream kind of stuff. His father was born to immigrant parents. He worked very hard his whole life and he did some great things.

Here's a man that, you know, maybe there's a case on not having, not renting to black people, but on the other hand, he did rent to so many people coming to this country after the war, and you know, he and La Frac were like a two big guys in Queens and Brooklyn. And I mean I think his father was a great man. I mean he really, you know, you have heard stories that he was very tight and very tight-fisted. But he's certainly as big a success as Donald now, and I remember always thinking very positive about that man and his mother, and his brothers and his sisters. It comes from, you know, a lot of what we see here comes from the sky.

Miller: How did he, you know, talk about, or did he talk about Freddie, his older brother? I mean, you know. Obviously he had kind of some problems later in life. I've heard the Freddie would, race around the neighborhood in a Corvette and things when you guys were 11, 12, I guess. His brother was older, had a first model Corvette. I mean, did he look up to his brother? Did he talk about him?

Brant: He had a 56 Corvette.

Miller: Something like that, yeah, yeah, yeah. Was he embarrassed by him?

Brant: I don't remember the Corvette, although it would have stuck out because cars were very much a part of the, you know. In that time, I remember going with my father to a

Chevrolet dealer and trying to look over the fence to see the Corvettes coming in. I mean --

Miller: For me, it was a yellow Corvette that Freddie had.

Brant: Yeah maybe. I don't remember that but I think we were very interested in cars. I don't remember Freddie. I remember Robert. I went to school with him.

Miller: So Donald didn't talk about Freddie or mentioned him?

Brant: No.

Miller: How did he treat Robert?

Brant: He treated him, I mean he was very cordial to him but not, you know, he didn't, I don't think he really kind of looked up to him or anything. He was not much of a big character like Donald was.

Miller: I think their mother called Robert more of like a sensitive kid. I mean did Donald like act protective about him?

Brant: I don't think he had to act protective. I don't think people would tease. He was not like in the same, no.

Miller: He didn't tag along with you guys.

Brant: No, he didn't.

Miller: Let me just ask about a couple of things that people have mentioned to see if you think they're true or if you remember them. So somebody mentioned that kids in the neighborhood would have the bikes. You know, everybody wanted

to get like an English racer, British racer, something like that, and that Donald and his brother got like really sweet Italian racing bikes, and would ride them around the neighborhood. Does that sound familiar?

Brant: No, because I didn't ride in that neighborhood. My parents allowed me to go to ride in that neighborhood, only because it was Jamaica and you had to, if you went out that little enclave that they had, it's a lot different. I had a English racer. I had a Rudge English racer, and the bike represented freedom to me. That was my first sense of freedom. I could ride to the pizzeria and get a slice of pizza and you know, Italian ice and be in heaven. I feel like I was Daniel Boone, you know. It was really great. So I did that a lot when I was 10, 11, 12 years old.

Miller: I mean would Donald join you?

Brant: No because I think that to put the bikes in the car, we lived in different places so in order for me to get to Donald's, it would be a car ride of 20 minutes.

Miller: Too far to bike.

Brant: Way too far to bike.

Miller: Did he ever come over to your house?

Brant: A lot.

Miller: Oh really, a lot.

Brant: A lot. That's how he knew about the sheets.

Miller: How did he get along with your family?

Brant: They loved him. They really did. My parents both loved him. My sister even remembers him very well. My sister sees him now because she's a member of Mar-a-Lago, but --

Miller: How old is she?

Brant: She's seven years older than I am, and she liked him. I mean, she probably knew him more when he was five, six, seven, eight, and she went away to school.

Miller: Did you ever --

Brant: My dad was a great judge of character. He would pick up -- if a kid was a bad kid, he'd pick it up quite quickly.

Miller: And he liked Donald?

Brant: He liked Donald a lot.

Miller: I'm just thinking back to my own friendships as a kid, and occasionally we'd get into fights or something, you know, and then settle.

Brant: Where did you grow up?

Miller: In Missouri.

Brant: Yeah. What part?

Miller: Columbia, where the university is.

Brant: Yes.

Miller: Did you guys ever have fights, ever get into a fistfight with Donald or anything like that? Do you remember anything that you guys argued about or --?

Brant: We probably argued about a lot of things but, no.

Miller: Nothing sticks out in your mind in terms of like falling outs or anything like that?

Brant: No, no, no. No, we might have fallen out for a few days arguing about something but not -- I don't remember. I just remember very that he all of a sudden was gone. I just remember that.

Miller: Did he say goodbye before he went to military academy?

Brant: I don't know that -- did he go to the military academy in the middle of the year or did he go at the end of the year?

Miller: I think he went to start 8'th grade. He went there 8'th, 9'th, 10'th, 11'th, 12'th. I'm not sure but I know that he was there for those years. I'm not sure if he joined in the middle of the year, at the beginning, but I think it was the beginning.

Brant: Okay. So I certainly didn't know that at the end of the seventh grade.

Miller: That he was going to go?

Brant: He was going. So maybe it was that summer or something that he did something at home, or -- but I have no knowledge of what that is.

Miller: He didn't come and say, hey, Pete, my dad's sending me to military school. I'm not going to see you anymore.

Brant: No, not that I remember. I just remember it was a very, very sudden thing and I was really surprised and sad, very sad.

Miller: How did you find out? Did you try calling him or something?

Brant: I really don't remember. I think that somebody at school told me that they'd heard he was leaving the school, and I might have called him, and he might have said, "Yeah. My father wants me to go to another school." I'm trying to think if I ever went to the New York Military Academy to --

Miller: It's about an hour north of New York City.

Brant: Yeah. No, I'm just trying to think if I ever visited him.

Miller: Visited him?

Brant: I don't think I ever visited him. I think he told me once that he came to visit a tennis match somewhere in Rhode Island or something. He heard I was playing in a tennis match there, but I don't remember.

Miller: Did he come and see you at the tennis match?

Brant: He said he did but I don't remember that. I don't remember that.

Miller: Do you remember Donald ever getting into like fights with other kids?

Brant: No.

Miller: Never. No. Playground fisticuffs?

Brant: Fighting then was a big thing. It wasn't like today you get into a fight. It was a big thing. I mean, yeah, there might have been fisticuffs maybe on a ball field or something. Maybe. It's possible.

Miller: I guess the way that he likes to talk about it in his speeches is like back in the good old days like we can settle things like men, kind of like rumble, put somebody in their place. He makes it sound like whether or not he fought but back then it was kind of easier to just --

Brant: It's rhetoric. I mean, we did not grow up -- we grew up at a time where you thought to yourself you've got to be prepared to fight. You've got to be able to defend yourself, but you never had to. It was that kind of thing. Yeah, there's no question I was always like really interested in boxing, and all kinds of stuff like that. But did I ever get into a fight? Really? Maybe in college. Maybe a few times maybe in college, but that's it.

Miller: Do you remember Fred Trump ever telling you guys, you kids together, about like sticking up for yourself or don't let somebody boss you around? Fred has this kind of reputation for being like a tough guy or demanding, telling his kids to never lie down --

Brant: Yeah. I'm sure.

Miller: You don't remember anything?

Brant: No, no, I remember. I remember he was tough and always saying, you know, it's tough out in the world, and you can't play games with short pants. I can't remember.

Miller: He said that?

Brant: No. A famous trainer said that. The famous horse trainer said, "You can't play this game in short pants." It was actually the guy who trained Foolish Pleasure against the mare Ruffian. It was a famous match race between the best filly and the best colt in 1974 or '75. The great filly called Ruffian had run seven times and won all seven races. Foolish Pleasure won the Kentucky Derby. So some company put up a million dollars and put together a match race, and the filly broke down. She broke her leg, and they had to put her down. She's buried in the infield at Belmont Park.

Miller: Really?

Brant: When they interviewed him after the race, LeRoy Jolley who trained him, also he trained a couple of derby

winner, he said, "You can't play this game wearing short pants."

Miller: That's a harsh thing to say.

Brant: Harsh.

Miller: When another horse has just been put down. But Fred Trump was kind of that same mold.

Brant: Yeah, but not in a mean way, just the fact that the guy came up in 1920s. He saw the Depression.

Miller: He survived it. Yeah.

Brant: He survived it. He was making a living in Brooklyn. Even if you told about this -- if somebody told me that they wouldn't rent to black people, I would think two things. I would think this person is bigoted and obviously does not like black people. Or, the person somehow or other was told by his father or other real estate people that as a group of people they damage apartments more than others. So do yourself a favor and try not to do that. And if you put too many of them in, in terms of as a race, I'm thinking '40s and '50s mentality, that if you put too many of them in, then the other white people are not going to do it, are not going to rent. And since the majority of the people that you need to get in these are white people that can afford it, then you better watch that.

So there is -- that in itself does not make somebody bigoted. It can make somebody do something for their, at that

time, economic benefit. I never saw anything in Donald that would say that he was bigoted in any way, and I know that he has a lot of black friends. He's very friendly with a lot of these singers, boxers. He's a showman, so sure he is. I never saw that in Donald. The time Holyfield was doing -- he was on the plane and doing the *Miss Universe* -- he was very, very friendly with him. They're good friends.

Miller: Let me ask just about another kind of wacky story that somebody in the neighborhood told me. He told me that, and he was a baby I guess when Donald would have been, I don't know, five, six, seven, eight, or something like that. He told me that his mother, when he grew up, told him that she once caught Donald like throwing rocks at the crib that the kid was in, almost like a game or something, kind of throwing it at the baby.

Brant: I don't know anything about it. In his neighborhood where he lives?

Miller: Yeah, yeah.

Brant: He never bragged about that for sure, and I wouldn't have responded very well if he did.

Miller: You didn't see like a mean-spirited side to him?

Brant: No. Mean-spirited? Certainly I see a lot more now of what I see on television. He acts. Again, it's the same person that I know but there's just different things coming out

of his mouth that was stupid. I think that -- I don't think I would have been friendly with a mean person. It's just not me.

Miller: I'm curious you mentioned this kind of like excursions you guys would take. The two of you did that kind of what seemed like wild, different places in New York. I mean, do you remember particularly one of those that was more like startling or wild than others? Did you guys ever get into any hairy situations or find yourselves lost in a part of the city?

Brant: Yeah, I think we got into some hairy situations in the subways, and taking the wrong trains, and getting lost. And I think we like sometimes it got dark and we should have been home earlier. But not at night, you know, like it was 6:00 PM or 6:30 PM and we should have been home. That sort of thing. I don't think that -- I'm trying to think of what neighborhoods we went into. We weren't roaming around Harlem. We weren't roaming around the Bowery. But we were in -- we used to watch them play like basketball near the projects there just to see the basketball games.

Miller: Where would that have been roughly?

Brant: Like around 110th, 112th Street.

Miller: Like West Side or East Side?

Brant: East Side. Then we spent some time around Madison Avenue in the '40s looking for shoes, or a lot of time in Times Square.

Miller: What was it like back then?

Brant: It was not like it is now. It was kind of like --

Miller: Because it was really seedy probably later on, but was it --?

Brant: Yes. It was seedy in a different way. It was seedy where you had these guys like with sign saying "Going out of business," but they were there five years later trying to reduce their inventory, magic stores, electronic stores, things like that. We were interested in the magic stores. We were interested in practical jokes.

Miller: Not seedy like in the 1980s?

Brant: No. We didn't go to strip clubs. We weren't looking for prostitutes or girls or anything like that. We were strictly -- but we did see the diversity. I mean we did see the diversity and the -- we did spend time traveling on the subway. We went to department stores. We went to restaurants.

Miller: You guys have enough money to buy things, or allowances?

Brant: I mean maybe we had. Then, if we had like \$10, \$15 in our pocket, it would be a lot of money.

Miller: Which is, I mean, what \$100 today or something like that?

Brant: Yeah.

Miller: When you talked about seeing people play basketball, I genuinely don't know what that was like that?

Brant: His parents didn't give him a lot of money.

Miller: Yeah. I've read that.

Brant: My parents gave me more money than his parents gave him, and my parents -- they normally wanted me to work for the money.

Miller: So like watching a basketball game on I guess Upper East, would that be mostly white people, black people playing?

Brant: No. That's why went there. A lot of black players were really good. Donald played basketball too.

Miller: I guess that made it interesting, you know?

Brant: Yeah.

Miller: I wonder what your family thought, what your friends would have thought.

Brant: My father would have said, "What the hell are you doing there?" He just would. That's just what kids don't always follow what their parents think that they ought to do, and in a sense maybe we got a very positive thing out of that because we weren't as sheltered as -- I certainly wasn't as sheltered as I think my kids are.

Miller: Yeah. I wonder, I mean, this is something that always interested me when I read about people who are great

businessmen, who are great -- some of my favorite writers for example, journalists. They're often people who are kind of thrown into the deep end at a young age.

Brant: Absolutely.

Miller: I wonder how much that had a bearing on your career, on Donald's career. You guys were kind of --

Brant: It was really interesting because I was thinking about that the other day when you asked to come and talk to me. I was thinking that -- I think Donald became the president of his father's company about the same time that I became the president of my father's company, and it was super, super young. I mean I was the president of our paper company and did the deal to go into partnership with *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Washington Post*, and I was in my 20s.

Miller: Wow.

Brant: I very much believed in that, unlike my son was the head of our paper company when he was 28, 29. So, yeah, I believe in that, I think that for the right person. If some person has anxiety about that, I think it doesn't work.

Miller: I mean Freddy Trump, for example, it seems like it was too much for him.

Brant: Maybe. I didn't even know that he worked there.

Miller: I think he tried his oldest son to follow in his father's footsteps, and he was just a different person than

Donald. Then Donald, maybe from hanging out with you, maybe from playing sports, had that kind of cutting edge and was geared up for it and took advantage of it, and Freddy couldn't handle the pressure maybe.

Brant: You know, if I meet, like if I see Ivanka -- I went to Ivanka's house once for dinner having nothing to do with Donald. A very good friend of mine was invited to a Seder Dinner there, and I happened to be with that friend, and he said, "Why don't you come with me?" I felt like, you know, I felt funny, like knowing Donald for such a long time, coming to see his --

So I went with Bertha Magrovi [phonetic], who I went with, and Kushner was giving a Seder dinner. I had met Ivanka several times before, and she's lovely, and smart, and beautiful, and really a wonderful character. I was really impressed with her at that dinner, I remember. I thought she was so bright. So he is a one of. You don't get it from meeting his kids. His kids in a way would make better politicians than him. They get it, you know, in terms of how far to go and how far not to go. You don't get Donald from meeting his kids. Do you think you do?

Miller: I haven't met his kids to be honest, so I can't really say. But they certainly seem a lot different. I mean more diplomatic, more --

Brant: Yes. I don't know them that well either, but I met them all several times. I know that every time that they see me or meet me, they always speak very fondly about that he and I were close friends as kids. So he obviously talks to those kids about, you know, he doesn't hide the fact of what his childhood is. There's nothing to hide. We did not grow up like sheltered, and that's why I don't really believe anything like - - about any race card things.

[Break]

Brant: [Looking at polo photo of him and Prince Charles] So that's me. That's Prince Charles and that's Jeffrey Kent. So that night, we went to Donald's. It's funny.

Miller: What did Donald think of the prince? I mean was he impressed by royalty or --

Brant: It's more interesting what the prince thought about him.

Miller: And Diana was there as well?

Brant: Flamboyant. Actually, Diana was not there.

Miller: At that party.

Brant: No.

Miller: She was at the match, obviously.

Brant: Yeah. At the match, yeah, went there for like 20 minutes.

Miller: I know you guys kind of fell out of touch for a while as you said when he went off to military academy. A big issue for everyone, I'm sure it was for you as well. When you were getting done with high school, the Vietnam War was just ratcheting up.

Brant: Why did he not go? I had no idea why he didn't. I know why I didn't. I was in officers' training in Colorado and it just kind of skipped me by. But he, I don't know, he went to military school. I don't know what and why the hell he didn't. Though, that's a good question, but I had no contact with him at that time. So I didn't --

Miller: I know something he said in interviews is that he had heel spurs. He obviously was a great athlete. You guys played sports a lot together. I mean is that something you ever remember coming up?

Brant: No. I can remember a few times in baseball that he had some injuries, some bone injuries when he was playing catcher. I can remember that he had a few injuries. I just hear it now, him complaining about how rough it was to be playing catcher, but he loved it. But I don't know anything specific about --

Miller: You don't remember if that was like feet, or knees or something or --

Miller: The feet sounds right to me, either feet or shins. Something maybe with feet or shins but I don't know. It's probably a little late for him at Vietnam, right? He was going to Wharton. He probably was a little late.

Miller: Yeah. Well, so let's see, I guess you both would have been about --

Brant: You're talking about '68, '69. When did he go to Wharton, about '69?

Miller: He went to Fordham in the fall of '64.

Brant: Yes.

Miller: And then two years later, he went to Wharton. So he would have an educational waiver, but then he would have gotten out of Wharton in '68 I think, '68, '69 maybe.

Brant: Okay. But by that time, they weren't. By that time --

Miller: Maybe missed the peak?

Brant: Yeah. The big draft was in '66, '65, '66, '67. I don't know. I literally had no contact with him until probably he was, probably he was late 20s.

Miller: How did you guys get in touch again or meet up again? How'd that happen?

Brant: It happened, I was in a lunch with the CEO of Cushman and Wakefield. He had said that he had mentioned my name somehow or other, having something to do with horse racing

to Donald and Donald said oh, he and I are old friends. Then he said to me, why don't you guys get together? The head of Cushman and Wakefield was involved in racing a bit, and that's how we got back in touch with one another. And then more so after I was with Stephanie, like it was the early '90s. No, the '80s, when I saw him at Mar-a-Lago, the time I went with Prince Charles because he had just gotten it then. We connected then, and then with Stephanie, she had known a friend of Donald's and then she was the judge on the Miss Universe.

But my connection to him has always been very, very friendly when I see him. I saw him at Long Island. I've seen him many times, you know, with polo, but it's always been not deep conversations. Once I saw him at the *Vanity Fair* party. A film of mine was up for an Academy Award and I saw him. He just popped into that party like he normally does. He was full of himself and we started to talk about some of the old, like you say, the old days. I said to Stephanie who was with me, I said it's amazing. He's like, I mean, from a completely different world, but I still see the same guy that I knew.

Miller: You said to her a different world because he was, I don't know - what - surrounded by models or what?

Brant: No, no, no. He was with his wife. He was with Melania at the Academy Awards. He was with Melania. It's funny and my son is friendly with Tiffany, his daughter. He's

friendly with her because I know he talks about her all the time, but I'm kind of removed from that. I just don't really -- it's just to me he's not -- I like him. It's just not my style though. But basically, I don't have the kind of relationship with him where I could sit him down and say look, you're my friend. Let me tell you what I think. It's like you've got to hold the reins [sounds like] a little tighter. You've got to think about other people before you're speaking.

Miller: When was the last time you guys spoke?

Brant: The last time I spoke to him was he sent me a letter. The last time I spoke to him was when he sent me a letter, which I didn't answer, which was about a year ago - a year and a half ago. It just, it was a nice letter but it had to do with kind of like it was like marriage counseling kind of letter. You know I've been married to Stephanie for 20 years, but at that time we were having a little difficulty and we were thinking about getting a divorce, so it was really --

Miller: So he was offering his advice or he was asking for advice?

Brant: No. He was offering his advice.

Miller: Just kind of unsolicited?

Brant: Unsolicited.

Miller: I mean I'm curious. Can you tell me what he said? I mean what was his advice? I mean he had been married to Melania for like [cross-talking]

Brant: I mean it was kind of like I wouldn't really want to print it or anything, but I'll tell you. He was just basically saying I told you so, like do yourself a favor.

Miller: I told you so in the sense of like this is what you get for marrying a supermodel or what?

Brant: Well, this is what you get for marrying a supermodel, which is basically the furthest thing from the truth because she's a lovely, sweet person, kind person. It really had to do with other things.... It was a thing that had come between us but we have worked out, so my reaction was always just to try to work it out. You've got a family and everything like that, but I'm not annoyed that he did that.

Because that's him, but it's like with no compass. He didn't know where he is. It's not like he knows her really well. And I must say I think he and I were both very lapsed in not being in contact. Very rare that you get a friend of that nature and that you just forget. And what it really shows is that the lack of focus that you have of the past because you're so concerned about what's happening to you in the present, in getting ahead. I'm guilty of the same thing. There was nothing that he did or I did or anything that stepped in our way. We

were truly, really good friends and in a sense, we still really are really good friends.

I mean I would never say a statement like this guy is not capable of having a position like President of the United States. I think that there is a perception and a reality. And in his case, the perception is probably worse than the reality. Because, it's like taking things and throwing them against the wall and hoping that it sticks. Again, I would love nothing better than to see him become the President of the United States because we went to school together. But that's not a statement on whether I think he's able enough compared to others for that office.

Miller: Did you attend his wedding or did he attend yours?

Brant: I did not. I did not. He did not attend mine. Mine was in Paris, but he has attended --

Miller: Did you guys invite each other or --

Brant: I think we did invite him, yes, and I think he invited me.

Miller: Okay.

Brant: Yeah.

Miller: You said he had attended something else?

Brant: No. He's attended a lot of things, sort of in the '90s, you could have regularly seen him at a function that I

would have given in Connecticut or a function I would have given in New York.

Miller: And when you say you guys kind of started hanging out more socially in the '90s, I mean was there a point when you guys were both single and you were starting to date Stephanie --

Brant: He's been to my house. I've never been to his house.

Miller: He's been to your house.

Brant: He's been to my house in Connecticut. I think he's been to my loft in New York. But I have never been to his apartment at the Trump Tower. I have another very good friend who lives there, so I've seen him there, bumped into him there, but I've never been to --

Miller: What happens when you guys bump into each other?

Brant: Very friendly.

Miller: Like hug or handshake or --?

Brant: You know, "Melania, my oldest friend. He knows me longer than anybody in this room." So he's at the Vanity Fair party, he knows me longer than anybody in this room, which is probably true. But it's, again, I only have like very fond memories of him as a kid. A lot of people complain about their childhood because they say this happened to them or that happened to them or they had a bad father or they had a bad mother. I have no complaint. My father and mother, they were

the greatest. Great friends, I am fortunate to go to schools that I tried to make the best of and if I didn't make the best of it, I was the one that suffered not the school. I got no complaints. I wouldn't rewrite my life. Sometimes you think, oh, I would have liked to have done this, or I would have liked to have done that, but then you couldn't have done what you did do.

Miller: Uh-huh. So I mean when you guys bump into each other, does he give you a hug? Do you have a handshake or --?

Brant: Well, that's an interesting thing. I had bumped into him a lot of times where I shake his hand. But I think he has a germophobic kind of thing.

Miller: Really?

Brant: Have you ever heard that?

Miller: I haven't. No.

Brant: I think he does.

Miller: So he doesn't hug or --

Brant: I think maybe now he does because he's running for president, but I think that he was always very cautious about shaking people's hands and such.

Miller: But he would shake your hand.

Brant: Yes.

Miller: Yeah. But he doesn't do it readily.

Brant: No. I don't think so. And again, my association with him now is not like he's in my 10 best friends, in terms of like when you say hang out, the last time I hung out with him was probably when Stephanie judged the Miss Universe.

Miller: And when do you think roughly that was?

Brant: Well, we were there for three days so that was probably, that was probably 10, 12 years ago. And I hadn't been to Mar-a-Lago in six, seven years. I think the last time I was there, James Brown was performing. I've only been to Mar-a-Lago probably three times.

Miller: I mean it's just right down the road, right?

Brant: Yeah.

Miller: I was thinking I'll drive past it on the way.

Brant: Yes.

Miller: Just to see what it's like.

Brant: Yeah, not my kind of thing, but --

Miller: It's funny to think that you guys grew up a couple of blocks away or a mile away from each other. Now, you're more or less in the same distance, maybe.

Brant: That's what it is. Your life goes in different ways. It's interesting. It's like I mean our lives really went in completely different directions in terms of he was always like more into kind of Atlantic City scene, the real estate scene in New York. Even the real estate, because I'm involved

in real estate in New York as well, I'm a large owner of a building very near to him. I'm sure a lot of it is my fault. I mean, really, I tried to live a pretty reserved life in focusing on the things I'm really interested in and --

Miller: Did you get a sense when you guys hung out in the '90s, for example, would he want to go out and have a wild, crazy time or a big --

Brant: No.

Miller: -- high profile time and you were reticent to do that or --?

Brant: Yeah. I think he's more into having a big exposure. If I went and played polo, I'm there because I'm playing. I'm not there because there are a whole bunch of people there and it's a champagne afternoon. I wouldn't be there. I would be watching a movie or something like that.

Miller: Okay. And when you guys hung out in the '90s socially, I mean would he like tip off the paparazzi to come take photos and things or --?

Brant: That's a routine that there are some people I know that do. There's no way that the place has not invited him, there's no way the paparazzi could get there because it was in a horse farm in Connecticut, so difficult to happen. No, he invited me like a number of times to go to his box at the U.S.

Open five, six years ago and sit with him. We have mutual friends.

Miller: Did you go?

Brant: Yeah, I did. I went to the U.S. Open because I'm a big tennis fan and I know a lot of the players really well. John McEnroe is a good friend of mine and Ivan Lendl and Wojciech Fibak were old friends and so I went with Fibak, who was a great player from Poland in the '70s and '80s. He coached Lendl and Becker and two years ago he was the coach of Djokovic in the U.S. Open. So I went with him. We sat in his box way up in the top there at the U.S. Open and we chatted a little bit. Melania was there and --

Miller: What's he like at something like that? I mean is it possible to talk to him like an old buddy, or is it like he's the king holding court and it's a different --

Brant: Yeah. I think a lot of times he's the king holding court, but if you want to have discussions with him, you can do it. He's very nice. He's very nice. It's, you know, he's there to be seen. It's like it's a disorder. It's basically a disorder. I mean, when you really get down to it, that's what it is, somebody that really needs the attention and the recognition. It's somebody that is out there and it doesn't matter whether it's a crisis or what it is. It's to be there. It's kind of to be loved. I think this running for president

for him is like -- I mean this is not the first time he's running for president, right?

Miller: He flirted with the idea before, but he didn't actually go through with it.

Brant: But he threw his hat in the ring. It just didn't catch.

Miller: I guess you could say that. Yeah.

Brant: I mean twice he did, and then when it came to the point in time that you have to put some real dough in the game, he didn't do it. But now, he sees that it's really in there. It was always like good for his brand, which I don't get that, but --

Miller: I guess to me, it's fascinating to hear you say that because your wife was very much in the public eye, a supermodel. I don't know, she has maybe retreated from that, as you said.

Brant: A little bit, yeah.

Miller: You know, but then Trump has kind of moved in a different direction. You knew him as a kid, just as a regular kid. Even if he was wealthy, he didn't really act like it, it seems. And then now to crave that love and attention, as you put it, I mean --

Brant: Well, I think in the case of my wife, my wife is really beautiful and was a really successful model for 25 years.

She never liked it. It was very grueling on her mentally and physically - mentally - and always was never was a workhorse. She just got it because of her ability and always disliked it. Donald loves the fame. You couldn't keep him out of there with a caterpillar tractor. When you do that, you know, you live by the sword and you die by the sword. You have to be of a certain type of person to want that. And I think it's brought him very, very, very far in life, which for something that basically you would say is a disorder.

If it was another friend of yours, you would just basically say what's going on with this guy? This is not like a normal thing, but for him, it is. And it's what he likes and, but then when you start talking about leadership and you start talking about serious positions that affect everybody in the entire world, then you have to take another step. And maybe if you're advising somebody who will ultimately make the decision, what he's going to do or what he's not going to do, there's a lot that you say that has strength and power and is meaningful. But to just have that advice, I think, is something that could do the greatest job in the world or do the worse job in the world. Nothing is sure. And that's where you really stand. So it comes to Harry Truman was a haberdasher. He went bankrupt, okay. But he was a wise man. He really was a wise mid-Western

guy. And that played very well for the country at that time -- at that time.

Miller: I'm curious. I mean are there any stories that you've never told about Trump?

Brant: No. No. Because I live in New York, people know that I -- actually, very few people know that I knew him so well. They're shocked. Whenever somebody finds out that we were best friends, they don't believe it. But no, we had a very normal childhood and I just don't see --

Miller: I don't mean they have to be negative or wild or anything. I just --

Brant: No, I think positive; I would just have taken them for granted. There were a lot of positive things for sure. We would get out of school early sometimes. There was like a soda shop in the corner. We'd try to get out a little bit early and go there and have an egg cream or a chocolate soda or -- yeah.

Miller: He was a bit like husky, right? I mean, did kids tease him about that?

Brant: He's huskier now.

Miller: But did kids tease him about that? I mean that he was a little huskier back then. I mean --

Brant: No. He was very much an athlete. Now, he's huskier because he's not fit. He's probably overweight. Last time I saw him person, which was probably I saw him on the

street probably a year ago. He was on 57th street. I thought he was extremely heavy.

Miller: But back then, at Kew-Forest --

Brant: No, he wasn't heavy.

Miller: -- kids didn't tease him for it or anything?

Brant: No. They used to tease him because he used to have a flat top.

Miller: Uh-huh. Like a buzz cut?

Brant: Yes. It wasn't really a buzz cut. It was like a buzz cut that was shaped like an aircraft carrier, like that.

Miller: Did they have a name for him or what did they say?

Brant: They used to call him Flat Top sometimes. But everybody always called him Donald.

Miller: Donald or Donny or --?

Brant: No, Donald.

Miller: Donald. I guess it's the --

Brant: In New York, they call him The Donald.

Miller: Yeah. The Donald, yeah. I mean now, he's got that big coif of hair high up.

Brant: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Miller: But back then, it was --

Brant: Yeah, I don't know what that's about. My wife tells me that she thinks he had plugs or something put in. Like

the big thing is he says is this my real hair or is this not my real hair? He answers it's his real hair, but it's a plug.

Miller: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

Brant: Yeah. And he was always a little on the goofy side, but in a nice way.

Miller: I guess I'm just curious, but I don't really have any more questions, but are there any kind of letters or photos or anything that you'd let us, *The Post*, look at or --?

Brant: Have you seen *The Blotter* and stuff?

Miller: The what?

Brant: Have you seen *The Blotter* of the school?

Miller: *The Blotter*?

Brant: Kew-Forest.

Miller: Like a yearbook or --?

Brant: Yeah.

Miller: I've seen maybe just one photo of him. Maybe I --

Brant: I'll send you *The Blotter*, the school *Blotter* of the year, probably the last year he was there.

Miller: I think I've seen the seventh grade. That's the one I've seen. That was the last year I think he was there.

Brant: What color is it?

Miller: Oh, I don't know.

Brant: Yeah, yeah.

Miller: I've just seen a class photo.

Brant: Yes.

Miller: I think that's all I've seen. But I'll see. If there are any other photos, like if you found that one you mentioned in the pool --

Brant: Yes.

Miller: -- that would be wonderful to take a look at, or to use in a story.

Brant: Right.

Miller: And I don't know. What other types of letters has he written to you over the years? I mean I guess I'm surprised he even wrote a letter, because nowadays it's kind of email right? But he wrote a handwritten letter.

Brant: Yeah, with the famous signature, yeah.

Miller: In a gold Sharpie or --?

Brant: Yes.

Miller: Really?

Brant: No, black.

Miller: Black Sharpie, a thick, black Sharpie.

Brant: Yes.

Miller: But did he write the whole letter like that?

Brant: No.

Miller: Oh, okay, just the signature.

Brant: Typed and then signed. Yeah, I've gotten a number of letters from him.

Miller: Do you still have all these letters?

Brant: Yes.

Miller: Here?

Brant: No, I don't have them here. I have them in my office. He normally sends them to my office.

Miller: In New York or in Connecticut?

Brant: In Connecticut.

Miller: Yeah. I'm just curious what else he's written letters to you about.

Brant: Nothing very interesting, just niceties.

Miller: I mean the one about your marriage is just so presumptuous.

Brant: Yeah, but I've never had a bad word with him. I mean, it's not bad.

Miller: Yeah. I'm sure he would thought he was being helpful.

Brant: Yes. He absolutely thought he was being helpful. And you know something? At that time, it made me feel good. But I just didn't think it was something that I should answer, but at that time, I thought --

Miller: Yeah. There's a really interesting story that a guy who played squash with him at Fordham mentioned to me the other day, maybe yesterday.

Brant: Was he a good squash player? I wouldn't think he was good.

Miller: He didn't play. He just learned. It's interesting. He went to New York Military Academy. He was a baseball star. According to his coach, he might have even been recruited by a major league baseball team, but then, he went to Fordham. I mean he played squash, but he kind of picked it up. He's a good athlete, like you said. He could manage. He ended up playing on the varsity team and everything, but --

Brant: He did varsity squash?

Miller: He did for at least one year, maybe two. But I think that's all. I don't think he played any other sports.

Brant: Yeah. Because I was in the A-League in New York in squash and I never ever came across him there.

Miller: I guess you would have been in Colorado at that time though, right?

Brant: No, but I didn't take up squash until --

Miller: Oh, until later.

Brant: I didn't take up squash until I was 23 or 24.

Miller: So my impression is that he took up squash - I'm not exactly sure why - maybe because he's a competitive guy?

Brant: Yes.

Miller: Maybe just as a distraction to let off some steam.

Brant: Yeah. Where did he play?

Miller: He played for Fordham.

Brant: Oh, yeah. But I mean did he play once he got into the business world, did he play at all?

Miller: I've never heard of it.

Brant: Yeah.

Miller: I think he shifted to golf, probably.

Brant: Yes.

Miller: But I think it's interesting. He just picked it up. He seemed like he did pretty well. He got better at it and then he just kind of dropped it.

Brant: Yes.

Miller: But this guy on his team, he told me a story about how Fordham's team wasn't great. They went down to I guess Annapolis to play against - what would that be - the Marine College or whatever. And they got totally steamed. Every single player --

Brant: Navy.

Miller: Navy.

Brant: Yeah.

Miller: Every single player at Fordham lost. And so they were coming back - it was Donald, this guy and a couple of other people - in a car, and --

Brant: We don't win anymore.

Miller: Exactly. And so they're driving back and they're all kind of in a bad mood, and then Donald looks out the window and he sees a Montgomery Ward store and he says pull over here. He goes inside this department store and he comes back out and he's got like a hundred golf balls and two golf clubs. And so they just pull off to the side of the road and they just let off steam by hitting golf clubs out into the water for like an hour. And then they're all done, they leave the golf clubs on the side of the road and then they drive off.

Brant: I never heard that story.

Miller: I mean to me, I think it's a great story because -

-

Brant: Yeah.

Miller: -- people look at it in one way, which is like oh, like Donald Trump. He's rich. He bought these clubs, he left them there. But on the other hand, maybe like the letter he sent to you, you could look at it in a negative light, but then everybody on the team felt better after hitting all these golf balls. They're like, you can see --

Brant: Yeah. I didn't think badly of the letter at all. I just thought it was a little presumptuous. He jumps to conclusions sometimes a little too quickly. I think that he is definitely a good cheerleader and he is definitely a person who

can light the fire in people, which is a very, very good quality to have.

Miller: One more question. Another schoolmate at Kew-Forest told me that Donald was in a play. That they put on a play. Do you remember this, something about like the *HMS Pinafore*?

Brant: Yes.

Miller: You do remember that?

Brant: Very well.

Miller: Oh, okay.

Brant: I am the very model of the modern major general, yes.

Miller: Were you in the play?

Brant: Yes.

Miller: What did you do? Would you have a singing part or something? I guess it was a musical?

Brant: We all had singing parts, okay, and it was the *HMS Pinafore*. We were pretty accomplished by the time the play went on and we took it very seriously. And I had just remembered, the guy that played the captain was a very, very short guy and he had the admiral's cap.

Miller: I think Paul [indiscernible] said he was the one. He might have been that. He was one of the main singing captains.

Brant: Okay. So the captain was the one that would sing -
- the general, who is the one who sang, you know the *Modern
Major General*, which was a very difficult song to sing because
it had many verses and very quick. So yeah, I remember it very
well. Yup, the *Pinafore*.

Miller: Do you remember which part you had?

Brant: Yeah. I was same part as Donald - chorus.

Miller: Yeah. You said many of the guys couldn't sing --

Brant: Yeah, yeah.

Miller: -- ended up in that, yeah.

Brant: We were both, yeah. But I was in plays also in
camp and so that was something I was pretty used to. I was in
Oklahoma and *Finian's Rainbow* and yeah. So --

Miller: But you couldn't sing?

Brant: I could sing, but I think I opted out for the
chorus probably at that time because it was less work.

Miller: Yeah. And you could be with your buddy, Donald,
so --

Brant: Yeah. No, I had more time to play sports and stuff
like that. I think the other people had to go more. But I do
remember it. How did he speak about it?

Miller: Yeah, he kind of described it the same way, kind
of like a big production and I guess he ended up doing some
Broadway stuff or something, so I mean it seemed like it was

pretty serious. And that music teacher that Donald may or may not have punched, I guess was orchestrating it, this guy Charles Walker and --

Brant: Oh, really?

Miller: I was just curious.

Brant: Yeah, I didn't remember in that regard, but I had read recently that he backed a Broadway show when he was very young, when he was like 20 --

Miller: Trump did.

Brant: Trump did, when he was like 24 or 25.

Miller: He put out the money for it, co-produced it.

Brant: He put up the money.

Miller: Well, that's another thing. He writes in his autobiography about --

Brant: And he lost it all.

Miller: He writes about it in his autobiography about loving showmanship and theater and like wanting to go to USC to do movie stuff. He kind of left that to the side and he ended up going --

Brant: I've never heard of him in the movie business.

Miller: Obviously, he went to Fordham and Wharton, did business, kind of followed in his father's footsteps and --

Brant: Yes.

Miller: You might say that like now, he's become more of a showman now as he's gotten older.

Brant: Yeah. It's interesting. Like with me, I went into the paper business, which I felt was my father's business and we transformed it into a completely different kind of business because he didn't make paper. You now, we make paper. He just made like paper supplies for schools and things, and then we turned into selling newsprint to the newspapers. But then, I evolved into the art world somehow or the other, doing films and publishing magazines and doing things like that, it just basically, it's where things take you.

But my interest, I developed an interest in the art world when I knew Donald. I picked it up when I was like 10, 11. But the reason I picked it up because it was the only thing I could really share with my dad because he hated sports. He couldn't understand how I would be playing sports instead of going to school and really spending more time in the classroom.

Miller: What was Donald's relationship with his father like? I mean like, could he talk to his dad about sports? Was Fred all about the --

Brant: I think more so than mine because Fred was from the United States. My father was not. He was from Europe and you know --

Miller: He was from where?

Brant: My father was born in Romania and my father went to school in Germany. He went to school in Germany in the 1920s, because my dad was born in 1905. So he lived in Germany and then Portugal and Romania and Bulgaria. He spoke 13 languages and he was interested in art. So what I did with my dad was, besides teaching me how to grow up, we collected coins together and stamps together. I went with him when he was interested in buying paintings. He had done well in Europe. When he had made his first money in the United States, the way he expressed his sign of wealth was to buy art.

Miller: Yet Donald, when he came to your house, he could talk to your dad and interact with him? I mean --

Brant: Yeah.

Miller: Did he make an effort to talk about painting?

Brant: Yes.

Miller: And --

Brant: Yeah, because at that time, you went to your father's house, you went to your friend's house and you wanted your friend's father to like you because this is your friend and you were received in his house. That was the way I grew up. Now we're like sometimes, my sons will bring girls in or vice versa and they just walk up the stairs. So --

Miller: Was it different, being at the Trump household? Like in your house, did you have servants serving dinner and things like that, and did the Trumps?

Brant: The Trumps, they had a nanny/cook who was very good. I told you she'd make great hamburgers.

Miller: She would set out the meals and things?

Brant: Yes. And then my house, we always had a housekeeper and my mom didn't work, except as a housewife, and so my mom cooked and was a very, very good cook and kind of taught me how to cook. I had a nanny who was also the housekeeper, who slept in my room. Donald must have known her really well because she was at my house and I think like if he slept at our house or something, she would sleep on the couch or something like that. But she was from --

Miller: Donald would sleep in the room with you in the other bed?

Brant: Yes. So she was from St. Thomas and --

Miller: White, black?

Brant: She was black. Her name was Louise Proctor and she was tough. I mean if I didn't behave or something, she'd wail on me. I mean it was like, really, when it was light's out, it was lights out. And I lived at a small house in Queens. Nice house, but not too far from the West Side Tennis Club, where the U.S. Open used to be played.

Miller: You mentioned you guys, you and Donald, would both take the subway to school.

Brant: Yeah.

Miller: I remember a really --

Brant: A different direction, but yeah.

Miller: I remember reading that he would get let off by a limo. Maybe that was when he was younger?

Brant: When he was young.

Miller: Okay, and then when you guys got to be like, what, 10?

Brant: When I was younger, my father dropped me off.

Miller: In what kind of car?

Brant: He would drop me off in a car that he had, which he always drove. He always drove a Cadillac. Always, from the time I was born.

Miller: And I had also read that -- I guess, did you and Donald both have paper routes?

Brant: I had a paper route. I don't know about Donald's paper route.

Miller: It was just an interesting thing in that book by Gwenda Blair. It said that you guys both had paper routes, and then when it rained, that was the only time that Fred Trump would kind of help Donald out by helping him, putting him in the limo and they would deliver newspapers out of the limo.

Brant: Yeah,

Miller: Which is like an interesting thought.

Brant: Yeah, I remember the paper route and I remember the bottles, the White Rock soda bottles, the big ones that we'd bring in and go around the neighborhood and collect them if they were throwing them out. So it was sort of like a little seven or eight-year old kid's business.

Miller: And did you ever play stickball, wasn't stickball big back then?

Brant: Basketball.

Miller: You and Donald would play together or --?

Brant: We would play punchball together.

Miller: What's that?

Brant: Punchball is where you don't hit it with a stick. You hit it with your hand and you [indiscernible] the little pink ball and --

Miller: Like a rubber ball?

Brant: Yeah. And you like punch it instead of hitting it with a stick, but then I would play stickball at PS1 in Forest Hills and play there all the time. Donald might have played with me there, but I played there all the time.

Miller: Even though you didn't go there.

Brant: Even though I didn't go there, we played in the schoolyard. We'd pick-up games. You'd draw the square in the wall and that would be the strike zone, and -- yeah.

Miller: Punchball. Was he any good at punchball?

Brant: Yeah. He was good at most anything, any sport that he did. Also, he and I played a lot of dodgeball.

Miller: Where would you play that?

Brant: Back at Kew-Forest.

Miller: And punchball, the same?

Brant: No.

Miller: Punchball in the street or something.

Brant: The street. Dodgeball was in Kew-Forest. We'd play. There would be like a boiler room kind of place with two columns and on the columns, the one team is on the one side. The other's on the other. You'd throw it against the wall and if it comes back, you'd get to keep on throwing it until you hit the guy. If you hit the guy, they'd sit down and the last person left wins.

Miller: And you guys were the champs or --?

Brant: He was good. Well, it's the kind of game where you can't always be champ, but we got our victories. I remember he used to have this move where he would do like a jumping jack up in the air, so he wouldn't move just this way or this way. He'd

just pull his legs up like that so probably the ball would go through.

Miller: That sounds pretty nimble.

Brant: Yeah. He was good. We were really good athletes.

Miller: Even in the flapjack shoes?

Brant: No, I think we had to put sneakers on.

Miller: Tennis shoes on.

Brant: I think we had to put those.

Miller: And punchball, you guys would play on like midland parkway or where would you play that?

Brant: I used to play on 70th avenue because it's the kind of thing that you can play on the street.

Miller: Uh-huh. And he'd play with you there sometimes or --?

Brant: He was visiting, yeah, if he was visiting.

Miller: Again, I really appreciate all your time.

Brant: My pleasure.

Miller: Anybody else you think I should try to talk to? Like you mentioned like Irik Sevin or Johnny Reese [phonetic] or your sister, I mean do you think any of them would talk to me?

Brant: My sister didn't really know that much other than my parents liked him. She knew that we were very close buddies. I'm trying to think of who would be a really -- have you talked to his family?

Miller: I'm going to, yeah. So we're doing kind of a series of articles and I think the idea is to put them together into some type of book ahead of the election assuming he's the candidate.

Brant: Right. If he's going to be the candidate?

Miller: I said assuming he's going to be the candidate.

Brant: What do you think?

Miller: Well, I don't know. I'm not an expert on that. But, I don't know. It looks it's going to be a battle. I mean when is New York? Is that this --?

Brant: Yeah, but who are they battling him with? It's like --

Miller: Yeah.

Brant: -- that's the problem. I think it's going to be in these kinds of things, the best way to find out is not to ask the newspapers or to ask the guys on television. The best way to do it is to go look up the lines in Las Vegas because they really know.

Miller: They do their research.

Brant: They really do their research.

Miller: Well, a lot of the political pundits and the newspaper writers, they thought that Donald would have dropped out as a joke six months ago, so --

Brant: Right.

Miller: I mean who's to say that he won't get the nomination and who's to say he can't win? I don't know.

Brant: The odds now in the betting line now, Hillary is, you bet 11 to win 10. So obviously, they must have some research on this, whether she's going to be indicted or not, right? That seems like very short odds for somebody that's got a good chance of getting indicted for the email problem. And Donald is a little bit under 3:1 and --

Miller: Not terrible.

Brant: -- Cruz is 6:1 and I think Bernie is 9:1.

Miller: Yeah.

Brant: So if you listen to these newscasters, Bernie should be 5:2, not 9:1.

Miller: Right. Yeah, I think that's how he's won seven of the last eight Democratic contests, but he is given very little chance of winning,

Brant: Their caucuses and he thinks he's going to get the super delegates. I don't know about that. I mean it's a very good chance that it will be Donald against -- I think Donald's going to win New York. But then I think once against Hillary --

Miller: Have you ever heard him talk about her?

Brant: I mean she was at his wedding because I know my cousin was at the wedding.

Miller: I know that, yeah. He says he paid her to come, I guess.

Brant: Look, it's like Hillary Clinton has spent her life in public service. Her husband is one of the best presidents the United States ever had in terms of the economy. I think the Lewinski scandal for sure hurt him a tremendous amount. But still, as a competent leader, he accomplished a lot of things in this world. And I don't think Obama is as bad as all that. I mean I think that in a lot of ways, he got us out of some big problems that we were in. So you have a group of people that are very competent.

Miller: When you would see Trump over the last 10, 15 years, I mean did he ever talk politics? Did he ever say what he thought about Clinton or Obama or hint that he might run for president?

Brant: No.

Miller: Never he talk about that with you.

Brant: No. No, never.

Miller: I mean he never said, hey, Pete --

Brant: No.

Miller: -- what do you think of --

Brant: The first time he ran and the second time he ran, I said what the hell are you doing? I mean it's --

Miller: You asked him that.

Brant: Yeah.

Miller: And what did he say?

Brant: Well, I think the same thing. He thinks the country needs leadership and that he thinks that anyhow, it doesn't hurt him. It gets his name out there, his views out there, and so on and so forth. Very probable reasons and I think that in many ways, the fact that Bernie Sanders is out there with the garbage that he's out there with is a very good thing because it really brings the Democratic Party into a more definable place. And the same thing with these kind of sort of hate concept that you get from the Trump side, it brings the Republican Party to -- I mean this old line Republican Party just doesn't work.

The party, the Tea Party and the party that tried to impeach Bill Clinton, it just doesn't work. It just doesn't work. It's not crossing the aisle in any way. And it's getting to the point that it is destructive and that what happens when you have government that basically doesn't work, like our government, that's when you get these kind of radical sort of people that talk about revolution and talk about things like that that make the mark. That's because the people get tired of getting BS all the time.

Miller: Is it weird? I would think it must be weird to see somebody who's your childhood friend and now people call him

- and people call Donald like a Nazi, a fascist - I mean there's really strong words that are used nowadays. Is that baffling to you? I mean --

Brant: No because I mean, it's baffling for me because anything can happen in this country. I mean somebody can come up and try to shoot him too. They tried to do that with Reagan and they did it with Kennedy and they tried to do it with Bobby Kennedy and it's basically part -- I mean this country is not that old. And basically, you've got a situation in this country where it's not so obvious to read things.

For instance, I have an opinion that I don't think Americans want a woman as president because if they did, Hillary Clinton would be a landslide ahead, because she's more qualified than anybody I've seen run for president. She's not, struggles everywhere. And why is that? Okay, you could say she's dishonest. I mean people are making things up based on any kind of straw that they can find to slap something on her. I mean this person's given her life to the country. She was under the worst scandal in the world with her husband and she took it like a soldier, you know? She has been for public service. She has helped minority groups. She was a great senator from the state of New York. She was probably the best Secretary of State since Dean Acheson.

I don't know her. I don't owe her anything, or she doesn't owe me anything. But on her credentials, from what I know of credentials, she's good. But I don't think Americans want to see a woman. I think a lot of Americans say things that they believe but they really don't believe. They don't really believe in that kind of equality. And I don't think Hillary's as popular as -- and that's why I think she's not getting it. But the fact is that now, she's running against one guy that's basically spent most of his time holding the government up - Cruz - and Donald, who is not exactly the happiest [sounds like] guy.

But if you said to me, this guy turned out to be a really good president, Donald Trump, that he really turned up crossing the line and breaking -- would you say, Peter, would you believe that? I would say yes. I would believe it that he could do that, because I believe in him, but I don't think he has the credentials.

Miller: So did you think, I mean would you have a way of reaching out to somebody - Irik Sevin, Johnny Reese and other childhood friends? Are you still in touch with those guys?

Brant: Yeah. I know Irik very well. I don't know Johnny Reese. I'm surprised even I remembered his name.

Miller: If you could put me in touch with him, I'd love to hear what he remembers about Donald. Obviously, it's not a fraction probably of what you remember. It's just --

Brant: I'm going to tell my secretary to give you his telephone number.

Miller: Great.

Brant: Let me see if I have his telephone number. I might have it. When I see Irik, he tells me about Donald, in terms of that he knew him. But as a kid, I don't remember him kind of --

Miller: Are you in touch at all with Bob, with Robert Trump?

Brant: No.

Miller: No.

Brant: I mean I've seen him and talked to him and his wife, his ex-wife, Blaine. Wait a minute. Irik Sevin, nope, I don't have his number but my secretary must.

Miller: Are you in touch with Mark Golding [phonetic] or Belinda Freed [phonetic]?

Brant: No.

Miller: Those names pop to mind.

Brant: Yeah.

Miller: That's a good memory, though.

Brant: Yeah. So you must have gotten it from *The Blotter*. You must have gotten the different --

Miller: Yeah. Somebody showed me the 7th grade class and I just tried to reach as many people as I could.

Brant: Okay. Now, I just have to find out who sent me this email about Irik Sevin. Somebody sent me something about Irik Sevin. So I guess this is Irik Sevin. This is a guy that works for a company I have called Code and Theory, which is a advertising company and he said to me that you met him. He said you wanted to -- he said, yeah. So I'll get his number from him and get it to you.

Miller: Great.

Brant: I mean just say you would call. That's my daughter and Stephanie.

Miller: That's a pretty cool photo, from a polo field?

Brant: Yeah.

Miller: What are these pieces of art here?

Brant: I'll take you around in a second.

Miller: Sure.

Brant: Okay. Yeah, this is an artist called Nate Bauman. He's a neighbor of mine, one of the better young painters, about 37, 38. And that's a Marilyn Monroe, tribute to de Kooning's Marilyn Monroe that he did in 1960. He did a portrait of Marilyn Monroe the same time that Andy Warhol did. So that's -- and he did that as well. This is by an artist called Josh Smith

who's an abstract painter, kind of 40, 41. Both of these artists are in New York. That's Prince William and Prince --

Miller: Harry?

Brant: -- Harry. And as a matter of fact, Prince Harry played up in Connecticut three years ago, and this was in my house up in Connecticut. And somebody said to me, did you show him the Elizabeth Peyton, a famous American painter, a woman did this painting. They said did you show it to him? I said, no because he was playing polo and he was showering in the house. I would have thought that if I showed it to him, he thought I was some kind of creep or something. It's a very famous painting of hers.

And this was done by Dan Colon, another famous young artist. This is Mike Kelly, the artist that died who was from California, taught at the Art Center. This is Andy Warhol with *Guns*.

Miller: Yeah, I know you're a big Warhol collector.

Brant: Yeah, yeah, yeah. He was a very close friend of mine and he had some interesting stories about Trump.

Miller: Really?

Brant: Yeah.

Miller: Any that you can pass along?

Brant: I think, he was doing the portrait. This is Andy, too, an early drawing of his with stamps. These are *Drag Queens*

by Andy Warhol - drawings. He was supposed to do a commission of Trump Tower. He wanted Andy to do a commission of Trump Tower - a painting of Trump Tower. Later when I went through the estate to look at a lot of the works in the estate, I saw studies that he did for them, but somehow or other, Donald didn't like them or they couldn't agree on the price or something, so he wound up keeping them. There might have been a couple of portraits that he did of Donald, but he didn't take them.

Miller: He didn't buy them.

Brant: No, he didn't buy them.

Miller: That's interesting. I'm curious to know what a Donald Trump portrait by Andy Warhol would look like.

Brant: Yeah. If you go to Mar-a-Lago, you will see that there's a portrait of him by some sort of society painter who's --

Miller: Uh-huh. I think I've seen photos of that.

Brant: -- with the sun coming out of the clouds, it's ridiculous. That's by Julian Schnabel of my wife. That was a wedding present from them. This is Elizabeth Peyton again, and this is Ludwig of Austria and Germany. That's Stephanie by Patrick Demarchelier. And yeah, this is [indiscernible]. Most of the artists in New York and Connecticut and we have this foundation in Greenwich.

Miller: You've got some classic *Interview* --

Brant: Yeah, those are classic *Interviews* in the '70s.

Miller: Very cool.

Brant: My daughter is running it now.

Miller: Really?

Brant: Yeah. It's a great magazine.

Miller: Well, thank you again so much.

Brant: My pleasure.

Miller: It's really, really kind of you to --

Brant: My pleasure.

Miller: -- to have me for lunch and to talk to me so much
so --

Brant: I really don't have anything bad to say. It's
just, I think he's a very memorable guy. I hope he doesn't burn
out here. I hope he gets the -- but I think he loves what he's
doing and that's a good thing. It just seems interesting. It's
going to be a really interesting election.

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