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Van Faasen, Paul Oral History Interview: Retired Faculty and Administrators of Hope College

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ML: Where were you born and where did you grow up and things like that?

PV: I was born in Holland and brought up in Holland, so I’m a Holland native.

ML: Where did you attend high school then?

PV: Holland Christian.

ML: And then you went to...

PV: Hope College.

ML: When did you go to Hope?

PV: I graduated in 1956, so 1952 to 1956.

ML: What was it like when you went there?

PV: It was small- under a thousand people, and so we knew a large number of the people on campus. I think it was a... you’re gonna come upon some of my biases now- you’ve pushed the button right away. It was, if you will, a kinder, gentler campus. We had a variety of Arab students, some Iranians- some other students who were fully accepted on campus. We had chapel regularly, but it was a more traditional 1950’s type of thing that you might anticipate for a college. We still had the religion requirements. But I think that it was a far more tolerant group of people. We had a couple of black kids in our fraternity who were fully accepted- we had a couple of Iranian students in my fraternity who were fully accepted as one of the gang. And they were completely accepted on campus, and whether you were some stripe of Protestant, or Muslim, or Roman Catholic, or nothing at all,
you were a valued member of the community, which now is not the case. The situation as of a couple years ago, as far as I’m concerned, was an intolerable situation. It got totally out of hand, and it should have been clamped down early.

ML: I have about thirteen questions now. We’ll just stay on when you went to Hope for now. Did you commute or did you live on campus?

PV: I lived in town so I commuted back and forth, but I spent an awful lot of time in the fraternity house so a lot of people thought I lived on campus.

ML: What fraternity was that?

PV: I was a Knickerbocker. They’ve changed too.

ML: What were classes like- class size?

PV: A big intro class in, say, biology would have been sixty-four in lecture, and then two labs of thirty-two students each. And it went down from there- I don’t think there was anything bigger than sixty-four.

ML: Did Hope emphasize the sciences even back then?

PV: Yeah, whether emphasize is the right word- the sciences were very strong. I think Hope grew up being a pre-med., pre-sem. school, and the Education Department was strong and produced a lot of good teachers. And it expanded from there.

ML: When you said that the international students were more accepted then, were there more of them?

PV: I believe so. There were fewer Asian students- there were more European and Arab students, African students.

ML: What did you do after college?
PV: I worked for a year as a chemist at Park Davis, and then I got drafted and spent two years in the Army. After being discharged from the Army, I went to graduate school- got a Master’s at Michigan State. Taught for one year at Lake Forest College in Illinois- taught at Hope for three years, and then went back and did the Ph.D.- and then I came back to Hope.

ML: You are a botany professor correct? Is that what your Ph.D. is in?

PV: Yes. Particular kind of botany is systematics, which is nomenclature and evolutionary relationships.

ML: Explain to me the process you went through when you were hired. They go through this whole thing now- this big process.

PV: It was interesting. It was in part like that. I came in on the train from Lake Forest, and I met in the department for awhile. And then they took me over to the president’s office. And the president, this was Lubbers- he was in his last year at that point, and he said, ‘oh, you’re a Hope grad- we know all about you. Let’s talk about some other stuff’. And so we talked about some other stuff for awhile, and they made me an offer.

ML: The President made you the offer?

PV: I don’t know if the offer came from the President or the Provost or Dean, or whomever was there, but yes.

ML: Was faith an issue when you were hired?

PV: I presume that because he said he knew all about me, it wasn’t an issue like it is today. There was far less emphasis on one’s participation. It was a more diverse group.
ML: What was it like between the professor's back then? Were there friendships?

PV: Oh yes. One of the things that we used to do, because the faculty was much smaller, is we regularly had dinners at which point we could all sit around and talk. Now it's basically an impossible situation to get the faculty together to talk.

ML: At Hope, between the academic departments, how much interrelation is there?

PV: Is there or was there?

ML: We'll start with was there.

PV: Was there. In what is now Lubbers, the chemists and the physicists were there, and so we talked together. And if you are going to be a pre-med. or a grad school biologist, you have to take a lot of chemistry and some physics. And so, the bunch of students there had a bunch of Profs. that were in those departments. And then we had to take some math, and I think the requirements were probably around the same- but not so rigid as they are now. So yes, there was interaction amongst the departments, but I don't think... well and also, the theater was on the fourth floor above us.

ML: In Lubbers? Really?

PV: Yes, in Lubbers. And so we knew the theater people. And the theater students would bop in every once in awhile.

ML: When was the Science Building built?

PV: We were wondering about that the other day. When we went on sabbatical, they moved and our youngest son was four at the time. And he turned thirty- so it's twenty-six years old.

ML: What other physical changes were there at Hope that made a big difference?
PV: For one thing, we had grown and just needed more space. Second thing is that the same kind of thing that is happening right now- is that instrumentation is becoming much bigger part of what it is you do. And so the power demands- we would regularly have power-outs. Everybody knew where the fuses were so that when something went, you could run down the hall and turn the third floor back on. And, we have the same kind of thing right now. I don’t think we have power outs, but we push the power to the max. Also, there was not a whole lot of research being done in biology at that point, and now there is, and animals are an important part of some of that research. And the air-handling system in Peale is just pitiful, and it’s enormously uncomfortable for students. My lab, 153, was never well ventilated. You could walk from the room into the hallway and it just felt like hitting the wall sometimes- it was fifteen or twenty degrees difference in the room and the hallway. So that air handling became an issue also because our grants are dependent upon research, and research needs animals and if you don’t have a healthy building, you don’t have healthy animals and then you don’t get your grants.

ML: I never thought about that.

PV: Yeah, so that the inability to control temperature and humidity in the animal room is a really serious problem for us.

ML: It sounded like it still was until you retired.

PV: Yes, Chris Barney got a grant now where he has some self-contained cages that he could put in a really nasty space, I guess, and they deal with air-handling and
fresh air and humidity and all that kind of stuff so that the animals are in better
condition.

ML: Along the same lines, how has technology changed the way…

PV: Oh Lord. I was a chemistry major and an almost bio major. I used to tell my
students that when I was sitting in their seat, the DNA structure was not in the
textbook. Our Prof., he was up on reading papers, and he told us about structure
of DNA but it was not in the textbook. Let alone, now the ability to take DNA
and plug it into a machine and have a sequence. So, kinds of things that are used
in intro-bio labs and intro-chemistry labs now weren’t even invented when I was a
student. So technology is several orders of magnitude beyond where we were.

ML: As with information accumulation.

PV: Oh yes, there were no computers at that point.

ML: Has that created more or less work for the professors?

PV: I don’t think it’s made any difference. Those who were really into what it is they
were doing were busy all the time and they still are, and those who are not so
much into it, were not as busy and still are not.

ML: It says in the catalogue that Hope is a liberal arts college in the historic tradition
of the Christian faith- I think I got that right.

PV: Close, or something like that.

ML: What does that mean?

PV: I think it’s a statement to identify the college to the public. When we hired
people, we would read them that statement. So they would know that we were
associated with the RCA and that participation is an important thing in the
interview process. So we were pretty up front about that. I think that the examination of the religious background and participation in the activities is far greater now than it was.

ML: Has that changed with presidents?

PV: They are the ones who primarily control it.

ML: How have the different presidents that have been there changed things on the campus?

PV: Lubbers was a very laid back person, and it was his tradition that was there when I was a student- very open, very accepting laid back tradition. Cal VanderWerf came the same year I came, and Cal was a chemist at Kansas. And Cal was interested in getting research done. And so he was the one who made a basic change in the college.

ML: The change being?

PV: To an interest in active research. And he being a chemist, encouraged that in the sciences. And I think some of the other departments have lagged behind, but many are active with research and writing now. Probably almost all are doing that. The Art Department was very small, but they were productive. Theater was very small, but they did plays. The Music Department was pretty big, and they had the orchestra or Symphonette and the choral groups- so they were participating in being professionally active. And, I think, other departments have caught up. So Cal made a basic change in the outlook of the college. Cal was the one, also, who then felt that- this is gonna sound bad- that if you're hiring a chemist, you want to find the best chemist that you can find, and then you hope
that amongst your final three, there’s a person who’s an active Protestant. Cal was the one who hired Bill Cohen, who’s the only Jew on campus and I love him for it. So Cal was interested in scholarship and promoted scholarship. Not to say Lubbers didn’t, but this was a change that happened at that point. Van Wylen was an engineer, but I think Van Wylen reigned in the looseness in pressing on religious background of faculty. And he was far more concerned about being orthodox than Cal was. And I think Jacobson followed very closely along those lines- maybe even tightened up and became more conservative than Van Wylen was. Van Wylen came from a Christian Reformed background so he got to come into a slightly more liberal group. I think that had an impact on him. I’m not saying it’s all bad, but as a biologist, you understand that homogeneity is bad and diversity is good. In the late Forties, almost a third of the corn crop in the Midwest was destroyed by a fungus because it was all the same variety. And if there had been one more wet year, probably two-thirds of the corn crop in the U.S. would have been destroyed because it was all the same genome. So what they did very quickly was introduce diversity so that if some fungus hit, they’d have other genes in the corn crop so that corn could survive. It’s the same thing, I think, in society. When it gets too homogeneous, everybody thinks the same or doesn’t think differently outwardly because there are some strong leaders and you don’t oppose them. It’s just plain not good for survival to become too homogeneous. So I think we should have more Jews on the faculty. I think we ought to have a Muslim or a Taoist or a Confucianist or some Buddhists. I think the understanding ought to be that this is a liberal arts college in the historic
Christian tradition, but that if you don’t have anybody to argue with you don’t strengthen your own point of view. If you have somebody to argue with, then you begin to examine what it is you’re arguing about. Being subjected to dogma, where somebody says, ‘this is what you think because this is the right thing to think’, without ever wondering why it is you think that, isn’t good for growing up. And this is one of the things I think is really good about teenagers and college students, is they rebel. They rebel against everything their parents told them and most of them come back to at least something probably close because they have examined what it is- and there’s some values that are worth keeping and so you assume those values, and then you do that. And if you just do it because somebody told you to do it, you become weaker. If a whole community does that then you have what happened in Ghana, what happened in Waco, what happened in various other places- sheep following some leader. If you become too homogeneous you lose diversity.

ML: Have students changed over the years?

PV: Yeah, student attitudes always pulse. And the students reflected a pretty laid back attitude in the Fifties when I was a student- but we got stuff done and we had a good record of getting into med. school, grad schools and all those kinds of things. There is a time, I think, that probably became much more intense as competition or spaces in grad schools and med. schools increased. And so those students have become very, very intense to the point where they probably become boring. You shouldn’t spend all day Saturday and Sunday studying so you can pass your MCAT’s or whatever. On the other hand, there’s another group of
students who feel that because they've paid their tuition, they ought to get a
degree. And they’re viewing it as something you buy and not something that your
tuition allows you access to. And to work for a grade is an astonishing concept
for some people. There are some very bright people out there who have never
worked through high school and they don’t understand why they ought to work in
college. And they’re in all disciplines. So yeah, there’s a change. Otherwise, I
think they still question and have the same kinds of social problems that there
used to be- as you get more and more people... I believe also in bell-shape curves.
And that as the number of population increases, the number at the bottom and at
the top of the Bell-shape curve increases. So that you get a few more oddballs-
and oddballs find each other. And the enormously bright people are probably
mostly loners anyway, but they’ll find each other. And so I think that as the
population increases, you increase folks in every kind of category. And so that
their problems may be bigger than they were when I was a student- but they aren’t
any different. Although, I think there’s some difference in that drugs were a
nonentity in the scene in the Fifties. I didn’t know of anybody doing anything- a
friend who, I don’t know where he ultimately started- but he was really the only
one, no one did drugs.

ML: You said you grew up in the Holland community- how has that changed?

PV: We were talking about that recently, as a matter of fact, with some other folks.
When I was young, you used to be able to walk down Eighth Street, and I knew a
lot of people on Eighth Street. Now I know practically none- I think I can go up
and down and maybe not see a single person I’d know. So I think that a couple of
things have happened. One is that Holland has grown enormously since the Fifties and has prospered, and all kinds of people have come into Holland. Holland has become a much bigger tourist area and so there is an influx of non-natives. And there was a closer society, I think, with fewer people and more people knew each other in the Fifties and the Forties when I was growing up than in the Nineties now.

ML: And it’s gotten obviously more diverse. When did that start?

PV: The Bell-shaped curve again. Down the street, down the block from me when I was ten-ish, moved a Hispanic family, and Ynes Gonzalez became a good friend of mine. And they were amongst the early Hispanic families in town. This was always a fruit area so there were always migrant workers, but they were one of the first few to settle out. Once the first few settle out, then more come in- and then with the Southeast Asian situation, a number of Boat People were brought in by churches and so Southeast Asians came in. I think one of the problems has been that the local population doesn’t recognize diversity, so that all those different kinds of Southeast Asians are just Southeast Asians, and there not recognized as Cambodians and Laotians and Thais and Vietnamese and Chinese and Japanese. They’re all really different cultures- as well as Tex-Mex verses Mexicans verses Puerto Ricans. And I think most of the kids that I knew were Tex-Mex when I was growing up. So yeah, that population diversity has increased. When I was on a school board a number of years ago, I was told that there are nineteen different dialects spoken in the public schools in Holland. I expect there are more than nineteen now. And when you then deal with English as a second language, you’re
gonna have to make contact via language with all those folks who deal with all those nineteen dialects, unless those persons have enough English that you don’t have to worry too much about that. But, there are a lot of those kids who come from non-English speaking homes where the parents have very little English. So yes, it has become far more diverse both racially or culturally and- when I was growing up, we used to kid about a church on every corner. And as Holland has grown there’s still a church on every corner, but there’s more diversity than Christian Reformed and Reformed and Roman Catholic and there’s Lutheran and Episcopalian and a couple of Methodists, and there must have been a Baptist Church in town. But now there’s forty different kinds of Baptists and who knows how many different kinds of Calvinist denominations are out there.

ML: I’ve heard other professors that I’ve interviewed say, ‘Oh, when I first came here, Holland was so backwards. They didn’t want to reach out to make friends with anybody, they’re very exclusive- the only questions they’d ask people is what church you go to’. Do you agree with this?

PV: In part, yes. Holland was a little town and I think a typical little town that was settled by some ethnic group. And if you go to the neighborhoods of Chicago, you could hit German neighborhoods and Chinese neighborhoods that are just as exclusive as a little town. And so yeah- it was a little town with a whole lot of Dutch Calvinists. And so you’d expect that kind of thing, I think, to happen. And now the horror is there are stores open on Sunday, you can get liquor by the glass in town- [laughter]- and a whole bunch of things like that. Which some would regard as progress and some would regard as not progress. And getting bigger
and having more people opens up the town some. But there are little enclaves, very tight little enclaves, still here in town. There are a couple of precincts that we wouldn’t really like to see vote- I was on the school board and they always voted no. And we could predict that.

ML: What school board were you on?

PV: I was on Holland School Board for nine years and then I was on the Ottawa Area Intermediate School Board for thirteen years.

ML: Were your children involved in school at that time?

PV: Yes.

ML: Do you think in general Hope professors find their friendships with other Hope professors or within the Holland community or both?

PV: I think both. Holland is still a very difficult town for a single female Prof. There are some prof’s who find their identity in their church and their friendships would be there. There are some Prof.’s who find their identity in their department. So I think it will vary a lot as to where their friends come from. Some people just aren’t very social at all and are into their family.

ML: What led to your decision to retire?

PV: I’m getting old [laughter]- that happens. It’s better than the alternative. It was a series of things. Once you turn sixty, you start thinking about what’s going to happen in the future. And we worked it from a concept to a plan. And then I read the faculty handbook very carefully and found that there was an early retirement incentive. And it depends upon how old you are when you retire. And there was a proportion of your salary which you get depending upon how old you are when
you retire as an incentive to retire early. And it turns out that my birthday is early in June and so I could retire in May and get a much larger piece of salary as an incentive than if I retired two weeks later in June. And then I read, and Jack Neinhuis had to agree, that the language was ambivalent. The faculty handbook said it was my option rather than his option- I could teach halftime for two years after I retired early. So that seemed like a really good deal to me- is that I could teach halftime and still draw close to full salary for two years. And, for even a biologist, the math seemed to look good. So I retired at 62, turned 63 within a month. And then I negotiated teaching full time in the fall semester so that my halftime, rather than spreading across the year, I’d do it all the fall. Which meant I didn’t have any obligations second semester so we went to Arizona for three months. And then I came back and taught full time in the fall again, and then we went to Florida for the winter. And it just seemed like a really good idea. And I was still having fun. And I think that’s the important thing- is that if you’re no longer having fun, you should have retired earlier. And so I was still enjoying it and still working hard. My wife would say to me, ‘why are you spending so much time? You could do that class while you’re standing on your head’. I said, ‘I know it but I’ve gotta go over these notes. I’ve gotta make sure everything is good’. And I still spent a couple of hours preparing for every lecture that I did- even in my last year. So, I was still really into it, but the math and the whole concept seemed to be a really good idea. And so I kind of phased out and it worked very well for us.
ML: How much of your time was taken up by committees and things like that? And also, did I hear you say that you were chairman?

PV: Yes.

ML: And so, responsibilities other than teaching?

PV: It's a Catch 22. Your evaluation is based in part on your service. And so those young people who don't have tenure see that and are eager to be on committees—whereas the old guys say it doesn't really matter because that service component is not really going to be evaluated at ten percent. They're gonna look more at your research and teaching. And so, if you could avoid committees you did. But we never told the young people that.

ML: Because you want them to be on the committees.

PV: [laughing] That's right. Although I served on the Status Committees twice— and that's one of the good committees. There are a lot of committees that don't do a whole lot. And later on, I was on Cultural Affairs Committee because I have an interest in performing arts and some stuff like that. There are other committees. I was on a committee once that never met the whole year.

ML: That's one to be on.

PV: That's one to be on. Chairperson eats you alive. The responsibilities for preparing budgets, for preparing class schedules, for doing faculty evaluations, for being responsible for recruiting new faculty, and all the meetings and all the papers that you have to fill out. We had a big department so your load is determined by the number of faculty in your department. So a big department— I had halftime being chairperson and halftime teaching.
ML: So being chair took up half of your time then?

PV: Oh, it took up more than half of my time. And a lot of it was just gopher stuff which, not being demeaning because my wife was a secretary, but there’s a lot of stuff that secretaries across campus could have done, but it was easier just to say to the chairperson, ‘get us this data’. And so there was a lot of gopher work that was important to the college but not important to the department. So I suppose it’s all right. But I came home one day and my wife asked, ‘what did you do today?’ I said, ‘I got nothing accomplished- I put out little fires all day long’. And it’s those little things in the department that take up a lot of time and a lot of big decisions you can do very quickly. And then in our department, we always talked curriculum- we were never happy. I shouldn’t say that- we were never satisfied with the way it was, we always wondered, ‘could we do something better? Could we do something different?’ Which meant we always had to rethink all of our classes. And so, my last stint as chairman- I was chairman twice- on my last stint, I pushed for a new curriculum in the Bio Department. I mean, we had two-day retreats and all kinds of things like that during vacation. It was a great department. They worked like dogs. And finally now in the last couple of years, there’s been a big change in the Bio curriculum. So those kinds of things are good, but I think other kinds of gopher stuff just took too much time. You heard me talk to Steve. I said, ‘since I stopped being chairman, my Rolaid consumption is down ninety-five to ninety-nine percent’. It’s just go-go-go. I described it to somebody one time is that you’re leaning over and if you stop running, you fall on your face. So you just gotta keep your legs going until you
get to the end and then hope that you make it and don’t collapse and crash. So I think it was that kind of a job taking an enormous amount of work. And the Bio. Department, for instance, as well as other departments, don’t slow down in the summertime. We have a large number of research students during the summertime, and the department just goes on. The janitor has to make appointments to clean labs and he needs to know our schedule because it’s always active in the summertime.

ML: So it’s a year round job.

PV: Yeah- and so it’s busy.

ML: About the Chapel program in the last couple of years- the whole controversy. What are your feelings on that?

PV: I think the Chapel program got totally out of hand, and I don’t know the exact causes. It’s part of my thing of diversity. I heard students say, ‘I didn’t know Roman Catholics weren’t Christian’. I heard a young woman come back and say, ‘I am not a femi-Nazi’. There was just some… I don’t think it came from the platform, but I don’t think extremely narrow thinking was discouraged… to the point where the group got very enthusiastic, but very narrow. I had people approach me on the street and say, ‘what is going on over there? My daughter went to her room and there was a bunch of people standing in a room down the hall with their hands on the door praying for the people who lived in that room’. Because apparently they weren’t orthodox enough. A young Indian woman was asked a ‘how do you feel about that kind of approach’ and she said, ‘it’s laughable- it has no impact on the real world’. The people that I went to school
with, who are amongst the big contributors now, were from a far more accepting world. Their theology is not as narrow as a lot of what’s going on now. So I think that the scene got very bad. I think that what happened in activating a Chapel program is not all bad. I think that group is great- they should do their thing, but they became outrageously evangelical. And they were not willing to tolerate diversity. Now you need to know now that I’m a Presbyterian- who some folks don’t think are Christian- because Presbyterians are too socially liberal.

And so, I think that despite the thing that you read just in the last issue of News from Hope College that the last year’s alumni drive was enormously successful- the Chapel program had a direct impact on making a bad hit on contributions. I had heard someone say that alumni contributions were down thirty percent. Those contributions are enormously important for the college and if it’s down, you’ve got to ask, ‘how come?’- and then you need to rectify the situation. And I think that what’s going on in Chapel is probably okay, but it’s just gotta be much more low profile and not as evangelical as they are.

ML: Do you see Hope heading a certain way in the future?

PV: I hope it doesn’t continue to go to the right. This is not a blame statement- it’s an event that occurred as presidents changed.

ML: As we were talking before.

PV: And so I think we’ve become more…

[End of side one]

Now let me ask you a question. One of the things that we’ve seen happen over the years is a large increase in the number of Roman Catholic students on campus.
Did you come to Hope because it was local or... one of the things that we postulated was that Hope being a Christian Liberal Arts College was a safe place for daughters because they were not aggressively pushing Calvinism- that this was a good school for Roman Catholic daughters to be. One of the things that’s happened also is with the emphasis on active participation when you recruit faculty, is that Catholics are more likely to remain orthodox than Protestants are. And especially in biology where evolutionary biology is very important. If you’re a biologist, you just have an evolutionary impact on whatever it is that you do. So it has been increasingly difficult to find orthodox Protestants who have not gone to graduate school and just stopped going to church. Roman Catholics are much more likely to continue going to church during graduate school than Protestants. So we have seen an increase in the number of Roman Catholic faculty, I think, because of that.

ML: That’s so interesting. Being a Catholic, it’s very interesting but it’s something growing up in Holland that people don’t understand.

PV: I grew up on the West end so St. Francis was down the street. And Father Westdorp, who was there when I was young, was a stiff-backed, hard-nosed priest who would not let... the Gonzalez family down the street from us- Tomassa was a friend of my sister. And for some reason, my sister had to bring something to church- well Tomassa would not go into our church, into the office area, because she was not allowed. And then we were down on the corner by Wades bringing our nickels to buy candy, if Father Westdorp walked down there, they all chorused ‘Good afternoon Father Westdorp’. And he had those kids standing tall.
ML: What are you planning on doing now that you're retired?

PV: I hang out a lot. I'm reading a lot now— not good stuff— I read too much good stuff while I was working. I like spy stories and detective stories and things like that. I do a little volunteer stuff, my wife thinks I should do much more. She's heavily involved in various volunteer stuff at the museum and at Evergreen Commons. I do some volunteer stuff on an ad-hoc basis for the museum- cleaning out storerooms, painting a house and stuff like that. I have renewed my interest in my stamp collection, which has been sitting dormant for twenty years or so. I have done more computer games. And we travel as much as we can and look forward— we're working hard now to try to find a place in Florida for this winter. And so we'll go for probably two months to Florida if we're successful in finding a place. So doing that kind of stuff- I hate lawn work, but I now do more of it. So a variety of kinds of things but none high-pressure. I want to be on my own schedule. They've asked me if I want to teach any courses in the department and I told them no. Because, at least at this point, I don't want to be on their schedule. If I don't feel like doing something on Thursday morning, I don't want to have to go to lab.

ML: What are you gonna miss most about being at Hope?

PV: I'm going to miss my colleagues and the students. I got along well with a bunch of students and the colleagues. I still go back- they have mailbox for me still in the department, so I go back in every once in awhile. And my replacement and I get along very well so if I'm there, we sit and chat for awhile. And so I think those everyday contacts... I never got up in the morning and said, 'Oh god, I've
got to go to work again'. I always enjoyed going to work. They’re somedays I
didn’t care for it as much as other days, but I never really hated to get up and go
to work. And I don’t know if you know any biologists. There’s a statement some
people believe, is that you have to be at least two standard deviations off normal.

ML: Oh, to be a biologist.

PV: To be a biologist- so we have some people who are more than two standard
deviations [laughter]. And so we have some real characters, and I have fun with
those people. Some think I’m a character. So I miss that. And people say, ‘do
you really miss going back?’ and I say, ‘no’. Because I’m into some different
routines now, and I have emotionally accepted retirement and so I’m not longing
to have something like that to do.