

Oral History Interview with Taylor and Emily

Speaker 1: This is Adam Pacsun at the Kansas City March with Emily Cherry and Taylor Smith. All right. I should know these questions by now. Why are you marching today?

Speaker 2: Um, well we think that Donald Trump represents hate, bigotry, um, all of his stances on, anything from women's rights to LGBT rights to his stance on Muslims in this country. I don't stand for that. Uh, I think that love trumps hate and (laughter) we, yeah. And uh, we are here to show our resistance and, uh, dissent is patriotic, to quote the ACLU, and uh, yeah, we're here to, to resist that, that message.

Speaker 1: Great. Do you have anything you want to add Taylor?

Speaker 3: Well, you just killed it.

Speaker 1: She took a lot of it.

Speaker 3: She took everything I was just about to say. Only thing is that we don't want to normalize hate speech or sexual assault. There's no such thing as locker room talk.

Speaker 1: Great. How did you guys hear about the march today? Or rally?

Speaker: In general or this one here?

Speaker 1: This one in particular.

Speaker: This one in particular? Um, let's see. I think, uh, posts, friends posted on Instagram and then, um, more women texted me about it, asked if I was coming and I did my - I tried to do my part, ask other people if they were coming and get, yeah.

Speaker 1: Do you have a lot of friends and coworkers here?

Speaker: Yeah. Uh, friends and family, I think. Um, yup. Extended family and my mom is coming here later.

Speaker 1: That's great.

Speaker: Yeah. That's awesome.

Speaker: I heard about it from her (laughter) and the Kansas City Star star.

Speaker 1: What do you guys think that can come out of today? What do you hope that all of the rallies today accomplish?

Speaker: Um, let's see, I - mostly just to demonstrate that we're not, um, we're not here to stand for anything that Donald Trump stands for. Um, I think that Obama taught us that or showed us that, uh, America can be great. We can, you know, continue to make strides with LGBT rights, women's rights, uh, get rid of police violence. Um, yeah.

Speaker: I hope that he recognizes that, um, just because he's hateful and such a large way, and that it doesn't quiet us and we'll still be here and we are vast, obviously. And it's not just women, it's men, too.

Speaker 1: So what's your political involvement been like before today? And, and, what do you plan to do in the future? Do you think there'll be more activity on your part like this?

Speaker: Yeah, I would say before the election, um, I was, I considered myself really politically aware, but I think afterwards I definitely stepped it up. I immediately started donating, uh, donated to Planned Parenthood, ACLU, Human Rights Campaign. Um, and I think, yeah, we've got a long way to go and hopefully this kind of stirs up a lot, a lot more political activity in the future.

Speaker: Agreed. I think I became complacent in this last election. I was super involved in Obama's campaigns in both of those, but I think I was a little complacent for Hillary because it just made sense that she would win. So that was a good lesson for me. That next time I will be more involved and we have made donations to the Obama Foundation, Planned Parenthood, and similar organizations.

Speaker 1: Awesome. Okay, thank you guys.

Speaker: Absolutely.

Speaker: Yeah, thank you.