

WEBVTT

1

00:00:05.190 --> 00:00:06.330

Lynn Conway: Hi. Hello.

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00:00:06.390 --> 00:00:07.230

Evan Taylor: Yeah, I can hear you.

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00:00:07.950 --> 00:00:18.570

Lynn Conway: Great, we're just sort of setting things though. Okay. And let's see, I don't see myself. I'm not seeing a window back so I can make sure I'm doing again.

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00:00:19.050 --> 00:00:21.480

Evan Taylor: Yeah, I'm not seeing I see a nice picture of you, but not you

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00:00:22.650 --> 00:00:22.980

Lynn Conway: Huh.

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00:00:23.340 --> 00:00:25.170

Evan Taylor: I see a nice picture of you, but not actually you

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00:00:25.710 --> 00:00:29.340

Lynn Conway: Oh, OK. So what on earth are there you go down the bottom here.

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00:00:31.980 --> 00:00:33.750

Lynn Conway: Oh, here we go. I see it.

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00:00:41.580 --> 00:00:45.000

Lynn Conway: OK, and now I can just make sure I'm in the picture.

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00:00:45.420 --> 00:00:46.500

Evan Taylor: Yes. Yeah, no, you're

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00:00:46.830 --> 00:00:47.670

Evan Taylor: Looking great

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00:00:48.180 --> 00:00:48.630

Lynn Conway: Okay.

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00:00:49.410 --> 00:00:50.640

Evan Taylor: Thank you very much.

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00:00:51.630 --> 00:00:52.710

Lynn Conway: That's good to see you.

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00:00:53.100 --> 00:00:59.100

Evan Taylor: Let me see links to the recording is going yeah that's going okay and it looks great in your frame very nicely.

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00:00:59.700 --> 00:01:14.370

Lynn Conway: And also I'm assuming that as we go along. It'll mostly flow and we'll meet a lot of editing. But if we if I want to just sort of stop and take a pause, and then do something that can be edited out right

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00:01:14.430 --> 00:01:17.970

Evan Taylor: Absolutely. And if you give me a moment. I can just pause the recording and that in the moment.

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00:01:18.780 --> 00:01:21.420

Lynn Conway: Got it. So what I could even do is

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00:01:22.830 --> 00:01:31.020

Lynn Conway: Is just sort of myself pause and look at you or something and and even do some make a little hand motion like that or something.

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00:01:33.120 --> 00:01:33.870

Lynn Conway: I think it'll just

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00:01:33.960 --> 00:01:35.130

Lynn Conway: It'll just go

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00:01:35.550 --> 00:01:42.780

Evan Taylor: Yeah, yeah, as, as we go along, we can communicate as we go along. I can edit things out later. We can pause it during the moment, but it's pretty flexible.

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00:01:43.170 --> 00:01:44.430

Lynn Conway: Okay. All right.

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00:01:45.390 --> 00:02:03.600

Evan Taylor: Awesome. So thank you so much for agreeing to do something. I've got a quick preamble. So for folks who are listening to this, you know, now we're in the future. My name is Evan Taylor in here interviewing that Lynn Conway today. It's Tuesday, February 4 it's 10am for me it's 1pm for you.

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00:02:03.630 --> 00:02:04.950

Evan Taylor: I'm in Vancouver, where you live.

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00:02:06.510 --> 00:02:09.210

Lynn Conway: I live out to the west of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

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00:02:09.540 --> 00:02:11.190

Lynn Conway: All kind of help the country.

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00:02:11.610 --> 00:02:13.560

Evan Taylor: So just after just after one for you.

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00:02:14.520 --> 00:02:24.990

Evan Taylor: So we'll be doing a trans oral history interview today with limb talking about her experiences with trans activists on trans communities and the various changes that she's seen over many years.

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00:02:26.010 --> 00:02:36.990

Evan Taylor: Of history and being involved in this community. So I'm looking forward to the next little while. And that's what will be what we chatting about. And did you have any questions on before we get going. I know we've got a great outline here so

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00:02:37.980 --> 00:02:41.760

Lynn Conway: I think we're all set to go. And it says it's a real pleasure to

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00:02:42.900 --> 00:03:00.180

Lynn Conway: Meet you again. See you again and hang out on zoom and and chat for one and it be fairly informal what you know what a lot of a lot of history to reflect on and, you know, so probably just kind of hit the highlights.

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00:03:01.500 --> 00:03:09.780

Evan Taylor: Fantastic. Well, thank you so much. I know, I know a lot of work into making sure we could plan to use the the short amount of time we have very efficiently so I'm looking forward to it.

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00:03:11.850 --> 00:03:12.660

Lynn Conway: That's great.

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00:03:13.350 --> 00:03:20.490

Evan Taylor: Awesome. Um, so I have a couple of quick demographic questions or like things for add that stats form and then we'll get into the fun stuff.

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00:03:20.880 --> 00:03:26.700

Evan Taylor: Okay. Um, so, um, so, for the record, I'm the name and pronouns that you use.

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00:03:28.980 --> 00:03:35.310

Lynn Conway: My name is Lynn Conway and she had her and so forth and

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00:03:36.810 --> 00:03:38.580

Lynn Conway: fester probably do it. Thank you.

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00:03:38.970 --> 00:03:40.200

Evan Taylor: And how old are you today.

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00:03:40.920 --> 00:03:42.270

Lynn Conway: I'm at two years old.

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00:03:43.080 --> 00:03:43.980

Evan Taylor: And where were you born

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00:03:45.090 --> 00:03:49.410

Lynn Conway: I was born in Mount Vernon, New York back in 1938

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00:03:50.160 --> 00:03:51.540

Evan Taylor: And where do you live now.

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00:03:52.470 --> 00:03:56.880

Lynn Conway: Living out in a rural area to the west of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

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00:03:57.420 --> 00:03:58.530

Evan Taylor: And how long have you lived there.

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00:03:59.940 --> 00:04:02.220

Lynn Conway: Let's see, my husband and I have lived here since

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00:04:03.360 --> 00:04:05.220

Lynn Conway: 1994 so it's kind of one

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00:04:06.810 --> 00:04:12.090

Evan Taylor: And this is a loaded question. So what are you employed a retired and what was your work.

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00:04:14.010 --> 00:04:19.590

Lynn Conway: I'm now retired I'm Professor Emeritus, as it would be called

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00:04:20.730 --> 00:04:30.480

Lynn Conway: And I my most recent position was as for festival electrical engineering and computer science at University of Michigan overnight on. Thank you.

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00:04:30.570 --> 00:04:34.380

Evan Taylor: And we'll get to a much more detailed things about that in a moment. I'm sure

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00:04:35.610 --> 00:04:38.190

Evan Taylor: I'm level of education completed.

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00:04:39.330 --> 00:04:46.260

Lynn Conway: I received a master's degree in electrical engineering way back there in 1963 63. Wow.

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00:04:47.130 --> 00:04:51.150

Evan Taylor: And what is your, your race, ethnicity, or religious or cultural background.

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00:04:51.960 --> 00:04:57.180

Lynn Conway: Um, I guess, the term would be Caucasian, whatever that means.

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00:04:59.340 --> 00:05:00.120

Lynn Conway: And

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00:05:01.710 --> 00:05:06.510

Lynn Conway: religious affiliation just unaffiliated okay yeah

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00:05:07.260 --> 00:05:10.020

Evan Taylor: I'm your relationship or family status.

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00:05:10.920 --> 00:05:11.700

Lynn Conway: Say again.

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00:05:11.880 --> 00:05:13.620

Evan Taylor: Your relationship or family status.

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00:05:14.610 --> 00:05:20.910

Lynn Conway: Oh, I'm married. I'm very to CHARLES CHARLES Rogers, this is also an engineer, by the way.

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00:05:22.290 --> 00:05:24.060

Evan Taylor: And any kids or grandkids.

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00:05:25.380 --> 00:05:28.860

Lynn Conway: That's something that we usually don't don't talk about

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00:05:29.130 --> 00:05:30.330

Evan Taylor: Okay, fair enough.

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00:05:30.690 --> 00:05:34.500

Evan Taylor: Yeah, I'm and I'm assuming that your sex assigned at birth was me.

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00:05:35.580 --> 00:05:36.270

Lynn Conway: Yes.

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00:05:36.390 --> 00:05:39.840

Evan Taylor: And so what is your current gender identity or what does that process been like

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00:05:41.790 --> 00:05:43.800

Lynn Conway: Well, that's the long story.

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00:05:45.570 --> 00:05:46.050

Evan Taylor: Okay.

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00:05:46.500 --> 00:05:48.180

Lynn Conway: Well, I'm currently

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00:05:49.260 --> 00:05:51.240

Lynn Conway: Female and

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00:05:52.920 --> 00:06:04.710

Lynn Conway: You know you can figure out how you want to define that people to find it different ways but identify as female, and yes, my social identity and then in my body image identity.

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00:06:06.750 --> 00:06:11.460

Lynn Conway: That's kind of all there is to it. You know, it's kind of common sense person and I don't

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00:06:13.050 --> 00:06:25.320

Lynn Conway: Don't try to over to find things too much and not in the kind of this current Council culture and that kind of thing and political correctness and more live and let live so

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00:06:26.460 --> 00:06:27.720

Lynn Conway: What you see is what you get.

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00:06:32.280 --> 00:06:36.900

Evan Taylor: And last question, how do you identify and categorize your sexuality and has that changed over time.

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00:06:38.910 --> 00:06:40.650

Lynn Conway: Could you add someone again. Yeah.

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00:06:40.710 --> 00:06:44.910

Evan Taylor: How do you identify or categorize your sexuality and has that changed over time.

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00:06:45.990 --> 00:06:47.520

Lynn Conway: What do you mean by sexuality.

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00:06:48.210 --> 00:06:49.320

Evan Taylor: And so, who do you

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00:06:49.590 --> 00:06:50.730

Evan Taylor: Attracted to do

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00:06:50.970 --> 00:06:55.740

Evan Taylor: Would you identify as a sexual would you identify as queer, what kind of wording, would you use

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00:06:57.030 --> 00:06:57.510

Lynn Conway: I'm

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00:06:58.590 --> 00:07:00.300

Lynn Conway: A heterosexual. Yeah.

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00:07:01.500 --> 00:07:04.830

Evan Taylor: Does that change over time, or does that been very consistent for you over a lifetime.

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00:07:05.010 --> 00:07:20.670

Lynn Conway: That's been pretty consistent from an internal looking outward sort of point of view, of course, the word would be defined differently depending upon what people out really thought they saw looking at me.

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00:07:21.120 --> 00:07:29.520

Lynn Conway: Of course know again that kind of come in. So, so, you know, over fixation on labeling is probably, you know, not particularly helpful.

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00:07:30.120 --> 00:07:30.690

Evan Taylor: Mm hmm.

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00:07:30.750 --> 00:07:40.500

Lynn Conway: I don't know who you are. You're attracted who you're attracted to. There's always a bit of fluidity in that obviously and but you know my primary

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00:07:41.550 --> 00:07:42.090

Lynn Conway: Source of

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00:07:44.460 --> 00:07:50.610

Lynn Conway: Love attractions. You know, those kinds of things have been towards males. Mm hmm.

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00:07:51.660 --> 00:07:53.850

Lynn Conway: So thank you, um,

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00:07:53.910 --> 00:07:59.730

Evan Taylor: Is there any other aspect of your identity or how people might categorize you that I haven't asked about that's important to know.

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00:08:01.680 --> 00:08:02.340

Lynn Conway: Um,

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00:08:04.170 --> 00:08:07.530

Lynn Conway: Well personally. So a lot of dimensions. I know in in

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00:08:08.670 --> 00:08:13.770

Lynn Conway: The discussions of veil trans issues so via fixation on fender.

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00:08:16.050 --> 00:08:20.760

Lynn Conway: But there's there one more aspects of personalities and just gender.

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00:08:22.020 --> 00:08:22.560

Lynn Conway: And

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00:08:23.730 --> 00:08:26.460

Lynn Conway: You know, for example, I

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00:08:29.460 --> 00:08:32.250

Lynn Conway: I I identify as someone who likes

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00:08:33.270 --> 00:08:34.440

Lynn Conway: To be adventurous.

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00:08:36.000 --> 00:08:37.980

Lynn Conway: And and I enjoy

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00:08:39.180 --> 00:08:46.200

Lynn Conway: The outdoors and contact with nature. And so, that whole dimensions been something that's been really big in my life.

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00:08:46.890 --> 00:08:59.670

Lynn Conway: Right, like, super big. But it's not something that people really think about because today very, very tiny fraction of people. Now certainly here in the States spend much time outdoors.

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00:09:00.840 --> 00:09:03.240

Lynn Conway: People are urban areas and

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00:09:05.130 --> 00:09:07.170

Lynn Conway: Really have little contact with nature.

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00:09:07.380 --> 00:09:13.080

Lynn Conway: Right, it's all artificial that they appear to be natural surroundings. So

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00:09:14.130 --> 00:09:20.970

Lynn Conway: We could instead of talking about my gender trajectory and experiences. We could be talking about

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00:09:22.050 --> 00:09:22.500

Lynn Conway: My

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00:09:23.670 --> 00:09:29.550

Lynn Conway: Thinking about love of immersion in an experiencing of nature.

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00:09:30.600 --> 00:09:40.080

Lynn Conway: And and part of that has been love of adventure sports. So that's a whole other dimension we from financial but

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00:09:41.100 --> 00:09:54.750

Lynn Conway: You know, I've been passionate about all of that. Mm hmm. And, and, and as intersected my gender experiences in interesting ways. So, you know, because you know

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00:09:56.130 --> 00:09:57.540

Lynn Conway: Especially back in the day.

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00:09:59.220 --> 00:10:02.910

Lynn Conway: I would be experiencing a lot of that with mostly guys you see

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00:10:03.930 --> 00:10:09.930

Lynn Conway: And so now it gets us in a whole different place and and and

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00:10:12.180 --> 00:10:22.500

Lynn Conway: And so, again, I think some of the explorations won't like make we're nearly looking at the gender experience can

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00:10:23.640 --> 00:10:29.430

Lynn Conway: The, you know, create only a kind of Flatland view someone's life experiences.

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00:10:30.480 --> 00:10:38.100

Lynn Conway: And then of course there are other dimensions that have been very profound. For me, my love of science and math and engineering.

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00:10:39.660 --> 00:10:40.920

Lynn Conway: My love of of

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00:10:42.870 --> 00:10:53.910

Lynn Conway: Making and doing and experiencing and creating things that also has been really huge. And so if I would think what they were. It's all my energy going to my life.

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00:10:54.660 --> 00:11:09.030

Lynn Conway: hasn't gone into transitioning and being trans. Right. You know, it's like okay I got through that. That was pretty difficult period, but then all the rest of it has been where my passion energy is gone.

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00:11:10.140 --> 00:11:29.190

Lynn Conway: And it's mostly that oscillating back and forth between the intellectual life and creative life in service science, engineering, one hand and a constant passion and turning to adventures in the outdoors.

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00:11:30.480 --> 00:11:37.080

Lynn Conway: And of course, and that would be one of the things what my husband and I together because we're both passionate about both of those things.

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00:11:37.260 --> 00:11:37.740

Evan Taylor: Right.

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00:11:38.220 --> 00:11:39.660

Lynn Conway: So we have a lot of things we can do to

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00:11:41.040 --> 00:12:01.440

Lynn Conway: Say, see all of the above. Then has very little to do with okay I transition because there was a sort of need to kind of shift around a little bit to get in a place where I could fully experience life right, you see. And so, you know, like keep things in perspective. And I think it

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00:12:02.760 --> 00:12:04.080

Lynn Conway: It can be self limiting

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00:12:05.100 --> 00:12:05.640

Lynn Conway: To

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00:12:06.900 --> 00:12:20.760

Lynn Conway: Become preoccupied with sort of one dimension of your life or anything, because then you can't get outside that bubble and see the rest of what's out there. You say, so that's that's kind of like that.

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00:12:21.300 --> 00:12:25.020

Evan Taylor: Absolutely. Well thank thank you so much for that. I appreciate that. I think it's one of the

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00:12:25.590 --> 00:12:38.250

Evan Taylor: One of those one of those those issues when you're dealing with a single issue identity politics, you're inevitably going to be distracted by all of the other that you're going to distract from all of the other things that make up a whole human

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00:12:39.000 --> 00:12:44.940

Lynn Conway: Right, exactly. So, so, so I would just say that identity.

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00:12:46.860 --> 00:12:57.540

Lynn Conway: Your internal identity and the external identity that others perceive, all of that is rather complex and rather than what multi dimensional

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00:12:58.470 --> 00:13:07.320

Lynn Conway: Furthermore, it's more like a labyrinth, and it's very much shifts. As you move around and sort of technological space time and

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00:13:08.190 --> 00:13:22.830

Lynn Conway: And depending upon where you are, what aspect of your overall personality is mainly in play at the moment, a lot of other things sort of fall to the side. And so people can surprise you because

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00:13:24.450 --> 00:13:40.830

Lynn Conway: We often only see others in the in the dimensionality of our encountering them at work or or in a hobby or in in a sport. I don't see the other things they are do. And so we miss that when we look at other people

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00:13:42.330 --> 00:13:52.320

Lynn Conway: And in fact, then, since most people kind of have individual lives and see only some people but not seeing them and other things they do.

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00:13:53.250 --> 00:14:04.290

Lynn Conway: People lack experience and encountering novelty and really different things people do, but it's very easy then to form allergic reactions to some of the things

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00:14:04.740 --> 00:14:17.460

Lynn Conway: Their friends actually might be doing right and there will be no there will be many things that I do that many of my liberal progressive friends, for example, why take extreme offense.

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00:14:18.750 --> 00:14:24.870

Lynn Conway: Go into all that. But, you know, if you take the full range of outdoor life.

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00:14:26.040 --> 00:14:28.440

Lynn Conway: Around the world, and kind of things you can do.

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00:14:29.490 --> 00:14:38.490

Lynn Conway: There's a lot of things people do and have done forever. That sort of urban people in the United States would find. Yeah. Instead of saying

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00:14:39.810 --> 00:14:42.330

Lynn Conway: I must say definitive anything and

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00:14:43.740 --> 00:14:56.880

Lynn Conway: So I think that's one of the things that makes it difficult now in our politics. I'm, you know, I see this this divide between urban life and kind of what I consider real life.

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00:14:57.180 --> 00:15:06.570

Lynn Conway: Right in the real world, the natural world and it's it's a golf and it's it's it's sad because I think

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00:15:07.710 --> 00:15:10.410

Lynn Conway: There's a lot of questions costs misunderstandings.

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00:15:11.460 --> 00:15:19.530

Lynn Conway: And increasing hostility on both sides and that as people on both sides, sort of feel the other side is clueless about what's going on.

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00:15:21.000 --> 00:15:24.330

Lynn Conway: So anyway, I, you know, we certainly don't want to get into politics.

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00:15:25.620 --> 00:15:33.090

Lynn Conway: And and and and i think if people do it shouldn't be so discuss politics and take positions and should be

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00:15:34.350 --> 00:15:37.440

Lynn Conway: Research on how little we know about

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00:15:38.640 --> 00:15:39.660

Lynn Conway: Human social

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00:15:41.250 --> 00:15:52.560

Lynn Conway: Structures and activities and you know we individually see it from an individual point of view. But in reality, or we individuals are we mosaics and complexities of behavioral

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00:15:53.190 --> 00:16:04.200

Lynn Conway: Stuff that may fall according to our whims and that we've acquired by interacting with others are trying to be social beings and

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00:16:05.430 --> 00:16:12.030

Lynn Conway: You know, you go out, you, you, you get down with a magnifying glass and watching it or not a lot different from the human

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00:16:13.470 --> 00:16:15.060

Lynn Conway: See, so what's going on.

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00:16:17.400 --> 00:16:30.810

Lynn Conway: But if you never seen an ad or you kind of sort of miss something see in this noticing stuff that's goes way back and biology. So to interesting so so there's a lot. I could talk about there, but that's

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00:16:31.920 --> 00:16:36.990

Lynn Conway: That gets me into for festival right good straight off and talk on any topic for 45 minutes

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00:16:38.580 --> 00:16:39.660

Lynn Conway: Doing a whiteboard and

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00:16:41.760 --> 00:16:43.260

Lynn Conway: I'll do that performance.

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00:16:44.340 --> 00:16:48.780

Evan Taylor: Well, that's a way into that first question I want to start off with.

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00:16:49.500 --> 00:16:56.820

Evan Taylor: So we're talking about that, you know, these interviews are talking about not just trends People's History but activism and the changes in communities.

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00:16:57.060 --> 00:17:09.540

Evan Taylor: And so I'm wondering about this word activism. That's really thrown around. And it's quite to visit word in some ways these days. I'm wondering how you identify or don't, or how do you relate to the idea of activism, or being an activist.

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00:17:09.990 --> 00:17:12.360

Lynn Conway: Well see, there again, we're starting with the label.

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00:17:13.980 --> 00:17:15.060

Lynn Conway: Themselves now.

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00:17:16.170 --> 00:17:22.230

Lynn Conway: Would be better if I simply unfolded how I got to where I am from where I started.

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00:17:22.590 --> 00:17:25.590

Lynn Conway: Okay. And then what you'll do is you'll see

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00:17:26.850 --> 00:17:40.410

Lynn Conway: Activities happen at various junctures which could be called activism. I tend to call them advocacy. Okay. I think of myself as a teacher, I'm

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00:17:41.460 --> 00:17:57.360

Lynn Conway: A guy is safe, a pathfinder so and I've enjoyed those those rules and I learned them by following others, and I've engaged in so many things where I've had to

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00:17:58.920 --> 00:18:07.530

Lynn Conway: Learn a new thing, especially in the outdoors and and and learn to follow and learn the moves that leaders make

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00:18:08.670 --> 00:18:10.380

Lynn Conway: And and learn to

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00:18:12.210 --> 00:18:13.230

Lynn Conway: Understand

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00:18:14.430 --> 00:18:26.670

Lynn Conway: What you need to know to do something from guides were experienced and then to the extent that I learned something I would I have I have fun doing that same to mentor and to guide others.

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00:18:27.720 --> 00:18:30.000

Lynn Conway: But to be able to do that, you have to be a learner.

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00:18:30.360 --> 00:18:31.110

Evan Taylor: Uh huh.

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00:18:31.200 --> 00:18:31.710

And so

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00:18:32.910 --> 00:18:42.720

Lynn Conway: So talking about advocacy as opposed to activism shifts the plane, a little bit definitely talking about experiences of

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00:18:44.640 --> 00:18:54.690

Lynn Conway: Struggling to learn and understand and then the getting to figure out how to do things sharing that knowledge with others and jointly working on figuring it out.

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00:18:56.160 --> 00:18:56.760

Lynn Conway: And then

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00:18:57.780 --> 00:19:08.340

Lynn Conway: Going on to when you can help others by sharing what you know and have learned with your friends with people that are coming along behind you.

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00:19:09.630 --> 00:19:14.070

Lynn Conway: So those processes and natural and and you can learn

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00:19:15.900 --> 00:19:24.570

Lynn Conway: You can learn more about that, by learning about how culture developed, you know, learn about history of agriculture and

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00:19:25.680 --> 00:19:36.420

Lynn Conway: And and and and learning some trade craft and feel craft and how do you, how do you, how do you survive out there. If you don't have very much. It's getting a feeling more of

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00:19:37.710 --> 00:19:41.220

Lynn Conway: What it's like to be a human, and how we naturally

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00:19:43.050 --> 00:19:46.020

Lynn Conway: Will be attracted towards

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00:19:47.640 --> 00:19:50.040

Lynn Conway: Ideas and knowledge that appear to be working

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00:19:51.330 --> 00:19:54.570

Lynn Conway: In some way that we might find useful.

187

00:19:55.920 --> 00:20:13.170

Lynn Conway: And and and that happens at everything. And so the coming forward and labeling someone an activist me when facts season. Since more in the process in the overall flow of events is someone I experienced something

188

00:20:14.310 --> 00:20:23.070

Lynn Conway: I know others who have experienced in and who helped me and we've helped each other. We then have something we can share with people who might be experiencing the same thing, right.

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00:20:23.730 --> 00:20:34.620

Lynn Conway: And and and and you could call it guiding leading teaching, I tend to use those words, rather than activism activism has more stance of a

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00:20:36.660 --> 00:20:44.970

Lynn Conway: Label identity right positions, a person as in a way perpetually an antagonist.

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00:20:46.020 --> 00:20:46.830

Lynn Conway: Against

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00:20:47.940 --> 00:20:54.510

Lynn Conway: Some current situation. Hmm. And the problem with it is how does an activist.

193

00:20:55.590 --> 00:20:57.360

Lynn Conway: Stopping an activist.

194

00:20:58.410 --> 00:21:00.810

Lynn Conway: When they don't need the an activist anymore.

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00:21:00.900 --> 00:21:12.870

Lynn Conway: Right when they've got a life and whatever they worried about for them is is not there. Right. Okay. And so you know it's sudden we see

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00:21:13.920 --> 00:21:17.760

Lynn Conway: It's like nothing's permanent. Okay. Everything is in flow.

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00:21:19.200 --> 00:21:20.790

Lynn Conway: And and

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00:21:21.840 --> 00:21:31.650

Lynn Conway: Yet people claim to an identity. They've just captured if it more materially has some special meaning because of other people's reactions to it.

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00:21:32.910 --> 00:21:38.520

Lynn Conway: So the teaming to do something and accomplish something is thrilling. It's an adventure.

200

00:21:39.780 --> 00:21:56.790

Lynn Conway: But once it's accomplished. It's over, or that part of its over right if you can find a new part in another part of sort of techno social space time where your experience of that activism helps you in this new situation and do something useful.

201

00:21:58.140 --> 00:22:01.320

Lynn Conway: That's fine. But the problem is a leader.

202

00:22:02.550 --> 00:22:16.440

Lynn Conway: In one phase of activism may not think of themselves as someone who's going to be a beginner in a new phase and how to figure out what's going on, they'll tend to identify. Well, I'm an activist and I know how to do this. So see

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00:22:18.870 --> 00:22:25.560

Lynn Conway: It's all learning experience. And it's always, you know, a new day and and so

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00:22:26.970 --> 00:22:27.720

Lynn Conway: Again,

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00:22:28.830 --> 00:22:41.730

Lynn Conway: Talking trying to go into it by starting with I'm an activist, tell me about activism. Actually, this is the whole point of my story. It's almost like we had to just start at the beginning and kind of just

206

00:22:42.930 --> 00:22:51.930

Lynn Conway: Hit some highlights down the way to show. Well, how did I end up doing with some people thought was activism. Mm hmm. Which I thought was

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00:22:54.510 --> 00:23:02.910

Lynn Conway: Guiding and teaching right okay and and of course were parts of it where I step forward.

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00:23:04.470 --> 00:23:05.040

Lynn Conway: And

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00:23:06.480 --> 00:23:08.280

Lynn Conway: took action against

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00:23:09.570 --> 00:23:19.560

Lynn Conway: Reactions to the kinds of things I was doing reactions against any visibility of trans people editors to suppress

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00:23:21.570 --> 00:23:31.740

Lynn Conway: My Teachings okay by the psychiatric community and and why why activity, then, could have been called activism.

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00:23:33.000 --> 00:23:34.320

Lynn Conway: Because you know I helped

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00:23:35.400 --> 00:23:51.810

Lynn Conway: Helped expose some things and in shift the shift paradigms about some thinking about things like conversion therapy and so forth, right, and they're working Zucker colleague selfie cam in Toronto, but

214

00:23:53.610 --> 00:23:55.590

Lynn Conway: I didn't, I didn't think of that as activism.

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00:23:58.470 --> 00:23:59.910

Lynn Conway: I saw that as

216

00:24:01.380 --> 00:24:02.370

Lynn Conway: Just politics.

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00:24:03.420 --> 00:24:24.120

Lynn Conway: It's just politics. I guess that's politics like anybody does you know you you feel strongly in you assert your, your views and and depending upon you know the following that builds up behind you and it swells up around the Navy that illuminates position, people who were before.

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00:24:26.220 --> 00:24:29.100

Lynn Conway: But I don't see politics is activism.

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00:24:31.350 --> 00:24:42.000

Lynn Conway: Democratic politics politics and advocacy is about sharing points of view debating and

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00:24:43.020 --> 00:24:44.220

Lynn Conway: And and then

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00:24:45.510 --> 00:24:48.300

Lynn Conway: Watching which ways people seem to want to go.

222

00:24:49.350 --> 00:25:01.830

Lynn Conway: Okay. And, and even even thinking that you have to be an activist note of the politics kind of works it. You see, you're getting a little philosophical and

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00:25:02.970 --> 00:25:19.050

Lynn Conway: Fight when you being philosophical, quite frankly, you're just kind of decoding your things and offering opinion. So I'm just offering opinions on that that isn't that isn't based in evidence or anything like that.

224

00:25:20.190 --> 00:25:26.400

Lynn Conway: What might be more interesting would be just go back and and come through the story. So let's

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00:25:26.610 --> 00:25:31.290

Evan Taylor: Let's, let's do that because i really i i love how you set this up for us.

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00:25:32.010 --> 00:25:44.220

Evan Taylor: Part of what I think is so interesting about doing this work is exactly what what you're talking about in problem, the sizing the very narrow ways in which we define ourselves and the work that we're faced with in a whole life.

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00:25:44.640 --> 00:25:48.990

Evan Taylor: And so I really, I really appreciate such a beautifully eloquent answer.

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00:25:49.410 --> 00:26:03.030

Evan Taylor: That covered so much ground in terms of what does activism mean where do we relate to it where to be very much dis identify from it, and I very much appreciate that. So I think that sets us up well too. But start and go through that story and and and 10 on those major points.

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00:26:03.840 --> 00:26:05.700

Lynn Conway: Yes. And in fact,

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00:26:07.980 --> 00:26:10.740

Lynn Conway: I'm really pleased, how this how this has become because

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00:26:12.240 --> 00:26:19.440

Lynn Conway: I hadn't thought about saying anything like that because it isn't sort of part of the story, it's limited to the story, but it

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00:26:20.670 --> 00:26:23.070

Lynn Conway: It reinforces a kind of feeling that

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00:26:24.660 --> 00:26:29.220

Lynn Conway: I've been increasingly having on that.

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00:26:32.670 --> 00:26:34.530

Lynn Conway: And over involvement.

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00:26:36.720 --> 00:26:37.260

Lynn Conway: In

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00:26:38.700 --> 00:26:40.830

Lynn Conway: Single issue sorts of things we

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00:26:41.970 --> 00:26:43.230

Lynn Conway: Can gradually

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00:26:44.280 --> 00:26:53.700

Lynn Conway: Get a grip on people's lives to where they have narrowed down their explorations of their full humanity.

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00:26:55.830 --> 00:27:07.200

Lynn Conway: And then interestingly, that is noticeable by other people just regular people, many of whom have very diverse crazy cool

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00:27:07.860 --> 00:27:23.820

Lynn Conway: Wise far beyond you know the job at Walmart. Let's say right there. They're doing that because they're that just that's just the the get along for some crazy adventure sports are involved in your sentence a and and

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00:27:24.960 --> 00:27:33.960

Lynn Conway: So you have no idea but but what what happens is, as you encounter people, you start to notice when people have narrowed themselves.

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00:27:35.010 --> 00:27:39.090

Lynn Conway: You say, right. Well, they only are interested in a single issue.

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00:27:40.920 --> 00:27:46.590

Lynn Conway: And there and they're looking at other people through that lens and so interestingly

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00:27:48.000 --> 00:27:49.650

Lynn Conway: People make tells

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00:27:50.700 --> 00:27:53.070

Lynn Conway: About their narrowness if they're not careful.

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00:27:54.660 --> 00:28:12.120

Lynn Conway: Okay and and then that's where this interpretations come in. Because if people do that on all sides of politics. Now you have potential chaos. You see, right. So again, I could have this live let live common sense.

247

00:28:13.650 --> 00:28:22.740

Lynn Conway: You know, I enjoy being free to kind of do all the things that I, my husband and my friends and colleagues like doing

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00:28:24.600 --> 00:28:25.350

Lynn Conway: And

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00:28:26.580 --> 00:28:37.560

Lynn Conway: And sometimes single issues that people might think I'm focused on kind of just never occur in my day to day life racing. They just don't occur.

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00:28:39.360 --> 00:28:40.380

Evan Taylor: And you can tell when other people

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00:28:40.530 --> 00:28:46.560

Evan Taylor: Are themselves down when they start assuming certain things that would occur in your life because they're projecting that from their own perspective.

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00:28:46.770 --> 00:28:47.280

Right.

253

00:28:48.450 --> 00:28:52.320

Lynn Conway: So especially for trans people and say, you know,

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00:28:56.610 --> 00:29:09.210

Lynn Conway: Which comfortable with yourself, you kind of fell upon your place and kind of get that worked out. Just go for it. You know, you know, this is a world now that offers so many opportunities to do almost anything you want to do.

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00:29:10.230 --> 00:29:14.940

Lynn Conway: Don't waste your time constantly overthinking stuff you've already dealt with.

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00:29:16.110 --> 00:29:16.950

Lynn Conway: Forget about it.

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00:29:18.450 --> 00:29:18.900

Lynn Conway: Okay.

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00:29:19.170 --> 00:29:22.020

Evan Taylor: Like find find the next vector for yourself, whatever that is.

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00:29:22.050 --> 00:29:26.010

Lynn Conway: Yeah, yeah. And it was good about having multiple nationalities and you're like,

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00:29:27.720 --> 00:29:34.500

Lynn Conway: Any one of those at one point or another, is going to crash and burn for a while, huh, you lose a job.

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00:29:35.850 --> 00:29:49.920

Lynn Conway: You miss a whole season in a sport because of an injury, right, if you if you have only kind of put all your emotional life force into those fun things. Now you're really messed up.

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00:29:51.480 --> 00:29:56.700

Lynn Conway: You have maybe three things that are going on for that you're really hot for

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00:29:57.150 --> 00:30:10.110

Lynn Conway: And there's one that's hot right now. And that's where you've got but if anything happens, their villages to sell for it. You know, sometimes in a job. This is nothing happening. You know, you gotta kind of pretend and you kind of go to daily motions, you get your annual reviews by

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00:30:11.400 --> 00:30:19.440

Lynn Conway: But nothing is happening. Well, that's very time to put your passion and your adventure sport or your creative work, etc, etc.

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00:30:21.120 --> 00:30:28.380

Lynn Conway: So, so it's kind of cool to get those kinds of things going to keep keep always on the backburner when you're on something hot

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00:30:29.580 --> 00:30:31.170

Lynn Conway: Anyway, and I think, you know,

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00:30:32.580 --> 00:30:38.460

Lynn Conway: That's something that kind of developed as one STORY UNFOLDED so maybe we should just start at the beginning. So

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00:30:39.180 --> 00:30:45.510

Evan Taylor: Let's start the beginning then. And so, so tell me a little bit about how you grew up your, your childhood that the early years.

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00:30:46.440 --> 00:30:46.860

Well,

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00:30:48.030 --> 00:30:57.900

Lynn Conway: Again, we have to remember. I needed two years I was born in 1938 because people just thinking winter Li about it and here the sentence, they hear the word 1938 year

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00:30:58.950 --> 00:31:03.810

Lynn Conway: But you see, you have to remember that was before World War Two. He that was that was

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00:31:05.010 --> 00:31:16.980

Lynn Conway: 3839 4041 was for beginners it so I was almost four years old when Pearl Harbor happened right. What does he think about that. Well, I remember when Pearl Harbor.

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00:31:18.390 --> 00:31:24.270

Lynn Conway: See, that's a different way of looking at being a two years old. He. I don't know what that have when it happened.

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00:31:25.560 --> 00:31:40.440

Lynn Conway: And and i i also was swept up in a lot of the events of that because my father was a research engineer chemical engineer in New York City. We're living up in Scarsdale time and he

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00:31:41.820 --> 00:31:54.990

Lynn Conway: He got called into these dollar your type positions with was in the word apartments. In fact, in those days, they call it the Defense Department. The War Department. Okay, which is probably a better name for

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00:31:57.210 --> 00:31:59.010

Lynn Conway: It, it's about that's it seriously.

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00:31:59.190 --> 00:32:07.560

Lynn Conway: Stuff and back then the War Department was it was a big deal. Okay, so we moved to visit family moved in Bethesda, he

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00:32:08.310 --> 00:32:26.640

Lynn Conway: He was, he was basically the chemical engineer that that spearheaded the United States synthetic drug development program or two, which is a big deal. It was young, but he was a bright guy and knew how to make things happen. And there's a long story there. But anyway.

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00:32:27.720 --> 00:32:31.320

Lynn Conway: We lived in Bethesda, Maryland and and because of that.

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00:32:33.060 --> 00:32:39.150

Lynn Conway: The war was very much in everyone's mind. So I was highly influenced by

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00:32:40.530 --> 00:32:48.750

Lynn Conway: This understanding of the role of technology. And in the end, the critical role was playing in everything.

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00:32:49.260 --> 00:33:04.560

Lynn Conway: Cutting over you know there's a lot of the cool things happening. Then we had, we had these radios, we can listen to the BBC coming from Europe, right, which we did just big radio and and so it was a challenge that was kind of partly

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00:33:05.970 --> 00:33:10.920

Lynn Conway: Had all this craziness about the war happening on the other hand, my mother.

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00:33:12.030 --> 00:33:20.070

Lynn Conway: Had been a kindergarten teacher and but she was stayed home during, during that period and and i by then I had a younger

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00:33:21.180 --> 00:33:21.600

Lynn Conway: And

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00:33:22.620 --> 00:33:24.450

Lynn Conway: My mother was a person who was

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00:33:26.250 --> 00:33:27.630

Lynn Conway: entranced with

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00:33:30.240 --> 00:33:32.580

Lynn Conway: Howard jittery creativity and shoulder

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00:33:33.780 --> 00:33:45.840

Lynn Conway: She, she she sort of natural born kindergarten teacher and she enjoyed this experience of working with all kinds of stuff and and having kids get all excited and do stuff.

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00:33:47.580 --> 00:33:51.300

Lynn Conway: All kinds of things and and so if you think of the combination

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00:33:52.350 --> 00:34:03.930

Lynn Conway: I kind of ended up with sort of like characteristics of both of these sort of passions, you think, which is really, you know, kind of interesting. So I ended up

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00:34:05.220 --> 00:34:05.910

Lynn Conway: Really

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00:34:08.190 --> 00:34:10.800

Lynn Conway: doing really well and things like science and math.

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00:34:11.970 --> 00:34:23.190

Lynn Conway: In in school, but I also was experiencing from a very early age, gender dysphoria. So there were there were a sort of

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00:34:25.710 --> 00:34:28.200

Lynn Conway: A strange and kind of looming kind of

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00:34:29.250 --> 00:34:39.720

Lynn Conway: Chaotic tension between being drawn to to do stuff but finding that I couldn't quite

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00:34:40.860 --> 00:34:43.890

Lynn Conway: actually seeing the person

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00:34:46.020 --> 00:34:57.720

Lynn Conway: It's really weird because any, anything you do that might hint at this dysphoria or whatever. Um,

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00:35:00.180 --> 00:35:16.410

Lynn Conway: Was was for what free instant pushback. And I think was unconscious. You see, I'm saying it's not like it's Venus or anything. It's just became very clear that there's something really drastically wrong and but what wasn't anything you can do about it. You know, I mean, it's like, no.

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00:35:17.970 --> 00:35:21.780

Lynn Conway: Right, especially when you're a little child, what are you going to do so.

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00:35:23.640 --> 00:35:26.880

Lynn Conway: So anyway, I am I ended up doing very well.

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00:35:28.740 --> 00:35:29.580

Lynn Conway: In high school,

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00:35:33.120 --> 00:35:58.920

Lynn Conway: Was able to immerse in intellectual stuff maybe as an escape. I don't know where, you know, lacking kind of social life and everything like that. I could have become focused on on science and math and physics and stuff like that. And it did well enough that I was able to to get into MIT.

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00:36:00.630 --> 00:36:11.460

Lynn Conway: And so off. I often went to MIT. And I did very well there until the thing away from home. The dysphoria appear

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00:36:13.230 --> 00:36:16.470

Lynn Conway: To have some some avenues of exploration

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00:36:18.300 --> 00:36:23.730

Lynn Conway: And so I kind of got myself in a jam where I really

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00:36:26.880 --> 00:36:32.040

Lynn Conway: wanted so much to do something about it and and began kind of

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00:36:33.660 --> 00:36:36.480

Lynn Conway: Part of the time, you know, learning how to be

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00:36:41.310 --> 00:36:57.060

Lynn Conway: Like a girl, you know, as found ways to do that and also to build relationships of kinds with boys that I was attracted to right kind of down through a few years but never quite

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00:36:58.890 --> 00:37:10.980

Lynn Conway: Been able to do anything serious about it but but I would very often, then these kind of odd relationships, a little hard to describe. But I think many people know know how these things go

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00:37:11.910 --> 00:37:13.620

Lynn Conway: I would find my world, basically.

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00:37:13.920 --> 00:37:21.510

Lynn Conway: And I want to be with someone and I would be interesting enough that they want to be with me, but it would never be like romantic

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00:37:21.750 --> 00:37:23.850

Lynn Conway: Right, but it was clearly

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00:37:24.930 --> 00:37:27.660

Lynn Conway: It was clearly, you know, strong as soon as a

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00:37:29.760 --> 00:37:30.330

Lynn Conway: Mighty

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00:37:31.050 --> 00:37:31.320

Lynn Conway: Hmm.

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00:37:31.620 --> 00:37:32.100

Evan Taylor: This is when we

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00:37:32.190 --> 00:37:35.640

Lynn Conway: First started, I was able to begin that at MIT.

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00:37:35.970 --> 00:37:36.660

Lynn Conway: And how old are you,

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00:37:38.700 --> 00:37:39.990

Evan Taylor: How old were you around this time.

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00:37:40.110 --> 00:37:42.960

Lynn Conway: I went to MIT. I was 17 I skipped two grades.

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00:37:44.700 --> 00:37:46.770

Lynn Conway: And so, so as young, but anyway.

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00:37:49.380 --> 00:37:58.140

Lynn Conway: I did well. And then, but then I started unraveling when all this happened and and in my final year I just had to leave.

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00:37:59.190 --> 00:38:01.650

Lynn Conway: I had to get out of there and

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00:38:02.760 --> 00:38:11.220

Lynn Conway: Had a few rough two years and then finally began again at Columbia University what determine now to to

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00:38:12.600 --> 00:38:22.650

Lynn Conway: Finish this, I had to get ahead of you will get a job. I had to do a work well in any kind of future. I was going to find. I had to be able to get money right

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00:38:23.580 --> 00:38:33.810

Lynn Conway: Now what is really important and I mean you know it. The people are super shouldn't overlook, how much money you need to kind of have a regular life. Mm hmm.

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00:38:35.250 --> 00:38:38.910

Lynn Conway: That regular people regular jobs actually over time, make money.

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00:38:40.710 --> 00:38:49.710

Lynn Conway: And they gradually build a little bit of a mistake and so forth. And if you don't learn how to do that and are willing to work hard at it well.

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00:38:50.250 --> 00:39:01.350

Lynn Conway: You know, I'm sorry. It's just, like, okay, now you're in trouble right and see and it's just one of those things. And I will point out, it's not just trans people have to do it. Everybody has to do

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00:39:02.490 --> 00:39:03.360

Lynn Conway: So it's not like

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00:39:04.620 --> 00:39:06.090

Lynn Conway: Oh, you know,

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00:39:08.460 --> 00:39:12.300

Lynn Conway: Country isn't in wireless somebody helped me. Well, wait a minute.

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00:39:14.370 --> 00:39:22.860

Lynn Conway: So you see I have a little bit of a thing about self reliance. I mean, right. No other people really are not in the long run, going to take your

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00:39:24.120 --> 00:39:37.260

Lynn Conway: Right, so it's pretty important to figure out how to make your way in the world. Whatever way you can for, you know, whatever kind of life you want. So, so I went and I did very well there.

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00:39:38.370 --> 00:39:39.900

Lynn Conway: And amazing thing about it was

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00:39:41.850 --> 00:39:42.990

Lynn Conway: I got a master's

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00:39:44.430 --> 00:39:44.970

Lynn Conway: And

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00:39:47.820 --> 00:39:50.730

Lynn Conway: I stayed on a year or thought I might want to go for a PhD.

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00:39:52.170 --> 00:40:00.120

Lynn Conway: Took some courses that I took a course with a an adjunct professor from IBM Research at Yorktown Heights.

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00:40:01.380 --> 00:40:12.540

Lynn Conway: And I did an independent study for him things for sure. And in this independent study work I did something really cool. I won't go into the technical details of it, it just

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00:40:13.440 --> 00:40:22.950

Lynn Conway: It was experiments with some worked in the works of done a mathematical laboratory this a long time going really, really basic acuity. He does some work with

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00:40:23.700 --> 00:40:36.720

Lynn Conway: Self compiling compilers and I was able to implement one on an idea and 1620 which would be the last issue in the world, you try to do such a thing on but I knew that machine well on a fear, how to do it.

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00:40:37.380 --> 00:40:56.580

Lynn Conway: And and and did some work and evolving that a little bit and it impressed her cuz I just went off and did this enter his courts and hearing some things and reading some papers it give me papers about works work. So I just did this and so

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00:40:58.440 --> 00:41:01.200

Lynn Conway: Lo and behold, they offered me a job in Yorktown Heights.

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00:41:02.760 --> 00:41:05.970

Lynn Conway: For a really good starting salary, you know, and

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00:41:06.030 --> 00:41:07.590

Lynn Conway: And it's like a big company.

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00:41:08.760 --> 00:41:13.710

Lynn Conway: at IBM research and write in one of the really a very important research group.

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00:41:15.480 --> 00:41:18.420

Lynn Conway: So probably it's kind of like I was spotted sort of

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00:41:19.620 --> 00:41:35.790

Lynn Conway: As someone who was so completely wrapped nerdy mathematical physics minded boardwalk that well let's just get this for us because we know we can get. We can put on the hard problems know probably go figure out how to do something, it's just

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00:41:37.440 --> 00:41:42.720

Lynn Conway: There's a lot of stories live out this kind of stuff in academia, you know, you look these kind of students are kind of

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00:41:43.050 --> 00:41:57.210

Lynn Conway: Known about. It's not that they're going to do anything else in life instead of me, but they they could figure out something probably no one else could write them there. Right, okay, because they're so wrapped up in their heads felt what they're doing, and I was like that.

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00:41:58.890 --> 00:42:10.380

Lynn Conway: And I can give like that. What I have to, but it's really living that way all the time. It's really tough, you know i don't i don't tend to do that all the time, right. So just be exhausting. Okay.

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00:42:11.970 --> 00:42:18.270

Lynn Conway: But you know when it really happens when you really need to you can turn it on sale. And that was activism.

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00:42:20.370 --> 00:42:23.910

Lynn Conway: Like anyway I got in this group. And it was so nice.

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00:42:25.590 --> 00:42:28.410

Lynn Conway: This configure it up working on designing a super computer

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00:42:29.970 --> 00:42:37.590

Lynn Conway: That was the project was started by TJ Watson jr himself. It was initiated because of

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00:42:39.060 --> 00:42:53.670

Lynn Conway: Concerns about other companies fast computers control data and so forth and ideas so lacking prestige in that area. But there's also a kind of hidden market for such computers, then I'll come back to

359

00:42:56.790 --> 00:43:00.120

Lynn Conway: So we're going to do a supercomputer that would blow everything else.

360

00:43:01.650 --> 00:43:02.160

Lynn Conway: And

361

00:43:03.360 --> 00:43:16.890

Lynn Conway: So everyone started with a blank sheet of paper and some really the top people around at the time and IBM were on the project, notably John Cox, or anything that's computer architect from that era and

362

00:43:18.780 --> 00:43:24.750

Lynn Conway: As a project went on I was assigned the responsibility to build a

363

00:43:25.800 --> 00:43:32.670

Lynn Conway: Registered transfer simulator is simply a model of the machine of the key characteristics of the machine.

364

00:43:33.780 --> 00:43:44.550

Lynn Conway: That would run on other on another machine currently fast machine, but nothing anywhere near as he has this is going to be okay. But something where we could see the machine behaviors.

365

00:43:45.210 --> 00:43:58.110

Lynn Conway: As they would kind of run one against another to notice where the bottlenecks were and how you might what might do to improve the, the, the actual throughput of the machine and instructions per second.

366

00:43:59.640 --> 00:44:00.090

Lynn Conway: And

367

00:44:01.860 --> 00:44:04.530

Lynn Conway: While doing that John Cochon

368

00:44:06.510 --> 00:44:24.570

Lynn Conway: Read the question about current thinking about computer architecture where he questioned, an idea that then existed in computer architecture about how fast you could you could make a machine issue instructions and people thought there was down on that.

369

00:44:25.680 --> 00:44:45.180

Lynn Conway: He thought there's got to be a way around that. Right. Anyway, I went off and I worked on this problem that I came up with an interesting but look like interesting solution which people reacted to strongly and thought, okay, and then I modified the simulator to incorporate that.

370

00:44:46.380 --> 00:44:48.240

Lynn Conway: And indeed did look like we could make

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00:44:49.500 --> 00:44:51.600

Lynn Conway: A substantial factor improvement.

372

00:44:52.620 --> 00:44:54.150

Lynn Conway: In the following sense.

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00:44:56.250 --> 00:45:06.840

Lynn Conway: For a given kind of circuitry that had a certain speed. It was a way to multiply the potential speed when you factor of three or so.

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00:45:07.680 --> 00:45:22.020

Lynn Conway: It doesn't sound like a lot, but it means that that any machine didn't matter as as circuitry got faster. The machine would be, again, the three tenths faster would have been okay okay so

375

00:45:23.250 --> 00:45:25.290

Lynn Conway: When you look at the evolution of the machinery.

376

00:45:26.490 --> 00:45:39.630

Lynn Conway: The speed of the computer determines how fast you can use a computer to simulate new computers, you might want to make it, you have to run it forever to see even the simplest thing that the new one. Why do in order to see if you made any improvement.

377

00:45:40.890 --> 00:45:54.480

Lynn Conway: A FACTOR OF three means you wanted the third that time. Right. And so if you think about all the everything kind of hinges on what can we do with our current computers to model.

378

00:45:55.680 --> 00:45:57.600

Lynn Conway: Three future things we're trying to make

379

00:45:58.620 --> 00:46:12.480

Lynn Conway: And and and and and the more powerful anything is at a given point in time, there's kind of a it kind of changes the time constant on a range of social change of health. Yes, all this stuff unfolds and becomes available.

380

00:46:13.980 --> 00:46:19.020

Lynn Conway: And and that's another idea I carried forward into my later work and microelectronics but anyway.

381

00:46:20.790 --> 00:46:21.090

Lynn Conway: The

382

00:46:23.130 --> 00:46:24.450

Lynn Conway: This notion of simulating

383

00:46:26.460 --> 00:46:33.630

Lynn Conway: Was enough to it and and the reality of what we seem to have uncovered with this method called dynamic construction scheduling.

384

00:46:35.580 --> 00:46:38.400

Lynn Conway: Convince people to put this in the in the machine.

385

00:46:39.420 --> 00:46:42.360

Lynn Conway: The project one for to fit that in and

386

00:46:43.410 --> 00:46:44.250

Lynn Conway: Amazingly,

387

00:46:47.160 --> 00:46:59.730

Lynn Conway: This would have been a really, really cool machine, except the project got sidetracked by the fact that IBM System 360 degree mainframes of the day we're taking off like hotcakes

388

00:47:00.510 --> 00:47:19.380

Lynn Conway: And this machine would not be compatible the instruction set was not compatible with IBM six and 360 Oh, because there were tricks in the way you design the instructions that enable them to be executed rapidly that the system 316 instructions that didn't have him.

389

00:47:20.490 --> 00:47:24.330

Lynn Conway: Make that kind of instructions that run fast like this. Well, anyway.

390

00:47:26.190 --> 00:47:33.660

Lynn Conway: Long story short, that project was sort of winding its way down towards being cancelled.

391

00:47:35.070 --> 00:47:36.540

Lynn Conway: Right at the same time.

392

00:47:38.520 --> 00:47:39.300

Lynn Conway: I had

393

00:47:40.380 --> 00:47:41.670

Lynn Conway: A few years before.

394

00:47:42.780 --> 00:47:50.790

Lynn Conway: Read about Dr Benjamin's work his book got his book contacted him met him if he can

395

00:47:53.310 --> 00:47:54.630

Lynn Conway: Do under his care.

396

00:47:56.070 --> 00:47:57.540

Lynn Conway: Because I

397

00:48:00.120 --> 00:48:07.260

Lynn Conway: Realize that something was doable back when the Jorgensen case broken 53 right and that had triggered.

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00:48:08.400 --> 00:48:17.310

Lynn Conway: A lot of my explorations. When I left home and garden went to MIT, because I knew things were possible. And I began exploring all of that.

399

00:48:18.690 --> 00:48:22.740

Lynn Conway: And I even found a way to get some sir surreptitiously get some hormones.

400

00:48:24.720 --> 00:48:29.220

Lynn Conway: Back in 1958

401

00:48:31.470 --> 00:48:44.010

Lynn Conway: So, so you know and and that was what then compounded with the kind of, kind of, you know, I had to get out of them. I get it done on awesome. I just can't deal with this and

402

00:48:45.060 --> 00:48:46.560

Lynn Conway: And because

403

00:48:49.020 --> 00:49:03.780

Lynn Conway: It was clearly at the time, something that would make people question your sanity. Right, right. I didn't want to get locked up you know back then when having a difficult you if you're really quote nuts. You got stuck in these institutions and for something like this.

404

00:49:05.610 --> 00:49:09.270

Lynn Conway: You, you would get worse than shock treatments. Let's put it that money.

405

00:49:10.620 --> 00:49:17.100

Lynn Conway: I, you know, began realizing in a few years after that some people even getting on.

406

00:49:18.360 --> 00:49:30.540

Lynn Conway: The bottom. Nice. Nice. Yeah. And you know, you just you. So you're the. It's sort of like you're, you're not just an outlaw, you're like, way out there.

407

00:49:31.650 --> 00:49:32.010

Evan Taylor: Yeah.

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00:49:32.040 --> 00:49:32.730

Lynn Conway: So anyway.

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00:49:33.870 --> 00:49:48.420

Lynn Conway: But then, then when when I was, you know, an idea we moved to California. We moved there and 65 and cold group went out there to do this. So, configure we left research we've got to focus on the supercomputer.

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00:49:49.980 --> 00:49:51.840

Lynn Conway: Right about Dr. Benjamin and

411

00:49:53.040 --> 00:49:54.810

Lynn Conway: begin seeing him.

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00:49:56.190 --> 00:49:57.630

Lynn Conway: That he hormone treatments.

413

00:49:59.190 --> 00:49:59.670

Lynn Conway: So,

414

00:49:59.820 --> 00:50:03.870

Evan Taylor: Beforehand, before he saw him. Have you been getting no hormones, just from friends or off the street or whatever.

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00:50:05.100 --> 00:50:11.160

Lynn Conway: Yeah, I won't say exactly how they got them right on. That's, that's a detail. But yeah, there

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00:50:12.750 --> 00:50:19.500

Lynn Conway: Were existing at the time. Yeah, that work at all been done really been pushed in Germany War two.

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00:50:21.000 --> 00:50:22.230

Lynn Conway: And before and

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00:50:22.560 --> 00:50:25.050

Evan Taylor: TJ creative in terms of accessing let's put it that way.

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00:50:25.500 --> 00:50:31.020

Lynn Conway: Yeah, that's it. There was some creative, it really involved having some contacts.

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00:50:31.350 --> 00:50:31.830

Evan Taylor: Right.

421

00:50:32.220 --> 00:50:33.900

Lynn Conway: We're able to get them.

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00:50:34.140 --> 00:50:38.070

Lynn Conway: Gotcha, and paying money you know that so

423

00:50:39.630 --> 00:50:41.520

Lynn Conway: So anyway, um,

424

00:50:43.350 --> 00:50:50.580

Lynn Conway: Well, was at IBM and I done this work and everything was going wildly Cooley. I was building up towards

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00:50:51.660 --> 00:50:54.090

Lynn Conway: Like I'm gonna have to say something about what I'm doing.

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00:50:56.100 --> 00:50:57.750

Lynn Conway: In and then

427

00:50:59.250 --> 00:51:02.760

Lynn Conway: Because it was going to get obvious after a wall, and I did something

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00:51:02.820 --> 00:51:03.810

Evan Taylor: And you're going to notice.

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00:51:04.590 --> 00:51:09.840

Lynn Conway: Yeah, yeah. This is like, yeah, right. Yeah. People need to understand understand and

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00:51:11.850 --> 00:51:12.570

Lynn Conway: So,

431

00:51:14.760 --> 00:51:15.150

Lynn Conway: I

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00:51:17.670 --> 00:51:20.460

Lynn Conway: wrote up a whole bunch of stuff and dealt with this is all about.

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00:51:21.690 --> 00:51:35.220

Lynn Conway: plated as a very, it was clearly at the time thought of is extremely rare, but it was sort of this and I kind of use the script that Dr. Benjamin had provided to explain what it was and how this to be treated and so forth.

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00:51:36.360 --> 00:51:43.980

Lynn Conway: And I actually, I, I told my manager. He told this manager talk with the HR people and for a period of time.

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00:51:45.300 --> 00:51:54.930

Lynn Conway: This sort of percolated along to where there was a concept developed and it was in coordinated with someone from corporate and came out to talk to me.

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00:51:56.940 --> 00:51:57.420

Lynn Conway: That

437

00:51:59.250 --> 00:52:05.190

Lynn Conway: And by then gene anvil for a famous computer Arctic was director of VCs and

438

00:52:07.350 --> 00:52:12.360

Lynn Conway: Everyone was going along with the idea. In fact, I, I talk with one of the external units.

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00:52:13.440 --> 00:52:18.060

Lynn Conway: I was that I could potentially transfer to another IBM location.

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00:52:19.740 --> 00:52:35.850

Lynn Conway: Take a kind of backroom kind of straightforward kind of position that I could do quietly right and that would be how they thought they might be able to handle this or no promises, but it kind of look like this is the way it was going to go. Okay.

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00:52:37.200 --> 00:52:37.920

Lynn Conway: Then

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00:52:39.060 --> 00:52:46.980

Lynn Conway: A lot of things happen. Kind of all about the same time ACS was was hit by the ACS ambles

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00:52:48.180 --> 00:52:54.600

Lynn Conway: Group OUT THERE WAS SITTING sort of the a showdown over whether this was going to be 360 or not.

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00:52:55.710 --> 00:53:02.730

Lynn Conway: There was a lot of chaos, sort of in the organization and and while that was happening.

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00:53:03.840 --> 00:53:06.180

Lynn Conway: The fact that I had made this

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00:53:07.290 --> 00:53:14.670

Lynn Conway: Known was going at going up the corporate ladder at some point it tilted over to the corporate medical director

447

00:53:16.230 --> 00:53:17.400

Lynn Conway: For his attention.

448

00:53:18.720 --> 00:53:27.060

Lynn Conway: And it was shortly after that that I got noticed I'm out of here. Okay, and

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00:53:28.560 --> 00:53:38.460

Lynn Conway: And this came as a as a real shock was like the promises were broken. I'm I know they didn't. I didn't even do an exit interview.

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00:53:38.940 --> 00:53:43.080

Lynn Conway: That's how he's able to keep all the stuff I had a lot of the stuff I was working on at home.

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00:53:43.620 --> 00:53:58.350

Lynn Conway: Right. And all these internal documents that everything. The ones I put on the internet, showing the old early work. Oh, I, I have taken those I taken a lot of stuff that I never had to give those away RAS one. I just want to be gone. Kind of cool.

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00:53:59.940 --> 00:54:03.690

Lynn Conway: And we do all this stuff is weird how things happen. So anyway,

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00:54:08.340 --> 00:54:08.640

Lynn Conway: So,

454

00:54:09.300 --> 00:54:12.390

Lynn Conway: I was I was, and you know it's interesting I

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00:54:14.640 --> 00:54:28.860

Lynn Conway: I found out I didn't really understand specifically how the firing it happened kind of one was there this sudden dramatic firing right like you're going to give I get out

456

00:54:29.610 --> 00:54:31.440

Evan Taylor: Whenever they go along so well.

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00:54:32.070 --> 00:54:38.550

Lynn Conway: Yeah, and and what I, what happened was, I'm in 2010

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00:54:39.840 --> 00:54:40.740

Lynn Conway: Recent history.

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00:54:41.790 --> 00:54:42.660

Lynn Conway: And 2010

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00:54:44.100 --> 00:54:49.620

Lynn Conway: I was writing a memoir about my time at idea of I've been asked.

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00:54:51.450 --> 00:55:02.400

Lynn Conway: To to write a book chapter in a book of God that contain a lot of stories, but the early history of computing. So, so I wrote him and more about it.

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00:55:03.240 --> 00:55:18.030

Lynn Conway: And while I was preparing that I was reflecting on what it happened in the firing and wanting to kind understand it better. Are you thinking of reading more about teacher was a junior. In fact, I read his autobiography, Father, Son and complex and guess what

463

00:55:19.500 --> 00:55:32.130

Lynn Conway: In that auto biography overly describes his over the top homophobic reactions against a teacher at the greatest Country Day School

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00:55:33.120 --> 00:55:39.660

Lynn Conway: Who was discovered as having being gay, right, at a time when the headmaster was away.

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00:55:40.110 --> 00:55:54.840

Lynn Conway: And they would had to wait a while for him to come back and do investigation of lava. He just took over the board is on the word trustees. He just took it over hired the guy and the rated the headmaster for not coming back as you do all this

466

00:55:55.890 --> 00:56:11.580

Lynn Conway: And you know and and the the the sort of over the top. This of it was such that he was never asked to be on boards like that again because the word got out. I mean, even if everybody is even homophobic.

467

00:56:12.990 --> 00:56:15.240

Lynn Conway: The word got out that, you know, wait a minute.

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00:56:16.260 --> 00:56:25.860

Lynn Conway: This isn't necessarily good because it can blow up in his face. You say, well, because, you know, who knows what he might do anyway he did that. And then I thought that. Wait a minute.

469

00:56:27.480 --> 00:56:37.290

Lynn Conway: The decision. I knew the decision to come from the corporate executive committee, they're probably gotten there by the medical director. Yeah. Well, the corporate executive committee.

470

00:56:39.390 --> 00:56:52.140

Lynn Conway: Was teaching, Watson, Jr. I mean, he is this kind of person when he heard about it. I'm sure that's what happened. I don't think there's any doubt, so. So what's really kind of cool is

471

00:56:53.430 --> 00:56:57.330

Lynn Conway: I nail, think of having been fired by TJ was in junior

472

00:56:58.440 --> 00:57:03.810

Lynn Conway: Homophobic president and CEO of IBM in those days, I think of it as a badge of honor.

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00:57:04.080 --> 00:57:10.740

Lynn Conway: Absolutely. Like, and because it because I'm still around, and I get to tell the story.

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00:57:11.910 --> 00:57:20.460

Lynn Conway: And, you know, and it's like, Wow. Isn't that cool. I mean, I think that's really cool. Absolutely. People can say that

475

00:57:21.990 --> 00:57:28.800

Lynn Conway: And and and and say it in a way that in these times, they feel, you know, really comfortable about

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00:57:28.950 --> 00:57:30.630

Lynn Conway: Mm hmm. See

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00:57:30.900 --> 00:57:44.520

Evan Taylor: Absolutely seeing it from that place of it. Not only did it not not not kill me. Not only that, maybe even make me stronger giving other opportunities, but perhaps I actually get to sit here maybe as the person who gets to look back and say I was on the right side of history.

478

00:57:45.930 --> 00:57:47.280

Lynn Conway: Yeah yeah

479

00:57:48.360 --> 00:57:50.160

Lynn Conway: Of course is full suffering question.

480

00:57:51.570 --> 00:57:53.310

Lynn Conway: You know, what's the meaning of life.

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00:57:54.900 --> 00:58:01.860

Lynn Conway: This little speck of the universe is our history going to ever be known off the earth as a few things like that. So we don't want to take ourselves to certain

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00:58:05.100 --> 00:58:22.860

Lynn Conway: That helps us that helps us. It helps us avoid the overly ambitious and over dramatizing stuff. You see, that's why I really like this. I gotta stay grounded and kind of just everyday common sense here, but it is a great story, isn't it.

483

00:58:23.100 --> 00:58:24.690

Evan Taylor: It's a fantastic story.

484

00:58:24.870 --> 00:58:25.110

Lynn Conway: And

485

00:58:25.440 --> 00:58:40.050

Evan Taylor: I know I'm talking to you right now so many years later that it has to take some new twists and turns and definitely least somewhere productive. So what happened after this well. How did you survive this. This immediately brutal firing.

486

00:58:40.380 --> 00:58:40.770

And

487

00:58:41.970 --> 00:58:43.560

Lynn Conway: It has been a long time to

488

00:58:44.970 --> 00:58:49.260

Lynn Conway: I was just preparing to go off for us arrest and

489

00:58:50.490 --> 00:59:00.810

Lynn Conway: Financial Worries all the moment. So it was really a terrifying time but I managed to complete my transition without totally running out of money.

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00:59:02.340 --> 00:59:03.780

Lynn Conway: And and also

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00:59:05.400 --> 00:59:12.270

Lynn Conway: I was really forced to become totally self reliant, I had to shift into hyperdrive and go for it.

492

00:59:14.460 --> 00:59:22.260

Lynn Conway: And so it was this, it was some of the same kind of thing as like when I was at Columbia and got onto these ideas that got me the job at Yorktown.

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00:59:23.340 --> 00:59:38.490

Lynn Conway: Or something like that time when I was in high school and I got really passionate about immature stone, and he was building telescopes and and getting into that and just thrilled to death but with the world that was opening you sent me right and so

494

00:59:39.870 --> 00:59:43.980

Lynn Conway: So I did it. But the thing is, I had to do it in really in deep stealth mode.

495

00:59:45.090 --> 00:59:45.660

Lynn Conway: And

496

00:59:47.220 --> 00:59:52.440

Lynn Conway: The only way it's going to go to kind of survive as I'm going to have to get a job back again.

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00:59:53.490 --> 00:59:54.780

Lynn Conway: In in computing

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00:59:55.980 --> 01:00:12.480

Lynn Conway: Is that the only way to earn enough money to really be sure I could go forward. But part of it was almost running out of money was like scared the heck out of me. Yeah, so, so I obsessed on how am I going to get a real job.

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01:00:13.770 --> 01:00:24.660

Lynn Conway: And and and and express I only had like a few months to be able to do this, you know, kind of completing the full social transition to like that.

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01:00:24.930 --> 01:00:26.460

Lynn Conway: Right now turns out

501

01:00:28.290 --> 01:00:40.020

Lynn Conway: Dr. Benjamin was was unbelievable in the day and he was sort of like the cooling of the Internet today as far as knowing what's going on and finding out where to get help and software. And so I was

502

01:00:41.940 --> 01:00:45.570

Lynn Conway: I was greatly helped by him introducing me to

503

01:00:46.830 --> 01:00:58.410

Lynn Conway: Transition is in San Francisco young women who who weren't various phases, but but but work at fully socially transition and somewhere completing

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01:00:58.980 --> 01:01:06.060

Lynn Conway: Surgeries now. Now, of course, in that day with this myth was they were mostly

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01:01:06.900 --> 01:01:27.000

Lynn Conway: Sex workers and entertainers. If you're really pretty. If you're really pretty and and had a personality, where you weren't afraid of, you know, going out and you know doing stuff get a job as an entertainer. But if you weren't that then you were a sex worker right and and

506

01:01:28.410 --> 01:01:37.770

Lynn Conway: But these were really, really fantastic women and and and so I hung around and and and was out in a doubt.

507

01:01:38.910 --> 01:01:40.440

Lynn Conway: And active and in that

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01:01:41.460 --> 01:01:45.300

Lynn Conway: During that period, which helped me greatly.

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01:01:47.070 --> 01:01:47.970

Lynn Conway: Feel comfortable

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01:01:49.050 --> 01:01:50.430

Lynn Conway: And in, you know,

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01:01:51.450 --> 01:01:57.750

Lynn Conway: Doing everything I needed to do because it's all this stuff with your documentation and this that I mean it was

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01:01:59.850 --> 01:02:01.740

Lynn Conway: Especially when you try to do it stealth

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01:02:02.070 --> 01:02:10.530

Lynn Conway: Right. And so, so I gotten fired around September of

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01:02:11.910 --> 01:02:12.690

Lynn Conway: 68

515

01:02:14.760 --> 01:02:21.630

Lynn Conway: There's the SRS. By the end of the year and was dead. I was transit fully socially transitioning

516

01:02:23.190 --> 01:02:38.850

Lynn Conway: And by that April or so I began interviewing for jobs. Oh, wow. And I got a job and and and and and i was able, with some good connections to get a job as a contract program.

517

01:02:39.750 --> 01:02:57.930

Lynn Conway: Okay, looks, which was turned out to be fairly straightforward for me and and because I did the 360 stuff and everybody then need 360 software, people would would hire anybody that knew how to 360 especially do the job control language and all that stuff. Sony like

518

01:02:59.370 --> 01:03:06.990

Lynn Conway: I got that job and I started working my way back up the ladder because I turned out what I could do is I could I could tend to

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01:03:08.820 --> 01:03:22.740

Lynn Conway: exceed expectations. Let's put it that way. Yeah, I was kind of quiet reserved, but I, I can figure things out. I try to be friendly. And so I began to rebuild a career.

520

01:03:23.610 --> 01:03:34.200

Lynn Conway: Where it's like with you. Who is this person look at look at look at what you just did you see I'm saying huh and. And within a couple years. I got a job at remember cooperation initiatives system for grammar.

521

01:03:34.530 --> 01:03:40.710

Lynn Conway: But then it turned out when they realize I done some computer architectural work. I got an assignment to be the architect for a small

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01:03:41.640 --> 01:03:51.180

Lynn Conway: mini computer type business machine that they were developing and I did a slam thing job with that. That was all good, then they got out of the computer business.

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01:03:51.960 --> 01:04:00.390

Lynn Conway: Then I began interviewing again. So I had a really nice series of jobs where I got the first one, but then moved up on my own and then then got

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01:04:01.260 --> 01:04:17.700

Lynn Conway: And and then that just sort of ran out. And that was not good, but I got a headhunter again. And it turned out. This is like a huge stroke stroke of luck on I got a physician at Xerox Palo Alto Research Center.

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01:04:19.470 --> 01:04:33.990

Lynn Conway: Right when it was being formed right in its early years, and it was to become like this completely while creative place that so much of the modern computer stuff got generated okay yeah and and

526

01:04:35.220 --> 01:04:42.060

Lynn Conway: You know the history of that is all very well known in the in the it community and the computing community in the research community.

527

01:04:43.620 --> 01:04:44.850

Lynn Conway: So I got a physician there.

528

01:04:45.930 --> 01:04:46.530

Lynn Conway: And

529

01:04:49.560 --> 01:04:54.990

Lynn Conway: I was very fortunate I won't go into the details. I've written about this whole, this is pretty well known. I wrote a

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01:04:56.310 --> 01:04:59.610

Lynn Conway: memoir about it, that was published IEEE

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01:05:02.190 --> 01:05:08.640

Lynn Conway: Associate circus magazine, kind of in a special issue that was published a few just a few years back on.

532

01:05:10.080 --> 01:05:15.000

Lynn Conway: And I won't go into all the story, but the idea, the thing. It really happened was I was able

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01:05:16.080 --> 01:05:16.710

Lynn Conway: To

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01:05:17.880 --> 01:05:22.410

Lynn Conway: Come up with some ways to make the design of silicon chips.

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01:05:23.850 --> 01:05:34.800

Lynn Conway: Much easier to do than it been done before and and and you know so simple that that if you were constrained to those techniques of design pretty much any

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01:05:35.670 --> 01:05:45.930

Lynn Conway: Senior Masters level student in computer science, computer engineering, electrical engineering could learn to do system level design in silicon

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01:05:47.070 --> 01:05:54.600

Lynn Conway: Using some simple tools that we were developing a park at the same time, and I

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01:05:56.280 --> 01:06:07.170

Lynn Conway: Wrote a book about this and was given a sabbatical to go to MIT to teach a course on it that kind of introduced the concepts and

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01:06:08.220 --> 01:06:12.840

Lynn Conway: That course was well attended amazingly the students

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01:06:14.010 --> 01:06:20.520

Lynn Conway: I taught him the methods in the first half of the course they did chip designs in the second half on rather primitive tools become done

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01:06:21.360 --> 01:06:31.200

Lynn Conway: We had those designs fabricated data at a Hewlett Packard research lab fabrication facility and and what happened was,

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01:06:32.040 --> 01:06:49.110

Lynn Conway: Well all sudden students right in school to learn how to design chips you get them made and and and over the work just fine. And they were fairly sophisticated signs, many of them without, you know, thousands of transistors in him and after that point.

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01:06:50.580 --> 01:06:59.250

Lynn Conway: The only people that had been designing the recent early microprocessors. The first little computers on a chip.

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01:07:00.330 --> 01:07:08.070

Lynn Conway: Work computer architects who live within a company like Intel that printed the chips. Right.

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01:07:08.730 --> 01:07:24.540

Lynn Conway: YOU COULDN'T YOU COULDN'T YOU COULDN'T DO chip design and you wouldn't know how to do it unless you were in those few handful few groups within a few 700 companies that couldn't print the chips. Right. So what it was like. Let me give you an analogy here.

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01:07:26.280 --> 01:07:27.240

Lynn Conway: We're sort of like

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01:07:28.920 --> 01:07:33.360

Lynn Conway: The semiconductor industry had invented the printing press OK.

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01:07:35.130 --> 01:07:37.950

Lynn Conway: Where you could if you had something to print

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01:07:39.780 --> 01:07:46.620

Lynn Conway: Somebody architected that wrote it authored it created it, they could print that

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01:07:48.060 --> 01:08:04.980

Lynn Conway: In huge volume on these tiny little chips for very little compared to what the parts would cost if you made a film together by hand with things you buy off the shelf. Gotcha. The problem was, it is so clear. When you think about it.

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01:08:06.180 --> 01:08:14.130

Lynn Conway: Here you have the printing plant and the only people can author anything are tiny little handful to what worked for them.

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01:08:14.790 --> 01:08:23.100

Lynn Conway: That design what they think of is going to be the next big shift like another microprocessor. There's so many other kinds of parts of chips.

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01:08:23.700 --> 01:08:32.610

Lynn Conway: Things that evolved into the signal processing and graphic processing stuff all the things we know now that you want to put into a chip to give it diverse capabilities.

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01:08:34.710 --> 01:08:48.750

Lynn Conway: The places that do the printing couldn't think about all that because they didn't even know how the things work that they were printing. You see, they're just printing what what the group of people that to work together that get this thing crafted do

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01:08:49.230 --> 01:08:57.030

Lynn Conway: Right. And the last step in the process was very intensive where people would carnival. So all of circuitry.

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01:08:57.720 --> 01:09:04.020

Lynn Conway: It for me. As for the lithography that did the printing, they would carve them and think pieces of Ruby that that you would hang up.

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01:09:04.560 --> 01:09:18.570

Lynn Conway: On a wall, but then you can overland okay and and and so you'd have a few thousand transistors in there were take a huge task to get all these in the right places. And then photographs and the trick. The photographs down and then print the chips.

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01:09:20.100 --> 01:09:20.730

Lynn Conway: But

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01:09:22.230 --> 01:09:29.970

Lynn Conway: I park. We were we depart photo support can come up with the modern graphical interface mouse control on

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01:09:30.570 --> 01:09:44.100

Lynn Conway: mini computer that would let you graphically design things and keep the files and edit them right so it was easy to make those files in such a way that then you could take a whole array of things.

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01:09:44.490 --> 01:09:50.730

Lynn Conway: And you could just stack them together, have the file for all that pretty easy to go from a graphic image.

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01:09:51.330 --> 01:10:07.230

Lynn Conway: To the mass that would do the final printing. Okay. Okay. So, so the method of design. The method of making got inverted tour. Now you can have a place that could friendships, but with our methods and our design walls.

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01:10:08.910 --> 01:10:28.590

Lynn Conway: What you could do is anybody who could who could design a chip that would meet the design rules. Hey. Okay, could be an author. Oh, it's sort of like anybody who knows how to read in English and can use a word processor and gets the article looking like they want it can get a planet.

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01:10:28.950 --> 01:10:30.120

Evan Taylor: Right. God

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01:10:30.870 --> 01:10:37.410

Evan Taylor: It's not just a small group, people have access to the printer. Now that that ability to create is much more mass available.

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01:10:37.650 --> 01:10:40.350

Lynn Conway: Right, so I sort of see it as it opened have

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01:10:41.370 --> 01:10:55.710

Lynn Conway: It open up the printing of silicon. Okay, it created the freedom of the silicon press. What I this words I was using back then you see this call was really the underlying idea and

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01:10:56.910 --> 01:11:07.680

Lynn Conway: So the way you have it nailed you've got people designing chips all over the place. They front of that quote foundries that call those the big printing facilities ethical boundaries.

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01:11:08.190 --> 01:11:19.710

Lynn Conway: Located in Taiwan. Okay, or South Korea, a few in the United States. And so what the design isn't done inside the foundry, they get it as a computer file.

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01:11:19.920 --> 01:11:21.270

Lynn Conway: Gotcha. Wow.

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01:11:22.590 --> 01:11:23.250

Evan Taylor: Wow.

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01:11:23.640 --> 01:11:24.510

So,

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01:11:25.740 --> 01:11:29.550

Lynn Conway: So it's not like you need to be a rocket scientist to understand

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01:11:30.210 --> 01:11:39.630

Lynn Conway: The paradigm shift. Mm hmm. In fact, it turns out, most people involved in a paradigm shift didn't see the paradigm shift because they only see a little part of it. You see,

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01:11:40.260 --> 01:11:53.880

Lynn Conway: Right and and yet what happened was a student other universities wanted to have these courses that went from one course in in my teacher then within a couple of years at offered by 100 universities.

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01:11:53.970 --> 01:12:00.180

Lynn Conway: Oh wow, because it caught the time when the ARPANET was expanding knowledge can be blitzed out

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01:12:01.530 --> 01:12:05.790

Lynn Conway: It was a very special time and and I

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01:12:07.920 --> 01:12:12.480

Lynn Conway: And it was a tremendous experience. So that was what was happening there and

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01:12:15.450 --> 01:12:19.170

Lynn Conway: And what happened then was easy as that kind of going

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01:12:20.310 --> 01:12:30.570

Lynn Conway: I got the opportunity to do research in a broadening area in collaboration technology and an AI at Clark and then

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01:12:31.920 --> 01:12:36.180

Lynn Conway: In 1983 which really kind of the height of the Cold War.

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01:12:37.350 --> 01:12:43.890

Lynn Conway: I got offered it was over, and did a tour at DARPA, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

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01:12:45.090 --> 01:12:53.370

Lynn Conway: In wash in Arlington, Virginia and DARPA well known in the military intelligence in the

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01:12:54.960 --> 01:13:00.660

Lynn Conway: High tech industry in the research universities, it's it's really do these

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01:13:02.910 --> 01:13:20.220

Lynn Conway: Very special sort of, it's not a think tank, it's it's it's it's a group of people who are program managers were brought in to do a mission. Okay, that they're hot on where where where the aggregate

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01:13:21.360 --> 01:13:29.430

Lynn Conway: Folks in at DARPA think that this is something that we need to be pushing on some area technologies right for really rapid development.

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01:13:31.080 --> 01:13:44.520

Lynn Conway: But not development along the lines usually goes on in the universities where people write papers every 20 years for to go through. And so, but where you can see there's something but but we're foundational work needs to be done, but it needs to be done.

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01:13:45.990 --> 01:13:54.300

Lynn Conway: In a grounded way by attempting to actually prototype and build things that work. Yeah, but that are quick paradigms.

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01:13:55.230 --> 01:14:03.180

Lynn Conway: That system that continuously that was where the internet and come from as the ARPANET, which I'd already exploited, you see quite this whole thing.

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01:14:04.050 --> 01:14:17.070

Lynn Conway: And in fact, DARPA had had by then was developing was footing huge amounts of money into funding schools to do research, along the lines of work identity Park.

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01:14:17.610 --> 01:14:31.440

Lynn Conway: Um, so, so that helped that feel the same thing take on because all these researchers were in universities and elsewhere, we're working in that. And suddenly, that's sort of generating huge results. So then I went to Darren.

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01:14:32.970 --> 01:14:39.120

Lynn Conway: And follow them to work was to develop a essentially

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01:14:40.830 --> 01:14:42.630

Lynn Conway: A firm technology foundation

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01:14:43.800 --> 01:14:46.950

Lynn Conway: For intelligent weapons, where we combined

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01:14:48.270 --> 01:14:50.610

Lynn Conway: In the ongoing future development.

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01:14:52.260 --> 01:14:53.940

Lynn Conway: The micro electronics

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01:14:56.250 --> 01:15:01.080

Lynn Conway: With the AI that was emerging. Okay.

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01:15:03.150 --> 01:15:06.180

Lynn Conway: And and with all the methods for

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01:15:07.380 --> 01:15:15.180

Lynn Conway: Generating design using our, our network communications and speeding up the processes of development.

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01:15:17.700 --> 01:15:32.400

Lynn Conway: And in aligning it towards a series of applications that look like would be able to be early exploiters of this kind of new technology. So the idea was to not see electronics as sort of a separate thing.

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01:15:33.060 --> 01:15:43.950

Lynn Conway: But to see the coming Viola sigh electronics, the kind we have now as opening up possibilities for integration, they could take all the kind of things do. It was already doing.

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01:15:44.580 --> 01:15:57.090

Lynn Conway: And make a rethink everything because now you can put so much intelligence in a small amount of space that you could change everything about the architecture, Assistant. Mm hmm. So I love program to help trigger that

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01:15:58.320 --> 01:16:18.300

Lynn Conway: Assistant Director of Strategic computing here for so many years and created a plan got that going and kind of help help in a way help the system commands that are visualize the future that was going to unfold, so that they could be participants in proposing.

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01:16:20.040 --> 01:16:34.620

Lynn Conway: And contracting work that was much more forward looking, you can just the way Darfur is offering size, it was, it was really great to be there for one, I think in a way to think about it. I was

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01:16:36.990 --> 01:16:37.920

Lynn Conway: I was in a way

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01:16:40.050 --> 01:16:44.580

Lynn Conway: Leading a personal statement to myself that look at what I'm doing now.

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01:16:45.870 --> 01:16:48.660

Lynn Conway: My father was always ashamed of me. You see,

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01:16:50.130 --> 01:17:11.430

Lynn Conway: My father, my father saw this, this thing. I know we did this translates and I think it was something that bothered him, you know, my mother and father got divorced, which five fortunate for me. Shortly after the war, you become so well known and travel a lot, you know, he's able to

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01:17:12.810 --> 01:17:17.070

Lynn Conway: Find somebody else is saying, you know, that kind of thing goes right and then

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01:17:18.270 --> 01:17:23.670

Lynn Conway: You know, it kind of, I guess, borders, what he had. I don't know. You know, you don't know what's happening, but

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01:17:26.070 --> 01:17:27.150

Lynn Conway: Very fortunate for me.

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01:17:30.030 --> 01:17:36.870

Lynn Conway: Because I escaped, maybe some of the pressure. I might have. Right. Okay. And what at the same time.

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01:17:39.060 --> 01:17:40.260

Lynn Conway: At a different level.

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01:17:41.790 --> 01:17:43.800

Lynn Conway: I was very much aware of

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01:17:45.240 --> 01:17:48.420

Lynn Conway: The power of technology in

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01:17:50.730 --> 01:18:09.900

Lynn Conway: In providing ways to escape attack escape think demolished right escape horrible things and and. So, on the other hand, you know, sure technologies that could be can be misapplied. And there's that there's all that back and forth, but at the same time.

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01:18:11.400 --> 01:18:19.440

Lynn Conway: I had that feeling that I wanted to do this. I think partly is because of my father or C. So I did that and got that out of my system.

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01:18:21.900 --> 01:18:23.220

Lynn Conway: Here and

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01:18:26.340 --> 01:18:29.760

Lynn Conway: It was, it was really so for a while. This nowhere in the 80s.

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01:18:32.040 --> 01:18:39.030

Lynn Conway: Thanks for going great. And in fact, I, I was then offered a position. So instead of going back to Xerox

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01:18:39.510 --> 01:18:45.750

Lynn Conway: I was a physician as festival Electrical Engineering, Computer Science and associate dean and missionary at University of Michigan.

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01:18:46.350 --> 01:19:04.740

Lynn Conway: Okay, so I went I after my tour I came to Michigan and I've been here ever since. And really, really, you know, wonder if I have a great career at Michigan being a professor okay and doing doing work as as an Associate Dean of Engineering now.

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01:19:06.780 --> 01:19:23.160

Lynn Conway: Interestingly, like by the ladies that work that I was doing and I had a partner co author of the book in that work name carbon at Caltech. So this sort of me Conway work with becoming really prominent brand and I was

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01:19:24.660 --> 01:19:37.950

Lynn Conway: surprisingly to me. I was inducted into the National Academy of Engineering got a few other awards and it was inducted into that now. It was really that was really big deal that was me. That was like really arriving and

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01:19:39.690 --> 01:19:44.340

Lynn Conway: And, you know, people don't know what that what that is, but it's kind of a special deal where

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01:19:45.720 --> 01:20:03.900

Lynn Conway: Your peers elect you your fears are in there already. And it has a kind of an elitist kind of aspect that I'm a little uncomfortable, but at the same time that showed that there was some recognition that I had done something but this isn't like a fantasy my own wine or something.

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01:20:04.200 --> 01:20:07.350

Evan Taylor: Right. Yeah. Yeah. When you're putting your, your peer group, it means something.

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01:20:07.800 --> 01:20:20.880

Lynn Conway: Yeah, so it's like it was some kind of external validation and turns out I was in stealth and be able to do all this and stealth, they have to remember that, think about this.

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01:20:21.690 --> 01:20:32.160

Lynn Conway: How did I get that position of dark will see every time they gotten a physician, I never lied about my past was over as a medical question and with the questions came from HR

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01:20:32.670 --> 01:20:37.470

Lynn Conway: Right back in that day. You know, I learned never played again so

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01:20:38.580 --> 01:20:42.360

Lynn Conway: You don't tell people that you're working with what's going on.

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01:20:42.480 --> 01:20:53.970

Lynn Conway: Right, so you simply are aboveboard. I had a really nice documentation that made it look kind of special it almost made it look like this is some rare form intersects or something. This is just a mistake it, you go jack

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01:20:54.240 --> 01:21:00.330

Lynn Conway: Gotcha. And it wasn't a lie. He said, what it was, but people reacted that way.

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01:21:00.660 --> 01:21:03.570

Lynn Conway: Right, I have no clue and and

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01:21:04.680 --> 01:21:10.050

Lynn Conway: But I'd always been open about it. So when it came time to get the physician at Dartmouth.

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01:21:11.520 --> 01:21:14.910

Lynn Conway: I was able to do the FBI and other

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01:21:16.740 --> 01:21:28.080

Lynn Conway: Investigation things talk with all the questioners and just. Matter of fact, we tell them, tell them what the scoop was. And while law. It just went through.

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01:21:28.440 --> 01:21:29.010

Evan Taylor: Right.

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01:21:29.340 --> 01:21:30.540

Lynn Conway: So yeah, because

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01:21:30.720 --> 01:21:34.440

Lynn Conway: Because I never told any wise I was, I was not

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01:21:37.260 --> 01:21:39.600

Lynn Conway: It would be the someone could could

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01:21:41.280 --> 01:21:52.140

Lynn Conway: Try to help me and and get money or get me to do something, you know, or not do that. Right. No, no, there was that that was just not the issue.

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01:21:53.370 --> 01:22:04.500

Lynn Conway: Fortunately, I was able to get on the DARPA and interesting when I came to Michigan. I actually no one ever asked a question to where I ever had to say that. So when I joined Michigan. Nobody had any code.

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01:22:05.730 --> 01:22:19.830

Lynn Conway: And I'm sure you know in later years, I've worked a little bit so wonder about. You know how some of the people who, who I you know came in with interacted with. I don't know how they feel about you know tonight full them or

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01:22:21.000 --> 01:22:31.110

Lynn Conway: Does it come out later you say to that though. But, but, you know, actually, I was thinking it was indicated the funny thing is the thing that happens to you.

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01:22:32.640 --> 01:22:44.340

Lynn Conway: When you live in stealth where you know you'll meet people that you knew well before the rhostyllen I'm in the valley where I've been working for about

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01:22:45.600 --> 01:22:53.910

Lynn Conway: Four years. And, you know, and I in professional society activities. Is that so you'll notice you run into people.

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01:22:54.930 --> 01:23:06.270

Lynn Conway: That you knew exactly who they were. They had no clue. You're right there. We kind of have this little bit worried a little bit, but I never had any problem with that. I mean kinds, I would need people have no clue why

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01:23:08.490 --> 01:23:11.100

Lynn Conway: Zero, you know, it's like, Holy mackerel.

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01:23:14.730 --> 01:23:17.280

Lynn Conway: But, but then I had the

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01:23:19.650 --> 01:23:26.310

Lynn Conway: Reverse kind of experience at at the my induction into the exam or anything after this

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01:23:27.780 --> 01:23:43.320

Lynn Conway: BIG EVENT. I'm standing in the lobby was so my colleagues people I knew across academia, I already knew, I knew many people by then, because I've done this work and so kind of have nothing. I'm standing with people.

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01:23:44.430 --> 01:23:59.520

Lynn Conway: And and well you know you get when you when you learn, you learn to spot weirdness. The best way to put it. Yeah, this is this like this is like thing 100 and knowing there it is, right, it's anything you become a spotter

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01:23:59.730 --> 01:24:00.600

Evan Taylor: Yes, yeah.

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01:24:00.660 --> 01:24:04.920

Lynn Conway: ever done any hunting, you know, spotting is you being very stealthy.

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01:24:07.230 --> 01:24:10.830

Lynn Conway: Quiet and then to fit. Where did you know okay yeah so

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01:24:12.270 --> 01:24:19.050

Lynn Conway: Amazingly, in all this crowd my peripheral vision klutz someone looking at me.

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01:24:20.250 --> 01:24:34.830

Lynn Conway: And I look I snapped to them. And as I snapped to them. I could see them starting to come right toward me looking at me and this is like way across the room and power. And as I had time for to think what you know.

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01:24:36.180 --> 01:24:39.510

Lynn Conway: And pretty soon they're halfway there and you're still coming and I recognize what

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01:24:40.710 --> 01:24:42.540

Lynn Conway: It was one of my classmates at Columbia.

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01:24:43.020 --> 01:24:43.920

Evan Taylor: Gotcha. Okay.

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01:24:44.490 --> 01:24:52.260

Lynn Conway: Well, I'm good. And I will say this. I don't embarrass anybody, but this was someone who is now and a dean of engineering at a major university.

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01:24:52.380 --> 01:24:53.010

Oh, wow.

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01:24:54.630 --> 01:24:55.950

Lynn Conway: Someone's you should have known better.

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01:24:58.110 --> 01:25:13.320

Lynn Conway: Because, you know, physically, when you get there for a long you've seen more of life and you know just ordinary stuff right had to make some decisions you've heard various complaints or, you know, you know that life is more complicated than than than just going to work every day and

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01:25:14.910 --> 01:25:16.050

Lynn Conway: Like brushing your teeth.

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01:25:16.680 --> 01:25:18.690

Evan Taylor: Like experience. Generally, yeah.

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01:25:20.730 --> 01:25:26.700

Lynn Conway: This was crystal is coming and and they came right up to the in the group I'm standing with which were

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01:25:29.520 --> 01:25:34.890

Lynn Conway: Three or four, there's four other really prominent Academy members.

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01:25:34.980 --> 01:25:35.430

Evan Taylor: Right.

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01:25:35.790 --> 01:25:37.080

Lynn Conway: And he's an academy member

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01:25:39.570 --> 01:25:46.170

Lynn Conway: And any comes up and it goes like this. You didn't go to Columbia University.

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01:25:49.020 --> 01:25:53.850

Lynn Conway: And understanding that just looking at like this as hand was like here and so

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01:25:55.170 --> 01:26:08.790

Lynn Conway: You got to think fast and things like this, though. And so, you know, I kind of look like this. Like, I totally unfazed. No fear you never sweat never show fear never slept. Right. That's the first rule stuff.

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01:26:12.030 --> 01:26:12.630

Evan Taylor: That's great.

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01:26:12.750 --> 01:26:17.460

Lynn Conway: So, so I turned my friends as a duty, you know this guy.

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01:26:20.250 --> 01:26:26.280

Lynn Conway: It for the spell he he had an immediate shattering of confidence and just faded back

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01:26:28.320 --> 01:26:32.520

Lynn Conway: And I mean, and I thought, Oh, good. I'm glad I did that because

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01:26:33.540 --> 01:26:47.970

Lynn Conway: Not that I was afraid of saying anything really. But I was still in stealth. Yeah. Yeah, but what it was is this, this kind of must have been for years, seeing my name. I had done a thing where I had

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01:26:48.990 --> 01:26:56.040

Lynn Conway: Posted things about my accomplishments in the Columbia alumni news part of creating an identity.

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01:26:56.340 --> 01:27:05.160

Lynn Conway: Right okay and and so he started seeing these things and saw this one class of 62

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01:27:06.210 --> 01:27:24.570

Lynn Conway: And couldn't stand. I'm sure this through open nuts and and instead of reaching out and say hi, you know, Tommy. I just can't review on camera. I really wonder what the heck no. He didn't do that. He waited. Right. Oh, it is so

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01:27:26.190 --> 01:27:27.570

Lynn Conway: Yeah. So again,

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01:27:29.400 --> 01:27:29.880

Lynn Conway: That's

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01:27:31.890 --> 01:27:40.020

Lynn Conway: That's like this thing of, not realizing, other people are a little more complicated than you might give them credit for.

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01:27:41.340 --> 01:27:48.690

Lynn Conway: Okay. And that doesn't mean that there's anything there going, Okay. Exactly. Don't be scared.

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01:27:50.070 --> 01:27:50.430

Lynn Conway: Okay.

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01:27:51.570 --> 01:28:07.950

Lynn Conway: But, but, again, you see it's let's calm down here but but that, you know, so the the the tells all worked in the reverse way. I'm sure he expected a giant red face tell on my part.

689

01:28:08.310 --> 01:28:16.500

Lynn Conway: Right, but instead he saw me and these other people looking at him. What the heck, who is this guy.

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01:28:16.830 --> 01:28:17.340

Evan Taylor: Right.

691

01:28:17.400 --> 01:28:27.540

Lynn Conway: He didn't want his name to get kind of associated with whatever you've done wrong. Mm hmm. Mm hmm. So I don't know, I think, I think there are a lot of things like that were

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01:28:29.280 --> 01:28:31.560

Lynn Conway: For people who have transitioned are living in snail.

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01:28:32.820 --> 01:28:33.300

Lynn Conway: And

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01:28:36.180 --> 01:28:39.450

Lynn Conway: You want to be careful about overreacting. Right.

695

01:28:41.910 --> 01:28:49.770

Lynn Conway: One other way of naturally fear is to kind of go on the aggressive and try to push back that so what

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01:28:50.850 --> 01:28:53.640

Lynn Conway: You know, or act out in some way.

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01:28:53.880 --> 01:28:59.970

Lynn Conway: Right. Best thing is fade away or just not show the kind of reaction that was expected.

698

01:29:00.120 --> 01:29:01.680

Evan Taylor: Yeah yeah you know

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01:29:01.800 --> 01:29:13.770

Lynn Conway: But and and and so many people face these kind of things all the time because of the way society is wired still in a lot of places. Definitely. And I think

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01:29:14.220 --> 01:29:14.550

That's

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01:29:16.260 --> 01:29:25.500

Lynn Conway: It, that kind of thing could happen for a lot of reasons, the same kind of thing, though, right. Who is this person they changed their name. They had plastic surgery.

702

01:29:26.370 --> 01:29:43.380

Lynn Conway: And how strange to do something like that. I don't have a TV deal about it but again it shows of the underlying kind of weirdness of experiences, people have when they are unrecognizable. The people who formerly knew them.

703

01:29:44.490 --> 01:29:45.300

Lynn Conway: And don't realize

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01:29:46.230 --> 01:29:47.070

Lynn Conway: Yeah, I mean,

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01:29:48.210 --> 01:30:01.410

Lynn Conway: It's sort of, it's sort of like, I mean equivalent things would be like somebody comes somebody becomes a priest or nun, let's say, or join some kind of religious group where their appearance has dramatically changed. And it's really a shift in identity.

706

01:30:02.760 --> 01:30:06.300

Lynn Conway: They probably have some of those same things with people don't know they are

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01:30:06.510 --> 01:30:07.830

Evan Taylor: Right, right. I

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01:30:07.860 --> 01:30:11.670

Lynn Conway: Couldn't envision them in that mo see

709

01:30:11.940 --> 01:30:22.380

Evan Taylor: Exactly. I'm wondering as well for him. How much of it was the fact that he was seeing a woman and his own disbelief that a woman would have been graduated Columbia.

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01:30:23.160 --> 01:30:25.680

Lynn Conway: Yeah, it turns out there was one of the women.

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01:30:27.330 --> 01:30:28.620

Lynn Conway: There at that time.

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01:30:28.860 --> 01:30:31.350

Lynn Conway: Okay but but there were two

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01:30:31.620 --> 01:30:32.640

Evan Taylor: Right. And he's like,

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01:30:32.850 --> 01:30:33.600

Evan Taylor: I would have remembered

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01:30:35.670 --> 01:30:40.590

Lynn Conway: Yeah, so you know i and it's and of course. Yeah, so that's

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01:30:41.790 --> 01:30:47.880

Lynn Conway: That's a so all those years were filled with kind of all these kind of things going on.

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01:30:48.180 --> 01:30:52.470

Lynn Conway: Right, plus a lot of adventure sports and and a lot of fun.

718

01:30:53.370 --> 01:30:55.860

Evan Taylor: And so then the stealth years then

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01:30:56.100 --> 01:31:02.220

Lynn Conway: Losing the selfies yeah and and I stayed in sales right up to

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01:31:03.690 --> 01:31:05.880

Lynn Conway: Almost the end of the 90s about 99

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01:31:06.510 --> 01:31:10.290

Evan Taylor: So tell me that. Tell me the story about how the the the Ansel thing happened.

722

01:31:11.700 --> 01:31:12.000

Lynn Conway: Well,

723

01:31:13.500 --> 01:31:14.190

Lynn Conway: Why by

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01:31:15.450 --> 01:31:17.130

Lynn Conway: The early 90s.

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01:31:18.840 --> 01:31:22.920

Lynn Conway: That work. I done at IBM finally got its full application.

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01:31:23.940 --> 01:31:30.990

Lynn Conway: In the then. What's more powerful micro processors that were coming out like Intel Pentium

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01:31:32.010 --> 01:31:43.530

Lynn Conway: Which contained on so many transistors on a single chip that they could incorporate the kind of mechanism that I had envisioned for making the architecture work well. Okay, okay.

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01:31:45.090 --> 01:31:47.460

Lynn Conway: And and they were incorporating that kind of

729

01:31:49.320 --> 01:31:50.730

Lynn Conway: Any of the construction scheduling.

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01:31:51.900 --> 01:31:55.140

Lynn Conway: And during the 90s. Few people

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01:31:56.310 --> 01:31:59.100

Lynn Conway: Particular computer historian others.

732

01:32:00.390 --> 01:32:00.990

Lynn Conway: Began

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01:32:03.300 --> 01:32:07.830

Lynn Conway: Trying to find out more about how that work was done. Yeah, I noticed this.

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01:32:09.330 --> 01:32:11.640

Lynn Conway: Because I would occasionally search on

735

01:32:12.660 --> 01:32:19.440

Lynn Conway: On the word site structure and scheduling and look for articles and things. It turns out

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01:32:20.490 --> 01:32:21.000

Lynn Conway: That

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01:32:22.500 --> 01:32:25.650

Lynn Conway: You know, using the methods of the time. And it turns out that

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01:32:26.850 --> 01:32:35.190

Lynn Conway: I realized that this story was going to get back into the people that were an idea at the time. People were going to be interviewed. There was a lot of

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01:32:36.690 --> 01:32:54.750

Lynn Conway: Stuff going out. So I realized I'm going to have to talk about this, about the work I did then, and kind of fade into certain oh by the way I transition, but, you know, try to, again, make it like as non eventful as possible expanded my community. And I did that by

740

01:32:56.400 --> 01:33:18.210

Lynn Conway: Coming out and playing this story in my website, which are just started was just the building. Okay, I can update on my university website and I wrote off a little about it and kind of quietly came out to where there was no it was not newsy right although

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01:33:19.620 --> 01:33:27.840

Lynn Conway: Scientific American did do interviewed me and kind of wrote up the story and article in Scientific American, which did it very tasteful way.

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01:33:28.920 --> 01:33:31.710

Lynn Conway: Not one that that got any real publicity. It was

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01:33:33.090 --> 01:33:35.280

Lynn Conway: Just kind of cool and

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01:33:36.480 --> 01:33:36.960

Lynn Conway: And

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01:33:41.490 --> 01:33:46.770

Lynn Conway: And what was really kind of interesting about that was that.

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01:33:47.820 --> 01:33:51.120

Lynn Conway: All of a sudden, I started hearing from

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01:33:52.560 --> 01:33:53.100

Lynn Conway: Other

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01:33:54.330 --> 01:34:00.030

Lynn Conway: Transition owners, not just in the US people around the world. Other really

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01:34:01.110 --> 01:34:07.500

Lynn Conway: Had very quietly, very secretively people who were also doing very well um

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01:34:08.550 --> 01:34:09.060

Lynn Conway: And

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01:34:10.080 --> 01:34:10.710

Lynn Conway: And

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01:34:13.050 --> 01:34:28.350

Lynn Conway: This was kind of stunning and I began thinking a little bit about numbers, the numbers realize at the time, Dr. Venture was doing his work. A almost a Neil got started.

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01:34:29.670 --> 01:34:35.970

Lynn Conway: That then the third of the the fraction of people

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01:34:37.080 --> 01:34:48.120

Lynn Conway: And and and this year. They were mostly thinking about transforming but the fraction of males who would have this dysphoria towards self perception of

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01:34:49.170 --> 01:34:50.220

Lynn Conway: The female

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01:34:51.450 --> 01:35:07.080

Lynn Conway: Needing to be female as viewed by society, but this was an incredibly rare thing and the kind of numbers were usually we're talking about were like one or 200,001 and 30,000 and then gotten down to like one and 20,000

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01:35:09.090 --> 01:35:13.050

Lynn Conway: And, you know, eventually, it got down to 110 thousand

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01:35:14.250 --> 01:35:15.960

Lynn Conway: Still quoted that way very often.

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01:35:16.980 --> 01:35:21.180

Lynn Conway: But say one in 20,000 well I had

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01:35:22.320 --> 01:35:31.440

Lynn Conway: The following the number of people who were doing SRS in any numbers right around the world. I kind of

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01:35:32.520 --> 01:35:40.980

Lynn Conway: In the, in the network of people who knew who these doctors were. There's a lot of nice feature I was able to calculate from the numbers being done.

762

01:35:43.110 --> 01:35:44.490

Lynn Conway: That the steady state.

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01:35:46.500 --> 01:35:52.560

Lynn Conway: The steady state sort of prevalence, the actual prevalence for a person

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01:35:53.640 --> 01:35:59.730

Lynn Conway: To do this, you know, you only do this once in your lifetime that that surgery and that surgery was like a

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01:36:01.140 --> 01:36:03.780

Lynn Conway: Fraction of the number they experienced dysphoria.

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01:36:05.520 --> 01:36:09.120

Lynn Conway: But let's say you you I can put a value on it.

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01:36:10.290 --> 01:36:21.930

Lynn Conway: And what I've calculated using some methods for epidemiology and I actually ecology gives you a lot of methods coming at this as, you know, a little bit of math. It's not that complicated. Um,

768

01:36:23.160 --> 01:36:30.780

Lynn Conway: I calculated that whenever I'm seeing a number more like wondering a couple hundred or so, um,

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01:36:32.430 --> 01:36:35.880

Lynn Conway: That's it a difference of 100. Mm hmm.

770

01:36:37.740 --> 01:36:42.930

Lynn Conway: It's not a large number, but this is not a tiny, teeny tiny

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01:36:43.950 --> 01:36:54.390

Lynn Conway: Thing that's just a total rarity. Hmm. Right. Okay. And, and so I I wrote the thing about that. Put it on my website.

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01:36:55.410 --> 01:36:59.340

Lynn Conway: And but what importantly was the effect that had on me.

773

01:37:01.080 --> 01:37:14.130

Lynn Conway: Because I see engineers think about numbers and about measuring and about visualizing quantities and you know this here and you have that there is a kind of on this as your monitor. So you're always thinking about

774

01:37:16.140 --> 01:37:22.860

Lynn Conway: In the natural world. You know the amount of something matters right compared to the amount of something else.

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01:37:24.300 --> 01:37:33.720

Lynn Conway: And and it's good to be able to visualize these things to sort of see it, not the talk of the word because that doesn't do anything.

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01:37:34.680 --> 01:37:53.970

Lynn Conway: Saying want to 20,001 when people see one and 20,000. Some people think that's right. See, they don't think they just what what does it mean even considering. Okay. And when I say what are 200 is 100 times videos. Want to 20,000 people can't. They're not sure that's correct, right.

777

01:37:54.030 --> 01:37:55.590

Evan Taylor: And they envision something

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01:37:56.100 --> 01:37:59.910

Lynn Conway: Yeah, give me a break. What is it, but as you can see it, you know, see.

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01:37:59.970 --> 01:38:01.860

Lynn Conway: Exactly. Okay. So,

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01:38:04.950 --> 01:38:14.310

Lynn Conway: You had a profound impact it shifted my view that. Wait a minute. This is actually pretty common turn out to be more common than muscular dystrophy, for example.

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01:38:14.520 --> 01:38:15.780

Evan Taylor: Wow, that's good way to put it.

782

01:38:16.410 --> 01:38:19.800

Lynn Conway: You see, you see much more common. So

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01:38:21.450 --> 01:38:23.460

Lynn Conway: And you can do on our own way. Yeah.

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01:38:23.850 --> 01:38:25.530

Lynn Conway: But everybody thinks it's an

785

01:38:25.560 --> 01:38:27.600

Lynn Conway: Extremely rare mental illness.

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01:38:29.730 --> 01:38:33.660

Lynn Conway: So, so now that all got my research.

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01:38:36.270 --> 01:38:44.520

Lynn Conway: Mine cranked. I said, I just realized I can see something that other people don't see

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01:38:46.080 --> 01:38:58.440

Lynn Conway: And when and that's like this idea feels, you know, seeing the printing press, and nobody can be a writer. So how are you going to get any novels. We're going to get as a few political pamphlets.

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01:39:01.050 --> 01:39:08.820

Lynn Conway: Yeah, as, as for the company. You know that surround the little machine in the box that does a particular thing. Yeah.

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01:39:11.520 --> 01:39:11.820

Lynn Conway: Yeah.

791

01:39:12.150 --> 01:39:12.540

So,

792

01:39:14.010 --> 01:39:14.370

Lynn Conway: Okay.

793

01:39:15.780 --> 01:39:24.630

Lynn Conway: So, so I think this is pivotal for me and it really played a role in the moves that I that I made later on.

794

01:39:27.210 --> 01:39:28.410

Lynn Conway: I'd also

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01:39:30.720 --> 01:39:35.070

Lynn Conway: Began worrying about the media's emphasis at that time.

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01:39:36.090 --> 01:39:39.270

Lynn Conway: On societies brutality towards trans women.

797

01:39:41.220 --> 01:39:44.340

Lynn Conway: There had been developing a reaction and exposure of that.

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01:39:45.450 --> 01:39:55.050

Lynn Conway: And things like the Day of Remembrance were coming forward. There was focusing on that right, all that is good, all that was showing

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01:39:56.580 --> 01:40:00.210

Lynn Conway: The problems that trans people were facing

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01:40:01.680 --> 01:40:03.690

Lynn Conway: But when you think of it what it didn't show

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01:40:05.400 --> 01:40:09.870

Lynn Conway: Was it didn't show how many more trans people, there were, there weren't getting murdered.

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01:40:10.590 --> 01:40:13.590

Lynn Conway: Right back if you took the numbers that were recorded

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01:40:14.610 --> 01:40:22.170

Lynn Conway: The one in 1020 30,000 and you sort of talented. The Rudel incidents against translating

804

01:40:23.460 --> 01:40:24.840

Lynn Conway: It made it appear

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01:40:25.950 --> 01:40:42.180

Lynn Conway: That almost all trans women are going to get murdered. Right. Seriously. So what do you think this does to potential transitions. It scares the heck out of them absolutely scared to death.

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01:40:43.350 --> 01:40:47.970

Lynn Conway: Is not a good place to VN when you're trying to transition

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01:40:49.020 --> 01:40:51.780

Lynn Conway: Because you're going to show fear and you're going to scare others.

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01:40:51.990 --> 01:41:00.270

Lynn Conway: Right, people get scared by noticing a scared person it's it's animal is catchable and

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01:41:00.480 --> 01:41:03.720

Evan Taylor: What you're saying about you don't show number one role itself is you don't show fear.

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01:41:04.320 --> 01:41:09.840

Lynn Conway: Yeah, don't show your just be just be yourself because you know whatever so

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01:41:11.430 --> 01:41:13.380

Lynn Conway: So you couple those two things.

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01:41:14.760 --> 01:41:17.220

Lynn Conway: And and and you end up with

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01:41:18.870 --> 01:41:22.980

Lynn Conway: The following insight. Well, if there. I knew there were a lot of successful people out there.

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01:41:24.060 --> 01:41:26.460

Lynn Conway: And I knew some of them were already out

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01:41:27.720 --> 01:41:30.240

Lynn Conway: And then others really didn't care a lot when they weren't

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01:41:32.340 --> 01:41:47.910

Lynn Conway: So I started pretty small, at first, but I put the other page and this is using the terminology, the day so we don't want to get cancel culture reactions to the words I'm using right because, you know, I've already put it in context. So that'll be removed by some

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01:41:49.620 --> 01:41:50.760

Lynn Conway: As we know, but

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01:41:51.900 --> 01:41:55.530

Lynn Conway: What I created a page called transsexual women's successes.

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01:41:56.880 --> 01:42:15.660

Lynn Conway: And what it was was at first is just like, I don't wanna I I don't want any fish. Put, put it out there were 20 or 40 but I waited till I got it a moderate set might have. I put pictures of women and I flipped links to their stories or information about them.

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01:42:16.740 --> 01:42:17.910

Lynn Conway: And I had like

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01:42:19.980 --> 01:42:23.640

Lynn Conway: 20 or 30 on a page.

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01:42:25.680 --> 01:42:47.550

Lynn Conway: And they're all different. They're from all over the world and and the success in this sense meant not somebody famous rich whatever a celebrity powerful know admit they had a successful transition in their own terms. They had transition and we're just having a cool life.

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01:42:47.790 --> 01:42:52.950

Lynn Conway: Right thing and and so for these pages. Well,

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01:42:54.000 --> 01:42:57.660

Lynn Conway: It was amazing. As I had a number of activists.

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01:42:59.040 --> 01:42:59.160

I

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01:43:00.750 --> 01:43:07.050

Lynn Conway: Mean, he said there's no there's no point in me, that kind of thing. Just like I didn't name that person pointed his finger.

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01:43:07.260 --> 01:43:07.680

Evan Taylor: Right.

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01:43:07.770 --> 01:43:08.700

Lynn Conway: Just tell the story.

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01:43:10.020 --> 01:43:11.370

Lynn Conway: And then witnesses. So, you know,

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01:43:13.980 --> 01:43:18.690

Lynn Conway: But I would have activists at the time this was around 2000

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01:43:20.160 --> 01:43:27.540

Lynn Conway: Who came down to be really hard for being elitist right you should not show

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01:43:28.830 --> 01:43:34.230

Lynn Conway: People that are doing well because it's going to make everybody else feel bad, right.

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01:43:37.470 --> 01:43:43.500

Lynn Conway: I thought, wait a minute. I'm a teacher. I'm a guide. Okay, and

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01:43:45.420 --> 01:44:04.950

Lynn Conway: You're scaring your death all the young ones, and they have seen nothing of anybody that's ever evaded right Christine Jorgensen cheated. Well who else I handful and they always had trouble is you know me kind of hounded by the media and so forth. And so I started that and

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01:44:06.540 --> 01:44:17.130

Lynn Conway: What happened more than the criticism was all of a sudden I had a lot of people come forward, who wanted to be on the page at a story to tell me that I'm just going to come out.

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01:44:18.600 --> 01:44:26.880

Lynn Conway: And so these quickly blossom and and obviously, given what was also going on, and no one had a clue about

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01:44:28.410 --> 01:44:32.640

Lynn Conway: Transmit wanted to be involved. I started a successful transmitted page.

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01:44:34.380 --> 01:44:53.490

Lynn Conway: They grew it was smaller first but it grew rapidly and and kind of kept pace with the other one right and and and what's really interesting is that then Heaven right when the internet was exploding around the world.

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01:44:55.770 --> 01:45:02.040

Lynn Conway: Those pages became prominent in the pages you would stumble onto if you teed transsexual

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01:45:02.460 --> 01:45:15.120

Lynn Conway: Very much as the term being used at the time. Okay. And so they they catapulted that those pages catapulted the site into extreme visibility in the trans community around the world.

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01:45:17.280 --> 01:45:18.630

Lynn Conway: And so by

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01:45:20.880 --> 01:45:23.880

Lynn Conway: It was sort of like, and I had, I had by then.

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01:45:24.990 --> 01:45:43.830

Lynn Conway: linked up with Andrea James and others who were building websites to provide information for transition right and we're kind of mutually comparing notes sharing ideas, and so forth and things seem to be going really great until 2003

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01:45:45.540 --> 01:45:45.960

Lynn Conway: So,

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01:45:46.080 --> 01:45:48.960

Evan Taylor: So that there's a big crisis in 2003

846

01:45:49.530 --> 01:45:50.010

Lynn Conway: When

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01:45:50.070 --> 01:45:54.960

Evan Taylor: I know you were a you're in the in the thick of the storm. So tell me about that that part of your life.

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01:45:55.020 --> 01:46:00.180

Lynn Conway: Yeah, this, this, this was so unexpected because see that some of the thing was

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01:46:02.160 --> 01:46:03.690

Lynn Conway: You know, was kind of quiet it

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01:46:05.010 --> 01:46:06.660

Lynn Conway: It, it, it, it,

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01:46:08.040 --> 01:46:09.090

Lynn Conway: It was just happening.

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01:46:10.290 --> 01:46:21.930

Lynn Conway: Actually I had by then retired from you have them are still active there, but it didn't make anything who fly out there yeah and and if I got involved in in

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01:46:22.860 --> 01:46:32.190

Lynn Conway: Advocacy there and at the beginnings of this will make it much easier for students to transition while they're in universities. So we'll come back to

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01:46:33.450 --> 01:46:36.120

Lynn Conway: But in March 2003

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01:46:37.320 --> 01:46:39.780

Lynn Conway: The US National Academy of Sciences

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01:46:41.130 --> 01:46:51.120

Lynn Conway: Press the National Academy. Press the, the, the book publishing Oregon of the National Academy and science, engineering and medicine.

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01:46:52.170 --> 01:46:54.840

Lynn Conway: Published a book called an answer would be clean.

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01:46:56.100 --> 01:47:00.720

Lynn Conway: J. Michael Bailey, who was a chair of psychology for the Northwestern University.

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01:47:01.860 --> 01:47:14.430

Lynn Conway: And in this book. He claimed that the latest science. I'm transsexualism reviews revealed that trans women were in fact bizarrely sexualized creatures.

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01:47:15.210 --> 01:47:27.900

Lynn Conway: Who, who are sort of addictively responsible for their own mental illness. You see, which probably has something to do with masturbation practices and various things like that, you know, and, and it was a it was something

861

01:47:29.040 --> 01:47:31.890

Lynn Conway: That as an adult, they did that, they did this way.

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01:47:34.020 --> 01:47:34.380

Lynn Conway: And

863

01:47:35.730 --> 01:47:47.130

Lynn Conway: And the key was the very best way to prevent this terrible outcome from happening during adulthood was by firmly suppressing gender variance during childhood.

864

01:47:48.450 --> 01:47:59.340

Lynn Conway: And guess what, using the conversion therapy methods of 10 Zucker and his colleagues at the Center for addiction and mental health and Toronto, Canada.

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01:48:01.080 --> 01:48:18.360

Lynn Conway: So this book was a sudden move to physician conversion therapy as a cure for what science had now and its latest work realized was this terrible mental illness that needed to be avoided and couldn't be avoided.

866

01:48:20.490 --> 01:48:25.290

Lynn Conway: Now here's the deal. We were I was a member of the National Academy

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01:48:27.750 --> 01:48:34.110

Lynn Conway: You know the outfit that is positive. So I was the world and I was shocked. I

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01:48:35.610 --> 01:48:45.300

Lynn Conway: Couldn't sleep at night. So I alerted Andrea in john rough guard and fair mine Christine burns Deacon casinos like send an email.

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01:48:46.890 --> 01:48:51.420

Lynn Conway: That went out to everybody, because I sent it to them, but it's got everywhere.

870

01:48:52.590 --> 01:49:02.550

Lynn Conway: That simply said his book is being published kind of captured the essence of it and reveal what it was trying to do to us.

871

01:49:02.640 --> 01:49:06.750

Lynn Conway: Right and and this this this set off.

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01:49:08.040 --> 01:49:16.620

Lynn Conway: You know, a huge thing where especially Andrea and I, we had sites that were among the most viewed by transit and around the world.

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01:49:18.510 --> 01:49:20.010

Lynn Conway: We began collaborating

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01:49:21.030 --> 01:49:31.800

Lynn Conway: She posed informational results on who these people were, where they work their backgrounds and all that. And I began

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01:49:33.270 --> 01:49:51.180

Lynn Conway: Side. I called an investigation of the book, which contained information and news and critiques and their reactions to our activities against them. So we had as soon as your virtual timeline and adult events right as the controversy unfolding.

876

01:49:52.260 --> 01:49:54.210

Evan Taylor: And this is publicly accessible for anyone.

877

01:49:54.510 --> 01:49:58.530

Lynn Conway: publicly accessible, including them right and

878

01:49:59.640 --> 01:50:05.670

Lynn Conway: Remember though I knew that there was 100 times as many of us as they thought there were

879

01:50:07.050 --> 01:50:10.050

Lynn Conway: And I knew they'd grossly underestimate what they're up against.

880

01:50:11.580 --> 01:50:22.680

Lynn Conway: But the problem was and this, this, this, this, the way it worked out in the end they never quite grasp all that. So even to this day vili and very Blanchard

881

01:50:24.570 --> 01:50:36.630

Lynn Conway: And and Lawrence and Zucker and on and on a whole whole cast of characters that that were colleagues holding up point of view.

882

01:50:37.650 --> 01:50:47.610

Lynn Conway: They really think that Andrea and I caused all this, right, because they didn't. They didn't grasp the, the number of people were just sharing information with

883

01:50:48.270 --> 01:51:03.480

Lynn Conway: And they're all going off and sharing it and exposing among us anyway you have what is that these people were thinking about us and how we needed to do something to change that you point right

884

01:51:06.510 --> 01:51:07.080

Lynn Conway: Well,

885

01:51:11.130 --> 01:51:25.680

Lynn Conway: I think it was kind of one of the first major blogging events before blogs. He was thinking about it. Mm hmm. Because this happened in 2003 really during the spring and summer 2003 it broke out Wellesley

886

01:51:26.370 --> 01:51:29.280

Evan Taylor: And this was the early days of the internet in that way that they didn't have

887

01:51:29.280 --> 01:51:32.730

Evan Taylor: Any yeah the power that you would be able to mobilize and a

888

01:51:32.730 --> 01:51:48.480

Lynn Conway: Community. It's just amazing. But I, I knew from my early experiences with reveal aside work and the use of the ARPANET for that. Right. How to exponential rate things and how to track what was happening and and understand the

889

01:51:49.530 --> 01:51:52.500

Lynn Conway: Sort of techno social dimensions of that.

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01:51:53.700 --> 01:52:01.440

Lynn Conway: A lot of computing resources that you have him, so I was able to sort of partly technically

891

01:52:02.820 --> 01:52:06.330

Lynn Conway: Maintain an overview of this unfolding.

892

01:52:07.470 --> 01:52:16.980

Lynn Conway: paradigm shifting set of waves and then know how to direct them right noticing the results. I think the main thing we noticed was

893

01:52:18.300 --> 01:52:20.490

Lynn Conway: Anytime a criticism was posted

894

01:52:22.110 --> 01:52:23.070

Lynn Conway: On my website.

895

01:52:24.390 --> 01:52:34.170

Lynn Conway: It was done perfectly. A really rather vicious reaction would appear from within the generator within the bubble, they were living in

896

01:52:35.340 --> 01:52:43.050

Lynn Conway: Towards this criticism right okay and and what I would do is immediately first reaction.

897

01:52:44.370 --> 01:52:57.870

Lynn Conway: Testing it for what it was. And so there's a period of time where things would be done. That would be events in the trans community or something is done at a conference where this happens, they are

898

01:52:58.920 --> 01:53:13.860

Lynn Conway: You could post that they would notice it and they just go nuts and write something terrible about it. Gotcha. You think and and the dynamics of that, um, you know, if you've ever read Sun Tzu's The Art of War.

899

01:53:14.970 --> 01:53:21.330

Lynn Conway: There's there's kind of a set of things about conflict where you can see how to

900

01:53:25.260 --> 01:53:28.080

Lynn Conway: How to help it flow and move in certain ways.

901

01:53:29.220 --> 01:53:35.190

Lynn Conway: That seemed very natural. Once you catch on to what motivates your adversaries.

902

01:53:35.610 --> 01:53:36.270

Right.

903

01:53:38.220 --> 01:53:43.740

Lynn Conway: And what they don't know without actually doing anything then yourself.

904

01:53:44.010 --> 01:53:46.200

Evan Taylor: Mm hmm. Just being aware

905

01:53:46.620 --> 01:53:47.340

Lynn Conway: Just you just

906

01:53:47.700 --> 01:53:52.380

Lynn Conway: You're just and you just kind of letting it unfold and documenting it

907

01:53:53.160 --> 01:53:58.440

Lynn Conway: Right where the unfolding document itself becomes the incredible

908

01:53:59.700 --> 01:54:04.830

Lynn Conway: Haunting quote called attack that the adversary fantasies.

909

01:54:06.540 --> 01:54:07.590

Lynn Conway: Within their bubble

910

01:54:08.100 --> 01:54:18.840

Lynn Conway: Right. They can't believe this is happening and they don't realize what's happening is we're simply from the outside, watching them behave in their bubble

911

01:54:19.200 --> 01:54:19.890

Evan Taylor: Right, yeah.

912

01:54:19.920 --> 01:54:31.380

Lynn Conway: It's just was a coolest was the coolest thing it's me and and because because what happened was all the sleepless nights when way and

913

01:54:32.670 --> 01:54:40.290

Lynn Conway: And people gradually began to feel widely empowered to do trans activism.

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01:54:41.400 --> 01:54:45.780

Lynn Conway: Of course it was okay to talk about these bad people. Hmm.

915

01:54:46.230 --> 01:54:46.590

Lynn Conway: Since I'm

916

01:54:47.940 --> 01:54:49.440

Lynn Conway: Just talking about them.

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01:54:49.650 --> 01:54:52.440

Lynn Conway: Right. We were studying them.

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01:54:53.490 --> 01:54:55.080

Lynn Conway: Were explaining them.

919

01:54:56.340 --> 01:54:56.880

Lynn Conway: You see,

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01:54:57.210 --> 01:55:00.600

Evan Taylor: And for the first time the medical community had the I turned on itself.

921

01:55:00.900 --> 01:55:02.010

Lynn Conway: Absolutely. So

922

01:55:03.210 --> 01:55:03.630

Lynn Conway: I mean,

923

01:55:06.150 --> 01:55:09.570

Lynn Conway: It was it was it was really an amazing

924

01:55:10.620 --> 01:55:11.940

Lynn Conway: Thing, you know, by the way.

925

01:55:13.560 --> 01:55:14.610

Lynn Conway: Looking back at that

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01:55:16.320 --> 01:55:23.340

Lynn Conway: Right near the beginning of it in spring or summer of 2003 when the thing was really getting going.

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01:55:24.660 --> 01:55:32.670

Lynn Conway: And we were preparing to start writing stuff to send to Northwestern to complain to them about Bailey's word

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01:55:32.970 --> 01:55:34.800

Lynn Conway: Right, I got a

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01:55:36.390 --> 01:55:38.700

Lynn Conway: I got an email and email thread was sent to me.

930

01:55:40.080 --> 01:55:50.160

Lynn Conway: By a very well known and respected member of the is our International Academy sex. Sex research psychological research.

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01:55:51.330 --> 01:55:52.710

Lynn Conway: Which was the group.

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01:55:54.180 --> 01:55:55.200

Lynn Conway: That published

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01:55:56.610 --> 01:55:58.290

Lynn Conway: Essentially all the quote

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01:56:02.250 --> 01:56:08.580

Lynn Conway: Elite work in sex ology whatever that is. And this group was led by

935

01:56:09.930 --> 01:56:15.660

Lynn Conway: Sucre Zucker and crew Blanchard and others had long been the dominant figures.

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01:56:16.740 --> 01:56:27.570

Lynn Conway: And they they let people do any write anything more about any kind of psychological matters, but in the area of transsexualism which was their particular corner.

937

01:56:28.950 --> 01:56:45.780

Lynn Conway: They pretty much because they control access to publication control the narrative. Right. The, the general tilt of any article that got accepted for publication in that term and presented at their conferences.

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01:56:46.980 --> 01:56:51.210

Lynn Conway: And that community had a a a

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01:56:53.730 --> 01:56:54.480

Lynn Conway: An email.

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01:56:56.490 --> 01:57:02.400

Lynn Conway: Sort of private closed email service called sex net Cass sex NTT

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01:57:03.630 --> 01:57:06.690

Lynn Conway: And they communicate with each other over this.

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01:57:09.360 --> 01:57:15.030

Lynn Conway: This email service where you could post things and people can reply, you could share research ideas.

943

01:57:15.270 --> 01:57:16.890

Evan Taylor: You can add to the thread that sort of

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01:57:17.220 --> 01:57:18.300

Evan Taylor: Exactly right.

945

01:57:18.810 --> 01:57:19.710

Lynn Conway: There was a thread.

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01:57:21.270 --> 01:57:27.690

Lynn Conway: That appear shortly after the publication of that article about me and Scientific American.

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01:57:29.190 --> 01:57:32.220

Lynn Conway: Three to four years before you got three years before.

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01:57:33.360 --> 01:57:33.750

Lynn Conway: And

949

01:57:35.430 --> 01:57:53.520

Lynn Conway: Was really very close to the time it was father's. So what was the response to that article as if they felt they had to respond because other people in sex that might be Scientific American. Oh, I doubt as many shots. Scientific American, and then that's not that kind of crew.

950

01:57:54.150 --> 01:57:55.470

Lynn Conway: Right. Yeah. Yeah.

951

01:57:57.240 --> 01:58:03.090

Lynn Conway: That's a pretty pretty weird kind of a concept that's your specialty, you know,

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01:58:04.170 --> 01:58:06.240

Lynn Conway: You know, I can think of analogies are on

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01:58:08.250 --> 01:58:17.760

Lynn Conway: iTunes of narrow nearness of folks that might you from which you medical rather important things. Yeah. Because think of other bodily functions like focus on like eating.

954

01:58:17.970 --> 01:58:19.440

Evan Taylor: Right, this is a pretty pretty

955

01:58:20.460 --> 01:58:24.810

Lynn Conway: This seems like a very narrow tunnel. The look at human. Yeah.

956

01:58:25.920 --> 01:58:29.790

Lynn Conway: You might miss things like people social identities and felt like

957

01:58:31.230 --> 01:58:33.780

Lynn Conway: It was just not occurred is such a thing even existed.

958

01:58:34.290 --> 01:58:34.770

Right.

959

01:58:36.390 --> 01:58:41.220

Lynn Conway: So, so anyway, it was a thread and it was thread initiated by Michael Bailey.

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01:58:42.960 --> 01:58:43.620

Lynn Conway: In which

961

01:58:45.810 --> 01:58:47.700

Lynn Conway: He rail against Lincoln when

962

01:58:49.530 --> 01:59:00.090

Lynn Conway: Really angry at Scientific American publishing article because according to not his theory fully Blanchard's theory I was one of these

963

01:59:02.070 --> 01:59:20.190

Lynn Conway: Insane sexualize demonic characters fooling everybody. He knew what I was, and everybody in is already realized this, this isn't a scientist and engineer that's contributed anything this person is one of your classic nutcases

964

01:59:20.400 --> 01:59:21.990

Lynn Conway: Right, okay.

965

01:59:23.160 --> 01:59:24.510

Evan Taylor: According to this. Yeah.

966

01:59:25.020 --> 01:59:42.000

Lynn Conway: This this this thread continue on and on, involving a lot on the people that we all know as part of that Tim crew. You know, you've got not just daily

967

01:59:43.260 --> 01:59:44.580

Lynn Conway: But you've got Blanchard

968

01:59:45.330 --> 01:59:45.840

Evan Taylor: Right.

969

01:59:46.140 --> 01:59:50.040

Lynn Conway: He's got Zucker. You got it. Lawrence their tech

970

01:59:51.840 --> 01:59:53.160

Lynn Conway: Transition woman who

971

01:59:54.690 --> 01:59:56.880

Lynn Conway: Essentially accepted their

972

01:59:58.110 --> 02:00:01.680

Lynn Conway: Diagnosis so that she could become an expert.

973

02:00:02.820 --> 02:00:11.100

Lynn Conway: Help and publish articles in their journal about what transsexualism was right. Right. And in order to

974

02:00:13.230 --> 02:00:18.150

Lynn Conway: Sign and look at others who were in that crew of mostly

975

02:00:19.500 --> 02:00:21.030

Lynn Conway: Rather right wing

976

02:00:23.070 --> 02:00:29.940

Lynn Conway: Video of them very orthodox religious believers one form or another, and

977

02:00:31.020 --> 02:00:40.350

Lynn Conway: And it was just astonishing to see them saying these things diagnosing me at a distance without ever having that make

978

02:00:40.530 --> 02:00:42.660

Evan Taylor: Right, yeah. That's unethical.

979

02:00:43.680 --> 02:00:46.800

Lynn Conway: It reminded me of the person that came

980

02:00:48.150 --> 02:00:55.290

Lynn Conway: Towards me the other side of the room and said point citing out of the blue coming and pointing. You see, yeah.

981

02:00:55.410 --> 02:00:57.750

Lynn Conway: Not having any of these are realizing

982

02:00:58.050 --> 02:01:04.710

Lynn Conway: What wondering kind of thing that was to do, of course, and they had no idea who I was. They had no idea.

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02:01:06.060 --> 02:01:18.570

Lynn Conway: The experiences I had yeah they had no idea. I knew we were 100 times as many as they thought their work that I knew about how to generate paradigm shifts in the internet. It was like it was like

984

02:01:20.610 --> 02:01:25.020

Lynn Conway: This is just amazing. So anyway, I found that out.

985

02:01:26.490 --> 02:01:30.180

Lynn Conway: Less than six months into the daily thing.

986

02:01:30.630 --> 02:01:33.090

Lynn Conway: Okay, which further orange me

987

02:01:34.320 --> 02:01:35.190

Lynn Conway: Intellectually

988

02:01:35.520 --> 02:01:37.920

Lynn Conway: Mm hmm and emotionally

989

02:01:39.120 --> 02:01:39.420

But

990

02:01:42.000 --> 02:01:45.450

Lynn Conway: With confidence. Yeah, my confidence is just

991

02:01:46.500 --> 02:01:52.050

Lynn Conway: Hey, you know, this is it. We know what this is. I don't know how it's going to end. Yeah, but

992

02:01:52.740 --> 02:01:58.650

Evan Taylor: But now you have sort of a diet guidelines as to how they talked in their bubble and you could see the little mice running around and what made them.

993

02:01:58.650 --> 02:01:58.980

Evan Taylor: Run.

994

02:01:59.460 --> 02:02:01.440

Lynn Conway: I know, I know. And I

995

02:02:02.850 --> 02:02:12.480

Lynn Conway: And that made it even if it is even less personal. In other words, I didn't really feel any anger towards these people

996

02:02:13.830 --> 02:02:14.850

Lynn Conway: It was it was

997

02:02:16.050 --> 02:02:16.740

Lynn Conway: It was like

998

02:02:17.910 --> 02:02:26.520

Lynn Conway: I'm just going to continuously trying to explain what I'm saying. Yeah. And the more I understood what I was saying, the more I just wanted to teach about it.

999

02:02:26.910 --> 02:02:32.460

Lynn Conway: Mm hmm. Insanity, and yet the clearer the teachings got, the more it seemed to anger them.

1000

02:02:34.800 --> 02:02:39.030

Lynn Conway: personally and as a human. This hostility towards me. You know, so

1001

02:02:40.110 --> 02:02:40.770

Lynn Conway: But anyway.

1002

02:02:41.940 --> 02:02:45.270

Lynn Conway: I've been around the block, you know, wasn't my first rodeo, so to speak.

1003

02:02:46.530 --> 02:02:49.380

Lynn Conway: Yes, yeah and and so

1004

02:02:50.520 --> 02:02:57.510

Lynn Conway: having other people angry with you is is not something that you should be frightened.

1005

02:02:59.370 --> 02:03:08.700

Lynn Conway: You know you didn't notice just what kind of people angry you and unique if they're dangerous. You need to need to figure out where you're going to run that kind of thing, but

1006

02:03:08.760 --> 02:03:12.720

Lynn Conway: Right. But, but these weren't these words to kind of angry people

1007

02:03:14.190 --> 02:03:25.560

Lynn Conway: That that had immediate, you know, had the ability to immediately physically harm you or something. Hmm. These are these are people who are confused and living within a bubble

1008

02:03:26.790 --> 02:03:28.680

Lynn Conway: And mainly talking to each other.

1009

02:03:30.210 --> 02:03:43.050

Lynn Conway: Feeling confident that they're at the top of their field, so to speak, that the world of science and academia will will follow them because of their publication record and so and so on. Right.

1010

02:03:44.010 --> 02:03:51.330

Lynn Conway: But, you know, the common sensical has a way of intruding once in a while when elites overstep their bounds.

1011

02:03:52.440 --> 02:03:53.580

Lynn Conway: And and

1012

02:03:54.600 --> 02:04:07.440

Lynn Conway: And in talking among themselves lose track of what's really going on outside right and an alpha Lisa political peoples and in this case the upheaval with a widening

1013

02:04:08.520 --> 02:04:10.350

Lynn Conway: Internet spreading

1014

02:04:12.750 --> 02:04:24.510

Lynn Conway: Set of ideas towards the kind of things that actually hit all along that impressing us and and these people were evidence of the current and rather elite ised form of it.

1015

02:04:26.040 --> 02:04:26.430

Lynn Conway: And

1016

02:04:27.630 --> 02:04:30.480

Lynn Conway: And so we kind of set a pattern of that now.

1017

02:04:33.660 --> 02:04:40.410

Lynn Conway: I think the timing of everything was just totally amazing. You see the book came out at just the right time.

1018

02:04:41.520 --> 02:04:51.390

Lynn Conway: For some of us have already gotten out been feeling successful and explaining things Andrea site her TS roadmap is called

1019

02:04:52.500 --> 02:04:54.990

Lynn Conway: Was the guy for transistors at the time.

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02:04:57.480 --> 02:04:58.830

Lynn Conway: And in

1021

02:05:00.150 --> 02:05:16.020

Lynn Conway: Between her site on that information in mind on the successes. A lot of people were attracted to go to the site periodically to get the latest stuff. Right. Well, the latest stuff now included the compartment. That was the blogging on this unfolding drama.

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02:05:18.090 --> 02:05:28.260

Lynn Conway: And and and it was wide participation. So it wasn't the Andrea. It was the participation and the news of the things happening that got in there.

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02:05:28.500 --> 02:05:29.040

Evan Taylor: Right.

1024

02:05:29.670 --> 02:05:32.670

Lynn Conway: You see, and that's how things exponential

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02:05:33.810 --> 02:05:46.590

Lynn Conway: They don't exponentially down they associate when somebody finds a way to open a door and teach others how to follow. And then, and then it comes down to ground swell up from the people who fall into that.

1026

02:05:47.730 --> 02:05:53.730

Lynn Conway: Will find a better place to grow food to to live to do something.

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02:05:54.030 --> 02:05:57.360

Evan Taylor: And once they have the access to that knowledge, then everything changes.

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02:05:57.660 --> 02:06:00.030

Lynn Conway: Right. But, you know, the one thing that

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02:06:01.080 --> 02:06:02.730

Lynn Conway: Is so surprising is that

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02:06:05.190 --> 02:06:20.280

Lynn Conway: They really am plancher Lawrence Zucker they really had jumped to the conclusion and it was near the followed by the others because no one thought to the question he jumped to the conclusion that I was, I had just recently transitioned.

1031

02:06:20.310 --> 02:06:20.910

Right.

1032

02:06:21.990 --> 02:06:32.130

Lynn Conway: Why would Scientific American have an article about me. He didn't read it, it was he had heard about and was already flaming wildly about Deidre McCluskey transition

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02:06:32.940 --> 02:06:44.580

Lynn Conway: When her book on that came out a year or so before they thought I had recently transition as the interim head and it was another story about that and they needed to explain to people know this isn't what are the fears of it.

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02:06:45.750 --> 02:06:52.770

Lynn Conway: They didn't know and they, to this day, I think cannot let themselves and imagine

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02:06:54.090 --> 02:06:56.340

Lynn Conway: That I transition 30 years before.

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02:06:57.480 --> 02:07:00.630

Lynn Conway: And that all the work I've done becoming a prominent

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02:07:01.740 --> 02:07:03.240

Lynn Conway: Prominent in computer science.

1038

02:07:05.100 --> 02:07:13.260

Lynn Conway: And all the done in stealth right and also that I was happily married to a man. Mm hmm.
And I've been with them.

1039

02:07:14.670 --> 02:07:18.870

Lynn Conway: Since 1987 88

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02:07:21.060 --> 02:07:27.120

Lynn Conway: Which if they knew the story, it would conflict completely with their theory about us.

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02:07:27.270 --> 02:07:35.520

Lynn Conway: Exactly and villis book. They do have no no no transits for women gotten married

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02:07:36.930 --> 02:07:37.800

Lynn Conway: Can happen.

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02:07:37.920 --> 02:07:38.280

Evan Taylor: Yeah.

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02:07:38.340 --> 02:07:44.820

Lynn Conway: You can. It was all over the place, or video on my website within already were married, of course, so

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02:07:49.740 --> 02:07:54.690

Lynn Conway: Anyway, so that that that that kind of conflict just raged on from

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02:07:57.300 --> 02:07:57.750

Lynn Conway: And

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02:07:58.800 --> 02:08:11.610

Lynn Conway: By then, we really pretty much Wiley exposed the teachings and real social some of he started building and it all took on a life of its own. And by 2015

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02:08:12.360 --> 02:08:22.740

Lynn Conway: Zuko was fired clinic closed and many states in the US for outgoing and have since outlawed kind of therapy. Yeah. So you see

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02:08:23.490 --> 02:08:41.610

Lynn Conway: There's a time for to spread further in the larger society, but it just, it was it was it was an extra bowl and they're still trying to explain themselves what happened there. They still think that Andrew and I did this whole thing, which is totally ridiculous now, yeah.

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02:08:41.910 --> 02:08:45.930

Evan Taylor: He would just he would just reacting to what was already happening out there and moving the page.

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02:08:47.040 --> 02:08:47.970

Lynn Conway: And then, and then

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02:08:48.240 --> 02:08:59.880

Lynn Conway: And then edit some catalytic stuff that triggered kind of an explosion. Mm hmm. But with the explosion was a ground swell of grounded activity.

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02:09:00.690 --> 02:09:17.160

Lynn Conway: Yes, so many people who could really see the teaching, see what the people have done and understand these were just the latest version of which hundreds that had forever down to history than hunting us down. Absolutely.

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02:09:18.360 --> 02:09:19.050

Lynn Conway: And

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02:09:20.880 --> 02:09:21.390

Lynn Conway: So,

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02:09:22.590 --> 02:09:24.270

Lynn Conway: I think that's all ended pretty well.

1057

02:09:24.690 --> 02:09:27.210

Lynn Conway: You know, good goes unpunished and then your drager

1058

02:09:27.660 --> 02:09:47.760

Lynn Conway: Did enough writing a book that's primarily expressed called Galileo's middle finger that that sold to a lot of right wing people which poses Andrew James Dylan Conway is people who who hounded these great scientists out of their careers did all these awful things to them.

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02:09:49.080 --> 02:09:59.850

Lynn Conway: Without ever really leaking. The link hungry shooters to to me when Conway, who is known, but but the books are read and propagate. You see how that works and see the sleight of hand there.

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02:10:00.030 --> 02:10:00.540

Lynn Conway: Yeah, it's

1061

02:10:00.780 --> 02:10:02.850

Evan Taylor: A slice of the land on way now.

1062

02:10:03.090 --> 02:10:08.610

Lynn Conway: Just, just just the various fabrications of of thoughts.

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02:10:08.970 --> 02:10:26.370

Lynn Conway: Exactly that they had about what Andrew and I were doing it was awful people and I can imagine that that's how they feel, but beautiful outside the bubble. It does have a different feeling different view will get installed.

1064

02:10:27.450 --> 02:10:32.820

Lynn Conway: And it's one that's really, really sad for them. Just, I, I can't imagine

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02:10:33.930 --> 02:10:35.790

Lynn Conway: Being them spending your whole life.

1066

02:10:37.560 --> 02:10:41.040

Lynn Conway: Which owning other people, people that that you feel are

1067

02:10:42.210 --> 02:10:43.500

Lynn Conway: Are somehow

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02:10:44.760 --> 02:10:48.570

Lynn Conway: Aliens or something, you know, it's always got that feeling absolutely

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02:10:48.630 --> 02:10:53.640

Evan Taylor: I'm thinking about what you were saying about just how many parts of life and personalities. We all have

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02:10:53.910 --> 02:10:54.870

Lynn Conway: And how sad.

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02:10:54.930 --> 02:11:00.420

Evan Taylor: Is to have a singular focus that isn't even actually accurate or be helping anybody

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02:11:00.930 --> 02:11:01.290

Lynn Conway: I know

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02:11:01.380 --> 02:11:02.520

Evan Taylor: It must be so so sad.

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02:11:03.510 --> 02:11:05.940

Lynn Conway: It is. It really is. But anyway.

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02:11:08.730 --> 02:11:33.780

Lynn Conway: I really eased off that in like 2009 or so 2008 2009 kind of went on to other things. Certainly a followed what's happened and and and and it was pleased when when political event started to interfere with conversion therapy because that I saw that as as the sort of final

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02:11:34.980 --> 02:11:39.750

Lynn Conway: Lacking in some hope. Recent politics show there's worry about

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02:11:40.950 --> 02:11:52.440

Lynn Conway: Things could slide. And that's always the case. But, you know, this is out too wide now and it's gradually taking his place and understanding about transition says it's it's it's too far out now. Yeah.

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02:11:52.500 --> 02:11:54.120

Evan Taylor: You are now.

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02:11:54.720 --> 02:11:56.130

Lynn Conway: And put it back in the bottle.

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02:11:58.410 --> 02:12:03.630

Evan Taylor: We've done a lot of other activism work. And so what what are some of the other bits of activism work that you've done though.

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02:12:05.250 --> 02:12:05.700

Lynn Conway: You know,

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02:12:07.380 --> 02:12:09.120

Lynn Conway: Aside from that particular

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02:12:11.130 --> 02:12:13.890

Lynn Conway: Kind of pushback on teaching and guiding

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02:12:15.630 --> 02:12:21.420

Lynn Conway: I spent a lot of time in the early 2000s, then continued on with it on the issue of

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02:12:22.770 --> 02:12:27.540

Lynn Conway: Can we find better ways to make it easier for students transitional other and universities.

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02:12:27.930 --> 02:12:35.250

Lynn Conway: Right, knowing that, number one, they've gotten away from home, they're going to become adult be responsible for themselves.

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02:12:36.390 --> 02:12:39.240

Lynn Conway: It's an anonymous time in your life before you set down roots.

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02:12:40.470 --> 02:12:45.900

Lynn Conway: So you could start with a dude. If you could do this while you're in university, then you'd start

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02:12:46.860 --> 02:12:55.380

Lynn Conway: You know, on the right foot afterwards. Right. So having to erase a lot of stuff. Go back to your transportation. Think of that I had to go get away Columbia Records changed. I

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02:12:55.950 --> 02:13:02.850

Lynn Conway: Know a lot of people. I had to interact with and figure out how to approach to get all this stuff straight down, you know, and

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02:13:04.290 --> 02:13:14.130

Lynn Conway: And it was, and you have, in particular, there are a lot of forces at the time that we're pushing things in the direction of the Bailey stuff.

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02:13:14.370 --> 02:13:26.190

Lynn Conway: Right say almost, almost trying to, you know, really gender clinic there even had people who came into it if they had transition. They had to d transition and start over with them.

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02:13:27.810 --> 02:13:31.350

Lynn Conway: Is just absolutely unbelievable. This went on for a number of years.

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02:13:32.130 --> 02:13:33.480

Evan Taylor: safety issue event like that.

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02:13:33.510 --> 02:13:36.720

Lynn Conway: Yeah, yeah, it's just, it's just the most mind boggling. You think our story there.

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02:13:37.950 --> 02:13:41.220

Lynn Conway: Which I wrote about for a while and post that information about, you know, kind of, you know,

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02:13:42.690 --> 02:13:46.740

Lynn Conway: So anyway, we're still wouldn't be any friends in the medical community.

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02:13:49.680 --> 02:13:51.360

Lynn Conway: Community communities are all very conservative

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02:13:52.680 --> 02:13:54.030

Lynn Conway: So, so

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02:13:55.320 --> 02:14:05.790

Lynn Conway: So I ended up we had at U of M A committee that was put together to figure out what to do about science issues and we're pretty active and and

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02:14:06.390 --> 02:14:13.140

Lynn Conway: We interacted with a lot of thought leaders and other schools who are working on the same line. So I enjoy helping

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02:14:13.860 --> 02:14:29.460

Lynn Conway: Just think of all kinds of ideas and everybody was doing this and then working with groups to kind of put our ideas together and present them to the administration see if we can get things done it were helpful Neely logistics, which is

1103

02:14:30.540 --> 02:14:34.590

Lynn Conway: A thing that you could kind of get people to agree on like name changes and

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02:14:35.850 --> 02:14:45.480

Lynn Conway: Getting getting record straight. Now you may not like these people, why not, why make life hell for them. See, yeah. I mean, give us a break.

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02:14:45.750 --> 02:14:52.650

Lynn Conway: Yeah, by telling stories and showing evidence of what was happening and then suggesting ways to improve it.

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02:14:53.370 --> 02:15:09.030

Lynn Conway: And so I I need a lot of friends in made a lot of contacts around the country just in that area of the activism, which was really great because it was also time when the trans issues were starting to

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02:15:10.470 --> 02:15:19.350

Lynn Conway: Have wine with verge with get partly rejected by entangled with the lesbian and gay support centers that universities.

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02:15:19.980 --> 02:15:25.380

Lynn Conway: You see the translated come up and there was tension. There are a few year number of years between

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02:15:26.100 --> 02:15:33.810

Lynn Conway: The gay community and the trans community and took a while to sort on stuff out. Mm hmm. And I think it was helpful to be

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02:15:34.290 --> 02:15:42.540

Lynn Conway: Involved in just the practical issues and things that affected translate well because more the lesbian, gay people to see what of it. There were more transparent, we thought

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02:15:42.810 --> 02:15:59.220

Lynn Conway: Right. Oh, look at these crazy things are having to deal with. Mm hmm. And it helped build understanding and I can see that it just witnessing that and and being invested in it was really rewarding because I can see how good advocacy work done.

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02:16:00.660 --> 02:16:02.040

Lynn Conway: You know, in the trenches.

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02:16:03.720 --> 02:16:17.520

Lynn Conway: With with respect and with courtesy using the facts can really make progress that ratchets, you know, you kind of win a battle, and then the skirmish goes the other way. No ratchets up

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02:16:17.730 --> 02:16:18.780

Lynn Conway: Yeah yeah

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02:16:19.800 --> 02:16:24.750

Lynn Conway: And so that was that was really good. Another thing that I got involved with

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02:16:27.600 --> 02:16:48.180

Lynn Conway: Initially, in my own situation as I got older, I felt I needed some help for set better and so I explored and then underwent the facial feminization surgery. Yeah, so that as I aged, I would not you know look really really clunky. You know, like

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02:16:49.950 --> 02:16:51.570

Lynn Conway: When you're younger. There's a little more

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02:16:52.830 --> 02:17:05.280

Lynn Conway: Facial fat is little this that fewer wrinkles, everything is kind of okay you know you can learn how to present and you're fine, but I felt I needed and and I did and I turned into kind of

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02:17:07.560 --> 02:17:08.610

Lynn Conway: A way to look at it.

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02:17:10.500 --> 02:17:18.720

Lynn Conway: And think about it, the reveal what some of the real problems were for post few people into transitions.

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02:17:19.830 --> 02:17:21.420

Lynn Conway: That is in our society.

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02:17:23.460 --> 02:17:25.500

Lynn Conway: People see themselves based on

1123

02:17:26.670 --> 02:17:29.730

Lynn Conway: And we see others that we're talking with face on

1124

02:17:31.050 --> 02:17:31.500

Lynn Conway: But

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02:17:33.990 --> 02:17:37.470

Lynn Conway: Generally speaking, in large groups. You don't look people in the eye.

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02:17:38.100 --> 02:17:50.190

Lynn Conway: Right, unless you unless you're unless you're the working on your own. I will really kind of warm hearted person and I have a way of kind of floating around kind of smiling without looking too long.

1127

02:17:50.730 --> 02:17:57.480

Lynn Conway: And and and projecting that kind of persona as just kind of a really nice person, you know, which is funded project.

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02:17:58.890 --> 02:18:01.650

Lynn Conway: As well as you can get, doesn't mean that you are, you know,

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02:18:03.150 --> 02:18:04.050

Lynn Conway: But, but

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02:18:05.280 --> 02:18:05.670

Lynn Conway: The

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02:18:08.550 --> 02:18:11.880

Lynn Conway: The thing is, when we actually look at other people. We look at

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02:18:12.900 --> 02:18:15.390

Lynn Conway: You kind of looking at someone like who is that

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02:18:15.930 --> 02:18:18.030

Lynn Conway: Right, you want them to see you kind of doing this.

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02:18:19.800 --> 02:18:23.070

Lynn Conway: So what it is you're over here that you're out of their peripheral vision.

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02:18:24.120 --> 02:18:25.140

Lynn Conway: Which you're looking for.

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02:18:25.770 --> 02:18:37.410

Lynn Conway: Right, and that's how people were getting clocked because the dead giveaway was this blow out the front for him. Um, they'll still

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02:18:38.100 --> 02:18:39.090

Lynn Conway: Right now.

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02:18:40.590 --> 02:18:48.180

Lynn Conway: Or even transmitted. Now who want to have a little bit of that put in. If they want to look you know a little bit cro magnon or something.

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02:18:53.310 --> 02:18:54.420

Lynn Conway: Would actually

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02:18:55.800 --> 02:19:02.400

Lynn Conway: Turn turns out guys are more attractive. Usually, they don't have much of that see that that actually a little bit

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02:19:04.830 --> 02:19:13.020

Lynn Conway: Is ok but when it gets the, you know, I think most women feel like, you know, it's too much. As soon as

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02:19:13.500 --> 02:19:21.000

Evan Taylor: There's a marker of maleness and then there's a marker of the progressive difference as we as illusion changes.

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02:19:21.600 --> 02:19:22.800

Lynn Conway: It's just too much.

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02:19:23.040 --> 02:19:27.810

Lynn Conway: Yeah, and here and and so anyway. What happens is

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02:19:28.950 --> 02:19:32.670

Lynn Conway: That that's how people are client. It really is.

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02:19:32.910 --> 02:19:40.440

Lynn Conway: Right, and sometimes involved the job. But mostly, that is the end if you just go out and look at a lot of women in profile and look at guys and profile.

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02:19:41.850 --> 02:19:44.460

Lynn Conway: Statistically, that's a big separating factor.

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02:19:45.990 --> 02:19:56.190

Lynn Conway: And that's the one thing easily taken care of. Well, not so easily. It's a good at the time, even now, it's time. It was pretty ghastly surgery because things

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02:19:56.700 --> 02:20:01.650

Lynn Conway: Are done quicker now the aesthetics are better. There's a lot of things that are better but

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02:20:02.550 --> 02:20:07.110

Lynn Conway: But anyway, so I did that. But when I did it. I took pictures and everything. Okay.

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02:20:07.620 --> 02:20:25.440

Lynn Conway: Including the recovery period, so forth and I need a big I put a whole page of about how to go get this done with with Dr. Oz to help, who was the go to guy. He's the kind of pioneered it in San Francisco and Doug and I go way back. He's just a wonderful guy. He has contributed

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02:20:26.730 --> 02:20:29.940

Lynn Conway: More to the trans community and people can imagine

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02:20:30.960 --> 02:20:45.810

Lynn Conway: Because of pioneering the surgery and caring about doing it right or being very aggressive and his exploration without endangering people but that ragged edge. Okay.

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02:20:46.320 --> 02:20:48.060

Lynn Conway: Right, figure out how to do it.

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02:20:49.170 --> 02:20:54.060

Lynn Conway: And it's just a wonderful guy and and so for this page up

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02:20:55.620 --> 02:21:10.050

Lynn Conway: And I think the idea was implicitly in telling the story with, first of all, to make it even more easy for other people visualize what's going on. So there's everything about how to go there. What to do everything involved, including the recovery house, it was yours for a while.

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02:21:11.250 --> 02:21:18.840

Lynn Conway: And and and yet the main theme was you saw these pictures profiles and I got them from other women who had it done.

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02:21:19.800 --> 02:21:25.230

Lynn Conway: Okay and and and and what you saw what you saw face on. But then you saw the side view.

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02:21:26.820 --> 02:21:39.750

Lynn Conway: And when you saw a face on for some reason the women just looked incredibly more attractive afterwards, which you could figure out quite what it was. Then you saw the side you Bingo.

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02:21:39.900 --> 02:21:47.520

Lynn Conway: Right, that it all phased into where there's something about the more childlike faith without this thing here.

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02:21:47.670 --> 02:21:48.090

Evan Taylor: CAP.

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02:21:48.150 --> 02:21:51.000

Lynn Conway: And a few other odds and ends with the chin.

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02:21:52.200 --> 02:21:54.450

Lynn Conway: That feel the difference

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02:21:56.070 --> 02:22:04.800

Lynn Conway: So I got into that and and that was sort of help add my what I could to making people realize they could do this.

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02:22:05.910 --> 02:22:16.410

Lynn Conway: And over the years or longer, the people on my pages, who were not only successful but successful ball game probably open right well women into had this done.

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02:22:16.770 --> 02:22:26.460

Lynn Conway: Um, so they were not fearful about how they looked and having people laugh at them rain and so forth, because it's not saying

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02:22:27.060 --> 02:22:40.110

Lynn Conway: That you need this in order to not be not fearful, but but what there was a period there where this has really helped sort of move things forward. Mm hmm did another thing.

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02:22:42.150 --> 02:22:45.180

Lynn Conway: All during that time there were

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02:22:46.710 --> 02:22:47.820

Lynn Conway: Growing signs.

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02:22:49.020 --> 02:23:06.180

Lynn Conway: Of of the crying need for younger people to be able to deal with this. Right. And that was where the crime need really was to kind of experiences I had when I was a child, I will go back through all the stuff that you grow a growing up with

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02:23:07.500 --> 02:23:11.550

Lynn Conway: Is just mind boggling. You know, just and

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02:23:12.180 --> 02:23:15.420

Evan Taylor: Getting around bullying and social optimization, all that stuff.

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02:23:15.720 --> 02:23:18.450

Lynn Conway: Yeah, well, mainly

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02:23:19.560 --> 02:23:28.410

Lynn Conway: This internal thing of nothing will connect with the with the world really gotcha living inside yourself and not being able to be a you

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02:23:29.580 --> 02:23:31.140

Lynn Conway: And what it does in your head.

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02:23:31.350 --> 02:23:31.710

Right.

1177

02:23:32.850 --> 02:23:41.190

Lynn Conway: And and and then at puberty, that the physical changes were just like, Oh, no.

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02:23:41.760 --> 02:23:43.200

Lynn Conway: Yeah. Oh.

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02:23:47.130 --> 02:23:49.890

Lynn Conway: Yeah, and and and

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02:23:51.330 --> 02:23:58.920

Lynn Conway: This happens both ways. Obviously, it's the same. It has the same from found like oh

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02:24:00.090 --> 02:24:12.750

Lynn Conway: How are you going to deal with this and and then that's used in such a strong way to put you over here, socially, and you can't do anything over there socially. So, because of this. Yeah.

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02:24:14.730 --> 02:24:15.720

Lynn Conway: So the

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02:24:16.290 --> 02:24:17.580

Evan Taylor: Turmoil. That brings up

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02:24:18.570 --> 02:24:20.790

Lynn Conway: So what what we did a lot of us.

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02:24:22.170 --> 02:24:23.430

Lynn Conway: Kind of joined forces and

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02:24:24.540 --> 02:24:28.050

Lynn Conway: It came from different direction via. One of the things I did in my side early on was

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02:24:29.220 --> 02:24:30.120

Lynn Conway: There was this

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02:24:31.650 --> 02:24:38.160

Lynn Conway: Wonderful book mom and need to be a girl by Evelyn, you get that that came out.

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02:24:40.320 --> 02:24:42.450

Lynn Conway: Little book sold for like \$10

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02:24:43.590 --> 02:24:44.010

Lynn Conway: And

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02:24:45.090 --> 02:25:00.270

Lynn Conway: What I really should do was I got the book translated into a whole bunch of different languages. The reason we didn't have the Google translate back then. Right. We did is I had had a cadre of translators around the world.

1192

02:25:01.980 --> 02:25:05.430

Lynn Conway: That had already translated my successes pages.

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02:25:05.970 --> 02:25:13.230

Lynn Conway: Gotcha. Few years. So that's why they were propagating their translated into like more than a dozen like major languages.

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02:25:14.490 --> 02:25:32.700

Lynn Conway: And what I did was I had these translators translate Evelyn's book into other languages and and i posted her book in HTML and PDF on the internet. So it's available for free and all these languages everywhere.

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02:25:34.560 --> 02:25:43.500

Lynn Conway: Yeah, you read that story as a teenager transitioning, they're encountering, you know, the medical system and all the hassles and how she goes on and said all

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02:25:44.730 --> 02:25:45.420

Evan Taylor: Right.

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02:25:45.930 --> 02:25:56.760

Lynn Conway: Now, now you see what's going on here you couple together. If you wait too long, you're going to have a hell of a time undoing.

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02:25:56.940 --> 02:26:07.380

Lynn Conway: Uh huh. What to what he has done to you. Mm hmm. You need to start earlier and you need your parents cell, especially your mom you

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02:26:09.120 --> 02:26:32.940

Lynn Conway: See, so. So this all started projecting out into this sort of where that was growing around Andrea site and my site the successes TS roadmap, the daily thing, all this sort of piggyback and was amplified by that and it all expanded together in a kind of

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02:26:34.650 --> 02:26:35.760

Lynn Conway: Culturally

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02:26:36.870 --> 02:26:38.970

Lynn Conway: Contact her dramatic form.

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02:26:40.170 --> 02:26:47.850

Lynn Conway: You see right kind of K captured a lot of what was actually happening and going to happen.

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02:26:49.290 --> 02:26:54.360

Lynn Conway: In a way that it was all going out that exponential horn and the Internet, the same

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02:26:55.980 --> 02:27:01.050

Lynn Conway: When it gets when it gets picked up at this node, people are spread it over here and it keeps you think

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02:27:01.440 --> 02:27:02.190

Evan Taylor: Uh huh.

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02:27:02.250 --> 02:27:03.660

Lynn Conway: To where I think it helped

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02:27:05.250 --> 02:27:14.340

Lynn Conway: All of that kind of work helped suddenly create a kind of uniform transgender way.

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02:27:15.690 --> 02:27:20.550

Lynn Conway: A Gestalt that that pushed off around the world, you see in the cool

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02:27:20.730 --> 02:27:21.270

Absolutely.

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02:27:22.380 --> 02:27:26.670

Lynn Conway: And I think that's one of those people who was who was brought into the fold right around that time. Yeah.

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02:27:26.970 --> 02:27:31.530

Lynn Conway: In fact you you'd mentioned to me that you actually remember looking at those pages.

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02:27:31.590 --> 02:27:41.640

Evan Taylor: Absolutely. I, I was 100%. One of the things that for me was this, there's this whole narrative of trans people, they're there, they don't get jobs, they don't they know they're they're not they're not, you know,

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02:27:42.000 --> 02:27:52.410

Evan Taylor: Their families turned on them. They have no friends like you know they're probably end up on the street, no matter what, like there was this whole narrative. And to be honest, I haven't met anybody at that point in my life, you know, early 2000s.

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02:27:52.500 --> 02:27:55.860

Evan Taylor: I met a trans person who was employed and

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02:27:55.890 --> 02:27:57.630

Evan Taylor: Hearing about Dr Gabor was the very first

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02:27:57.630 --> 02:27:58.770

Evan Taylor: Person. I'd never heard of.

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02:27:59.040 --> 02:28:01.980

Evan Taylor: Then was a they had a job that you know

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02:28:02.760 --> 02:28:08.400

Evan Taylor: Had a paycheck and, you know, certainly, other people are doing sex work. That's a job, but they weren't getting a regular paycheck and benefits and you

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02:28:08.400 --> 02:28:12.180

Evan Taylor: Know that out of bank account, like all that stuff. And so it was

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02:28:12.240 --> 02:28:12.600

Evan Taylor: So,

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02:28:12.690 --> 02:28:25.140

Evan Taylor: I remember that page as just being and I would go back to that page like I probably visited your exact page and 100 times because I would go back to it every few days or every week or so just to, you know,

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02:28:25.170 --> 02:28:25.770

Lynn Conway: Remind them.

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02:28:26.040 --> 02:28:29.430

Evan Taylor: That there's another, there's another arc here. There's another narrative.

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02:28:29.850 --> 02:28:38.220

Evan Taylor: That can happen. And so in that way. No it's, it was so powerful to me when you're talking about this was a very purposeful thing. I'm like, Well, you did exactly what you want it to.

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02:28:38.430 --> 02:28:45.060

Evan Taylor: Which was galvanize a younger generation who actually have access to the Internet and wanted to know things and we were looking

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02:28:45.210 --> 02:28:54.720

Evan Taylor: At information. And when we look for it. There it was. And I remember being jealous of the TS roadmap site because there wasn't one for for trans masculine, folks.

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02:28:54.870 --> 02:28:55.260

Lynn Conway: Right.

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02:28:55.320 --> 02:28:58.380

Evan Taylor: Yeah. Throw me such a great site. But both of the

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02:28:58.410 --> 02:29:00.720

Evan Taylor: States were just things that I would visit to

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02:29:01.110 --> 02:29:02.850

Evan Taylor: To remind myself. There was another way

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02:29:03.630 --> 02:29:07.920

Lynn Conway: Yeah, Andrea made huge contributions to all this TS roadmap.

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02:29:11.280 --> 02:29:13.110

Lynn Conway: Just had to help. So every somebody

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02:29:13.770 --> 02:29:15.420

Evan Taylor: 100% absolutely

1234

02:29:16.200 --> 02:29:17.550

Lynn Conway: And and of course we both

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02:29:18.990 --> 02:29:22.290

Lynn Conway: We both got great coverage and illustrators.

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02:29:25.170 --> 02:29:36.780

Lynn Conway: Which I think kind of this this larger picture. Somehow you see unaware of it not not seeing it because you're trapped in that bubble. Absolutely. But

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02:29:37.830 --> 02:29:42.630

Lynn Conway: But I did it recently in the 2010s, actually, I began

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02:29:44.940 --> 02:29:51.420

Lynn Conway: Thinking about and investigating and writing more about the issues surrounding women and minorities and stem

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02:29:52.470 --> 02:30:06.120

Lynn Conway: You know, it's an issue that has come up in the universities it was an issue at University of Michigan and frequent committee actions and concerns about it. And as I thought about it.

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02:30:07.320 --> 02:30:09.120

Lynn Conway: reflected on my career.

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02:30:10.350 --> 02:30:12.420

Lynn Conway: I could based on

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02:30:13.830 --> 02:30:14.490

Lynn Conway: The decades.

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02:30:16.320 --> 02:30:37.230

Lynn Conway: I could see the shifts, but then the night shifts. Right. I see progress, but not progress. And so I began thinking hard about this and it was really easy. One of the things that made it possible for me to come back in and become a programmer quote unquote back in 1969

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02:30:38.490 --> 02:30:41.970

Lynn Conway: Was that during the 16th as system.

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02:30:43.530 --> 02:30:57.600

Lynn Conway: Developed there was a huge burst of need people who can code in 360 assembly reviews on the job control language operating system language, so to speak.

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02:30:59.070 --> 02:31:08.460

Lynn Conway: On ACL who could who could write programs in Fortran or cobalt kinetics and running these big mainframe so is a huge need for programs.

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02:31:10.110 --> 02:31:10.680

Lynn Conway: What

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02:31:11.910 --> 02:31:13.320

Lynn Conway: Up until that point.

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02:31:15.270 --> 02:31:29.610

Lynn Conway: It almost all office space everywhere, including engineering office space and so forth. They never use typewriters and journalists are an exception, but using a keyboard was done by typist by secretaries.

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02:31:31.290 --> 02:31:34.560

Lynn Conway: There was, there was a gendered allergic reaction.

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02:31:35.670 --> 02:31:41.820

Lynn Conway: To touching achievable. This is my way of thinking about it. I could say I spotted this you know

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02:31:43.020 --> 02:31:45.540

Lynn Conway: And and so what it did was

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02:31:46.620 --> 02:32:04.260

Lynn Conway: The demand for program is so high, people began discovering that my goodness, there were awful lot of women college graduates and studied math or biology or science or English or whatever, who perfectly well could use a keyboard.

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02:32:04.680 --> 02:32:24.120

Lynn Conway: Right. And in fact, learn the stuff they needed to know about how to do this programming, which wasn't that hard to learn really you know i mean coding is coding is coding. You read a book is take a course you don't you do that. Okay, so, so all of a sudden, the door was wide open to women.

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02:32:27.210 --> 02:32:36.690

Lynn Conway: And so a lot of a lot of the, the folks that I was among in these first jobs. I got other women, young women coming in at that time.

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02:32:37.710 --> 02:32:39.120

Lynn Conway: So we all had

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02:32:40.590 --> 02:32:58.530

Lynn Conway: A kind of cool experience. And think of women who are starting to get good really good paying jobs, okay, where those kind of hadn't been around before right and and and it was it was an amazing time.

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02:32:59.580 --> 02:33:13.140

Lynn Conway: When you think about this is now the other thing was happening was during the, the whole Vietnam thing. The sexual revolution, all the music scene there was all these other worlds of craziness going on out there.

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02:33:14.250 --> 02:33:20.850

Lynn Conway: But it was a period when for for wonder women felt really empowered right newly empowered.

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02:33:23.010 --> 02:33:23.580

Lynn Conway: And

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02:33:24.660 --> 02:33:42.390

Lynn Conway: Xerox, it turned out when I when I joined the the workplace that one of the things that they did was they were deliberately trying to encourage recruiting really talented women. Mm hmm. And there were some there were a number of them there and they all the amazing contributions.

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02:33:43.530 --> 02:33:51.780

Lynn Conway: Okay, that are well documented. What have you been interested in thinking about, well, how, why hasn't this gone better because it seemed to

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02:33:52.710 --> 02:34:09.630

Lynn Conway: Verse for a while and then it just sort of you know coasted and and then a recent years we we weren't getting the number of women applying for for undergraduate degrees in in computer science or computer engineering that we had hope you think

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02:34:12.510 --> 02:34:13.050

Lynn Conway: So,

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02:34:14.130 --> 02:34:16.320

Lynn Conway: Idea. I'm thinking about that and I began

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02:34:17.700 --> 02:34:18.960

Lynn Conway: noticing something

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02:34:21.360 --> 02:34:23.910

Lynn Conway: I'd read books by Rossiter

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02:34:25.710 --> 02:34:41.790

Lynn Conway: Miracle women in science or three volume series, who have really pointed out that all through the last several hundred years, women had made very important contribution in science that has

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02:34:43.650 --> 02:34:51.780

Lynn Conway: Evaporated gone away. In other words, they need them. They were recognized at the time for seen at the time, but they disappeared from history right

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02:34:53.400 --> 02:34:54.990

Lynn Conway: So I began to realize

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02:34:56.280 --> 02:34:56.700

Lynn Conway: That

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02:34:58.890 --> 02:35:10.680

Lynn Conway: You know, this is almost like this and visibility thing trans people. Okay. It's almost like the successes that there have been no one knew they were there. Hmm, how would you know you could do something if you never saw anybody else have a successful

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02:35:10.830 --> 02:35:11.910

Evan Taylor: Exactly, yeah.

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02:35:12.180 --> 02:35:18.930

Lynn Conway: Especially in history. Mm hmm. Now granted in history, the numbers are small.

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02:35:20.310 --> 02:35:29.460

Lynn Conway: But they're much smaller than the number that was actually there. Right. Put a naked. There's that missing factor of 10 or 20 or whatever it is.

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02:35:30.780 --> 02:35:45.450

Lynn Conway: That would have brought it up from like nothing to a little bit war compared to the guys yes that appears when you just sort of drop names about famous scientists or engineers or something. So, so what I ended up doing.

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02:35:47.040 --> 02:35:47.700

Lynn Conway: Was

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02:35:49.650 --> 02:35:50.880

Lynn Conway: I had a realization

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02:35:53.100 --> 02:35:56.220

Lynn Conway: And this is all kind of growing in parallel had a realization

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02:35:57.600 --> 02:36:05.250

Lynn Conway: That wait a minute, my own story and disappear. I made some really major contributions in the

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02:36:06.420 --> 02:36:16.530

Lynn Conway: Rocky at the early 80s that got a few awards and including the academy back then, but in recent decades.

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02:36:17.910 --> 02:36:19.710

Lynn Conway: It's like no one knew about that.

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02:36:19.770 --> 02:36:21.720

Evan Taylor: Yeah, that work wasn't being attributed to you anymore.

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02:36:22.170 --> 02:36:27.720

Lynn Conway: No and effect what was interesting was they were attributed to other people.

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02:36:29.340 --> 02:36:31.830

Lynn Conway: Including the guy who wrote the book was

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02:36:32.970 --> 02:36:42.930

Lynn Conway: When in fact, was the ones that were being attributed but once we're solely right. Wow. Wow. That's pretty interesting. So

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02:36:44.130 --> 02:37:03.870

Lynn Conway: So there's been this thing where I, you know, and you know, I felt a lot of eggs during the 90s as that started happening, and especially in the 2000s when when this other person got like really major things, you know, national bill the technology, stuff like that. And here.

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02:37:05.130 --> 02:37:07.800

Lynn Conway: It was resolved I disappeared.

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02:37:09.000 --> 02:37:12.600

Lynn Conway: So I, I didn't you think one of the things I did was like

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02:37:14.070 --> 02:37:25.080

Lynn Conway: I was there I checked everything, you know, right. I kept all those papers from idea and that helped me sort of reveal that work later. Well, all this stuff. I've done during the Michael electronics work on

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02:37:26.160 --> 02:37:41.610

Lynn Conway: I kept tons of that stuff and you know we are born to the country of bar inside you know their boxes and boxes and stuff in and all over the place. Okay, including all kinds of adventures. Other things selfies. So we're done, but

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02:37:42.300 --> 02:37:46.230

Lynn Conway: I began scanning and putting everything about the deal. So anything

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02:37:47.490 --> 02:37:51.780

Lynn Conway: On the internet and turn it into an archive of all that work.

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02:37:53.220 --> 02:38:04.020

Lynn Conway: And they invited other people who I work with to contribute their things right. This week we built a kind of an archive of all kinds of pictures, everything just all kinds of stuff.

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02:38:05.610 --> 02:38:08.790

Lynn Conway: And then I was invited to read an article

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02:38:10.740 --> 02:38:14.430

Lynn Conway: For an IEEE magazines about solid state that

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02:38:16.080 --> 02:38:17.100

Lynn Conway: They actually

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02:38:18.930 --> 02:38:22.980

Lynn Conway: Interestingly, they approached like this, the person who

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02:38:24.000 --> 02:38:32.640

Lynn Conway: They thought they should approach, but he wasn't able to do it or didn't want to do it. Yeah, so they approached me if I could write about this side of the story.

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02:38:33.240 --> 02:38:44.280

Lynn Conway: Well, I wrote about the story. I actually had this really cool article is a feature article in this magazine which unfolded how this whole thing happened.

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02:38:45.150 --> 02:38:58.740

Lynn Conway: With all kinds of pictures and information and so forth. Okay, followed up by other articles that surrounded by other people who were participants who could confirm how it all that this had happened.

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02:38:58.800 --> 02:39:00.450

Evan Taylor: Right and corroborate the the narrative.

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02:39:01.170 --> 02:39:04.980

Lynn Conway: And an article by a faculty member at Columbia University.

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02:39:06.780 --> 02:39:23.070

Lynn Conway: Who had used the word and thought it was amazing and and was was amazed to find out the story behind it. I was raising questions about, you know, why did this story go on hold for so long. Right. Okay, so anyway, that came out.

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02:39:24.420 --> 02:39:51.600

Lynn Conway: And and I've written other perspectives on the issue that are more aligned online with this is an instance of a story that's happened over, over and over again when it comes time for the elites and the privileged to give awards to people and to decide the worthy of long term history.

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02:39:52.710 --> 02:40:01.620

Lynn Conway: As a filter that's applied and unconscious Felton yes the contributions made by women, and certainly by minorities.

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02:40:03.480 --> 02:40:04.740

Lynn Conway: Are simply not seen

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02:40:05.880 --> 02:40:07.950

Lynn Conway: It isn't that they're very nice is that

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02:40:08.970 --> 02:40:13.560

Lynn Conway: When you make that contribution. It's invisible to them because

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02:40:15.390 --> 02:40:19.410

Lynn Conway: If you were if you were in a room and somebody did something really cool.

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02:40:20.550 --> 02:40:22.770

Lynn Conway: kind of amazed you like a magic trick or something.

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02:40:25.860 --> 02:40:32.580

Lynn Conway: First of all, you might not know if that's the first time that ever happened. You probably would think it's not sure

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02:40:33.480 --> 02:40:41.310

Lynn Conway: If that was the time when people were doing something foolish because it's new. Weird. You don't pay much attention because unless it's something

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02:40:42.930 --> 02:40:48.510

Lynn Conway: Complicated as a script around it isn't important. Right. It's just silliness.

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02:40:50.400 --> 02:40:51.570

Lynn Conway: But if you didn't notice it.

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02:40:53.100 --> 02:41:00.420

Lynn Conway: You might notice. Well, this. What the heck is it's just silly, whatever it is, it looks too simple why you're doing that.

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02:41:01.530 --> 02:41:07.710

Lynn Conway: Much less thinking, Where did this person learn this. Maybe they they picked it up to somebody and it's spreading or something.

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02:41:07.800 --> 02:41:10.500

Evan Taylor: Right, right. What we're building on here. It's probably not.

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02:41:10.500 --> 02:41:18.390

Lynn Conway: Your brother. What if that actually is the first incident person says, Would you notice right it's hard for people to know

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02:41:19.800 --> 02:41:26.010

Lynn Conway: When they're noticing something very new, whether it's something that could spread and be useful.

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02:41:27.720 --> 02:41:32.010

Lynn Conway: in some form or another, maybe not in its current form, but there's some just have an idea there you see

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02:41:33.480 --> 02:41:45.180

Lynn Conway: So I've written about this and I pulled this article last year about it and stay out of it really about this idea of, of how people

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02:41:46.470 --> 02:41:52.200

Lynn Conway: Are wine to innovations. They invite others.

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02:41:52.410 --> 02:41:52.830

Right.

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02:41:54.330 --> 02:41:58.020

Lynn Conway: Others that are unexpected to make innovations.

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02:42:00.120 --> 02:42:06.150

Lynn Conway: They can you can make it and it would, it just simply wouldn't be perceived. You think he's like

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02:42:06.900 --> 02:42:09.300

Evan Taylor: Did you call this the calming effect when somebody else called

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02:42:09.360 --> 02:42:11.610

Lynn Conway: That's, I call it. Okay.

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02:42:11.640 --> 02:42:13.200

Evan Taylor: If I think we should keep calling it that.

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02:42:13.740 --> 02:42:23.910

Lynn Conway: Is so good to come with it and and what I'll do is after we finished. I'll put together a few links to some of these key things I talked about

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02:42:24.270 --> 02:42:25.050

Evan Taylor: Angeles

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02:42:25.170 --> 02:42:29.820

Lynn Conway: And that way you know people were interested in just checking out a little more detail. They could follow

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02:42:30.210 --> 02:42:39.540

Lynn Conway: And so a couple of these articles and a few things. You know, like my reminisces about my ACS years, things like that kind of get those links.

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02:42:40.290 --> 02:42:53.670

Lynn Conway: And even down to the years you know they disappear in their current year Olivia in the archives. You just need a little script to, you know, okay, go to the archive for this one now. Exactly. Yeah. And the Internet Archive and

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02:42:53.880 --> 02:42:59.370

Evan Taylor: Now I'll be able to link all of these into the Orleans oral history interviews. So there's a list of those on the field notes.

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02:42:59.700 --> 02:43:04.020

Evan Taylor: Have access to and 100 years, they'll be able to make those relations between the different documents.

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02:43:04.260 --> 02:43:05.700

Lynn Conway: Okay, and what I'll do is

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02:43:06.750 --> 02:43:18.150

Lynn Conway: Sometimes, you know, over the next week or so I'm going to think about it. I don't want to make along the psyche of you list. It's kind of cool, you know, the high spots because usually within them. There are links to other important things

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02:43:18.210 --> 02:43:24.030

Lynn Conway: Exactly in their category. So, so we'll do that. I think

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02:43:26.580 --> 02:43:30.960

Lynn Conway: I think we're onto something here. And I think, you know, as more and more is understood about

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02:43:32.790 --> 02:43:34.740

Lynn Conway: She was social processes.

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02:43:37.110 --> 02:43:39.810

Lynn Conway: We're going to get more of an idea about how

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02:43:41.490 --> 02:43:54.990

Lynn Conway: Ideas get activated get shown get revealed that put into motion. And then our differential seen observed and possibly try to mimic by others.

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02:43:56.160 --> 02:44:04.080

Lynn Conway: And what the processes are in that are involved in getting ideas to start propagating and being amplified exponentially.

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02:44:05.730 --> 02:44:14.490

Lynn Conway: How how some generate a wave that overturns others have when you think about all these processes, we've been talking about. There's something rather similar

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02:44:15.540 --> 02:44:31.080

Lynn Conway: To the villa sigh revolution and the transgender way that overturn some paradigms. You see the same kind of things are operating here, things get set in motion that move and displace other things as an ecology to it.

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02:44:32.340 --> 02:44:46.860

Lynn Conway: There's no right or wrong to it right but it tends to ratchet up if people tend to notice and grab hold of and so connect with something that makes something that they're doing better. Yes.

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02:44:47.100 --> 02:44:57.720

Lynn Conway: Yes, this is a natural process of evolution. And it's got lots of fits and starts, but it seems to be that kind of thing. And I think there's a lot of room for social scientists

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02:44:59.250 --> 02:45:10.920

Lynn Conway: To take advantage of the capability for gathering data doing computing. Now, that shouldn't be computer scientists that are driving it. It should be social science explorers.

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02:45:11.490 --> 02:45:20.340

Lynn Conway: Even try this part of the, of the kind of probing the future because we need to understand these social processes better. We have the loop within them.

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02:45:20.670 --> 02:45:23.040

Evan Taylor: Right, the context in which that technology is used and

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02:45:23.490 --> 02:45:37.440

Lynn Conway: That's right, that's right and and and i think the future really belongs there for this century, maybe biology, certainly, but also maybe even more importantly, the social science help us learn to

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02:45:39.330 --> 02:45:41.760

Lynn Conway: Live and have fun together much better than we do.

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02:45:43.260 --> 02:45:54.840

Lynn Conway: And to do it in a way that's robust and and vibrant and free but but for events really gross side effects from developing hurting people.

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02:45:55.530 --> 02:46:06.960

Lynn Conway: Yeah, and so we got to figure out what that means. So, so I actually really optimistic when you think about it, look at the advances that have in me and

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02:46:08.280 --> 02:46:21.150

Lynn Conway: And I always say that it's almost like people in the Transworld instead of focusing on the transits use that as an experiential advantage over other people

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02:46:21.810 --> 02:46:30.420

Lynn Conway: To let you have insight you can apply in the wider world in ways that most people can't. Yes, rather than staying focused on your translators.

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02:46:30.660 --> 02:46:31.110

Evan Taylor: Hmm.

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02:46:31.710 --> 02:46:55.920

Lynn Conway: Think about it definitely say the way the way to exploit your advantage. Hmm, which is a clear advantage me. We know things that most people simply can't. No. Yes. Yeah. And we know it and you can look in each other's I and we there's things we have insights in the mysteries that other people

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02:46:57.570 --> 02:47:12.570

Lynn Conway: Are living in a flat manner, don't even know where they are. Yeah, we at least have insights into the mysteries there and and and and that's cool. So we're advantage. What we do with that let's set up doing transacted this

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02:47:14.100 --> 02:47:23.220

Lynn Conway: We are they become great you know social explorers. Hmm. Absolutely. See, social leaders, yes.

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02:47:23.520 --> 02:47:23.940

Evan Taylor: I think

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02:47:25.230 --> 02:47:33.900

Evan Taylor: As you're saying this, I'm thinking about this, how this connects to the earlier work that you know when you say that's it I'm just got what we got to get online and pop up successful trans folks.

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02:47:34.230 --> 02:47:47.460

Evan Taylor: And I'm thinking about that because that's, I think, so important that we have a capacity to be reflective to be resilient to to look from the outside in, and all of those things are what equip us to be social explorers.

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02:47:48.090 --> 02:47:53.070

Lynn Conway: And in fact, in order to do that you have to get outside your Christmas.

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02:47:53.160 --> 02:48:02.130

Lynn Conway: Yes, you need to you need to engage others in a confident and war and kind of cool way. Yeah.

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02:48:03.180 --> 02:48:13.680

Lynn Conway: And by what you're able to do with your advantage. They will respect you, because they begin to realize, Wait a minute, you really do understand some things we

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02:48:14.880 --> 02:48:18.270

Lynn Conway: Can bring you bring something special to this party.

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02:48:18.450 --> 02:48:21.870

Evan Taylor: Yes. And that humanity that we have that access to

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02:48:22.200 --> 02:48:42.390

Lynn Conway: Right. Which, which then VR trans, there's something more liberating coming and you can feel it and see. See, we need more voices from the outside that have been there, done that. And it can come back and tell the stories. Yeah. Yeah. So, so, you know, I don't know. I

1371

02:48:43.500 --> 02:49:01.950

Lynn Conway: So I feel you know 82 with the rate of change and things. Now if either to be 100 which I'm late. I mean, I'm very physically active young healthy said, Yeah, really. But I can make it will be so much changing it time I'm going to participate in

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02:49:02.010 --> 02:49:02.670

Yes.

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02:49:04.530 --> 02:49:06.210

Lynn Conway: The action. The fun to

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02:49:07.470 --> 02:49:07.860

Lynn Conway: See

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02:49:09.000 --> 02:49:10.470

Lynn Conway: Seriously, so

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02:49:12.030 --> 02:49:12.630

Lynn Conway: And, you know,

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02:49:14.850 --> 02:49:18.390

Lynn Conway: And and and there is somebody other dimensions to life. You know, I

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02:49:20.220 --> 02:49:26.490

Lynn Conway: Think you might win situation here, you know, the little there's everything like relationships and stuff like that, you know,

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02:49:27.180 --> 02:49:37.560

Evan Taylor: Well, you certainly covered on ended questions I had around sort of future oriented things you've covered that. And I think the one thing we haven't got to talk about is your life now. Your I want

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02:49:37.680 --> 02:49:39.300

Evan Taylor: To ask you about your husband, Charlie.

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02:49:39.450 --> 02:49:42.780

Evan Taylor: And just some general reflections on how things are for you, these days.

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02:49:44.130 --> 02:49:53.520

Lynn Conway: Yeah, it's, it's, it's, you know, for for number of years. I lived alone, and I was beginning to think that I wouldn't find me.

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02:49:54.540 --> 02:49:58.980

Lynn Conway: Know, I'd had relationships, but nothing has really kind of clicked and

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02:50:00.330 --> 02:50:02.610

Lynn Conway: And then I met my husband.

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02:50:04.620 --> 02:50:05.790

Lynn Conway: In in our near here.

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02:50:08.040 --> 02:50:15.120

Lynn Conway: canoeing, it was a kind of in the day of a cult new shop had all the kind of cool stuff.

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02:50:16.620 --> 02:50:17.430

Lynn Conway: And they had

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02:50:18.930 --> 02:50:28.140

Lynn Conway: Sessions in the summertime for Wednesday evenings, lot of people would gather and and pedal, the, the here on river and then the big article pond over there.

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02:50:29.070 --> 02:50:46.290

Lynn Conway: And and just chat about canoeing range trips to go crewing different places and so forth. So I met him on one of these and and canoeing. This was solo canoes was in Taiwan and solo canoe was developing so you had your own canoe, you had a watch. They had a much more

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02:50:49.080 --> 02:51:01.500

Lynn Conway: Versatile ways you can turn it over rivers with it and having two people, and it can help. But what you'd want to have a partner, or more than one person. So you can take your canoes.

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02:51:01.980 --> 02:51:10.920

Lynn Conway: Like we're typically for to canoes on a phone or a car go somewhere and then use a bicycle or something to drop off so you can run the Shuttle.

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02:51:11.520 --> 02:51:17.520

Lynn Conway: To get back to your cards over so you need to have people to go with or it's a big pain to get the shuttle and all that.

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02:51:18.270 --> 02:51:24.990

Lynn Conway: So we started coming all over the place. And here in Michigan is just incredible of beautiful

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02:51:25.530 --> 02:51:39.840

Lynn Conway: canoeing rivers for quick learner canoeing kind of whining or sicko for like 100 Miles just beautiful clear rivers running us from the center of the state out towards the Great Lakes on either sides and

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02:51:41.670 --> 02:51:45.990

Lynn Conway: So it didn't take long before we moved in together.

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02:51:47.220 --> 02:52:00.240

Lynn Conway: You know you have canoeing in beautiful countries, you just imagine in the summer weather here is gorgeous and and it's just, it's an app for outdoor people is a great state. Seriously. Okay.

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02:52:01.380 --> 02:52:02.700

Lynn Conway: And we have

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02:52:03.720 --> 02:52:04.620

Lynn Conway: We also

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02:52:06.240 --> 02:52:10.410

Lynn Conway: decided we wanted to run whitewater we went to went went to school together.

1400

02:52:11.790 --> 02:52:15.000

Lynn Conway: And and and to learn how to really do it.

1401

02:52:16.140 --> 02:52:24.690

Lynn Conway: And as one over Wisconsin. And we did some new we went to another one down in North Carolina Outdoor center.

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02:52:25.710 --> 02:52:28.170

Lynn Conway: And and and we took some

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02:52:29.430 --> 02:52:44.910

Lynn Conway: We even went further ahead sort of private lessons with really advanced a canoe us right Ronnie. What we're in over 50 years we see we ran whitewater in Wisconsin.

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02:52:46.740 --> 02:53:07.290

Lynn Conway: A little bit up Northern Michigan. There's not much with that there's some of their in Pennsylvania and in North Carolina and Tennessee and Georgia. Wow, what a whiteboard and and got into what what a solid racing and we both ended up, you know, we went to the annual

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02:53:08.970 --> 02:53:13.950

Lynn Conway: American Association national championships for a few years and did pretty well.

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02:53:15.360 --> 02:53:29.220

Lynn Conway: there weren't as many women competitors and I was racing as well and and I usually plays pretty well and Charlie did pretty well too. And, but it was tremendous fun. There's just, there's just nothing like

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02:53:30.750 --> 02:53:36.090

Lynn Conway: In the Olympics. They you'll see the effect in the the essentially

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02:53:37.320 --> 02:53:39.150

Lynn Conway: See ones which look like a

1409

02:53:40.350 --> 02:53:48.420

Lynn Conway: They look like a kayak, but their deck, so they don't flooded with water, but your healing and you use a single blade to paddle and the

1410

02:53:49.080 --> 02:54:05.190

Lynn Conway: The, the kinesthetic sub. It is just beautiful. The moves are more dance like than you could ever do with a kayak because you're rotating and using the kind of all quadrants. You see untenable quadrants, the different rotations that we can move the boat.

1411

02:54:06.210 --> 02:54:08.790

Lynn Conway: You're literally dancing right

1412

02:54:08.880 --> 02:54:11.370

Evan Taylor: Because you're switching as opposed to kayak, which is just back and forth.

1413

02:54:11.400 --> 02:54:12.150

Lynn Conway: Yeah, that's right.

1414

02:54:12.210 --> 02:54:32.310

Lynn Conway: Gotcha. And, and it's it's it's a bit more of a skill to learn how to do that. And we're running open boats, all with flotation so if you do flip them, although you can roll them back up your, your filled enough with what you've got to get to an end right away or wash down here.

1415

02:54:33.960 --> 02:54:45.180

Lynn Conway: But, but the whole feeling of it was so wonderful. And it was just such a joy to have the all the water dancing down through rapids again where

1416

02:54:46.440 --> 02:55:03.900

Lynn Conway: This adventure for thing where there's so much skill development that you get to wear in your skin, you just have you develop a kind of confidence and a love of it that someone else who would take those dues if they try to do that. It's just going to be bad.

1417

02:55:05.910 --> 02:55:21.540

Lynn Conway: This feeling that you're able to do this and experience this joy and this activity. I'm not getting yourself hurt. It's just, it's so wonderful. Well, you know, we did that. And then guess what in Michigan.

1418

02:55:23.880 --> 02:55:26.580

Lynn Conway: We there for quite a few years in Michigan.

1419

02:55:28.410 --> 02:55:37.950

Lynn Conway: Many of them. Many of the rivers, you're doing quick water and actually sounds pretty challenging QUICK. WHERE DID YOU GO quite a waste right the shuttles alone and saw that there really aren't.

1420

02:55:38.310 --> 02:55:47.640

Lynn Conway: Shuttle services you can get a riding a bicycle and just be a big pain. Okay then. So, so we go we got this little really small dirt bike.

1421

02:55:48.510 --> 02:56:01.590

Lynn Conway: That would fit in my van put that in there and and as soon as I go 50 miles an hour, but that was just enough on the roads and it's a little, little lightweight. So we use this to run our shuttle.

1422

02:56:03.060 --> 02:56:03.510

Lynn Conway: Okay.

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02:56:03.870 --> 02:56:17.790

Lynn Conway: Smart then we discovered that Michigan has like thousands literally thousands of miles off road motorcycle trails, right, that are all left

1424

02:56:19.110 --> 02:56:31.650

Lynn Conway: And and there was a thing called the CCC cycle conservation club that that even had the gatherings, where people would gather at someplace new one of these

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02:56:32.160 --> 02:56:42.030

Lynn Conway: And they had the trails all fully mark and everything so you wouldn't get lost and but you could go to any of anytime you want. So you have an RV sticker this years ago.

1426

02:56:43.200 --> 02:56:55.590

Lynn Conway: And and and this provided. See, what do I would we had to go to Georgia Tennessee or Pennsylvania Wisconsin okay all sudden, we have a thing we can do right in our backyard.

1427

02:56:56.550 --> 02:56:57.000

Lynn Conway: I had

1428

02:56:57.390 --> 02:57:11.670

Lynn Conway: A lot of the same properties only know your roofing around on single track trail. That's three dimensional through the woods over don't soul is crazy stuff all over the place and learning how to ride dirt bikes.

1429

02:57:12.690 --> 02:57:19.320

Lynn Conway: You know, these, these were to stoke dirt bikes very, very lightweight large suspension travel powerful

1430

02:57:19.350 --> 02:57:19.890

Evan Taylor: Phrase

1431

02:57:19.920 --> 02:57:30.000

Lynn Conway: So you really love the lender right and they're totally amazing. And then we discovered across racing. So what we ended up with what we have.

1432

02:57:30.840 --> 02:57:42.450

Lynn Conway: We ended up getting into motocross racing that became a passion for years for many years. We both race motocross tonight started racing I 50 and I ended racing is it 60

1433

02:57:45.750 --> 02:58:04.740

Lynn Conway: So, so we only writing racing on dirt bike motocross is so cool. Again, it looks crazy on everyone else relative to each other or moving on CSP. How do you figure how you prepare. So how do you block.

1434

02:58:06.210 --> 02:58:17.040

Lynn Conway: You learn all the techniques. Right. How do you learn to do these various jumps and things in the tracks are beautifully laid out and tracks all over the place.

1435

02:58:17.550 --> 02:58:28.020

Lynn Conway: And so we raised here in Ohio and over in Canada to recreate track so so for lunch, all summer long. We just be racing motocross every weekend.

1436

02:58:29.370 --> 02:58:31.350

Evan Taylor: He really shared your sense of adventure that

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02:58:33.390 --> 02:58:39.900

Lynn Conway: Two flights of so great, you know, kind of, a lot of people know one of my lessons they see a dirt bike and they're going to think

1438

02:58:40.230 --> 02:58:47.070

Lynn Conway: Oh my god. You're tearing up the countryside, which they never go into right now because they never go outdoors, but it seems like

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02:58:47.910 --> 02:58:54.990

Lynn Conway: Unless you really know the people and understand and see what it is, what it means to them know how would you quote criticized

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02:58:55.770 --> 02:59:05.760

Lynn Conway: Running dirt bikes in the woods if if people have worked to make trails there that are authorized by the state yeah and and and only go there. They don't go off to stay anywhere.

1441

02:59:06.900 --> 02:59:08.670

Evan Taylor: And they're making it possible to people.

1442

02:59:09.210 --> 02:59:22.440

Lynn Conway: Yeah, yeah. And so it's that turns out to be a big supporter in Michigan is dirt writing trail riding and racing motocross and, you know, one of the biggest roles in my life actually

1443

02:59:23.790 --> 02:59:28.890

Lynn Conway: This is too much as 9223 23

1444

02:59:30.180 --> 02:59:35.550

Lynn Conway: I don't know if you know is Supercross is Supercross is the racing dirt place in a stadium setting.

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02:59:35.640 --> 02:59:36.090

Evan Taylor: Right, okay.

1446

02:59:36.150 --> 02:59:36.780

And they go,

1447

02:59:37.890 --> 02:59:41.970

Lynn Conway: Around and have jumps down on the bottom and all this sort of thing. Yeah.

1448

02:59:42.030 --> 02:59:57.000

Lynn Conway: Okay, well they hit they they held a supercross. These are professional writers at the Pontiac silverdome silverdome here over in Pontiac Michigan each year and one year.

1449

02:59:58.170 --> 03:00:00.180

Lynn Conway: One of the gals that

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03:00:01.380 --> 03:00:08.430

Lynn Conway: I raced with or no regales racing on the current, the current tracks here on the tracks back then.

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03:00:09.540 --> 03:00:17.520

Lynn Conway: We're going to want to organize something as intermission entertainment. They have to have in addition to this, what she organized. She got

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03:00:19.620 --> 03:00:23.700

Lynn Conway: She got I think a number eight, I think it was eight.

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03:00:26.010 --> 03:00:30.900

Lynn Conway: Old veteran writers over 50 guys and a women's

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03:00:32.400 --> 03:00:45.840

Lynn Conway: And wine with at the dates and the women were given a 15 second head start to resolve at the beginning of the track and then the guys came after us, and we did

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03:00:47.370 --> 03:00:58.470

Lynn Conway: I think four laps and and i ended up being the fifth woman, but the but but

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03:00:59.640 --> 03:01:02.370

Lynn Conway: That I was not overtaken by any of the guys

1457

03:01:02.490 --> 03:01:03.600

Evan Taylor: Right. Okay. Okay.

1458

03:01:04.350 --> 03:01:06.180

Lynn Conway: And and and this thing, this is

1459

03:01:07.410 --> 03:01:10.620

Lynn Conway: A pretty good at. If I didn't put these were jumps like I'd never seen before.

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03:01:11.670 --> 03:01:15.030

Lynn Conway: And. And to give you an example was so cool.

1461

03:01:16.710 --> 03:01:31.410

Lynn Conway: You know football field is laid out running stadiums normally have like big wide lanes to go up at the bag and corners. Okay, so he still has things down elsewhere, but the real big task at those courts. Great. Okay.

1462

03:01:33.000 --> 03:01:35.280

Lynn Conway: And there's, there's, there's steep but their wife.

1463

03:01:36.420 --> 03:01:44.430

Lynn Conway: That track. I hadn't seen it any of the truth that track of one of those corners. It went off one side of that they need to put a wrap on it.

1464

03:01:45.450 --> 03:01:52.590

Lynn Conway: wouldn't matter. What a fun side did a flat turn around at the top team right back down and then jumping on board.

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03:01:54.510 --> 03:02:00.030

Lynn Conway: So you have to, you have to visualize what this like you're running around doing all this crazy stuff down there.

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03:02:00.420 --> 03:02:12.780

Lynn Conway: But then you get to actually write up and the fans were just like, right here. I think you're hitting us, but you're going up like this and then you kind of turn out of the topic. Yes, be going just right speed to get that turned to work right.

1467

03:02:13.800 --> 03:02:16.980

Lynn Conway: And then back down, though I know it onto the floor and

1468

03:02:18.570 --> 03:02:19.950

Evan Taylor: And everything right now.

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03:02:20.460 --> 03:02:29.040

Lynn Conway: And they're heavy, whoops, and everything. And I didn't drop it matters to do the whole thing never dropped it. But I came close to the roots but

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03:02:29.700 --> 03:02:39.180

Lynn Conway: The, the feeling that camaraderie, the whole thing. Even the pros thought it was cool when they saw women out there doing that. Mm hmm. You know me so

1471

03:02:39.690 --> 03:02:49.140

Lynn Conway: People sort of high fighting, fighting and all that kind of stuff. It was just great. And again, how do you explain an experience like that that anybody

1472

03:02:49.740 --> 03:03:01.830

Lynn Conway: How do you explain to do is you're going to pay to get to where you do that you sent me know why would you want to pay those dudes say Well, all I can say is

1473

03:03:03.750 --> 03:03:19.890

Lynn Conway: If you kind of keep that spirit, then as you get older, you just keep trying and can't do as much. But you can keep doing stuff. Mm hmm. And feeling young you say yes. So, so, you know,

1474

03:03:20.490 --> 03:03:22.590

Evan Taylor: Keep keep learning all the time.

1475

03:03:22.710 --> 03:03:34.290

Lynn Conway: And then you basically find something cool with that thought you never could do. But if you if you got an itch to do it. And if you thought, wow, what if I can do that and

1476

03:03:37.410 --> 03:03:40.500

Lynn Conway: And there's so many of those out there.

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03:03:41.940 --> 03:03:58.980

Lynn Conway: And it was beautiful about it, I think, on reflection, what really is wonderful, is it's at those moments when you're really struggling and learning and trying to do something, think about just the transition itself. Mm hmm. That's a period of intense excitement in your life right

1478

03:04:00.120 --> 03:04:04.320

Lynn Conway: And the end the doing of it and going through it with other people.

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03:04:05.670 --> 03:04:07.140

Lynn Conway: The exploration of it.

1480

03:04:08.640 --> 03:04:21.090

Lynn Conway: And the teams that you did those things with whatever they are. Those are the most wonderful memories. YOU HAVE ABSOLUTELY, THAT'S WHAT YOU NEVER KNOW, YOU KNOW,

1481

03:04:21.990 --> 03:04:31.980

Lynn Conway: What a word I want much money I may have. It was my house. How fast is my car, all those kinds of things that so many people go after is just nonsense.

1482

03:04:32.670 --> 03:04:45.120

Lynn Conway: Okay, it's, it's the adventures. You went on and having looked all those people in the eye and each of you hopefully you're going to be able to to do this. You see, you only pull this off, you know,

1483

03:04:47.130 --> 03:04:48.270

Evan Taylor: Shared racing.

1484

03:04:49.110 --> 03:04:58.800

Lynn Conway: And and and and there's there's this human experience is driving all this social evolution. Yes, there's that. There's that there's that itch to explore

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03:04:59.040 --> 03:05:04.920

Lynn Conway: Mm hmm. But, but to do it where you pay your dues and you're a little careful you don't want to

1486

03:05:05.460 --> 03:05:16.260

Lynn Conway: You don't want to crash and burn too early in the game. Right. No, you want to, you want to, you want to have it or you want to make it as far as you can make it an infinite game. Are you as long as you're in the game, you're still doing it.

1487

03:05:18.480 --> 03:05:30.630

Evan Taylor: I like what you're saying, but it's it's all, it's all relational that those are the experiences that we that that make being, being a human, who's alive that make it, you know, a worthwhile endeavor to continue staying alive if those relational

1488

03:05:30.630 --> 03:05:31.770

Evan Taylor: Pieces, we share with people.

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03:05:32.310 --> 03:05:41.460

Lynn Conway: Absolutely. It's all got to do with other people who were sharing, but in environments where somehow because you're in a sport you all love whatever

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03:05:41.790 --> 03:05:52.350

Lynn Conway: You create an environment where you feel safe together you trust each other and you and you go forward together and and you're all watching out for each other. You got each other's back and

1491

03:05:53.370 --> 03:06:04.950

Lynn Conway: You know there's there's actually a mystery that and and and it's so cool. And in a way, all I'm really doing is being a journalist on my observation of that.

1492

03:06:05.850 --> 03:06:16.560

Lynn Conway: See, that's the other. I like to report on things. I seen. I like it. It just feels good talk about what I'm doing is I'm remembering them. I read the people I did them with

1493

03:06:17.460 --> 03:06:25.320

Lynn Conway: And and and I know that other people if they do if they take that explores attitude, they will have that kind of fun to

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03:06:26.160 --> 03:06:31.590

Evan Taylor: Would you say they might my final question, I make sure I make sure to ask everybody. And I think the last time to ask you this one.

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03:06:32.670 --> 03:06:41.130

Evan Taylor: Would you say, and in terms of I asked people about what kind of legacy. They want to leave or be remembered for. And I'm wondering is this is this

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03:06:41.160 --> 03:06:42.360

Lynn Conway: Legacy, you would like to leave your

1497

03:06:42.360 --> 03:06:44.490

Evan Taylor: Men forth that adventurous spirit.

1498

03:06:44.550 --> 03:06:47.730

Evan Taylor: And the idea of being not just a single issue person.

1499

03:06:47.850 --> 03:06:49.890

Evan Taylor: But always being very relational

1500

03:06:52.200 --> 03:06:57.780

Lynn Conway: Yeah, kind of cut is it's it's it's like a wife short

1501

03:06:59.250 --> 03:07:04.290

Lynn Conway: Don't live with just doing kind of one main thing. Okay, take it and and increasingly

1502

03:07:05.610 --> 03:07:10.230

Lynn Conway: Wife will demand that we all quickly move from one thing to another.

1503

03:07:11.340 --> 03:07:14.640

Lynn Conway: In order to stay relevant to the larger evolution.

1504

03:07:15.930 --> 03:07:27.240

Lynn Conway: And if we can learn to see the adventure in that and and don't be afraid to be a beginner is something new when you know that new thing. If you could do it will be really cool.

1505

03:07:27.480 --> 03:07:28.080

Mm hmm.

1506

03:07:31.980 --> 03:07:33.270

Lynn Conway: Go with that and

1507

03:07:34.560 --> 03:07:38.490

Lynn Conway: And the other thing is, is sort of the notion of suppressing fear.

1508

03:07:39.600 --> 03:07:42.960

Lynn Conway: By learning the moves learn learn ways

1509

03:07:44.070 --> 03:07:51.540

Lynn Conway: To gauge risk cheerfully. Mm hmm. And and and worry about where you can

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03:07:52.800 --> 03:07:55.860

Lynn Conway: You can gauge risk and know where that edges.

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03:07:56.910 --> 03:07:59.820

Lynn Conway: And the more you can reduce fear.

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03:08:00.870 --> 03:08:04.620

Lynn Conway: And I think this comes very naturally to a lot of people who are athletes.

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03:08:06.480 --> 03:08:15.030

Lynn Conway: In pictures of various kinds. Right, but it applies in every dimension of our social interactions, you really need to know where that edges.

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03:08:15.690 --> 03:08:20.100

Lynn Conway: And unfortunately, with interaction with other people. You need to know how to stay away from

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03:08:20.730 --> 03:08:26.010

Lynn Conway: Accidentally encroaching into the edge of others and areas they may be sensitive about right.

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03:08:26.550 --> 03:08:41.970

Lynn Conway: And so similarly, how do you get to where you avoid having allergic reactions to things. You don't understand. Mm hmm. Sometimes it's best to just not scratch that itch. They get worse. See. So there's those social secrets that's thought to be figured out

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03:08:43.380 --> 03:08:45.000

Lynn Conway: As as things feet up.

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03:08:46.050 --> 03:08:48.990

Lynn Conway: But, um, but, yeah, I know.

1519

03:08:50.340 --> 03:08:52.470

Lynn Conway: I seem to seem actually down to

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03:08:53.640 --> 03:09:02.400

Lynn Conway: Detroit try like heck to to just not live one life, but the rule of a bunch of them. And that's kind of what it's like. You see, you think about it, you know.

1521

03:09:03.450 --> 03:09:03.780

Lynn Conway: Yeah.

1522

03:09:04.590 --> 03:09:06.240

Lynn Conway: From one because they're always going to be easy.

1523

03:09:06.450 --> 03:09:19.980

Lynn Conway: They'll always be slight times in that one life. You think you'll be living. Those are great times ago and be doing something else, something new to your friends even know about or even worry about it, don't brag about it. Don't just go have fun.

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03:09:22.410 --> 03:09:23.520

Lynn Conway: So, but like I

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03:09:24.990 --> 03:09:33.840

Evan Taylor: Read that you've discussed a number of times I've written it down a couple of times where you, where you said you know just just go for it. Just do it like just know. Don't, don't worry about

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03:09:33.840 --> 03:09:34.020

Lynn Conway: It.

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03:09:34.230 --> 03:09:35.700

Evan Taylor: Go and enjoy adventure.

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03:09:35.730 --> 03:09:36.480

Lynn Conway: Explorer.

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03:09:36.600 --> 03:09:39.540

Evan Taylor: And know that yes sometimes going to flop, but

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03:09:39.690 --> 03:09:40.020

Lynn Conway: That's

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03:09:40.080 --> 03:09:42.330

Evan Taylor: Part of the part of the process that part of the learning

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03:09:43.170 --> 03:09:52.170

Lynn Conway: But, you know, find a way to solve this is one thing that you always have to do you always have to be kind. I'm very sad to be kind.

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03:09:53.910 --> 03:09:54.450

Lynn Conway: And

1534

03:09:55.500 --> 03:10:10.080

Lynn Conway: That's one of those things that keep you back from what advantages. Yeah. Okay, so, so, so there are some tricks. I think we have figured out, really, we're still struggling and social beings to figure these things out.

1535

03:10:11.160 --> 03:10:26.610

Lynn Conway: And that's the, that's the exploration that we're we're having we're, we're in it. And I think trans people can be right at the the spiritual of that because they're advantaged by what they've experienced

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03:10:28.980 --> 03:10:42.150

Lynn Conway: And if we can remember that. And if it gives us confidence, then we can be both are adventurous and helpful and guides and teachers and so forth. And the cool

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03:10:42.480 --> 03:10:52.380

Evan Taylor: And I, well I hear that's the number that's the number one thing that I'm taking away from me and this doing three work as I think I mentioned to you before it's it's inherently an intergenerational process.

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03:10:54.180 --> 03:11:02.490

Evan Taylor: And so, as somebody who has not only benefited, by the work done by folks from your generation, but to even have these conversations isn't itself.

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03:11:03.090 --> 03:11:10.350

Evan Taylor: A change process because there were certainly with anyone for you to talk to, you know, when you are willing to talk to somebody who is you are more than

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03:11:10.380 --> 03:11:11.220

Evan Taylor: Twice my age.

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03:11:11.460 --> 03:11:20.010

Evan Taylor: And 38 so to talk to somebody who is eating too there are probably two or three generations of trans people even between us.

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03:11:22.230 --> 03:11:24.390

Lynn Conway: You know, what were you able to say, you know what

1543

03:11:26.640 --> 03:11:28.080

Evan Taylor: That is what's inspiring to me.

1544

03:11:28.740 --> 03:11:33.750

Lynn Conway: Know, we had to do. We are we are the some kind of note to do this again when when I'm

1545

03:11:39.870 --> 03:11:40.770

Lynn Conway: This has been great.

1546

03:11:40.890 --> 03:11:50.580

Evan Taylor: Thank you so much. I have an excellent few hours, and I just thoroughly enjoyed myself. I feel like I'm just sitting around and you know just talking to a family member, you know, so I just

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03:11:51.270 --> 03:11:52.170

Evan Taylor: I really appreciate

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03:11:52.200 --> 03:12:04.080

Evan Taylor: That and I'm 100% sure that as know the words that you have spoken are absolutely changing generations already and I am absolutely certain in the hundred years, people are going to listen to this conversation and think

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03:12:04.500 --> 03:12:18.420

Evan Taylor: Wow. Like what did those people do to be able to even be themselves in the world at all. And I, I'd like to think that I'm able to do some some honor to to the amazing work that you've done over the years to just even be able to live a life that was full of adventure.

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03:12:19.320 --> 03:12:20.010

Lynn Conway: Well, thanks. So

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03:12:20.340 --> 03:12:21.480

Lynn Conway: Thank you so much, appreciate

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03:12:21.750 --> 03:12:23.100

Lynn Conway: It was you. Take care.

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03:12:23.250 --> 03:12:25.830

Evan Taylor: I'll be in touch with you. I'll send you a copy of this for your own records.

1554

03:12:26.190 --> 03:12:26.520

Evan Taylor: Okay.

1555

03:12:26.790 --> 03:12:28.200

Lynn Conway: Okay, here. Bye bye.

1556

03:12:28.830 --> 03:12:30.180

Lynn Conway: Bye bye.