

## Transcript of Edited Audio Clips - Speech at Lawrence Academy, Groton, MA 12/10/01

“Hello - ok, so he gave the basics - my name is Vanessa and I graduated from Lawrence in '96. I guess that's all you've been told about why I'm here... So, I'm here for a couple of reasons. And the first is that I have a story. And I have some insights about that story. And I have some words of guidance to offer you.

Most of all, I'm here to break an unspoken pact between me and Lawrence Academy to keep a secret. I understand that some people might get upset. But like I've told Steve, I'm only here to tell the truth and I'm gonna be kind. . . .

Then, my sophomore year, a lot of events started unfolding really fast in a short period of time. I'd had another experience with Pete... Soon after that, I told my boyfriend at the time and of course, he was really upset. Soon after that, one of my best friends came to me and said that Pete had done similar things to her.

Now, it was bad enough that it happened to me, but when I knew it had happened to somebody that I loved, we knew we had to do something. So we met one day under this tree and wrote about all our feelings about what had happened. And when we were done, we shared it. And I had written mine in the first person, as if I was speaking to Pete. So after that, we decided that we would go down and I would read that to Pete, what I had written.

And that was a pretty scary situation. We had no idea how he would react. My boyfriend skipped baseball practice and waited outside with his bat (laughter from the audience). My friend and I, ya know, forged in there - and freaky as that was - we knew the two of us together were stronger than Pete and what he had done.

I remember how bad my hands were shaking, ya know, as I held that little piece of paper that I never intended to share with him. And luckily for us, he hung his head and nodded and agreed with everything we said. . . .

But I never realized how things would play out. And I never thought that Pete would be employed here for another seven years. . . .

And he claimed that, at the time, they acted within the law. And I've never had a big group of lawyers on My side, but I feel like I don't need that to know that it's wrong to knowingly employ a child molester at a place where groups of kids are gonna come in every year and not know.

. . . I encourage you to speak your own truth. No matter who you're speaking it to, and no matter what you're speaking it up against - because there's infinite power and freedom in having nothing to hide.

Thanks.”