

Summer 2009

## Interview of Robert S. Lyons, Jr.

Robert S. Lyons Jr.  
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## Field Notes

1. Interviewer: Christina Becker Interviewee: Robert Lyons
2. I chose Bob Lyons because of his legacy at LaSalle and his current job. He is a reporter for the Associated Press covering Philadelphia Flyers home games.
3. I meet with Brother Joe on June 29, 2009 to research the work Bob Lyons did at LaSalle. Brother Joe had many items that would be great for my interview. There were some items that dated all the way back to when Bob Lyons was a freshman at LaSalle. I went home that day with more information than I would need for a two hour interview.
4. I first attempted to contact Bob Lyons on June 29<sup>th</sup> and we played phone tag for about a week. We left messages back and forth. After finally speaking to each other we decided that we were going to complete the interview on July 21, 2009 and we were going to meet at his office in Warminster. We had to wait a few weeks because I was going to be away as well as Mr. Lyons on his family vacation. This would give me time to gather all of the information Brother Joe gave me.
5. Mr. Lyons called me the day before the interview and requested that we change the location of the interview. His grandchildren were coming over the next day and they were going to be running around the house. His office is in the den of his house on the first floor. He suggested we meet at the Warminster Diner. I expressed my concerns because of the noise level of diners. I told him that if we need to change the date to a better day I would be ok with that. He assured me we would get a booth in the back and the waitresses know him there and we wouldn't be bothered.
6. The drive to Warminster was about one hour from my house and it was pouring rain. I was afraid I was going to be late but I ended up being early.
7. I walked into the diner and Mr. Lyons was not there yet. I talked to the hostess and requested a booth in back because I would be conducting an interview. She looked at me with a very confused look. She told me that the back section was closed and could only seat us in the front. There were not a lot of people in the diner so I figured it might be ok.
8. Mr. Lyons was a bit late for our 9:00 meeting time because of the rain. Some roads by his house were flooding and it took a little longer to arrive.
9. He walked into the restaurant and looked around and I immediately walked up to greet him. He seemed pleasant and looked different today than from what I had seen in the pictures from Brother Joe.
10. We sat down at our booth and he immediately noticed my Phillies charm. Our conversation began quickly about how much we love the Phillies. I explained to him that I was at the game the night before and I was very tired because it went into extra innings. We began talking about where we were for Game 5 when the Phillies won the World Series. We were both there at the game except he had much better seats than I had. The breakfast conversation focused mostly on me. We talked about things like where I went to school, what I did for a living and where I grew up. This information came in handy during the interview.
11. We ordered a small breakfast. He ordered a bacon egg and cheese on toast with coffee and I ordered a bagel with cream cheese and continued to chat about what LaSalle is like now.
12. After we finished eating, the interview began with basic questions and moved into the tougher content questions.
13. I put the recording device on the table in the middle of us and everything was going well. I was concerned about the noise around us the whole time especially as it got more crowded

and the device ended up picking up a lot of background noise. I pulled the waitress over to the side and asked if we could move and she still said that the back section wasn't open.

14. During the interview Mr. Lyons was very talkative and very willing to share information. He seemed to enjoy talking about where he grew up and his time at Lasalle as a student and with his work.
15. He repeated the words "you know" and "I mean" a lot. I didn't realize how many times he said these things until I began to transcribe the interview.
16. His passion for journalism was evident right from the beginning of the interview. He has a smile on his face the whole time we talked. However by the end I can tell he was getting tired of talking.
17. Throughout the interview, Mr. Lyons kept pushing the recorder off to the side. We didn't have anything else on the table at this point. At various times when he was really involved in a story I would try to move it back slightly but he kept pushing it off to the side. I'm not sure why he did this.
18. He was very cautious about telling me about his future book endeavors. He seemed to not know if he should tell me about them or not. He eventually told me a little bit about them.
19. The interview ended with him giving me his card and explaining that if I needed anything else that he is always available. We have also been keeping in touch by email because I have had questions about people's names and their roles at Lasalle.
20. Mr. Lyons was a fascinating person and a pleasure to interview.