

00:00:19:14 - 00:00:29:01

Unknown

Him speaking on the topic issues that today Vietnamese women are very special. Guest this morning is a new home is.

00:00:29:03 - 00:01:00:00

Speaker 2

Their freedom since 1987. New as she is known, was born in vietnam to europe, asia and the united states. She completed her undergraduate and graduate studies at the university of california at Berkeley in Anthropology Asian Studies and Journalism. You then win enough money on the Jeopardy! Show, the TV game show to make a trip around the world before returning to live, work in Vietnam in 1972.

00:01:00:02 - 00:01:25:28

Speaker 2

During the Vietnam War, she was a social worker and worked for NBC News in Saigon. She was the principal researcher of the documentary The Sins of the Father, which depicted the plight of American children abandoned by GI in Vietnam. And in 1976, she participated in a class action lawsuit to reunite a number of these children with the family.

00:01:26:01 - 00:02:00:24

Speaker 2

You served on the board of KPFA Radio Asian Women, United East meets West Foundation and International Children's Fund. In 1981, you one San Francisco Examiner investigative reporting prize for a three part series, Vietnam by the Day. She has also written for the San Francisco Chronicle and a host of other publications. In 1991, new Web, the recipient of Asian American Community Action and Freedom Award.

00:02:00:26 - 00:02:10:16

Speaker 2

And in 1992, she was honored by the Berkeley with a community Service award. Lewis married and the mother of four children. Please help me.

00:02:10:16 - 00:02:11:02

Speaker 3

To welcome.

00:02:11:02 - 00:02:22:24

Unknown

Teaching to writing.

00:02:22:26 - 00:02:40:27

Speaker 3

Inviting me, and thank you, particularly Bolivia, for the decision by the government to go ahead. You have time to do. I made it anyway. Happy International Women's Day Week. I have one of my children. Is at home today, observance of International.

00:02:40:27 - 00:02:47:23

Unknown

Women's Day in school. I'm not sure whether this is going to work in mothers or not.

00:02:47:25 - 00:03:10:10

Speaker 3

Anyway, it was my first day. I remember that I walked to the door. I forgot what a birthday cake. And I know this is one of those things that you're trying to do too much. I decided I was going to wear this dress today in commemoration of the topic that.

00:03:10:10 - 00:03:17:08

Unknown

We're going to talk about at the age of 46. I have really good people today and.

00:03:17:08 - 00:03:37:03

Speaker 3

The secret is make it loose. I thank you. But that was of growing up again later. I think I recommend constructive highly to anyone to share that after they come to me in the because I just got back from Vietnam last week and I actually I was practically.

00:03:37:03 - 00:03:50:17

Unknown

The only one in Vietnam. And I was I was with the people, all the pens and dresses and this is my strength. That is what is.

00:03:50:19 - 00:03:58:05

Speaker 3

Taking over the world anyway. And that I forget this.

00:03:58:10 - 00:04:03:28

Unknown

Wasn't exactly the issues of.

00:04:03:28 - 00:04:18:03

Speaker 3

The day.

00:04:18:05 - 00:04:30:29

Unknown

And I think that is the beginning of it. Now, many years ago, this was a wonderful surprise, surprising. I had a bit of a shock to the system, by the way.

00:04:31:01 - 00:04:38:22

Speaker 3

You know, in Vietnam, as in the case of Vietnam, and I did that. And in.

00:04:38:25 - 00:04:47:03

Unknown

Order to speak about the issues of women in uniform, because.

00:04:47:06 - 00:04:47:25

Speaker 3

It reminds.

00:04:47:25 - 00:05:12:13

Unknown

You of anything that can be referred to, everything in construction, like the garbage in the streets that have got children for the household, the European Union that we have here in the United States from where my daughter and I have.

00:05:12:15 - 00:05:43:22

Speaker 3

Been a separate women really do everything to make so that fighting the fight get out of the way along with this, to show them how to do the laundry because they would have to wash their old every morning so that it was dry in the sun. And we go to Afghanistan day and then they have to do the dishes which were sitting on the ground on their conscience and the dishes after every meal with cold water.

00:05:43:25 - 00:05:46:27

Unknown

And you shouldn't have to share that.

00:05:47:05 - 00:05:55:09

Speaker 3

With Korea, which they didn't even get in the Vietnamese until they really get back to the.

00:05:55:09 - 00:06:00:27

Unknown

Basics of the condiment, if you like. I think this is the most wonderful effort that they could.

00:06:00:27 - 00:06:11:06

Speaker 3

Have would have been brought up. You do. I want to tell you a little bit about how I got to the United States.

00:06:11:08 - 00:06:17:24

Unknown

And why I would like to send my brother that.

00:06:17:27 - 00:06:18:26

Speaker 3

Because back to my mother.

00:06:18:26 - 00:06:31:05

Unknown

And my father and my mother, it goes back to my family. My grandmother was of the generation that had 12 children, 30 children. My mother and.

00:06:31:05 - 00:06:48:23

Speaker 3

My father came from a family from Chile, absolutely horrible people. I had the popular children in Vietnam these days, but the population still growing a rate of 1 million people are being added every year. So the population was about 50 million at the end of.

00:06:48:23 - 00:06:59:22

Unknown

The war, maybe 75%. The urgent problem is facing Vietnam, the population anyway.

00:06:59:24 - 00:07:03:00

Speaker 3

In order to help to at least to.

00:07:03:01 - 00:07:08:21

Unknown

Celebrate the great. My grandmother was a gambler.

00:07:08:23 - 00:07:22:14

Speaker 3

In the back and she kept an eye to the family because she had a one time a year for about 1518 years. But in the meantime, I tried to play that she was a regular player.

00:07:22:16 - 00:07:34:12

Unknown

I just thought, Well, much for taking. Okay. And that's how she was able to keep the family together. Now that.

00:07:34:12 - 00:07:36:15

Speaker 3

They are able to play for us and.

00:07:36:17 - 00:07:49:10

Unknown

The goal for people to go to school, we know that generations of children will be employed just as anything. If she wanted to go to school. And they said, well, you know, you can't go to school and then you just go inside.

00:07:49:16 - 00:08:16:21

Speaker 3

Complete wait, you just go let them get married, go to somebody else's family. She went on her two older sisters did not go to school. They want adapted to family. She was a third sister. She was right. And after a few weeks they came back and even if she were normal, she had a lot of money to go to school with at the time.

00:08:16:21 - 00:08:43:00

Speaker 3

As was indicated earlier, she did that education was French, so she had to go to boarding school and she had to earn that and she had to earn the top candidate in the Philippines. At that point, she only had a place to stay within the system where they well, if we didn't know what to do to.

00:08:43:02 - 00:08:49:04

Unknown

Get into the and we don't like to do the things that she.

00:08:49:04 - 00:08:50:06

Speaker 3

Had, it was difficult.

00:08:50:07 - 00:09:01:03

Unknown

For she said that she fell in love with it and it was also confidential kind of way. But she came to New Orleans when.

00:09:01:05 - 00:09:05:15

Speaker 3

The one time they gave that is a very anti-French.

00:09:05:15 - 00:09:13:10

Unknown

And very well can put that was something that.

00:09:13:10 - 00:09:16:09

Speaker 3

Everybody that does not.

00:09:16:12 - 00:09:33:15

Unknown

Want to let and but she said daughter I was in Belgium completely useless altogether. That is.

00:09:33:15 - 00:09:34:08

Speaker 3

Not a thought.

00:09:34:11 - 00:09:43:25

Unknown

I would have a really good you know I could.

00:09:43:28 - 00:09:44:27

Speaker 3

Do.

00:09:44:29 - 00:09:53:08

Unknown

Everything. So she was taught all that. But I had several events a weekend to pick up the needle. I made a very.

00:09:53:10 - 00:10:27:14

Speaker 3

Sympathetic picture to save lives today. Anyway, so after a lot of pleading, well, I can make all this mother child. My mother's parents were slowly relenting, but her brothers and sisters said no, this is wrong. She belongs with us and she belongs in Australia. So she opted to do all this. And the brothers and sisters did. The fact of Vietnamese pig, which was baby, so that they did somehow I know they said that they would have anything to do with it.

00:10:27:15 - 00:10:37:18

Speaker 3

Again, this was in 1946, so in 1946 they left and they went there that way and they went to the went to the jungle site.

00:10:37:20 - 00:10:45:17

Unknown

Where they were to get out. So the families had to build contact with each other. But that was kind of with my mother.

00:10:45:17 - 00:10:48:18

Speaker 3

Especially she and the older sister.

00:10:48:18 - 00:10:53:29

Unknown

We decided that she had to stay with parents because they were the.

00:10:53:29 - 00:11:21:13

Speaker 3

Only ones who did not go to war with Vietnam. So shortly after her marriage, however, my father was killed. It was my idea that they became the first Indochina War, although it was actually a long way. Anyway, she was a widow and she was a widow in a very, very old fashioned way, which meant that is eventually over.

00:11:21:16 - 00:11:24:07

Speaker 3

Yeah, but she didn't sit at the table.

00:11:24:09 - 00:11:30:21

Unknown

With the fact that she was that she should see them before and is generally expected to.

00:11:30:21 - 00:11:55:04

Speaker 3

Disappear. Well, for someone who had gone to the other side and who lived who had gotten a good education, she was ready to actually see it. From there she went to see was very distinguished. She was done for them in their lives. Almost 30 days later, it was about the details of the story and she said, I would like to go to school.

00:11:55:07 - 00:12:02:24

Unknown

I would like you to tell me where the best school is, so don't comment on about a bit difficult. I heard the.

00:12:02:24 - 00:12:04:01

Speaker 3

Principal is the.

00:12:04:04 - 00:12:09:18

Unknown

Orchestra, so she had.

00:12:09:21 - 00:12:11:04

Speaker 3

Difficulty generally, but was in.

00:12:11:04 - 00:12:19:05

Unknown

England. She did begin with the French in the United States, so that was.

00:12:19:08 - 00:12:23:10

Speaker 3

Difficult to imagine. She was able to persuade her in-laws.

00:12:23:12 - 00:12:30:20

Unknown

And I told them to let her go. Now, this is very difficult for them because.

00:12:30:22 - 00:12:51:28

Speaker 3

Letting her go would mean that I would have to go. I was the only son of their favorite son. So my father was such a favorite that 30 years later, when I back to the way that had access to a home and walked in the door and introduced like anybody who was singing, that was just kind of burst into tears.

00:12:52:00 - 00:12:55:20

Speaker 3

It was very.

00:12:55:23 - 00:12:59:14

Unknown

Old back to the beginning. And gradually I heard him say,

00:12:59:16 - 00:13:06:14

Speaker 3

So what was my father's name gone? Let me tell you that this was a girl.

00:13:06:16 - 00:13:12:23

Unknown

To a girl that maybe that was my age. Actually, I had seen that they knew about my mother when she left.

00:13:12:23 - 00:13:18:24

Speaker 3

Which time not only did she look like she went to.

00:13:18:27 - 00:13:26:18

Unknown

World that time I had tuberculosis. Very common, still very complicated. In fact, I never had.

00:13:26:18 - 00:13:43:10

Speaker 3

Any vaccinations because of all the diseases, malaria. But the most important of. So I was I went to have of that year. And meanwhile she went to England to learn English in Latin and Greek to qualify for the exam. And she made it.

00:13:43:12 - 00:13:53:20

Unknown

She went back and again, I think she was the first woman that graduated. So and then she went back to Vietnam taking the law.

00:13:53:23 - 00:14:08:06

Speaker 3

And all those years later that basically when I mean, you have the desire, is it you know, that was true. And but she always spoke to me.

00:14:08:08 - 00:14:14:27

Unknown

Which I think is absolutely, absolutely correct, even though I entered her in.

00:14:14:29 - 00:14:23:25

Speaker 3

Every different language that I knew except for Vietnamese. But they didn't deserve to be new facility in 2011, supposedly.

00:14:23:28 - 00:14:36:24

Unknown

And I was I was I was graduate college and I was ready to leave and go back to Vietnam. And this was the time when.

00:14:37:02 - 00:14:39:06

Speaker 3

I saw and heard for the first.

00:14:39:06 - 00:14:44:19

Unknown

Time my mother's name on a.

00:14:44:21 - 00:15:15:28

Speaker 3

Wage packet and somebody died. And they didn't name out that again. And I don't picture for the first time I said that these things to you. So a lot of everything I really I also feel like the woman was trying to go to Pakistan and she also hoped to meet other remarkable women who spent a good time wasting time traveling with The both of them were immediately sisters, one of them saying.

00:15:16:01 - 00:15:21:19

Unknown

That on the other. And this was considered a huge sacrifice because she had. All right.

00:15:21:21 - 00:15:27:22

Speaker 3

Just the at home for eight years. And you this is.

00:15:27:28 - 00:15:41:20

Unknown

What offered to the sun which is that it was the way when I go back to the boy and we would go along and.

00:15:41:20 - 00:16:10:27

Speaker 3

I think that visit it tried to say, no, it's not. But I could agree that very it was working very well. Listen to it. I have you know, I was much more concerned about the doing. You know, we really I was able to convey the sense that we enjoy. It is not true that it's hard for us to continue a blockade of people, but very soon we do not have to go back to go to the market by the chicken shoulder.

00:16:10:28 - 00:16:26:06

Speaker 3

The it like all of that. And not only that, I'm practically a vegetarian. Every time they saw me feel chicken, this kind of thing, I was pleased that the they no doing it for us because we don't have.

00:16:26:06 - 00:16:32:15

Unknown

That much to celebrate. So I going.

00:16:32:15 - 00:16:36:09

Speaker 3

Home and okay wonderful because the only people that is.

00:16:36:16 - 00:17:01:22

Unknown

At home which I haven't really thought it for many years because I spent most of my life it's not that when I was born and I'm 46 now, but whenever I go to Vietnam, I feel it's a very emotional time. What did I think? It's all these people who are less and less. They have these really.

00:17:01:23 - 00:17:02:26

Speaker 3

Deep feelings for me.

00:17:02:26 - 00:17:31:00

Unknown

And I and I almost feel that. really? And so I'm only going to take this one and decided to come back. But that I guess that's what makes it. So how much do I have to testify about that?

00:17:31:02 - 00:17:38:21

Speaker 2

We have until 1130, but you're free to ask the questions at any time or to continue with whatever you choose.

00:17:38:24 - 00:17:40:00

Speaker 3

Well, that's a flower.

00:17:40:00 - 00:17:48:23

Unknown

Of the minute, but I certainly want to say that that, you know, women in Vietnam are traditionally known.

00:17:48:23 - 00:17:51:06

Speaker 3

As being.

00:17:51:08 - 00:18:17:09

Unknown

Inside of the things I and that actually before they really that followed families and society and that they stay with either because it happens that in my household that I.

00:18:17:11 - 00:18:28:08

Speaker 3

Lived there but my wife is the minister of interior and she's the finance minister. She really doesn't have anything like it is like last.

00:18:28:11 - 00:18:38:13

Unknown

Year when that.

00:18:38:15 - 00:18:40:14

Speaker 3

I think we started.

00:18:40:16 - 00:19:02:19

Unknown

To separate right at the start of the without the life, which is just how much they enjoy it. And most of my family is able to say something like.

00:19:02:21 - 00:19:03:26

Speaker 3

They would have recently.

00:19:03:26 - 00:19:09:29

Unknown

Died in the year when they went off to war in 1946, came back just.

00:19:10:02 - 00:19:13:28

Speaker 3

Before and then left again in 67.

00:19:14:05 - 00:19:20:14

Unknown

To come back in 84. So when they lost the war, it wasn't in good.

00:19:20:16 - 00:19:35:05

Speaker 3

But even for like 15 days after the war ended and yet there is such a lack of.

00:19:35:08 - 00:19:42:26

Unknown

Lack like people have been feeling that this before. And that's partly because.

00:19:43:02 - 00:19:44:17

Speaker 3

Of the isolation.

00:19:44:19 - 00:19:50:04

Unknown

Of the black community, because, you know, it's a bit they.

00:19:50:11 - 00:20:12:19

Speaker 3

They know they don't have a lot, but they don't really know how much they know. Yeah, I think I'm really struck by the lack of self-pity. I always felt sorry for myself. I thought it was difficult to go to work having children and then editors, but it's nothing compared to the frustration.

00:20:12:22 - 00:20:17:17

Unknown

Of the ordinary and it just doesn't.

00:20:17:24 - 00:20:18:28

Speaker 3

You get of it.

00:20:19:00 - 00:20:23:17

Unknown

Before everybody else. She doesn't want to see as.

00:20:23:18 - 00:20:25:25

Speaker 3

She goes out to.

00:20:25:25 - 00:20:34:15

Unknown

Buy breakfast on the first day that she goes to the market, which takes the children to school. Then she makes lunch, she watches the dishes.

00:20:34:17 - 00:21:00:17

Speaker 3

It's just like with my cousin. We couldn't think of anything and she doesn't need everyone else. The reason? Because in the beginning, when we really missed it, this is how she sees the baby. Baby, I tell you what, after the baby was born, the super, right? This is what was the goal. Had to be rebuilt at the same time, darting around with the garden.

00:21:00:17 - 00:21:14:07

Speaker 3

There's a woman running around like a decent child. I thought I was maybe going to ask them. So they go to their business where they want to buy a lot of changing clothes, cleaning up. She is quite an educated woman.

00:21:14:07 - 00:21:21:16

Unknown

She went to Russia and came back and Egypt. She's giving all that up so that she can look after.

00:21:21:16 - 00:21:22:04

Speaker 3

The kids and.

00:21:22:04 - 00:21:33:13

Unknown

The kids get out of this police station. But we had a little bit to add.

00:21:33:18 - 00:21:46:14

Speaker 3

To the event classification. And one of the things that she doesn't think about is that she goes to the act. You'll like it. I vote for that position.

00:21:46:17 - 00:21:58:22

Unknown

First of all, I said I would was taken like a left to go to bed ignominiously.

00:21:58:29 - 00:22:20:14

Speaker 3

And this is a typical, I think, of a lot of women who in addition she used to work, but she gave up her job. But she also had additionally to work several days a week teaching, which she might get in some way. But it's almost laughable because the salary is like 30,000. Well, people make.

00:22:20:14 - 00:22:30:22

Unknown

About 10,000. So I don't think I get that.

00:22:30:25 - 00:22:35:22

Speaker 3

I really just awed by the capacity of women that just.

00:22:35:24 - 00:22:44:07

Unknown

A little bit women in in other countries who are not barely.

00:22:44:09 - 00:22:45:16

Speaker 3

Surviving.

00:22:45:19 - 00:23:09:07

Unknown

And working at home. And I am thinking of children. But it was you had such a feeling of courage and yet they are very you know, they say, well, I'm always wondering what the next question. But they did ask me to come up to me and my two daughters.

00:23:09:09 - 00:23:31:25

Speaker 3

To me say is one of them, followed by a Frenchman and one of them bothered by the Belgian office. And I'm with an Australian and the German. So I was like, but you know, they don't have lasting effects. It felt actually like to say like, but just because you can more out of the way, you know that for example.

00:23:31:27 - 00:23:40:23

Unknown

Think about it, think how much do they make, who is that? And I think they do anyway.

00:23:40:25 - 00:23:45:15

Speaker 3

Anyway, maybe you'd like to.

00:23:45:17 - 00:24:26:04

Unknown

Ask the questions. Are they? This is about what you want to see. So I probably thought that this the role of women is changing. I very well. It's changed in a way. The world changed. It was involved in what I do. So the more women get to carry out me well.

00:24:26:06 - 00:24:46:02

Speaker 3

And so as I said, we're doing the heavy lifting and we'll talk about that this week in the field. I really, when I look at the people in the way in the field, are women, each of the following also. I mean, it's only the differences.

00:24:46:04 - 00:24:54:04

Unknown

That we outside the family point is to say the man is in charge.

00:24:54:06 - 00:24:56:14

Speaker 3

The woman plays a secondary role.

00:24:56:16 - 00:25:01:06

Unknown

But that's, you know, just I I'm.

00:25:01:06 - 00:25:07:00

Speaker 3

Sorry to say I you I can't really say that that any kind of real.

00:25:07:03 - 00:25:14:28

Unknown

Change. And so I don't know what exactly is going to work for me in the government.

00:25:15:00 - 00:25:19:23

Speaker 3

And there's already still.

00:25:19:26 - 00:25:30:16

Unknown

A number of women so no changes that are really small.

00:25:30:18 - 00:25:33:08

Speaker 3

But that still exists.

00:25:33:09 - 00:25:45:07

Unknown

Still as a Jewish man that you know, I know that, but as a business.

00:25:45:08 - 00:25:45:21

Speaker 4

Since.

00:25:45:28 - 00:25:53:03

Unknown

The our of and might not be.

00:25:53:04 - 00:26:26:00

Speaker 3

Interested in some of these women here and so this attitudes changes that have changed. And I think the biggest changes taking place in the world in the way that you are smiling with say about this is that it would be like the problem. I do know that the people who have had to assume a much greater role in a big wage earners.

00:26:26:03 - 00:26:34:04

Unknown

And this has had certain repercussions in the family, but I do not.

00:26:34:04 - 00:26:34:27

Speaker 3

Think this is.

00:26:34:28 - 00:26:42:16

Unknown

Also going to be a potential and feel alone about how the husbands don't do enough and they're also.

00:26:42:17 - 00:26:57:09

Speaker 3

Drinking with their power. You know, any different. And many American have that and also say and do other things. So I can't characterize this as a national issue. Just look a gender conflict.

00:26:57:11 - 00:27:36:09

Unknown

I think get just like the company to do something like a lot. Anything I can do in my name. Yeah, I can.

00:27:36:11 - 00:27:38:06

Speaker 3

Make a difference.

00:27:38:09 - 00:27:40:09

Unknown

So thank you.

00:27:40:12 - 00:27:46:26

Speaker 3

And what you.

00:27:47:00 - 00:28:09:01

Unknown

Bring to the country is a double powerful factor. Tells us not to have babies when they are really bad. And I felt that this was really savage behavior because I would have liked schoolchildren. But we also they and I was I never had the right to put them in another room because they cried a lot when.

00:28:09:01 - 00:28:42:26

Speaker 3

They hit me. So my husband and I always slept with the baby between us and this is what happened because that was referred to as the barb between the H and baby very effectively always kept us apart. We had this way of turning clockwise, but I felt that, you know, for some reason I thought it was tiring. But I also felt that the safeguard of the baby from this dreaded word that all of the sudden infant Death syndrome and it turned out to be true I had.

00:28:42:28 - 00:29:09:29

Speaker 3

But it turns out that in several countries where babies slept with their mothers, the incidence is dramatically lower. And I think that this has a lot to do with it. Really, the mother didn't to know when the baby is due to baby sit down, when the baby is experiencing a baby and the baby over. It's a very simple logic, but this is one of the things I was telling you about how how disabled we are guided by modern life.

00:29:10:03 - 00:29:21:20

Speaker 3

We try to keep it basic and simple. A lot of these problems could be avoided. But anyway, I'm really glad that you remember that. So I actually am a great admirer of Dr. Spock.

00:29:21:20 - 00:29:28:15

Unknown

And anyway, the only thing that I disagreed with him about was living in another world. And as a matter of fact, my children, even.

00:29:28:15 - 00:29:47:00

Speaker 3

To this day, you know, they have their own lives. They still like to do something each other and I think that this is the same side that you don't get that people dream of using by themselves with all these goals that advances that thing that could happen in the night.

00:29:47:02 - 00:29:54:22

Speaker 4

Yes, that's what art is very much literature coming out of these moments.

00:29:54:26 - 00:30:00:03

Unknown

Is that this? Well, yes.

00:30:00:05 - 00:30:01:06

Speaker 3

You know, there's a lot.

00:30:01:06 - 00:30:06:04

Unknown

More interesting than anything else that people do more.

00:30:06:06 - 00:30:08:05

Speaker 3

Ways that we.

00:30:08:08 - 00:30:26:01

Unknown

Look at what are those biophysical principles and for the paradigm of things. And it's she's a famous dissident and she writing about the realities of what happens during Quantum era and, you know.

00:30:26:04 - 00:30:47:25

Speaker 3

And I know that there are other ways in in translation. So 11 years ago and three years ago in the late 1980s, when I went to Vietnam, the first time the first lady came over, I think you've said that before that a lot. I was very struck by this wherever I went, people were reading that. It doesn't mean that we're reading fantastic literature.

00:30:47:25 - 00:31:11:29

Speaker 3

That was a really lovely novel. You know, in Vietnam, the people who sold CIGARET, people sitting by the side of the road, at least everybody was reading. Three years later, I counted three people with books in their hand. That was all. And one of them was in the Village, which is holding the book. And so it shows what can happen in three years with the advent of television and video games.

00:31:12:01 - 00:31:42:24

Speaker 3

Instead of reading, a lot of people are playing. I look at book. Yeah, I wrote about this a couple of weeks ago in television, tightly controlled, but the government does allow people to see certain things and one of the things that they're able to see is Mexican soap operas that come from Russia. So they're in Russia. There's dozens of Russians, and then there's a voiceover it and they were like 350 million episodes of this.

00:31:42:24 - 00:32:01:10

Speaker 3

And it's a soap opera called The Rich. Also by this kind. I have nothing to could have it. I watch this a lot better for people like a practice like that. It I think it's really wonderful in theory, but this is the view that they're getting of the West using what they see as the people in the West live like everybody.

00:32:01:17 - 00:32:09:09

Unknown

Just absolutely hated. The whole country was so quiet on the night that.

00:32:09:12 - 00:32:16:13

Speaker 3

That was the show, that by the time I got to have a way of showing you the episode that dream of the Red Chamber.

00:32:16:15 - 00:32:26:17

Unknown

I went up about 10:00 Friday night, which is a very long time, and no one can.

00:32:26:17 - 00:32:37:11

Speaker 3

See the grip the television can have on a population that is truly, truly of entertainment and truly. So for the viewer, the world outside.

00:32:37:13 - 00:32:46:14

Unknown

Yes, you have to be far more important to make life easier for any woman or or it's that secretary.

00:32:46:20 - 00:33:09:11

Speaker 3

You have to put the embargo on his side. So I expected that I would be that sometimes. Yes, President Clinton did not lift it. By the way, we have a lot of other problems with military negotiations, but Vietnam is up high on the agenda that he will be able to resist by not renewing tender.

00:33:09:14 - 00:33:44:13

Unknown

And that would definitely make get everyone, especially home, which I think is the problem, is that know they all do that. But you also said something that distinguishes Vietnamese and Chinese.

00:33:44:16 - 00:33:46:08

Speaker 3

And even if I.

00:33:46:08 - 00:33:46:17

Speaker 2

Was a.

00:33:46:17 - 00:34:09:21

Speaker 3

Catholic, as a matter of fact, they still don't do that. I tend to worship. So it's not something that's in the culture rather than religious. But as am going to the religious right. You know, in 1963, however, when Vietnam had a Catholic president, what it did is the downfall.

00:34:09:22 - 00:34:10:23

Speaker 4

Was brought about.

00:34:10:26 - 00:34:33:04

Speaker 3

By Buddhist and demonstration activism. But since then, religion is obviously a big deal. Also, you know, Vietnam officially a communist country recently, and that was definitely an attempt to make it more secular. But it think we work.

00:34:33:06 - 00:34:49:19

Unknown

In blaming the culture. But I think that that would have applied more to persecution of Catholics rather than and everybody. Yes.

00:34:49:21 - 00:35:10:26

Speaker 5

Ma'am. I'd like to add that Mexican soap operas are not too much different than American opera soap operas. In fact, I think the Mexicans got the idea from the American soap operas. But but the question I like to ask Michener and I've been reading her column since 1987 or but I think first you came to San Jose. You were an editorial writer, and then you switched to a columnist.

00:35:10:29 - 00:35:19:12

Speaker 5

Why did you do it and what were the advantages or did you get a raise or what?

00:35:19:14 - 00:35:37:14

Speaker 3

I got out of journalism school seven years ago. I had I had two babies and I thought we had two more, which proud of my life, my career. So I was writing for magazines. I never thought of writing for newspaper. In fact, I'd never worked in a big establishment.

00:35:37:17 - 00:35:43:07

Unknown

And I mean nothing. But I did. And I.

00:35:43:10 - 00:35:46:07

Speaker 3

Read one evening when I was making dinner.

00:35:46:10 - 00:35:50:25

Unknown

For the editorial page editor and is able to do with a elder.

00:35:50:27 - 00:36:14:21

Speaker 3

And he asked me if I would like to become an editorial matter, and I thought you made a mistake. I said, I'm sorry, I. I think you must have made a mistake. I said, I have never read an editorial in my life. Let alone regular. And that was true that I had actually read an entry that was perhaps the different approach to editorial writing.

00:36:14:24 - 00:36:21:11

Speaker 3

So he asked me to write editorials because he very rightfully realized that.

00:36:21:13 - 00:36:27:17

Unknown

I mean, that becoming a significant corporation someday and that it was.

00:36:27:19 - 00:36:53:04

Speaker 3

A good time to decide, recognizing that there were different voices in the community. Well, I was terrible editorial writer Herald I was terrible at telling people what to think and I had a hard time. I used to struggle with all the time. And not only that, I couldn't write about Vietnam. That was in my province. The problems with the Vietnam War and the Vietnam War written by the current editor, editorial writer.

00:36:53:06 - 00:37:17:09

Speaker 3

So he the right thing in life and the refugees back in Hong Kong, back in Vietnam, really, Let's get rid of them. A lot of people in the community thought I had written maybe when I left the government. Anyway, I began writing a column at the request of the then the editor, and I felt that I was I could do that.

00:37:17:09 - 00:37:47:21

Speaker 3

I could tell people that I thought that I was not able to tell people what they should think. And so gradually evolved to the into more column writing and a not long enough to me, when I was asked to come down to the L.A. Times to write editorials, which I thought was really classic, but that's how I was able to negotiate my way out of editorial into the living section, which is why I am happily writing too short commentary.

00:37:47:24 - 00:37:52:01

Unknown

And I find it much more attuned to my general interest in the.

00:37:52:01 - 00:38:01:12

Speaker 3

Community is also in art. So you just integrate politics.

00:38:01:14 - 00:38:10:09

Speaker 5

With this new, I just want to add, she says, short columns. But this morning's paper, if you haven't read, it, takes a quarter of a page of her column. yeah?

00:38:10:09 - 00:38:18:10

Speaker 3

How is that good? Does that apply in the newspaper? I have to catch up on my reading. Yeah.

00:38:18:12 - 00:38:22:21

Unknown

So how can any time take that long and it's.

00:38:22:21 - 00:38:35:21

Speaker 3

Much better to be able to add a little bit of looking into a very short list. You just get go in and you have to edit it really an exercise in discipline because you have to say everything you want to say.

00:38:35:21 - 00:38:39:06

Unknown

And it left a page with a Facebook page.

00:38:39:08 - 00:38:46:19

Speaker 3

So I am always happy to have it, you know, and the other day.

00:38:46:21 - 00:38:52:22

Unknown

And the rest of the day.

00:38:52:25 - 00:38:58:17

Speaker 3

Yes. With you. Don't wait.

00:38:58:19 - 00:39:24:07

Unknown

I didn't I didn't get around to thinking about writing. And I think that's the best thing. I was always good at writing interest in in all that. I just love it. It was a product of the kind of people in it. And not only that, if I had known that I would have done that, I would have become a foreign correspondent and I would have been traveling the world.

00:39:24:08 - 00:40:00:00

Speaker 3

So that exactly I like to do it, and especially if you are so. And I think my loyalty is this is a very good time. They say there is no job for and that there are no makeup places and they're really interested in including natives from Hispanic and Asian and black and other communities. And even though there are no jobs, white, middle aged white men, you know, I recommended hiring.

00:40:00:06 - 00:40:11:03

Speaker 3

And, you know, in in Vietnamese communities, journalism is not very well regarded because it's not a very honorable profession.

00:40:11:06 - 00:40:13:17

Unknown

Is they want them to be like the National.

00:40:13:19 - 00:40:31:14

Speaker 3

Enquirer in some way. But I think that as a young Vietnamese who is interested as well, it a novelist. And so I was writing for the school. I might be the deciding factor for the reporting. Just the question.

00:40:31:16 - 00:40:59:08

Speaker 4

Yes. In your in your column yesterday in the Mercury, you were talking about the who was worrying about the impact of what will happened in Vietnam when it opens up to the west and the loss of innocence of things like that. And I was wondering if you could go on in a little more detail about that. You talked about the already and what kinds of things are going to happen in a very positive gesture.

00:40:59:11 - 00:41:27:05

Speaker 3

And my husband said to me afterwards, why didn't you elaborate on that? This is the heart of this matter. You know, you can debate that very quickly. The word love is a big one and different things in you. Maybe you can that and people would still work for that. And to get that is the most important thing is you.

00:41:27:07 - 00:41:32:03

Unknown

Have to have the other whether you see a.

00:41:32:07 - 00:41:42:13

Speaker 3

Future. Everyone has a special relationship, but the special relationship is this is called the Japanese.

00:41:42:13 - 00:41:50:08

Unknown

Feeling that you have between your family and friends. That's what they worry about the war. And I think that a lot of people who come to.

00:41:50:08 - 00:42:15:11

Speaker 3

This country mourn the loss of that memorial because everybody could be separated by the way they live their jobs and their friends and the pace and the breakneck pace of their life where any of these

things are still possible. And the one thing that they probably did that is kind of like inside the Vietnam time to visit, time to talk and to chastise children, that time develop relations.

00:42:15:11 - 00:42:25:22

Speaker 3

A lot of times it becomes quite complicated and to for love discussing my new details. But because they have this tremendous feeling.

00:42:25:25 - 00:42:30:19

Unknown

That this is you don't have any time for you here and that.

00:42:30:19 - 00:42:42:27

Speaker 3

Was lost. And then something we lost. And I think that the Iraqi people actually have to come back to the Gulf of Vietnam to a place like Hong Kong. You see that it's gone and it's never coming back.

00:42:43:00 - 00:42:48:16

Unknown

So I would like to ask you, I think that they said here.

00:42:48:19 - 00:42:57:12

Speaker 3

Who has rejected that? The American. I go back to the land. That's what they're looking for, is for that renewal.

00:42:57:14 - 00:43:04:01

Unknown

Of personal relations. And I think it is if you have it and you still have it in your heart, try to.

00:43:04:01 - 00:43:05:11

Speaker 3

Keep it in business.

00:43:05:17 - 00:43:26:29

Speaker 4

It's really very precious. What could I ask the quality question? I I'm concerned about that, too. And is there any way we can reverse the flow and get some of the values that you discuss that are being lost instead of having the Vietnamese lose their values? Why not gain some of those values that are important over here? Well.

00:43:27:01 - 00:43:41:23

Speaker 3

I don't know how you do it in the family, but you know that there's something here. Even now, instead of visiting the family, they don't visit friends. They don't really visit outside of the visit. They say, this is what we built and this is how you maintain.

00:43:41:23 - 00:43:47:25

Unknown

This that really affected is also a question of time and and.

00:43:47:28 - 00:44:18:28

Speaker 3

And making time for these relationships and giving it a lot of time. And, you know, this is not just between, you know, siblings of between all the parents and children and husbands and wives. They'll have a good relationship each other. But we don't really give a good chunk of time, not just the 60 minutes. And so for quality time of day, I, for example, do not go out in the weekend, never, hardly ever.

00:44:19:03 - 00:44:40:20

Speaker 3

And I try not to go to anything, but I did it because it's not a good time with your family. But you have to be extremely determined, extremely disciplined. And it makes it makes me happy, almost like a

antisocial for me to play the same telephone me all the time. But that's because I don't answer the phone. After this, I take my message.

00:44:40:20 - 00:44:53:10

Speaker 3

It will be on the phone all the time with you if you have to call every time it right so feasible to deliver something, you have to say, I don't know how to fit into your life, but you somehow have to figure out what's.

00:44:53:10 - 00:45:07:20

Unknown

Best to where you this world.

00:45:07:22 - 00:45:09:09

Speaker 3

But many of the future.

00:45:09:12 - 00:45:14:27

Unknown

The people I spoke.

00:45:14:29 - 00:45:43:25

Speaker 3

With said, continue thinking about that. I heard that is worth paying \$10 and 50 \$60 for a class. The classes are double shifts in class for seven and 11. Then the mix shift starts at 1.5. You actually a lot of it by rote. They register and.

00:45:44:02 - 00:45:46:14

Speaker 4

Create an identity for.

00:45:46:17 - 00:45:53:26

Speaker 3

Everybody that there is a premium on education. So when you do the effort.

00:45:54:03 - 00:46:17:26

Unknown

To make that target the vision I have, I feel like a victim. I have nothing to complain about. Yes, I don't yes, I have low pay, high fees and my mother told me that.

00:46:17:28 - 00:46:24:03

Speaker 3

And I'll tell you, I don't care what it's about. Always trying to tell everything. Get that I could get.

00:46:24:06 - 00:46:44:00

Unknown

Just a little lecture. So just in case, course. Think that, you know. So I had to do it by accident because I was just I.

00:46:44:00 - 00:47:09:00

Speaker 3

Just went to Vietnam in 1972. I had to into it. They needed someone to do research to develop making movie about Asian. And at that time, that was one issue that really interested in the public as well at the tail end of the president's visit to the Philippines. Now that's the one issue that that's right. Many people in the children die behind.

00:47:09:02 - 00:47:28:23

Speaker 3

So I was I traveled throughout Vietnam in the 1970s and 83, stopping at all the orphanages and trying to find out, get an account of how many children there were and what was to be done about them. So one thing that many of our kids were interested.

00:47:28:23 - 00:47:33:18

Unknown

In doing was adopting children have these children.

00:47:33:20 - 00:48:08:18

Speaker 3

So there were at least 20 agencies by the end of the world doing this, bringing difficulties to what they know how to respond to things. They were bringing children to this country and as all of you know this in the last days of the war, sort of the last effort to try to engage with the American public, President Ford was persuaded by some of the voters to bring over the whole thing full of orphans.

00:48:08:18 - 00:48:44:08

Speaker 3

Many of them are Asian. And the place that they were just about everywhere they died. And I thought that this was a terrible, terrible symbol of a good intentions of really a whole world way. And and during those last days of war, thousands of children were brought out, many of them alone, played by their desperate parents, that being able to put the children away will change the lives of America later.

00:48:44:16 - 00:49:13:01

Speaker 3

So we'll deal with it when it comes. But by the time many of the parents arrived in this country, a lot of their children away and my father was didn't didn't where was one of those people who worked on behalf of the Vietnamese and trying to get back. But we were able to reunite approximately 150,000, 7000, not very many.

00:49:13:03 - 00:49:33:10

Speaker 3

So many of these children who have been adopted by American parents unknowingly, really, because of that, I didn't want to talk to each other, so I didn't actually, you know, and in the end, in Vietnam, it would be interesting because if somebody came on one day.

00:49:33:13 - 00:49:38:08

Unknown

It would be a very interesting story.

00:49:38:10 - 00:49:44:06

Speaker 3

So and then I had to have of we have.

00:49:44:08 - 00:49:48:28

Unknown

Children and I also adopted and so.

00:49:49:00 - 00:50:06:17

Speaker 3

I was interested in continuous and continuous and yes, I so, you know.

00:50:06:19 - 00:50:40:25

Unknown

That is it's not like what is deeply.