

## Team Juvenile Delinquents

Interviewer: Jesse Wiegel

Interviewees: Dagny Kruger, Else Ranker, Bryce Lutz, Willow Gray

---

Q Okay, Delinquents, here we are. You all certainly through the Zoom look like varying levels of delinquents. You should be, I don't know, in school. I don't want to lay on too heavy the fact that you're all quite young, but you are. So let's get that out of the way. You are spread out between ages 15 and 19, and how old were you each independently when you decided you wanted to do Race to Alaska?

A I'd say 14 for me. Started thinking about it my freshman year.

Q All right, Dagny. So obviously your dad has a long history with the Race to Alaska, so you've known about it since the get go. Bryce, how about you?

A Yeah, I've heard about it for a while. I don't know exactly where it first, you know, popped into my circle. But I feel like in maybe

sophomore year of high school it kind of became something like oh, it's feasibly possible that I could do that some day. And I think, you know, I started talking to a couple of my friends. And pretty quickly I think once they realized what it entailed, like sleeping in a cold, wet boat for potentially over a week, I think it became clear that there was nobody else in my circle at that time that was unfortunately going to be interested in it. But you know, kept it in the back of my brain.

Q That's an interesting point. That is one thing I want to get back to is about where the four of you kind of stand in relation to other people your age and why the hell are you doing this and other people are not? But first, I want to get through Else. At what point did you switch on to the Race to Alaska thing?

A I've definitely known about the race for a while. However, it wasn't until last summer

when I actually thought you know what, maybe I could do this. And there weren't enough people on the boat, and I asked Dagny, hey, do you need another person? I'd be interested in it.

Didn't quite work out then, so I didn't really think about it again until Dagny came and said, hey Else, do you want to do this now? I was like, yes. When I was offered to be on the boat was when I really first started thinking about oh, yeah, I'm doing this now. Yay.

Q Kind of just happened?

A Just jumped right in.

Q And last but not least, Willow, tell us your evolution here.

A I've known about the race for a while, and I always thought wow, that would be really cool. That's something I could see myself doing. But it wasn't really a possibility until Bryce reached out and said hey, we're trying to put a team together, and Dagny is definitely the

mastermind behind it all. But I'd say this last summer Bryce hit me up and said hey, we're doing this. Sign up or else.

Q Awesome. So the four of you, have you done a lot of sailing together?

A Not as much as we'd like.

A I know we've all done a lot of sailing separately, and a lot of us hadn't really sailed together. I know me and Else have sailed together, but until we realized we were going to be on this team together and that's the point when we really started coming together and practicing. But since then we've definitely done a bunch of races and practices together.

Q And that's on the boat you're going to be using?

A Yeah, it is now.

Q Tell us a little bit about that boat.

A Well, we ended up with this boat because it was \$3,000 and not very far away.

A For once -- you know, I constantly check

Craigslist, right, for all the amazing deals.

And I will say that for once it kind of paid off. I saw this thing and brought it up with Dagny and Karl and here we are. So you guys can blame me if it cracks in half or who knows what.

Q So it's a Carerra 290. For anybody who has no idea what that means, can we get the bullet points? What is the Carrera and what are its strengths?

A Right. It's a super shallow low to the water boat. It's shaped kind of like a sled, very light on its feet. Not very much draft. A little bit more on the delicate side. Goes super well downwind. Upwind pretty well. Can definitely take conditions, but handle carefully.

A I would say, I mean, people might be pretty familiar with an Olson 30. And it kind of seems to me -- I've never sailed on an Olson 30 but it seems like a more modern Olson 30 in a lot of

ways. It's a pretty similar displacement, pretty similar length, just like a much more modern kind of cockpit layout. You know, has a pole for an asymmetrical kite and that kind of deal. That's, like, my understanding.

Q Now, you're going to be on this thing, four of you, for several days at least. Does it have any level of comfort, this boat?

A Not yet. We're still working on that.

Q Willow, so are we talking bean bag chairs?

A Recliners, actually, four different recliners all next to each other.

Q Oh, is this Juvenile Delinquents, the Lazyboy sponsored team?

A Pretty much.

Q Perfect.

A Like, do you know those big comfy massage chairs? We'll have it full of those, you know, maybe a grill.

Q Yeah. I think that's the way to do it. You get

a go fast sled and you put a bunch of weight on it.

A Exactly.

A We have to get these boats off their lines.

Q Beautiful. I want to go back to the question.

There's a lot of youth who don't do anything like this, and Bryce, you said that some people might have looked at you sideways when you started talking about what you want to do. So looking at yourselves, what do you think it is about you that's compelling you to do this, when you look around your schoolmates, you're not seeing in them?

A I think especially in Bellingham, like I mean, I can't speak for people who live on an island, but sailing is kind of a lesser sport. It isn't as popular, especially in, like, high school and middle school. And I just -- I was very lucky to be raised in a family that had boats and was sailing, so it's something that my parents

definitely helped me get into. I raced for the yacht club when I was younger and then got into the high school team. And I would say out of the people on the high school team there's definitely a lot of interest in it but not a lot of actual action. And that's where Dagny and Bryce come in. We're doing this. Because a lot of people have talked about it and said that would be something that we're interested in, but there's no follow through. And these guys pulled it together.

Q There's a lot of opportunities for high school sailing teams racing around buoys. Do you feel like there's a disconnect when it comes to a bigger adventure race like this? Like, the people you sail with on those race circuits, are they doing these longer trips? Are they going on expeditions?

A I personally am not a fan of buoy racing. I agree, I think there is a disconnect. Because



this is just bigger picture. I think it's understood -- in buoy racing, you can break stuff. It's short term. It's like putting it all out, you know, right at the get go. If you break stuff, stuff is expensive, then you fix it when you get back to the dock. But for this kind of thing, you're not going back to the dock to fix it. You just can't. And I don't know, I think for me, it adds more layers of complexity and, you know, kind of like mental challenge that I think is more interesting.

A It's definitely a lot less exposure in dinghy racing that kind of is like a lot less familiarity with what's going on around you. You can just hop on the boat for a day, and if your partner knows what they're doing, then basically all you have to do is sit there and pull the lines. But for longer distance races you really need the understanding of what's going on around you.

A I think there's also a matter of a bit what Dagny said, where dinghy racing is like a day, like you go out for a day and you race and you come back. And you're not on the boat 24-7. It's not this big, long thing. And I feel like I know a lot of people who, like, they're currently on the San Juan team, really good racers. But they aren't really thinking about sailing in college. They aren't going to do sailing as a big thing. They're just there to race. Some people just play basketball just to play a sport. So I feel like that's sort of where the difference between doing it just to play a sport and actually being interested in it is, because if you're actually on a big boat sailing on a big boat, that's like a lifestyle choice, opposed to just being on a team.

Q That's a good point. So a lifestyle choice. Would you all say that Race to Alaska is just a step on a ladder to something else? For a lot

of people Race to Alaska kind of becomes the pinnacle. Not to say that it's stopping anyone from continuing on, but Dagny, you're sitting there already in a sailboat. You spend a lot of your life on a sailboat already. A few of you have. Are you looking towards ocean cruising? Are you all going to get out of high school and vanish, we'll never see you again?

A It's definitely a distinct possibility.

Q Just Dagny. Anybody else?

A I'm always looking at boats to buy on Craigslist. But definitely. I mean, I would like to spend some serious time. I think, you know, not necessarily sailing, but adventuring. And I think sailing is definitely going to be a big piece of that puzzle.

Q Bryce, there are other places to buy sailboats than Craigslist. I just want you to know that.

A I don't think I need anymore encouragement.

Q Speaking of encouragement, are your parents

terrified? Are any of them terrified? I mean, there's several parents in the mix. How is that relationship going? Was there anything that you needed to prove to them before they kind of gave their blessing?

A My dad has definitely been super supportive of this from the beginning. As you know he's definitely more of the adventurous type. My mom is a little more scared for me of course. But she's also been super supportive, which I really appreciate.

A Mine, especially my mom, definitely worried. They're going to be worried while I do this and there are things which they definitely think I still need to do in order to be ready to do it. When I was offered to be on this team, I asked them and my mom was like, yeah, I'm terrified. But this is an amazing thing. This is going to be, like, one of the most important experiences of your life so far. I'm not stopping you from

doing this. I just want to make sure you're prepared.

A I think my parents had a similar approach where initially they were really freaked out by the idea, but then they realized this would be a really cool opportunity to advance my sailing skills and experience. And they will continue to be scared, but I think they're kind of just putting on a brave face and not really talking about it because they don't want to psych me out too much, which I really appreciate.

Q And Bryce, you're looking at me like they don't even know. Is that right? Your parents don't even know at this point?

A Well, I am 19, so there's not a lot that they can do. But no, I mean they're stoked for me. They're both, you know, people that have been on a lot of adventures. How could they say no? I'm sure my mom is of course stressed out understandably, but that's how it goes.

Q So the trip north. Do you have a target for how long you want to be on the water?

A I'm hoping around a week. I'm definitely prepared for it to be longer than that though.

Q And you're going to be gunning it 24 hours a day I imagine. Are you training with each other on some night trips before you go?

A We're going to get the pipe berths and the bilge pump in before we do overnights, but before the race we're definitely going to do some overnight trainings.

Q What do you want to be known for in the pantheon of Race to Alaska racers? It's probably not for being young. What would you like people to look at your team and say, boy, that team was blank?

A I mean, I kind of don't care. Like, I'm kind of doing this for myself, you know.

Q Okay. I mean, anybody can sail to Alaska, right. You could do it with or without the race, but you're doing it with the race. So

that tells me there's some piece of you that wants other people to see what you've done.

A I think it's more so I can't procrastinate it. You know, the rest of these three seem to be, but I'm definitely probably the least competitive person on this team. It's cool, I'm here to support them. But like, it's just -- go ahead Dagny.

A I was going to say it's made for some funny instances. We'll be in a race and over here, come on, we've got to beat this boat in front of us. And Bryce is just sitting over there, oh my gosh, the sun is so pretty.

Q That will be an interesting thing to work out, those crew dynamics on board the boat. As you were talking about earlier, it's not the same thing as going out to a regatta on a Saturday. You're going to be in a tight space with each other for a week. Do you have any concerns that you're going to start throwing each other

overboard or disagree about what kind of freeze-dried food you want to eat for dinner?

A Hopefully we'll all be able to be mature enough to work through that. And if we're having problems with each other, say like this is so and so's time to take a break, go off watch, take a nap. You just pedal. We're going to listen to some music and not talk for a minute.

A I don't know Bryce too well. I don't know Willow too well. But I've known Dagny for a long time. We haven't always been friends on the best of terms, but I've known her long enough that, like, we've made up and like, I trust her at this point. I know, like, I have argued with her. Sometimes I still argue with her, but it's more of a fun thing. So, like, if she says we're doing this, as long as it isn't a super bad idea in my mind, I'm fine with it. I'll listen.

Q Well, I know you all have very busy lives, so



I'm going to let you go now. Is there any last words that you'd like to leave the fans with?

A For sure, yeah. We definitely couldn't have gotten this far without sponsors. They've been so helpful to us in our poor little lives, and to everyone who has donated on our GoFundMe too. Just to our sponsors and donors, thank you so much.

Q I look forward to seeing you out there on the water, doing what you do. So good luck in all of your training and we'll see you in a few months.

A Thank you.

A Thank you so much.

A Thank you.