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not talk about survivors and only talk about this poor perpetrator. I hate that narrative.

J.C.: *At the time, I think you tweeted that sports isn't everything. You're not taking away his humanity.*

B.T.: Second chances don't have to involve playing sports. And forgiveness is not the absence of consequences. Playing sports is a privilege, not a right. You don't get to be on a pedestal where you drive culture and you drive the national conversation and people look up to you as a role model unless you've earned it. Character matters, and I don't know why people have such an issue with that. I literally get threatened and called names because I believe that rapists and child molesters should not get to play college and professional sports. This whole thing of "second chances," all that means to me is, "We want to win."

J.C.: *And that's rape culture. Sometimes I don't think sports fans understand the term. They think it means that everyone who participates in the culture is a rapist.*

B.T.: No. It's minimizing certain things. What drives culture is attitudes and beliefs. I focus on sports because there's nothing bigger in America. Sports is our religion, especially men's basketball and football. It's really molding hearts and minds. People get mad at me like, "Leave sports alone." No! Those are the stories and these are the people that are driving cultural attitudes and beliefs about survivors.

We have to address misogyny, we have to address victim-blaming, we have to address this rape culture, because all of that, unfortunately, is really ingrained in some of our institutions, and some of our men and coaches.

Victim-blaming really is at the heart of all of this. We completely take all of the accountability and responsibility from the perpetrator and put it all onto the victim. "She's in it for the money." "She shouldn't have drank." "She shouldn't have been there." "He couldn't have done this." "He's such a good guy." Because as a fan, if I can just blame her, then I don't have to do anything. I don't have to hold anyone accountable. I can still cheer for my team and cheer for my favorite player because if she hadn't gone there, and if she hadn't drank, none of this would be happening.

J.C.: *Do you ever feel like getting off of Twitter?*

B.T.: I don't, and I do actually think my trolls serve a purpose. People really are surprised if they don't follow me – they don't see the hate that I receive. Like, why would people threaten you? They don't realize that this is what rape survivors go through. Especially if you go public and you start talking about these things. But this is why a lot of us don't come forward, and why we don't voice our opinions and push back against misogyny and rape culture. So for me, the trolls kind of expose themselves, and expose the ugliness of what we deal with.

J.C.: *How do you know who should be*



Brenda Tracy and her two sons.

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ignored versus who should be called out?

B.T.: You know, it just depends. One of the things I've been really battling is people who think that I shouldn't get paid as a speaker, and they spend a lot of time trying to discredit me. Saying that I only care about money, (that) I don't care about survivors. There should be no shame attached to a rape survivor getting paid to speak.

The same thing happens any time a rape survivor tries to sue a perpetrator, or the school. The first thing is, oh, she's money-hungry. She just wants a payday. It's ridiculous. There's nobody that woke up and said, "You know what? I want to make a lot of money, so I'm going to get raped. And then I'm going to sue somebody." Unfortunately, we buy into it, right? When I first came forward with my story, people said you might be able to sue Oregon State University, and I didn't want to. I didn't want to at all. I was like, no, no, no; people will think I'm a gold digger. I had bought into all those stereotypes.

I ultimately decided not to sue Oregon State. But those stereotypes are a weapon used against us to try to discredit us and to silence us. There's a civil system for a reason. If you have been wronged, you are due compensation for the harm that has been done to you, and rape survivors, we go through some of the most significant trauma and harm there is. It's sad to me that we're not encouraged to use the civil system, and it bothers me that the criminal system is so broken. Any avenue of justice we try to use, it doesn't bode well for us at all.

J.C.: *You've previously – and successfully – lobbied for new Oregon laws regarding the criminal statute of limitations for rape, as well as evidence testing. Do you have anything in the works for future legislative sessions?*

B.T.: One of the things I would like to address is the civil statute of limitations, which is two years. Which means that if you are a freshman in college and you get raped and you want to bring a lawsuit, you probably have to sue your school while

you're still going there, which is ridiculous.

J.C.: *Some victims don't want to sue because they can't deal with reliving the details of their trauma. Having seen you speak, I know it's still right there for you every single day.*

B.T.: I have to go right back into that apartment. Every time I stand on a stage and speak, I have to go right back into that apartment and explain to them all the ugly details of what happened to me. And that's hard, but I think it's also necessary. If I say to you, I was gang-raped for six hours by four men, I don't know what that means to you. But if I tell you the details of that night and what exactly happened to me, then it becomes more real, and you're not able to minimize it and make it into something that feels good for you. Because it's not, right? You have to understand how disgusting and horrifying and horrible this is, so that you can understand how this affected my life, and why we all need to get involved to make sure that no one goes through this.

I really have learned the power of personal testimony. A lot of people will have never really talked to a survivor. They've never heard these stories. I talk about suicide, I talk about domestic violence, sexual assault, being a single mother. I really could be your mom or your sister or your cousin or somebody you know. It really changes that for them.

J.C.: *You have two sons, who are not much older than the college students you work with. Does that help you relate to them?*

B.T.: I think because I have my sons, I feel more inclined to want to walk into rooms full of young men. I have a lot of reason to be angry with men, but because I have sons, I can't not see the good in men. It's men that have hurt me, but it's men that I want to work with, and it's men who have helped heal me. This football machine created the men who raped me. But it's still the machine that I want to work within to change things. I can't imagine doing anything else right now.

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