

African-American Panel: *From Heritage to Hope*

Diane Bell: ... presented by the West Virginia Humanities Council. This ... with African-American history and, we hope to get to describe ... It's going to be a very informal talk, and we do encourage you to participate and ask questions. And after all the ... be a time for a group discussion and ... We are here to explore the history of the African-Americans in the Ohio Valley. The importance of exploring and documenting our history has become the ... for many people across the country. Many families ... to trace their lineage. Members of the DR, DAR, ... can tell you their histories back to the beginning of Americans. Some people can trace it back to the royal courts of Europe. We as African-American people can trace our ancestors to the beginning of civilization. Our ancestors ... only America, but the world and traveled around the world while people in Europe were still living in caves. But that's a totally other story. We're here to talk mainly about African-Americans of Wheeling. And it does start for us before Wheeling became a city. The first Africans came to this area ... Rachel Johnson and her

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husband Sam were slaves of, of the ... In fact, Rachel was credited with saving his ... and was thereby granted ... freedom and given a large parcel of land throughout the area. She was also granted other parcels of land by other people so she must have held a position of importance in the community. Okay. By the 1920s Wheeling had become a thriving ... African-American population. There were 36 different African owned businesses. We had a newspaper, eight different ... There were four doctors including one woman, two lawyers, 15 teachers and hundreds of others ... fields. Simpson ... Church, the first ... was opened in 1865. Lincoln School was founded in 1866. And this list goes on and on if you're willing to search for it. The key word there is search for it. You're going to look real hard to find any history in the books. It's really not in the books. You have to go back through, you'll find ... that's where you'll find it. And that brings us to the reason why we're here tonight. The panel with you tonight are going to share some of their experiences ... And to let you know who they are before they speak, we have Worrick Mosebay, he's an entrepreneur and a member of the African ... Pam Lee, a founding member of the African ... Jubilee and lifelong Wheeling resident. Owens Brown is president of the

NAACP and also is very active in the African-American Jubilee. Darryl Clausell is the chairman of the Martin Luther King Junior Society, Committee.

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And myself am a founding member of the African-American Jubilee ... What we're going to do tonight is give an overview of some of the things that we think are important and that we hope you think are important. We hope that you will share with us things that you think that we might have missed that are important. Now, before I turn it over to Darryl let me give you an overview of this handout. Sunday, November the 13th at one thirty at Independence Hall ... memories of the homefront. Monday, November the 14th from two to nine if you have photographs and documents that are important to you and relate to the history of your family or Wheeling in general, take them to Independence Hall. They will be copied and thereby preserved. You will get your original back, but at least there will be a copy that people like the African-American Jubilee and, and Darryl's committee and other people have access to the African-American history that is here. I can't stress enough how important it is for us as a people and a community to gather the information, talk to our older people in the community, find out everything they have to tell. That's where our history comes from. We as a people are not

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really written about in history that much and factually written about that much. The only way to make sure it is done is that we as a people realize the importance of doing it ourselves. And we will all probably ... on that theme throughout the evening, but we will let Darryl Clausell now speak and give you an overview of ...

Darryl Clausell: Hello. A couple things. One, you're more than welcome to ... different displays. There's yearbooks, Lincoln School, the commencement, pamphlets. I'm just trying to think of some of the things out here. There's a couple reproductions of ... I believe it's 1920. But I am asking that after browsing that you please leave them. Every now and then we lose some of the reproductions, but ... keep my eyes on it. Please, you're more than welcome to browse and look over the materials. And the pictures. I was happy to see that people ... looking at the pictures. And hopefully it brings back memories of the community, interaction of those people, fellowship, et cetera. Now... Did everybody get this handout. Does anybody else need one? Basically I'm going ... handout. I was trying to ... just a brief overview of collecting our history and what's involved in the fact that when you talk about history ... African-American history. Number one, what it does, is it provides the record of our community to continue generation after generation and to provide the path for future generations. And that's important, you know, because it was our forefathers and mothers who provided us with a path ...

from the past. And without them ..., you know, maybe ... Story ... folklore ... preserved from memory. ... to the next generation and so forth. And that's important ... strong research. History is a story told. It's knowing your grandma's favorite recipe. It's being able to tell the story. I have one, I don't know if I ... here, but it's a story I used to tell ... because I'm from Mobile, Alabama, and I ... mule. I never could remember that mule's name, but there was always something that took me back

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to my homeland, and that's what counts. So history can be many different recollections and memories ... to telling a story and going to research from there. This history is ... American history from my viewpoint ... history of America and the ... of our families and descendants ... in this great country or this country. ... ourselves and our cultures. Pictures, documents memorabilia add to the verification of this story ... reproduction ... You'd be surprised people will not part with their originals. So ... reproduction I'll be sure to get it back to you. Be sure in collecting history that ... 100 percent get names and dates. Those mean a lot. And the person who taught me about this in 1988 sitting in the audience ... She did a workshop on collecting history. That's Margaret Brennan sitting there. And we, she, we were able to create a videotape on collecting history and how to archive it and how to preserve it. When you talk about acid free paper, those kinds of things. But you're more than welcome to watch it because we do have it in our archives. ... kind of give us an overview of what I was trying to do here. As you look through the handout-- I like today to go back and talk about ...

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quick words by document of what was taken out of the records ... County. Give us a chance to look at what, the way it was. And this will take us back to 1790 ... page that you can read ... was. That's an actual marriage license. That marriage license of 1787 was, was the way ... act was passed and it's in your history books in 1787. The act was passed ... prohibited bringing more slaves into the country. And the way to get them in was to marry them to slaves. So they married the slaves, and that's what it's talking about here. ... marriage ... Ohio County building over here. And that way you can bring your slaves ... marry them, you know. You, you would take up residence. But you can read through it and how it talks about ... slaves ... in this country. But ... And then you go on ... second page and third page talks about one of the ... research ... And it's interesting to realize that when you're laying on your death bed ... purify your life or, you know, ... the way it went. So you can read

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through this will because it does talk about willing Negroes along with the cows and the sheep, you know. ...

different families. And that's what, you know, that was here. That ... in the record books ... make up stories here. And that's not presented to create hostility or create any kind of hate, you know. This is presented so that we know what, where there ... started. And ... started. I mean this was taken locally. If you go beyond this and you go back into African nation ... great nation ... that says this is where it started. But this is some start and I tried to ... so that they realize we, there was a ..., there was a community built. And a lot of times you talk about things ... this town. It goes back to this. This is where people have a tendency to believe that our culture started. And then you go on over to the ... page and get to the ... of the black community in Wheeling ... Diane about blacks, free blacks first started coming to Wheeling ... families from, from in the late 1800s and basically I won't touch on that because she covered a lot of it ... I really just wanted to put something in your

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hands that shows a building community. That's my bottom line. I try to bring positive and not negative. So building communities, a strong community where some things that may have happened and where we were headed. So that's the ... by 1920 ... or I'd say 1925. And that's when you see the charts of the Negro ... just-- If you estimate what the holdings were at that time, ... probably three thousand ... of a hundred and fifty thousand. And you inflate that to ... you're talking about approximately 51 million dollars ... Diane covered a lot of that. And the churches, the professions, the business enterprises. And from there, the last page talks about today, and it's blank. And the future, and it's blank because that's where we are here today. And I left that so that when we talk about strategy you're able to ... It's from this and from stories told that ... That's why I left that page blank ... Boy if this is what ... if this ... we ... came from here great nation ... then came back through. I think that ... the path and direction that kind of says we are a strong community and surviving type of culture and people. And to me that's what counts. If you can build upon your past, build upon your stories. Myself, I build upon the fact that we, my family history because that's important. Family is important to me all the way around. And we speak about ... history ... that. And we've done our

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research back to the 1700s with going back in, to the Haiti actually ... It's called ... from across the ... And that's talking about an Indian named ... And I'm not going to go through this but one of the things that I went through was parallel ... history with this because we have people who have gone through this history. We also mention here people like Napoleon because there was a French connection here as I want to say. Clausell, if you want to talk about it, the original name was ... which was originated from Clausell from ... developed that name.

So then it goes through a lot more about-- I have, we have a playboy ... and they documented a map on how he drove through the south. ... you learn, you know. And how he ... It talks about how he ... instead of losing the land ... masters had down here. They, in the end, granted us the land. And that was like five thousand acres in the south. And how ... learned from the fact that we have 260 acres left. Well, if ... five thousand acres ... I'd probably be driving a Rolls Royce and, you know, ... But now we're down to 260 acres so they sold it off. And the strategy was if you got the land and ... up here, keep it. Don't sell it. Use it for, you know, things like ... A simple strategy, but in the long run, that can mean a lot from a family's

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standpoint. So, like I said, I just wanted to basically give a brief overview of what the handout was about, what history means overall and what history means to me. The stories that one might tell when it comes to folklore. The memorabilia that's out there. That means a lot. To me that's African-American history. That's community history. It relates back to this culture. And that's what counts in my life. So thank you.

(applause)

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DB: ... get their nerve up. I already ... Want to go now? ... camera shy now. I'll, I'll make a brief presentation. My family came here in the late 1940s. I just recently found this out. The reason they came to Wheeling was my great, great grandmother ... here, which I have been able to document what the name of it was. ... Dixieland Bar on 16th Street. They moved back to Ohio ... in Wheeling. And my family, my mother, my mother's side of the family married my father's side of the family ... who were landed people. And if anybody read in the paper, that's what I was talking about. They had a lot of land, like Darryl was saying. They owned pretty much all of Glen's Run. Anybody's who from Martins Ferry been there, know where that area is. It's just like a hollow, what they say back in the old days. And Cunningham family owned the whole entire hollow. Right now we own about two

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acres of it. And the only reason that we own two acres is because it was put in the will that you couldn't sell it, which of course is not legal, but we're honoring our great, great grandmother's wishes and not selling the property. I grew up on the Island, which makes me a totally different kind of a characters than a lot of people from East Wheeling. I went to Madison School, which was an all white school. I fought every single day because of, of the color of my skin, not because of any other reason. And that continued from the time I was in sixth

grade till I was in the ninth grade. Then I went to Wheeling High. And I found a camaraderie over here among the African-American people. My fondest

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recollections, I think, are going to the center and how ... sense of family. Because that was missing on the Island. Although I had lots of friends, I didn't really find the community and family until I ... other African-American people. That's one thing about us. We have a lot of problems, but we also have a lot of good qualities. And one of those qualities is to take everybody in ... just share with everybody. ... here and ... friends that I did. And I won't go into names ..., but it was just a really a good community to grow up in. I'm ... talking about the '60s. Unfortunately for us today, urban renewal came through and really wiped out the backbone of the community. And that pretty much ... today. We're trying to rebuild that base that we had in the '20s. We had so many teachers and so many doctors and so many lawyers and so many promising things going on in our community. And

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I really feel that there are people in the city, people who sit here ... and everywhere ... who will disagree. But I really think that when urban renewal came through and took out businesses. It took out the home ownership. ... most of home owners live right on this tract of land right here. And those people were the backbone of the community. Once they were gone and the community was able to be pushed in the direction it's still pushed in now, on top of the Grandview-East Wheeling push. When you do that, you put everybody ... central place and you have people renting. Nothing against renters, I rent all the time. But your, your base for any community are the homeowners, your churches, your businesses, your stores, all that. When that's gone, your community goes on a slow decline downward. So that's probably the recollection I have. And shortly after that happened, after urban renewal and everything else went on, I of course married and moved away. And I came back to find really what I

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consider ... state it was in when I came home unfortunately. But that's my basic overview of my recollections. I do think we can do a lot things to change it. I think things are changing. I think we are getting back to that place. There are more people working. There are more professional people coming into the area. A lot of you might not believe that, but that's true. There are a lot of professional people. There are actually African-Americans working in the city building. They are working in-- They've always worked in the mills and factories

and coal mines, but now we're seeing more professional people. Hopefully we'll get more nurses, more doctors, more lawyers. That's the trend we're on now, and I think that's the strategy for moving things up and really getting that base back. Thank you.

(applause)

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???: You don't mind if I sit down. I'm not into standing up.

DB: Okay. Worrick Mosebay ... he's also the African-American Jubilee and an entrepreneur.

Worrick Mosebay: I'm just going to kind of give up some reflections on what I ... in African-American community here in Wheeling. And also, I'm going to try to, to kind of, kind of show some trends that how our, how our community is going to relate during the global two thousand new order that's on the horizon, you know, with ... Rothchilds and Rockefellers and all that. So first I'm going to, I'm going ..., you know. I grew up. I was born in '41. I lived on Eoff Street, and my mother was a school teacher in the school system. And the period of time in the black community, although segregated, you know, most of the black community worked as domestics, cooks, chauffeurs, doormen, all of that type of business. We have a lot of people who were doing those jobs were college educated ... year, two. Some had even graduated, but because of the segregation, these people could just only get jobs in

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this type of area, you know, servant type, domestics, in service industry. During this period we, we had a, Doctor ... Doctor ... was a doctor and his wife who was, her husband was the dentist. So we had doctor ... So we had some professional people also. We had Doc Davis who was a pharmacist. Doc White ... had a pharmacy. And during this period of time we had a lot of businesses in the area. We had the Elks. We had ... back in the '20s it was a thriving restaurant called the Entertainers, the African-American ... And ... situation. And our ... on Chapline Street we had Pythian. The Pythian Building was built by black ... So this, this is really our ... We don't have ... It was taken over during the ... That was our devastating ... So that's one landmark that we have to ... We have to get back because it was a black company made this, and, you know, it was Pythian. That's ... tradition. So ... Also the ... Sears and Roebuck. A lot of people don't know that Roebuck was a black man, had the idea. Sears furnished the money, but as, as we go in life, what's ... where's the ... They took the Roebuck off. It was Roebuck, he was a black man, it was his idea. So ... Pythian Building. We

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had, we had a lot of ... to the black culture. We had Lincoln School. ... teacher. And all of the kids, I, I ... who, their ... very ... people ... everybody went to school. The teachers-- You would come to school, if you didn't have your, if you didn't have your homework, you were kind of embarrassed ... They gave you problems like math problems and whatever, you got to go to the board. If ... that day so the ... A and B and you ... this and all that. The teacher knew what was going on with each kid because ... It was a hands-on learning situation. And so the teacher was right on top of it, and if you didn't have your homework and you didn't do your work, then the teachers would have you sit ... at lunch time

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and do your work. And if you didn't have it done, then you had to stay after school. So everybody had to be on top ... because you, your peer group, you would be embarrassed. So the people that came out of Lincoln School, students ... to, to-- The ones that left town went on to greater heights ... education, but then, you know, they went on to-- But they were educated people. And I ... Lincoln School. And we have a black lifestyle, which is, we don't have now either. ... enterprising person ... all kind of groups and bands and ... We have ... culture enrichment ... ran the Triangle branch on 12th Street, which was similar to the YWCA where we had activities for the kids, activities for the youth. ... we went to the park. ... older people went to Wheeling. And we had different enriching, enriching programs that ... I can't remember some of the other ... And so all, all the people in my generation went through all of this. So we were, we had self-worth. We knew who we are. The teachers who

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taught us our history, we knew where we came from. We knew about the past. Even though in a segregated situation, we knew who we are, where we were. And, and that made us go on to, you know, if we wanted to go ... We had businesses, as I said. My father took, like on Water Street, they had a tailoring business. He was ... a hotel at one time. He said he didn't know if it was ... black hotel ... something like that. But he was going ... various things that were going on ... blocked the street off and we'd have fairs. ... would sell food and have games and all this type of situation, which was a, which we could get money. And it was a lot of ... support system. And, and money ... There's a Jamaican brand of ... that has ... when they go around. ... And in our neighborhood money didn't circulate, where now we get our paycheck and we just spend it, ... And that's a state of affairs that we are now. And the-- I've looked it up and found out who was responsible for the dissemination of the urban renewal. It started in New York, went to all the different cities. It's in this book by--

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The Invisible Government by ... It says that ... was the one who was instrumental in busing up these communities. And, and that goes along with this program because with every, with your, you know, ... hooked up with these other international bankers. That means that if you bust up, bust up the support system now, ... now. See, they can get inroads into your community. Bring new ... come from government, from CIA and all that. There's two type of cartels that bring them in. There's the ... Cartel, which is the poor people's drug cartel. Then there's the ... Cartel, that's the international bankers. The so-called people who ... are involved in the drug trade. They don't go after them. They go after the ... or they go after the ... '60, which connection ... went after the ... So this is putting our kids at risk. The schools, with, with white teachers and, and with the racism. And a lot of the kids

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are not getting the attention that they deserve, and they're dropping out of school. And they just, and they just, they just give it up. And they're giving up ..., that's what it is. And all this has to be addressed. It has to be ... of the people in the community. It has to be addressed by the people with, investment bankers here. ...

Wheeling's Bicentennial. And it tells you here, I'm not going to name them, ... the keeper of the coins. And these have to be white supremacists because they kept ... Right here, keeper of the coins... Wheeling bicentennial, 1769 to 1969. So we're-- It's going to take black community to resurrect just like, ... I said. We're going to have to resurrect the businesses. All the money's ... it's going to all of these agencies, the city ... black neighborhood for black ... This is ... this is ... If we don't get our act together, we're going to be in a wasteland. ... on TV, speaking about this Saturday night on, on C-SPAN. And it's going to be dire straights for African-American people. It's going to take everybody to, to help in this endeavor because the white supremacists aren't. They are

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... your, your rich people because they want to exploit. That's what they've been doing since the, since back then with the ... exploited Africa. You got your Rothchilds and all of them exploiting Africans. ... So it's going to take everybody to, to work together to resurrect that ... pit each other against each other. That's the role of these people. They pit the poor against, I mean the poor against the middle class. The white against the black. ... all this time they've been doing the same thing for years and years. We ... We got the Ku Klux Klan ... They don't ... And it's just a lot of stuff to keep everything off balance. We're going to have to get together, work ... rise up together ... If we don't get ourselves together, we're not going to be around. ...

(applause)

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???: ... 18 of us so with all the memories I have ... growing up, it's like ... when I was in grade school ... in high school. And ... pretty good year except for a few things that happened and Martin Luther King got killed. Our principal at high school ... good morning, let's say our prayer and this and that. And it was like ... he said it was a nice day ... nice morning. Let's say a prayer about that. And some of the students there, I was one of them, and some of the older ones. We all got together, we would go to class. ... Martin Luther King just got killed, why would you say ... say something like a prayer for him. And he told us that if we don't go to class, we just ... So we ... without ... black kids ... school today. And they let them out just to keep us from starting trouble ... radical so ... Afro Set, my brother was one ..., Terry Gosa and ... Hawkins, ... She was a part of it. Shirley Paige ... They was only really part of the, you know, organizing, trying to keep us together. And going to ... talking about ... NAACP meetings and just enforcing, you know, about the black community, not us tearing it up like we did Sears and, you know, fire bombings and things. But that ... after a while, I just ... with him. But ... was that ... and my grandfather ... They made us go to church, and we stayed there. And we ... Simpson Church ... And that was ... there. ... She's dead now. Miss Mason, Miss Dixon. I remember her all the time. She's always had Sunday school teacher. She's always pointing finger at us and ... scriptures and everything like that. ... he was a, his mind was like this. He could remember dates. He, he ... grandfather from way back when. He would talk about things as if they was still living. I'm sad to say that he passed away before I could sit down with tape recorder and ask him about, you know, his mother, my grandmother's sister. And ... history going on of our family. But I still have my father's family left. So it's still not too late as far as ... It's just that today ... young kids don't think about what, you know, what ... or even think about the past. And-- Because to me, I had a good time growing up ... we always had dances, ... you know, ... deteriorating ... Just all

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my friends. I had friends, I could just go on forever ... dances, going to ... going to the ... Apostolic ... It just drove my parents ... act up ... tambourines and ...

(laughter)

... This is ... I can say to add, but I just ... childhood. The only thing to add is there was 18 of us and ... fighting

...

(laughter)

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My parents ..., my step grandfather, he was from Kingston, Jamaica, along with his son. And he ... He walked up and down the street selling door to door. He was selling brushes and shoes. Shoes from ..., but that's how he made his living. And he did a good job of it because we had a home. We all stayed there, ... And ... in East Wheeling. And it was difficult for me as far as not having any friends. All my friends was down in South Wheeling. ... Street. ... school. and I was, I ... I came home, my mother ... school ... I told her I wanted ... get that teacher. I can't think of her name. But she made me stand in line. I kept telling her I had to use the bathroom. So I just wet on myself, and she finally sent me home. ... go back and get that teacher ... stand here and wait and wait. She said the next time ... So next time I did.

(laughter)

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But there was, there wasn't so many blacks at that school except for the Mosebays. There was a few Chinese, ... right here on the corner, laundry business. I almost forgot about that. Used to take your laundry there ...

(applause)

???: ... everybody stand up ... Tal Hutchins who was just elected to House of Delegates.

(applause)

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???: ... black man to be elected to the House of Delegates from Ohio County, and one of the very few to be elected in the state of West Virginia. But on the other ... southern part of the state, ... situation is in Mississippi they have been electing to the House of Delegates and to the United States Congress since 1964, 30 years before we ... African-American into the state house. I know that ... telling me something. So before we go patting ourself on the back ... progress ... how much ... I guess when I look at history, I look at history in a different way. It's not about man or people, it's about ... influences me today. I'm not originally from the city of Wheeling. I'm from Triadelphia, West Virginia. I will be 40 in ... coal mining camp ... And growing up, we grew up with dirt roads and house ... and most of the people lived in the community were called ... And I remember going to school and trying to avoid mud from getting on my shoes because I hated sitting in a classroom and have clumps of dirt on your desk. You know when you're a child these little things really matter to you.

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My father, he ... out there ... prior to me being born. And he ... he ... I guess ... bootleg liquor. ... slot machines

because the ... slot machine where ... raid the place and he took all the slot machines and stuck them in the basement of our house ...

(laughter)

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So that's my recollection. And knowing Triadelphia, if you go there today it's just a shadow of what it used to be. There probably two or three hundred people live there. And it was really an ideal place to grow up because you were in a protected environment. My mother could stand on the porch and call us, and you heard it all over the place. And at a certain time in the evening ... came on, when we finally got a street light, I think I was probably about eight or nine before we got a street light on Triadelphia. It used to be pitch black. And when mothers ... children to come home ... you know, calling out their name, heard all over ... resound through the hills. But I think that living there was a different atmosphere because you had space around you. And you learned to work, ... shovel coal, picking berries, ... summertime was to go out and pick berries ... five o'clock in the morning and my sisters and brothers and go out and pick berries so my mother can make jam and can berries. And when walnut season came along, go out and pick walnuts or apples, whatever. You can ... garden ...

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of how to work. And a lot of people understand that if you live in ... life, it's difficult to learn how to work. And some of the skills I have now ... learned from ... people out there that actually built their own church. They built a new church out there ... doing something ... learning experience working and that's one advantage to living in a small community versus living in a large community and living in apartments. ... work has to be done. And everybody had their chores. If you live in an apartment, they're pretty maintenance free except for cleaning. ... bad, you know, poor. You have to go out there and fix that roof and ... I ... My real first recollection about Wheeling was, I think I was about five or six, me and my mother ... came ... mile from Triadelphia ... walk to the bus. And rode to town to

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get some new shoes. And anyway, we were walking around town. We ran into Murphy's Five and Ten ... here, and ... get something to eat at the counter. And there was one seat there, and there was a white man sitting here. So my mother put me on a stool sitting there to get something to eat. It was a real treat for me to ... and ... little kid, that's a real treat. But something very strange happened. White man seated next to turned around and looked at my mother and said, '... you black bitch,' for no apparent reason. So my mother ... walked off ...

sit there for a while. So after we finished eating, we walked around ... And on the way out my mother happened to spot the lady. And at that very moment my mother ... beating up this lady. And she had her down on the floor choking her

(laughter)

in the store. And ... this lady's yelling 'help, help' just standing there watching, you know. ... but even
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???: But even back then that image stands out in my head as ... of, of basic racism in Wheeling. ... person who does not know someone to call them a black bitch just because they were there. ... blows my mind. Our realities and my reality of the different, everybody's reality of how we view things is very, very different. One of the things I do ... so many young black men being shipped off to Prunytown. It seems like every ... black ... being shipped off to Prunytown. ... have some friends who were shipped off to Prunytown. We had a judge, I think ... and he was shipping people off to Prunytown left and right. And ... that they were taught to be hard criminals. And they were ... right ... unable to get jobs. And we are still feeling, I believe, the lingering effects of what took place back in the '60s and probably '50s of judges who were very punitive. And that's the way we seem to be going

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today. And get people criminal identities. Then they start to a family, cannot get jobs. ... very dim view of our city. Right now we have a ... between the police and young black males. But this ... come about. These young black males today are the seed, are fruit from seeds that were planted a long time ago in this city. Question, you know, 1964 the Civil Rights Bill passed 30 years ago and, you know, I was thinking about going ... progress in the city or have we gone backwards. ... we had things 30 years ago that we do not have today. So something tells me that we moved backwards. We've moved a long way backwards. ... barbershop now. ... But so far as being economically independent or ... we do not have these things now. So there has been a step back. The question is has integration been good for the blacks in Wheeling. We had ... talk about this area. ... on Eoff Street and places like that. When urban renewal came, they were taken away. So we have a ... go out and get a loan, get the bank to give you a loan. You do have something, you're not paying ... homes paid off. I don't

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care if it's a shack. I'm not paying any rent. I got money that's ... pocket. Whereas now, being forced ... people in order to subvert them. Social progress is reflected in the institutions of the people ... create and

maintain their way of life. In the city of Wheeling the institutions, there has been institutions created that have been basically maintained the status quo. And basically ... blacks and minorities ... community. That's what I see as the history of Wheeling. When I ... there's basically only one significant ... in numbers in the city. ... but ... when we start talking about competition. Only a significant number of people are African-American. We have a judicial system which I think ... sent so many young African-American males to jail and then ... back to the community for criminal activity. And they could not survive. We also have ... a political system that ... one black city councilman in the whole history of the city of Wheeling. And ... progress. You have an educational system where young black males are ... kicked out disproportionate to their numbers. So you're killing any hope for future of-- We ... many people in the last few years after integration who come from the city that have done anything of note. Yes, we do have Jim Paige, but even-- He's been very successful, but we look ... people who have come from educational systems who are ... black attorneys, who are doctors or

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anything that has come out of this system in the last 20 years, except for one. Let me tell you something. We have people back in slavery who ... and also do quite well. So we shouldn't slap ourselves on the back until we look at what has actually happened. I don't quite, you know, I don't know if you quite realize the fact that 1968 ... has theory on ... people that ... exist as they are. And we as a city have basically fell into that type of category. Black people ... don't ... you know, don't ... but they eventually go ... or something. But don't help them. And this is called ... This is exactly what I see. We do have a handful of people that have done some things, but when you start looking at it from an economic standpoint, we look at it from a social standpoint. ... Where is, you know, the majority or ... in the city. We have basically the same people ... anyway. Where are we. I don't know

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if you realize that ... city's still segregated in their housing. Very few white individuals know black people or talk to black people in the city, you know, we're basically on the periphery of the city. ... city ... live together ... coexist together. And this is, this is the history of the city of Wheeling. There were more racial killings in the city of Wheeling in the 1980s than there were in Mississippi. Do you believe that? These are things I know. These are things, you know, I, I'm just not spouting hot air up here, but these are things I actually know. Back in '83 or '84 when Jesse Jackson was running for the president he was going to come to Wheeling. All of a sudden his tour, it was canceled. The reason it was canceled was that people, they felt so much ... in this city for

Jesse Jackson because of the racial atmosphere they did not want him to come here because his life was in imminent danger. This is what they felt. My wife can attest to that because overnight it happened. We had ... Wheeling College ... Jesse Jackson comes to town. First presidential candidate comes to West Virginia. And they had to stop the presses and reprint the first page. Cost a lot of money. But because of imminent dangers in the city of Wheeling. And a lot of people ... people constantly monitoring the city of

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Wheeling, monitoring the banks, institutions of ... monitoring the social atmosphere of ... city because there has been ... in the city, in the history of the city. And the history of the city has been one of ... and ... I, I can go on ... And the solution, you know, if you can legislate all sort of laws. But you cannot legislate how you can change people's hearts. You cannot legislate that. But one thing we could do as a community, we could push for a race based education. Force the boards of education in the city of Ohio County to come out and teach about human relations in the school system. You know right now most of the questions ... question of black and white. Every time you ... TV you ... you know, that thing there. She's just, she's ... and looking at African-American males from a point of being some sort of defective individuals. Susan Smith. This was taught to her by media. I constantly ask

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people who live in Cameron, West Virginia, I says, "How do you develop your attitudes?" ... black person. You don't live with ... so all you have ... black people is from your TV. So how can you ... if you don't really know me. Well, I ... a TV. That attitude towards us has been promoted through the media and the ... Just recently we had a drug bust ... four black mug shots of these people on the front page. In most places that type of thing is generally on the second, third page, but the following night there was also a bigger drug bust of some, you know, white drug pushers. They ... writing, no pictures. These are ... keep promoting in this city. ... I ... I go to the library and I look at the old newspaper clippings to get an idea about the history of Wheeling. And ... '58, '57 or '58, Lincoln ... was built. And they had an artist's sketch of Lincoln Homes. And ... artist's sketch ... Cadillac drawn in. ... what I'm saying is you have a media that is promoting racism and really ... criminal justice system in how ... view black Americans and ... as necessary, well, I don't think we're necessary, but they sort of walk past us and don't see us clear. But what I'm saying the solution is education in the

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schools, enforcing a program, parents and community should be ... a program of race relations in the school.

And we as black people can ... white community. Say wait a minute, enough is enough because things are going to get very, very strange very shortly. Eventually ... two things. There are some real true implications there that we better take a look at, you know. ... going to jail. There's still a lot more black folks going to jail ... going to jail now. And just that general agenda from ... Republicans. But if we look at the modern Republican party, it was built on the issue of race in 1964. When Barry Goldwater ran, five states vote for him, and it was Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, South Carolina and Georgia. And that was the genesis of the modern Republican party. The south used to be solid Democrat for a hundred years. And the race-based Republican party, Ollie North, David Duke, Jesse Helms, all people who are in control now. So attitudes do change fairly easily in this city, especially when we're such a small minority. We better take a look and try to straighten this thing out before ... serious trouble. There's any questions about what I'm saying feel free to ask.

(applause)

DB: Thank you ... discussion or questions now ... feel free. Yes ...

???: ... about two thousand African-Americans in the city in ... two thousand.

???: ... so hard to say ... people move in and out. It sort of fluctuates between two thousand, twenty-five hundred.

DB: Someone else? Comments, discussion, recollection ...

???: Architecture is my pet subject and I heard two mentions of buildings being constructed by architects, one ...

Do you know of any Wheeling architects and construction firms and what other buildings they might have ...

???: Locally here? Oh, I just know that ... mother. She was mentioning how they ... My mother was, in this urban renewal she was ... She fought it tooth and nail because she knew the long-range implications of what was going to happen. But it seems like ... community just didn't realize the implications of what was going to happen down the line. Because she knew it took years for them to, you know, under this white supremacy situation here, for them to get what they got. And to have it all just eroded in one swing, I think, well the people like Rockefellers, they, you know, they put this thing into place with the ... people here, people that run Wheeling. ... But they knew they could disseminate the whole, put the, put African people at risk. What's happening now. They have think

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tanks. ... think tanks now that tell them what's going to happen 30 years from now ... to and the ... So they're planning ... to try ... to try ... to try ... There's a lot of things going on that we're just not privy to. I have a

handout for you to look at how they can run, like this thing with ... all ... TV and ... because they're all ... up. They're all hooked up. They're all hooked up to the, the power ... Rockefeller is the chairman of the board in this cluster. This cluster, what ... all about ... So they put this in place, disseminate, you know, here in ... infrastructure. So they can, so, so now what's happening in ... Bring the drugs in ... jobs. So all this stuff, it's all orchestrated. This is not happenstance, you know. The ..., you know. ... said on TV, says, on C-SPAN, there's no increase in crime in the last two years, but the perception, the way they talking on the TV, the way they cover

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in the newspapers, the way they ... And these guys, these guys, drug traffickers, drug traffickers ... in Wheeling. If you get busted ... they all ... And these guys going to jail for five, ten years, whatever for this little nickel and dime ... And they keep ... See, I used to work in probation. See, they get money for this. They get money for all this, station up here on Grandview ... Wheeling ... police stuff. It's money. ... I get built up ... and I can make more money and bring more people. And all this money comes in. And it's, it's motivated by white supremacy and money. And a lot ... and you got the ... It's a lot to go into right now, but that's what the whole thing is in this, in this-- There's a book now by Hutchinson, he was on one of those talk shows. ... didn't get a chance to talk too much, it was called the *Destruction of the African, of the Black Image, Black Male Image*. And that's what's going on.

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It's been going on all along, but you're really ... to get everybody on board ... that the black man is a fiendish person. You just-- Just look at the thing with this lady that killed those two kids, you know. She killed these kids, but now maybe there was some psychological problem ... there's a reason, you know, they kind of soft soap it. But if that was a black woman and something like that, they would just ... because they're all ... up. You look at ... CBS and NBC, public broadcasting ... families, the ... I could go on, I could talk forever. But ...

(laughter)

... that's where all this stuff ...

???: ... let's get some more questions.

???: ... turn this ...

???: ...

???: ... return us to ... and give us some ... and some self-esteem to move our ... move up the ladder.

???: One thing, what has happened ... have to find a way to get them some easy victories. What I'm saying is if you're never ... at anything that you've done, I think we have some organizations and ... that have ... some of these children along ... graduate more when they ... image. Then that's a start. The thing is, it's not the ... solution that's going to take place overnight. Some of the things we're doing or the community's doing with the ... James Paige Learning Center, African-American Jubilee. Those all are very positive things. And have to keep on ... this type of pride into them for these types of activities. And hopefully-- We won't get the save all of them. We might get to save a couple. But we have to look at the long-range type of thing also. And eventually we will begin to turn this thing

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around. But really the key is in the, in the educational system. You have be, feel successful there, feel like you have some self-worth and not just ... And you have to-- If you're in there, you always ... minority. You never feel your own strength of your own power. ... college, ... played football. The year I quit was because the four year starter was black, ... blacks from the team. So instead of coach saying ... because you're the only four year starter we have on the team, he said, you both ... And so of course you're outnumbered, and so they vote their friends in. The same thing happens in your educational system. We have some very bright and able children who never get the opportunity to shine because they're in such a minority. I believe we need more community-based things where

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... community-based schooling, after school, where children are able to take a leadership role and will be expand on their abilities to lead. That's the key. Leadership in the city of Wheeling, young leadership, you know, coming through back before the '60s ... young black men from being leaders. And people did progress and did go on to become well known people.

???: ... now. ... as I look around, I guess I'm one of the older generation now. I never thought I'd ever get to that stage, but so be it. But nevertheless, I came out of the, the age before the '60s. And ... school system. Attended a segregated college. So my whole background has come out from the segregated section of our society. And I ... say this, that I admire and wish all of you young people the best on your ... because it is an uphill battle. It's not an easy battle. It's a struggle, but you can do it if you hang in there and don't give up. And don't give in to those things that the world, perhaps, is saying or saying to you that you can't do it. Because I'm here to tell you that you can do anything that

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you put your mind to. You, everyone is given a god given gift to make their life worthwhile. And god didn't make any junk. Black, white or Asian. And I'm telling you that there are battles to be fought, and you can overcome. Just hang in there.

(applause)

Ann Thomas: This lady here has always been my mentor. She was my mentor when I went to an all black school. But I'm a little, just a little bit old, so I had the opportunity of being in a totally segregated situation and then Brown versus Brown, I then went to the integrated situation. But my roots are ... My uncles are ... next door to ... My cousin's ... was my ... and go out to camp ... Now let me tell you about that. ... scout camp for all the girls in the valley. We went after all the white girls in the community went. So Lucy and I talked about our ... tape recorder so that some of what we have discussed and the things that we both share, because she went to ... Martin, I went to ...

???: ...

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AT: See, she corrects me whenever-- So this is, these are things she probably needs to get-- Someone needs to tape, get the tape and sit down and, and talk to her about her experiences. But they're similar because of things being segregated. The very thing you're talking about ... as far as what the black communities did for all of us, to get us that good self-esteem. This young lady's mother ... I went to school with. ... here. There was a lady named Mrs. Hicks. Mrs. Hicks once a year had every church, Sunday school from all the denominations in the community, she put on an all day Sunday afternoon ... Whatever your talent was as a child, ... sing, play the piano. She didn't care. But that taught us self-esteem. We got to be up on stage. The very things that were ... when things were segregated, that's what we need to be doing now. So all of the things all of you on that stage are

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trying to do, that, to me, is what we need think about to show our children what can be, and that we care about them, that we love them. Now I'm in the school system; I'm only one person. No child coming through my door ever feels put upon, black, white ... But I do observe some things. I do see some things. Teachers' attitudes, as someone has said, as it relates to what we should be like, because the media, because the society we're living in. So we are going to have to take into our own control our own lives. And it's got to start with each one in this

room.

(applause)

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???: I want to commend you all for what you have done together. And I've enjoyed listening to the history of Wheeling. I'm not a ... I don't really like it ... well. But I notice also all the things that you're talking about that are on TV. The programs that show the black man and black person in a funny, silly, negative attitude are the ones that go over very well. The newspapers and media, I have written letters to the newspaper when I was ... about the same thing, and I think that what we need to do ... talk about it, write letters to the editor, and protest it every time we see it. The whole community, black, white ... and say it's wrong. Every time you look on the TV and see a, a white person being busted for something, you see their face. They very seldom keep them ... it. If it's a white person, they won't do that. And it really makes a big difference. And I don't know why unless it's that we don't have the power to, to, you know, fight against it.... to fight for us. And so I cannot understand this attitude. ... for a long time in trying to get these young people to stay in school.

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When we were growing up and in a segregated school I ... We were taught that we needed to ... qualified than anybody else in order to be able to get where we ... All of my life I've had to fight and ... people who say that I was only there because of my color and my sex. And I felt that I was there because I was qualified, I was able to say what I wanted to say because they couldn't ... because I was qualified. And so we have to learn. Now I'm not anti ... have a lot of friends. I've been in an integrated society since I ... military in '53. But I still know that there are problems. And we see them every day. I've had white friends ... He ran on a racist ticket. I've had white people point that out to me before I could say it to them. And you see the, the progress of affirmative action and EEO ... ever since he came to ... You have a lot of the laws that are supposed to be give us a break, give us some help. And most often they are used against us or they're used for somebody else. And I always tell the story that they ... survey ... Lyndon Johnson was in power, and I was working for the department of ..., you know. ... colored or Negro, and we want to know if you would like to be called by another name. African-American, black or something. And they were saying why don't you say that you'd rather be minority because that has no implications whatsoever. Now what happened was

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that they came back and said out of the survey that most of us said we wanted to be called minority. I don't

know how true that figure is, but they came in then and said all blacks from now on will be called a minority. ... all ... regulations and things and ... Negro and put in minority. And ... we became the ... female, black female became a minority. The Alaskans became a minority. Indians, Eskimos, everybody else became a minority. And we ... And I saw in-- I was working with EEOC and affirmative action with IRS and I saw a statistic came out ... Washington, DC, to us showing how many other people in the minority roots ... in government employee. And would you believe Native Americans, Chinese, Eskimos, everybody else had ... increase numbers of people on the system according to that report ... minorities, black people had gained from ... three and four to ... five. But would you believe black positions had lost. We actually lost ground. I took it over to show it to ... I never saw another statistic.

(laughter)

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But those things happen. Now how are we going to-- What are we going to do about it? We are going to have to instill in our young people their worthiness to stay in school, to learn a trade and to learn to support themselves. What will happen to us ... scared. What's going to happen. A couple of years ago, ... mentioned ... by ... What happened. Immediately all those people on welfare ... And they were threatening to cut it out. Why ... reinstate it. Probably because there were so many people that were scared ... because ... live ... Now they're talking about phasing out welfare. And how many of our young black women have these children, and our young black males have these children because they get a welfare check. That we think ... What's going to happen to those ... What's going to happen to them. It is going to disseminate them here and in the pocketbook. And those things we need to think about. We have got to train them to be able to learn to live and learn to keep their home and exist on the money they make. And that is going to be up to the black community. We see the

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NAACP being attacked because Chavis is gone. You've seen Espy, our black cabinet member, he's gone. They are now ... see Mr. Barry in. And statistically I think they ... our black politicians ... And every time you ... black heroes for very long. Somebody will find something to start to get rid of them. ... well they've got a flaw in them ... I don't know, but I do know this is what's happening. And we ... being taken out. When Andrew Young got to ... to United, United Nations, somebody said he talked to the wrong people, and he got sent back. ... there's something wrong with him and ... These are things that you have to look at. How we're going to ... We'll have to be like ... Martin Luther King did and ask for the help of our white brothers and sisters to join us

to try to keep ourselves as Americans, as ... We can't just separate and do it by ourselves. We don't have that power. So you have to learn to walk across the line. And, and I hope that all of this will take a positive attitude ...

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???: ... mention is about welfare, you know, and the images of people on welfare ... so many more whites on welfare than there are blacks. Even with the number of children of black females ... something like one point four, compared to white females like two. But anyway, it's that image that has been perpetuated over the years about welfare, welfare ... it's a perpetuation of a myth of welfare ... for white females back in the '20s, ... history of it. But it's those myths we have to battle. How can we change those ... because we as a group of people in this country have progressed faster than any minority, any country in the history of the world. So maybe the message should be different. One thing I have a problem with even with ... is the message is not ... should be a message of failure ... message of victory. How we overcame slavery and how we progressed. ... my grandmother, she died 102 years old, '68, so my father ... slaves What I'm saying is slavery is so close and ... past

(541)

130 years was truly phenomenal. And I believe one way of changing things is to start talking about our victories instead of our defeats. And I don't know ...

???: ...

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???: Yeah, I just have a quick comment too. The other day someone was talking to me, was kind of bemoaning the fact that there weren't any democratic leaders in the Democratic party. And it just occurred to me that that's one of the problems that we ... is that we keep looking for somebody else to be a leader when it's us who can do it. I mean what there has to be done, it's up to us to do it. We can't wait for somebody else to do it.

(applause)

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???: ... The bottom line is to talk about strategies and ... strategies and different ... but we're also in this room full of expertise and information. ... and I ... listen to that and think about the fact that in, in developing strategies, one ... but to me, we're looked at as an entertaining type of society. I mean as long as sports heroes are making the big salaries, and there's comedy shows on TV that ... That's supposed to be progress so a lot of people are swept in by that. But ... on the other side of the coin, when it comes to economic development and,

and putting together strategies for businesses and like ... making sure the money passes around, that ... we were not, that's not attention getting to us enough. I mean it's like people ... because they like ... something that they can do and I can make some money. But, you know, I listen to what's being said and think about-- I go back to that thing

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of dissemination, passing information around ... history as much as anything else. My ... I mean when I think about strategies I think about technology and I think about ... the fact that, you know, ... common goal and ... says we have an opportunity to make everybody in this community ... we passed information through computers and networks and et cetera. And we should be utilizing them. ... tree. I want to take advantage of what's already built because everybody else uses it. And when ... talking one thing, ... talking another. And we're in this room ... information that's got to be documented and gotten into the ... of the individuals of our community. ... because we're moving information. And you can move information across ... just in case you ... in the program that's trying to kill the information, you just keep going and going and going. Well that's a strategy to me. That's

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a strategy that says in some way, shape or form we're going to overcome the ... to get the information in the ... you got to get the name, address, and I want the serial number. But you got to get that part in order to get the information across to you. It takes a little bit of money for the ... the street smarts that we have sometimes to get things done. To me that's survival, that's looking at the situation and saying you can get around it because I know that there's enough expertise in this room to do it. So I just wanted to ... because I look at things in a technological manner that says let's take advantage of what's out there ... When you start ... I feel a lot of times people are saying 'now do it my way and my way only.' But I think we can do it all the ways. They got the information. The ... or ... or somebody else out there has got the information and seems to know what the problem is. All I want to do is move it to the proper hands. That's what ... and it seems to be effective. I mean are we stupid enough to believe that we can't do the same thing. So I mean that's the way I look at it. I look at it

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as we're all ... here and we have the technology and we have the networks. And I mean ... I know that ... anybody in this room should ... If you don't I'll teach you how. So let's go.

???: One last thing, did we have media representation here tonight?

???: ... newspaper was informed and--

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???: Newspaper was informed.

???: And television also.

???: And the television. But nobody cared to show up. So--

???: ... even put in the paper other than what the Klines were doing in their Faces of Wheeling ...

???: And so what ... one of us will do is to send them down an article saying look ... and see if they will put that in ... and then see. Because when the ... Center opened, the news media would not come. And so if we just sit back and don't care about ... call anybody to task, we're not going to get anything but negative ... Okay. And ... women were the only ones ... What I was saying was these are the people we are concerned with. Making them get-- Letting them get into a ... place. I understand how ... but you got to remember if you put a black bean in a pot of rice you're going to see that black bean every time it comes to the top. And you're going to know. And you have to remember that each time that you are black, you're going to be spotted every time you ... That you cannot

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distinguish each individual grain of white rice. If it goes down to the bottom and comes back up to the top, you won't know it from another. But if you put a black bean in it, then you're going to know it. So that's what, what happened. And that's why I'm ...

???: ... saying is that what has happened in the black community has become some self-fulfilling prophecies. If you tell people something long enough they begin to believe it about themselves. ... how media has told young black males that they're worthless and they're ... drug ... eventually we begin to believe that. And the message that should be coming across should be positive messages. And we're

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also victims of wrong ... because too often we expound upon our failures and our defeats instead of promoting our victories. And we have a lot more victories in this life than we have failures. If you read the latest news items like ...

(tape 2, side 1)

???: ... any group in this country so far as ... In the '80s the black male ... grew faster than any other group so

far as money in this country. Those are things we need to be telling our children instead of telling them that drugs ... always drugs, drugs, drugs or criminal, criminal, criminal. We should be telling very positive ... try to do and the media should be focusing on, focusing on that instead of indoctrinating us into criminal mentality ... kids ... jail or welfare or whatever.

???: Wanda?

(009)

Wanda Brown: I just have a short--

???: ...

WB: Comment, you know. I think we're so busy trying to be something else and a lot of people are disassociating themselves from the black community, whatever. I'm in the education field and ... And I think people need to get more involved in the schools. They need to make people responsible for what's going on in the schools. There's not ... education, very, very little of it going on. We were at a state of the schools meeting last year, and they're telling about how wonderful the Ohio County schools are. They went to different schools and filmed. And this is something that they're showing people. There were no minority students at all in it. They only have about eight black teachers in the

(020)

whole, close to a hundred teachers in Ohio County. None of them were in it. We have an Oriental teacher, very, very good teacher. She wasn't in this film. There were no minorities in this film. And so what you're going to do is show people this film, and say this nice, clean school system has no problem because the few minorities that we have in the school are kind of like roaches, you know. We take care of them if we see them, but if not, you know, just kind of ignore them. But I think people should be responsible. You've got a school that is a ... a very good school, minority type school. People aren't fighting for. You have no history left. We lost Lincoln; you're going to lose ... if you're not careful. People need to be responsible. Kids are getting kicked out every day, you know. I think we need to stand up and say, 'look, you can't do this to our kids, you can't do this to our community.'

(030)

We were very fortunate, we got to listen to a speaker, John ..., and he talked about the minority schools and Hispanics and different places. And the things he said, you know what they do is they make you feel like you're ... nothing. It's not worth it. We'll put a little band aid on something, but that's it. So I think we need to look at

that. And the name of the book is ..., very good.

(applause)

???: ... communities. Some pretty indicting things, I think, have been said about Wheeling, and maybe rightly so. I also have questions in my mind. How, and I don't have that much personal experience about ... schools. But I'm wondering if like do the leaders of the black community have normal relationships with say, Doctor Jones. I mean do you go and say 'okay, let's just sit down and talk' before there's confrontation and problems. Do you have lines to like Jim Curnes? Do you go in to the

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city manager just to say, 'okay, we're here, we have some things on our mind ...' Or go to Ogden Nutting. I mean are there relationships set up in the community where when there is a problem, then you can go back as a friend or as a, you know, ... can't build friendship that fast, but as a person that they already know in another, you know, rather than always confrontational, if that's the case. I, I just wonder if, you know, ... saying this. It takes time to be a leader and say 'okay I'm going to set up 50 million meetings' ... And the other thing is, you know, like I'm a Catholic. I don't think I've ever heard, well, I'm not sure if I can say this, but I don't remember some very strong sermons in the Catholic church about racism. Recently. I'm wondering if during Martin Luther King celebration or

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... whatever day is picked, if-- I don't know again how this can be done, if there is an effort to make a ... go to the other religions and say, 'hey, why don't we do a city wide Sunday on, everyone speak to racism in the city.' It may be a subtle thing, but I don't experience it that much, and I keep thinking, you know, things can't be all this perfect. Where is it, you know. I think it's out there. So, you know, maybe something like that may not be a bad idea. And I think it would be very ... if that makes any sense. I'm not ...

(064)

Ann Thomas: ... about 20 years ago when Pam ... problems that were occurring in the community, Clyde went to the newspaper and personally talked to Ogden Nutting. But one person going isn't going to make a difference. And I don't think he was involved in city council even at that point. But because of, like Worrick was showing the paper, everything that's going on now went on 20 years ago. It's like we go around in circles. And for a while things will go along, and people appear to be trying to make things work. And then I don't know if we get comfortable, I don't know what the answer is, what the-- And then we're back to where we started from.

But I know for a fact my husband went down to the newspaper not once, but has gone more times than most of us probably have to address the issue of ... When you show the paper. Back then they used to say 'black male, black female.'

(077)

I mean they were-- The blatantness of things. The organization came out ... Martin Luther King, when he was assassinated, the people in the community decided to get together. And that was at the church ... Saint Matthews. So there have been things going on in the community. The young group that's coming along now. The children when Shirley Paige was involved, Gene Paige was involved. Thelma was involved. People in the black community. Now on what ... do we bring people back together. I don't know. I don't know how we change that. And it, it might be ... I was like 20, 30 years ago, ... more energy. Now those of us who are older look at this and think what, what, what's the difference, what's changed? Because we keep going back in circles. And as, as Worrick ... said, maybe that's the strategy. We get comfortable once we reach a certain-- I don't know what the answer is, but I do know they try ... churches getting involved. They tried with Martin Luther King. For a while things will go fine, then ... die out. Of course we have a lot of black people in the

(093)

community who have gotten ... no jobs here.

???: ... speak to that. I am one mother who did not encourage my children to stay around in this area. Once they got their background and education I suggested they go other places in order to try to develop to their full potential, which they have. I have one son that worked at Channel 7. Channel 7 has been a good learning ground for a lot of the TV personalities because Faith Daniels is one of Channel 7's protégés as well as my son who works for Channel 4 now. And I said to him on a number of occasions after he left, I said we don't know what's going on in the black community anymore since you left because there very little shown, positive events showing going on in the community in Channel 7.

???: Thank you.

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???: ... question about the churches. For one thing, I believe Martin King Committee was first put together, one of the things we were attempting to do ... between churches as one suggested ... group of blacks would go to the white church, whites would come to the black church. And ... Interesting bring that up ... minister ... and we were talking, he's a minister ... white congregation. He talked about how many people have left his

congregation because he is a black minister. We have black minister who's ... over two churches, one church is black, one church is white. ... and ... Council of Churches ... any white parishioners at that church. ... another church, ... tell you a little bit about the psychology that we're dealing with. ... god's not the church ... people. The other issue is develop communications with black leadership. I was sitting ... leadership and maybe I have a different opinion about what you should do in your community, you know. Whites ... community. They don't point to a white leader out there some place, but yet still when it comes to us, we go find a black leader, which, you know, tells us that we're not part of your community. My theory is is that there's a problem ... and he shouldn't care about the black community ...

(applause)

... problem. Every black person in this community ... every single day. If they see it on the street, ... be able to sleep ... whatever. Every time you see one of us we should be ... give them hell. Because I think too often we have black leaders often times ... one person ... black communities diffuse situations. That sometimes I think people should be angry and take action, not necessarily violent

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action ... like that. But I mean that if politicians can count, they're only counting one person who's coming down and talking to them as probably Ogden Nutting has only talked to one or two people, but he can count the number of newspapers he's selling in the black community ... business people. ... talking about the leader of the community, we do not have any resources or we cannot ... anything like that so ... black leaders is almost a facade because we do not have any real control over the destiny of our people or ... you know, they ... or not have any power to do anything. It takes money most of the time. And we are paying tax dollars, and the mayor's technically our leader. We should force him to be a leader. Whoever ... force that leadership; we should not set ourselves aside. ...

???: Thank you. Anyone else? Gentleman in the back.

(158)

???: ... said was informative and ... But I like to make one correction. The Prunytown judges, ...

(laughter)

(applause)

???: ...

Michael Nobel Kline: Oh, I just heard a fairly brief reference tonight, I think from a member of the panel, about

reaching youth about there was some, some mention of more after school programs, and I guess everybody thinks that 'oh, well, James Paige Center will take care of that.' And I'm wondering if the panel could address that issue a little bit more to see what resources there are in the community and how, and how kids can be more engaged. I heard a member of the African-American community in Wheeling here say recently that-- He's a man in his 40s, and he said that he felt that he had, and other members of his generation, had failed to pass the torch to, to the younger generation as the torch had been passed to him by people a generation older than he. And I don't, I don't know whether that's so or not, but that was his reading of it anyway. I'm just wondering what, what resources we have here to, to begin to engage young people during those brief hours when the school doesn't have a hold of them.

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???: ... what happened to the community there. A lot of the churches would-- Some churches would open their church and have retired teachers and et cetera help in tutoring kids after school to, to, you know, to help in the academic area with the kids because you know a lot of the parents now, both parents are working. Stress factor on the jobs. All that stuff ... eat up our time. All this is ... all this stuff is orchestrated. Every ... you know all this stuff, it, it plays to destroy family. The TV is also destroying the value system ... coming to the schools ... You know there's a lot of things that ... this is too much. What we need to do is we have to, the community, if the community wants it, they're going to have to do. The community's going to have to do it. And we have the ... sitting empty all day. And, and we have some retired teachers, and it's the will of the people. I mean the people see it, and they see all this stuff around them. And they got to ... and we're going to have to get together and do. Look at the TV, look at the big sports and all this trivial stuff that's on TV. And ... book here that says ... There's another book called *Media Monopoly* by ... And there's a ...

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and this, this is a very insidious thing, this TV. And it distorted, it distorts your, distorts reality. It invents reality. It shows you something that's really not true. And, and what it does is like ... hits at you all day long so you believe it. And that's what it ... people ... that's not right. We have to get away from that and free up ourself and ... And we're going to have to start getting back to ... and, and shore up our situation. That's everybody, you know. Teach our kids value systems. And there's a rap song out now, Everything that ... See ... they're aware of it that everything ... And they got ... Now, you know, what kind of-- And that's-- The kids are just a reflection of what's going on. And the kids see adults chasing money. So everything the kids are doing,

the adults are doing. So we got to clean up our act so we can get those kids to move on and do what's right.

We've got to do it first, the adult chasing money ... out there ... you know, helping the system.

???: Thank you.

(applause)

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???: ... black community. If you look at what's happening to the black community in the last couple years ... rest of the city, they've done a lot of things, very progressive in East Wheeling. You do have James Paige, you have ... You have ... young ... and men of tomorrow ... There are things and ... coordination of resources where we might be falling down in East Wheeling. But as a very progressive-- East Wheeling might be the most progressive area in the city, in the city. We have programs in East Wheeling that other parts of the community wish they had because problems in the city of Wheeling aren't just unique to East Wheeling. There's problems in South Wheeling, the Island, Elm Grove, ... hear about. And we ... most people if you really sit down and look at it.

???: ...

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???: To answer your question, myself, for like 20 years I've been on the corner of 14th Street. And for the, for the 20 years, I've been talking to youth, young youth. And why I've been doing that because I think that's our future. And what I see was the problem with our young youth today is their culture has been gone away from them. And if a person doesn't-- If a kid doesn't have no sustained knowledge about themselves, then he, he don't really want to learn. You could put him into anything, any classroom or ... try to be a ..., you know, he doesn't have no interest in it. So what I've been trying to do is-- What I'm going to do is open up homes that I've been trying to get into for the last year. But I've been ... into a lot of problems, my own problems with my own family and my, you know, money situation. But I overcome that now, and now I think we're supposed to have a meeting here, maybe Monday, to get back to, to our, our culture. And what I really like to do is what you was talking about, black kids after school. And really teach them and show them, not just teach. And without no knowledge to back anything up, is to tell somebody something then

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show them on the face of the earth what's going on around them so they have better choices in their life so they can make a better choice in their life, wrong or right. But you have to know what's going on around you, and you

must know your culture before you know anything else. You must know about yourself before you know about any, anything else. And since we are the mathematics, I'm talking about African people, we are the science, and our kids go into these schools, these European schools. And this is why you see them not learning and get kicked out. Because they see nothing in the books that looks like themselves, or represents theirselves. Then you have white teachers. That's ... trying to teach a black ... about his African culture when he wasn't even, not even born on the face of the earth. And he still doesn't even know about the African culture yet here today. And he's going to try to teach our African children about their culture. So this is what I ... to do. I've been here around 20 years on the block. Like I said, I talked to each black kid for the last 20 years. And a lot of people thought I, you know, goofy, crazy. Even my own family ... change my name to an African name. And I-- For me to put myself in perspective to have a ... raise a family and have children, then I have to go first and change my name, not to a European name. I kept the name Roy

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because my mother named me that. I took, I kept the Cochran because that was my father's name, out of respect to both of them. But out of, out of my family, they came 16 children, one mother, one father. I am the youngest of that. And all of my life when my mother was living, I would always ask my mother why did ... name. And her answer was by the time she got to me, she ran out of names. So not knowing that she ... over to know that one day that I would go back to Africa. And to see my culture, because I was really confused in my life at one time. And if I know what I was before and can change my life completely turn it all the way back around, just one trip. To see the truth. And when you know that truth, is that truth will set you free. And this is what I would like to do and going to do. And when I had my children I named them black names right off the bat. So

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they don't have to be screwed up when they start off their life. ... they're black children so why not have black names. Why would a black child have a European name. You don't see no Chinese running around here with no Italian name, see. You don't see no Indian running around here with no Chinese name, see. Well, why are we so scared and go back to our culture. We are a magnificent people, see. We are the first of civilization. And it's all still sitting right over there in Egypt. There's nothing older than Egypt. There is no, no-- Before there was ... Egypt. Before there was Africa, it was Africa before there was an Egypt. And there was no Romans yet. There was no Greece yet when these people built magnificent monuments, builders, science. Put the pyramids

in the ... of the earth. Knew that knowledge. And the Greeks had to come and learn that knowledge. Now thousands and thousands of years later, Europeans is teaching the knowledge, see, about us. But we're, they're up here, and we're down here. They just changed it all the way around, see.

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And it's all, the truth is on the wall still. They're dusting it out. They're ... it out. But our kids has lost this, is losing this culture. And so-- And no father or mother there or mother there or no father there, see. That's the system has put the black man in jail to, to keep him from the family for the family to die out. No culture. So when you have no culture, then you are dead. Because you just functioning. Physically and mentally you function, but that's about it. And that's all, you know, that's all you do. You don't know, you running around here being a doctor and a lawyer and don't know even who ... is, see. You go to European schools and say that you know about the Greeks, what the Greeks taught, and don't know nothing about your African people, did ... before the Greeks was even on the face of the earth, see. But they dust us out. This is where they change everything. They revolved it all around so we would fall. So this is what I think that in my lifetime that I will do, will teach black kids about themselves. And hope for after that that they can turn

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their life around like I've turned my life back around. And that's all, more or less, what I have to say.

(applause)

DB: I think we could have done this in two or three sessions. It seems like we have a lot of information that people really want to talk about ... forum. ... things to talk about ... and Darryl. We all have different agendas. We need to somehow figure out how we can get all the agendas together to make, to make a difference. This has been really good opportunity. I'd like to thank Carol Campbell sitting in the back from the West Virginia Humanities Council. I have to read that because I never get it right. And Catherine Jordan, I forgot to tell you who she was. If you want your pictures reproduced, that's who you need to see at Independence Hall. I'd like to thank everybody for being here. I know we have a lot more questions, and I thank everybody for their comments. I thank ... Lee, Owens Brown, Worrick Mosebay, Darryl Clausell, and all of you for being here. I really wish we could have had the TV folks here because they really missed a good

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opportunity, but as often happens, they're not covering our things. I don't think it's the end of the dialog; I think it's the beginning of the dialog. And Wheeling's birthday will continue on. And hopefully our community can

continue to grow, and we can talk about ... issues ... school because that's one of the places we really need to work on because that's where young people are. And if we don't change for them, there won't be anything. So we need to take ... advice and really get into our school system and see what's going on. And I'm not just talking about African-American people; I'm talking about everybody here. And anybody who has any influence in any realm, whether it's the

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financial realm, historical realm, the churches, the schools, anything that you're involved in. Just keep plugging away for, for the improvement of everybody. But the community has to come together and take care of a lot of things. I think ... wrote 'the faces I see today are the faces I see almost everything we do.' We need to get new faces. ... I thank you for letting us put this presentation on. There are refreshments in the back of the room. I know the hour is late, but please try to stay and have some. Thank you.

(applause)