

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

YSU History

Black Student Experience project

OH 2250

MRS. SHERRY COX CALLOWAY

Interviewed by

Tilisia Williams

on

June 21, 2023

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Black Student Experience

Interviewee: Sherry Cox Calloway

Interviewer: Tilisia Williams

Subject: YSU History - Black Student Experience

Date: June 21, 2023

TW: This is an interview with Mrs. Sherry Cox Calloway for the Youngstown State University project on the Black Student Experience. The interview is being conducted using Webex. And today's date is June 21st ,2023 and my name is Tilisia Williams.

Mrs. Calloway I wanted to start off by asking you where did you grow up? What was your childhood like?

SC: I grew up on the North side of Youngstown. I graduated from the Rayen School Class of '72. And then I went on to Youngstown State University. My goal was to be a political science. I wanted to go to law school, but I was going for so long and I took a lot of different subjects. I ended up with a "Combined Social Studies [degree]".

TW: Are you a 1st generation college student within your family?

SC: No, I have an older brother. He went to Bluffton College. And I have younger brothers. They went to Fisk University. So no, I'm not.

TW: So why did you choose YSU? What drew you to it?

SC: Well, I went to YSU because it was closer. It was a commuter college. And I just enjoyed being at home for a while. I did want to go to a way for school, but the way things worked out I was blessed to go on a full scholarship. Well, it wasn't a scholarship. It was BVR [Ohio Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation]. But I did go free and I did get to work at Youngstown State University. So, it worked out.

TW: How did that come about? You getting your scholarship to YSU?

SC: Well, we had a lot of role models. We had a lot of village people that worked with us. A couple was Miss Virginia Carter. And Mrs. Laura Lumsden and they worked with us. While I was at the Rayen School and they gave me the opportunity and it was it was good. All I had to do with maintain a C average.

TW: I heard that you that you mentioned two people who helped you while you were at Rayen to help you get your scholarship here. When you came here, were there any faculty members that helped you while you were here? That contributed to your education here?

SC: Oh, yes, ma'am. Mr. [Hugh] Frost. He was the Dean. Well, he was over... He was like the minority coordinator. Mr. Al Bright. Mr. [Tom] Franklin. They're both deceased now, but there was a lot of them. My guidance counselors [too]. Yeah. There was a lot of people. It took a village, and plus those ladies they worked with us while we were in college. So it wasn't like we were there by ourselves. So, yeah.

TW: Were there any particular events that you did at YSU? What did a typical day look like for you as a YSU student?

SC: Study, study, study! Work, work, work! You don't believe that! You're a college student. You know you go to school. You work hard, you play hard. I worked on campus the whole time, and I studied a lot. I went to the library a lot. I lived in the library, but then afterwards, you know, the social events. They had a lot of social events. We started our own sorority, the IZs- Zeta Phi Beta sorority Incorporated. But we transferred it. We had to go up to Kent State to pledge, because we didn't have that sorority on campus. And then they had student... just any type of functions that they would offer, like, government. I was in government, so I would go there. I went to the Black history programs. That was awesome! We did that because that was new to me. So when they went up there [to YSU] it was like, wow! So it was a good, good experience. So, anything that they offered that I could go to, I took advantage of it.

TW: What was that experience like for you being in a sorority? Where you one of the people who started the sorority?

SC: And we were older, so we had to go back to Kent State. That's where they originated. So, it was 7 of us from Youngstown and 6 from Kent State University. So, we had a big big, a big group. Because we had to travel after work, so we had to go up there. And we pledged. And because we were the mature young ladies, older, pledging and then they were younger, we had to go through a lot of sensitivity sessions to really work things out. But it worked out. It really worked out. May 3, 1975. I think that was our 48th [anniversary]. So we brought it back on campus to YSU. And it was a great experience.

Mind you- most of my family was Deltas [Delta Sigma Theta] and AKA [Alpha Kappa Alpha]. So, you know, they were very popular. It still is. But now it's sisterhood. It's all about sisterhood.

TW: Besides the sorority, I heard that you mentioned that there were a lot of Black events for the Black students that you attended. Were you participating in those events and clubs as well as being in a sorority?

SC: Yes, ma'am. it might be another name, but I'm saying its the Black Student Union. I think that's what it was, but yes, we were a part of that. And it was very wholesome because, you know, if you didn't learn it in high school. And now you come to college, its just like a brand new experience. And I really treasure that because I learned a lot. Like this past weekend, we celebrated Juneteenth. So now that's all we do is Juneteenth, you know? But I'm glad. If you don't know, two years later in Texas, we were free, but we didn't know we were free. And so now it's like, "wow!" But anytime that I could join any type.... It was the Freedom Corporation. I'm trying to think... delta kufu. It was the boot dancers and the Harambee Dancers.

So that was a lot of different things that we were learning. It was like, new. But that was a new experience. Mr. Al Bright. Oh, yeah. what that other lady's name? She's the Clerk of Courts clerks right now- Brown! She was part of that Black history experience. So, yeah, it was a lot. And you learn what they say: When you know better, you do better. So it was a great experience.

But, you know, when you're on a commuter college, we all pulled together because we all left and went home. We attended the football [games]. Football advanced to basketball. And we learned to meet different people from all over. So, yeah! You just brought it back. Yes, ma'am! Girl, I almost forgot!

TW: [laughs] It sounded like you had a lot of communities while you were in college. Where did the meetings for these communities and these groups happen? Where did you guys feel comfortable on campus?

SC: Oh, we went to the Kilcawley Center. You know, because you had to sign up for the program. In fact, I worked at Kilcawley. Everything was basically on Kilcawley. Sometimes they were in the library. I'm thinking that the library wasn't that big. But everything was on campus. Everything we did was right on campus.

TW: Are you talking about this library, the Maag Library?

SC: The library and the Black Studies program. They have programs sometimes in their... where they were located. But most of the times it was at Kilcawley Center. In the Chestnut Room. Yeah!

TW: What was your experience like working at Kilcawley?

SC: I worked at the Printing Department. I did all the printing. That's when we did everything manual. You know, we did that. Oh, God I worked in the book room. I think I worked in the library. I worked all over that place!

TW: [laughs]

SC: Oh, Katy Katy, Katy, we work there. You know, we worked there then we were allowed to register early. It was good. I enjoyed that. That way you can get your classes, because a lot

of time the classes were closed. But because we worked on campus, we were privileged enough to take our classes earlier. So that was the advantage of [working] there and I loved it. I loved it.

TW: Being a part of sororities and a part of groups like the BSU and the Freedom Corporation, do you feel like you were a part of a larger community? Outside of campus, were there events that you guys participated in that maybe weren't on campus that affected you?

SC: Oh, yes, ma'am. I remember I stated to you that we went to Kent State. And Kent State is a bigger campus. To pledge there. But, you know, we took advantage of that. Akron University, I think we even went down to Columbus. We were all over the place! But what I'm saying is, it was a connection. And a lot was through the Black Studies program, the African studies. Sarah Brown-Clark, that's who was in charge of it back then. And Mr. Al Bright. He was in the Black Studies program, so it was a wealth of information. And, you know, like, when you're hungry for something, it makes you thirst for more. And then we talked a lot about things. That was in the early 70s, so it was a lot of demonstrations and stuff going on. And awareness. Awareness was so important. So, you know, when you connect the dots and everybody. You're communicating to change your whole idea on how different things were. You're learning the learning process.

TW: What was your first day of classes like at YSU? Do you remember how you felt when you got on campus?

SC: Crazy see, because, when you graduate from high school to college, you had to take all these new, I mean, the same thing that you almost had to take again. And to me, that was wasted time. You couldn't really come to your major until you took these prerequisites from YSU. And I didn't understand why we had to take it again. You know, how much English? All that extra stuff that we had to take and it just to me, it's like, come on. Let's just get to the meat. That was a lot, but it was good. You know, you have to go along with the program.

And you had to maintain certain grades too, so you learned that. And we found out we weren't as smart as we thought we were in high school, you know? You can be a 4.0 [student] in high school then you come to college and you feel like you're dumb. Yeah, so it was a big experience. Even though it was a commuter college, it was a lot. And remember, we couldn't work until our sophomore year. So, we was finding our way around campus and learning the different professors. So that was a big, big, big experience. To me.

TW: You said, you guys weren't allowed to work until your sophomore years, but the only job that you ever had was on campus. So before working on campus, how did you make a living? What kind of things did you do off campus before you were able to work?

SC: I worked at the BP gas station. I worked so much! I started at 14 years of age. And it was with the [theater?] program and... (That was a phone call.) I learned a lot, because working

skills was always in our family life. And I came from a family of 5 children and 2 parents. Even though my father worked, I contributed back to the family. It wasn't like, this was my money and I could spend it. I did use most of it to buy my own school clothes and stuff. Most of it was contributed back to our family.

Girl, I worked a lot! I worked at the law department down at Youngstown City Hall. I worked at the Gilead House. Summer programs working with the youth. Whatever it was needed. I worked downtown for the summer program with the Job and Family Services [department]. It wasn't that, but that's where we worked.

Working for the summer. We had to work. And I would really, really emphasize that for the young people now. I think the younger the young people could work and have life skills. I think that would change their whole dynamics. Appreciation of working! Yes.

TW: I'm sorry, I almost cut you off earlier. I heard you mentioned that you worked at the a law department downtown. What was that experience like for you?

SC: It was good. They work me to death, you know. They worked. It was a good experience because I learned a whole gamut of downtown Youngstown. I worked with Attorney William Higgins. He was the Law Director or Assistant Law Director. So I had to go read files, do files checkup. Do researching for them. Go for whatever they wanted us to do. Working in the Law Department was a great experience, because you learned a filing system. You're learning the law, the cases. And it just took me to another level. But I enjoyed that to the utmost.

TW: You said that you majored in social sciences...

SC: I went for political science, but because I took so many subjects, and it was taking me so long to get my degree, I just combined them all. I went for all the social studies, because I had criminal justice, political science, social studies, history. So it was all combined. And now I find out, a 100 years later, all I had to do was go get me an English... Go to school for English, and I could still got a law degree! But, you know, hindsight... If you know better, you do better. I could have got three PhDs!

TW: [laughs] Yes. Oh!

SC: No, I'm just joking. That's how I felt though, at the time. It was a lot of work. [You're] working with your different counselors and sometimes when you go for a class and it's closed, and you've got to wait the whole year. You go to the summer. And I'm not a summer person. I went, but I ended up dropping it. It's just too much.

TW: So having those multiple majors, like you said, you had combined all the criminal justice in the history, how did you balance that out with your regular college life? Being a part of so many groups and community activities?

SC: Well, my first priority was going to school. And they like to say: you work hard, you play hard. You worked. But then we had to party. We had to have some relaxation. Now, remember now we were 18, 19, 20. So we're not no young children. We're young adults. So you learn balance. You learn you can't go party all night and then get up to go to work. Can't do that. You got to learn to sacrifice. And remember we're still at home, so we still had to respect the home life. Some people lived in apartments, but I still maintained at home the whole time, so that was good. And you still got to follow rules. You still got to follow your parents' rules.

You know, but it was, it was good. It was good because you are hungry for knowledge. You have to work cause you got to eat. But then you want to have social life. And the social life was just enjoying other young people and seeing them. There was some younger, and there was some older who went to school. The non-traditional students too.

TW: Why didn't you attend law school? What stopped you from going to law school?

SC: I wanted to go to Austin, Texas and just preparing yourself, you know? You know how you want to do something and I did, and I should. I could have even gone to Akron right now. Hindsight! And it's never too late. It's never too late.

Because I worked for Trumbull County Family Court as a probation officer. So I was still doing the law. I was working with attorneys, but... I just didn't, you know? After a while you just get discouraged, but... There's no excuses. Make adjustments. So it's never too late to go back.

TW: Do you feel like you were provided the correct tools at YSU to be successful?

SC: Yes and no. And discipline. You know, if I didn't have to work and if I went straight steady, it probably would have been different. But I have no regrets. I'm glad I went. I'm glad I had the experience. Like I said, I could [have] minored. I could've had a couple [of] majors, a couple minors and still pursue what I wanted, but it was choices.

If I would come back and be a guidance counselor to the young people, I'd tell them to stack. You know, go after your passion first, and then stack all the rest of them.

TW: You went to school in the late seventies. Am I correct?

SC: Class of 1972-1973.

TW: Okay, were there any local or national events at that time that affected your education, or affected you as a person in general?

SC: Give me a give me a little bit more. I think I know what you're saying, but go ahead and expand that a little bit more.

TW: Like here in Youngstown in 1977, I believe a year before you graduated, there was the Black Monday Crisis where all the mills shut down and affected the entire history of Youngstown. Were there any events [like that]? Or even if you wanted to talk about how that affected

you. Do you feel like those events affected you? How did you perform the school? Did it affect you as a person?

SC: Oh, yeah, because my dad worked for Republic Steel. You know, we're from Republic Steel. My grandfather worked for the one in Campbell, Campbell Works I think. And my brothers work there. So yeah, any type of crisis like that will always affect you because that's your means. Your source of food, you know. And it does. It did. Now, if you look at now, a lot of people got black lung. [They] have all that lung stuff from the steel mills, but it was good. It was hard work.

But it, you know, anytime [time you have] any type of crisis... You're right. I'm glad you said that. Yes, ma'am. Yes, and that has a lot to do it. When jobs are good, they're good. Then you lose jobs. You know, back then you can work and have a decent living. But a lot of people chose to leave for whatever reason. They just want to see that there's a big world out there. But, yeah, you're right. I'm glad you brought that up. I never thought of it like that. Yeah, it was a big national... Oh, yes. Yes, ma'am. See our two heads are better than one.

TW: That happened in 1977 and then you graduated almost a year later. Was there any trouble for you finding a job? Finding a career?

SC: Yes, ma'am. Remember I told you when I graduated, your guidance counselors, they were supposed to direct you into the field that you went to school for. And they were giving me management training. In fact, I worked for management training at J.C. Penney's! That didn't have nothing to do with my social studies. Now you said that part [about the crisis in 1977], and now that I'm thinking about it, yeah, I think that could have a lot to do with it. But then sometimes, you have to take what they give you or go after it yourself. Get a group of people and then you have to go after the different... you know, if you're in social studies, political science, you have to redirect yourself and go where you really...

Remember I said, "stack your passion"? Go with your passions first and then, you know, do the management training. Because, like I said, management training, don't have anything to do with social work, right? Political science.

But again, like I said, if I could talk to these high school children now. Before they go to college, figure out what you really want to do, and basically get you a village around you and work with them. Work with other people. Don't always depend on people to guide you the right way, because a lot of times they don't. Does that make sense?

TW: Yes, ma'am. Going back to your involvement with this sorority... Why did you feel like you had to start a new sorority here at YSU?

SC: Oh, I didn't have to. It's just that the climate. When you go to school with different people, and you like to. Because it doesn't really matter. I could get along with anybody. But I think something new is good. It's good to challenge yourself. So it's good to be around young women. Who have the same ideas and things that you like to do. Remember at the end of the day were all sisters.

And I'm quite sure the deltas, you know, when they came, they... well, some of them started theirs, and then the next group, the AKAs, and then the Sigma Gamma Rhos. Variety is good!

TW: So there were already a lot of Black sororities when you came to YSU?

SC: I think it was Sigma Gamma. I mean, not Sigma Gamma. I think it was AKA and Deltas. And then, you know, I think... Change is good. It's good to dare to be different because you're all working the same philosophy, but doesn't mean you all have to... you know... I think different... Change is good. Competition is good.

TW: What is the story behind that? How did you start the sorority?

SC: Well, they have this interest group called the IZs. And one of my sorority sisters, my friend... brought it up. You know, we hang out with each other and they said, hey, let's check out this. You know, we went to an event where they showed you what IZs were about- interested in Zeta. And so we all said, hey, let's just go. You know, we're commuters. We checked it out. And we checked out everybody else too. But it was... I guess maybe sometimes it's just new. You know, when you have something new on campus. Just saying, let's check them out. And we did, and they sounded good! We didn't know we had to go to Kent to pledge! But it was good. Challenge is good.

TW: Was your sorority a big part of your life at that time?

SC: Yes, and no. When we were pledging. When you pledge and you're interested in a thing... Remember we're talking about different women with different careers and different lifestyle. Then you got to put aside all your differences and then come together and learn each other. So, it was a challenge, you know, learning personalities. It changes things, you know? And then you got to go to a new campus, where you have to learn a whole new group of people. So, change is good, but you have to work through it. You have to work through it in order to reach the goal, to keep your eyes on the prize. So, it was a challenge. It was interesting, but we made it through.

TW: You sound like you had an overall college experience. With it being the 70s at that time, were there any negative experiences like discrimination that you may have faced at that time?

SC: Yes, yes, yes. Anywhere you go, you're going to have it. When you go to college, you know, it's more blatant. You can see things a little bit differently. You know, high school may be a little bit sheltered, but in college is wide open because you got all kinds of people from everywhere. Some people hide it. Let's use the South versus to North. This is up north. So you could be racist. And you really wouldn't know unless, say an opportunity come up, or a part, or a job. You may be more than qualified, but you don't get it. You understand? But down South, they outrightly... like

what we're going through now with the voting. It's very bad, but, you know, you live and learn, but you learn that it's real. It will never go away.

And it's sad. It's a disease. Racism is a disease. And the people that have this disease have to realize that they are sick. You understand? And if we don't talk about it, people will still think, "oh, it's okay." No, it's not.

And it's not about.... You know, like you go to your class and you see certain kids get better treatment than other kids. Well, I thought we were in the same classroom? And it doesn't work like that. Same like [with] a job. Another job, and it's time for promotion and then they changed the game. They changed the rules. No. Or you're overqualified. How are you over qualified and you got a PhD?

You know, you work hard because nothing come easy. It doesn't come easy. But, you know, people again think they're changing the game, but they're not. And that's why, unless she's writing, like, November I mean, August 8. Vote no on that issue, because they're trying to recharge everything we worked for! Things that Martin Luther King, and everybody else work for. They're trying to reverse everything back. And it's like, are you serious? So as long as we are minority, we're going to have to fight every day.

Every day, and we not only fighting for ourselves but for our future. Because our ancestors did. Our ancestors are still fighting. I bet you, they're in the grave turning! They probably can't even read, but it's real, you know? [There are] A lot of people that want to play the game and say that it's okay. It's not! Or if they say they got a couple of Black friends. That's not right. You know, it's not. And sometimes you have to call them on the carpet too. You got to let them know it's not. It's not okay.

And if it's okay, then why are they fighting so hard for us not to vote? We're fighting for rights, our rights to your body as a woman. You understand what I'm saying? And why are they changing the vote in August when they know people are on vacation? So everybody's not going to vote unless they go and vote early. Does that make sense? People have to understand the game, recognized game. And it's going to be here. You know, the people you work with. Sometimes it's your supervisors and stuff. "Oh, it's okay." No, you talk to me like I'm a woman, like you're a woman. Or, you know, I'm a person, I'm not an animal, but don't treat me no other way. And just because....

See, the difference of a lot of people don't understand [is] we were forced to come here. We did not come here willfully. We were forced that's the difference. And then you got people that came here, but they're more immigrants than the immigrants. How about that? Think about that. Is that real or not? That's real. And we have to address that. And people need to, you know, they want to tell you get over it. No, you can't get over it. Never! I still want my reparations. With interest. With interest! Forty acres and a mule? No. With interest and that's real. And people act like it's okay. No. You know this new thing....

Anyway, I'm sorry I'm to wrap up. But that's a big thing. And it's not going away. And you got the fight for everything. You have to. But there's ways to do things differently. Black lives matter. Yes. Black lives matter. They will always matter. That's real. And people can't just... you know, push it aside like it's okay. No. This is not like, let's do a paper and it's okay. It's got to be more. And the people that's doing it need to relook their life. And unless they ever been black, they don't understand what we're going through. They will never ever understand what our ancestors had to go through. Back in the cotton fields. And then

what's so sad right now in 2023, June 20th is alive. It's not going anywhere. And if we don't educate our people, if people don't be sensitive to the needs... We don't want handouts. We want our full paycheck. I don't want a part your paycheck and you act like you're doing me different. You know, like, if you're working somewhere and somebody getting their money is twice as much as you, but you're doing the same work. No, that's not right. It will never be right. Never. Never. And then, like I said, we need to talk about 24/ 7. Every day. Every day. It doesn't go away like Juneteeth. Don't celebrate July 4, because we weren't independent then. Juneteenth is our celebration. And that's real. Do you understand? We have to celebrate our freedom and understand where we're coming from. Okay, I could go on, but I don't want... you know, it's another that's another subject. Did I answer your question? I am truly... I apologize.

TW: No, it's good. Knowledge is good. Like you said. Did your experience on campus influence your involvement within the community after you graduated?

SC: Oh, yes. I didn't know a lot. We didn't read all this in high school. You know, they talked about a certain group, and now if you look around now, different states are trying to ban Black history and knowledge of yourself. So... Yeah, it did. I went to the Million Women March. But I think that was afterwards. I had my children then, but you have to. Yes. Anything that's not right, it's not right. Injustice anywhere is not right. And so, yes, I believe that everybody...
History is history, and if we had to learn everybody's history that they need to learn ours. And that's why we have to push it. And regardless if its at Youngstown State University or Texas or Arizona or South Carolina, where they're doing this, crazy... New York... We need to fight and we used to do marches. I don't know why we're not marching. There's a way you do marches and do it right. And let's go back to January 6 when they did that insurrection. And people act like it was okay. That was not okay! Period. If I were to did it, I would be underneath to jail! And I don't think the punishment... the people that get, like, a slap on the hand. That's not punishment.
You know, we have young men in prison right now for weed. Weed! But they have it where it's legal. So I'm missing why they're still in jail, in prison. You understand? So it's unbalanced. It's not right. It's blind. We're blind. Does that make sense? So we have to continue to fight. And if people is just going along to get along, then they need to stop. And they got to look the man in the mirror. And if they don't really understand, they need to ask somebody that's been through it. When you got your grandmothers and great grandmothers that went to march for voting right, and then went to the polls, and then they were turned around because they didn't have the documentation. That's crazy. That is about crazy as crazy can be. And they walked. Remember they walked to the polls! So that's why it's important to be a part of everything that's going on. If you're not part of the solution, you are part of the problem. And that's real.

TW: What was your experience like doing the Million Women March? What was that event?

SC: It was in Philadelphia. We drove down there. We drove and then, you know, like, when you go to the different... you know, to turn over the rest... there were so many sisters in there. We embraced each other because it's real. You know a woman has power. We ran this place for a long time. We're still running it. And to embrace all those women... We went there to the different speakers and, just talking about what we go through with somebody that looked like you. That was a beautiful experience.

And we did it for a long time and then it stopped, but we need to bring it back. The Million Man March. Bring it back! You know, local ones. Black on black lives matter. It should be done weekly. Monthly. Until they stop shooting, just shooting innocent people. Because they're black. Who does that?

They have technology. I mean, they have those stun guns you can shoot. They think more of animals than they do of us. And that doesn't make sense to me. And you can't tell me with all that training you are intimidated because I'm a black man or a black woman with my hands up. And what's the threat? I'm missing that. What's the threat? I don't get it. But yeah, I think experience in college, just life experience. You know, you see it every day the day they got technology, you know, the social media it's just boom, boom, boom, right there in your face. And it's not new. This is not new. We still talking about the color of a person's skin in 2023. Something is serious wrong. They need to stop talking about the color of our skin and give us our reparation. That's what I want. My 40 acres and a mule plus interest.

You know, they talk about mental health. They talk about all this other stuff. Where is our money? I'm not saying I want you... I know you probably did your research, but just... Our grandmothers went through hell and back. If you look at Oklahoma. The Black Wall Street. They came in and stole everything and burnt it down. Who does that? That's nothing but pure jealousy. And then when you have to go buy a house, you pay 3 or 4 times as much? No. No, that's not right and until we get it together, it's going to always be uprising. It will. It will always be. And I think the young people have a right. They need to protest. All the time, you know? They got all these rights. They had the Pride downtown. They got all of it. But nobody's talking about, like, we don't matter. And we do matter! Black lives matter. Period.

TW: Do you think that the workforce is different now? Like, what do you do right now as a career?

SC: Right now, I'm sitting here, running away from work. I retired. But you never stop. I believe in the police. I believe in them because you do call them. But I believe they need to start walking the beat. Walking and seeing the environment, you know? Walk the neighborhoods. Get to know the people, you know what I'm saying? And then graduate. Not just give them a car with these weapons and then say, you know... Because there are bad people. There's some good. There's a lot more good people. And I don't believe that the training, if I could, I would get out there and help them. I think I would show them to walk the beat. When we were growing up, we knew the policemen. They knew everybody in the neighborhood. And I think the biggest problem is these people that come in and patrol your area. They don't live here, so of course, they won't have an investment. The

people that we knew live with us, work with us. The children went to school with us. And so that changes the whole game. But if I live in Poland, or if I live in Boardman, but I come to work in Youngstown, because the pay is better, but I take my money and back out there, you're not going to feel the same. You see what I'm saying? I think that needs to... in fact, I'm going to call them and talk to them about that. But, see, a lot of them was grandfathered out, so they don't have to do that. No more. No, if you start off, you want to work here, you got to live here. You got to invest in where you live at. And I think that would change the whole mentality. See, but if you don't live here and you live out in Canfield or wherever, that doesn't make sense. That don't even sound like an investment, do it? No, it isn't.

TW: How have you seen the community change? Like, from the seventies, when you went to school, and you graduated, how are things different now for you?

SC: Neighborhoods. You know, we had real neighborhoods. You go down the street, we didn't have all these empty lots- tearing down the neighborhood. That was your community. You had neighbors. You had the fruit trees. We didn't run to the grocery store every other day. We had gardens. I'm getting ready to plant a garden. You know, so it was and everybody knew everybody. We had curfews. We talked to each other. We didn't have social media and we didn't have all these things. We couldn't afford these phones! I mean, you got to go with the time, but it's just sometimes you need to get back to the basics. The old neighborhoods. You know, where you could talk to young people and say, oh, you ain't doing that. And why you live on this street, but you 5 blocks away? You'd live in your neighborhood, you know what I'm saying? And people talked to these children, you know? A lot more mothers were at home. But they took care of their families. It was a rich... You thought you were rich. You lived there, you worked there, you had a garden, you ate. Now, I don't know what to do, but we need to get it back, you know. We got to step up to the future. By going back to the basics. It's okay. Because we talked to each other, you know? We weren't afraid. We had a community. A community was a community and we need to get that back.

TW: Is there anything else that you'd like to add? Anything that maybe you didn't get a chance to say that you would like to?

SC: I know you said you liked [to study] what changed. What made you want to go into that? Talk a little bit about you, if you don't mind. I'm saying we're doing the interview because you're learning about the black experience. What piqued your interest to want to learn more about that? Because I got a thousand more people. I could give you their names and stuff. They graduated, but I just got to make contact with them. Because we had a nice connection back then.

TW: Well, what kind of made us want to do this is that that connection is sort of gone. For me, being a black student here at YSU, their population and how much it used to be integrated, is not the same anymore. And what made me want to do a project like this is so that I could

read histories like yours and black students who came before me, who are not here anymore. Because there isn't any. What made me want to do this and participate is that if I wanted to look up the black history at the school I go to, I wouldn't be able to find any. So I really do appreciate people like you who want to do these interviews and who want to put their stories out there for students like me, who need to know it because there isn't any. And so I really do appreciate you for this.

And I really would appreciate if you would give more names for us for people for us to talk to. So that we can expand it because there isn't much. There isn't anything at all about the history of black students who went here. And that's a shame. I feel like there should be, because more people need to hear stories like yours.

SC: Oh, girl, I can write you a book. In fact, I am going to write a book. I came from a lifeline. You have to reach back and give back. Because people help me along the way, so it's not like you shouldn't be there. I mean, I'm glad you're doing this, but that was a reminder to me. That we need to come down to the campus. We need to come and talk to the young people. Be your mentors, you know? Invite you to our home for dinner. You know, that's what we used to do.

I told you, I had two daughters, right? My one daughter went to Alabama A & M. And she thought she went further away to go to school. But they believe what I'm saying. We truly believe in coming on the campus. Talking to you. Embracing you. Making sure you go to church. Make sure that you're being fed and being treated right. So I thank you for reminding us. Because sometimes we get so busy. But we ain't that busy. You know, we ain't that busy that we can't make you some collard greens and cornbread and invite you into our world, you know? I mean, there ain't nothing new because like I said, those two women that they helped me get a scholarship. I thanked them from the bottom of my heart.

So you just reminded me to don't- and I didn't forget- it just brought it to my attention that we gotta do better. And we got to pay it forward. But they say "Each one, teach one." Yes, it does take a village to raise a child. And if you don't mind, I would be honored to work with you help you.

You can call me anytime. I'm in Warren but I'm in Youngstown. I'm working on some property to help build that up. My father's home is an older home, but it's still was home. That's all we knew. You understand what I'm saying? So, I don't want nobody to come in and tear down something that my father had to work three times as hard for. No, it's not new, but it's ours. And if we don't keep the tradition going, how can we tell the next generation? "Oh, yeah we used to live here when we..." This empty space is not going to represent where we used to live. Was it a perfect? No, it wasn't perfect, but it was ours. And we have to work hard for it so, whatever I can do.

And I can get some more people. I can't I can only speak for me. Because I hate to volunteer for somebody else, and they say "I didn't ask you to do all that." But I think that there's a lot of still good people left that would like to make a contribution to help the other next generation. And if whatever we could do, just call me. And, uh, give me about 2 hours, and then we could work on it. Okay?

And, you know, get my mind straight again. I'm doing self-care now. You know, the eyes, cataracts... As we get older, we need help too, but we can help each other. And that's no problem. You know what I'm saying? So, I really, thank you. I thank Ms. Cassie. And her team- your whole team. Whatever you need. If we can do it. It's going to take a little longer, you know. We're not as swavy as we used to be. That's been a couple of years, couple minutes ago, but we're back. We're here! And as long as we have breath in our body, we have to reach out. We have to get back to our community. It does, you know, we have to. Because we know that our ancestors would not be pleased if we didn't help each other. And that's real talk.

TW: Well, thank you so much. And I will remember to keep you in mind. Thank you so much for this. I really do appreciate it.

SC: Oh, you're more than welcome.

END OF INTERVIEW