

SNCC Children Speak
SNCC 50th Anniversary Conference
Shaw University, Raleigh NC, April 2010
Transcript Video Recording #27
(Raw, unedited, no annotation)

Speaker 1 (00:00:31):

Good morning. Good

Speaker 2 (00:00:32):

Morning morning.

Speaker 1 (00:00:33):

My name is Celest Evans. I'm assistant professor at St. August King's college here in Raleigh I'm assistant professor of theater and film. Today, we will present a very short leader's theater piece, um, and we will be showcasing some poetry written by African Americans. I will now let my students introduce themselves.

Speaker 3 (00:01:00):

Good morning, morning. My name is Jessica Bryce. Good morning. My name is Jessica Bryce. I attend college. I'm a freshman. I majoring in music and theater. Good morning. My name is Courtney Smith. Um, I'm a sophomore at St. College with a major in sociology with a minor in social work. Good morning. My name is jazz. I also attend St. Augustine college. I'm a freshman and I major in history.

Speaker 4 (00:01:40):

What's up everybody. How y'all doing

Speaker 2 (00:01:42):

That? Hey, great. Hi,

Speaker 4 (00:01:44):

My name is Eric Baro. I'm a senior at senior's college major in theater field. So walking around beginning so,

Speaker 2 (00:01:58):

And good morning.

Speaker 3 (00:02:00):

I'm I'm a junior at college as well. Unfortunately, Nama is not feeling well today. She has a poem.

Speaker 2 (00:02:22):

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One more.

Speaker 3 (00:02:25):

Oh my, I am so sorry. You get an a for the semester.

Speaker 5 (00:02:35):

Hello name is Anthony Pernell. I'm a

Speaker 2 (00:02:38):

Freshman.

Speaker 5 (00:02:45):

Hello. My name is Anthony Pernell. I am a freshman at St. Stein. My major is theater and film,

Speaker 3 (00:02:59):

As I was saying, unfortunately, Naima is not feeling well today. Her voice is not 100%. So I would be taking your place

Speaker 4 (00:03:13):

Who can be born black And not sing The wonder of the joy, the challenge,

Speaker 3 (00:03:24):

And to come together and a coming togetherness by bringing with the, of your, really with power ringing, with sound above sound above sound, to explode. And the majesty of our oneness are coming together in a coming together mix

Speaker 4 (00:03:45):

Who can be born black And not assault.

Speaker 6 (00:03:57):

I'm the,

Speaker 3 (00:04:03):

The,

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Speaker 6 (00:04:05):

The challenge. And now the challenge look Saying

Speaker 3 (00:04:26):

The wonder of it,

Speaker 6 (00:04:32):

The challenge

Speaker 3 (00:04:36):

Who can be born black, and we exalt try up and rejoice and take pride in who we are and who our ancestors were and who they still are in spirit. We continue to stand on there. We, but strong shoulders and back, they lived as high, high enough opportunities. They would never see

Speaker 4 (00:05:01):

Our ancestors had us in mind while they built the bridge lead to our future.

Speaker 3 (00:05:07):

So they suffered the mid passage. They, you, from your home,

Speaker 6 (00:05:15): They,

Speaker 3 (00:05:15):

You, they, you, You to a, They, you in like us, they,

Speaker 6 (00:05:29):

You,

Speaker 3 (00:05:29): They,

Speaker 6 (00:05:31):

You,

Speaker 3 (00:05:31):

They made your women. They with they, you a they, But not all these things made to the new world. Some died due to the poor conditions on the slave ships. Others were so heartbroken. They refused to

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eat and still others gave themselves back to God before be I'll be And quiet with courage. And with grace,

Speaker 4 (00:06:16):

They leap into the arms of a waiting ocean

Speaker 3 (00:06:20):

Hands before be a slave and migrate and go home to my, and be the slaves who survive the middle passage to America faced difficult times. However,

Speaker 4 (00:06:46):

Their sufferings and their deaths were not in Maine

Speaker 3 (00:06:49):

Because they knew we were coming.

Speaker 4 (00:06:52):

We knew you were coming.

Speaker 3 (00:06:58):

Those who came before us made it through reconstruction and fought for the cause. During the modern civil rights movement, they let nothing stop them from moving the race forward, dream and dreaming of moving forward, working and working towards moving forward, fighting and fighting, moving forward, Waterfield hose, but moving forward, this is yet moving forward.

Speaker 4 (00:07:31):

All this for freedom.

Speaker 3 (00:07:35):

We who believe in freedom cannot baker, social justice follow through her vein. She graduated valedictorian in 1927 from Shaw univers years later, due to her strong desire to help students, activists, coordinate lunch, cutter sitin, and other civil rights, bigger beloved haw university to help proof of poet found SNI the student, nonviolent co communities. We who believe in freedom cannot rest

Speaker 4 (00:08:15):

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Will our eyes on the prize.

Speaker 3 (00:08:17):

We will not press deep in our heart. We believe that we shall overcome that. God is on our side and will walk hand in hand. And we refuse to allow anyone to turn up around. We speak your names because you sacrificed everything. We speak your names because you refuse to leave the lunch counter. We speak your names because you are a veteran of the civil rights war. We speak your names because you bled.

We speak your names because you die. We speak your names because you did not quit.

Speaker 3 (00:09:34):

Keep going. They keep coming. They keep coming. They keep coming. The, that Turners. Keep coming. Pointer truth. Keep coming the far from the and the, and the keep comings. Keep coming. Keep coming. Strongs. Keep coming. Keep coming to John. Keep coming to Rosa parks. Keep coming. I w B keep coming, running, walking. Crawling, never stop. Come, come, come in. They keep coming. They keep coming. They keep coming. They keep coming. The Michael Jackson, keep coming. Keep coming. Tom, join. Keep coming. Julian, keep coming. Coming home. Martin, keep coming. Lou Hamer, keep coming for niece. Reagan, keep coming. Obama who saying Obama, keep coming.

Speaker 7 (00:11:38):

Aren't they great. We now like to, um, Invite a panel Of SNCC. Um, I guess the next generation of, of SNCC To the SNCC junior. We'd like to ask Maha. Moses, come on. Up To up Sabina. Come on up. Zu, come on up. Holl. Come on up. I have not seen is James Foreman junior here or come on up, right? Uh, Bakari sellers. Is he here? And promise is not here. Okay. We're passing the Paton

Speaker 8 (00:13:08):

As our panel is being seated. I'd like to get everybody to start squeezing now in these pews, because we have a about 30 people in the back that I see occasionally an empty seat. And I'd like to ask everybody to squeeze and then raise their hands. Where, where you can have an extra seat when you see an extra seat. Yeah, I don't take anybody's seat. Okay. The seats over here for those of you along the, come on now, Choir law.

Speaker 2 (00:13:40):

Uh,

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Speaker 8 (00:13:49):

Maybe's see if Okay. And those of you along the hall, please, down along the wall, there's seats over here and we're gonna start putting you in the choir off. If you don't take the seats down here. So you're gonna have to sing

Speaker 2 (00:14:04):

<laugh>

Speaker 8 (00:14:05):

Seat over here. Seats over here, come on in the fire. Marshal is on my case. So please make it easy for, have a seat. Everybody in the back in the back, standing up this, looking for a seat, please come on and take one down front Seats over here.

Speaker 2 (00:14:31):

<laugh>

Speaker 8 (00:14:32):

On. Y'all squeeze in. Anybody else back there looking for a seat. You standing walking.

Speaker 2 (00:14:43): I don't

know what its, I don't

Speaker 8 (00:14:45):

Know what right.

Speaker 2 (00:14:51):

Thank you.

Speaker 8 (00:14:53):

But they may be coming back. Bob, just have a, we'll have we'll have it.

Speaker 2 (00:14:58):

<laugh>

Speaker 8 (00:15:01):

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I don't think there are more people to come. Are there any more people in the back looking and proceed? If you are, come on down front, please, Please come down front. I've gotta clear you off that back wall.

Speaker 2 (00:15:15):
Okay.

Speaker 8 (00:15:18):

Please. Come on down front, please. There seats here. And then you go up into the choir law. Clear that back wall please. And we go to jail. We're wronging.

Speaker 2 (00:15:38):
Okay, great.

Speaker 1 (00:16:17):
Good morning. Good

Speaker 2 (00:16:18):
Morning.

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Speaker 8 (00:16:20):

So

Speaker 1 (00:16:22):

My name is Maha Moses, introduce myself again. And I'm the daughter of Bob and Janet Moses. And I'm very honor honored to be here and to be moderating, you know, um, what we're gonna do, each of us is gonna talk for a few minutes about who we are, the work that we're doing, uh, what we got from our parents and from you, you and how we're carrying that forward. And then we're gonna open it up for questions. And during that question time, um, please feel free to adjust your questions to any of us who are here, but also any of the, uh, children who were introduced earlier. <affirmative> and then we'd like to create a space for people to get into some more in depth conversation about some of the work that we're doing. And so during lunch we'll be meeting in a certain area, we'll figure it out. And those of you who are interested in talking to any of us more about the work, um, please feel free. So maybe to start it off, I'd just like to share a little bit about myself and just take, uh, two minutes and talk about my parents and what they did. And so what my parents did is they talked to us about you.

Speaker 1 (00:18:01):

So I was born in Africa and I spent the first five years of my life there in Tanzania. And then when we, when we came back, um, I was six. And so I guess by that time they figured we, we were old enough, um, for them to really start talking to us. And so This is what they did. They told us about Ruby sales, Willie Ricks, Hollis Watkins, June Johnson, Willie peacock, Curtis Hayes, Dave Dennis McArthur, cotton, Jimmy, Travis, Annie Pearl, Avery Stokley Carmichael, Jim foreman, Bernard Lafayette, Lafayette Sur, Julian bond. Chuck McDo Charlie Cobb, Adam ho Donaldson, Judy Richardson, Mary Barry, Bernie Johnson, Reagan the freedom singers. John Lewis do Latner Joyce LA theara Simmons, Chuck net, Betty made fights Lawrence Keat Charles Shara. Bob Zelner do Zelner George Green, Benny Lou Hamer, CC Bryant am Moore and Devine, Toya gray. Then Senate Rosa Harding, Ella baker, And many others I'm sure, but these are the names that stand out to me. And so we soaked it in and we grew up feeling like we were part of this. And as we got older, we started to make that concrete. And so we joined the algebra project and we joined and we started the young people's project and I'll let the young people's project talk about themselves later. But so I just wanted to share that, um, cause this is where we come from.

Speaker 1 (00:20:19):

And so James Foreman Jr is gonna open it up for us.

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Speaker 4 (00:20:31):

I would say opened it up.

4 (00:20:35):

Um, it's a real honor, uh, to be here. My, my father, we all know Jim foreman, my mother de Ram is here. My wife is in the back. Uh <inaudible> she's the one that has the baby carry. And the baby that she's, that she's carrying is my son. Uh, I'm that performing. Um, and so please, uh, greet him when he wakes up a little bit later. Um, we're gonna ask to talk a little bit as Maia started with about what our parents did to help shape us and one, and, and, and, and raising us on the history. The way she described was definitely something that happened in our house. Another small thing that I'll just add seems small, but it was very important was that they actually organized our family life, I guess, in some ways, uh, the way SNCC was organized, which was that whenever we had a problem, we had a meeting And everybody would gather together and we would be in a circle and the meeting were very long and very contentious. Some people dominated the floor, you know, you had the picture,

Speaker 4 (00:21:59):

Uh, and, but they also did train us and raise up and raise us up in a way, uh, of, of understanding the way you was of conflicts, of understanding, how if you were trying to build a unit that would be strong and cohesive, uh, what, what you had to do to, to, to make that happen. And you couldn't just talk about it. You had to live it. They, uh, also they, and, and you, uh, left us, I think with two messages that have shaped, uh, my life. One is that the imperfections that we see in the country that we live in and the world that we live in, do not always have to be, they are not necessarily, so they are not immutable, but, but the only way they're going to change is if we do something about it. So they would always tell us whenever we had a problem with something, they would always say, well, what are you going to do about?

Speaker 4 (00:23:03):

Um, and so that idea of we are the ones who we are waiting for, which I know is, uh, such a powerful idea, uh, to this group is something that, that we were, we were, we were raised on. And, and there's a lot of songs that, uh, Bernice has, has sung over the years that, that I listen to. And, but that's one of the ones that sticks with me the most, my own work. I started out as a, a public defender. And the reason I did that, um, was when I looked at the world and, and, and Joyce talked about this earlier. What about how the problems are different? When I looked at the world, when I was coming out of law school, what I saw was the ravages of the criminal justice system that had the, the ravages that had taken on the African American community.

Speaker 4 (00:23:51):

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So today in 2010 African Americans make up a greater percentage of the prison population than they did at the time in 1960 and Shaw university, the, uh, when this organization, uh, got off the ground. And
Speaker

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if you just think about that, the idea that something would have gotten worse in 50 years, I think most of y'all sitting in the room. It's, it's unimaginable, as y'all were sitting and fighting and marching and lobbying, get your heads beaten in and organizing the normal discuss we have in our society as well. Things have gotten better, but maybe not better enough. This is an area where they've actually gotten worse, a black man born in my generation after the voting rights act passed. After the civil rights act passed is more than twice as likely to, to be imprisoned in his lifetime than a black man born in the 1940s.

Speaker 4 (00:24:52):

That is also I think, unimaginable. So I became a public defender to do that work while I was a public defender. I began seeing through my clients, the problems in the education system, because the schools that the, my H were going to were schools that were underfunded poorly run, and just simply setting them up for fail. So the work that I decided to do along with a friend named David do Minichi is we started an alternative school working with kids in the juvenile justice system in Washington, DC. I actually had some hand handouts about, uh, about that school, just as I'm finished up, I'm gonna have my mom and Bob, Bob Zelner are gonna pass them out to the roof. I will say, I, I did not know how many people were going to be here, a Testament to the organizers, uh, anybody that gives me their card at, uh, at this conference, I will make sure to mail you additional material.

Speaker 4 (00:25:47):

And that goes to the folks of the overflow room as well. Our school is called the Miami public charter school. We recruit kids from the juvenile justice system, kids that have been locked up, kids that have dropped out of school. Kids that have been kicked out of school. We've been supported in that work by SNCC veterans, uh, in, in the DC, uh, area, Mary Barry, Quami brown, uh, or son of SIG veteran in the case of Quami. Uh, and we provide a comprehensive holistic program for those kids going from early in the morning until late at night, we have a boarding school for kids that need it. And we now starting about a year of go run the school that is inside the juvenile detention facility in Washington, DC. That's the school that's written up about this article.

Speaker 4 (00:26:43):

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I'm gonna sit down now because we have a lot of, uh, children, uh, to speak children of the movement. Um, there's some of the results of our school are documented in a handout, but I just want to end with one story. Uh, uh, and it's a story that from a class that I taught, I was teaching about the federal sentencing laws. These are the laws that have mandatory minimums for a lot of drug offenses. And I was talking to one of my students. He was 16 years old, and he had been in the juvenile justice system. And I was making the argument that the laws for drug possession were two that the sentences were too long. And he said to me, this is in class. He said, there ain't no wrong or right about it. That's the federal court, that's the law. And I said, back to him, Well, the law doesn't have to be that way. This is a course about how the law should be not about how the law is. I think it's wrong. And he said, the law is never going to change. And I, and that's when I brought all of y'all and all of your energy and all of your spirit into that room. And I spent the next cement entire semester, I threw out the syllabus and I taught him about how the world could look with laws that look like they will never change and how people working together can change them.

1 (00:28:29):

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Speaker

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This is so exhilarating. It's absolutely wonderful. I wish all my past students from when I was teaching middle school could be sitting out here and listening to this. I'm not only the daughter of a SNCC veteran, but I'm also the daughter of a Vietnam veteran. And so being a of those two sides of that era is something that it's unavoidable that I know I am part of something that needs action. I can't sit, I can't watch. I have to be active. I grew up in ti Maria in New Mexico, my mother, many of you know her as Mary, I call her Maria. She moved to gada and worked with the land grants movement. I was born there and grew up around organizers and people that were fighting for their land, fighting for their culture, fighting for their language, and grew up with the mindset that things had to be done.

Speaker 1 (00:29:22):

And I was a part of something. My earliest memory being an involved with many of you out there was when I was about five years old at the funeral of El baker. And I can't remember phases. And I can't remember things that were said, but I just remembered this profound feeling. When I was pulled up, there was a big photograph that we still have of everybody in front of the church. And I just knew I was a part of something right now. My big work is in theater for social justice and working with communities in order to tell their stories, we know how important oral histories are. And in the words of a Augusta who works with theater, the oppressed za, and passed away, it may be forbidden to walk over the grass, but it's not forbidden to fly over the grass. And the biggest tool for me is imagination.

Speaker 1 (00:30:15):

And when I work in the middle schools, it's true. What was said earlier, what's really hard right now, really battling is there are no clear cut things for us to go for to battle. There's so many, there's so many, you could go to one school and list off at least 10 issues in the community that are happening. So it's really hard to organize around one movement. We're also battling a lot of apathy in our youth right now. And a lot of cuz there's a big sense of entitlement in a lot of the youth that don't feel that they need to give, but that they should be given. And that's something that I see in my middle school classrooms that I battle every day. And I believe that what needs to happen is just an understanding. The youth have something to say. They just don't know that they're allowed to and through theater.

Speaker 1 (00:31:07):

That's my biggest, I mean, watching what we heard today from the, the dramatic performance, just I'm brimming with tears, that was so strong. It was powerful. Just hearing words was wonderful. I'm really concerned about my land and my particular area, which is New Mexico and the, the border. As many of you know, there are thousands and thousands and thousands of women that have been killed and murdered. MAED for a number of reasons. There's no reason, uh, put together a performance art piece with a bunch of Jeeps. And we toured around as awareness of this issue, which is, is very close to my

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heart. I just think that when we wanna try to get a idea of what we need to battle, it needs to start in the classrooms. It needs to start with education. I cannot tell you how happy I am to hear how many of

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these SNI children are in education. It is incredible. The teacher and the people. Yeah. Round applause for that.

Speaker 1 (00:32:13):

The only reason that I can do what I do is because of my teachers in and out of the classroom, my mom, my dad, all of you that I grew up hearing about and knowing it's because I had those teachers, they, they are there, they do exist and we need more of them. And my goal is to become a university teacher. I've done elementary, I've done middle school. I love middle school. No matter what anybody says, they're the best age group ever. They have the potential, they have the most energy. They're just, they're just given such a bad name. Those poor little guys

Speaker 6 (00:32:45):

<laugh>

Speaker 1 (00:32:46):

Sad, but I do wanna develop teacher training in order to use theater in the classrooms in order to get students speaking and talking and understanding that this just like, you know, the golden rule is translated in. I don't know how many languages I just got to spend a weekend in salt lake city with Char Cobb, Judy Richardson, Matt Harron, and my mother, they're developing a, a photo exhibit. And the house that we stayed at this woman has this project called the golden rule project. And there is a type of golden rule found in every single language in every single country. So along with the belief of equality and respect, there is also a belief of needing to fight for what is right and that's across the board. And so I just wanna thank all the educators out there. Everybody's an educator. You just gotta step up and take that role and let the youth know that you care for them. My mother know, treated me like a child. She always treated me like a peer and one of a colleague. And one of these days we will teach a college course together. It is a goal. And I just wanna make everybody here for their smiles and positive attitudes, their energy and their questions. Thank you.

Speaker 9 (00:34:05):

Hello everybody. Hello. My name is Watkins Jr. Right? I was born in Jackson, Mississippi, and I would be remiss to say that not only TOAs, but a woman named N Barbara Malcolm wa, But she was a writer. She was an educator. She was a grant, uh, writer. She was played, she wear plays and she was a wonderful woman. So please don't forget that. I have two parents who were involved in the movement. And so

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growing up just based off my father, I tell you, you know, I was about five years old and he was say, Barbara, let me take my for a ride real quick. That ride real quick would be about four or five days. <laugh>, Uh, there I would be taking to some place. I have no idea where I'm at. I'm meeting all these
Speaker

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people and we're singing songs or sitting out in meetings. And I don't understand what's going on. I'm only five years old, but I know more Negro spiritual than I do with any other song. So he's telling me stories all along, telling stories all along. And it started to Dawn on me, who he was and who I was when one day I met Julian bar and I was probably about seven. And then it hit me again. When I went to a family reunion in Mississippi and met Maryanne Barry from a, from a near reunion. And I started realizing she knows these people <laugh>.

9 (00:36:09):

And so that was, that was my younger years. That was my younger years. And as I grew up, you know, I decided to go to more. I graduated while I was there. We had the track team during our spring break. Our coach made us go to play, uh, neighborhood, uh, high school Booker T Washington high school no longer exist anymore, but we went there during our spring break to tutor. Okay, that's fine. We can do that. Okay. We met with the senior clients and a little bit smaller than this crowd that we have here, but one of our, one of our classmen, he asked how many kids were taking the S a T four hand frames. This was during our spring break and we were talking to the senior class, right? And that's when it dawned on me education, what I had at Morehouse, wasn't what they were gonna go through. And that's when I realized, okay, I want to start thinking about education later on. I became a, uh, the engineering graphics, uh, lab instructor at Mors graduated, came to hillside. My, my high school in Durham, North Carolina was a predominantly black high school.

Speaker 9 (00:37:30):

I got a job as a drafting teacher since then, 19 90 11, teaching drafting. If anybody knows anything about drafting, it's very much hands on. Uh, most kids that are there are on free, reduced lunch. And that's most of African America also. Now that our school I'm at now, Southeast Raleigh, not too far away from where we're at right now. Uh, there's a nice Latino population also. And so I'm in education to help teach. I decided while I was at hillside, that I wanted to focus in on males, cuz I think males are missing in families. I had a father who was there for me, not a lot of my friends had. So along with a help of a couple other friends, we formed this group called beta five side male mentoring program. Currently right now we have five vocations, three in Durham, two here in Raleigh. We focus in on high school levels. They have to do academics. They have to do community service. Most of that community service has to be something that they would not like to do, but something that they were forced to do to where

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they are working with the community, that's the work that I'm doing because I realized what he did with service as well.

Speaker 10 (00:39:08):

Hi. Hi I'm so Charlie and, and Jim's daughter. Um, I have to say that growing up with them, the biggest message that I got was if you are passionate about something, if you take issue with something, you don't wait until you're older to take action. There's no such thing as too young to have a cause and to wanna do something. I remember being 10 years old and I would complain about something and my

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parents weren't telling me, oh, when you get older, that should be something that you wanna work on. It was what can you do right now to fight that? And I have to say that now that I'm in college, I encounter a lot of enthusiasm and not a lot of action. And it's incredibly frustrating because you can talk for as long as you want about something, but if you're not doing anything, you're not really making a change.

Speaker 10 (00:40:07):

And I personally am really concerned with agriculture and the lack of knowledge that most people in

America, particularly children have about where their food is coming from. I know that there are

children all around the us who don't know that a carrot is a root. They don't know where the food is

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coming from. And it's really important that people know because that's a decision that you make.

Every time you put Speaker

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something into your mouth, you are voting with your body and your dollars with you buy food. And at my school, we had workshops with holistic management, which is an organization that helps farmers to become sustainable, but not just for the environment for themselves in a way that they can farm and grow food, but live in a way that's right for them. And I feel that not only is it important that we support farmers, but that we make sure that people are able to have personal relationships with the people that are growing their food. And we have been able to travel to farms and have farmers come to our school to talk to the students, but also to members of the local community. Because it's not just on college campuses that we need to be reaching out to people it's to everyone in the country, everyone who eats basically needs to know <laugh>.

Speaker 10 (00:41:43):

And I feel that knowing so much about Nick and growing up in that kind of environment made me really wear the importance of, of really reaching out to people. And I know especially younger people now are very into, I can reach out to you on Facebook. I can send you an email, but honestly it's not, it's not enough. I can join a Facebook group. I can send someone an email. That's something, but unless I talk to them in person, I'm not really connecting with them. I'm not really connecting with their,

Speaker 10 (00:42:29):

I feel that no matter what you think is the most important issue, we have to make sure that we are not just talking to people who agree with us, because it's really easy to think that you're making progress. If you're only talking to people who already care, but if you are out there talking to people, going door to door, just stopping people, even on the street, maybe just having a conversation, whatever it takes. But it's important that you make sure that all people are aware of the issues and can form their own opinions. Even if they don't agree with you. I think the people just need to be educated to be able to make their own decisions.

Speaker 9 (00:43:24):

Thanks so much.

Speaker 9 (00:43:27):

All right. Hello family. Hello. It's so good to see everybody again. This is, this is a home coming to me. Um, because again, I am a SNIC baby and when I heard Dotty and um, I'm so sorry. When I heard Dory and Joyce speak this morning, their voices are so soothing to me cuz they're so familiar. I was born in Harvard halls up in DC and they were all free to marching around my living room and the struggle. So what I'm going to do is I'm going to attempt to convey our appreciation. You speaking on behalf of all of SNCC, junior head, our appreciation for everything that we've gotten from you all. And our, we will attempt to fill these big shoes that we've been given now. Um, somebody mentioned the fact that we

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were all in education one way or another. And you know, as I was listening to that, I don't know if we had an option not to be, um, I don't even know if it was a choice or just simply an obligation.

Speaker 9 (00:44:17):

We are, uh, educators and we are organized as by nature. Uh, my work right now is, um, I'm, I'm organizing around the context of HIV aids in the African American community, but, and I'm in education myself. I taught at this university for the last five years and uh, uh, excuse me, director of research at the racial relations Institute and now among, at Maha medical college in the center for aids, health disparities research, but that's all set there. Cause, cause the main thing that I do is I'm an organizer and I'm a work, right? So what we do is we organize around the work and what I got from my people, what, what, what my father would, my mother and all of my uncles and aunts and my cousins and everybody that's here that's contributed to me was a commitment to the struggles. So I came into this with an understanding that it was my job to move this thing forward. I think, uh, Frank Smith officially passed toward to me, uh, at, uh, at the million man, March. I believe that's when he told me he was, this was his And that was OK. You marching shoes right there, but that's alright. Cause, cause you work continues. So it's a beautiful legacy that we are around that we're attempting to, to continue. But I wanna say something, uh, to the young people too, because I've heard I'm over 30. So I don't, I don't know if y'all listen to me. Uh, but, but I have heard, um, you all asking a lot of questions and it seems that you all are asking for the playbook to the revolution. Like there's a webinar somewhere to join.

Speaker 9 (00:45:44):

You y'all wanna know, who's gonna tell you what to do next. The answer is, nobody's going tell you what to do next. And it's your job to tell us what you all are doing next. Because my father pulled my father every day. He told me, Hey son, the only people that are out there doing things are the people that are out there doing things. So if you need to get something done, you need to identify what it is, find the work to do and do the work. That's real simple. So this is a group of workers. Uh, they had, they, they know how to have fun. You know, they know how to party, which is a good thing. I think they passed all of that. All of We have a good time myself, but we're always working. We working at the party. So when you see us and look like we're partying, we working,

Speaker 11 (00:46:24):

Don't worry about that.

Speaker 9 (00:46:26):

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We're so I think young people need to kind get themselves in check about that too. It's right. To, but make sure that you are working, uh, make sure that you are working as you, as you party now I'm I know I have to I'm Frank Smith son. Y'all I'll talk. You tell, somebody tells me the shout

Speaker 11 (00:46:40):

<laugh> so

Speaker 9 (00:46:46):

Not Frank a, but I see I'm the, I listen, I'm the legacy of a frontline family. My both of my people were on the frontline getting it done. And so I don't, I didn't have an option not to. And I know I've said that a couple of times, but, but I really didn't. And, and you know, the reason that my name is to is because my father was out in Saudi Arabia at the time, uh, trying to negotiate an oil deal. That would be in black people's best interest now. And from that to the freedoms brick company, I mean, these, we were not only the things that you heard about get done. There was so much work that was being done. There was so much the workers were working so much and, and getting so much work done that it was constantly hitting us from, from all of these different angles.

Speaker 9 (00:47:24):

So we grew up with a sense that workers work and workers find work to do. Um, cause you know, and, and that's the, that's how we're gonna have to continue, uh, to move the movement. But to my point about young people, there is no play work on this. There's no play by play and, and the instructions come within you. The work is identified within the people and the people identify the work. And if that's the case, that's the circle that will continue to, to move forward. Um, so I, I don't, I don't need to go too much farther into this, but, um, I do want to say, uh, to all of y'all who want to know the recipe, uh, to make a, a, to Smith, as you need a little bit of Jean and Frank, you need a little bit of pin pinch, Willie Rich need a little bit of Bob max over, you throw some Bob in there. You need a little bit of need, a little bit of, you know, you come across the board, throw all of that into the pot, you stir it up real good and let it SIM let it sit for a minute and it turn into something that taste real good to eat. So that's,

Speaker 9 (00:48:21):

I'm my mother, you know, my mother, she was a, so, you know, she had a on right now, one day she'll get old and won't want to fight anymore, but she'll stand up and fight him half because we are so,

Speaker 1 (00:49:19):

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So we have some, uh, additional children who have joined and would like to give them an opportunity to come up and greet the, greet the group. Um, we cocktail and Sherry bevel. All right. You please come forward. All

Speaker 11 (00:49:36):
Right.

Speaker 1 (00:49:44):
Good morning, morning. Thank you for including it's unexpected. I um, and not a child of the frontline. Yes you, but,

Speaker 1 (00:49:58):
Well, I'll take the second row. Um, gee, this is an amazing opportunity for me to just, I guess, tell you that I'm one of the founding members of the gathering for justice, which is the organization that my dad was talking about yesterday. And, uh, the organization is, uh, an incredible national group of men and women who are on the front lines every day, working on social justice and in particular, the issues of youth incarceration. So I encourage everyone here to please go to the gathering for justice.org, become a member, join us. Um, we need you, we need elders to guide us. Uh, I'm, I'm referred to in the gather movement as a, between because I'm not a youth and I'm not an elder I'm somewhere in between. So, um, I too have taken on the arduous task of raising money that my mother and father both left me, uh, uh, as a legacy I used to watch them get on their own little, so Fox in our living room and raise money for this magical cause that I didn't know very much about other than all my parents' friends were, uh, rapidly disappearing one at a time.

Speaker 2 (00:51:32):
Bless.

Speaker 1 (00:51:42):
I want you to know how deeply blessed. I feel bless that I'm able to be here and meet so many of the people that my father and my mother talked about. Many of you know, me and have been in my, my, my living room. You've held me in your arms. And as an adult, it's a trip to be down here and to see so many more who has supported the process. And I'm truly grateful to both my mother and my father, my mother's not here, but she was, she was stood side by side with him and did much of the work on her own as well. And I want you to know that This is amazing. The overwhelming feeling I'm having my father in a way is one of the elders of this process. And, And I, um, want you to know that When, and if he passes, sometimes I feel them never pass. Um, I'm gonna be looking for all y'all In a big way.

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Speaker 2 (00:52:59):

Yeah.

Speaker 1 (00:53:01):

I feel like we're all entrusting it to each other and it takes all of us together and moving forward, none of this can be done alone. And, um, I'm just sharing with you through my heart and my soul. And thank you so much for, including me today.

Speaker 3 (00:53:28):

I just wanna, uh, tell Gina I I'm with you when, and if that happens, let me tell you, you will, you will never know, you know, until that point how warmly you will be involved in support. Um, I am Sherry bevel. I am the, I say for identification purposes. I am the, uh, oldest child and only daughter of Diane, Judith NA and Jan bevel.

Speaker 6 (00:54:01):

All right.

Speaker 3 (00:54:08):

And, um, I love y'all. Um, um, thank you. Sorry. Um, I, um, don't like talking, um, I prefer to write, but I have some tools that I want to talk about. Um, um, how we move forward, uh, is important. And there are some things that I've learned and all of you already know, but I think, um, this is a, a good point, um, for, for reminders, I at least need them and, and maybe some of my cousins, my cousins will find them useful. And maybe some of you, um, one of the, uh, tools I wanted, well, I should say first that I'm another teacher, young sister, Ella was talking about teaching. I'm actually learning to teach. I'm a, a teaching assistant right now. I'm finishing up a doctorate and I'm a teaching assistant for a human rights course at the moment. Um, I, I want us to think about remembrance versus forgetting.

Speaker 3 (00:55:24):

Um, uh, it, it, it's important choices that we make about who and what we remember. Um, I think it's, um, sad for us. There's some, some folks that we know, uh, um, one, one of whom is connected to me and I think it would be a shame for us if his wit and his warmth is forgotten his joy, uh, the, the sheer love and energy of this man, that would be a, a shame, um, for us, but that would be a small loss, uh, because it's on the personality level. But if we forget, we also stand to lose the principles that drove the work that he did. So we have to remember, we have to find a way through awkwardness, fear, embarrassment, whatever it is we have to remember, because if we don't, we will lose a lot. Um, you know, um, there been in this great sweep of a struggle for, um, democracy and human rights. You know,

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we've had great men and women and they've gotten snagged up and all kind of things that is hard for us to understand. There have been some suicides. There have been some, uh, Philanders there have been, uh, drug problems. Uh, there have been <affirmative>, uh, men who've gotten involved with, uh, underage girls, but I don't think we should forget Thomas Jefferson.

Speaker 3 (00:57:31):

So we need to keep what is good and firm and solid about our institutional foundations. So James, so, you know, there's this divide, um, that, you know, kind of goes back and forth, uh, you know, about whether, you know, nonviolence is a tactic, whether there's a strategy and, uh, if somebody could gimme some water, I'd really appreciate it. But brother bond, uh, yesterday was saying that, talking about the need for SNCC to exist and NAACP that exists, and they're different in the, the existence of both of these and other organizations work together for good. Um, thank you very much. Thanks.

Speaker 3 (00:58:26):

So for this certain little ball headed preachers self to be forgotten means that there would be a missing point of view. And I've heard that I've missed that point of view. That's right in some of these meetings. So this is a point of view. There are others, and some things might grow out of that, but I know that his work and his ability to strategize grew out of his answer to that question, his nonviolence is strategy, or is it a tactic? Um, I was being devil's advocate and having this argument with the man. And so the idea of nonviolence as a tactic is to take something on temporarily in order to, in, you know, instrumentally to get something done. And, you know, we all know that the foundations of the philosophy of non, uh, nonviolence are love and truth. And so, as he often did, he basically ended the argument with the question. He asked me, Sherry, how do you pretend to love of somebody?

Speaker 3 (00:59:43):

And what he, what he meant was that it was the love, the hanging on to this vision of myself and the other as one people as, as a unit at that promised land point that created the compression, that, that drove his imagination toward a strategy for how to get there. So, so if I don't love you, then I'll give up on you. I'll, I'll be mad at you. I'll fight you. But if you think about your children, it's like, what, what can they get into, that's gonna make you give up on them. And so to have that approach to the other is the essence of nonviolence as he taught it to me.

Speaker 3 (01:00:33):

So I wanna say that, you know, before I sit down that, um, the, the things that I've heard, my cousins, you know, this is amazing. It's amazing that all of your minds, you've seen each other some often, some, a few times over the years, but the, the, the directions are the same. So the, the relationship between education and these tortures super max prisons is clear. This is a tool. This is a, a gift from Jim. Be there

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were questions in the politics session about how do we now do this economics piece? You know, so we got the political rights. How do we push forward down economics?

Speaker 3 (01:01:23):

You know, people toward the end of his life, my father was always very specific about, we need to push for education to sovereign citizenship. And people are like, oh, you know, what's blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. What he was doing was making a distinction between training labor and Ray men, male and female, who understand who they are and understand the institutions that, that they need and understand how to put them into place. So this is what he's talking about in terms of educating children to sovereign citizenship. Okay. So now here's the, here's the really good part if we well, the foreman, you know, and how is the worded about these young guys? If we push forward on insisting that children be educated and you can insist on anything for children, right? Children's human rights, everybody can resonate with. We can organize

Speaker 1 (01:02:20):

Around that. But if

Speaker 3 (01:02:22):

We do that, when you're educating people Truly in terms of institution that they need, in terms of, uh, learning how to build homes, learning how to grow, grow food to resort, then you can through the educational process, requisition, what they need to learn, how to do those things. So here's the beginning of the economic base. And that's, that's what I want you all to think about in terms of an organizing direction and an organizing tool. And that's a, that's a gift. That's what was all

Speaker 1 (01:02:53):

Jay's mind last few years of his life. So

Speaker 3 (01:03:08):

I just wanted to come up very quickly. I, I just got in this morning, I think I, I walked in right at the introductions of, of the children of school workers was closing. Um, I just wanted to, to speak my mother's name. Um, I'm Mariam orange, I'm the daughter. And she recently passed away in October.

Speaker 2 (01:03:47):

So

Speaker 1 (01:03:49):

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I wish that I knew her and her brother, Howard, whenever people's kids came to Howard, they always came to see the various problems. There was brilliant, beautiful, wonderful students ever. Absolutely brilliant. And her brother is a lawyer in LA. So she's an Arab of Charlotte. And

Speaker 12 (01:04:57):

Okay, let me just, let me just say a couple of things. Success has its problem. We have to, I mean, as you can see, this place is packed and we need to organize in such a way, Tiffany, and then Marin, your son is here. Okay. We need to introduce him also anybody else, so we can make sure that everybody else is recognized.

Speaker 1 (01:05:29):

Good afternoon. Good afternoon. My name is Tiffany Nelson. I am the daughter of, Most of you remember me from calling you on the phone every year. Thank you so much for I'm currently a junior at UNC Charlotte, Um, spending international studies with an Asian concentration in a minor in Japanese. All right. With <laugh>. I hopefully the, uh, ability to teach others about the international relations between the us and hopefully, which is steadily getting stronger and more. I said that just the word I'd like to thank you for being all that you are for helping PA the weight for a lot of this to be possible and completely humble by your presence. Thank you so much for having

Speaker 12 (01:06:56):

Good morning, Pam. Good morning. My name is Mary Barry in Washington. They call me miracle life. Uh, my son, Christopher came down with me where he had some other business things he to do before 12 o'clock. And I didn't want you. I know that, uh, he is a small business contractor painted German construction, those kind of things, but the most important thing that you want know, I'm preparing him for a long time to take now and take it even up. Thank you, Uh, to introduce the

Speaker 1 (01:07:57):

Hi, I'm Karen KU I'm bill KU.

Speaker 6 (01:08:00):

Yes.

Speaker 1 (01:08:10):

His spirit is here in my heart. He's what the person who caused me to go Toula college. She's the person who cause me to participate in the SCC freedom summer. And I know many of you are his clients.

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Speaker 2 (01:08:24):

<laugh> Spirit

Speaker 1 (01:08:27):

In my heart and in of you, and thank you for being here

Speaker 12 (01:08:45):

On Moses son, Bob and Janet Moses. This is my son, my daughter. Um, it's beautiful to be here. And, um, I just like to say everyone, who's my age. We have to figure out how we trust each other. And I think that's, what's really missing. And that's something for people to really think about. Cause we were, um, we were basically, my father's getting pigs.

Speaker 2 (01:09:22):

<laugh>,

Speaker 12 (01:09:25):

You know, we tried everything out on us.

Speaker 12 (01:09:29):

I looked at and I said, you know, no one's ever gonna give my father enough money to really do what HES gonna do. Hm. And how do we make our own money and trust each other? But without trust, we can't make our own money. Mm-hmm <affirmative> and we can't organize around each other. So there's people up here who are doing things that are important and we gotta figure out how we stay in touch with each other and how we really trust each other. So we say we are family, but when it's time to help each other, how do we know? And that's just something to think about. Cause we need to give ourselves our own, our own housing and to build a commute, to create a community around ourselves and not have to ask. Cause I don't feel like anybody's gonna give it to

Speaker 2 (01:10:18):

That's true.

Speaker 12 (01:10:28):

Okay. Uh, this is, as you know, this is the, uh, we were trying to keep this thing on time. So we are asking people to go to the, uh, to lunch now. Um, I understand you go out the back door there and you make a left to the facility. We're going to have box lunches and.