

File Name: CLT_042316_PPL2
Event Date: April 23, 2016
Location: Charlotte, North Carolina
Participants:
MYQUE HARRIS
ELIZABETH ALSTON-PINCKNEY
ELLA SCARBOROUGH
RYAN WILLIAMS
HOLLIS HAMMONDS
Length: 01:07:27

Preface

The following conversation was hosted at the McColl Center, facilitated by Heather Hart. Consent was given by the participants to have their conversation recorded and transcribed.

Readers should keep in mind that they are reading a transcript of the spoken word and are encouraged to refer directly to the original audio if possible as some interactions and utterances may not have been transcribed due to the nature of unscripted group conversations. The views, thoughts, and opinions expressed in the text belong solely to the roundtable participants and do not necessarily reflect the views of Black Lunch Table.

START OF RECORDING

HH: [Chuckles]

RW: It's just everything you're gonna say in advance. How long is it gonna be?

HH: About an hour. So this is [Mic Movement] table number two, Charlotte.

RW: Everything you say for the next two hou- hour is gonna be recorded forever.

Okay?

HH: Including what you're saying now then?

RW: Oh, yeah. Perfect. Great.

MH: Yeah, yeah, yeah [Chuckles]

RW: These are some fancy cards, bro. Look at this, it's like the bicycles — they're all bicycles. [Mic movement] I'm just gonna wait 'til they're all there. I think (inaudible - 00:00:30).

MH: I don't look that up.

RW: I saw your (inaudible - 00:00:34)

HH: He's over there.

RW: Alright. I'm gonna actually get up and throw this away at (inaudible - 00:00:40).

Unknown: [Chuckles] Okay.

[Pause]

MH: So, do we wanna, like, look through them and just (inaudible - 00:00:56)?
Pick one, or pick one that we wanna start with?

HH: Yeah, yeah. Maybe--.

MH: Out of each one?

HH: If there's one in each person's hand--.

MH: Stands out.

HH: That stands out.

[Pause]

RW: Thank you so much for waiting.

HH: We're just looking at our cards just seeing if there's a topic that stands out.

RW: Oh, wow. What color is that? Finger nails--.

MH: I do not know that.

RW: Polish. Is that palm? What is that, is that a j-jewel? Nice.

HH: It's my Prince tribute.

RW: Oh, yeah. That guy. I need (inaudible - 00:01:44) for it.

HH: [Chuckles]

RW: It's that I'm- it's--.

MH: I try--.

RW: Can I have a piece of paper, please?

MH: To put up a sign.

RW: Thank you.

MH: Oh.

Unknown: She's gonna drop by your table.

MK: 'Kay.

RW: Alright. The more the merrier.

HH: Yay.

[Pause]

MK: Okay.

ES: Just grab these?

Unknown: (inaudible - 00:02:12).

HH: Yes, Michael.

RW: Mm-hmm, it's important. Is there gonna like a-a leader of our table, or are we just gonna go around and talk? 'Cause I need direction, you know what I mean? I need somebody, uh, [Mic Movement] to, uh, you know, moderate things.

HH: Yeah--.

RW: Who's the leader of our--.

HH: Myque is our leader.

RW: Okay (inaudible - 00:02:34)

MH: I'm the fearless leader.

RW: Yes, yes.

MH: Um, this is Myque Harris speaking.

[Laughter]

MH: That was fun.

[Chuckling]

MH: Okay, so--. Um, let's see.

ES: Tell me what the rules of the game--.

RW: I don't think there are any rules.

ES: Then what are we doing? Conversating?

HH: Uh.

RW: What is gonna be--? We need to divvy up the cards--.

HH: We just share--.

RW: Right now.

HH: Share some cards.

RW: Very (inaudible - 00:03:04)

HH: See if there's any topics in there that look interesting.

ES: Okay, honey. I don't know whole- the whole thing, so.

EAP: Okay. So, we're doing, uh, we're conversating about whatever's in the card.

HH: Yeah.

ES: In reference to what?

RW: I don't--.

HH: It's just, uh--.

MH: The Charlotte community.

HH: The Ch--. Yeah.

ES: Okay. Huh.

MH: Whatever comes up.

RW: Are you from Charlotte?

Unknown: [Chuckles].

RW: Uh-oh.

HH: I'm not either, so...

Unknown: [Laughs]

RW: Who is--. Okay, who's from Charlotte?

ES: I'm Ella Scarborough.

EAP: Of course she's from Charlotte.

RW: Okay.

[Crosstalk]

EAP: You already have (inaudible - 00:03:33) [Laughs] That's all she (inaudible - 00:03:36)

Unknown: Uh.

Unknown: She's like, 'You don't know.'

MH: I think- I think- I think we should take this (inaudible - 00:03:40).

RW: Oh my goodness.

ES: (inaudible - 00:03:41) see that. Let's see that.

[Laughter]

Unknown: [Laughs] I know. I think--. Ok--. Alright, I was just joking.

RW: Right.

Unknown: I was just joking.

[Crosstalk ends]

ES: I think- I think it's sad that the City Council even brought it up. It shouldn't (inaudible - 00:03:54). Anyway, go ahead.

[Chuckling].

MH: I keep seeing you at events that, um, I'm attending. I saw you at the, um, 'Holler if You Hear Me', and that was the last thing I--.

ES: Oh, yeah.

MH: On that, yeah.

Unknown: Yeah, yeah.

EAP: And I went to South Carolina State.

ES: Oh, (inaudible - 00:04:06)

EAP: Yes (inaudible - 00:04:07)

ES: (inaudible - 00:04:09) of-of a function tonight.

Unknown: (inaudible - 00:04:14)

HH: I don't know 'cause there's so much (inaudible - 00:04:20) in here, but maybe they can hear us.

MH: It's filtering out.

RW: Yeah, it's pinging pretty good, I guess. Alright, should we go around and introduce ourselves?

HH: Yeah.

RW: Myque already--.

MYQUE HARRIS: Yes, I am Myque Harris.

ELIZABETH ALSTON-PINCKNEY: I'm Elizabeth Alston-Pinckney.

ELLA SCARBOROUGH: I'm Ella Scarborough.

RYAN WILLIAMS: I'm Ryan Williams.

HOLLIS HAMMONDS: And I'm Hollis Hammonds.

MH: So--. So, I guess what we decided is that we'll go through our stack and pick out a couple that really stand out to us, and then we can decide, um, which ones- which one we wanna really start with and kind of move through--.

HH: What does that say?

MH: Things.

ES: Here's a moment of silence for, uh, for, uh, Prince.

HH: Oh, yeah.

MH: Mm.

ES: (inaudible - 00:05:04-06) opportunity that I met him. When the elected officials—the Black elected officials were visiting (inaudible - 00:05:12) he had a function for us at his studio. And, uh, and he called out --he didn't perform-- but he came out and he met each of us. And he paid (inaudible - 00:05:23).

HH: Wow. Wow.

EAP: This-this'll be recorded.

RW: Yeah.

[inaudible feedback]

ES: Yeah, so when-when I heard about his death, it startled me so badly--. I-I had to just sit down for a minute because he's-he's one of the- one of the, um, entertainers that is real. You know, he's real, and it's just out of- it was sort of difficult, uh, when I heard about his death. But, uh, I-I must say that he added a lot to America and he certainly, um, he made us wake up on songs that he wrote: 'Purple Rain' and all, you know, all-all the songs, but, um, but we-we will sorely miss him for sure, as we do Michael Jackson. Just--. I don't know maybe God need-needed some singers in heaven and evidently because, uh, you know (inaudible - 00:06:18).

HH: (inaudible - 00:06:20).

ES: I do, too.

HH: Yeah. I just felt like he would just be around.

ES: (inaudible - 00:06:24) I'm- in all seriousness, when I heard, I had to sit down.
I would- eh- ah--. He's one of, one of the ones I met — at least met him.

HH: (inaudible - 00:06:33-6) I got to see him in Columbia.

ES: Mm-hmm.

HH: Um, (inaudible - 00:06:39)

ES: Yeah, yeah.

[Speaker intermittently agrees]

HH: (inaudible - 00:06:41) succeed.

[Laughter]

HH: I to- to this day that was the mess (inaudible - 00:06:48) I mean, he had the
band on stage (inaudible - 00:06:53)

[Laughter]

HH: silhouette, you know.

[Hard to hear speaker from 00:06:39 - 00:07:36]

ES: He wouldn't let us take pictures with him, but-but, um, he was so
gracious. Yes, so, so gracious.

RW: Wow.

ES: Mm-hmm.

HH: Yeah, there's more and more interviews coming out: um, people talking
about stories like that where he- about his philanthropy, that he purposely kept, um--.

ES: Quiet.

HH: Secret — yeah. So, we're gonna hear a lot more, I think.

ES: Oh, yeah. Yeah, he's, um, he's a very gracious (inaudible - 00:08:03)

HH: [Laughs] So, yeah. Yeah, we'll get talking.

RW: It's so strange. Well, no — I mean, just to keep going with the Prince thing, like--.

[Chuckling]

RW: I--. It's weird 'cause I never listen to Prince, I never liked Prince. You know--.

ES: Really?

RW: I never really cared for him at all. You know what I mean? In fact--.

ES: So when were you born?

RW: I was born in '85. You know?

ES: Here?

RW: Yeah, Charlotte. Born and raised right at Presbyterian, you know? But it-it's so strange because I never--. Like I said, he-he-he was never on my radyar- radar you know what I--. Wait (inaudible - 00:08:37), I would've been like, 'Well, is there anything else going on?' You know what I mean? But, just (inaudible - 00:08:41) I--. The music really doesn't- that doesn't bother me, the fact that--. But I didn't know he was, like, s-so philanthropic — is that the word?

ES: Oh, yes he is.

RW: You know what?

ES: He was.

RW: Like, I guess the thing that's striking me the most about him is finding out all these things he did behind the scenes, 'cause that's something I really- I think is really

important for an artist to use his, you know, his celebrity and his-his image for more than just record sales, so to find out he's been doing all this stuff, you know, behind the scenes, it gives me a- some sort of a, I don't know, appreciation for him as an individual, as a person. And I've seen, like, some of, like, snippets or interviews that he's, uh, had. And just hearing him talking away the things that are important to him, the way he, um, I guess, um, portrayed his image, you know--.

[Speakers intermittently agree]

ES: So-so this judging a book by its cover. You know, a lot- a lot of times we do that. And, oh, there's the noise they have in the- in the media. And we don't get an opportunity to-to actually draw in and see what the person really is about. It's like Michael. Michael Jackson was--. And I mean, he was a sword and he was an- a, uh, philanthropist, um, and, um, (inaudible - 00:09:51). You couldn't even put- compare, a- but people didn't know that. They always assume because the news media do exactly what they do and that is, 'If I can find something on ya, I'll make you sound like you're no good.' But, um, w-we had- we had to go beyond that and go under the surface, when they start talking about people. Kind of a (inaudible - 00:10:10) they have done.

MH: Absolutely.

ES: Mm-hmm. Yes.

MH: Um, I ha-I have this card, this is like one way in the other direction and love Prince and Michael Jackson, and all the, uh, things that they're doing. Um, and you have to (inaudible - 00:10:24). I think th--. I have this, um, card that says, *Recent closures of North Carolina abortion clinics disproportionately affect disenfranchised non-white communities. Only ten clinics remain over state wide. State wide — not city*

wide, state wide. And this really just (inaudible - 00:10:49) to me. I mean, everybody has different views, I h- I'm proud, I have no problems with saying I'm Pro-choice. I have my own, you know, personal, um, uh, opinions about things, but I feel like people should be to do what it is that they want to do based on their circumstances. Um, but I think that--. When-when I look at abortion clinics, I don't just look at the aspect of abortion, I look at all the other things that clinics provided that communities, or women, may not have access to and--. You know, and I'm not necessarily just speaking for--. I'm sure that there are clinics that just, you know, address abortion, but there are clinics that a- that address, um, um, gynecological care, um, prenatal care — I mean, so many other things, and so I think when you focus on one aspect of something that provides, you know, hundreds of-of, um, services. When you eliminate that place based on one thing, it's a huge, huge, huge (inaudible - 00:11:56). Um, especially to this population. So, I just--. I think that's a big — it's huge.

EAP: Well, um, it's my goal (inaudible - 00:12:09-13). It looks like she's sixteen, but she's really twenty three, but she is a field organizer at (inaudible - 00:12:19) and, um, I told her already, and I'm-I'm a volunteer and it's really such (inaudible - 00:12:31-37). And it is really disappointing that people don't [Mic movement] and I'm just gonna focus on [Mic movement] inherently right now, but the people don't know the services that organizations like Planned Parenthood really offer. 'Cause it's not just about abortion, it is really about women's rights, women's services. One of the things that we did, um, a few months ago in February was to go to the Supreme Court, you know, when they, um, were carrying the decision on the Texas case. Um, and there's so

much at stake that we just take for granted, um, and it is sad to say how we are moving backward.

MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Mm-hmm.

MH: Yeah.

EAP: In so the ways--.

MH: Of supporting people.

EAP: Um, and it's frightening. It is- it's-it's scary. Um--.

HH: I'm just gonna--. I-I guess I didn't hear what the results were of that case. It hasn't — yeah.

EAP: It-it hasn't come down yet, no. It hasn't come down.

HH: Cause I read about the, um, the, um, Supreme Court Justice's comments, um, which were amazing. Um, the three women justices and (inaudible - 00:14:05) and I was on the (inaudible - 00:14:06)

EAP: You know--. And you know, and-and-and that is [Laughs] why, you know, it goes back to the presidential election, because what happens with the Supreme Court, um, appointment, um, what happens with the state, um, ruling, you know, it will stand right now. But if there is a-a tie- if there is a tie in the decision, the state, um, ruling will-stand. You know, everything you--. Is-is connected, you know. But if you don't understand that--. You know, it's-it's hard. And the average American, you know, really, doesn't that--. Everything goes back to, you know, changing in voter laws and suppression of those laws.

MH: But, you know, one thing that I think --and-and it will probably apply to all these cards-- is I don't--. The thing that really gets me, when you said moving backwards, it made me think about how people don't want to take care of people just because people are people. You know, people don't wanna take care of people because people are people; people don't want to treat people right just because they're people. It's always about who you're- what category you're in or what- whether it's a party or a group, or a race, or this. It's not just about, 'You know what? I-I want to have good care or good services, or be a good person, or be treated right. So, therefore, I want you to have that.' You know? It's just- it seems so basic and so straight forward but when you--. It-it-it-it seems like it gets all complicated with all these things, but to me it just seems like basic, straight forward (inaudible - 00:15:57).

[Laughter]

[Speakers intermittently agree]

ES: Before I state (inaudible from 00:15:58-00:16:14)

EAP: Unless it's those men in-in politics that's a making decision about women.

ES: (inaudible - 00:16:20)

RW: Um, I gotta get back to the question now.

[Laughter]

RW: (inaudible - 00:16:25)

[Pause]

RW: Um, well my whole--. It's kind of difficult to talk about this because I don't really have a dog in the fight almost, but I know, I do, you know--.

EAP: You do.

RW: On the grand scheme of things. Um, as a man, you know, I believe--. As for me personally, I don't speak for all men, obviously, but in my--. The way I was raised, you know, I--. There was a lot of women in my family, so I'm very, you know, respectful of women's rights. I mean, I joke around a lot of times because I kinda get used as, like, the muscle.

EAP: [Chuckling]

RW: It's like, 'Get this for me - you tall,' you know. But, um, [Chuckles] but when it comes to, like, women's rights, I'm-I'm completely--. I've-I'm--. I hate to say that I'm (inaudible - 00:17:12). I'm--. I hate being through that. You know, pro life, pro choice debate, but I-I am pro-pro choice. You know what I mean? Because it's not my body, I don't know what you mean. It's not my place to say what you should do with it. You know what I mean? I don't know your circumstances, I know there's a million and one things that can happen. You know, I also understand that, you know, life is still a life, so I-I always like to say that--. My interpretation of it is I'm pro- I'm-I'm pro--. Okay, I'm pro choice (inaudible - 00:17:41) there's a pardon. After there's a harmony that you be identified (inaudible - 00:17:46) pro life. You know what I mean? 'Cause I feel like that's rare, but that's just my own person and I'm not gonna, like--.

MH: Nobody's here to judge you.

RW: I'm not gonna--.

MH: (inaudible - 00:17:52)

HH: Yeah.

MH: Yeah.

ES: (inaudible - 00:17:54) to respect (inaudible- 00:17:55) and it should (inaudible - 00:17:56) with permission with-with (inaudible- 00:17:57).

MH: Say wh--. Say what you're saying again.

ES: I want you to be respectful--.

[Speakers intermittently agree]

MH: Um, on this particular--? I mean, I just- I-I really feel like--. Well, one, in terms of the-the-the clinics; the one thing you said about Planned Parenthood and, you know, I'll-I'll just be candid. I mean, I grew up in a middle class family, and my parent's could provide, blah blah blah blah — all that. However, there was a period where--. So, I don't know if it's still like this, but you could be on your parents' insurance until you were a certain age. And then if you were in school, that time was extended. Right? And then there was a period between that time and 'I gotta get a job that has good health insurance,' [Laughs], right? And there's a reality of they're-they're-they're people that, um, that can not necessarily — that don't necessarily fit into this population, and you may have to have access to a Planned Parenthood. I remember going and having, um, gynecological visits and those kind of things because I knew that those certain services were important because the way I was raised, but at the same time I didn't have three hundred, four hundred dollars to go pay, you know, a j- a-a-a- the primary care physician because I was in between insurance. You know, and so, I think that--. When people aren't looking at that, also. You know, they're just saying, 'Okay. It only applies to this category, it only applies to this,' and then you end up eliminating all of them. Um, in terms of abortion, I have to get in to-to one or the other, um, because it's-it's easy to argue, I think, both sides, but I really think that when you take choices away from

people, that i- that's a big, big issue. You know, people should have choices; you should not be able to say, 'Okay, I'm gonna take all this away and you don't even have a choice now. You're only left with this.' You know? So, then you get into pigeon holding and all that other stuff.

HH: Yeah.

MH: Yeah.

ES: I spoke (inaudible - 00:19:42).

HH: Um--. I mean, I'm at- I actually live in Texas, so I know all about the sort of--. Um, I'm assuming that in North Carolina it's similar to what they've been doing in Texas. Um, and I-I don't think that they're gonna get, uh, get away with it in Texas. I think the Supreme Court is gonna come back with the correct ruling, um, because there's a lot that's happening in politics where, um, you know, people are using something like abortion to basically take rights away from people.

EAP: Exactly. Exactly, it's a shield.

HH: The disenfranchised, right?

EAP: It's a- it-it's a shield.

HH: Where the poor--.

EAP: It's a shield.

ES: (inaudible - 00:20:23)

EAP: It's a shield. Mm-hmm. It's a shield.

HH: Yeah. But-but--. Yeah, my--.

EAP: It was a shield.

HH: You know, even all of my friends--. None of us had--. Where we all grew up in Kentucky, we were all very poor. We- none of us had insurance, and so we all, in college, went to Planned Parenthood.

Unknown: (inaudible - 00:20:40).

HH: Um, is--. I think it's a- uh, it's really an economic issue 'cause those who need access can't afford to get access, and so closing--. I mean, ten clinics from the state, it's insane.

MH: It's ridiculous, yeah.

Unknown: Mm-hmm.

HH: It's really ridiculous, yeah.

ES: Thank you for that perspective (inaudible - 00:20:59). Number one, I served ten years on Planned Parenthood. Ten (inaudible - 00:21:05) and medical (inaudible - 00:21:06). Um, as a result of that, I saw a lot of foreigners. One of them was starving and things that happened was (inaudible - 00:21:15). This nine year old (inaudible - 00:21:18) [Mic Movement] to have an abortion. The nine year old was raped by her mother's boyfriend. The baby didn't even know she was pregnant. The bad news about that was that she was already five months pregnant, and-and planned parenthood could not do an abortion on a five month pregnancy. And I went to that baby's school every-almost-almost everyday and-and walked that child in my arms because she had no clue what was going on with her body. And so when you ask her, you said, 'What happened? Baby, what happened?', and she'll say, 'Um, my-my-my mommy's boyfriend loved me too.' It-it-it star--. Nine years old, and my daughter at that time was nine. I cried almost all night long and that- because that-that disturbed me. Planned Parenthood, in my

opinion, is one of the best things that we have done for women. Here's what--. And I--. And you-you can hold your ears 'cause I'm-I'm gonna get pretty-pretty (inaudible - 00:22:19). When I-I told the county when they- when-when the, um, the-the, uh, doctor, our doctor, the phy-phy-physician for the health department came and made a presen-tation to the board, to the- to the county commissions about, um, uh, Planned Parenthood or that--. Afterwards about contraceptives for women. And I told him, and I'll tell you: the last person that I heard of that had a baby and didn't have sex, was who? Mary. Until Mary comes back, and do that--. Men you have most- the same responsibility as we do. Until we start pricking you guys, and-and-and snip y'all until-until you were--.

[Laughter]

[Speakers intermittently agree]

ES: Th-that's right. We need to snip the men until they are ready to have children, because you cannot tell people 'Don't have sex' 'cause they're gonna do it. Let's-let's-let's face it. So the point is so the mistake won't be made, and I told the health department this in front of everybody — the news media got it. I said, 'Give them, uh, do some--. The vasectomy until you were ready to have a family. And-and-and-and-and I ask him about that, and one of the other men said, 'I had--.' He-he-he said it wasn't- it wasn't a vasectomy, it was something else 'cause they're similar to a vasectomy, and he said, 'My-my wife told me he-she wasn't having any more children, but when she- if she decides she wants to have another child, it could be, undone.' So there's a new thing, and I don't know what it is, but I-I-I think women, all of us, need to be speaking. Yes, we believe in Planned Parenthood, but we also believe that our men need to take

care of their bodies so they won't produce, because every time I hear someone come up and talk about 'that lady had a baby,' doggone she ain't married. If-if she had, doggone she's not--. And-and until we get to that point--. So, when I served on Planned Parenthood, I saw so many stories. However, I still, in 2016, men must take on the responsibility. You know, you--.

HH: I'm curious how you know--. I'm--. No, I'm sorry.

ES: Go-go-go ahead. Come in.

HH: I'm curious what sex education is like in this state.

ES: Well, see, sex education, er, th-that's-that-that's a- that's a, er, that's a-a little cute little thing to have, because when men are after you and you're a fif-fifteen to sixteen years old, and you think you're in love, you're not gon' be thinking about Planned Parenthood, you're not gonna be thinking about any of those things. All you gon' think about, 'Ooh, he love me, jump in the bed and now you got a baby. You see what I'm saying? So my point to that was when you- we get thirteen year olds, thirteen to-to-to twenty- twenty one year olds, we need to be doing something: sex education in a classroom, they still teach that, um, we need to also--. Our parents need to stop saying, 'Oh,' and, 'No, she aint--. No, she ain't gon' be, uh--.' You don't know what she gon' be. You're not with her 24/7. You understand that? And so, therefore, we need to take a- take a, uh, aggressive role on our children. Men and women. The bad news is that we have, for years, put the onus, on the women. The onus, and when we speak about it, every last one of them--. Even you young man, I'm glad you're here, because we need to stop putting the onus on all of us. Because I tell you now, the last- an

immaculate conception was where? We hadn't had once since then. Aye,
na-na-na-na-na-na.

MH: I'm the same. I-I-I agree, we were (inaudible - 00:25:45). One thing that I will
say that--. You know, I would speak differently to (inaudible - 00:25:49) is it is the
education part. You know? And as--.

ES: I agree. A hundred percent.

[Speaker intermittently agrees]

MH: The type of work that I do. I mean, I'm a psychotherapist, I work in the
community. (inaudible - 00:25:59) I just--. I-I gave a-a (inaudible - 00:26:02) talk.
[Laughs] presentation to parents. (inaudible - 00:26:06). But the thing is that I do think
that it's important. I mean, you know, it-it would be wonderful (inaudible - 00:26:11) if
there was something that we could do physically right. So, (inaudible - 00:26:16).

ES: There is something, but we--.

MH: (inaudible - 00:26:18) back, but--.

ES: You need to call the health department. Hel--. Call the health department and
get what that is.

MH: But, but--.

ES: Yes.

MH: With the reality, we have to give back to teaching people to understand just
how to take care of our bodies, self-discipline, critical thinking 'cause it needs attention.
You don't ask to depart, we do--. We--. You know what I'm saying? I mean, I-I said--.
[Laughs].

RW: Yeah.

MH: But my point is is that--.

RW: There are other ways?

MH: But my point is is that we don't do (inaudible - 00:26:46). The reality is when (inaudible - 00:26:48) that situation... Yeah, it's more likely to (inaudible - 00:26:54) but I think that...more understand--. To-to (inaudible - 00:27:00) in certain situations, and have some discipline that that can be (inaudible - 00:27:03) I think it starts early. I think — I have a five year old, I think it starts very, very early on.

ES: I think so, too. I think I agree with you on that.

MH: And so I think that there is a possibility that education (inaudible - 00:27:12-21)

EAP: (inaudible - 00:27:14) And I will say this about--. Today's (inaudible - 00:27:20) because part of what they also do is (inaudible - 00:27:25) sex education 'til today. Um, because I know as a volunteer in- for field educators, they will pound with condoms, they'll do all of that, you know. . My-my daughter always has condoms in her car. Right now, we're doing 'Get yourself tested.' We do all of the the--. You know, I mean, it's an ongoing thing. She goes out to college campuses--. I mean, um, it-it-it's an ongoing (inaudible - 00:27:52). I mean, um, it does not stop. I mean, we canvas all the time, we go door to door, knocking. We (inaudible - 00:28:01) social media style, we do it old style (inaudible - 00:28:04) we incorporate the new and the old.

ES: Would you tell Planned Parenthood for me, that I know about ten condom babies? Condoms don't do it [Laughs].

EAP: Oh, no. I mean, what I'm saying--.

ES: The-the-the men. It's-it's gotta be on them.

EAP: (inaudible - 00:28:19)

ES: I will.

EAP: What if you (inaudible - 00:28:21).

RW: Okay.

ES: No. I'm with you.

RW: I'm--. Absolutely.

EAP: You know, it's-it's (inaudible - 00:28:27). It's not just the, um, condoms. It's-it is about education. And it's--. See, my thing is--. 'Cause I'm also (inaudible - 00:28:37) and I work on college campuses. Um, you--. People are gonna do what we gonna do because we all know that.

ES: We know that.

EAP: Um, you've been taught to (inaudible - 00:28:48)

ES: Blue in the face. Mm-hmm.

[ES intermittently agrees]

[Unknown whistle]

EAP: You know, um, this (inaudible -00:28:59) 'cause you have to build relationships. It's a one on one. You have to- and you have to (inaudible - 00:29:10). What I do on a college campus, I walk in every day. Um, we have what we call the P.V. You know, it's the pavilion, but the kids call it the P.V. I go over there everyday. I-I go to that P.V. everyday (inaudible - 00:29:27) I walk in on that college campus everyday--.

ES: Which (inaudible - 00:29:29)?

EAP: (inaudible - 00:29:31).

ES: Oh, really. Okay. Yeah.

[ES intermittently agree]

EAP: Everyday. And building relationships. I have (inaudible - 00:29:34) with these students. (inaudible - 00:29:37) you have to give that ability to win them. Where they are, I'll (inaudible - 00:29:41).

ES: Lead them where they are.

EAP: Yes. The way I see it, you know where they are. Where they are is where I am. You know, if they're in the cafeteria, I'm in the cafeteria; if you're in the P.V., I'm in the P.V. If you can't (inaudible - 00:29:53) I really want (inaudible - 00:29:55) do with the police door, I'll (inaudible - 00:29:57).

ES: They have good people.

[Laughter]

ES: That's right, good on you.

Unknown: (inaudible - 00:30:00), I'm knocking it back.

RW: [Laughs] Turn off that plan.

MH: (inaudible - 00:30:02)

[Laughter]

RW: For those who know Charles Darwin--.

EAP: You know, and then I mistakenly--.

RW: 'Cause it ain't going down here.

EAP: I'm like, 'What you want?'

ES: That's right.

EAP: You know--.

ES: That's right, that's right.

EAP; That's-that's- and that's how you (inaudible - 00:30:10).

ES: You really do.

[Speaker intermittently agrees]

EAP: That's what you (inaudible - 00:30:12).

EAP: If you on- if you on the ground, I'm on the ground. You know--. First of all, if you- if you, uh, if you are tweetin', I'm tweetin' you back. You know, maybe that's what you have to do, and that's--. You know--. So, the next time I say to my daughter she (inaudible - 00:30:27) you know, you have to do, what you do as a twenty three year old to a woman to--. For your job. You know, that's what you have to do. It's a non-men (inaudible - 00:30:40) but you also have to do (inaudible - 00:30:46) on a ten dollar G.T. You have to do what somebody my age does (inaudible - 00:30:50) fifty something years old. You know, so you have to do the old and the new. You know, to--.

ES: Whatever works, just put it all together.

EAP: (inaudible - 00:30:59)

ES: Be innovative, is what you were saying. That's right.

EAP: Exactly, exactly.

ES: Be innovative.

EAP: (inaudible - 00:31:03).

HH: I just wanted to say that I'm, um--. You know, like, the fact that Planned Parenthood has to take on the responsibility of all of these things, in a way, is the problem. Like, the fact that it's not in the elementary school. I mean had my sex ed in fifth grade. And we saw baby birthing videos and everything, and it was Kentucky. [Laughs] It's like--. And I didn't think that happens any more. Like, you know--. And it-it-it depends how conservative your state is--.

EAP: Let's go showing. I mean, I can see my--. I-I have a- I have a seventeen year old. I have a seventeen year old. (inaudible - 00:31:42) over here. When they grew ten (inaudible - 00:31:45). Um, when we tend (inaudible - 00:31:47). I don't know about right now, but she saw that video, hear, they had to wear a cap. Yeah, so let's go share it.

MH: Yes.

HH: Did they get all the rest? You know? Did they get all the rest of the education (inaudible - 00:32:01).

EAP: Yeah, they have it. They have-they have- it has sex educate- they have educators in (inaudible - 00:32:05).

ES: Mm-hmm.

HH: Great, and that's good.

EAP: Yes, and it-it--.

HH: 'Cause I didn't get (inaudible - 00:32:09).

EAP: Test, too- I got test to effectiveness. You know, but--.

HH: I think--.

EAP: They have it.

HH: While all the issues like politics, like, voting rights — you know, all those things start, um, with education. And if people are isolated and don't know any better, you know, like--. I-i-it's-it's hard for them to find, like, Planned Parenthood or even feel comfortable going there knowing that that's a resource. You know?

MH: Exactly.

HH: Um--.

ES: (inaudible - 00:32:37)

RW: Um, I guess, not really. I was- I--.

ES: [Laughs]

RW: Just be taking it back in. You know, I think- I feel like there's certain things that I don't really know anything about it, it's best for me to just sit back and listen. You know what I mean? I'm not gonna be like, 'What do you think about this?', and (inaudible - 00:32:51) because, you know, I'm-I'm just as comfortable just sitting back listening and taking it all in, and really get, like, a better understanding and a bit of respect for what I should do.

ES: But-but--. So, let me ask you- let me ask you a question then: do you believe that we-we need to talk with men, as well as women, in reference to the subject?

RW: Absolutely. I mean, I-I believed that before we started this, you know--.

ES: Conversation.

[ES intermittently agrees]

RW: Conversation, absolutely. It's-it-it-it's two people. You know? They're definitely accountable, you know, but (inaudible - 00:33:15) as a man, I feel like it's important that if you take those--. If-if you do these things, you should accept whatever repercussions comes from that. I mean, that's just real. Like, from my heart because I--. You know, I-I love my babies, but I don't really see their dads as much as I see their moms. You know what I'm sayin'? But, um--. And now it's, like, across the board in my community and stuff, and, like, especially, it's--. A lot of times it's prevalent in low-low income communities — I mean, obviously, but, you know. And that hurts me because that--. Like, I feel like that's separation of a family.

ES: Are you- are you a teacher as well?

RW: No, [Laughs] no.

ES: Okay. Okay.

RW: Um, I feel like that's separa-- [Laughs].

Unknown: (inaudible - 00:33:51)

RW: [Laughs]. It's, uh, it's damaging in the long term. You know what I mean? So, um, I feel like it's, um--. Definitely, there should be more male involvement in- with regards to, like, matters of this. And in any kind of family and any kinda, like, growth in the community kind of thing, and that's, like--. It's a shame that it's like that, you know? Me, personally, I just--. Like, my dad was there, I'm fortunate enough to have a lot of positive male and female, you know--.

ES: Role models

RW: Influences in my life, so--. And I, also, understand the big picture-; I know, like, at the end of the day, it's all about the progression of the whole, of everyone, to get

better and get better and get better. So, um, any way that anyone can do that is, you know, is good.

ES: So you're (inaudible - 00:34:33)?

MH: Like-like how can you (inaudible - 00:34:34) what's your opinion about, specifically, um, that their (inaudible - 00:34:40) or-or lack thereof? (inaudible - 00:34:44) because it's like these, um--. So, the way (inaudible - 00:34:48) like, these-these families, these communities, are here, um (inaudible - 00:34:52) are here also, but they're- but they're not present, so-so what's happening? What are they doing (inaudible - 00:34:58)? Why-why are they following a (inaudible - 00:35:00)? Um, why isn't there a willingness to say, 'Okay, I want to take care of my child or my family, or be responsible w--.' You know, whatever.

RW: That's--.

MH: (inaudible - 00:35:10)

RW: That's huge, yeah. That's really, really huge and broad and, like, I find the answer to that is really, really, really--.

MH: You have the answer to that.

RW: Yeah, it's like, 'Ah, it's too much.' You know? Um, I don't--. Again, I don't speak for all Black men. You know, we, just like any other, you know, demographic, have, like, parody within. You know what I mean? So, I guess it's the, um--. I would say that it's-it's a case by case basis, but for it to be so prevalent, I think it has a lot to do with a--. You know, it's a generational thing. I feel like as it--.

EAP: (inaudible - 00:35:45)

RW: And-and the media.

EAP: A certain- it's a certain-it's a--. I keep hearing--. You keep saying (inaudible - 00:35:51) but I believe that it's in--. So, people may choose (inaudible - 00:35:57). You know, um, (inaudible - 00:36:00-02) and--. I-I (inaudible - 00:36:05) You know, I keep hearing that. I don't think that's necessarily mean (inaudible - 00:36:13) for the--. I'm-I am just tired that (inaudible - 00:36:16)ation.

HH: [Laughter]

RW: I'm-I don't wanna jump in--.

HH: Yeah, go ahead.

RW: You know--.

EAP: (inaudible - 00:36:20-28) with the way that women, you know (inaudible - 00:36:29-35)

MH: Well, it it doesn't necessarily mean all, because, I mean, even if you're looking at communities with statistics and everything--.

EAP: I know that, I know that. (inaudible - 00:36:40-46) you said--. You don't see that. You know, um, in the (inaudible - 00:36:51)

RW: Oh, yeah. Um, it's-it's not so much that--. Honestly, to be honest, it's not so much an age group as much as an economic thing when it comes to that. It's only like--. 'Cause like I said, I grew up--. I'm right there, you know what I'm saying? And, um--.

EAP: (inaudible - 00:37:06) your dad was the (inaudible - 00:37:06) right?

RW: Yeah, my dad was there, you know. But, um, not so much a lot my friends and everything, you know what I mean? So, um, I guess I--. In terms of that, I was a little bit of the exception. But, um, I think if--. It seems to me that it happens to be in a

certain — more of an economic thing than an age thing, because I know people in their 40s that are having kids out of wedlock and not there just as like seventeen year olds, you know what I mean? Um, I want to say that it probably does exist within a certain late age range as more than others, but, um, I don't know at the same time, but, um...

MH: One-one thing that's someone--. And this (inaudible - 00:37:50) Um, in a conversation that some people were having and-and-and this is was an older gentleman and he was talking about how [Pause] before there was a community of men that looked out for, and ways, and contributed to younger men becoming men, and how there was a shift in that. And how that shift --and this is what he was saying-- that shift for-for some reason--. And he was saying, you know, in his community at the time, you could be an older man walking down the street and he would--. Um, he would mentor that young person, and that young person would have a certain quote-unquote fear of you, or respect your authority or whatever, he said. And there was a shift to where it started the-the--. The younger men--. The older men were quote-unquote scared of the younger men, because of whatever. You know? And how that dynamic really cut off that generational, 'Hey, I'm looking out for you. I'm helping you- raise you into a man and--.' Those men felt they had the same obligation to the younger men that came after them and — you know, everything, so. I'm just putting out information--.

ES: The community.

MH: Which means — exactly.

HH: Yeah. Right, right, right.

ES: The community.

RW: Really cool.

MH: Exactly.

ES: The community.

MH: Yeah, the community. And then how th-there's been a major, major shift in that. And so--.

ES: (inaudible - 00:39:07) Look-look around.

RW: I feel like the-the 80s--.

MH: Right, right. Yeah.

EAP: (inaudible - 00:39:14) I'm sure that little (inaudible 00:39:15) to (inaudible - 00:39:15).

MH: And that's a--. I think that's the same thing when you're looking at different- when you look at different social economics.

HH: It sounds--.

ES: Different paradigms.

HH: It's--.

EAP: Yeah.

ES: And, uh, (inaudible - 00:39:25) it-it-it-it's amazing. I was just gonna share with you guys--. Uh, you probably know this already, but when I grew up in central South Carolina, um--.

EAP: (inaudible - 00:39:36).

ES: Really?

EAP: Yeah. That's him right there.

ES: Really? (inaudible - 00:39:39) talkin' about (inaudible - 00:39:40) My father's a baptist minister. And so, um, my mother was a person who taught the young women about when they start feeling (inaudible - 00:39:51). So, when- when we were at the church for so long, we were spending the night with some of the older women of the church. This older lady told me one day, um--. Well her cats were having kittens, and I wanted to see all those kittens got here.

RW: [Chuckles]

ES: And they hid that thing from me, they didn't let me say I rescued two.

HH: Yeah.

ES: They wouldn't let me see it. So--.

[Laughter]

ES: They told me that the cat went into--. Now I-I think was, like, nine years old. The cat went into the-the woods.

HH: [Laughs]

ES: And brought the kittens back.

[Laughter]

ES: It's so horrible (inaudible - 00:40:35)

MH: Right, right.

ES: W-where-where-where they get the kittens from? God brought the kittens, gave them to them (inaudible - 00:40:45-52) thing off the television. All those things now, and we'll (inaudible - 00:40:54-58). And so, we come a long way--.

Unknown: (inaudible - 00:41:01)

ES: Even since I left Planned Parenthood, I served ten years--.

HH: Yeah.

ES: But since I served, more things have come, are knowledgeable for children and for-for-for you and those whom you teach. (inaudible - 00:41:14) and I-I think that's marvelous. We've come so far and yet sometimes we haven't come far enough. It comes down to--. We still have babies out of wedlock out there. (inaudible - 00:41:24) so (inaudible - 00:41:29).

HH: Now this conversation has brought up, like, other topics, um--. [Shifting of cards] So this one--. Um, 'cause we were talking about, like, why this power struggle, I guess, between male generations has changed and, um, like how do Black men feel empowered, and so their-their behavior--. And maybe there's some social thing that's changed that they're, you know — younger men becoming dominant, for instance, versus, like, respecting their elders. But I think that is the whole country, all races, like, across the board. Like, younger generations are not, um, interested or respectful of their elders. It's-it's a weird--. I'm not sure where it comes from either, but it's a big question to think about. Um, there's this one about *Insufficient media coverage of police brutality*, which--. Hmm.

MH: That kinda relates to [Shifting of cards] this one: *Charlotte police officers have one of the worst use-use of force policies in the Nation, injuring rate 73 percent compared to 45 percent for the next force city.*

EAP: So (inaudible - 00:42:39)

HH: Well, yeah. And-and this one too. Um, *In Charlotte, Black*, um, *drivers' cars are searched three times more than white drivers*. Right? So, there's racial profiling, there's, um, this sort of epidemic of police force and--.

MH: Mm-hmm. Insertion of power.

HH: Um, I-I'm just wondering, like--. I mean, there's, like, the chicken and the egg thing. Like, has society changed that much that, um, the police are responding in this way, or have the poli-police brutality, like, forced, uh, whole communities to like,uh... I don't even know what I'm asking.

RW: [Laughs]

EAP: That's what you said: relationships. It's like--.

MH: And-and I think it's like- there's like a lack of relationship between these-the police and the people with authority and the people in the communities. It's almost like a 'Us against them.' I don't think it was always like that.

RW: Mm, no. I-I happen to think that it has a lot--. I still--. A lot of my--. I think that a lot of the problems with, like, culture or society in general, stems from the media and, like, the portrayal of all of--. You know, these stereotypes of, like--. Or these archetypes of what an individual is. So, like, I feel like when citizens see the police officers innately just because of, like, the media and movies and all this stuff; they automatically have this preconceived notion of what a police officer is gonna do, is capable of doing. And I think that police officers, with their training and everything, respond, also, in a way that isn't productive to — for anyone. So, I think that that spiraled and turned into, like, the m- police basically coming like a military satan and kinda being fearful.... Of everything.

Unknown: (inaudible - 00:44:27) to be training. And-and--.

HH: That are training (inaudible - 00:44:29).

RW: Yeah, sensitivity training.

ES: Quite has-has some (inaudible - 00:44:33) to training. Know all of these officers to understand that --and also with the sheriff department-- to understand that you just don't pull someone because of who you- what they look like. Meaning, if they obeying the law, you have no business pulling them. The other night I saw, and I want to say this on the tape, um, when--.

[Chuckling]

ES: When we see- when we see things that's going on, you need to write them down; write down their card number of the officer.

Unknown: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

ES: (inaudible - 00:45:00) your perception of what you see and call (inaudible - 00:45:03) 'cause C.P. is welcome to, you know what I'm saying? You want to know that stuff, and so I think that's important that we do that. Um, the other thing is that we must insist, all of us, wherever we are. We need to insist that training take place, because it is- it is definitely predicated on. The training that the officers get — and when the ones we see who has training and still chose to do that, let them find on their (inaudible - 00:45:29). Um, (inaudible - 00:45:32).

MH: Right.

RW: Yeah.

ES: You need to get another (inaudible - 00:45:34) for the rest of the day, that's what you want to do. You know--. And, you know (inaudible - 00:45:40). We could send

you to (inaudible - 00:45:41) some of those places. You abused us so much someone's outa do that.

[Laughter]

ES: My point is, you have to ensure that all law abiding citizens are treated equally.

HH: I agree, I agree.

[ES intermittently agrees]

MH: But that- but-- Well, I had-I had two things to say; one, in the relation to what- well, connection to what you said about the media and how they portrayed the police and everything. I mean, I'll be honest, I was raised in a house where my parents were like, 'Look, you're Black.' I mean, was in Boulder, Colorado and Wright county, California. It wasn't like, you know-- But at the end of the day they were like [Laughs] 'You're Black and A, B, and C.' I mean, I can't remember not hearing that. Right? And they were realities that go with that, and it wasn't that we-- You know, we felt threatened walking down the street, or this or that, but they-they wanted us to know certain things. They wanted us to know certain things about being in the corporate world; they wanted us to know certain things about just being in the world. Period. So-- And I know that there are things I communicate to my daughter already. Um, and-and I don't- and now as I- as I've lived enough life, um, I feel like I've seen that play out in things. I was pulled over the other day in my neighborhood. The police officer pulled me over and I said, 'Why did you pull me over, sir?', he said, um, um, 'You-- It was a-a rolling stop'-- or something-- like, a rolling stop through a stop sign. Right? I said, 'Okay.' He asked me-

he said, 'Is this a new car?' because of the type of car that I drive. I said, 'Um, no. I bought it in 2014.' Right? Why are you making assumptions because--.

ES: Where were you where that happened?

MH: Because--. In my neighborhood right off of Lancaster highway in South Charlotte. You know, Ballantyne Commons in Lancaster highway?

ES: Oh, I need to know the--.

MH: In South Charlotte. He--.

ES: (inaudible - 00:47:2)

MH: I--. This--. All-all in that place, so I said, 'First of all, it's an irrelevant question,' but you know--.

ES: It had nothing to do with (inaudible - 00:47:29)

MH: But- no--. Absolu-absolutely. Now--.

ES: What he say?

MH: So I said, 'Okay.' Right? So, he goes through (inaudible - 00:47:34) whatever and everything, he comes back and he said, 'Do you, um, know the last charge that you had? I see that you were in Maryland before when you did that last charge.' Or something like that. The last charge, I've been here for five--. On my Maryland license. I've been here- I've been here for six years in Charlotte. He said--.

ES: You're no (inaudible - 00:47:51)?

MH: 'Your last--.'

ES: You're not (inaudible - 00:47:52)

MH: Yeah. Like, he pulled up my Maryland, 'cause he was talking about Maryland. I've been here almost six years.

ES: But he-he--.

MH: He said--.

ES: (inaudible - 00:47:57) North Carolina license?

MH: I have a North Carolina license — license, license plate registration, everything.

ES: Good.

MH: But he went back to my Maryland and he'd said--.

ES: What did that have to do with anything?

MH: Exactly, exactly. He said, 'Do you know the last charge, or the last whatever you had?' He said, 'It was for the same thing: rolling through a stop sign in 2009.'

Unknown: (inaudible - 00:48:14) [Laughs]

MH: I said--. I--. You know, I said, 'Oh, Okay, okay,' and he said, 'Well, are you okay?' I said, 'Yes, I'm fine now that I'm being pulled over.' He's like, 'Because I'm seeing a lot of attitude.' I said 'Please don't even go there.'

ES: Uh-uh, no he didn't.

MH: I said- I said, 'Please--. Please. Do. Not. Even. Go. There.' I had my child all in the back.

HH: He's, like, trying to incite you.

MH: Okay. So, my whole thing was that, number one: I'm in my neighborhood, I have my five year old in the back, you have me- you have pulled ov- pulled me over, I

was over in thirty three seconds. Right? You pulled me over and you're asking 'Is my car new?' I-I mean, stupid stuff.

ES: And that had nothing to do with why you (inaudible - 00:48:50).

MH: So, the point that I'm making is, unfortunately--. Yes, stolen. Right? But--.

ES: It's stolen.

MH: So--.

ES: (inaudible - 00:48:59)

MH: Okay. So, my point is-is that, yes, I do think that-that media, in some ways, perpetuates things. I think, sometimes, media doesn't show a lot of what's going on, but I do think that there are realities to-to-to what goes on. And that w- that-that- and that was a mild experience in relation to, probably, what other people have d- have experienced. That was- that was nothing compared to what people experienced.

ES: It could have been very ugly.

MH: It could have.

ES: You see what I'm saying.

MH: And so, for--. To me, it just reiterated the fact that it is a reality [Laughs] and for me to turn that off and act like, 'Oh, you're (inaudible - 00:49:32)' I will- I will not do- I won't do it. So--.

HH: There's a false sense of-.

[Laughter]

HH: There's a false sense of progress, you know?

ES: How do you pronounce your name? (inaudible - 00:49:42)

MH: Myque.

ES: Myque.

MH: Myque, yeah.

HH: Um--.

ES: Please see me in (inaudible - 00:49:46)

HH: My husband's Black and--. I mean, and he's been pulled over a million times. And it--. 'Cause he has a nice car and--. Uh, it doesn't matter where we've been, whether it's in Kentucky where we grew up, now we live in Texas, it's just a thing that he deals with constantly. But I've never been with so many Black men here that have- that have always said things about, 'Oh, I can't do that, because I'm Black and--.' You know, like, 'I can't speed because I'm not gonna run that, you know, yellow light, like.' You know, like, there's--. I've just heard it a lot. Um, it's really interesting, uh...

EAP: (inaudible - 00:50:22).

ES: Do you live here now?

HH: No, I'm j--. I'm an artist in residence. [Pause] I've been here since January.

EAP: (inaudible - 00:50:36)

RW: Mm-hmm.

ES: Say that again. I'm sorry (inaudible - 00:50:39)

[Laughter]

EAP: My husband, he's Black, of course, but he has never experienced any of that.

HH: Mm.

EAP: You know, we've teased him because he sa- he's so non-Black.

MH: You mean, he's like --. In terms of complexion or in terms of his way?

EAP: Well, he's -he's just Black.

MH: Oh, oh. Okay, okay.

HH: But-but, yeah, his experience.

MH: His demeanor (inaudible - 00:51:05)

EAP: It's funny because my daughter and I, we were up for the , uh, C.B.S. reality show. (inaudible - 00:51:14-22) [Mic movement] Um, C.B.S. was doing this-this reality show, you know, and they don't do a lot of reality shows. You know, um, we'd apply for *Amazing Race*.. And, um, um--. I had this thing, you know, I-I'm a cancer survivor. And, um, and one of the things we always wanted to do *The Amazing Race*. So we applied for *Amazing Race* and we sent them this stupid, stupid video. And we didn't know how stupid it was until C.B.S. actually called us and we looked at it again.

[Laughter]

EAP: [Laughs] And, um- and, um, part of the-the reel was us running down the street and talking about the cancer. And, um, I had this-this stupid rare cancer and, um, long story short, uh, we made it to the finals. So they flew us out to LA and, you know, we'd been working with our producer for months, for two months before we went out to LA. And, um, the night that we got there, um, we--. Long story short, the-the name of the reality show is called *The Hunted*. And--.

ES: The what?

EAP: *The Hunted*. And you'll probably see it in the fall, and you will not see us on there. Um, and that brings me to this, which has to do with being targeted. Um, this particular night, um, they called us upstairs, um, because he said that they wanted to see us before the C.B.S. execs were to meet that night before, and they called us upstairs at like two o' clock in the morning. After flying to L.A., um, six o' clock in the morning from Charlotte. And after taking a series of psychological tests in the coldest room possible, and after we figured out that the--. This show has been done in the U.K. and, um, we realized that C.B.S. was gonna put a different spin on it and what they're gonna do is actually--. Their spin is gonna be all southern people, and you basically have to outwit and outlast the-a team of trackers, professional trackers, some of them being [Sighs] people who were involved in the Bin Laden raid.

MH: Bin Laden what?

EAP: Who were involved in the--.

MH: Like, the KKK?

EAP: Like the hunt, the hunt to find Bin Laden.

MH: Okay. Oh, okay.

HH: What, this sounds crazy.

EAP: It is- it is crazy. So--.

HH: What's going on?

[Laughter]

EAP: Yeah, yeah, it's really crazy. So, um, they called us on and here's the executive producer, and we're sitting on this couch, we go--. Like I said, it's two o' clock

in the morning — so, my daughter and I, we're sitting on the couch and my daughter went to (inaudible - 00:54:13) okay? So, we're sitting on the couch and this woman says, 'A part of this show is that you have to basically walk out of your life, is based on partly on the show *The Fugitive*. And you leave your life for almost a month and you go, basically, to seven states with almost nothing. Um, and you have to outlast, outsmart this team of expert hunters; CIA, FBI, all these people--. Um, yeah. So, like I said, CBS does not do a lot of reality shows. Um, they do *The Amazing Race*, they do *Big Brother*, they--. So this is huge for them. So, you know, um [Drinks water] so they-they call us into the room and they are filming it, and this woman says--. You know, she--. The-the niceties get passed and she goes, 'So, Elizabeth Taylor. You know, you're going to be going to all these states, you know, and you're going to, um, have to outlast and outsmart, you know, and we who--. Um, you guys have been working on your plan, you know, so- but, um, you know, you're not gonna be in Charlotte anymore. You know, you're gonna be in these different, um, states. Now, um, what has your- what-what has been your experience- what-what has been your experience with, um — I don't know. How can I say this — um...' Hm, she's looking around with 'Um, um--. Well, you know, we're here in San Bernardino, you know and--. You know, um, we just had the San Bernardino shooting, so what's your experience been like with, um, being, um, um, being, um--.' And this is how she's talking. 'Being, um, um--. Ah, I just don't know what to say, but, um, you're familiar with, um, the Eric Garner case. You're familiar with, um, Trayvon Martin, right?' You know?

MH: What?

EAP: And she says, 'So what-what is you guys' experience been like with, um, being, um, profiled?' I said, 'Being profiled?', and she said, 'Yeah, what's-what's-what's your experiences been like?' And I said, 'What experience?'

[Laughter]

EAP: And she says, 'You know,' and she says, 'You--.'

ES: She didn't know the question did she?

EAP: 'You know.' Then I says- I said--. Right.

MH: Yeah, micro-aggression. Which is not--.

EAP: And she says, 'You know,' and I says, 'I don't,' and she says, 'Of course you do,' and I says, 'No, I don't.' And she says--. [Laughs]

[Laughter]

EAP: 'Sure you do', and I said, 'No, I don't.'

MH: What end up- what ended up happening? What-what?

EAP: I told- I said, 'Well, first of all, I-like I said, I don't know what you talking about' 'cause I wanted to say--. I wanted her to come out and say because I was Black, I did [Chuckles]. And she looks at our producer and with this look, like, 'Who are these fake Black people you brought to me?' [Laughs]

MH: Wow.

[Laughter]

EAP: And I told--. I said, 'I'm sorry, but we do not have any experiences--. Like, we have never been profiled,' and she goes, 'What?' And I said, 'We never been profiled,' and she goes, 'What do you mean you've never been profiled?' I said, 'I've-

We've never been profiled,' and she says, 'Why,' and I said, 'Why?' as if to say all Black people have been profiled.

Unknown: (inaudible - 00:58:36)

EAP: Right. And I said, 'Ah, there must be some misunderstanding here.,' I said, 'Um, first of all, not all Black people, uh, do not have any experience with profiling.' Um, and she says, 'But you are--. You-you are familiar with, uh, the Trayvon Martin case?' Eric Gardner--. She starts listing all of them. [Laughs] So, we went on with that and then she tells me, she says, 'So, are you saying that their experiences are not real?' And I said, 'Just because I don't have experiences with it, and Taylor doesn't have exper--. That and no way diminishes their experience.' So--. This woman starts turning red [Laughs] I mean, and it's just like- she has this look, like, you know, 'I cannot believe you actually found them, these Black fake people.' You know with like- she had this look like, 'Just get them out of here. Just--. Like, just get- just get these fake--.' You know, and we--. I had this — you know how you got these images in your face. Like, I can see, like, you know, like she had this--. If she had a gun, she would've shot us. You know, and I just could not believe that she's looking at us like, 'How-how dare you?' Like, 'Ugh.'

MH: Yeah, 'You're not real Black people.'

ES: And that's with the shared new experiences.

MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Yeah.

EAP: I'm just like--.

HH: Especially, like, Hollywood, it's--.

EAP: I mean--. Oh, it's-it--. Oh no, it's--.

HH: Stereotypes is, like, over the top.

[Speakers intermittently agree]

EAP: You know, it just--. I mean, it just--. I mean, I-I'm really downplaying it, but it's just that-it just--. She and I got into a whole thing with that, you know, I was just like, 'You've got to be kidding me.'

HH: 'Cause that's what sells.

EAP: 'You got--.' I mean--.

HH: That happens in little ways, like, all the time, people--.

EAP: It got-it got-it got really bad because I had to tell her, you know, that--. Up until college, I've gone to nothing but predominantly white schools. You know, there were only twelve Black kids in my graduating high school. You know, it's just during the time of segregation and desegregation — it just happened like-like that, based on where I lived. You know, Cornell Brooks is a very good friend of mine. It just so happens — 'cause we grew up on the same home town. You know--. Uh, and she's looking at me like, 'Ugh, and you still weren't profiled?' [Laughs] You know? You know, but it was just crazy.

MH: (inaudible - 01:01:12) that just--. It's like it speaks to, like, people.

ES: This question is on there.

MH: Did you say you're surprised it's on there? What'd you say?

ES: She-she (inaudible - 01:01:21) are both Black.

MH: Mm.

ES: For a hundred and some years, they were all white.

MH: It is insignificant, but...

EAP: It's not significant to me.

ES: It's not significant (inaudible - 01:01:34) two or five men doing the job.

MH: Right.

ES: But, you know.

HH: I mean--. Ri-right. Did they have- did they have the qualifications?

RW: Haven't, like, um--.

MH: I'm gonna ask him.

RW: What's the, um, demographic ins for, like, um, Black and white--?

ES: In Charlotte?

RW: Yeah.

ES: Charlotte right now, uh, uh we have, um, white--. 47 percent Black and 42 percent white, and about 17 percent other.

RW: But, that's coming from--.

ES: Right.

EAP: 'Til they- 'til they- 'til they get through.

HH: It's really (inaudible - 01:02:02) for a police. Like, for any city. That's--.

MH: Um--.

EAP: 'Til they gentrified--.

MH: I have a question moving on that I really want to know. I have a quick question.

EAP: 'Til it starts looking like Charleston.

MH: What do y'all think--. And this is just- I'm throwing this out there, do you--?

[Separate conversation]

ES: (inaudible - 01:02:17)

EAP: I'm in Georgetown.

[Conversation ends]

MH: President Obama, been- being in office--. I'll wait 'til their finished. I have a quick question, and I just wanna know what y'all think: do you guys think that President Obama being in office, do you think that that triggered a lot of--.

EAP: Oh, absolutely. You didn't even have to say that.

[Laughter]

EAP: You didn't need to finish that, yes. Yes, yes, yes. Ooh. Oh, absolutely. Oh, absolutely.

HH: I just wanna say, being white, like, there's a lot of um, political correctness, and I think that the fear that certain communities went through when Obama was actually elected, uh, just got rid of that completely. They were just like, 'Screw political correctness, we're just gonna, like, go out and say what we want.'

EAP: Oh, you mean- you mean the things that people never-never got rid of?

HH: Things that they--.

EAP: You know, that they were pretending?

MH: Right.

EAP: The things that they were pretending?

MH: Now they're like--.

EAP: All the time.

MH: Right.

HH: Come to the surface, right.

EAP: Yes. Yes. Oh, yes. Absolutely.

[Speakers intermittently agree]

ES: Well, I think, just from my perspective (inaudible - 01:03:17-20). Um, just from my perspective, we've gone back. Um, I was born in 1946, so my-my rec- my first recollection of segregation (inaudible - 01:03:31) when I was, um, five years old, my mother(inaudible - 01:03:35). And so my mother had paid all her dime here, and we (inaudible - 01:03:43-53). And this kid walked up to my brother and said, 'Where did that nigger get that long hair from?' You know- you know what I'm saying? And it sticks with you. That's what this reminds me of. (inaudible - 01:04:05).

EAP: Oh, yes. Bold enough to do it. Bold enough. Bold enough. Bold enough.

[Speaker intermittently agrees]

HH: 'Cause I work at a university in Austin and it's very--. Half affluent, half very poor) that have funding and, um, my students are very, like--. They don't believe in gender distinction and race distinction, so I have hope for the future, like, that- they think very differently than even my generation. Yeah, so--. I mean, and I think it'll be very interesting to see what happens, and I think we're always on this sort of political and social, like, flipping back and forth; we make a lot of progress, then we step back, and then we make a little more progress, but-but in general we're making progress.

MH: I agree. I think that that generation, when you said they're not looking at certain things and they're just like, 'Let's love everybody.' I-I do think that they are going to make a significant impact. And as the-the people that are just--. They'll, like, overt with it as they kind of get older and go away. Then that population (inaudible - 01:05:06).

HH: I mean, imagine growing up in a generation where you have a Black president for most of your childhood. You know--. I mean I--. It's just gonna be a different world.

ES: Like Obama said, (inaudible - 01:05:17)

EAP: Ooh.

RW: Um, yeah.

[Laughter]

HH: It's crazy.

MH: I can't even go there.

ES: A light- a light, um (inaudible - 01:05:27-37) I will send them to you. (inaudible - 01:05:40) sitting around this table to do two things: one, [Mic movement] go and get some people registered to vote. Secondly, take them to early voting and to voting, because if we don't do that and-and-and-and help turn the electorate, those-those are the people who want to turn us back, they'll do it. They'll do it. If we don't- we don't--. If all of us around this table, knowing what we know, don't say, 'Wait a minute. Uh-uh. We're not doing to that way. This--.'

EAP: I volunteer for-for the (inaudible - 01:06:10)?

ES: Not--. I have--. I'm writing a book .

EAP: I canvas (inaudible - 01:06:11).

ES: I know. I-I-I'm writing a book right now, and the book- and the title of the book is '*Not This Time --colon-- I've Been Here Before.*' Not. This. Time. We must--. And-and all our (inaudible - 01:06:26) get people to register, take people to vote, vote your issues. And everybody who says, 'Oh, politics is dirty,' politics is not dirty. If you don't get your butt involved in--.

EAP: (inaudible - 01:06:37). That's what you gotta do.

ES: So, I deplore each of you--. I said 'Take ten that asks ten to take ten,' and keep multiplying and I got that.

HH: (inaudible - 01:06:49)

ES: Because it matters. Thank you so much for le- for letting me share with you guys.

RW: I mean, I gotta be honest, I, like, thoroughly enjoyed this conversation and I would--. I don't know if--. You know if Heather is, like, keep this going, like--.

HH: These--. Yeah, these said they're--.

RW: Lille, the Lunch Table thing?

HH: These are the recordings that will be archived and transcribed, and they'll actually live online. Like, these discussions.

ES: That's good.

RW: But, like, the actual like gather- getting together and stuff.

HH: It goes--. I mean, it's like a long term project.

CLT_042316_PPL2

ES: Well, we-we-we got to work on-on real integration.

RW: (inaudible - 01:07:26)

EAP: Oh, sure.

END OF RECORDING

Transcribed by: Andres Molina on 03/10/2021

To be copyedited.