

**Ayinde Budd and Gene Coleman interviewing Vincent Oliver clip 1**  
**Topic: Center for Black Culture**

[Vincent Oliver asked to share about his background and how he came to the University of Delaware]

**Vincent Oliver:** ...two or three years which was the length of time that I worked there. As a result of that professional exposure at the college level, I saw an opportunity to come to University of Delaware so I applied for a position there. And they basically were in the same situation that I had come out of. The University of Delaware, at that time which was in 1976, um, they were dealing with Black students who were under-represented, but also who were very vocal in the lack of inclusion, that the University of Delaware was not including them in college life. As always, the University's academic format was very high in its standards so it was a good place to go academically, but for those students who were on campus, who relocated, or came from different places it was a pretty tough setting. And um, one of the results of the students, really protesting and um, getting the attention of the administration was to create something that they called the Minority Center. You know it today as the Center for Black Culture, alright. And they began a national search looking for someone who could coordinate that effort of, um, creating a center on campus which would be a hub, or a place, for black students to gather and also to bring programming—that was the other complaint—the University of Delaware just completely ignored black students and their interests in programs that made sense to them. Whenever a concert came on campus, our folk was not interested, okay. It did not even take their musical interests and entertainment and cultural interests into consideration. And I don't know how much that has changed, we'll probably get into that—I really hope this interview doesn't get y'all into a difficult position but I'm going to be frank.

**Interviewers:** we're not worried about being in a difficult position.

**Vincent Oliver:** Good, because I'm not going to hold back on my opinion of the University of Delaware. So that's what brought me to Delaware...