

### **Chris Barnwell interviewing Thelma Hinds clip 3**

#### **Topic: Greek Life**

[Thelma Hinds speaking about support from University staff and how Black students found support and community on campus.]

**Thelma Hinds:** Sororities and fraternities, that were the opportunity for us to take our mask off, because to function at the University of Delaware during the 70s, so you're talking about '75-76, that's that period, to function at University of Delaware during that time you had to learn how to wear the mask. You had to learn how to, what we call code-switch, where you know how to, I'm talking to you formally, how to have a formal conversation with a professor, say what you have to say, versus when I'm with my friends then I switch code, and I'm speaking in a vernacular that's familiar to them. And so, that's literally what happened to us. We were there, we had to learn how to wear those masks. We had to learn how to wear them in classes, learn how to wear them going in and out of organizations on campus, going into the dining room, we had to learn how to wear them, and the only place that we could lay those mask down would be, could be, and were, when we then were able to join Black student union, the Panhell [Panhellenic] Council, we had the African American paper, those were the opportunities we had to take those masks off.