





before this had happened. He said, "This car was spotted in many drug areas so I wanted to see what was going on with the car. So I had to give him permission to search my car for everything and so he stripped out everything and took my CD player out, he took my stereo out to see if there was stuff in there, looked under my seats, behind my trunk and stripped everything out. And my mom came and asked what was going on so he told her the same thing. And she asked, "Why he was stripping out my car? He said " "cause it was spotted in many drug areas" like he told Miss Rogers. So she said, "There's probably many cars that's been spotted in many drug areas, but they never would do anything like that. He told my mom to back up and then I got into an argument with the cop and he threw me down, you know what I'm saying. And he took me to jail. My graduation from Urban League was next week so he luckily God was there for me. I got out a day before graduation after everything like that. It was just a messed up moment that I had."

*me that they're questioning you about what time I came in? They didn't question what time she came in came to find out he kept a log on me. There was no log on anybody else in the whole department. Me, the only black, in the department worked to my advantage because I had worked for the employees relations manager. This guy lost his job because he realized that what he was doing was basically entirely about race, there was- it had nothing to do with my job performance, just it had nothing to do with what time I came to work or how well I did my job because how can you justify giving somebody two jobs if they are not doing the first one. By me being the only black why was my work the only work being documented? Why was my coming and going the only thing being documented? Nobody else in the whole department was being documented and then with all the tension it caused we had a wonderful department but then they caused that divide because now you're pitting one employee against another strictly based on race"*

the woman two jobs if she's going to be typified as a troublemaker; a woman targeted by a

divulges the woman's courage and resiliency. Being targeted on the job and not being told why can

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<sup>5</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> participant's story; session 1

*"Okay, personal stories are few. Personal story more so, cause I've been sort of blessed or I'm a great negotiator. Um, or as people would say I'll talk my way to get things right. So, I really have had few bad experiences, and the one that that really brings in my mind now I think a lot of the things I've tried to put out of my mind, um, was um, my experience in the grocery store with my family: my daughter and my husband. He had just come back from Vietnam. We are in the Grocery store and we were standing in the aisle observing... making decision about something that we were going to buy, and the cart was in the middle of the... was in the aisle and enough room was there for a cart to come by in the opposite direction. There was a little white lady, who wanted to us to move out of the aisle so she could come by because she did not want us in the aisle with her."*

*"Well, my husband having been in Vietnam is not the best person to be saying "boy, move out the aisle. Let me by." He said, "You can come by." She left her cart, went up to the grocery store manager, had him to come back, and let him know that we were harassing her."*

Here we see a predicament in America's racial conflict, where the member of the powerful, dominant group claims to be so weak and helpless as to be harassed by the simple presence of an

*"And my daughter is there at age 6, I'm there, my husband is there, and I just could not believe what was happening. Having been the wife of someone in Vietnam, any day expecting to get a letter saying that something had happened to him, And he was in uniform so it was not as if she did not know that he was military. And the manager approached us with an attitude that we were automatically in the wrong and that we were bothering her. And I have never... I just don't know when I've ever felt so degraded and so disrespected and it just had to be the grace of god that he looked and saw my husband in the uniform and the lady was just... just braiding and just going on about how degraded people should not be, uh well she used the term why Negroes should not be allowed to shop in the same places and how we just did not appreciate things"*

woman's husband is a Vietnam veteran, who fought for his country and he along with his family are

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<sup>6</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> participant's recorded story; session 2

did not think for a second that the white supervisor would be in her and her family's corner; however, he stood up for what was right. He saw through the one woman's racist behavior and

t "Felon disenfranchisement laws are "race neutral" on their

whites today (U.S. Department of Justice 2002) (See Angela Behrens Ballot Manipulation and the „Menace of Negro Domination [pg.2]."

al control that don't just fall into criminal justice







West, Cornel. "Black Nihilism in America." \_\_\_\_\_

participant's recorded story; session 1; story circle # 5

participant's recorded story; session 2

"Racial Typification of Crime and Support for Punitive Measures," Ted Chiricos and Kelly Welch, *Criminology*

participant's story; session 1

participant's recorded story; session 2

"Ballot Manipulation and the 'Menace of Negro Domination': Racial Threat and Felon  
2002," Angela Behrens, Christopher  
*American Journal of Sociology*

participant's recorded story; session 1

"The Mark of a Criminal Record," Devah Pager, *American Journal of Sociology*

"Narratives of the De