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Interview with Jules Hall

Jules Hall

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LOUISE PETTUS ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interview #069
HALL, Jules “Butch”

HALL, Jules “Butch”

One of the founding members of the Rock Hill Black Panther Party

Interviewed: May 10, 1979

Interviewer: Kenneth M. Nelson

Index by: Michelle Dubert-Bellrichard

Length: 00:56:06

Abstract: In his May 10, 1979 interview with Kenneth M. Nelson, Jules “Butch” Hall recounts his time in service and the role he played in Rock Hill’s Black Panther Party. Hall also compares Friendship College to Winthrop College and shares efforts to educate the black community. This interview was conducted for inclusion into the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections Oral History Program.

Keywords: Black Panther Party, Vietnam War, Friendship College, Segregation, Draft, “The Man”, Black Pride

Interview Session (May 10, 1979): Digital File

Time Keywords

00:00:00 *Start of Interview/Interviewer’s Introduction*

00:00:20 *Question:* Early life? *Answer:* Born December 17, 1949. JH talks about learning the difference between a “white man’s world and a black man’s world.” Discusses segregation and seeing this at a young age. JH remembers his first run in with white men – confrontation. JH discusses finding pride in his race. Received draft notice – inducted into the army after graduating high school in 1967.

00:03:35 **[no question]** Commencement and receiving a scholarship to play football at Grambling University– never had a chance to take this opportunity. The only man in his graduating class who was drafted.

00:04:15 *Question:* Service in Vietnam? *Answer:* First day there was the first time experiencing fear. Rocket attack on first night. Attached to Vietnamese people. First experience with the enemy. Learned a lot about life and respect for fellow man.

00:06:40 *Question:* Learning and growing experience? *Answer:* Very much so. JH recalls

- school days. When JH came home from Vietnam, he came home with a different outlook on life.
- 00:07:48 *Question:* What events made you decide to start the Black Panther Party in Rock Hill?
Answer: In service, JH came across pamphlets on the Black Panther Party. Huey P. Newton. Eldridge Cleaver. JH looked up to Huey P. Newton – had a chance to meet him. Formed Rock Hill Black Panther Party June 16, 1971. Had an election between five founding members. JH was elected the Sergeant at Arms. Recruited about 175 members. JH talks about the reaction from the white man. Talks about Governor Wallace. JH speculates why he and other black men were sent to Vietnam. “Life is built on chances you take.” JH discusses defying the white man. The Black Panther Party’s main objective is recruiting for a revolution. JH has a private, legal arsenal. Black Panther Party leaders in Rock Hill have been locked up.
- 00:14:55 **[no question]** JH talks about seeing his younger brother when he will be released from prison. Influence of money. JH tells a story about his younger brother walking by himself one night – chased down by white men. KKK.
- 00:18:05 **[no question]** When JH developed a sense of pride in being black. In service. Sense of comradery among black men in Vietnam. JH may talk and joke with white men, but he doesn’t trust them. JH discusses his dislike for white people. JH began to study white people.
- 00:21:54 *Question:* Achievements? *Answer:* Trying to get members (successful) and taught members how to love their brothers and self-pride. Black Panther Party in Rock Hill was a close-knit group.
- 00:26:54 **[no question]** JH recalls sit-ins and segregation. JH will be cordial with white people, but he will not engage them first. Speaks on his faith.
- 00:29:18 **[no question]** Audio recording plays.
- 00:30:20 **[no question]** Interviewer message.
- 00:30:39 *Question:* Did white people give Friendship College a hard time? *Answer:* JH first addresses interviewer calling him, “crazy.” Friendship College doesn’t get the recognition it deserves. Friendship College could get better-quality teachers. James Brown concert held at Friendship College. JH is a part of Friendship College, because of his relationship with Coach Harris. JH’s wife is a graduate of Friendship College – taking business administration courses at night. JH has a good association with Friendship College. Friendship College has a high winning percentage in basketball. Friendship College’s pride is changing.

- 00:37:10 **[no question]** JH continues talking about Friendship College. Dances at Friendship College. Fights at Friendship College. Winthrop College vs. Friendship College. JH tells story about his son and the questions his son asks him. JH shares his friend's Percy Stout's wisdom.
- 00:41:17 *Question:* What is the attitude of black people and how will it change? *Answer:* JH says so many black people have their eyes closed. JH talks about forming a second Black Panther Party in Rock Hill and getting help from business store owners. JH says being black is powerful.
- 00:46:40 **[no question]** JH says every black man should join the service to know what the white man is like. Winthrop College is a joke – rules and regulations. Talks about the strength the black community has.
- 00:51:35 **[no question]** JH playing tonky. JH describes what it means to be black. Says more about Coach Harris.
- 00:54:40 *Question:* Final remarks? *Answer:* JH says people need common sense and knowledge.
- 00:56:06 *End of interview*