

CONSULTANT: Julia Whitehead
AGE: 22
RESIDENCE: Richmond, VA
OCCUPATION:
INTERVIEW DATE: July 30, 2016, approx. 11:15 am
LOCATION: Durham Farmers Market @ Durham Central Park

Julia Whitehead was a volunteer for a solar energy non-profit organization that had set up a booth next to mine at the market. I had been speaking with her colleague, a UNC business school student named Anthra Chaudry, for most of the morning. Julia arrived shortly before the market closed, and I presume Anthra told her about my project, since she was already familiar with it to some extent. We began with the standard audio introduction (e.g., name, age and residence).

Where were you living in Richmond at the time?

Yes, I was. But I wasn't in Richmond at the New Year's.

Twenty-two? So you were how old at the time? Do the math.

Six, I think?

And you remember?

I remember parts of it. I don't remember, looking back, how big of a deal it was. Everyone thought it was a huge deal, and I was, I don't know, six, so I was just excited to be with my grandparents.

What images are in your mind? What do you remember?

[laughs] I remember the glasses. I know that sounds a little bit ridiculous.

You're like the fourth person that has said that.

[laughs] Yeah. The glasses, the double zero that then kept going for the next nine years. I remember that. I remember sitting around the TV and it was a bit of an older TV. We had the little bunny ears. And I don't know, it was large; it was a fat TV. And I remember just watching it, sitting on the floor at my grandparents' house in Pennsylvania.

Were you ordinarily with your grandparents on New Year's, or was it just for that night?

We usually...so my whole family is pretty much from Richmond, except for my mother's family was from Pennsylvania. So I'd spend a week with my

grandparents every summer, and every, usually Christmas time. So we'd spend a week there, and sometimes, it was New Year's, and sometimes it wasn't. But I remember we went up and my grandparents kind of gave my parents a break and then they came up for New Year's. They were there with us.

So you remember that New Year's. You probably don't remember the one before? Do you remember the one after? I'm just trying to get a frame of reference.

Nope. Nope. No clue. I remember the 2000 New Year's and that's it. I don't remember other ones.

Do you remember what you were thinking? How you felt?

No, no. I really... I mean, I was happy my parents were with me. I was happy the whole family was together, but that's about it. I don't... I was too young to really understand. And then looking back, like, seeing the freak-out over computers and all of that, it was almost like hearing history from World War II, that's how foreign it was. None of that registered. It was just another year that everyone was really excited about.

And you've probably never known any different, as far as cell phones, and the Internet.

No. No, I really haven't. It's actually kind of funny. My grandfather, he's a math professor. He's absolutely brilliant. And back in the 90s, whenever we'd go up, he actually coded. He was using computers and writing codes and writing games, which at the time was really normal for me. But now, seeing that, it was kind of crazy that some 50, 60 year old guy who'd never seen a computer really before was then learning how to write and talk to it, essentially.

Were you actually up at midnight? You were really young.

No, I don't think I was actually up at midnight. I think I probably fell asleep [laughs].

But you remember watching it on TV.

Yeah, yeah. I remember all that.

That's crazy, wow. Do you remember anything that your grandparents were saying about it? That's really a long time ago.

No, I have no clue. I remember making a cake. We made a cake that was a "crown cake." That was about it.

What's a crown cake?

It was like a two-layer cake, and then you had ice cream cones that you dipped, and then you stuck in and you iced it, and it was a crown cake.

Now was that for New Year's, or you just happened to make that cake?

Um, I mean, it was for New Year's, but it was from a recipe book that we had [laughs].

So it was a cake that you usually made every New Year's.

Oh, no, no. We just happened to make it.

I've never heard of that, "crown cake."

Yeah, it was in like, a kid's recipe book.

It was starting to get very hot, and Julia and I had no shade. I thanked her for her time and ended the interview.