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Rhine McLin interview for a Wright State University History Course

Bethany Chappell-Saxton

Rhine McLin

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February 15, 2011 at 4:30PM I arrived promptly at the former mayor of Dayton’s home—a beautiful home—located right in the heart of rough, Westside of Dayton. As I was ringing the door bell the door seemed to already be opening up. She was waiting for me eagerly.

When the door opened Ms. Rhine McLin stood there with a friendly welcoming smile on her face. She was dressed in a navy pants suit with tan and navy oxford shoes to match. She’s a small woman with dark hair that was neatly and tightly curled. She invited me in and told me I could have a seat wherever I like as she motion towards the living room. Right off the bat she was very chatty and welcoming. After signing the appropriate paper work we began the interview.

Rhine Lana McLin was born on October 3, 1948. Both of her parents were in the military so she was a WWII baby. Her father named her Rhine after the river in Germany, and her mother gave her the middle name Lana after her favorite celebrity Lana Turner. Her mother had her at a late age for the time. She was thirty. At the time women were having their children much earlier in life between the ages of sixteen and eighteen because many families had farms they owned that was the family’s sole source of income. Rhine’s father however was not a farmer, but a funeral home director. Rhine grew up sitting on the steps watching her father embalm bodies and prep them for the funerals. It became normal to Rhine. It became so normal in fact that when the time came she went to college and received an associates degree in mortuary science. She just assumed that’s how she would make her living as an adult.
It wasn’t until her father became deathly sick with terminal cancer that Rhine even gave politics a thought. As her father lay dying she asked her daughter to take over his term as the mayor of Dayton. Rhine was apprehensive because she never really was interested in the politics behind the politics. She couldn’t deny her father’s dying wishes so in 1988 she took over his term and did very well at the job. In order to prove that her father had not made a bad decision in appointing his daughter Rhine ran for election the following term in 1992 and won. She was the 67th mayor of Dayton and the first women ever to be mayor of the city.

She also has a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology and secondary education from Parson’s College in Iowa. She has a master’s degree in education for guidance counseling from Xavier University in Cincinnati Ohio as well.

Mayor of Dayton may not have been Rhine’s first political job, but it was not her only. From 1994-1995 she ran for Ohio State Senate and in 1999 she was a member of the Democratic Caucus of the Ohio Senate and named minority whip. In 2001 she was named minority leader, completing the term of state Senate Ben Espy. In 2002 Rhine left the state Senate because she was barred by term limits from running for re-election again that year. In 2001 she defeated Michael R. Turner, a Republican, for mayor.

Rhine Mclin has had many political first in her career. Not only was she the first female mayor of Dayton, but she also was the first African-American women elected to the Ohio State Senate, and the first American-American women to serve as senate minority leader, and the first American-American women to serve as head of the Ohio Democratic Party.

In 2009 Rhine McLin was defeated by Gary Leitzell as mayor of the city of Dayton, but she is not discouraged. She has a very busy and fulfilling life in the midst of being mayor. She teaches at Central State University again like she had done previously from 1982-1997. She is a member of Democratic Party this year. She also is very active in her community and enjoys the simple luxuries of life such as kayaking, skydiving, and tap dancing.

The interview setting was at her home. She has a beautiful three story home with balconies on top floor that over look the entire city. We sat in her living room to do our interview, which was impeccably neat. On top of her bookcase she many collections of art that she had collected over the years from students and young people that she had met. One ceramic piece that really caught my eye was of her face with her signature mismatched lenses and her wild hats. I took a picture of my camera because it just seemed like the perfect artifact to go along with the interview.

Rhine McLin’s role in community activism is huge. As mayor she has contributed so much love and attention to the city. As mayor one thing I remember her doing was her Mayor’s Walks. She would walk and talk with residents in the city as they picked up trash trying to
beautify and take pride in the city we all live in. She went to many area sporting events to give support, and she has been active in preaching the importance of caring about the place you live in. She encourages young people to do their part and not trash their city. She has been a guidance counselor to kids helping to mold and guide them in the right direction.

I gained much of my material about Rhine Mclin through her interview with me, and through the internet where I went and explored her mayor site. I also gained insight on her role in the city through my parents and older residents of Dayton who can remember, more firsthand than I, her contributions to the city.

In conclusion, Rhine McLin’s reasons for doing all she has done for the city and continues to do comes from her love of the place that she has lived her whole life. She believes that in order to save a city the people must all come together and care and change together. She believes in order to make positive change we must all be active.
Index: Rhine McLin’s Oral History Interview

Name of Project: Community Activism: The Rhine McLin Interview

Name of Project Director: Marjorie McLellan, Department of Urban Affairs & Geography, Wright State University, Archives or repository

Interviewee / Narrator Name: Rhine McLin

Interviewer Name: Bethany Chappell-Saxton

Others Present: None

Place: 23 N. Paul Laurence Dunbar at the home of Rhine McLin in her living room

Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2011 at 4:30 P.M.

Length of Recording: 1 hour

Original Format: digital recorder

Key Words:

Mayor
Community
Dayton
Politics
Elected
State Senate
0:00:00-0:00:20 Introduction to Recording

Information listed above.

0:00:20-0:13:37 Life Growing-up with Parents & Grandfather

Rhine McLin discusses her life growing up as a young girl living with her father and grandfather primarily in the funeral home the family owned. In fourth grade she spent the year with her mother in Trenton, New Jersey, and she tells of her experiences there.

Key Words:

Funeral home

Trenton, New Jersey / East Coast

Military

Rosemary

Bar

Grandfather

0:13:37-0:21:57 Start in Politics and Father’s Life & Death

Ms. McLin talks about how she had no interest in politics at one time. She had just finished embalming school, and was excited to get her life and career in the mortuary business stated. It wasn’t until her father’s death that she began her life in politics. She learns her father believed in her, and she talks of how she made sure his decision to appoint her was not in vain.

Key Words:

Politics

Black Elected Democrats of Ohio

Embalmimg school

Business

Funeral
0:21:57-0:22:32 Degree’s

Ms. McLin discusses her many accomplished degrees.

**Key Words:**
- Bachelor’s degree
- Associate’s degree
- Master’s degree
- Guidance counseling
- Sociology
- Secondary education
- Psych
- Mortuary science

0:22:32-0:31:27 Attitude Towards Life and the Invisible Worker

Ms. McLin shares stories about how she handles a tough neighborhood, and her stories show how she handles every situation with a compassionate heart. Her love of her community is expressed in how she keeps her yard and home neat, and she takes her wagon on walks through the neighborhood picking up trash hoping the rest of the community will follow by example. She discusses the invisible worker and her true value of them.

**Key Words:**
- Jog
- Clean up
- Invisible worker
- Street people
- Basic code
- Bucket list
Involvement in Community Issues

Ms. McLin explains how you have to have focus on one issue at a time in order to solve any issue. She discusses how everyone must do their part to make Dayton a better place to live. She believes in small acts of random kindness and explains that is how she acts shows community involvement in everyday life.

Key Words:
- Fluff and Stuff
- Issue
- Litter
- Mayor’s Walks
- Spots

Distinguishing Herself

Ms. McLin discusses how she made a political name for herself. Following in her father’s footsteps is a big role. As such a powerful man he had made a name for himself. She discusses how she distinguishes herself from her father.

Key Words:
- Circle-square glasses
- Hats
- First female mayor
- Artsy
- Mayor Days
0:41:11-1:00:00 Dayton’s School System & Making a Better Dayton

Ms. McLin discusses her views on why the Dayton Public School system isn’t succeeding, and how to change it. She also discusses what she thinks the future holds for Dayton, and what needs to be done to bring more businesses.

Key Words:

Upbringing
School system
Teachers
Parents
Motivation
Celebrate
Home-based technology
Gray market
Robotics
Infrastructure
Transcript: Interview with Rhine McLin

Bethany: Well, it's nice to meet you Ms. McLin and thanks for interviewing with me today, and many people know of you only as a political figure, but who you are and the wonderful things that you’ve contributed to the Dayton community didn’t just evolve overnight and many events and obstacles I would imagine influenced your thinking and your life today so to start, I'd like to start at the beginning, before you even came into politics and the public eye and start with where you were born and when.

Rhine: I was born in Dayton Ohio...um October the 3rd 1948. I am a World War II baby. My parents were both in the army, and so Rhine... I’m named after the river in Germany for my dad being in War...

Bethany: Interesting

Rhine: and my middle name is Lana, and my mother named me after Lana Turner who was a famous actress at the time,

Bethany: Oh, I love her.

Rhine: ...and so um...that’s how I got my name and um... my mother was kind of old when she had me during that time. My mom was like thirty years old and in those days thirty years old was just unthinkable.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: Um...having a child so...

Bethany: What age did most people have kids...around what age? ...younger?

Rhine: Well, like in ’48?

Bethany: uh-huh

Rhine: Oh my God. They were having ‘em probably sixteen, seventeen, and eighteen. You know, because they had farms and stuff like that. They married younger...um...and the more kids you had the more productivity you had.

Bethany: Right. Did you come from a big family?

Rhine: no, it was only...um... two and a half. There’s... I have a brother and I have a half-sister.

Bethany: OK.
Rhine: Uh...Sheree graduated from Wright State.

Bethany: Oh, did she really.

Rhine: And uh, but I’m eleven years older than her so even when she was a teenager I was grown.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: And we grew up in separate...uh...she grew up with her mom and I grew up with my uh, grandparents.

Bethany: So you were the oldest of the two?

Rhine: Oldest of the two.

Bethany: OK, so what was family life like growing up in the McLin home?

Rhine: Well, you know for the most of my life I lived in a funeral home.

Bethany: Oh.

Rhine: And uh...(laughs) and so there with my grandparents, and we lived in the funeral home, and um my parents divorced when I was five years old and my mother was from the East Coast.

Bethany: uh-huh

Rhine: So she went back to the East Coast so I kind of grew up with my grandparents and my father was more like a brother because he was an only child.

Bethany: Um...ok that’s interesting.

Rhine: I spend all my time between Dayton and Trenton New Jersey where my mother lived. And so all the summers, all the holidays I was in uh New Jersey, so I got an East Coast flavor of life verses a Midwest uh flavor.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: And one of the things that’s interesting is because growing up when my family and we always had a funeral home. Always worked as a kid, you know whether carrying out flowers or doing something even as a kid uh my grandfather babysit.

Bethany: Uh-huh.

Rhine: I would sit on the steps and watch him embalm so you know I just grew up with this.
Rhine: And but, but my mom was uh ended up being a... She taught severely retarded children and kept out-patients from the state hospital so the compassionate side of my life really came from my mom’s side of the family of, of... understanding a different world and uh you can just imagine going back before going back and forth from Dayton to Trenton New Jersey is where I think I really learned how to be...tough. You know, and when I say tough, I mean fight. Like we were gonna throw down or something like that because being here in Dayton because it was a different kind of lifestyle. You had your little dress. You had your little shoes...

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: And you know (inaudible) Well where my mother lived she was trying to make it. It was in the rough tough town so you take that little values you get from here, and you go up there and of course the kids are gonna pick on you. And I lived there for a year. In the fourth grade I lived there and it seemed like right before the bell would ring it would be like get marked, set and I’d run home because I knew I was gonna have to fight, and so finally one day um... it came about where I was like “You’re gonna have to fight ’cause I’m getting tired of you running... you know...banging on the door, “Let me in! Let me in!”

Bethany: And that’s what your mother said to you?

Rhine: Yea.

Bethany: OK

Rhine: And you know you have to think about it uh... my mother is uh... military. You know she’s struggling and stuff you know and this you know I’m doing the best I can, but you know this not in life you have got to learn to fight your own battles at times. There might not be someone there to help you. There might not be somebody there to open that door. What are you gonna do? So, and but unfortunately, the young lady lived right next door so it wasn’t like you run so far you. You gotta run all the way home.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: So I remember one time, and my mother had was teaching me how to defend myself and so the day was the day: I was gonna have to uh... defend myself, and I was just so disgusted with this that I really ... that I beat the crap out of Rosemary.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: I mean, I beat the crap out of Rosemary so bad because you know it’s like my mother’s making me do this. You happen to live next door to me so you know I can’t run half way home I
got to run all the way home just to get away from you. I got to stay in the house and in the backyard because you are always out there intimidating me. So after I whipped Rosemary we became the best of friends.

Bethany: Interesting.

Rhine: And, and then you know, and the word, you know how the word...you know how the word gets around. You didn’t have text in those days. Word got around by mouth and you know don’t mess with that little girl. You know she can take care of herself. So after that, you know, it was a way of attitude and you develop that you can do this you know it’s like a little choo-choo train. You know like “Yes I can. Yes I can.” And, and I developed that attitude that you know I can take it on. You know if I can do this... So, I always think of Rosemary as my turning point in the fourth grade

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: Um...there’s no battle that I can’t handle.

Bethany: I like that story.

Rhine: Yea. I’m not gonna go out here and looking for trouble, but if it comes my way I’m gonna stand my ground, and, and that’s that attitude I’ve taken on. ‘Cause you’ve gotta remember I grew up in a time where girls...were...we’re starting... were kind of like second class everbody dot—second class everybody doted on the boy.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: You know my brother, he could do no wrong. I could do no right, no matter what I did. It was like, See me! See me! See me!” Um...I always used to call myself my father’s daughter’s son and um even like ‘cause...’cause I was like six years older than he was. So I mean I learned how to fish. I played pool. Trying to do all this crap with my grandfather while we were waiting on my little brother to grow up so he could become the companion. And, and you know, no matter where my grandfather went I was drug. They called me Shorty. They just drug me on around. I mean, they would just drag me on around. So, I became very comfortable around people because even as a kid my parents had a bar, a night club, and I grew up... In those days you didn’t really have like daycare centers 24hrs. and it was always fascinating. As an adult I would go, come across folks, “I changed your diapers”, and I’d say, “I don’t think you should be telling that story”. You know, because I went with the bar and you know they took me to the bar with them.

Bethany: And you hung out there too?
Rhine: Hung out there too.

Bethany: Talk to everybody?

Rhine: Talked to everybody. While my parents worked and I mean so times have changed. You know now a days they probably would have had my parents in jail.

Bethany: Right. (laughs)

Rhine: But at the time it was a s--- nobody disrespected me or anything like that. I was everybody’s child.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: The mascot of the bar. (laughs) You know, I mean, I got to see... I got to meet um...because remember now this is segregated times so there's no hotels. People lived with you, you know like entertainers came to town, and some would stay in our house you know. I mean, I can... you probably never heard of some of those people, but Ruth Brown, Lance Hope, Count Basie. Um...you know Ruth Brown’s sister lived in Dayton.

Bethany: Who’s Ruth Brown?

Rhine: Ruth Brown was a very famous blues singer.

Bethany: Oh...OK.

Rhine: That was up in Cleveland.

Bethany: OK

Rhine: And so this group... Even when the Ebony fashion models came. After we moved out of the funeral home we moved to another house. They came and stayed with us.

Bethany: That’s neat.

Rhine: Yea. I can remember---- Have you ever heard of Fats Domino?

Bethany: Yes. I have heard of him.

Rhine: I can remember. In fact, I had lunch with my friend today... She and I were riding around up and down 5ht Street in this pink Cadillac convertible in the back seat. I mean, we were kids you know, but those were memorable occasions and so when you look at today and you see this I can recall when every child... when every child was everybody’s child.

Bethany: I can remember my dad always saying that.
Rhine: It was a whole different type of community, but now you don’t have that.

Bethany: You don’t.

Rhine: And, and so you know, I reflect back on that with a lot of a...smiles, but also I’ve realized that times change and I’ve accepted that, and one of the... one of the assets as well as the liabilities was school integration because kids could live next door to each other, but go to different schools and different busses and never know each other.

Bethany: Exactly.

Rhine: Whereas when I went to school we walked together in little...we call it, we were like a walking bus. You know, as we stopped at somebody’s house they’d drop off, you keep walking, and you know, you start off with this big crowd and by the time you got home there would be just a couple of you, but you’d be in your area ’cause um...uh and I became a walker. And most people who know me know that I’m a... a an intense walker. I like to walk and that came really when I was in high school because my grandfather would come and pick me up from hear---from a funeral---after you leave the cemetery in the hearse and you know how kids can be so cruel.

Bethany: I know driving around in a hearse...(laughs)

Rhine: And he would come and pick me up and he would say. He would say, and would say,and my nickname to him was Shorty, and I was like, “Oh Grand-dad! No! No!”

Bethany: (laughs)

Rhine: “No. Please don’t come pick me up. Don’t come pick me up anymore, and I lived a long way from where Dunbar High School was to, to get home I... where Dunbar High School was, where it is now.

Bethany: Uh-huh.

Rhine: But, but where my home was down on Germantown...

Bethany: Oh. OK.

Rhine: by uh where Central State West is now. So that’s a long haul.

Bethany: That is a long way.

Rhine: But that was OK. I didn’t mind walking.

Bethany: (laughs)
Rhine: Because, and my grandfather would say, “Well Shorty just think about the person (chuckles) who rode in the back they didn’t come...with ya.

Rhine & Bethany: (laughs)

Rhine: “You know, they got a one way trip. You can get the round trip”, and I’m like, “No! No!” because kids are cruel.

Bethany: Right. They are.

Rhine: And oh, oh, they would just tease me so badly, but uh, you know, I think back and reflect and, I mean those are the kind of things that whether you realize it at the time or not...

Bethany: Uh-huh.

Rhine: They help build character.

Bethany: I agree with that.

Rhine: You know that, that when you get older you realize you say, well at least my family had a business. At least my family had a car. I mean, whether it was a hearse or whatever, but you know those are the kind of the things that help you build character.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: And so I went to college and after I finished college I uh three years well gee willerkers all my buddies were still in college. So I really didn’t have anybody to play with.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: So I went to work with my dad and, and I can remember this clear... I lived at home with my dad when I finished college and um I wanted a job and my dad was in politics. I finished high school in ’66. My father got elected in ’66, and my grandfather died in ’66. All those three things happening were really...(door bell rings at her home)...Excuse me. I’m gonna put you on hold...

(Pause tape so Ms. McLin can answer her door)

Bethany: OK. OK and we were just now talking about your dad and growing up and I was wondering um growing up seeing your father in action influence...Did it influence you in politics and if not what encouraged you to get involved in community issues?

Rhine: I did not want to be in politics?

Bethany: No?... Not at all?
Rhine: Politics was um...the last thing that I uh ever dreamed and I used to say that when my
dad uh, “I’ll be the last McLin they kick around,

Bethany: (laughs)

Rhine: talk about, dog, and...

Bethany: and here you are

Rhine: Yea! And it was really fascinating because I had no...and I uh... just didn’t like the game
of the politics. You know, it’s about serving people...I don’t have a problem with that, but the
game of politics

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: I never liked. And um and I really thought that my dad was thinking of other people
because he... (Ms. McLin’s cell phone rings)

Bethany: Do you need to take that?

Rhine: Oh no. I don’t want to take it... that the game of politics is this. I just didn’t think I was
cut out for that, and so what I was trying to get to was--- I don’t mind helping people and
helped my father and stuff like that but you know when you want to walk away you could walk
away. You know when people can just eh (makes a face). Being in the funeral business you got
paid you know and the other thing about it is that you know that at least after five days at
most...

Bethany: Uh-huh.

Rhine: You’re done (chuckles). You’re done.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: And the average death rate is once every fourteen years. You don’t have to deal with
them again, and you do the best you can. Well, in politics it’s just, just very repetitive you never
have closure on anything. It’s continuous. The same issues that my dad talked about when he
was in office: education, jobs, um...healthcare...environment, same issues, transportation,
infra-structure. Same things we talk about today.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: So you know there’s no closure. So um, and there was a lot of people around my dad
and by him being the only child. He just loved people.
Bethany: Did he?

Rhine: He just loved to have people around him all the time. Just loved people around him all the time, and where I’m more of an introvert.

Bethany: Uh-huh.

Rhine: You know I could stay... I mean, people were really concerned about “my friend lost an election”. I was staying in the house and I said, “Let me tell you, I enjoy myself so much.

Bethany: (laughs) Like, “I am OK”

Rhine: She and I have not really had time to spend time together for probably over 20 years, and we’re just getting reacquainted”. (Her cell rings, but she ignores it) And so I really um, and my dad um now even when he was sick trying to get to the hospital. You know you gotta fight through all these people to try to get to him and stuff because he liked that. He really did um, so I never thought that he thought that much of me because remember now my dad and I had been battling for years, and when I did something in the business, and if I came up with some great idea in the... at the business, and I would do it, you know. He would say... I would say well here’s my plan... I remember I would roll up my business plans and say, “You know we’re gonna...” and he would say, “No! We’re not doing it,” and I’d say, “Well why not?” and he would say, “because I said so, and I’m the daddy”, and I said “OK”. So... then maybe two or three months later he would come up with this great idea, which was mine (says in softer tone)

Bethany: I was gonna say, was it yours? (laughs)

Rhine: And you I wouldn’t say anything like a good puppy, but I learned to work around it. So, when he was in Columbus as a state rep he was gone Tuesdays through Thursdays so anything I wanted to get done I did it Tuesday through Thursdays. So, when he came back it was done. Now all he could do was get mad.

Bethany: Right. (chuckles) So what kinds of jobs did your dad... I know he was in th epolitical eye... What was... What was...?, what was...What did he do exactly. You said he was a political rep?

Rhine: He was a state rep.

Bethany: He was a state rep. OK.

Rhine: For uh 22 years

Bethany: OK
Rhine: In fact he founded what was the Black Elected Democrats of Ohio. He was a very powerful man. So anyway I'm getting back to this...I'm a girl. You gotta remember this. I'm a girl and all these guys that are...all these folks that are swooning around him and everything. All of a sudden my dad developed prostate cancer. So during my political career I've always been a proponent to prostate cancer. Uh... and when he knew he was dying he asked me to be uh to finish out his term.

Bethany: I read about that, but I didn't know how that worked.

Rhine: And I was like, “What?! Me?”

Bethany: And this was the first time you ever thought of politics or anything like that at all? You didn't like it really.

Rhine: No! I was already... I was already in embalming school and I was getting so nobody knew more about it than me. I know about it from the bottom up. I already knew how to change tires, and do all this kind of stuff, flowers, and how ... I knew how to do the embalming so even if I hired an embalmer they couldn’t have nothing on me. So, I'm ready to run this business, and make some money.

Bethany: um-huh.

Rhine: And when he...and then how do you tell your dying dad no?

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: So I said, “Uh (sigh) Oh God”. I mean tell me about depressed. I was just... not...I don't like to use the term depressed because depression means hopelessness so I'll say I was saddened, and oh wow and so I got sworn in, you know he died. I mean I directed my own dad’s funeral because normally it's customary that the family chooses another funeral home in town to do the lead, but my family they couldn’t. I was like little, like little sergeant.

Bethany: Uh-huh.

Rhine: You know, you know if I do a funeral I’m gonna. I was like... I was a neat freak. I was just a perfectionist in a human world. Uh so family I think they knew they were doing this to me. I would suggest somebody and they were like “No, no” so then finally I said, “OK. Alright. I'll just do it myself and everybody was happy.

Bethany: (laughs)

Rhine: So I ended up directing my father's funeral, but I also knew I couldn't cry. I learned early as a child that you couldn’t cry and get anything because I was in the funeral business so
you know you start crying everybody gets this fixed look on their faces. You know, my
grandfather, my father you don’t know tears just don’t go anywhere...It’s like you know
everybody got the business mode on like...

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: So you learned how to become more creative when you were able to manipulate then
crying so I never got to be girly with the tears and stuff because that wasn’t getting me no
where.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: So here I am all these folks come down here to give homage to my dad and everything.
I can’t cry! I’m not allowed to cry, but of course I was already there, but, but I’m just saying
that ‘cause you don’t want them to know your dad made a mistake. So when I first got
appointed I thought it was necessary to run again, you know, to prove my dad didn’t make a
mistake by choosing me.

Bethany: Aw... I like that.

Rhine: OK so... then after I got there I realized you know they need people who don’t take
themselves seriously, simply there for the will of the people. So that’s how my political career
got started.

Bethany: So that’s how you got started.

Rhine: And the next thing you know I’ve done more than I ever dreamed I would, and I’ve
lasted longer than I thought I would.

Bethany: I know. I’m proud of ya. So, and of course you had to have an education to be in
political office, and you said a little bit about that, but where did your college education?

Rhine: I got my college degree from Parson’s College in Fairfield Iowa. I have a bachelor’s in
sociology, secondary education, and a minor in psch.

Bethany: Man!

Rhine: I got a master’s degree in guidance counseling. I have an associate’s degree in mortuary
science.

Bethany: Man, you’re a busy woman. (laughs)

Rhine: Yea, and so I did...I did a couple years in law school, but it just wasn’t my...
Bethany: Wasn’t for you?

Rhine: No, I didn’t like that. I’ve been married twice. No kids. Um...(pause) that’s about it.

Bethany: Yea.

Rhine: I just like to breathe you know.

Bethany: Uh-huh. You seem so busy though, but you make time it seems like to make sure you take time to care of yourself.

Rhine: You have to breathe.

Bethany: You do.

Rhine: I like to jog out here at night. I don’t in the winter time because I don’t wanna hit that ice.

Bethany: I know.

Rhine: But I’m out there and I’ll tell ya a story. Um, I was out there last summer getting ready to... I’d rather go out there after 10 o’clock when the fumes are down.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: You know there’s not a lot of care out.


Rhine: And then I get to... I can’t do gym. I can’t do gyms. I have to do it outdoors, and so what happened is that, that’s my connection with spiritualness. When I get to hear the crickets and get to hear a bird, get to see the trees bloom, feel the wind hugging me. You know, just the elements of life, and I have to deal with people all there. So one night I was getting ready to run and I had my little stuff and I’d just come out the door and this guy crossed me and said, “Old lady I’m gonna come there. What you looking at?” And I didn’t know what to think. Oh God is this kid... So I just stood there and looked at him. I had my New Jersey mode on.

Bethany: (chuckles)

Rhine: (chuckles) and he says, “Old lady I’ll come over there and whip your so-and-so. You better move on”. So I stood. I was ready because you know what? Young folks don’t know how to fight. They know how to shoot and you know they know how to stab. They don’t know how to fight. So I’d already figured out in my mind where I was gonna drop kick him.

Bethany: (laughs) this come from that 4th grade mentality?
Rhine: So when he got here and he got out and he saw who it was he said, “Oh, I’m sorry. You’re the ex-mayor. I’m sorry”, and he went on down the street. So he wasn’t plum crazy. Pookie wasn’t plum crazy, but the fact is that at least being out here knows I’m not scared of ’em.

Bethany: Right, and that’s what happens. I—I’ve noticed Dayton just growing up... Like my parents neighborhood. They have a really nice neighborhood.

Rhine: Where do they live?

Bethany: Sunnyview/Catalpa Area

Rhine: Oh yea.

Bethany: Um, and they love that neighborhood. They have a neighborhood watch. They refuse to let...but you cross right over the street a---

Rhine: It’s a whole other world.

Bethany: And it’s a whole other world, but it’s been like that for so long—that differentiation between that side---and her side, my parents street, and everyone talks about how Dayton’s changing and you gotta get out, and you gotta get out because all that bad stuff is moving in on you, but they protected their neighborhood for so long, making sure the good people didn’t move out to let the people who don’t care move in.

Rhine: Yea.

Bethany: I think that’s what it’s about.

Rhine: It really is. It’s about. It’s... and even though I got a little disgusted with my pookies around the corner about cleaning up...

Bethany: Uh-huh.

Rhine: After I stopped, I said... Oh I got mad one day. I got angry. Angry not mad. Angry. I was a language arts teacher so you’ll hear me correct myself as I go along. And I said I’m stopping. I’m not bringing my wagon. I’m not going and (laughs) and so you know why don’t you start noticing that, they start doing a little more.

Bethany: Uh-huh. I think people do. They look... For example like you can even notice when you look at a house. Their house will be looking just the same on the porch. The neighbors will kind of--- ya, it is kind of a connection.
Rhine: Yea and so people are telling me, and you have people come in and ‘cause my parking meter has been sitting out there ever since I came back from City Hall

Bethany: Uh-huh.

Rhine: and um somebody’s gonna take it. Somebody’s gonna take it, and I’m like “Why?”

Bethany: Yea. Why?

Rhine: Why are they gonna take it?

Bethany: Nobody’s taken it...It’s still there. (laughs)

Rhine: It’s still there and one night, I always wanted to do this... my um balcony, you know, I can step out on the balcony.

Bethany: Uh-huh.

Rhine: And it was like midnight when these boys were like ringing my doorbell and it was dark out. I was working in my office and I go out on the porch and I always wanted to do this...

Bethany: (laughs)

Rhine: “Halt! Who goes there?!”

Bethany: (laughs) Did you?!

Rhine: (laughs) It was so funny watching them take off running.

Bethany: They just ran?

Rhine: And one boy hollered we put money in the parking meter! We really did (laughs)

Bethany: (laughs) That’s so funny.

Rhine: You know how you always wanted to do that, and I said they rang my doorbell and I’d tip-toe out there, “Halt!”, in my deep voice, “Halt! Who goes there?!”

Bethany: What were they doing?

Rhine: I don’t know.

Bethany: Who knows?

Bethany: But I like that though because you took an approach most people wouldn’t have. I mean, you could have called the police or got scared or... and they just ran off? Just kids right?

Rhine: It was so funny. We put money in the parking meter. (laughs) You should have seen them running.

Bethany: (laughs)

Rhine: But it was a matter of what I had to do in this neighborhood was to establish my territory.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: I had to establish my territory. You aren’t gonna muck with me. I practice verbal ecology. Do you know what verbal ecology is?

Bethany: Uh...no. What is it?

Rhine: You know ecology is the study of the cleaning of the Earth.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: Verbal ecology is the study of the clean up your mouth. So I don’t use bad words. I make up my words. I’m my own language, but uh (chuckles)... so mucking is a term that is used on farms. Do you know what it means?

Bethany: No. I heard it, but I don’t...

Rhine: Well, mucking is literally cleaning up the barnyard doo-doo.

Bethany: Uh-huh... And so is that what you’ve been doing?

Rhine: Telling people not to muck with me.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: That’s what I tell ‘em.

Bethany: Seems like it’s working.

Rhine: Yea!

Bethany: I love this house too.

Rhine: Huh?
Bethany: I love your house.

Rhine: Do you really?

Bethany: I do. It looks so cozy and comfortable, and... yea... the area, like around here, it’s nice.

Rhine: Well were getting there.

Bethany: It’s sad there’s so many vacant buildings around here because they are beautiful. They really are nice homes.

Rhine: What does your husband do?

Bethany: Um...he works for... for... well he’s in school for EMT and he’s working for um, a com—a company called Sun Chemical. He makes paint and designs for cereal boxes and stuff like that.

Rhine: Oh that’s cool.

Bethany: So yea he enjoys that and I’m waitressing and going to school.

Rhine: Where?

Bethany: Cracker Barrel.

Rhine: Ah... Good ‘ol Cracker Barrel. Where out on um...

Bethany: Well, I was on Miller Lane, but now I’m in Centerville so...

Rhine: OK

Bethany: Uh-huh.

Rhine: Well that’s why I wanted to do this because I know that even though they might let you off but that’s money. I understand—Listen... I used to be a waitress.

Bethany: Did you?

Rhine: Oh God...When I was in school I was a waitress, and I have so much---I call it... When I was...uh... the way I saw being political and political office was taking the influence of my office to help ordinary people. That’s how I really thought. And, and I really had uh strong affinity for what they call the invisible worker.

Bethany: Uh-huh.
Rhine: Been there. The waitresses, those are the people, the janitors, I’m always going out of my way to be extremely kind to them because their seen as the invisible worker.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: And they know more than anybody else.

Bethany: That’s kind of why I’d like to start my own restaurant. I’ve been it long enough. I’ve seen it not work. I’ve seen it not work; I’ve seen it work. That’s why I left Miller Lane. I’ve seen it work. I’ve seen how to treat people and I—I do. I think I could do it.

Rhine: I want you to go to—to the Cold Water Café in Tipp City.

Bethany: I will.

Rhine: OK

Bethany: Cold Water Café

Rhine: Yea. Yea I want you to see what the concept that I explained to you about.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: Um and so I always try to ask whoever is waiting for...

Bethany: Uh-huh.

Rhine: I ask their name so that their not invisible.

Bethany: Right. We were talking about that the other day, me and my best friend. We were talking about how we like that people actually say, “Oh Hi Bethany. How are you today?” Like oh it’s there (points to shirt in reference to name on waitress apron) but half the time they don’t remember or didn’t hear you when you said it the first time anyway.

Rhine: That, that’s important and the invisible worker I find that... and that’s why the invisible people I have out here... It’s my street people. I think more of my street people than some of these foo-foos.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: ‘Cause the street people, they just have a basic code, you know. You show me some respect then I’ll show you some.

Bethany: Right.
Rhine: And the other day. One day I was out when um... and the guys was walking his dog... big 'o dog, you know, big 'o dog gonna have some big doo-doo.

Bethany: Yea. (chuckles)

Rhine: So I said to him “You gotta bag?!“

Bethany: (laughs)

Rhine: And his eyes get all big. You know we’re thinking about two different kind of bags.

Bethany: (laughs) Right.

Rhine: And a friend listening and says “For the dog” ‘cause I was trying to compute.

Bethany: Right. (Ms. McLin’s phone rings but she ignores it)

Rhine: I was trying to compute.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: (laughs) I don’t wanna be hurrying around picking up this dog’s stuff.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: Yea, and, and you know and I think that it is important that as you get older like when I talk about going to your---turning 30.

Bethany: Uh-huh.

Rhine: You start doing little bucket list. I— I didn’t start doing ‘em until I was...turned 45. When I turned 45 the one thing I always wanted to do was sky dive. When I was 45 I went on an airplane and did white water rafting and I did kayaking and I did a lot of crazy stuff, but by the time I got to my 50th birthday that’s what I did---I went sky diving. And now I go sky diving every year and I go kayak. I do white water rafting. Those are the things that I kept that I liked.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: Now I really wanna do a glider plane.

Bethany: That’d be fun, but I’d be scared to sky dive.

Rhine: I always go tandem so my insurance won’t go up.

Bethany: Right. (laughs)
Rhine: You gotta go with someone who has the best interest to live too.

Bethany: Where do you sky dive at?

Rhine: In Xenia.

Bethany: Oh really.

Rhine: Uh-huh.

Bethany: That’s so cool. So what they just take you up. Do you just fly around and they just take you straight up and you just jump or...

Rhine: Well they show you this video so to scare the crap out of you. Then your strapped to a person, you go up in the plane and you jump out.

Bethany: You get a rush?

Rhine: Yea you do. You just think about it. It’s not like skydiving uh... you’re not going in the water---that’s an element. You can talk about wrapping your mind around stepping into space.

Bethany: Right. That still scares me. Well, um... tell me a little bit about your involvement in the community and how it’s changed across your life.

Rhine: You know being involved in the community it—it—it is really hard. Like one is you have to pick an issue and sometimes what happens is that you get um... You gotta be focused on your issues like you know my issue too was really the litter. I mean, it doesn’t sound like much but it has um... It’s like going to somebody’s house. If you go in somebody’s house and you need a GPS at the door you know you think whatever is coming out of there is gonna be a little cluttered.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: And doesn’t have that aestheticness and so I—I started ---I did a big um litter campaign and getting ---and that’s one of those things you get people involved. And it doesn’t cost you anything. You just take a little time and energy and um I did that because I wanted to uh lead by example. Another issue I did was find a lot of kids when I did mayor’s walks. I always had kids on ‘em so they could see the importance of their neighborhood and have an impact and I did a kids talent show. I had a talent show for kids and, and those are the kind of things that you try to put an imprint on young minds so... You know I like to go out to the schools and read and do things and tell ‘em stories about...

Bethany: Right.
Rhine: And so when you start talking about community involvement you gotta figure out where you want to make your impact, and where most people make a mistake...

Bethany: Um-huh.

Rhine: They see all the wrongs. They see all the issues all at one time.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: And they want to tackle all of them at one time. You can’t do it. So you got to find that niche in there that --- that you want to make a difference.

Bethany: Uh-huh.

Rhine: Because if you are trying to attack the whole thing you’re not gonna be successful in nothing.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: So the old saying is how do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: And that’s what you gotta do and if everybody took their initiative in one area it’d be a lot better place.

Bethany: Uh-huh.

Rhine: But them some people they wanna take your spots and they don’t want their own. They only see your spots.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: And so we’re fighting over the same spots.

Bethany: And there’s no need for all that.

Rhine: And there’s no need. There’s too much to be done.

Bethany: Uh-huh.

Rhine: Like tutoring. You gotta know what your limitations are—uh one of the things that I do sometimes when I go to church...

Bethany: Uh-huh.
Rhine: Um... and we get the uh church bulletin and you have all the sick people’s names on it with the address and stuff. I’ll sit down and write everybody a note.

Bethany: That’s nice... that is. That’s nice.

Rhine: And, and so it it’s...my community involvement is more random acts of kindness.

Bethany: We need more of that I think.

Rhine: And that’s why my radio show is about, Fluff and Stuff. It’s about, you know, I don’t like getting into nothing heavy. I don’t even have TV.

Bethany: No?

Rhine: I’m a primitive modern woman.

Bethany: Uh-huh.

Rhine: I have to pick and choose the things that I’m comfortable with, and I have a lot of young people that I remember and you know just like uh... just like with you Bethany you found me, talked to me, and you’re welcome to call me back another time and talk to me on anything that you want. I think the biggest legacy is anybody’s life is helping somebody else and having them pay it forward.

Bethany: Uh-huh. Well that’s one thing my dad always said about... was like you ---yes you’re a political figure, but you care about a person’s character on an individual level and not just so worried about your political status and what other people think. Like you really are a good person so that’s why I wanted to interview you.

Rhine: Aw... tell everyone I said thank you.

Bethany: I will. (laughs) They wouldn’t let me leave here without telling you that so...

Rhine: Well thank you, but that’s what it is...it’s very important. You know I’ve had kids come to my door and they don’t have no bus money you know I put them in my car and take ‘em home and stuff. You know... and it... and I think... I don’t know how people come up with this. Just like Mr. Bailey. Mr. Bailey will tell me all about his...(laughs) his... and I have this... Would you believe Mr. Bailey and I finished high school together?

Bethany: Really. Uh-uh.

Rhine: And so those are the kind of things that... you know, I think we need more people that reach out and touch... you wanna say--- well, I mean, I have right now I got (her phone rings, she ignores it) I got some young people that I have mentored that have really... I got...one’s a
state senator. She still...she calls me up “What do I do on this? What do I do on that?” And those are the...that makes...I feel proud.

Bethany: Uh-huh.

Rhine: But you come across a lot of elected officials where they act like they...they (in audible) ...you know they can’t tell ya nothing. They’re too important. They’re too self-absorbed, and there’s a scripture in the Bible that I really believe in. It’s in Proverbs and you know it’s humility before honor.

Bethany: Uh-huh.

Rhine: And, and that’s been my philosophy. Even after I uh lost the election people wanted to honor me with stuff and I’m sitting here, “No, no, no.” I’m like who knows. I might make a comeback.

Bethany: That’s right.

Rhine: And um... but, but uh it’s not... I didn’t do it for that.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: I did it because I cared.

Bethany: We need more of that because there’s a lot of people...I mean, I don’t know personally, but I mean, it seems that way, that a lot of people are out there just for their own gain.

Rhine: Oh yea they are.

Bethany: And the issues that they address. They say ‘em so you re-elect them, but they really don’t care about the core issues.

Rhine: Yea. It’s all about them.

Bethany: Uh-huh.

Rhine: Very selfish driven (her phone rings. She ignores it.) Yea.

Bethany: Well, let’s see... um what kind of preparation did you have in order to get your name and your purpose for being elected across? I mean, did it help having your dad there? Is that it?

Rhine: Yea. For so long people um.. I t was very hard to distinguish um... a Rhine McLin because they always referred to my dad.
Bethany: Uh-huh.

Rhine: Um... but and the good news is I was a girl because if I had not been a girl they would expect for me to have been exactly like him and pick up where he left off. It would have been impossible.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: So, I have a...I think I’ve had an opportunity to establish myself individually as a Rhine McLin.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: You, you becoming the first black female state senator was you unbelievable.

Bethany: Uh-huh.

Rhine: It surprised me and, and to be the first female—not black—first female mayor of Dayton, those are huge accomplishments and one of the things that I always try to do is go back and leave myself... carry myself in such a way that by me leaving, whether I won or lost, when I left...

Bethany: Uh-huh.

Rhine: That my legacy would be something every young lady could be proud of.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: And still maintain uh my dignity and, and I didn’t want to get lost in losing my personality and so hats is a tribute. Hats is so once my c---I got lots of hats.

Bethany: (laughs)

Rhine: But I grew up wearing hats

Bethany: Did you?

Rhine: And then as our---as a mayor, I mean everyday you are out there up front and stuff

Bethany: Uh-huh

Rhine: You know I ---you have bad hair days so a hat became really good. You... for a guy all you gotta do is comb his hair. Whereas you got to get into all this so, you know, I ---hats became really very very um second nature.
Bethany: Uh-huh.

Rhine: And you know a lot of people... what interesting conversation piece and then you I --- I think one of the things that really threw people off are my circle-square glasses. Um... which I never to this day I’ve never been able to understand what the problem is with...

Bethany: Oh people actually had a problem with it?

Rhine: Yea they did. You know um yea... oh my... I mean you really didn’t realize how conservative for a town to be as artsy as it claims to be.

Bethany: Exactly.

Rhine: Yea, and I thought that was a real statement of artiness.

Bethany: Uh-huh.

Rhine: Uh having circle-square glasses, I mean, it really caused a lot of problems.

Bethany: It was. I was gonna ask you about it at the end, but since you are talking about it.

Rhine: Yea.

Bethany: Yea.

Rhine: Back when I ran for office in ’09, I mean people would request that I took the glasses off and I wore some of my other ones, and I did but ya know I tried to come---I don’t do well with that, but you and... So I went back to my old self

Bethany: I-I’m glad you did ‘cause I was gonna ask you at the end are you really just that fun a person or is there a reason behind the different lenses? But I think you’re just fun and like to be yourself.

Rhine: Yea. And I like the artsy stuff. I like... to be artsy and that’s---I at times I became so frustrated with Dayton because I wanted so much for this town then they seemed to have wanted for themselves.

Bethany: That’s sad.

Rhine: Yea, and you know really by the person that they choose that they really spoke volumes that they wanted to go backwards to the status quo that it always was a long time ago.

Bethany: Yea, and you were out there when you were mayor, which I think we need. We don’t need somebody behind a desk who doesn’t really know what’s going on in the communities that need somebody out there.
Rhine: I try to be the face of Dayton you know I mean we had President Obama come in. I mean we put Dayton on the map. You know I had a good relationship with the governor and all these kinds of people. Those kind of things you do to help your city. It’s not about...it’s about you...it’s about your city and your community.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: Yea ‘cause I even had mayor’s days. Everyday... every once a month I rotated around the town. Anybody in the city could come and talk with me. It was my personal Dr. Phil, and I had a social worker with me.

Bethany: Uh-huh.

Rhine: And we would try to address... and sometimes people just needed to talk to somebody.

Bethany: Uh-huh.

Rhine: So now a lot of people... Uh I come across people that say they really missed me being mayor. They didn’t... They were gonna try and teach me a lesson or something or other. I was like... OK a lessons been taught on you. You’ve given me a life with some freedom. I don’t know.

Bethany: Right. I hope you come back.

Rhine: Well then you’ll be able to work on my campaign, and help me with some stuff.

Bethany: I would. If you needed help I would. I know you now.

Rhine: Yea. Are you on Facebook?

Bethany: I don’t have a Facebook. I need to. I had Myspace and that got blew out of the water and now its all about Facebook so I don’t have one yet. Everybody tells me “you need Facebook”.

Rhine: No. not really.

Bethany: Do you have Facebook?

Rhine: Well O yea. I have Facebook.

Bethany: It’s the thing to do.

Rhine: Well you know I don’t know I started it up... last year.

Bethany: Oh did you just start?... So you haven’t had it too long.
Rhine: No, no. It's probably about a year.

Bethany: OK

Rhine: I probably had it little---maybe about a year.

Bethany: Did you get on there actually?

Rhine: I do it twice a day and what I do (phone rings. Pause interview)

Bethany: It's evident that you love the community and you want to see it prosper so I'm sure you have some thoughts on some of Dayton's larger issues. So I was wondering what you thought about the---how the Dayton school system is going and what do you think needs to be done to make it better? And where does the true problem lie at?

Rhine: The true problem that lies in the Dayton school system is that it...it... the school system can't address the home issue.

Bethany: Uh-huh.

Rhine: And somehow we-we have to get the home issue to address the kids, to address the school. Now, what's happened has been a lot of parents have just transferred their kids' upbringing to the school system so teachers have to be holistic.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: And uh and kids can't teach what they don't know. You got parents who don't know so they're teaching kids that don't know. The first job a child ever has in life is going to school.

Bethany: Uh-huh.

Rhine: And, but we're not taught that concept that this is my first job.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: So these kids are growing up in homes---in a lot of homes that they've never seen anybody get up and go to work.

Bethany: Uh-huh. Right 'cause there's no motivation...

Rhine: There's no motivation on the education and then you see kids um... so getting back to the education system. How we address the home life to make better parents, to make better kids in the school system... to show appreciation. It's no easy answer.

Bethany: Right.
Rhine: There really isn’t no easy answer and um... until parents decide that education is important it’s very hard for the child to decide that education is important. And teachers have to be...I’d like to see smaller classrooms which is not gonna happen because if we have smaller classrooms then the teachers can with maybe an aid in the classroom may be able to have a stronger influence on the child...

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: to see something different... Um...as a counselor you see a lot of things with kids, but you gotta take the kid where they are and try to let them see something better but you can’t want more for them than they want for themselves when they don’t know.

Bethany: I agree

Rhine: And so what we’re seeing now is that we’re seeing too many girls rearing boys and a woman cannot—in my opinion—rear a boy to become a man. It’s just something innate. They can do a lot, but it has a lot to do with their social skills, and how they get done.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: Um... the role models are missing in the black community as far as males are concerned. It is just absolutely absent. Unless it’s a drug dealer uh... sports figure, but no one is being tallied as and... and I think that’s the good thing about President Obama. He is showing that you can be cool and be smart, but will it be enough. Will he be able to be there long enough to have an impact on the generation to see that I wanna be smart? That it’s OK to be smart. And we have to develop our young people to, to ---when the kids do well ... This is one of my biggest issues is that when kids do well we don’t celebrate it.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: But the kids who do bad they get all the attention, and we need to reverse that cycle of celebrating the kids who are doing well.

Bethany: Make them want to do well?

Rhine: Yes. Make them the elite group. Um, and not a P.S., and I think that’s the biggest issue that we are facing right now is that we are not celebrating our kids that are doing well.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: And we have a lot of kids that are doing well... against the odds there are doing well, but they don’t get celebrated.
Bethany: I agree. Um... What do you think um... Dayton’s become more vacant over the years. We were talking about that earlier, but what suggestions do you have on bringing more businesses and people back into the city for positive reasons?

Rhine: Well Dayton’s housing... a lot of it needs to be torn down because a lot of it was built before 1960 and the housing market that we had uh needs to be changed—needs to be more modernized. Um, I think Dayton is posing itself to be in a position where when people start moving back into urban areas, Dayton will be a prime spot because of all the vacant land that people can build as they desire, and they will already have the infrastructure here.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: And some sociologist say that in the future that um... people are going to be moving back into the urban areas uh because they are going to be seeking out the density... They’re gonna want the density. They’re gonna want to be close to what they call the action and it’s gonna be more convenient. Well, and you throw in the gas, keeps going up the way it is might be sooner than later. Uh, that’s one issue. As far as bringing businesses, I don’t see... I really don’t see the days of the big inlands and General Motors and those big factories um... Were not gonna have those kind of things anymore because robotics are gonna take the place of people. You may have a space that’s large but robotics... you know, you got a person there that knows how to work the robot to do it, and they do it faster and they do it quicker.

Bethany: Right.

Rhine: So the technology field you... I think you’re gonna see more services and home-base and technology and medical care and educational issues, but the technological field and different things like that—you’re just gonna see smaller businesses, and I think the spirit has to be created for people to want to do business from their homes that the taxes and things are gonna be conducive for people to want to do business from home and stuff because right now during this recession uh we’re still suffering with a tremendous gray market and they gray market is not a black market. Black market is an illegal things that are happening. The gray markets are where people barter and do things to survive so I may keep two kids at my house as a daycare, but I’m not licensed in the state. That’s a gray market. OK?

Bethany: OK. That makes sense.

Rhine: OK, so you know instead of me going to Capital Cleaners or some professional to do taxes---to do... wait---to do my seamstress work. The lady next door sews very well so I’ll go next door... so I’m not paying sales tax on services, but it’s a gray market.

Bethany: uh-huh. OK.
Rhine: OK.

Bethany: I've got one more question. Um... What lessons do you carry away from your involvement in the community and community service?

Rhine: Really I’m gonna sum it up in one sentence by Shirley Chisholm, “Service is the price you pay for the space you use.”

Bethany: That’s a great ending. Thank you so much Ms. McLin.