

## MEETING WITH VERONICA HOLLY

The meeting, over lunch, was arranged by Linda. We had tried to for several weeks.

028P

We covered a lot of grounds during the lunch.

I am only going to summarize biographical details on the basis of what she told us.

Her parents were born in North Carolina where she still have many relatives. She went back there repeatedly during her childhood and feels close to the area.

She was born in New York and mostly grew up in the Parchester area of the Bronx where she went to high school. In the mid 1980s her father bought a brownstone in Harlem even though both her mother and her were opposed. But he argued that the area was developing. She could continue going to the same high school. As she said laughingly, they are now all very happy that the father did this.

The family has owned a clothing business in Harlem and elsewhere in NY (I think she mentioned Queens). She is proud of the fact that his father stayed in Harlem during the difficult period between the Harlem Renaissance and now. She thinks his generation should be acknowledged for what they did.

031P

[her father, I. Ronnie Holly, was on the community district board, and gets quoted in the New York Times for comments about local. ]

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She went to College at Syracuse university then started working in politics, first with Governor Cuomo.

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She decided to go back to school and sought the financial help of her parents. She did not specify whether she got it, since she then mentioned that she has been working full time throughout her graduate career. Her first choice would have been to get a degree from SIPA but was discouraged when told by the dean that she would have to go full time. She applied to the MA in sociology of education at TC, working first with Bob Crain during his final year there. I believe she started in 1995. She applied later to the Ph.D. program in Policy Study (actually she must be in the sociology of ed, or politics of ed program since there is no such

thing as a degree in policy studies). She is now working on a proposal with Henig.

Her current position is with IUME.

We talked in what I would say is a studiously relaxed way about racial identifications and skin color. She mentioned that her sister is much lighter than she is, somewhat like her mother. She looks more like her father. She said that among African-Americans {I cannot remember the exact vocabulary} this is taken for granted: every body knows that they have multiple ancestries {again, this is my vocabulary for a conversation which I remember being conducted mostly through deictics)

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