

INTERVIEWER: What I want you to do is get back to being in the dorm and hearing that Orangeburg and other places are starting to move and that feeling and what that meant to you in terms of what's happening.

NASH: It was a total surprise, when other cities joined in the same chains that we were sitting in. And I can remember being in the dorm any number of times and hearing the newscasts that Orangeburg had had demonstrations or Knoxville or, you know, other, other towns. And D. Nash 7 we were really excited. I can remember, we'd applaud, and say, yeah! [laughs] When you are that age, you don't feel powerful. I remember realizing that in—with what we were doing, trying to abolish segregation, we were coming up against governors of southern states, judges, politicians, businessmen, and I remember thinking, I'm only twenty-two years old, what do I know? What am I doing? And I felt very vulnerable. So when we felt—when we, when we heard these newscasts, that other cities were having demonstrations it really helped. Because there were more of us. And it, it was very important.

INTERVIEWER: Now, it's time. You're gonna move. Go down and your gonna sit in. You don't know what's going to happen, what's going to face you. Talk about that. Tell me what that feeling is all about.

NASH: People used to tickle me, talking about how brave I was, sitting in and marching and, what have you, because I was so scared all the time. It was like wall-to-wall terrified. I can remember sitting in class, many times, before demonstrations and I knew, like, we were gonna have a demonstration that afternoon. And the palms of hands would be so sweaty and I would be so tense and tight inside. I was really afraid. The movement had a way of reaching inside me and bringing out things that I never knew were there. Courage and, and love for people. It was a real experience to be among a group of people who would put their bodies between you and danger. And to

love people that you worked with enough that you would put yours between them and danger. I can't say that I've had a similar kind of experience since Nashville. And the friendships that were forged then, as a result of going through experiences like that, have remained really strong and vital and deep to this day. There are people that, sometimes I don't see them over several years, but when I do see them, we are still very close.

Excerpted from [Interview With Diane Nash](#), Washington University Libraries, Film and Media Archive, Henry Hampton Collection.
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