

Introduction to David Lawrence Jr. 1:41 min. Interview: Raymond Elman. Post-Production: Lee Skye. Music: Karen Gomyo, violin – Bach Partita No. 3 in E Major for solo violin, BWV 1006, Recorded 1/20/2025. Coral Gables, Florida.

David Lawrence Jr.

— *Always Informed*

By Elman + Skye

DAVID LAWRENCE JR. (b. 1942) retired in 1999 as publisher of the *Miami Herald* to work in the area of early childhood development and readiness. He chairs the Children's Movement of Florida, aimed at making children the state's top priority for investment and decision-making. In 2002 and 2008 he led successful campaigns for **The Children's Trust**, a dedicated source of early intervention and prevention funding for children in Miami-Dade. From 2002 to 2023, he chaired the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Child Protection, and in 2011 chaired a similar panel for the Secretary of the Department of Children and Families. In 2002, he was a key figure in passing a statewide constitutional amendment to provide pre-K for all 4 year olds. **The David Lawrence Jr. K-8 Center** opened in 2006. An endowed chair in early childhood studies is established in his name at the University of Florida College of Education. He is a trustee of Barry University and for six years served in a similar role at Florida A&M University. His memoir, "A Dedicated Life: Journalism, Justice and a Chance for Every Child," was published in 2018.

Before coming to Miami in 1989, he was publisher and executive editor of the *Detroit Free Press*. Previously he was editor of the *Charlotte Observer*, and earlier held reporting and editing positions at four newspapers. (During his tenure as *Miami Herald* publisher, the paper won **five Pulitzer Prizes**.)

He is a graduate of the University of Florida and the Advanced Management program at the Harvard Business School. His 13 honorary doctorates include one from his alma mater, the University of Florida. His national honors include the National Association of Minority Media Executives award for "lifetime achievement in diversity."

He has chaired the Miami Art Museum, United Way, the New World School of the Arts, and the Foundation for Child Development in New York. He was the local convening co-chair of the 1994 Summit of the Americas. And he co-founded a non-profit vocational-technical school in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

— *The Children's Movement of Florida*

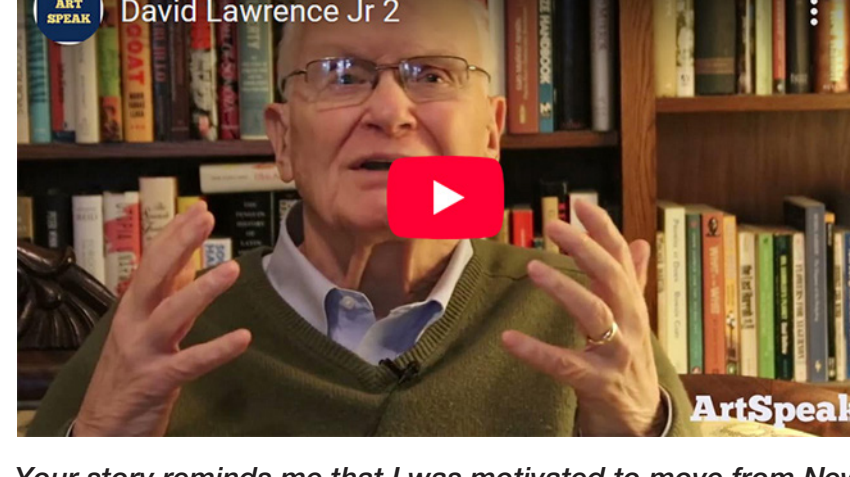
The videos below are organized by Success Factor, and run between 30 seconds and 6 minutes. Click on any video. You must be connected to the Internet to view the videos.

SERENDIPITY: 1:27 min.



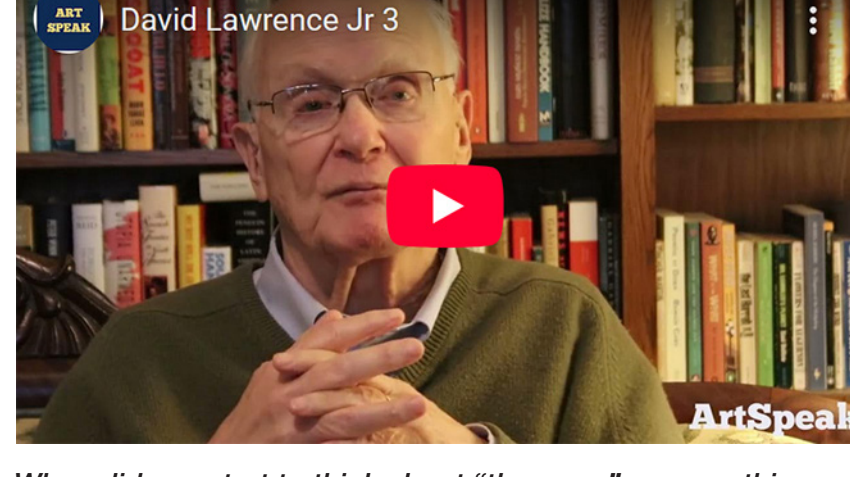
Where did you grow up and what was your first awareness of art of any discipline?

INSIGHT & INSPIRATION: 2:14 min.



Your story reminds me that I was motivated to move from New York City to Provincetown, on the Northern tip of Cape Cod, where I didn't know a soul, after reading Scott Nearing's book, "Living the Good Life."

DEVELOP A VOICE: 0:36 sec.



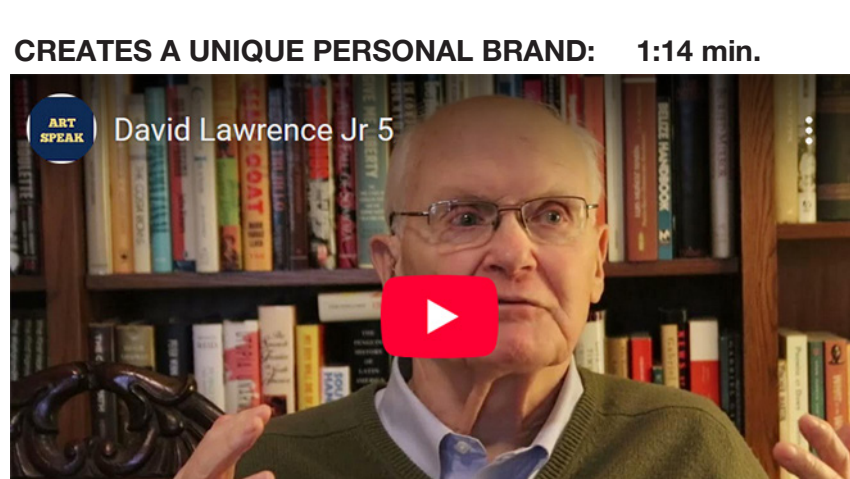
When did you start to think about "the news" as something that was exciting, romantic, appealing, and something that you might want to pursue?

DEVELOP A VOICE: 1:53 min.



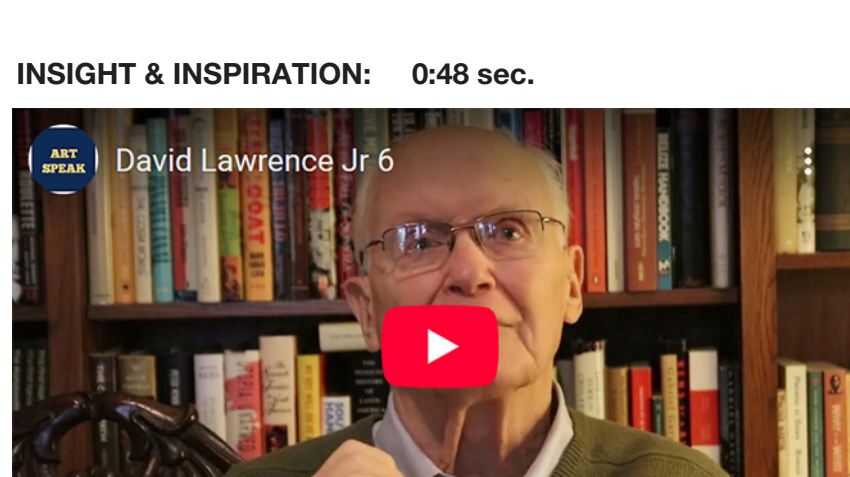
Where did you go to school, and how did that impact your newspaper career?

CREATES A UNIQUE PERSONAL BRAND: 1:14 min.



Tells us about some of the controversial stories you wrote for your university newspaper.

INSIGHT & INSPIRATION: 0:48 sec.



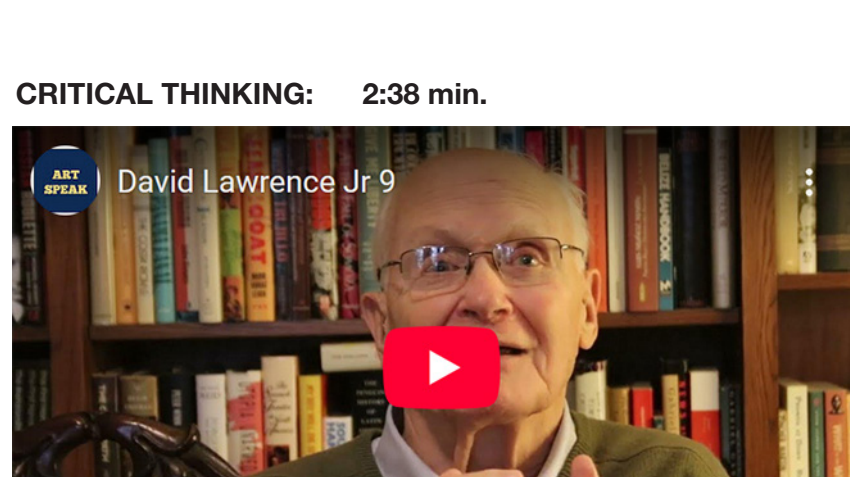
Our friend, filmmaker Paul Saltzman, was motivated to become a Freedom Rider following the murders of Chaney, Schwerner, and Goodman. He eventually made a film about it called "The Last White Knight."

COMMUNITY VALUES: 0:48 sec.



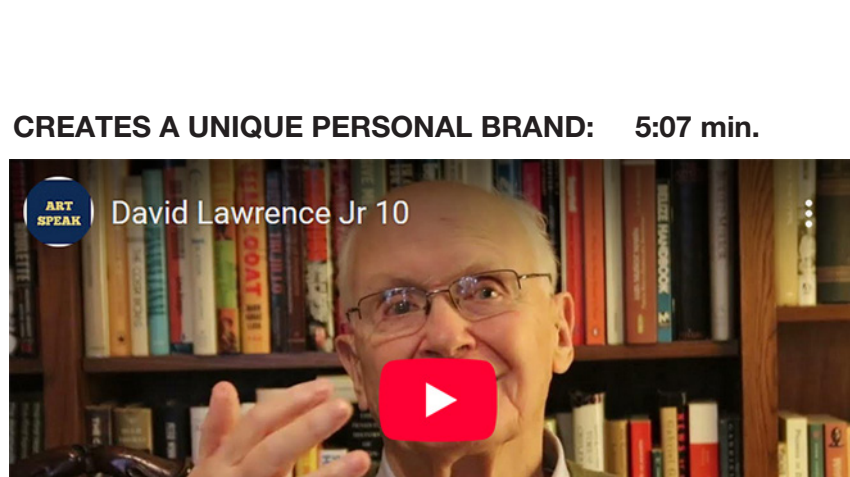
I assume that you spent more time in your newspaper career as an editor and publisher than as a writer.

CRITICAL THINKING: 2:38 min.



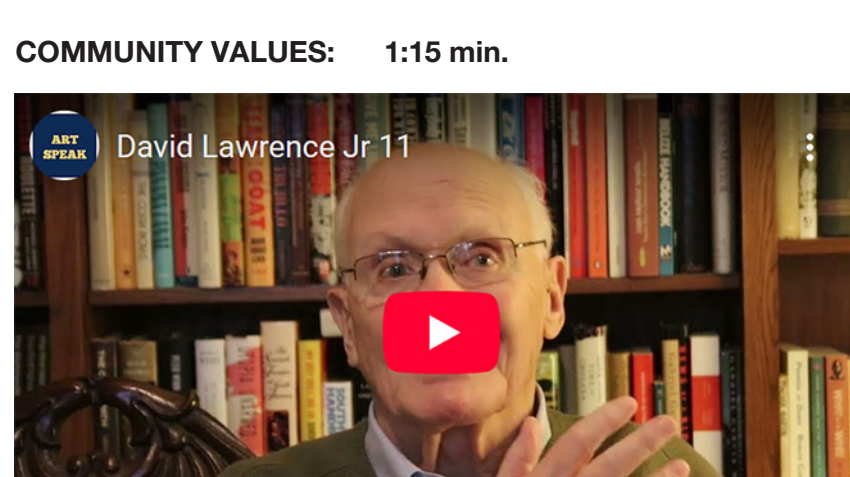
Tell us about the evolution of the Miami Herald during your tenure.

CREATES A UNIQUE PERSONAL BRAND: 5:07 min.



What are some of the things that gave you the most gratification during your tenure at the Miami Herald?

COMMUNITY VALUES: 1:15 min.



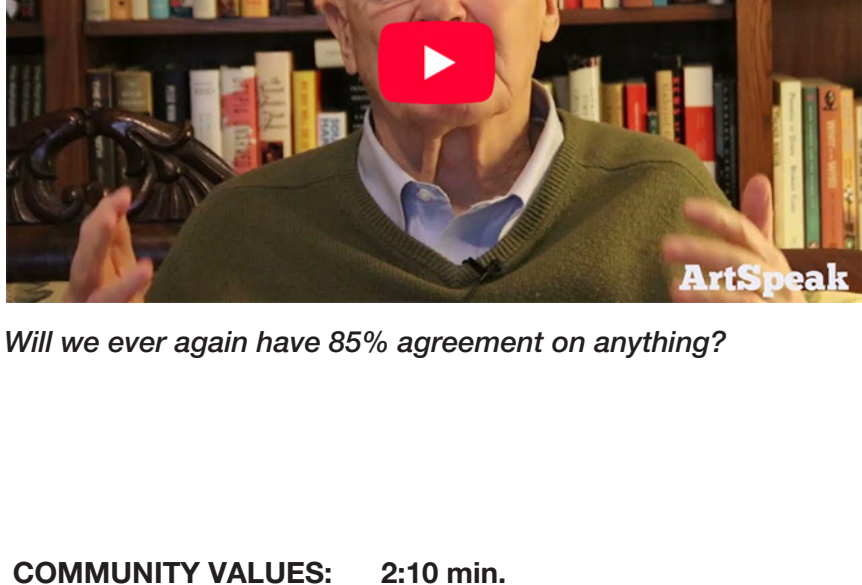
ArtSpeak has published a number of pieces about the Historic Hampton House. What is the significance of the Hampton House from your perspective?

EMPATHY: 3:17 min.



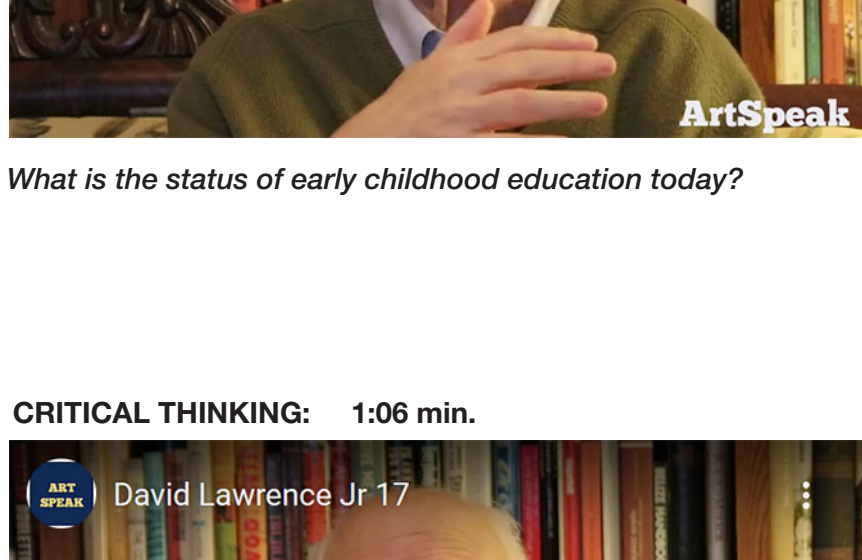
How has the issue of early childhood education evolved since your participation began?

OPTIMISM: 0:35 sec.



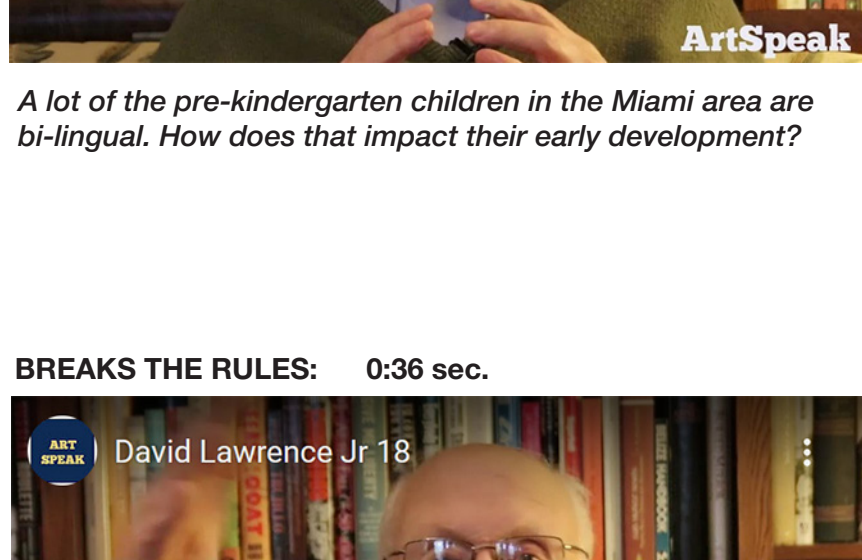
Will we ever again have 85% agreement on anything?

COMMUNITY VALUES: 2:10 min.



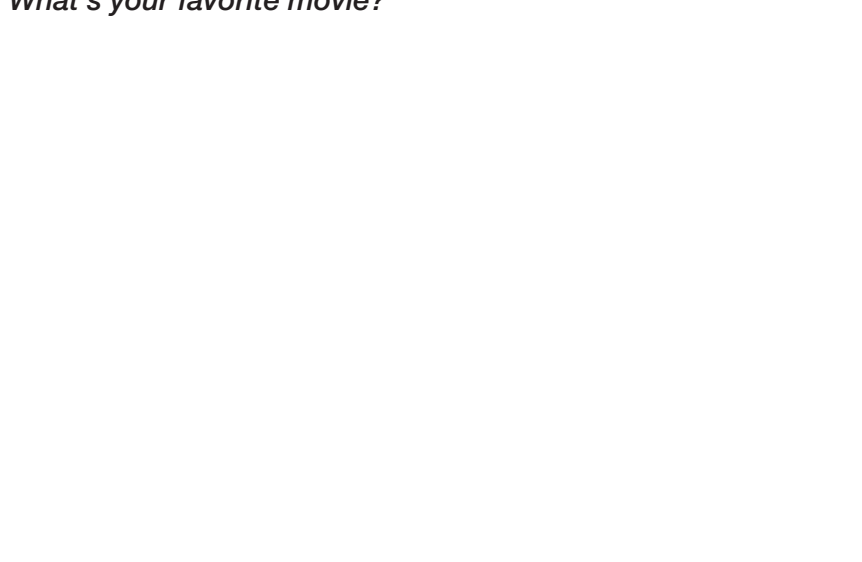
What is the status of early childhood education today?

CRITICAL THINKING: 1:06 min.



A lot of the pre-kindergarten children in the Miami area are bi-lingual. How does that impact their early development?

BREAKS THE RULES: 0:36 sec.



What's your favorite movie?