[Slide 1 – Introduce Group]

[Slide 2 – Opening]

Frederick Douglass Newscast

Taryn: Please excuse the interruption and we will return you back to your original programming as soon as possible. Breaking News from the offices of Maryland’s American Eagle journalism, the South’s #1 source of news reports. My name is Taryn.

Jamie: And my name is Jamie. [Slide 3]This just in: A slave going by the name of Frederick Bailey has been reported escaped! The slave owner William Freeland has alerted authorities on this incident. He was last seen September 2. He is about 27 years old and about 6 feet tall. Here is a police rendering of the suspect. [Slide 4] If you have seen him please let the authorities know as soon as possible.

Taryn: He is highly intelligent for a slave and will stop at nothing to escape. We have gathered this information from a number of interviews from those who have had contact with Bailey.

[Cut to first interview, Slide 5]

Jamie: Here we have the lovely Sophia Auld, who is the wife of the Slaveowner, Thomas Auld. She has known Fredrick Douglas as he was growing up, and has some useful information we can all benefit from. So Sophia, how was Fredrick Bailey after your husband acquired him as a slave?

 Sophia: “Fredrick was always a troubled boy. He rarely said a word and was never to be found around the house. He’s also doing something secretive and goes off in town. He was probably planning his escape for a while. Why one day I caught him reading the newspaper!!! I clearly authorized him people of his kind can never learn to read and write or they can suffer great consequences!!

Jamie: What do you think are the consequences of slaves being able to read?

Sophia: “Who knows what can happen to a black slave that reads the newspaper? They’ll probably start participating in white people’s discussions and politics! I’m sure he will teach all the other black people and soon they will all escape from their slave-owners. What are we going to without any slaves? Nothing is going to get done and our plantations will be left unharvested and we will suffer from hunger!

Jamie: Well Mrs. Auld, we really appreciate your time and hopefully others can see how destructive Mr. Bailey is to our country.

[Cut back to Taryn and Jamie]

Taryn: We have evidence that shows that Bailey continued his education by tricking white boys into teaching him and stealing newspapers and books. It is important to keep our slaves from learning. Learning will spoil the best slave in the world.

Jamie: Right, if you teach him how to read, there is no keeping him. These educated slaves will find it in themselves to revolt against their master and runaway. There have been issues with some slaves who have attempted to run away in the past.

[Cut to second interview, Slide 6]

Taryn: Our next interview is with Mr. Edward Covey. He is a notorious slave breaker and was only in contact with this particular slave for the duration of one year. Tell us Mr. Covey, do you believe that the escaped slave is in fact Frederick Bailey?

Covey: Of course I do! That one was always violent and steppin’ out. I swear, I had to use a cow skin on him at least once a week when he was under my care.

Taryn: What is the punishment, in this situation, if Bailey is ever caught?

Covey: Let me just say that this never would have happened if he was still livin’ with me! I’ve never lost a slave before and never plan to. You gotta’ keep ‘em in line. If one of mine wasn’t at their station by sunrise I would ride out and get ‘em and give them a severe whipping right then and there!

Taryn: So Bailey’s punishment will only be whipping?

Covey: It would be a mighty fine whippin! I’d be surprised if he survives it.

Taryn: What makes you think this slave is Bailey, other than his obvious violent behavior?

Covey: It’s not his first time. When he was with me he ran away one night. He had gone to his master and complained of my treatment of him, but, rightly so, his master turned him away and sent him back to me. Lucky for him that he was only gone a short while, or else he would have received the beating of a lifetime!

Taryn: Alright where do you think the escaped slave has gone to?

Covey: It doesn’t matter, he will never be safe. As long as slavery is legal, he will always belong to another man. As soon as he is caught, he will be returned to his rightful master!

Taryn: We have a source that tells us that Bailey actually assaulted you; do you have any comment on this subject?

Covey: NO COMMENT!

[Cut back to Taryn and Jamie]

Taryn: Thank you for your time Mr. Covey, your insight has been most appreciated and best of luck with this season’s crops!

[Cut to last interview and Slide 7]

Jamie: We have tracked down a slave by the name of Sandy Jenkins, who had unsuccessfully tried to escape with Frederick Bailey in the past. Let’s see what we can learn about the slave. How did you know Bailey?

Sandy: We worked together on Mr. Covey’s land. We became friends very quickly. He was a good friend and hard worker. He taught us how to read and he would teach us all of the stories in the Bible. Frederick always said “knowledge is the pathway from slavery to freedom”. He also felt slavery in general is damaging for not just us slaves but as well as the masters themselves. We had peaceful gatherings but our meetings were broken up because the white people found out about them.

Jamie: We heard that you, Bailey and a few other slaves were planning on escaping. Did he trick you into wanting to escape?

Sandy: Of course not, as slaves we all wanted to be free however, we were afraid of being caught. Frederick has shown what a great leader he is by getting us to agree to escape together. We had all planned it together. However, we were betrayed by one of the other slaves.

Jamie: What happened then?

Sandy: Mr. Covey had us arrested and we were sent to jail. After some time, we were allowed to leave but he stayed in jail. I haven’t heard from him since then. I really do hope he is successful in his escape! He can finally free the rest of us –

[Cut back to Taryn and Jamie]

Jamie: That’s enough! And there you have it. Please keep a look out for this slave.

[Slide 8] There is a $100 reward for his return. Please be noted that Frederick Bailey may now be going under a different name. Thank you for your cooperation.

Taryn: Once again thank you for tuning in and Stay Classy Maryland.