

FB 16A

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Interview with Winfred Dearing who is a Freshman

F: Where are you from?

W: I am from Tampa.

F: Where did you go to school?

W: I went to high-school for two years at Hillsborough.

F: That ^{is a predominantly} ~~is a~~ white school. Where did you go before that?

W: I went to a school in Alabama and Mississippi.

F: I see. As soon as you moved to Tampa you went to Hillsborough. Did you have a choice to go anywhere else?

W: Yes, there was a black school close ^{near} by.

F: Which one was that?

W: IT was Blake high-school.

F: Why did you choose to go to Hillsborough?

W: ^{Cause} I figured that I might learn more.

F: What kinds of schools did you go to in Alabama and Mississippi?

W: I went to black schools.

F: How far did you have to go to go to Hillsborough?

W: It was about a mile from home.

F: How close was the black school?

W: About ^{four} ~~one quarter~~ of a mile.

F: You were actually centrally located where it was not that hard to get to either one?

W: Yes

F: What did you think when you got the questionnaire?

W: I thought that you took a random sample and choose ^e my name.

F: Have you gotten any before?

W: No, I have not. It was sort of a different kind of questionnaire.

F: Like what?

W: Like a guy was doing a project for a certain class and wanted to know what kind

of a car ^{did} ~~do~~ I liked.

F: Are you a Freshman?

W: ~~Yes~~ No, I'm a sophomore.

F: Where else did you think of going before you came to the University of Florida?

W: Florida State.

F: Is this your second year here?

W: This is my second year here, *that's right.*

F: You were interested in Florida State, here and where ~~else~~ else?

W: Tuskegee and that is about all.

F: Why did you decide to come here?

W: *Cause* I figured that I might have to study more here and learn here. If I went to Florida A & M then I could take it easy ~~but~~ ^{and probably} I would not learn as much.

F: What made you think that?

W: Well, it is probably the ^estereotype of all white schools like when I went to black schools I was in the top of my class but when I took the national examinations I was just about average ^{-- seventieth percentile.} SO, I thought about what was wrong so I guess that I just naturally blamed it on ^{my} ~~the~~ schools.

F: How have you been doing since you have been here?

W: Well, I have a 3.2 so I guess that I am doing all right.

F: That is being very modest. When you considered between here and Florida State how did you choose Florida?

W: Well, I Was thinking about pre-vet and my guidance counselor at Hillsbourough told me that the place for me to go would be the University of Florida and then to go to Auburn.

F: That seems to be a pretty common pattern of pre-vets going ^{here} ~~to Florida~~ and then going to Auburn. You had two years experience at a predominately white school. Did you ^{find} ~~have~~ any trouble adjusting at Hillsbourough?

W: What kind of trouble are you talking about?

F: *Well, I mean being that it was the first predominately white school that you*
Did you find any differences?

W: I found that I had to study more and I found also that when I studied more that I made better grades. Also, when I went to Hillsborough there was a big change like at the black schools I was sort of top of the class while at Hillsborough I was sort of just an average student.

F: Were you also an average student as far as grades in addition to the national examination?

W: No, I made better grades at Hillsborough than I did at the black school, ^{but} when I took the national examinations there was not much difference because it was sort of based on background and the two years at Hillsborough did not make that much difference.

F: What kind of an average did you have at Hillsborough?

W: About a 3.8.

F: That is great. Before you came did you have any apprehensions about coming here?

W: ~~I did not~~. No, I didn't

F: You had not heard anything except that it was the best pre-vet program around?

W: Sort of

F: What about since you have been here?

W: Like what?

F: Most of my questions are going to be ^{as} open-ended and not specific as possible because I want to hear what you have to say rather than do you see what I am saying because in some kind of interviews they can get the kind-of answer ~~that~~ they want by asking certain questions. I want to hear what you want to say more than what I want you to say. How has it been since you have been here? Have you been pretty satisfied?

W: Well, the dormitories were kind of usual, you know couple of guys said hello. The thing that I noticed is that whites when you pass one another they kind of look down and they do not speak and do not speak to one another. Most of us black students just like if I see an African student, ^{around} I always say hello and he says hello too although that is my first time at seeing him. I noticed that the whites were

kind of cold or restricted.

F: That is whites to whites and blacks to blacks but what about whites to blacks?

W: Well, I guess it is if a white notices you sometimes he speaks and sometimes he does not. Sometimes I can know a guy, and he will turn his head and look the other way. I guess that it is just the way that they act I do not know.

F: You say that they do that pretty much to each other.

W: Right

F: It may not be the racial variable but just the way that people react. Do you have a roommate in the dorm?

W: No, I do not have a roommate. I had a roommate last year. He was sort of he was from Fort Pierce, and he was sort of prejudice. He met one good black and he sort of changed. ~~But he's basically the same way that he was. He had a couple of stereotypes like he thought~~

about how ~~that~~ I ~~was~~ ^{was supposed to} be and his parents were sort of wondering about him staying with a black student. His parents would ask him silly questions like how I was treating him or if I was stealing his stuff from him. I was supposed to get a room with him this year but he played his radio when I studied and I did not like that so I decided to get a room by myself.

F: There are singles I did not know that. Where do you live.

W: The Murphee area.

F: *And LC* They have singles there?

W: That is right.

F: He was your roommate all of last year? *You went in blind.* You did not know him before you got there. How do you get along with the rest of the people in your dorm?

W: It is just like a dormitory like some people you speak to and some people that you do not. That is sort of bad I guess like I am use to speaking to people when I see them ~~and~~ ^{and} it makes me feel alienated, and that is why I guess that I go to the Student Union. ^{LL} The Black Student Union where the black students get together a sort of social, political organization and it sort of makes up for all of that cold attitude in the dormitory.

- F: What about social life on campus?
- W: Well, we have parties mostly black people ~~are~~ there, and sometimes I go to the Village Gate and movies and stuff like that. *but there are a couple of Indian students there.*
- F: What about dating?
- W: It is all right. I date black girls because I find it hard to get serious with the white girls. It is like white girls do not even count. It is just like living somewhere all of your life and then being put into ~~a~~ ^{another} situation. It is just like you see white people on television but it is hard to identify with white people because you live with black people all of your lives and when you suddenly get put into this white society it is just like a new toy. It is just something that you just do not care about so that is how I feel basically about white girls. They are just there, and I am here and so what.
- F: What do you mean that it is hard to get serious with white girls.
- W: You know just like I talk to white girls but I ~~do~~ not take them into consideration when I start looking for a girl to date. It is just that way.
- F: Do you date mainly black girls on campus?
- W: Right, ^{on-}campus, off-campus.
- F: Which ones do you date more?
- W: ~~on-~~ campus
- F: It seems like a lot of people have taken to dating people off-campus. Have you noticed that?
- W: Right because sometimes the black girls think that just because they are going to the University of Florida that they are ~~something~~ ^{somebody} big and it goes to their heads sometimes.
- F: How do they act?
- W: We ~~have~~ a word for it but it is kind of --just sort of special
- F: What is the word??
- W: We call it highcidity.
- F: Is that a made-up word?

W: Yes, ^{I guess} a sort of a black word. They act like they are on the top. It is just like being in the upper class and some^{-body} else is in a lower class. ~~That is how we~~ ^{That's sort of} ~~the way they act here.~~

F: The black girls on campus.

W: Right some girls are all right.

F: Can you spell that. Some words are just strictly oral language and not written.

W: I guess that you could spell it h-i-g-h- for the high and put a (-) in and s-i-d-t something I do not know.

F: Is that a pretty ^{persuasive} ~~basic~~ word do most people know.

W: Blacks do.

F: I mean blacks. You do not have any idea of the origin? That is the first time that I have heard that. I have heard just about everything once but that is a new one on me. What is interesting is to hear the same phenomenon of dating as described by black girls and ^{by} black guys. Well, black girls say that they would really like to go out with the black guys on this campus and the black guys ^{don't} ~~will~~ ~~not~~ have anything to do with them and the black guys talk about the girls that they are snobs and they are that way because they are at the University of Florida. They still talk about the same thing but they completely twist it around.

W: The black girls seem to have the same attitude that I have.

F: Yes, but they seem to think that it is the boys fault.

W: Well, it could be. How many black ^{males} ~~girls~~ do we have here.

F: Counting graduate students about ninety to sixty ^{males.} ~~maybe.~~

W: Well, I guess that we have a communication block just like some girls like I take them out, and they are all right but you would not consider dating them for a long time. It is just their personality and the way that they act they are just disagreeable.

F: Can you be more specific?

W: Well, most of the girls on the campus are sort of one night affairs you ~~can~~ take

them out and find out everything that you want to know in one night. You do not take the girls into consideration too much they are just there.

F: What kind of girls do you prefer?

W: I do not know girls that are it is sort of hard to put into words.

F: You probably can and probably have but you will not tell them to me. I am sure that you have talked about these ^{Kind of} things.

W: Yes, I probably have.

F: Girls off campus are different though?

W: Well, like girls off campus most of the time they are high school girls that probably admire us more than the girls on campus and that sort of does something for our ^{my} ego. So that is probably the reason.

F: I see. Also, getting to more specifics, possibly one of the ^{feelings} ~~reasons~~ for resentment among the black girls here is that the black guys date white girls. What do you think about that?

W: I have not dated any white girls. If a guy dates a white girl well there are black girls dating white guys too.

F: As often.

W: ^{No,} I think there is more black guys and white girls. The thing that it is that if a guy wants to date white girls then it is his business, and if the black girls just feel left out well tough luck. The thing is like ~~the~~ black girls straighten their hair and straightening their hair is just like to me you see a black girl with a flat nose and thick lips and straight hair that is like a bad imitation of a white girl. Who wants an imitation if I can get the ^{real} thing why should I accept an imitation. So, that is why I like ^{black} girls with Afros, and that is sort of hard for black girls on this campus to understand. Although my view maybe a minority opinion, but it is just the way that I feel about it. I look at black girls with straight hair and look at ^{white} ~~black~~ girls with ~~the~~ straight hair and if you try to judge a black girl by a white beauty standard then she just does not make it. It

is sort of hard to tell a girl that like certain girls on this campus wear Afros, but they sort of alternate between straight hair and Afros. You can tell that they truly do not believe in wearing Afros that they believe that it is ugly. I believe in a black girl being natural in wearing her kinky hair just like it is supposed to be. So, that I can judge black girls by black beauty standards and just because I think it is the way that it should be.

F: Why do you think that they straighten their hair?

W: Well, ^{I think} they probably straighten their hair because their parents straighten their hair. My parents straighten my sister's hair now and she is about four or five years old. I guess that it is sort of hard to change all of a sudden what has gone on all of your life. My parents like my hair short but I like it long. My parents think that this is long but it is nothing. I guess it is just a question that is going on all of our lives and it is hard to form their own values.

F: Why do your parents like your hair short?

W: Because it resembles a white person's hair more like when it is short it lays down and like yours lays down on your head. They think that it looks better that way.

F: Do you think that there is more involved then the way that things look?

W: What do you mean more involved?

F: Well, let me explain it this way. We know that people talk about people's hair and more often than not it is more involved than just the way that it looks. It means certain things to people. It may also mean something to people who dislike it more than just aesthetically that it looks better in other words it would have some political you know long hair whites people do not like. It is more than it just does not look good, people read other things into it.

W: That is why I like Afros it means something. It means that the girl is proud about the way that she looks and she has a higher self-esteem and it sort of means something to take out a girl like that. If a girl thinks that she is ugly how can I turn her around and tell her that I like her the way that she is when she keeps

trying to change herself ^{you} When you work hard to try to straighten your hair, it is just senseless to me. The majority of the girls on campus have straight hair and they are all right but they still look like bad imitations.

F: Do the girls that you go out with mainly high-school girls?

W: No, they are mainly freshmen.

F: I thought that you dated mainly girls off campus?

W: Well, not necessarily I have only dated one girl off campus to four girls on campus

F: I see.

W: I would put it that way.

F: So, most of the girls that you go out with have the natural look?

W: Yes, but it looks like sometimes that I do not have much of a choice. *I take what I can find.*

F: What about things to do? Are there many things for black students to do on campus?

W: ^L Like what.

F: Socially.

W: Well, we can go to the Union and shoot pool. I have a television in my room so I can watch television.

F: Do you have a car?

W: I had a car and I got to go to the movies downtown and stuff like that.

F: What happened to your car?

W: I had an accident ~~FRIDAY~~ ^{LL}

F: Did it total the car?

W: Yes, it totaled the car. I am supposed to get another car.

F: Was it your fault?

W: No, I was driving to Miami, ^{This last Friday} ~~like~~ I had an appointment ^{here} at about twelve so I left here at about three in the morning ^{Friday for Miami} and I was driving on the turnpike and this lady cut over the center line and I blew my horn and she came over more and just about forced me off of the road completely. I had one wheel on the road and one wheel off of the road. My initial reaction was to get back on the road and when I turned back

on to the road at seventy miles an hour I almost ran into her and therefore I turned to the outside again and my car started rolling. It rolled over five times and when it stopped rolling I just unhooked my seatbelt and crawled out of the window. ^{And} The car was ~~on the top with the wheels~~ ^{upside down when it finally stopped and the wheels were} up in the air. The other lady my car hit hers and she jumped the guard rail and went into the other side in the ditch and one ambulance came and took the lady to the hospital. I got charged with failure to have my vehicle under control so I have to go to court during finals week.

F: You were charged with the accident?

W: Yes, *I was charged with it.*

F: How is the lady?

W: She just hurt her arm.

F: You both are extremely lucky by just surviving that accident.

W: When the car was rolling it was just like being at the ~~casino~~ ^{CARNIVAL} and being in one of those rides so it was nothing real special except that it was the real thing. The windshield was completely gone.

F: What kind of a car did you have?

W: *I had a* 1961 Comet.

F: Why were you charged with the accident?

W: When the highway patrol came, my car was upside down in the street and this is the way that I saw it, the man did not even look at me, ^{and I was the only black there} he got the witnesses statement ^{There was a couple of witnesses there} and gave the lady first aid. I had a couple of cuts too but he did not do anything. So, I did not say anything. My money was scattered along the road because my billfold came out, ^{I had about \$97.00 I had to pick up} and I had to go and pick up my money, and my papers and stuff like that. After I did all of that, he got the peoples statements, and he said that I was passing the cars and that I was passing this lady when she came over. He asked me how fast was I going and I said about seventy miles an hour. He said that the people that I was passing said that they were going seventy miles an hour. So, I said so what. He walked around and looked at the evidence on the street like the skid marks ^{and stuff like that} and he went to a service station I guess and showed me the other car. ^{ladies'}

-- he was hostile
He had this attitude from the beginning. He said look what you did ~~just~~ *stuff* like that. He kept asking me questions like trying to get me to give conflicting stories you know. The only thing that I told him was that I knew what the lady did and that was all that I could say. He just charged me with the accident like it was nothing to do. The attitude that I had was like this white cop and this white lady over here and this nigger in this car did not know what he ~~was~~ ^{is} doing so I am going to fix him up. This was the attitude that I got.

F: You were by yourself?

W: Right, I was alone and like what could I do except just to play it cool. When I go to court I am just going to tell it like it was because if I get fined fifty dollars so what because the way that I feel I do not have to prove anything to anybody. I know ~~what~~ ^{what} I did and I know what she did and that is just the way that it is because whether it was my fault or not I will get another car because I had all kind of insurance.

F: How is it in class here with students? Do you find that it is different being black ^{than if you were white?} I know that is a hard thing to remind you of.

W: Well, I guess that I find that some white students put up a front like if they have a black friend that he ~~is something~~ ^{is something} special or something different. I guess that is all right to be but I guess that ~~they~~ ^{it} would be better if they would just be natural. I guess that they have the same attitude that I have like I am just there. I guess ~~it~~ it could be that they have not met very many black students before and I guess when they meet one that they have ~~stereotypes~~ ^{-e-} and they think that he should be one way. Since I am not a certain way they I am something different and this is mainly the feeling that I get. They are either real friendly or they just do not know the people at all. No casual friends ~~they are~~ ^{either you're a} close friends or no friends at all and most of the teachers are like that too. I know most of my teachers personally because most of the time I am the only black student in the class. Most female teachers seem to have a problem because they seem to be afraid of me or something. I guess that they have the attitude like sometimes

when female teachers talk to me they do not look me directly in the eye and that sort of makes me think that something is wrong. So, what do you think about it?

F: I do not know.

W: If somebody talks to you and they do not look you in the eye.

F: Yes, I think that ~~it~~ is ^{sort of a natural} ~~some~~ feeling if they do not ^{someone} ~~look you in the eye~~ ^{won't look at you, you feel} it is a little suspicious, but do they look other people in the eye? ^{some people won't look} ~~anyone~~ ^{in the eye.}

W: Exactly, I have had this experience about two times. One lady ^{she} was from Mississippi and like the first part of the year ^{she had a hard time getting used to me, but once} ~~it took her to get used to me and then we~~ ^{she got used to me we became close friends.} ~~became good friends.~~

F: What do you mean get use to you?

W: Like at first she would ^{never} ~~not~~ look ^{at} me in the eye. I stayed in her class ^{I guess almost} ~~the whole~~ ^{all the} quarter and then she would talk to me just like any other student but before that she just would ^{not} ~~not~~. ^{Not. I had} Another lady she would do the same all year like if students are out here in a class she would turn her head from side to side but when she got over here to where I was she would suddenly stop and go ^{back} the other way. It is a little hard to explain unless you are there I guess.

F: Did you read Ellison's Invisible Man?

W: No, I have not.

F: He talks about that. That ~~is~~ ^{that has been} a sort of symbol described by a lot of black writers in a lot of different ways.

W: They seem to act like I am not there.

F: That is the whole idea about being invisible. Baldwin talks about ^{body} ~~no one~~ knows my name. ^{It's the same} kind of thing. It is an odd feeling. I know when I first came to college we have certain ideas and feelings about things and you read famous people. I felt these things myself. ^{that a guy like Baldwin has written a couple of books about.} Have you had any contact with administrators?

W: ^{Who is an administrator?} Not necessarily, like Dean Hale I think that I pledged his fraternity Delta Upsilon, ^{F: In Tigert. Any of the Deans.} but I never saw him before.

F: Are you a DU?

W: No, I am not a DU. I ~~came~~ ^{got} out, ~~as a~~ ^{I de-} pledge about two weeks before initiation.

F: Why is that?

W: It was just ~~hard~~ ^{hard} to identify with white guys. ^{I got tired of being around white guys all the time.} It is just like being on guard all of the time.

F: Why did you pledge initially?

W: Because a guy came and talked to me and I guess that he thought that it would be a good idea so I thought that I would try it.

F: How long did you pledge?

W: Well, the first pledge period started at the ~~beginning~~ ^{beginning} of the quarter, but I think that I was about one week late. I stayed in that whole quarter except for that first week that I missed until two weeks before initiation. The initiation was the next quarter so ~~it~~ ^{I guess it} must have been about ten weeks. I still know some of the guys now. We speak ^{to each other} when we pass. ~~The thing~~ ^{But the whole thing} was just me because I find it hard to trust white people. I guess that it is just that I am prejudice too.

F: Do you think that it would be a good idea to have black fraternities here?

W: It might be a good idea but it would probably be ^{just} black fraternities. I do not believe in fraternities in general. It is just a thing for socially maladjusted people.

F: Socially maladjusted?

W: Exactly to get together to have parties somebody to get drunk with. That is the only thing that I see it as. A fraternity what it there except that you have some close friends you pay dues, you have meetings, you help write some junk in a book about the history of the fraternity. What does all of this stuff mean? When I ~~got~~ ^{finish} ~~college~~ ^I am going ~~to~~ ^{to look back and say I was proud to be} a DU or something ^{like that.} I thought about it and plus I was not feeling exactly there, like I was in a fraternity for initiation, but I just did not feel part of the fraternity. If it had been a black fraternity I would have probably stayed there. ^{But} I was sort

doing bad academically that quarter too.

F: Because of the fraternity?

W: Right, it takes a lot of time like we had to clean up the house on Saturday, ^{and} clean up after parties, ^{and take our pledge tests,} and I just did not like it.

F: Are you a member of BSU?

W: Yes.

F: Are you active?

W: What do you mean active? ^{I go to meetings and I guess} ~~well, to me~~ that is the only thing that I could do is to ^{actively} be a member of the ministry.

F: Are you?

W: No.

F: Why not?

W: Because I do not basically believe in this leadership that they have. The guy that is supposed to be the President or the Premier or the Dictator or whatever he is supposed to be. He is like on top, and he gets up in front of white people and ^{he} ~~gives them~~ ^{talks} a lot of bullshit about how bad ~~you have~~ ^{ya'll} been treating us and ~~you have~~ ^{ya'll} ~~not~~ ^{haven't} been doing us right. ^{But he} The man turns right around and he walks around with ^{white} girls and that is sort of basically contradictory on his part. If he likes white people and that is his bag then why does he not just forget about the whole Black Student Union and stop talking bullshit. It is sort of two-faced to me the way that he does. It is sort of bad the way that he can talk about stuff like discrimination in America and stuff like that. It is all well and he can talk about it and it ~~can~~ ^{is} sound good. ^{But he} He can be talking to ^{some of} his white friends, I guess, and a white girl will have her arm around this ~~black~~ ^{black} guy, and I walk by and this man does not even notice me. He is suppose to be the big black man in the ^{Black Student Union} ~~and~~ ^{and} that is why I basically disagree with him although I am still a member, and I pay my dues ^{and stuff like that.}

F: Does anyone ~~ever~~ refute him?

W: No, it is just like this ^{body} everyone knows ~~that~~ he does it, and it is just his business.

F: Yes, but let us look at it this way. I guess that we are talking about Mitch Dashin^{-er.}

W: ~~That is him.~~ Exactly

F: He speaks for ^{Black Student Union.} black people, and he speaks for the BSU. Now, if you are a member of the BSU and even if you are not most people see the BSU as representing the black students on this campus. If someone like Dashin does that acts in a manner that you disagree with then he is representing you whether you like it or not.'

W: ^{Yeah, you} Exactly

F: So, if you dislike what he does it would seem like it is like the silent majority in this country. People says that Nixon does what he wants because everybody agrees with him because no ^{body} ~~one~~ says anything against him. If you do not say anything against the chairman then obviously people think that you agree with him. You are not the first person that ^{'s} said that.

W: About Mitch Dashin^{-er}?

F: Yes but no ^{one} ~~one~~ ~~of them~~ says anything. So, most people think that what he does is cool.

W: Yes, like he is supposed to be married, but everybody knows that he gets around a lot, and there is no big thing about it. I guess that people take the attitude that it would be interfering ^{with} ~~in~~ his personal affairs.

F: Yes, I agree if that is all that ^{was} ~~is~~ involved, but when he speaks as the chairman of BSU. ^{I mean it's not really your business what he does.}

W: There is nothing basically wrong with ~~Mitch~~ dating white girls. It is just that he is supposed to be real militant. He walks around with his goatee and his funny looking hat ^{all the time.} To say one thing and really believe another thing it is sort of hard to follow a guy like that. I do ^{not} follow people like that anyway. Just like ~~in~~ a big crowd when we are having a ^{demonstration} and it is hard to jump when the guy up front says jump. It is not being into the BSU that much ^{to get} down into it because the meeting when he was voted to be President or whatever he is I was ^{not} ~~not~~ there and like we have not had another election since then. He is a pretty

good leader like he, I guess, that people like him basically because he talks big. We might consider doing something about him, but for now I guess that he is all right.

F: ~~When~~ are the ^{er} elections coming up?

W: I don't ~~not~~ know.

F: Who are the black leaders on campus?

W: You mean the BSU?

F: Well.

W: Well, Mitch Dash^{er} is ^{about} the only one. We have ministries, like the ministry of education, the ministry of defense, the ministry of culture ^{and stuff like that.} but they are not really leaders they are just people that have a little responsibility. The whole BSU is ~~str~~ structured after the Communist Party, you know, we have the ministries and it is suppose to be a revolutionary organization, ^{but} where people are not ^{exactly} ~~as~~ as revolutionary and as militant and as violent as they would like to be.

F: ~~As~~ ^{the} they would like to be?

W: Right, you sit around and you talk about what O'Connell ^{ain't} ~~is not~~ doing just like Black Week. I think that O'Connell promised to give us some money or something for Black Week and at the last minute he came up with some stuff like there was no money. ^{And -br} Dash^{er} was real upset but it is just like being upset ~~with a man~~ and ^{falling a man} ~~saying~~ that you ^{GOANA} ~~can~~ burn down his house but you are not going to do it. So, that is the main attitude of the BSU. They want to be politically active but it is just like they are going to a University and they know that they have to stay at this University and they know that you would probably get arrested if you were too unlawful or ^{too} violent or whatever it was. It is just like the people that go to this ^{LC} University or almost black bourgeois like upper class blacks and doing something revolutionary like doing something to get ^{some kind of} major attention would be like what I am trying to say is that they ~~people~~ have something to lose. ^{LC} They have to stay at this University. When the students got arrested for making the guys clean up over at Talbert, they ended up defending themselves like they sort of regretted having

to do that because they ^{sat} sort of sat around and talked about ^{"I don't mind getting} ~~it~~ ~~get arrested~~

^{arrested,"} and when you get arrested that is sort of just like talking about one thing and when the time comes to do it some ^{offer thoughts} reluctance about it. So, that is how the people are at the BSU. They want things to be right all of a sudden but it is just like they are taking a sort of slow and moderate approach to it. They talk militant.

F: Would ^{it} you say that basically they do not ^{want to jeopardize their} ~~take the~~ positions ^{of} ~~of~~ students?

W: Right.

F: What do your parents do?

W: Well, my father was ^a ~~the~~ school principal in Mississippi and he taught at a junior college in Alabama and now he is a Baptist preacher ^{in Tampa} and my mother is a ^{elementary} school teacher in Tampa.

F: Why did you laugh when I asked you?

W: Because ^{LC} A couple of people have asked me that question and when I say something one time then I think that I am just saying it over and over again.

F: It seems like a reasonably ~~far~~ question and I was just wondering.

W: Yes, you know being Baptist black people are supposed to be real religious anyway and in religion if things are bad in this world there is ^{going to be} another world where things will be better. That is why black people are sort of religious. They talk about ^{" God, God, "} God, help us, and being Baptist like most blacks are Baptist anyway. My father is a Baptist preacher.

F: From the National Baptist Convention?

W: National Baptist ^{Baptist} and Southern Convention. He works for the Southern Baptist.

F: He does. They are intergrated?

W: I go to First Baptist downtown and I am a member and suppose to be the first black member in 100 years ^{of existence.} ~~like~~ being intergrated is sort of contradictory of the whole idea of a church ~~anyway~~ altogether like a church is not like a social organization. A church is all people and ^{S-} saying that is intergrated.

F: I see it that way too in terms of ~~not~~ having to worry if a church is intergrated

Nevertheless, when we talk about theory and practise that we know that southern Baptists churches are just about 100% segregated.

W: I guess ^{if you want to talk about it, they} ~~that they~~ had a guilt complex and they ^{had to go out and start getting} ~~started to get~~ some blacks. My father was a black missionary, home mission in Tampa he teaches black ministers. He is head of a school that teaches black ministers, and it is financed by the southern Baptists.

F: I think that is one of the greatest hyprocracies in the United States.

W: What?

F: Separation in churches.

W: There is a church around here, ^{North Central} ~~some~~ Baptist churches that do not believe in intergration, like First Baptist when I joined it was like something special. The people were not expecting it and to me it was nothing, ^{I was just} ~~to~~ join the church. They had to call a meeting of the Deacons and stuff like that and they just made a big thing. The whole thing just showed ^{to me} that the people were just talking a lot of bullshit. Their preacher was talking about ^{when} he was preaching these sermons about racial harmony and all people are ^{people} ~~equal~~ in GOD's eyes. When I joined he said that he was glad that I joined and I guess that he knew how white people felt basically and that could be the reason, ^{why} ~~that~~ he considered it to be a big thing.

F: If you were able to start college over again would you come here again?

W: I probably would ^{not} ~~not~~ start college. I would probably just go into the Air Force or something and then come to college.

F: Join what?

W: Air Force, Navy or something.

F: Why is that?

W: I am number 38 in the draft and when I finish college I know that I am going to get drafted. It is just like going to school here and then all of a sudden ^{after I} finish ^{get the}

just have to ^{like a big} break. It is just like learning how to be a doctor and when you get out you are not a doctor you are a soldier or something. This is the way ~~that~~ I see it and this is why I would just try to get this military business over with.

F: Let ^{us} say, hypothetically, that was not a problem and we are just trying to isolate the educational bit.

W: I think that I would come to the University of Florida. ^{There's} ~~There's~~ no reason not to.

F: For the most part you have pretty satisfied.

W: Like what?

F: Well, in your overall experience.

W: Well, yes, I have to study here, and I know that I am learning something. At black schools I would just take it easy and sit back, ^{go to class,} and make A's and B's without very much effort.

F: Why are you so sure that is true?

W: Because I did it.

F: In a black high school?

W: ^{Right, Exactly,}

F: Do you think that it would have been the same if you had gone to a black college?

W: Not necessarily, I would have to study a little bit more. It is just like competition, ^{and knowing that I'm on top, I don't put} like being on top ^{but not putting} forth much effort. Being ^{the} average it is just like I have to study, and ^{I have a lot of} ~~the~~ competition.

F: What is your major?

W: ^{my major is} Pre-vet.

F: It is usually a major like in chemistry or biology.

W: Yes, but I am thinking about changing my major.

F: Too what?

W: Social science or something like that. I was taking physics and this quarter I ^{and} ~~and~~ dropped physics. I can do physics easy, but it was a big problem doing those problems. It took too much time. I can do physics and chemistry and math and stuff. I do not really like chemistry, I mean I like chemistry but I do not like

math and physics. I guess in Social Science you sit down and you read and you think about stuff and that is the way that I see it. It is sort of easy and is something that I like more.

F: Obviously, you will have to change ^{what you want to do for} the rest of your life.

W: Right, exactly.

F: Have you got any thing else in mind?

W: Well, I thought about psychology, because I like the way I like trying to figure out people. Like how does a person think and when I see a white person and he looks at me or he does not look at me, I try to figure out his background, what were his parents like. That is why I thought about psychology.

F: Would you change anything here? If you had the power, what would you make different at this school?

W: The first thing that I would do I would get rid of O'Connell. I think that basically O'Connell is a racist. His racist beliefs are sort of ^{suppressed,} ~~expressed~~ and I would get more black professors. ^{I would get some black professors. There's a guy in} I do not know of any black professors, in Tigert, ~~like~~ Roy Mitchell he is not ^{really} a professor, he is just a guy ^{that I think} ~~who HEW made~~ O'Connell put there. ^{So} HEW could see that we would have some blacks here.

F: Do you have any relationship with Roy Mitchell?

W: He comes to the Black Student Union meetings. I think that he knows me.

F: What do you think about the job that he is doing?

W: His job is all right I guess. What do you mean what job is he doing?

F: Do you think that he is pretty successful?

W: What is ~~it~~ ⁺ that he is suppose to do ^{be -ing?}

F: Well, that is a matter of ^{debate.} ~~opinion.~~

W: As I see it, he is just a man who O'Connell ^{CAN} ~~got to~~ talk to the black students on this campus ^{through} and if that is his job then he is doing a good job.

F: What would you like to be seeing him doing?

W: Exactly what he is doing I guess.

F: Does ^{you} ~~he~~ think that it is important to have more black professors?

I think it is.
W: ^

Like why not. When they had this strike here on campus, and they voted on whether they wanted black professors on campus or not. It is just like they ^{do} ~~did~~ not vote for Jewish professors or white professors so why ^{in the hell} did they have to vote for black professors.

F: You mean it ought to be more ^e noatural.

W: RighT. It is still like something special.

F: Do you distinguish much between white and Jewish?

W: I just used that for an example.

F: A lot of black students do, and I was just wondering.

W: If you have dark hair, like you have dark hair, I ^{figure} can identify with you more because you have dark hair. If you had dark skin sort of like Puerto Rican or something like that I could identify with you more. IF you want to use it that way like saying is there a difference between Jewish and white, it is not that way, like I figure that Jewish people are a lot more liberal ~~than~~ the typical white people would be. Jewish people are white people anyway so there is basically no difference.

F: What about more ~~ba~~ck students?

W: More ~~ba~~ck students definitely so because I think that blacks have been... I get tired of talking about racial stuff. Black people have been deprived ^{in their schools,} and I know it. I went to black schools and like I said I was a top student. If it takes a top black to get into the University of Florida where average whites come in. A black making 300 is something special, but a white student making 300 so what. Since blacks have been deprived in there schools, I think that there should be a special effort made to get ~~more~~ ^{black} students. I do not believe in lowering the 300 mark just to let in black students, but I believe that black students should be given some type of special consideration.

F: Well, they do not turn down the ~~ba~~ck students who do not have the 300.

W: No, but it is just like me, like I made more then 300 on my senior placement. If my parents could not afford to send me, I would not be here. This is the basic

problem with blacks. My parents are well-to-do blacks, and most black people are not well-to-do blacks they are poor people. So, that is why I believe that they should have some special consideration.

F: I am not arguing with you but I am trying to figure out what you are saying. You said would not lower the but what do you mean special consideration?

W: I mean money wise and going out to get these students.

F: The ones who do have the qualifications.

W: Right, exactly.

F: Would you encourage blacks to come here?

W: Yes, I would. I would tell them do ^{not} ~~not~~ come here and expect to think that every-thing is all right because I think that whites on campus ^{basically} ~~just~~ consider ~~another~~ ^{just another} black student as a nigger. That is basically the way that I think that it is.

F: From your talk it does not seem that you feel that so much as far as relating specifically and then you end up saying that.

W: You say that I am basically contradictory.

F: Well, I was just wondering.

W: You say that I am basically well adjusted.

F: ^{In other words} In reporting things, you seem to think that things are not that bad and then you finish up by saying that.

W: Well, I ^{ill put} ~~don't~~ it this way. It is just like I am here at this ^{university} and I know how basically white people feel. This is my fourth year in going to white schools. It does not bother me if a guy is a racist.

F: Not at All?

W: Not at all. Like if a guy calls me a nigger so what. If I know that I am a nigger, and he knows it then what difference does it make. When I first started to go to white schools, it was something special to see a guy like the word you people use ^{is} a redneck. I never met a guy like that before. I did not truly believe that people could be like that. Since I ^{all} ~~have~~ met a couple of people like that, I can see how a guy could have these racial theories and truly believe all of this stuff.

It is just like that. The reason that I say that it is all right to go to this school I was talking about educationally, ^{because} I believe that this is basically a racist country and I am going to have to compete against white people so why not get ^a the white man's education. So, if I say that things are all right, ^{it's all right} educationally like I still feel that this ^{university} is racist and ~~the~~ country is racist but it does not bother me that much because I have like other things to think about. What could I do now except drop out of school and burn ^{down} ~~up~~ a couple of buildings. The only thing that you get by ^{burning} ~~burning~~ up a couple of buildings and shooting a few people is to get people to listen to you. There are other ways. I guess that being sort of black bourgeois could sort of remove me from directly from the problem of being discriminated against ^{so to} ~~to~~ speak. I still know that it exists and just like being ^{related to} ~~around~~ black people more sort of removes me from this white oppression. You say that I say things are all right, but I guess that I should qualify in what way things are right. Racially, I still feel that ^{we} ~~they~~ are the same. It is sort of hard for a person to change his whole ~~way~~ of thinking.

F: Did you say that racially we are all the same?

W: Yes, I sit here and talk to you. If I do not know anything about your background, I ^{would} ~~could~~ just look at you and think you are like everybody else.

F: Like whites or like people?

W: Like redneck like everybody else. I would sort of alienate you from the problem.

You say ~~blacks~~ are racists too, and ^{they} ~~you~~ think that I am racist.

F: There is that problem, ^{there is} ~~and~~ racism in reverse.

W: Right, ^{it does exist,} but I think that black racism is basically defensive ^{racism,}

F: Reaction.

W: Right THAT is the way that I think it is different.

F: Have you ever been accused of not being ^{militant} ~~loyal~~ enough of not being black enough?

W: No, I have not been accused of not being militant enough. It is just that there are not very militant people on campus.

F: A lot of people talk a lot of militancy.

W: Right, it is like I said, ^{it's basically} ~~we are~~ hypercritical.

F: Do people talk at you ^{and} say you are an Uncle Tom.

W: No, ^{nobody has talked to me and said...} the people on campus know me and they know how I feel basically. When I pledged this white fraternity, I think about one or two guys thought that I was going ^{a little bit} too far that time. It did not bother me because I knew ~~w~~ exactly what I was doing. When I know how I feel, why do I have to prove something to somebody else.

F: The following is a taperecorded interview, of the University of Florida Student, Lenora Wimby. Lenora is from Gainesville, and is presently a freshman.

(DISREGARD THIS INTRODUCTION. THE SUBJECT IS DAVID JACKSON)

F: Where are you from ?

D: Noma...Florida.

F: Noma, Florida ?

D: Right.

F: Where is that ?

D: West of Tallahassee... a hundred miles. Not very big.

F: I see.

D: Um huh.

F: What year are you in ?

D: Uh...5th year...Engineering.

F: Right, right. Have you been here the whole time ?

D: No, I transferred in from...uh...Florida A.&M.

F: When ?

D: In '67...September. Uh...

F: Why did you want to come here ?

D: Well uh...I went through a Pre-Engineering cours at Florida A.&M. and uh, I needed an Engineering School.

F: Um huh.

D: So...uh...it was a...I thought about FSU, to be closer to home was my only basic criteria, and uh, they offered Engineering Science at FSU, so I ...this is the closest school.

SUBJECT: DAVID JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

F: Had you considered going anywhere else ?

D: Not really...no. Uh, money was one problem.

F: Why umh...why did you go to A.&M. first ?

D: Well, I don't know...uh...I didn't really know what I wanted to do, or I didn't know what I was going into when I went up to A.&M. And uh...a couple days before registration, I decide on Pre-Engineering...and ~~just~~ *it just happened.* I didn't know what I wanted to do in high school.

F: Oh, you decided that quickly, and you've stuck with it all this time ?

D: Yeah, I have.

F: That's really...a lot of people are sure what they want to do, and then even change their minds.

D: Yeah. I uh...~~most of the~~ *most of the* people around my hometown in school...went to A.&M. and...well, they told me it was about the best school. One of the better schools for blacks, you know...

F: Um huh.

D: ...And that sort of thing, and it was close to home, and do what you want to do with a degree from A.&M. Teach, and that sort of stuff. And so...I guess that's why I went.

F: Yeah. Out of high school had you considered going anywhere else ?

D: Umh...not really...no. Like I said, any out...out of state school would have been a much more expensive, and money was one problem, and uh, ~~Florida A.&M.~~ *FAMU* was pretty close...fairly close to my home, 100 miles away, and...FAMU was the only school I applied to out of high school.

F: I see. Did you go to an integrated high school ?

D: No. The uh...the school, *that* I went to was uh...phased out the year after I graduated. Holmes County had one black school there, and uh, it's a...

SUBJECT: DAVID JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

D: ...small county. Uh...three or four white schools, and uh...the year after I graduated the uh...there was the uh...was it the law passed by Congress or court something...said that uh...schools had to integrate, and uh, this sort of thing. And uh, the school was phased out, there were only about 100...125...130 students out there.

F: K through twelve ?

D: Yeah. No, one through twelve.

F: Oh, yeah. No kindergarden. So up to the point when you came here, you'd only been to predominantly black schools ?

D: Right.

F: And that's sort of ^{eu-}hemistic, you know, predominantly black schools... Did you have any apprehensions about coming here ?

D: Well uh...in regards to what ? Uh...

F: Well now...just the idea that uh...for the first time you're going to a school which is overwhelmingly white.

D: Well yeah, I did...uh but FAMU, compared to my high school actually was about the same basis. 3000 students at FAMU, and my high school was real small...^{and} ~~then~~ compared to other universities and colleges, FAMU is a small school...and uh the size was one thing. Nineteen or twenty thousand students, and uh...white school...

F: Um huh.

D: Uh...and too, some of the little people had told me that uh...academics ^{.. they placed more emphasis on academics} were uh...you know, a place where I could only stand a year, you know, I maybe couldn't make it, and that sort of thing. I...I had some doubts. I had to give it a try anyway.

SUBJECT: DAVID JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

F: In general, what sort of the uh...perception of the FAMU students, of the University of Florida ?

D: Perceptions...so far as...?

F: Well, let me just say this, a lot of questions I'll ask you, I'm going to make as open-ended as possible, because sometimes in talking to people, you can get the kind of response, you won't get by...kind of questioning, So, you know, when I ask you a sort of vague question...of course what I want to hear is what you think is most important...

D: Um huh.

F: Rather than my getting...

D: What are you...what are you doing here ? Are you doing a survey, or... or something on black students ?

Well, umh...I'm doing a study about black students on this campus...in general ...and hopefully to get the feelings, and well put---well, the questionnaire touched on the various areas I want to touch upon. And uh...

D: For a thesis, or what ?

F: Well, that's part of it, but, you know, this will eventually be part of my Doctorial Dis^{er}tation...but more than that, I spent the first two quarters talking to black students...finding the kind of things that they thought ought to be found out...and talking to Roy Mitchell also. The kinds of things, that they don't have somebody to work on...and, you know, that needs to be found out. And I think there's a lot of changes that need to take place here, and a lot of people feel that they heard just a few black voices...which I think is true. I think there's a misconception, that the only blacks on this campus that ever say anything...are like, you know, maybe Mitch Dasher, or Larry Jordan, people like that...and people feel what they say is pretty much...consensual opinion, but I don't know

SUBJECT: DAVID JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

F: ...if that's true...as a matter of fact, it's turning out not to be true. My hypothesis is pretty well, you know, umh...supported. And so, we're trying to find out, you know, the way blacks feel about being here...the changes that they'd like to see that are here. And for the most part, it was very important to get a very large base...of black opinions, and of black attitudes...rather than just one or two people who's...you know, can just be pigeon holed...say, "Well, those people always complain." But that's often done, and what I wanted this to do is reach as many blacks ^{as students} as possible, and get their feeling of, you know, of things that have happened here, things that ought to be different, things that they'd like to see, ^{LC} racist experiences and so forth.

D: O.K.

F: O.K. ? So, I was thinking...academics...is the University of Florida pretty much looked up to as a really tough place ?

D: Uh...yeah, I think so. I think it's basically because...you have so few blacks coming out of here, you know, nobody's been through it, or go back and tell you what it's really like.

F: Um huh, right.

D: You...you have a second hand opinion, more or less, of some professors who...who view the school in one light, but can't really tell you what it's really like to go down here, and to take courses, and to get a degree from this school.

F: Um huh.

D: Uh...I think the basic problem there is a lack of feedback. You have so few blacks...uh, very few blacks ^{who} ~~that~~ graduate from here, and are able to go back to the black students, and tell you what it's all about.

SUBJECT: DAVID JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

F: When you got the questionnaire...what did you think ?

D: Well, I didn't know...uh...just another questionnaire, I guess.

F: Have you gotten many ?

D: No, not very many. Perhaps uh...one, or two, or three, that I've gotten since I've been here.

F: Um huh. Why did you fill it out ?

D: Well...I knew it couldn't hurt...I didn't think it could hurt, and uh...why not ? If you're interested in uh...finding reasons for some injustices that might exist on campus...and can do any good, as far as...

F: Do you know anybody else that got the questionnaire ?

D: Uh...yeah.

F: Did they fill it out ?

D: I think so.

F: So regardless...the majority of people haven't filled it out, and I wish more people had your attitude. People say, "Well, we're sick and tired of (the phrase has been) being put under a microscope." You know. And if I were to attempt to write something about the way blacks feel, blacks would say, "You don't know. How in the Hell do you know? " You know. But when you talk about people, they say, "We don't want to be under a microscope." So that's a dilemma there, that if you want to find out about black people, ^{I think} ~~then~~ you have to talk to black people, and on the other hand, blacks don't want to have anything to do with you. What are you going to do...?

D: Oh, there's a ^{-No opinion} ~~nothing~~ too...among blacks right now, that you know, the whites are so concerned with wanting surveys, and uh...giving out questionnaires, and ^{-at} ~~the~~ sort of thing...that it's really useless, you know.

SUBJECT: DAVID JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

D: We're tired of being surveyed and put under the microscope, that sort of thing. And it's more...it would be more beneficial if you would study your own groups, you know, and uh...see what their problem is. Because we know what our problem is, and it won't aid us any by telling us what it is. And you know what the problem...the inner problem is between whites and blacks...and uh...it seems to be the opinion of most blacks...that you're concerned with our side mostly, and that you're ~~the~~ ^{of} the opinion that you don't have any problems, or any...

F: Uh...I don't know...I think there's a problem both ways certainly. I think uh...there's a difference between whites that say they know the problems that exist, and those who are really willing to accept that the problem exists. In other words, talking to president O'Connell...he acts, you know, his statement is that there's no racism at this school.

D: Yeah. The thing I was getting to though is...that you find most surveys and questionnaires are sent to blacks...you don't find any surveys connected on the white students... Why do you feel the way you do, and why don't you want more blacks here, more black administrators, and black athletes, and this sort of thing...and nobody ever connects these things in that direction.

F: I think you're right probably recently, but in the past that hasn't been true. In other words, in the past there've been innumerable studies... talking about open-closed mind, prejudice, and so forth...conducted at ~~large~~ large universities among white students...because there weren't black students. And so now, a matter of perspective has taken place, because it is new, and it's the first chance that people have gotten a chance to talk to blacks in a white environment like this, you know. So it seems like those are the only things that have been done, but there're just reams, and reams, and reams,

SUBJECT: DAVID JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

F: ...of studies about the nature of prejudice, you know, among whites. And... but it is a new thing...and that's why...I think people have short memories, and they forget about those that...that's all people ever do, is study the black people. But...there are black problems, you know, I mean the attitudes of blacks towards...let's say their classes, at this school, whether or not discrimination actually does take place. It's not a myth... there are a lot of things that are in the Alligator , but what we're trying to do...is find out what's, you know, what's the wheat, and what's the chaff, and what things really exist, and what things people talked about, you know, just because they heard other people talk about them. And so like...in my talk to the students...invariably certain things always come up ^{of which} which I'm becoming very assured that those are the things that really exist. In other words, people mention a certain course...unsolicited. Not, "How did you feel about your treatment in that course?" But when something comes up over and over that there's a couple of courses on this campus that seem to be rather, you know, biased in their approach as seen by almost every black student that I've talked to. So those are things, that if I can get enough people...those are real things that we can present, not hearsay, but we have 90% of the black students that feel that way, then there must be something to it. Not just Balljourn making a speech in the Alligator , and there's, you know, there's a lot of difference. What about since you've been here...how's it been...as a black student ?

D: Well, it's uh...it's...I guess it's overall it's been a little better than I expected. What I uh...from FAMU uh...so far as academics, I haven't had any academic problems. Uh, when I first got up here...the only incident that I can count...so far as living conditions in the dorm, some of the things were...I...when I first came down, I had a white roommate, who...

SUBJECT: DAVID JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

D: ...uh...who moved out. We had an argument or two the first couple of weeks, and he moved out. Then I moved...that's the only incident, the only major incident that I can remember having. I moved out after that...with a black roommate. Uh...then I got a single room, and I'm off-campus now, so no problems there. So far as course work, and that sort of thing...well, all the...the only drawback I could see that I've had, would be uh...when you first start the courses...when I first started three years ago...uh, I didn't know anybody. I was the only black over in Industrial Engineering, and uh...uh...groups of whites, say three or four groups of whites would get together, and do homework, you know, this sort of thing. And uh...I, I have to get all mine on my own, you know, and so far as academics, that's I guess, the only drawback that I have. But after...you more or less establish yourself, you know, and some of the whites recognize that you can do some things, and they willingly come and more or less want you to tutor them or something like that, but before you establish yourself they uh...they kind of draw back, and don't really want you to get with them.

F: What kind of problems did you have with your roommate ?

D: Well, he uh...he said he told me his parents didn't...didn't want him living with a black, you know, and he was there before I was. I was late applying for a room. Uh...I lived in one of the lounges over here in *Horse Hall* ~~rooms~~ for four or five days before I was assigned ^{to his} a room, you know, and I was assigned to his room. And uh...after two or three days uh...when I first went in, he was relatively out going, you know, I expected it, really. Then after a couple of days, he said he had written home and told his parents, he told me had written home and told his parents that he had a black roommate, and uh...they didn't go for the idea.

SUBJECT: DAVID JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

D: They had nothing against blacks, you know, they had black friends, and he has black friends in Miami, but uh, they just didn't want him living with a black roommate.

F: Um huh.

D: So I said, well if you've got to move, you've got to move, you know, that's your problem. Get a room.

F: But you said that you had had some arguments with him ?

D: Yeah. The thing about it, he...like I said, he'd been up there before I had, and uh...he had...he had uh...some of his friends...he had made friends with some of the guys across the hall, in the next couple of rooms, and they were coming over, you know, and going out and playing handball, and that sort of thing...and uh...he felt that I should move, you know, so I said no, I'm not goi---I'm not moving, uh if you don't want to be in here, fine with me...leave. I do better ^{when I'm} by myself anyway, you know.

F: Um huh.

D: So...he uh...he got a little...I guess uptight about that, and he said that he could really make it hard for me, you know, he could come in and play his taperecorder and record player at all times of night, and I couldn't do any studying. I was studying pretty hard...pretty often then, more than he was anyway. And Uh...when we were together we didn't have anything else to do. He started pledging his first quarter up here...

F: What fraternity ?

D: E O (?) But he didn't really do anything, and I was studying mostly...and he said he could really make it hard for me, you know, and that made me angry, and we had a few words, and I told him he could try it if he wanted to, and we'd go to blows, or something like that. So he...after a couple of days he uh...eventually moved out. He moved somewhere, I don't know where.

SUBJECT: DAVID JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

F: Do you see him anymore ?

D: I've seen him once or twice.

F: Do you get along now ?

D: Well, I just see him...I don't talk to him.

F: What about in your classes ?

D: Well, like I said...uh...the...so far as the classes are concerned, my only problem was at the beginning...my first...this is my third year here. I'll graduate in June, And uh...my only problem was...during the first year, I wasn't able to get in study groups, and this sort of thing, and it really took me a long long time to do homework, because you have so much homework over in engineering, you know, if you don't...if you can talk about it with somebody, and get different views, you can do it a lot faster, you know, and my problem was that I didn't have anybody to talk about it with. And uh...I had to do it all on my own, and it took a lot lot more time. I don't know if my grade...I...it probably helped me a lot. My grades didn't fall because of it, but I felt that I was uh...that was one of my drawbacks.

F: Yeah. How are yo doing in school ?

D: Well, I got a...I've got a three uh...3.34 right now...^{upper division average.} ~~And I've got your~~
~~average.~~ And I uh...I'm a member of uh...three honor societies over in engineering...^{or} ~~honor~~ societies. I'm the president of one of them...
Industrial Engineering Honor Society.

F: Um huh.

D: So...

F: How do you get along with professors ?

D: Well, uh...so far as the contact I've had with the professors, you know, I haven't really had that much contact with the entire faculty...just going to a course, and uh...taking a course, and then never seeing the

SUBJECT: DAVID JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

D: ...guy again, you know, except over in the department...say hi, and that sort of thing. Uh...but I say overall, I...no problems. They've been pretty fair I think.

F: You know some black students said...and they resent that...they felt that professors go overboard...the other way.

D: Oh...well...

F: Have you ever had any feelings about that ?

D: No, I...I think that the faculty over here has been...fair.

F: Um huh.

D: Right down the line. I believe so.

F: What about social life on campus ?

D: Terrible.

F: O.k....why ?

D: Well, because uh...I don't know, I was...I guess it's worse for me...or it was worse three years ago...than it would be for anybody just coming in, because...I had been to FAMU two years, and social life up there is great. Uh, I came down here, and I don't know, it had very few blacks, three years ago, 50 or 60 maybe, and uh...some of those were off campus, and commuting, and that sort of thing, and no girls...there was really nothing to do. NO uh...no parties to go to, nobody to date, and uh there was really nothing to do on weekends but study. It was really bad in that respect. And then of course, the places around here are mostly...I think...geared towards whites. They don't have any entertainment that, you know, interests the average black.

F: Are you talking about on campus ?

D: No, off campus around campus...

F: Um huh.

SUBJECT: DAVID JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

D: Oh, or on campus too. And so far as fraternities, and this sort of thing, you know, I don't know if there's really...really any need for any black fraternities or that sort of thing, but if you compare social life to whites, then you have to consider black fraternities, you know. They have an outlet, and they party every weekend...drink on the beach, and beer parties, and this sort of thing. And we just don't have that outlet for black students.

F: Has it gotten better since you've been here ?

D: Oh yeah...we're getting more black students, It gets better with more black students.

F: Do you date people mainly on campus or off campus ?

D: Uh...on campus.

F: It seems there's a trend...that more and more people are dating people in the community. Have you seen that ?

D: I don't...I've seen it. Yeah. I don't know if it's uh...actually enough to call it a trend, but uh...I've seen it.

F: Um huh.

D: I don't know, I've seen...I'd say so far as dating on campus and off campus, it's about equal...so far as students on campus dating off campus people.

F: Yeah, well...why I say it's a trend...just to say that it is possibly equal makes it a trend, because originally it almost didn't exist at all.

D: Um huh.

F: You know, people...were...somehow afraid to go out in the community, and people worried about this. And now it seems to be a little bit ~~more~~ ^{easier} easy going, as far as people going out and dating.

D: Yeah, I think that might be because...the blacks are getting more community conscious, you know, they have to intermingle with the community, and they

SUBJECT: DAVID JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

D: ...have a responsibility out there; whereas, this idea didn't exist before.
You didn't feel obligated to anything in anyway.

F: What about...do you find it uh...easy to date girls on campus ?

D: Well, the only girl I've dated has been on campus. Uh...I guess in my first year, I didn't date at all, because uh...I knew only two or three girls, and they had guys, and those guys were friends of mine.

F: Um huh.

D: I didn't...I didn't go out in the community that much...so I didn't date.
Uh...then after one or two quarters, my second year, I met a girl, and I've been dating her ^{ever} since. Linda, she's a...she was on campus then, she's graduated since.

F: I see. So were...we're going to be talking about things you've seen other people experience.

D: Yeah.

F: You're tied down all ready.

D: Um huh.

F: I've heard...let me just...a lot of black guys say that girls on this campus, black girls, uh...do you know what high-s'ditty means ?

D: What ?

F: High-s'ditty.

D: No.

F: That's a new term that I've picked up...but the girls are snobs...that they make it very tough to go out with. You know, that they play really hard to get, and sort of all those kinds of things that go into making a girl like that. Do you find that at all ? I mean, have you heard that ? You know, this isn't your personal experience.

SUBJECT: DAVID JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

D: No, I...I don't believe it's true. Uh...the guys that I know uh...date black girls on campus, and they don't seem^{-e-} uh...what...high-s'ditty ?

F: Yeah.

D: Snobbish or anything.

F: You never heard that term ?

D: No.

F: I just recently heard it, and I was surprised. I hadn't heard it before. What about uh...do many people date white girls ?

D: Oh well...it's not as prevalent as you might...of course I don't know what you might think, but I...it's isolated cases. Uh...here and there. It's not very prevalent.

F: That's black guys dating white girls ?

D: Right.

F: ~~You~~^{EVEN} in the few cases you know about...do you think that black girls resent that ?

D: I think so...yeah. Uh...I think black guys resent black girls dating white guys. It's just...I don't know why it is, but...yeah, they resent it...I think so.

F: If you know, why don't you tell why it is ?

D: Well...I personally resent it. Resent black girls dating white guys, because I don't feel that uh...that a white guy can really be sincere ~~and~~^{about} a black girl. Uh, maybe he can. It's maybe just a prejudice that I have. I feel that our blacks...our black women...have been exploited so much in the past, and it just brings it back to me when^{-ever} I see a white guy with a black girl. I just...

F: Do you see it very often ?

D: Not very often...here and there.

SUBJECT: DAVID JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

F: What about the reverse ?

D: Uh...black guys dating white girls ? Well, my resentment there isn't as strong as it was in the other direction. But I...I don't feel that...I feel if you're going to be black...then you have to...you have to give our black women priority. It seems to me...that if you're a black guy wanting to be black, you know, everyone ^{gr}wants to be super black now, these days. Blacks do anyway. And if you're going to be black, you can't..you can't...you can't play one role, then all of a sudden jump over and start playing another role, you know, it seems to me that you're saying that, "Well, I want to be black, but ^{look} the black girls are ugly. I can get more prestige...and it's more for me if I date a white girl. Who is supposed to be, you know, uh...all the qualities for being pretty and acceptable...this sort of thing."

F: Yeah...some black girls told me that when they first came here this fall, more and more black students here are young, because they keep letting more and more black students come...but black guys told them that uh...if they went out with, you know, white guys...that they were going to be in trouble...in no uncertain terms. And the girls thought it was a reasonable kind of thing, and ⁱⁿ⁻ternalized it and believed it. So they're here about two quarters, and they realized that quite a few black guys ...especially the ones that were most vehement about telling them...were the very ones that were dating white girls. And they resent it for two reasons: First they resent it because of the case, I mean they resent it because of the idea that the black guys think that they're stupid enough to believe the kind of things that, you know, were told them...

SUBJECT: DAVID JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

D: I...I...I'm uh...really...so far as inter-racial dating and that sort of thing...I'm really not for it.

F: Um huh.

D: Maybe 200 years from now or three hundred years from now...fine. I mean, if you...if...when people are people, but right now, people aren't people. You've got blacks and you've got whites.

F: Why do you feel that way ?

D: Well, I mean, it's just the nature of the system. It's the way things are. I mean...it's a known fact...I can't do what you can do. Uh...I'm black, and you're white.

F: What about certain black guys...and I won't preface it, I'll just tell you what's been said, and you can interpret it. Certain black guys say that the reason they date white girls...is to exploit them. And that they really don't dig them...the white chics, you know, they're just doing...this is what they tell the black girl...that, well, we're just doing this to get even, and we don't really dig them, we're just, you know, taking them for a ride, and taking their money, and sex, whatever, you know, but we really don't dig them. What do you think about that ?

D: What do you mean, so far as it being right, or whether I...

F: Well, first of all, do you think it's true ? First of all, have you heard something like that...that's been said ?

D: Yeah, I've heard it.

F: Now, do you believe it ?

D: Well...any time, you always have people that fit...who fit one particular ...in one particular category, and people who don't. Uh...for some cases I think it's probably true, and then other cases when people get...give you a statement like that it's probably all lies.

SUBJECT: DAVID JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

F: Um huh.

D: Because uh...I personally know one guy...who's dated your white girls for the past two years...since I've been here in fact. And he's...that's all he's dated.

F: Um huh.

D: And he tells you...he tells you all he's concerned with is taking advantage of the white girls...white girls. And uh...I mean, I personally can't see his wanting to take advantage of a white girl for three whole years, you know.

F: Yeah...he didn't seem to think about himself too much.

D: He, you know, really had some other motives...I don't care what he says, but uh...deep down in he's got some other motive.

F: Um huh. Yeah, as a matter of fact, it really does seem very apparent that uh...some of the...that's a premise, bad term...the most ~~simple~~^{super} black guys are some of the ones who are most guilty, that's the term, of this kind of behavior. And that's something the black girls are...resent like Hell. They're telling us...Saturday night to be the super-militant, and Sunday they see them walking the campus, you know, with their arm around a white girl. And not only that, but completely ignoring the black girl.

D: Yeah, that's true. In my book, you can't...like I said, if you're going to play two roles, and you can't be black...you can't profess to be super black...

F: Um huh.

D: I mean, there's nothing says you can't help blacks by dating a white girl, you know, but so far as trying to give people one impression when you're exactly an opposite...is really, in my book, out. I don't agree with it at all. If you're going to be super black, be super black, but you can't play two roles, I don't believe.

SUBJECT: DAVID JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

F: What kind of things would you do to improve the social situation on this campus ?

D: On-campus ? Well uh...more black students. Like I said, when I first came here there were very few black students, and very little social life. But now...you get more blacks in, the blacks start to mingle with blacks, and it just improves the social life all around. That's number one. Uh, get more black students. If you get more black students, then they're going to make their own social life. I don't know if uh...so far as white fraternities and that sort of thing...I don't know if you have to open those up. They're supposedly open now, but I don't think they are really. I don't even think you have to open those up for black. I don't know if, I don't know...I don't really know if fraternities are relevant right now. Because uh...any time you got people in a group like that, you've got a lot of potential...

F: Um huh.

D: But...they don't use the potential. They use it just...just for social... social events, not...not to help people. And that's true too for black fraternities and black sororities. I don't if...I'm not...I don't think black sororities and black fraternities are relevant right now. I was in a, well I still am, in a black social fraternity, and uh...ideals of the thing need changing. You know, it's strict---anytime you 've got that many blacks together, you can do a lot for black people...

F: Um huh.

D: But, the uh...black fraternities, and sororities, basically don't realize that fact. They're concerned with one thing only...that's partying, get recognized as the...as a standout organization on campus...and student government, and that sort of thing, but they're not concerned about blacks.

SUBJECT: DAVID JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

D: The poor, or underprivileged blacks on campus, or blacks in the community.

That's...I don't think that's...it goes at this time.

F: Um huh. Are you a member of BSU ?

D: Yeah.

F: Are you active ?

D: Well yeah...I'm as active as anybody else is I guess. I go to meetings,
and uh...I go to meetings...

F: Oh, do you go to most of the meetings ?

D: Yeah. Yeah. And uh...any uh...protest. or anything that...I think are
relevant and going to aid the black cause...then I participate.

F: Um huh.

D: I think most of them do right now. And I...

F: Most...what ?

D: Most uh...most uh...movements and protests, ^{and} this sort of thing, sponsored
or uh...recognized by the BSU.

F: Um huh. About how many students attend the meetings ?

D: Uh...you want an average ?

F: Yeah.

D: Well, I'd say uh...25 or thirty.

F: Out of how many members ?

D: We must have uh...now when you say members, uh...uh...it's usually
recognized that there's been a fee...to uh...recognition as being a member,
but it's not mandatory or anything like that. Uh...just by being black,
and attending meetings, means...automatically means your a member.

F: Um huh.

SUBJECT: DAVID JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

D: By uh...student of U. F. means you're a member. Uh, if you use that as a criteria...I guess...uh...65 or 70.

F: So even at the outside...it's about half...

D: Yeah.

F: Of the black students...

D: About half...about half of them attend meetings.

F: Well, why...half of half actually...in other words...like about a quarter of the black students on this campus attend meetings. If you say, in other words, if you say membership is 75, and there are about 150 blacks, and about half of those go to the meetings. Why do you think there's so little attendance ?

D: I don't know. Uh...well...some are reasons I guess. First of all, if you uh...if one person goes to the meeting, and he sees another black, and he tells you what went on. Now it's...and if uh...there's any...any pressing business...

F: Um huh.

D: Anything that's going to be discussed...then uh...that's good enough...just telling you what went on, so that he can keep up with it. And too...uh... you've got different people attending different nights. You might have ^{fifteen} attending this week ^{who} ~~that~~ didn't attend last week, and that sort of thing.

F: Um huh.

D: And then...uh...the meetings are usually held during...during the week, and some people have classes, and other things they have to do...a variety of reasons.

F: Were you involved umh...what was it, about two weeks ago...that play ?
You know anything about that ?

SUBJECT: DAVID JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

D: The play ? Oh yeah, I've heard...

F: What about it ?

D: Uh...where was it ?

F: Norman.

D: Norman hall. Well, uh...I don't...I don't know...really...what happened.

Uh...

F: Were you there ?

D: No, I wasn't there. I heard about it though.

F: What did you hear ?

D: I heard that uh...was it the School of Education...was giving a play on
uh...is to uh...trying to justify, or...the white attitude towards blacks.
Maybe not really justify, but uh...display the white attitude towards blacks...

F: Um huh.

D: And uh...it was supposed to have been uh...repulsive to blacks, or degrading
to blacks, and uh...that ^{fact}~~right~~ was made known to uh...members of the BSU,
who were meeting that night, and uh...they walked on stage. *and*

F: Um huh.

D: Stopped the play.

F: Did you think that was right ?

D: Well...I didn't see the play. I don't know what the play was about,
Uh...^{but}~~and~~ if it was degrading to blacks...~~and~~ I would think it was right.

F: Were there blacks in the play ?

D: I think so, yeah.

F: Well, were there rights infringed upon ?

D: Well, yeah, I guess...if whites...you got whites putting on a play, and you
got blacks in it. Those are people, right ? If you infringe on those whites

SUBJECT: DAVID JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

D: ...rights, they want to put on the play, and you tell them they can't put on a play, and they have a right to put on a play...then you're infringing upon their rights. The same goes for the blacks that were in the play. When you talk about rights...

F: Um huh.

D: I mean, you have to consider the blacks too.

F: Um huh.

D: You just can't say, "Well, you have a right to put on a play, so we're going to let you."

F: Well what...excuse me...what if the Black Student Union put on a play. The whites didn't like it, and there's sure as Hell enough whites on this campus that might not, and by force of number could easily stop any black play... would that be right ?

D: Well, you have to realize one thing...one thing that explains the actions there, the actions in both cases, is that blacks are down right now, and we're trying to get up where you are...

F: Um huh.

D: ...you see, and things that we are...we do aren't going to hurt you, because you're on the top all ready. They're not going to hurt you as much as it would hurt us, and that's our basic...that's the blacks basic premise right now. You...you've got to give a little bit. You've been on top all these years, and you've got to make some amends, you know. You...you...there's no way that we're going to get where you are...you know...be an equal race here in the U.S....unless you give some.

F: Um huh.

SUBJECT: DAVID JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

D: You see...there's no way that we can do what you do, and you do what we do on an equal footing.

F: Then you would never get out.

D: We've got to be more equal than you right now. You've got to give us more than you get...

F: Right,

D: ...if we're going to move up.

F: Who would you say are the black leaders on campus ?

D: I have to consider those who are most outspoken as black leaders. Uh... they seem to express uh...most of them, the opinions of the majority of the blacks on campus. Uh...I guess Larry Jordan, Mitch Dasher, would be ^{probably} the two most...

F: Anybody else ?

D: Maybe uh...no, I think that's about it.

F: There's something I just want to ask you, and I can't remember what the Hell it was...

D: Moderate blacks and radical blacks want basically the same thing...they want to be free, they want to be equal, they want what you have... basically the same things. The only way they differ...in the means for attaining that end.

F: Um huh.

D: That's the only difference. Now my...my means might be just as good as yours...who knows. There's no way of telling...only 200 years from now you can tell maybe, but right now, you can't. So, who's to say you're right and I'm wrong ? Just because you're militant ^{and} ~~as~~ supposed to be super black, doesn't mean that I'm not black...I don't want to be equal too...I want to be subjugated all my life. That doesn't mean...

SUBJECT: DAVID JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

F: Um huh.

D: So, I think it's really uh...uh...I mean, anybody who tells you that,
~~like himself~~ ^{lacks insight} I think.

F: Hmm...

D: So uh...

F: Do they accept what you say ?

D: No...not really, but that doesn't really matter.

F: Hmmm...

D: Because I feel ^{what} ~~the way~~ I feel...

F: I was just wondering...because I think you're right, but everybody at one time has been accused of that, you know.

D: Well, even the guys you call 'Toms', you know, deep down in they won't wait...they want what the next guy wants, and uh...they might be a little more uh...in other words, economic-minded...

F: Um huh.

D: ...than some of the more militant blacks, but uh...they basically want the same thing. I don't think you can ask one of the guys who's considered an 'Uncle Tom', who's a.....well, they're...they're...if he were given a choice to uh...continue in his present state, or uh...do some little act that would elevate the blacks from uh...their subjugation...

F: Um huh.

D: I think he would do it...because he wants what you want. And right now, he's just playing that role because...I don't know why...but he's playing it anyway. Now, ~~with the more militant blacks~~ ^{I think the basic thing is that blacks} want what you've got. All blacks do, because of...well, they do, and they're getting it.

F: What does your family do ?

SUBJECT: DAVID JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

D: What does my family do ? Well uh...my father's disabled, he used to uh... four or five years ago...he ran a junk yard, scrap cars, and sell parts of them, and that sort of thing. He uh...he had an operation...it was a brain tumor...he had an operation a while back, and he can't work right now. So...

F: What does your mama do ?

D: Nothing.

F: Just a housewife ?

D: Yeah.

F: Have you always been from Florida ?

D: Yeah.

F: What's the town again ?

D: Noma.

F: I so...I've never...you know, some ^{places} ~~towns~~ you've heard of it...don't know much about it, but I swear, I've never heard of that place.

D: Yeah, have you ever heard of ^{Bonifay} ~~Bona Fe~~, Florida ?

F: Uh...

D: No idea where it is ?

F: I'm whipped man.

D: Yeah.

F: Yeah.

D: It's up in that area. It's about 25 miles from Mariana.

F: Um huh.

D: I went to school in ^{Bonifay} ~~Bona Fe~~, because Noma is nothing more than a little community.

F: I see.

D: They don't even have a school there. I went to ^{high} school in ^{Bonifay. It's} ~~Bona Fe~~, ~~that's~~ about 14 miles away.

SUBJECT: DAVID JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

F: Um huh. Have your parents always been from around there ?

D: Yeah...all ~~our~~^{their} lives.

END OF INTERVIEW