

Ernest Johnson

*Interview  
used in  
dissertation  
pg. 185-204*

*22A  
BST.*

F: ~~Q~~ what are you majoring in--biology or chemistry?

S: Well, I'm not sure yet--I'm in zoology now. You don't have to have a BS in it to get in the other school--so I might just get the min. requirements at this school. But it will be in zoology if I do get a degree.

F: You have been here since 1967? Why did you come here?

*3* S: That is a good question-- I decided on the spur of the moment. I grad. from a predominately white high school--Ocala ~~High~~ High School in Ocala, with it being being close and pretty good in the science dep. I decided to come on over.

F: Where else did you consider going?

S: I hadn't really considered too much--at least I had always known that I would have gone, but I didn't worry too much about where. Like this wasn't my only choice--I had sent in applications at FSU AND *Florida A & M*, and I was accepted at all of them, but since this was the closest, I came here.

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

S: we get questionnaires all the time, so I really didn't think too much about it.

F: because there a lot of students who are sick and tired of filling them out and I can understand that...so about how many questionnaires have you gotten this yr.?

S: 5

*19* F: More *lengthy* lengthy?

S: not as lengthy--yours was easier to fill out--some of them ask for comments and you don't feel like writing comments, yours you can check something, it's easier--but i dont mind filling them out

R:

F: Sometimes there is a problem in that one of the responses that I put down is not one that you feel like answering--did you encounter any questions like that.

S: not really--but i remember some of the spots that you are talking about

F: have you spoken to any of the other students about the questionnaire

*19* S: Well, i have told a lot of others that i have received it. Like it is a universal thing among black students and they do plan on answering them.

F: like i said, alot of students a sick and tired of answering them--and although I sent one to every black--at least people who say they are black some just don't put it down; I don't know why really--

S: I didn't put it on mine put they finally put it down for me.

F: Why didn't you put it down?

f S: Well, I was kind of like arrogant, you know--like I wanted to say why was it important--like I put human one time--it doesn't really bother me because I am proud of being black but I just wanted to hang the computer up

F: That's why I asked you--some people don't do it like for serious reasons others just to fool around.

S: WELL, i was doing it just to make them wonder. Like they sent me a little thing that said pleas fill out race and the last one I got they had it right--they put Negro; I put black; they put Negro again.

F: before you came here, you hadn't given it much thgt. that it was just a spur of the moment thing--but what about since you have been here in general--what are your impressions

S: Well, if I had to do it over again i wouldn't come to Fla.. I definely would not/ The UF is a ~~good~~ college--but for a black student it is not really the best--the social life is nil; it is not really a good univ for a black--it is just a univ.; the values that they have are white values and if you just adapt forget that you are black and just think that you are a student it is really good for you.....but you dont have any outlets, no way to respond, no power Really I would like to give the univ back to the adm--if I weren't a senior this far in the game. Like i know that I will probably grad. but I would leave in my senior yr., I definately would. 2

g S: It's not overt things--it's usually covert--like you run into an instructor who has institutionalized racism, he smiles will you but you know tha he doesn't give a damn about you, a lot of the personnel on campus, being a student, you dont have any ~~xxx~~ have any way of forming any wholesome relationships --you just feel like you are here Like for instance I have a balck friend that --but it is not conducive to black students here--not at all. Like i've done pretty good here--like right now I am a resident advisor at a dorm. ...I work mostly with white people. I'm over in Murphee--I'm over 2 sects. I fd. more purpose since I have been a resident adv., because now I get a chance to talk to people with different attitudes and I feel a part of it because you know, there is soemthing to do at

F: I want to ask you a question-- I got one of my questionnaires back with an address in Murphee--from a girl--is Murphee co-ed?

S: No

F: She receives her mail in Murphee.

S: I doubt that

F: One of things that I am doing--a lot of the things that you said are pretty common--I know that a lot of them are overt but can you think of anything that is obvious that can be changed

S: Like this yr. they started a lot of black studies, this is a start but I think like--like it is going to take a lot of time and money like it took us the longest time to get a BSU office in the Union. Have a place to setup your office and keep your books. There still needs to be a lot of improvements and we are going to need money to ~~xxxxxxx~~ do it. take for instance black week, this would have helped a lot because we would have been able to have black students and celebrities, and as long as the adm. acts this way and as long as the black students here keep calling the school racist, we aren't going to get anything done. Like the adm. needs to show more concern we need more--get--because we don't have any black profs. and that is ridiculous and black adm. stuff like that. Those are the first <sup>steps</sup> steps that are going to have to be made--like I would feel more of the establishment knowing that we had quite a few more black instructors I get tired of going to white instructors for everything. Like I have black lit. class this quarter, I have a white guy trying to teach it, we might spend a whole period talking about an adj. and I feel that black people are far far adv of sentence structure--we are interested in the message--he acted ~~is if~~ <sup>told me</sup> if the message weren't imp. 16

F: Will you say that again.

S: Like if you read Soul on Ice, a white person would be worried about 'a incident' while the black people would be interested in getting the message and they would not be so concerned with where the guy was born or things like that but in what he was saying or doing for the black cause. the white people sit around and talk about something insignificant at least to black people. To be in an integrated class like that, the teacher has a problem I admit because he has people in there who are striving for two different objectives--like black people want to get one thing out of the course and white people want to get another it hangs ~~by~~ them up, but I really think that black people would do a lot better with black studies because he wouldn't have to do two things--because he is teaching black mat. and that is his thing--a white teacher has to walk down the middle of off the road but a black teacher if he is a revolutionary he could teach what he sees.. I really don't think that the Univ is making any active effort to get any black teachers here. because right now everything is by word of mouth and they need to stop going around trying to get black Ph.D.'s from Harvard because we have a lot of white instructors here who don't have Ph.D.'s from Harvard. Why do they have to be Ph.D.'s anytime you talk to an adm. he says that you just can't <sup>find</sup> any qualified instructors but the UF financially <sup>can't</sup> afford to get these black phds because other colleges can pay them more. Why can't they get black grad. students with a BS to teach these C courses 9

S: Because I went thru the Univ. college and I had some pretty rinky-dinky grad teachers. Bethum-Cookman kCollege, F A& M we could bring in the students by the 1000's, like i have a friend who grad. from F A& M who is a library asst. at the lib. why can't she monitor one of these c'courses, A black ~~student~~ has to have a Master's degree or better. to be an assistant 9

F: You have to have a Master's to be an instructors'

S: But I'm saying grad stud. --like they don't send out recruiters to bring them here to teach those courses. It is obvious, nothing is being done we don't have any. Like a lot of people who grad form A & M dont have work.

F: What are they doing?

S: They are teaching the high schools or they are working out of thesir fields because they can't get work...

F: They should encourage them to come here and got to grad school and teach

S: Well, that all depends on the univ, i have some friends in grad school in agric. they made them take some pre-grad courses before they would admit them and so i'm really not qualified to say about that but they didn't feel that they needed them. You know make them take ~~more~~ <sup>agric</sup> courses --the agric. dept. is the only dept. that has a signi no. of black grad. students

f: I think that the adm, would say that they would like that b ut that the black students dont make GRE'S high enough or something like that.

S: I am against quite a few of the standarized tests because it is not a real good indication of intelligence. It might be able to predict how good you would do at a white univ. like 12th grade placement tests aren't a good indication of intell., but it is a good indication of how you would do at a white univ.

F: A good indication of how you would do in a society.....

S: Definately not--<sup>A Black</sup> you can grad. from a white univ. but put him in a ghetto and ~~there~~ might starve to death or get his brains shot out because he doesn't know how to talk to a brother. You are trying to make black people something they aren't by making them adhere to these standards.. you know that a lot of them are obviously slanted because I have taken a lot of these tests--the 12th gr. place.. for ex.. you were to try to put yourself in a regular white am post. you would realoy do good --like your math that is unoversal but like Eng. 9/10 the words you see you would never use in talking to another black person 4

F: I dont think that most white people would use them in talking to white people

S: Those tests arent really good indicators of how well you can do in society 65

S; I am definately against those kind of tests when it comes to measuring black intell. 18

F: So You are saying that a lot of the black BS holders who dont do well on the GREs would do well as ~~as~~ grad. students. 0

S: right right, i think that a lot of the blacks who dont do well on the 12th grd place. tests would do well as studetns at this univ.

F: One of the arguments against that is that these black studetns dont need any more failing experéences than they have had and people say that they would do well--statitically shown.

S: There is an argument to tht like if you had black profs. counsellors to talk to these ~~as~~ students blike you cant just put a black student in a predominatel y whtie school and expect him to do well. Socialization means a lot--like if you don't have a date, and you have to study 19 wks, out of the quarter, you aren't going to do well.. but give them black counselors and friends, and I guarantee you that they ~~xxxxxxx~~ would make 1st rate students 18

F: you can forget about that

S; YOU cant just put him in a nice dorm room and put his books around him and give him a scholarship and expect ihm to do well. He might have a bad sit. at home. My sit. at home ~~is~~ up tight and my academeical works suffers at times, I'm worried about the home front a lot, and if you dont have somebody to talk to you dont do as well acad. you have a black counselor to show the importance of making good grades you fel a minority, otherwise you arent going to do as well even if they do let you in. This is extremell important --blacks not being able to stay at white univ. 18

F: You said something black students aren't doing any good by just calling the univ. racist.

S: Tehy aren't helping the univ to keep black studetns--like we have Roy Mitchell recruiting black studetns and they are more or less saying that you come we will give you so much money so they picture the univ as being progressive and when ever something comes up they blame the univ--and say that it is racist. Because I know that a quite a few studetns have asked me --they say that they have heard this and that--i wouldn't go--I have told them the true facts--that if they don't want tot stay up all night and study and the dont want to face white persons dont come here. If i had it to do all ~~xxxx~~ over agian i wouldn't come. Get more money-- more black instructors--if there were more black instructors I would try to take some of the courses. 4

S: I have had some rinky-dinky course and I dont think that my ed. here has reallyly enlight~~ed~~ me thatmuch.

F: How are you doing

S; MY upper div. av. is about 2.8, and my lower div. av. was about 2.5

F; the reaasn. that I asked was that I have had studetns that say they are doing ok and I asked them waht is ok and they sz<sup>g</sup> about a 1.4, I didn't think that was you though.

S: I'v e had truble with some courses and I've done good in others..  
q I've gotten a few D's...but acadmeically I don't find the univ of fla. that bad. it's not that hard. if you're willing to study like i 've gooten d's when i dont think that i should have gootten them....like i took a sociology course here and it was the worse course that i have taken here because-you are in sociology, right <sup>19</sup>

F; Sociology of ed.

S: soc, is not conducive to black studetns--like he taught a lot of stat like why someone would join this frat. is really wasnt int- he skipped the 3 p. on black families by frazer --I think that Dr. Larson is really a crummy teacher you know.. and he was just crummy i really tried and he just wasnt conductive ~~and~~ at all and I couldnt talk to him at all

F: WHat courses have you enjoyed

S: humanties course math courses ....~~xxxx~~ i haven't got as much out of the Afro=am. courses as i think that i could have.. ~~xxx~~ they are all white instructors... like i am in a cours ASC 450 --a senior seminar--you do research in anything that you are interested in they split the course Dr. Conroy took all the white studetnts and Sam took all the black studetns and we are getting a lot more out of it . ~~xxxxxxxx~~ <sup>9</sup>

F: I've talked to Sam and it is really odd that the univ has to reach out and count him as one of the instru.

S: they were going out and trying to hire almost anybodyu then.

F: People think that the adm, are stupid and they arent

S: Right they just dont have thjer hearts in the right places.. YOU say something real bad about the univ, and O'Connell will make a speak saying that things aren't bad , run around the problem.. all the black studetns have aproblem--militant or not--and the adm, is not doing any good saying they aren't--like Roy Mitchell had a hard time getting enough money to run his office and for a long time he didn't have automony over his own office and this type things and like next yr. they plan on bringing in quite a few black studetns on a triaa basis.....i'm not totally pessimtic you can't just sit bakc and say that thaings are being done--they'll get better--if studetns weren't raising hekl about it nothingk would be done and HEW weren't raising hell about it nothing would be done The univ steps as far as it has to step , it doesn't volunteer anything

16

F: Do you think that in the long run the studetns--whita nd black do things that are determinental to their causes?

S: I agree with that--I think that black s alienate /people with their lang. I have bbeen to causes ~~wixk~~ which were good butthat they leaders were osticizing people with their lang. --i know that i do -- we get so hot about what we are talking about.

grad 095

F: I you are ever think in the long term--saying what will get you what you want--people say that you are a tom--giving in. Now I don't think that is fair sometimes, there is a diff. bet. being intell. and a tom.

S: That is the black intellectual's problem--being too intelligent about it.

F: Sometimes it is a cop-out.

S: Sometimes I feel that black intelligent people who don't wear Arfo's and dasheche(?) are doing more for the Negro cause than the others. You can be educated and doing a lot for the cause and be labelled a tom because the masses of blacks aren't educated and they might think your methods are not as effective as theirs, but a lot of the time your methods are more effective.

mb

So blac k poeple are'nt that stable among themselves when you come down to it. I've been ealled a tom but deep down I think that I am doing good so that it doesn't bother me. Saying that "I am more militant than you doesn't do any good!"

F: I read in Young magazine that one would rather have a processed exterior and be black inside than the opposite--this is paraphrasing-- and be Afro on the outside and processed on the inside.

M-16

S: they have got a cool term for that--(muttered)

F: DID they make that up or is it stolen from somewhere?

S: I dont think that it local--I read it in Malchom X (2).

F: I've ~~read~~ a lot of black literature and I've never seen it.

S: When I read Malchom it wasn't any big thing, it just said something about being orieole(?), I think that i has<sup>d</sup> been blown~~s~~ up..and that why it is new to a lot of people. I think that it is a pretty good term.

F: sometimes a phrase like that says a whole lot quickly and y<sup>t</sup>hat whythey are  $\frac{1}{2}$  facts rather than going thru this whole rigamole.

S'' See like a term like that you could talk to an uneducated person and hee could identify with it about people copping out and you can relate to them in real concrete terms it is a lot more effective.

F: You mentioned dating--I have trouble with that from my studetns--white of black~~s~~-- they have troubles at home or ~~xxx~~ because some girl is not particualary attractive and she has been down for 7 wks. because college life is a lot more l than classes--everyone knows that. There is a tendency to forget zbout that with black studetns. They go by grade point av. in high school and senior placement scored and say thay you should do pretty lwell and they forget about so many other l things.....What about dating here.

S: Well dating here --you really couldnt call it dating, I mean you have problems among black males and felmales, most of the black univ. students date people off campus, They dont have good interrelationships between blzcks on campus--I mean that they don't date that lmuch Where usually a girl ~~wxx~~ will go with a guy off=campus--

F: local people?

S: yes, local people --and a guy will go with a girl off-campus--either jr. coll. or in some instances high school. There is a lot of interracial dating but no interracial couples. ~~Butxxxxxxx~~-- like people going together but there is a lot of interracial dating, like movies, dinner, this sort of thing. But a black perosn really has to go from the univ. to find social happiness. Like I haven't ever been ~~to~~ a dance on campus and there are a lot of black grps. playing. I don't go to too many movies on campus-- i really dont use too many facilites on campus. I go with a roommate to bowl a feew games--but most of the time even to talk to somebody I go --to be around people my age, even to get a haircut--I go to black people..

E: Why is that?

S: I don't feel that they<sup>re</sup> too good a job.

F: It is hard to tell what is a cop-out ....

S: LIke blakcs are real personal abt. their hair and I wouldn't want a white person to cut my hair, because I have black barbers/ to do not such a good job--because it is a part of personality if a guy cuts too much or if he doesn't cut it like I want it--like I am funny about different black barbers cutting my hair --like I dont' go to different guys, like I get one and I expalin how I want it and if he does it good I go to him time after time...that is the general concensus--like they have a cetain person whom they want and they don't go to anybody especially when it comes to a part of you--like if a guy cuts too much off you really feel bad because it is a part of you. and I wouln't ~~mind~~ if a white barber were qualified to cut my hair...I 'm funny abt. that...i would feel more safe about a black barber

F: Lets say you went to a white barber and he did a real good job.

S: I dont think that I would like him--I'm just like that

F: I feel that way too--if somebody cuts my hair and it takes months to grow back--Some people dig shoes and you hair is like .... But you said something--for the most part black girls don't date black guys on this campus, friends kind of thinkg, why is that

S: T here are many suggestions--no real answers-- Historically you found the black female always the one who was more educated than the black males, , and I can't help but feel that since the black male is getting more educated there is competition bewteen the black male and female and she thinks that if she can get to the UF she has proven that she is just a smart or smarter than you are, think like black girls on campus set their standards too high and they are a little too critical of black guys on campus and this type thing whereas if she dates a guy offcampus who isn't as intelligent as she is--mainly because ~~that~~ they aren't in the same situation. ~~xxx~~ They aren't cometing every day for grades, you know grade -point average.. So like it is a long story --it's not that the guy on campus aren't cool ~~xx~~ or anything . They see them everyday , go to class with them everyday, it is more a competiition like thin g.

5

F: Whick way do you think that they competition is going--do you think the girls feel threatened because they guys are getting educated! or do you think the guys--like white people--}like to date a girl that acts sort of studpi so that they can feel ~~xx~~ superior. Do you think that the black guys feel threatened by the ~~xxxx~~ girls?

S: I dont' think so--because the girls have always been more educated/ I think that in the reverse the girls really feel threatened.

5

F: Because of the change

S: Because black familites have been headed by women for a long time And see--the black male has wlways been in a bad bad position-- like he has always been less educatd buthe was expected to be the man, head of the household. Now that the black is trying to assume his prpper role he his running into a bot of problems with the black female. And we ever needed the black female==we need them

S: we need them now especially for moral support. Because their is a lot of psychology concerned with the black male and society--he really catches hell you know We need the black female more than ever now that opportunities are getting better to give us a lot of moral support. I dont think that black women have realized that, people as a whole are just beginning to make it. They are trying to make it-- they aren't thinking about the social order--like men are supposed to be head of the household a man is supposed to be the head of his family this type of thinking. The black female is trying to make it just as hard or harder as the black male they forgotten about a lot of moral support like the man will have to eventually assume a bulk of the responsibility of the race in the future. I think that a lot of the black women forget this--like they are trying to get real educated so --black women who are going own to get a Master's etc-- and they aren't thinking that they aren't really happy-- they aren't trying to help their men to get ahead--and they are going to have trouble finding a husband and it is going to run black people into a lot of hang-ups, especially the black girls. Like right now the women's liberation thing, like a lot of black women are caught up in that--I think that is one of the worst things in the world. How can think of woman liberation when we don't even have race liberation

5

17

F: You don't think that one can do both.

S: I don't think that a woman can ~~have both~~ put that before race....

F: You're saying that possibly both but not according to priorities.

S: I really don't think that she can do both right now. She always been liberated in the black setting. She has always been the main force in the family, and most of the time the only breadwinner, I don't think that she can start talk about being liberated...black people really need to start with the basics Woman Liberation is foreign to the black woman she should be trying to think in terms of race--especially the men of her race and help them assume the proper role in society.

17

F: You mentioned that there is a fair amount of inter-racial dating--you talk about a lack of cohesiveness among black girls and guys on this campus--does that cause any problems?

S: WELL, black guys had a lot of trouble not really trouble but a lot of comments formed black girls about dating white girls but it goes back to the thing one guy had a meeting-- he got up and said you might not have heard this comment--if strawberry jam is easier to get than blackberry jam, then he was going to get strawberry jam. I think that summarizes it pretty good. Black girls you ask them for a date and they have a million things to do and a lot of white people they have heard the myth and like you get hung up around this place after awhile. the black guy doesn't care whether he is being exploited or not/ So like black girls don't understand or they don't want to understand. but it happens, I think that it is more black boy and white girls than black girls and white guys.

5

F: I have heard that ~~XXXX~~ talking to black girls students-- that they have been threatened by black guys if they are caught with a white guy they will really be in trouble

S: I disagree with that--I personally wouldn't do anything--but I have noticed that a lot of black guys are like that. It goes back historically--like the white man could be with the black girls but the black man couldn't be with the white woman. SO why not put ours in the home and we could go out and have some fun. I don't agree wholeheartedly with it but that is rational behind it. They aren't proving that much--just because a black man couldn't exploit a white woman that is not getting you any power-- it is not getting you political power or anything like that because a little thrill that you get isn't going to make you feel any better .. I am not wholeheartedly for it because I don't think that black people have time to exploit anybody they really need to build a solid foundation, 5

F: I heard a large amt. of resentment that the black girls aren't getting treated squarely

S: I can see that--but I am a black male on campus and I know the channel that you have to go thru to take out a lot of these black girls and it goes back to the same thing that I told you they think that they are better than you are and you can't just do the things that an atypical guy would do--you have to be super. I used to sympathize with them more but I had a girl off campus and it didn't matter but now I can really see the side of the black guys. It is a lot easier to date a white girl and they don't follow up a lot of the trivial things that a black girl does IT is a more relaxed thing she is being with you --she has passed a lot of the trivial things that you would have to go thru with a black girls. 5

F: Has there ever been any trouble over.....

S: Not to my knowledge.....I think there was some trouble before I got here in '67 but now it is accepted. Usually you have to avoid it--because you have a lot of white girls trying to get to you. White guys really get up tight when you tell them that--they really do. IF you went with every white girl that smiled at you or called you you wouldn't have time to do anything else. You might want to talk to another black student--Lucas Bond-- he is doing a term paper on interracial dating here. He feels strong about that. I think that he was more about that I was because I don't rely on getting a date on campus. Most of black guys and girls are in on the weekends mainly because they don't have dates. 5

S: It tells and I dont think t at white colleges take that into lcon- sideration, because there are balck guys and girls doesn't necessarily ~~menxxxx~~ mena that they are going to get ~~xxxx~~ together 9 time s out of 90 they wouldn't

F: LET's say that you call a girla dn she gives you the whole rap about about having too much to do and then she goes out with somebody in the commnity , say a guy who is not a smart as you, say a guy who drpped out in the 9th grade and is driving a truck, it seems that would be even more off a put=down,

S: it is.....you are incompetiition with the guys in the commonity even if they are drop-outs--if they have a car now that is something that they have over a guy on campus-- no. I there are no ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~xxx~~ entertainment on campus and a girl will differently not go out with you if you are just going to walk over to the Union and she has a another g uy who can talke her to a soul nightclub. 5 or 6 miles away so ~~xxx~~ he wouldn't have to be as cool or not even as smart, to put you down. She doesn't want to walk down to the Union and this is the extent of where you can take here There are very few black studetns on campus who have cars. That might have a lot to do with the community dating-the black girls and guys have access to a car and the happenings like my girl offcampus can tell me what is happening or where she is going this wekend. Like the girl on campus all she can tell you is the movie or bowling or shoot pool, ~~xxxxxxx~~

5

F: What kind of places do black students dde off campus

S: You can go to real funky places--Village Gate, Pop's, there are rea;;u mp wjp;esp,e  $\frac{1}{2}$ ;aces tp gp

F: Do you find hosityity in the comm.

S: Used to be but not now . I think that the comm. is slowly fidning out that we are very much for them. There wer only a handfull and they wouldn't associate in the comm.. as much. Right now the blakc studetns have a lot of friends and wb formed some real good tie s with the black studetns at Sante Fe. The black studentts before I came here they had trouble even going down on 5th Ave. You might run into problems if you bothered a guy's girl.

17

F: THat would happen anywhere else. What about on campus are there things that black studetns would like to do that just don't exist?

S: I would put a black place where you could have a pot of black entertain- ment--I know the Union dances-but what about every third wk, a band Like if I heard that the Fabulous Soul were coming, I would go. So why not every 3rd wk have a black band at the Rat.I'm not saying bend over backwards to have soemthing black every wk, but have a regular schedule It would make you feel a part of things. We have trouble even getting black people here for frolics and that sort of thing. Like I waited all last yr. and this yr. for them to rely have something good.

4

F; What about partying with white people?

S: Most-- a lot of the cases the whites out no. the blacks-- usually our parties --some of white people are reculant about coming--we have quite a few parties..

F; Where do you have them.

S: On campus we have them in the dorms--and that is not y/conductive to --so of a black student's lives off-campus and wants to give a party--and the funny thing is that after this quarter is almost over, participant of black students on campus has improved. There is no entertainment, nothing to do, everybody goes around and asks where is the party this weekend, where is everybody going. Like blacks go out of town quite a bit on the weekends for entertainment. They go to black colleges where they can get good groups--like the Temptations. ~~XXXXX~~ a bunch of us get together and go

F; What if a white group on this campus invited all the ~~mix~~ black to a party

S: Most blacks would go--have. I have been to a lot of parties at white houses. Not frat.--I wouldn't go unless I know that about 50-60 blacks were going because I just wouldn't have any fun.

F: I wouldn't go to a party where I didn't know anyone regardless of white or black because I wouldn't have anyone to talk to. Do you think that if all black students were ~~XXXXXX~~ invited

S: They would go

F: I think that certain white people would like to have something like that but they worry that blacks will react 'oh, what are you doing, doing us a favor?'

S: It's been said but that is just a warning by black people not to do that. It's not saying that we are not appreciative--it's just that we don't want tokens. but like when a Negro gets a position he may say that it is tokenistic but that doesn't mean that he isn't glad that this position isn't open. You can call Roy Mitchell tokenistic but I am glad that we do have one, because one is better than none but I don't get satisfied --we want more

*BST AB*

F: ---Questionnaire, well what did you think about it in general ?

J: Uh, I think some of the...some of the questions that were on it...really...  
uh...couldn't uh...weren't uh...written so that I could make a real good  
e---evaluation.

F: You mean because, in other words, I'd ask you to like them---list them or  
something like that---

J: Yes, I have, like, like when I said, when you asked me, "Did I plan to  
continue on at the University of Florida?" I said that, uh, I wasn't sure,  
because, I mean I couldn't...neither one of those questions, uh, were...

F: Yeah, I think I see what you're...in other words, like, because I ask for  
specific answers, none of the answers really fit exactly what you wanted  
to do. O.K. fine. That's one reason I want to have this interview, so you  
can say things that weren't on the questionnaire. You know, because it's  
true, in other words, you'd have to have a hundred responses for each  
question, Say, "Do you feel this, this, this, or---" you know, you know,  
obviously, in a questionnaire that would be impossible. So...what kind of  
things would you have added to the questionnaire, that you wanted to talk  
about, in other words, what kind of questions would you have liked to see  
that you could respond to ?

J: Hhh---

F: Hmm ?

J: Uh, I don't know.

F: What about the questions that were there, what kind of things would you liked  
to have said that because of the limitations of the questionnaire ?

J: Now what are you trying---can I ask you a question ?

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

F: Sure, please.

J: What are you trying to do with the question, now what do you want---

F: Well I think, first of all, that a lot of people have been talking a lot about...say problems of black students on this campus, you know, and the administration is able to say that, "Well really we don't know." You know? Well a lot of people say that, well Larry Jordan says it, or Mitch Dasher says it, but how do we know that that is the way most people feel, you know, and I think that's gone too far.

J: What did you...what did you say again?

F: Well, in other words, it's too easy for, let's say the administration, or the authorities, one or the other, are able to say the only---rather than, let's say, certain people speaking for all the black people on this campus, they say we only hear from some of them, so how do we know the way most black people really feel, and it's too easy for them to discard a few people, so what I'm trying to do is get the way most black people feel, to see, in other words, it's not so easy to say if most black people feel they're being treated unfairly...that's different than three or four people, you know, always the same names, saying...like they can say those people are always complaining, but if 140 black students say they've had problems in this class, you know, where there's smoke, there's fire. Do you see? So it's a different...I want to reach most of the people, all of the people I can to try to find out what people feel, rather than just a couple of people, and in all groups it will always be...there're certain leaders, but I want to get to everybody, you know, see what the problems are. Why did you come here Jimmie...University of Florida?

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

J: Uh, well I graduated from uh, an integrated school, so...

F: Did you ? Where did you go ?

J: Dr. Fletcher...Senior...

F: Oh ! Dr. Fletcher in Jacksonville. Yes, I'm originally from Jacksonville also.

J: So I figured I'd keep on going. I mean, since...uh...we have the opportunity to try to go ahead to some of the better schools, I just decided, you know, to keep going instead of...Like, some of the students that uh...graduated, some of the Negro students that graduated with me, went to all of them like Florida A.&M....

F: Um huh.

J: And uh...I just couldn't see myself retreating all the way back. I mean, I was going to an all Negro school, and then I transferred to Fletcher, so...

F: Did you get along better at Fletcher ? Do you think you got a better education at Fletcher ?

J: I enjoyed it, yes.

F: Um huh.

J: I think I...I think the teachers were pretty good.

F: What percentage of black students are at Fletcher now ?

J: Uh...I don't know right now, but they're a...they're a minority, pretty---

F: Yeah. When did you graduate ?

J: '68'.

F: So, what are you, a sophomore or a junior now ?

J: Junior.

F: Junior. I see. Well, is the University of Florida what you pretty much expected it to be ?

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

J: I don't know. I didn't really think about what it would be like when I came, I mean, what the racial situation would be.

F: Um huh. But in general, in other words, see this isn't something where you have to check with everything, like, you can tell me whatever you want to say, in other words, I don't know, what you expected it to be, I mean, you know, you said you wanted to come because you thought you could get a better education. And have you been pretty satisfied with what's been happening here, for the most part. Not only black/white, I'm talking about education in general. What's your major ?

J: Uh, I'm in Journalism right now, but I don't think I'm going to stay in it.

F: Why is that ?

J: It's kind of, uh, I'm just not the type of person to do all the little things that you have to do to report, and all that kind of stuff.

F: Yeah. That's what I hear, more people in Journalism say that uh, you know, there's a whole bunch of Mickey Mouse kinds of things---

J: Yeah, that's what I'm talking about.

F: ---out of paper, and writting short little things. What do you think you'll go into ?

J: Uh, I'm not sure, but I might go into Education. I'm not sure.

F: Um huh. Do you want to teach do you think ?

J: Uh, maybe. I'm not sure. I'm not sure what I want to do yet. Well...well... I think the school is pretty good. I like it. I find it all right I guess, other than the racial situation.

F: Do...what do you think about the racial situation, I mean...

J: Uh...

F: Go ahead.

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

J: The Negroes on this campus are, uh, kind of like invisible people or something, you know, you know, uh, you're just there. I mean, we've been accepted to the school, but not socially I don't think. But I'm just talking in general, but not, uh, all the people, there're different people, like you have people that seem to be uh, better towards Negroes, you have people that seem to be uh, people that...uh...you're just not there, you know, they, they don't have any kind of emotion...

F: Um huh.

J: ...about the situation, and I think you just, you know, you just, you just not there. They don't even...they don't want to have anything to do with the situation at all, and then there are people who will speak to you, people who are nice enough to speak to you. And then, there're people that uh...that will go out of their way to be friendly to you, and...although they're a minority. You---

F: Now, I know certain black people that resent that, and you know, in other words, I think certain white people want to make sure that the black people feel that they're accepted, and then certain black people say, "Well don't do that to me just because I'm black." you know? Have you heard that before? You know, where some white people will go out of their way, and some black people will sort of resent that. Say, "Well don't be friendly to me just because I'm black," You know? "Be friendly to me because I'm a person." Do you know people that sort of feel that way? That the white people are friendlier...friendly for some, you know, wrong reasons, or something like that. They're after something, or what do some people say, "They're salving their conscience." you know, making themselves feel better.

J: Yeah.

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

F: What kind of thing, you know what I'm talking about...

J: Yes, I do.

F: Which probably is true to a degree, u fortunately, but it creates the dilemma of, "Well what should you do?", if you, if these people want to be friendly, then a lot of people say, "But", you know, "Don't do that either." Sort of causes the problem, a lot of people don't know what to do.

J: Um huh.

F: What about, can you think of some specific things, where you think people have been unfriendly to you ?

J: Unfriendly ? Of course. I don't know, let me think... How do you mean ? do you mean saying something to me ?

F: Well, in other words, you can answer that however you want, you know, and I think it was good you categorized it, you say, "Some people don't do anything, and some people act negatively, and some just don't even see you."

J: Well, people, heh, uh, I mean, you may look towards them sometime, you may turn your head, and make some kind of face...

F: Um huh.

J: Or something like that.

F: Um huh. Where does that happen ?

J: Umh, around campus, and some different places all over.

F: Um huh. Have people actually done negative things to you ?

J: Uh...I haven't concentrated on that stuff too much, so I can't... You mean... how do you mean negative ?

F: Well, when you said---have people actually---rather than just ignoring you, have people actually said crummy things to you, or teachers, whatever ?

J: The teachers ? Never, well not teachers. There was one teacher snatched a sheet of paper out of my hand as I was walking out of class...

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

F: Why is that ?

J: I don't know.

F: Nev'r asked ?

J: Huh ?

F: Never asked ?

J: I started to say something, but I decided not to.

F: You walked out of class with a piece of paper ?

J: Yes. I was handing my paper in.

F: Why ?

J: I mean, I've known people to uh, to jerk things slightly out of your hand, but not the way he jerked it out of my hand.

F: Um huh.

J: As hard as he could...like that ?

F: Do you think that had anything to do with your being black ?

J: Yeah.

F: Better, I mean, what give you, in other words, some, a lot of students around here, black and white, have professors that act lousy to them, you know, professors are mean, or this and that. So, I mean, you may be 100% right, but what I'm saying is, did other things happen that would make you feel that ? Just that one incident ?

J: I didn't do anything, I was just in class. I remember once, I asked a ques...I mean I was trying to answer a question...

F: Um huh.

J: ...a question, uh, he just, you know, kind of...after I tried to answer the question, he just kind of bowed his, boe---bowe---bowed his head, and uh, asked the next student, some other student a question, and, I mean, he didn't even take time to...take time to try uh, discuss what I said, ...

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

J: ...or let me know whether what I said was correct or not.

F: Um huh.

J: And...

F: Can you think of any other incidents, where you had that kind of relationship with teachers? You've been here two years right?

J: Not at Florida, I transferred.

F: From where?

J: Junior college...Santa Fe.

F: Oh, you went to Santa Fe first?

J: Yeah.

F: Oh, I see. How did you like it there?

J: It was relatively all right. I...well...it's the same situation, you know, most of the people just uh, I mean, actually have nothing to do with you.

F: Umh...

J: I mean, there're some people who were friendly, and some people you just don't like naturally.

F: Where do you live?

J: Uh, 117 N.W. 15th St.

F: Oh, you live off campus.

J: Yeah.

F: What is that in Sggg---cooperative living place over there?

J: Yeah.

F: Yeah, I used to live down the street over there, that's why I know about it. What about, see we were talking about teachers, what about students?

J: I'm try---

F: As far as the way they've acted to you.

J: You've got all kinds.

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

F: What ?

J: You've got all kinds...just like I says.

F: Um huh. Do you uh...do you socialize with white students, pretty much ?

J: Yes, if they socialize with me, I mean if they're, I mean anybody that treats me all right I treat them all right.

F: Um huh. What kind of things do you do with white students ? What kind of things do you do ?

J: Anything, uh play sports with them, play football, like with the guys that stay where I stay at. Uh, lately I haven't been do---we haven't been doing too much together. I generally go out there punt it. One on this side of the...I don't know, what's the name of this building over here, uh...

F: Matherly ?

J: Yeah, Matherly. We go out there and play touch football...

F: Yeah.

J: And...uh...over there, we've played chess together, and uh...all kinds of things, I guess.

F: Do people have parties over there ?

J: Uh, sometimes they have parties.

F: Do you date much here ?

J: Not a whole lot.

F: Why is that ?

J: Well, I don't have a car for one thing, mostly---

F: Yeah, that gets in the way doesn't it ?

J: Yes, and most of the colored girls stay...out...and out...and outside the town.

F: Um huh.

J: And it's kind of hard, to...uh...get around.

F: You're talking about the black girls that are students here, or black stu---

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

F: ---black girls in the community ?

J: The ones that are students here, and at Santa Fe. They're about the only ones I know.

F: Have you ever dated white girls ? .... Do many of your friends date white girls ?

J: I don't...I don't know that many people, I mean, I know...there's three, there's three other uh, Negro...uh, boys that live where I live at, and...

F: Um huh.

J: Uh, we don't, I mean, I just, we speak, and I don't uh, we don't really get together too much, I mean, I kind of feel that, you know, I don't know, there's all kind of barriers, you know...

F: Like what ?

J: ...between people. I don't know, I'm just, I don't know.....I don't know, some people just...are different socially, I mean, they seem to prefer different people, certain people...

F: Um huh.

J: I mean, it's not me, 'cause I associate with any, just about anybody that will associate with me.

F: I think I know what you mean, but let's go into that a little bit. What do you mean, people prefer to be with different people ?

J: I kind of feel that...that I'm just not one of the, that group, their group, you know. I don't think that I fit in just right, 'cause I'm kind of a different person...you know.

F: Are you a member of the Black Student Union ?

J: Not yet, I just came over here.

F: Umh...this your first quarter here ?

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

J: Yeah.

F: Oh, I didn't know that. Are you planning on being a member ?

J: Yeah, I was planning on going...I guess I plan on going to the meeting, uh, Thursday night.

F: Um huh. You---there you'll probably have an opportunity to meet, you know, get in more black students, you know, than living over there. What about the administration, have you had much contact with the administrators over here ?

J: Umh...only on, I don't have-----most of them are all right. They treat you pretty good.

F: Yeah, there don't---I just had a couple of questions that I wanted to remember to ask you. That's why I just wanted to look at the...but for the most part...you've gotten along pretty well with the people in the administration ?

J: That's right.

F: What about, uh, how are you doing in school...academically ?

J: Uh, I think I'm doing all right.

F: Did you do well at Santa Fe ?

J: Yeah. I didn't make straight 'As', or...

F: Well, very few people make straight 'As', so you...Have you been having trouble here ?

J: Well, my reading habits, I mean my studying habits aren't as good as they should be...over here.

F: Again, I'm not sure most people's are. I have a bunch of students who just don't seem to be studying a whole lot. What kind of things would you do to improve your study habits ?

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

J: Hmm...the only thing I can think of, is just make up my mind, and start studying.

F: What do you do with most of your time ?

J: Umh...there's not a whole lot I can do...around here.

F: Well, what would you like to be doing ?

J: I listen to music. Hum ?

F: What kind of music do you like ?

J: All kinds ---all kinds, except I generally listen to 'Soul', and, you know, I listen to Dionne Warwick, and...

F: Um huh.

J: ...and, uh, thinks like that.

F: This is where you live...usually ? When you said that there are not a whole lot of things you could do around here, well, what would you like to be doing, that you don't feel you can, because you're here ? Did you understand ---?

J: Well, I'd like to get to know more girls, take them, you know, be able to take girls out, more girls out...

F: Um huh.

J: And...I'd like to have some places to go.

F: Like where ? A lot of students complain there's just not a whole lot to do in this town, you know. Where did you live, in Jacksonville Beach ?

J: Atlantic Beach---

F: Uh huh, but that's not a very big place. What did you do there ?

J: Not much.

F: You know, I mean, there's probably as much, maybe more to do here than there is in Atlantic Beach.

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

J: Yeah. Heh. Well most of the places are, you know, I mean, most of the social events are white...

F: Here ? Well do you feel that you can't go to those ?

J: No, it's not that you can't go, it's that, uh, I mean you won't be, you won't really be accepted. I mean, the people around there aren't hostile towards you or anything, but it's just...you can't really get into it. You can't be a part of it really.

F: What kind of things would you like to go, that if you did feel accepted you'd go to ?

J: I'd like to be invited to some of the parties around here.

F: Would you ? If you were invited to, let's say a fraternity house for a party, would you go ?

J: Yes.

F: Yeah. Do you think most black students would go ? I know that's hard for you to say, it's just an opinion, you know.

J: Yeah. If they thought they were going to be accepted, I think they would, I mean, you know, just as, just another person, instead of as...well even if they was accepted as a Negro, I guess...

F: Um huh.

J: ...I mean...But most of them probably wouldn't want to go, because they would feel that, at first, that they were, you know---

F: Yeah, but why would they be invited if they weren't going to be accepted ?

J: Well see, one person can invite you, and the rest of the people---

F: I see.

J: ---like I was invited to something, uh, some kind of, you know, by one of the students, and uh, I didn't, I didn't...the reason I didn't go wasn't

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

J: because...uh...well it was somewhat because...uh...I mean I figured, you know, everybody didn't know that I was going to be coming, you know, only this guy probably.

F: Um huh. What kind of thing was it ?

J: It was some kind of religious meeting, some kind of religious meeting, but it was at a fraternity house, or something like that.

F: Um huh. But what about if, let's say, a fraternity, for instance, let's say invited all the black students on this campus to a party, do you think most people would like to go ? In other words so it wouldn't be an individual, there where the fraternity as a whole invited people over,...

J: Um huh.

F: ...you would go, and you think most of the people would go ?

J: Yes. I don't see any reason why they wouldn't. Not if the fraternity invited them.

F: Um huh. What kind of things do you think the university...could sponsor certain kinds of things...that would, you know, allow people to come together like that ?

J: I don't know how they would do it...because uh...if they just sponsored something it would automatically all be white. The students would just come, and---

F: Um huh. Well wh---

J: If they, they would have to figure out some way, kind of way to let the uh...Afro students know that uh...that they, you know, could come and be a part of it.

F: If you were...let's say, you know, they set up a program 'Queen for a Day' or something, if you could be like, you know, have all the power in here

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

F: ...for a day, however long it would take you, what kind of things would you organize, you know, because there are problems you know, I mean, you're saying that, "well if the university did something, the white students would come automatically." Well, how would you arrange it...if you had, you know, the power to do it ?

J: Hmm...o.k. They could...they could uh...Well, you mean some kind of social thing ?

F: Yeah, o.k.

J: Like a party or something ?

F: Um huh.

J: They can invite...if they invited both the Negro, uh, like singing groups or something...

F: Um huh.

J: Invited white singing groups too...mixed up, and then Negro students would have...would come, and the white students would come.

F: Yeah, I think that's a good idea. I think there's a uh, if you go in, let's say a restaurant that's predominately black, and there's a juke box in there, the music is, you know usually pretty different...But do you like, dig, like, other kinds of groups besides, let's say, 'Soul' and stuff too ?

J: Yes.

F: What other groups do you like ?

J: I like the uh... 'Classics Four', 'The Young Rascals', and well lots of more, like uh, like, I mean I'm just not...and then thought, like my brother---

F: Oh, you have a brother at school here ?

J: Not at here, at Santa Fe.

F: Um huh.

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

J: I mean, really since uh, like 'The Fifth Demension', it's kind of hard to tell. They aren't really 'Soul', but just uh, like I like now. They aren't, you know, really singing 'Soul', you know, but...

F: Um huh. They're black.

J: Yes, I know. And...

F: Then you would know, yeah, I think you're right, that you wouldn't know, just listening to what they're, they're not singing 'Typical Soul Music'. All right.

J: I'm kind of...I like a little of everything...in music.

F: Um huh. Yeah, that's what...oh, you're no through yet.

J: I don't know, sometime I like to listen to, particularly, I like to listen to that Dionne Warwick, and stuff like that, you know.

F: Um huh. No, I think she's great. She's one of my favorites. I mean, she's really good.

J: ---I---I listen to her, so you get tired of anything...

F: Yeah. right. So o.k., you'd have a party, and you'd have let's say, black group sing, and then let's say a white group. What else could you do, to sort of make it easier for black people and white people to feel more comfortable ?

J: Hmm...how do you mean ?

F: Well, I, I think that, you know, you said that uh, "Even if they had a function, a social function, that, you know, black students might not feel that they were accepted," you know, now let's say, we're playing this game, that you're, like, deciding everything, so what kind of things could we do to make a situation where black students would feel more accepted. I think it was a good idea to have, let's say, black music and white music,

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

F: ...you know, and...combination. What other kinds of things, you know, to bring people together ?

J: I don't know...there's hardly anything, I don't think there's anything you---that can, that you can do, to bring them together...actually...

F: Um huh.

J: There's certain, there's certain, like if you have a group like that, there're going to be certain people that are just going to get together, you know, and---

F: Yeah.

J: ---have fun, and there's going to be certain people that just not, you know, just like---you know, like they're going to...like certain white people are going to stick together---

F: Yeah, but that's true at any party, you know, there're cliques, and people do congregate---

J: Yeah, some of this stuff...uh, is uh, like...things aren't perfect within the Negro race., you know.

F: Sure.

J: Like...some of these things just aren't going to...some people are just going to be, you know...but...uh, but it's for different reasons, uh like---

F: But what...I think that, that's a really good incite, when you say, uh, let's say, not all black students get along together, well what...and you say there are reasons for that. What kind of reasons do you see separating black students from each other on this campus ?

J: Uh...well, I'm not sure, but my, my idea is on it...like...it could be that some people are just...I don't know, some people just don't like, just plain ol' don't like---

F: Black students ?

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

J: ---don't like other people. I mean, you know, people just don't...uh...  
certain people just don't appeal to them...

F: Um huh.

J: And, like that.

F: Black or white, they just like their own per---

J: That's right. There're white people that don't like other people, and---

F: Sure.

J: They just don't appeal to them, and they just won't...

F: Um huh.

J: And then, then there can be social barriers to some people, I mean, you  
know, they may think that they're, you know, have a little bit more going  
than you or something like that there, and they don't want to be bothered  
with you, something like that...

F: Can you think of anything specifically that would sort of...separate black  
students on this campus from each other?

J: Just like I said, just now, that's about one of the best...

F: Um huh.

J: You know---

F: Well what about---

J: Just sort of a social, uh, you know, everybody is trying to reach some  
kind of goal or something, you know, it generally...if you just don't, I  
don't know, some people just don't fit in with other people...

F: Yeah, that's always true I think. What about politically, you think certain  
students are more radical than others, and certain black students put down  
certain students for not being militant enough or something like that?  
You ever come in contact with anything like that?

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

J: Kind of....uh...kind of, yeah.

F: Um huh.

J: I don't think...well, I guess they would. They probably would.

F: How do you see yourself, politically, you know, on a continuum, do you think you're very satisfied with the way things are, or do you think you're militant, or radical, how would you sort of position yourself ?

J: I think I'm interchangeable.

F: Pardon me ?

J: I'm interchangeable. It all depends on the situation.

F: Um huh.

J: I can be militant, towards certain people, I mean---

F: What kind of things---

J: ---if I don't like the attitude I will...uh...I will feel militant towards them, but they---if I think they're all right...I know that there are some white people that, you know, who are just...try to...uh...they're just friendly, you know, because you're Negro, and that kind of thing. I kind of look into that stuff to a degree. I know there're some people who...I can tell that when people are sincere...most of the times, pretty, pretty good. And...

F: Um huh.

J: I look into that kind of stuff, and I try to be objective about things.

I try to...uh...judge people according to, you know, the way they al---really treat me, and so forth. I feel militant, and all that kind of stuff, but I don't, I don't condemn everybody.

F: Do you think there are people that do...sort of condemn everybody that way, let's say, because they're white ?

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

J: Umm...I'm sure, I'm sure there probably are some people...

F: Why do you think they do that ?

J: I'm not sure. I...well...I'm kind of sure...

F: Look---but---those are really...it's just opinions, I mean...that's...I want to find out what you feel about that, and what your idea is for what these other people feel. Go ahead.

J: Umm...Well, I guess th--they feel that all white people are just innately bad. They just feel like...I mean, it's kind of hard when you come into contact with certain people, like I have the same trouble myself. Sometimes I retreat, I retreat like that, because, I mean, you can...one person is like this here, you know, and then you meet another person, that's the extreme of that...

F: Um huh.

J: One person is good, and the other one is just the opposit. I don't know, you just..I don't know, it's easier for you to uh, to believe that, you know, everybody is the opposite of that, than to, it's kind of hard to uh,...

F: Well when you got the questionnaire...what did you think ?

J: I thought it was just something, something that just, uh, just another something that really...maybe wouldn't do ~~too much good~~.

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

J: Because I'm interested in...uh...because I'm...I think about things a lot of times.

F: Um huh.

J: Uh...I think about social things a lot of times, and I'm interested in... I was interested in the questions, and I wanted to answer them, you know.

F: Do you think that there will be people who won't fill them out ?

J: That wouldn't ?

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

F: Yeah.

J: Yeah, I figure, I at least figure there are a few people that wouldn't, that wouldn't immediately fill it out. They would just leave it to be around or something...

F: Why is that ?

J: Because they probably felt kind of the way I felt. I mean, like, you know, it really isn't going to do any good. It's not going to change the---change people. As long as you...I mean, it's...it's really a big problem, like all...I don't know, it's really going to---it'll really take something...to change all these people's attitudes.

F: How do you think we can ?

J: Uh...the best way would probably be to start in high school. Start teaching the chil---the kids different. Like they've got Black History, they're putting Black History in college, maybe they should...what they should do is integrate the Black History program in high school I think.

F: Um huh.

J: Instead of having, you know, showing Negroes, uh, American History, and what all the white people did they should....

RR-II-NN-GG

F: Excuse me. O.K. go ahead.

J: They should try to totally integrate the, uh, this is what I think you know, they should totally try to integrate the uh, the Black History, uh, Programs, so that, I mean, not just put, uh, something like George Washington Carver once in awhile, or something about Eli Whitney every once in awhile...

F: Um huh.

J: But really totally integrate the, uh, Black History Program so that the Negro students will have something to identify with, and white students will

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

J: have something to identify with, and also the white students will be able to respect Negroes, uh, for what they've done, uh, in this country, and they might...as the Negroes have been able to respect the whites for what they've done.

F: What about in all of your grades ? You said...

J: Yes, also, I mean, any...well, I don't know exactly how they teach it, and...

F: Um huh.

J: ...I, I can't say how they could do it.

F: Before you went to Duncan Fletcher, where did you go ?

J: I went to, uh, Douglas Anderson.

F: Where is that in Jacksonville ?

J: It's in South Jacksonville.

F: About where ? Oh, is that over by Phillips Highway ?

J: Yeah. Yeah, it's on the other side of Phillips Highway. Uh, on the East, East of Phillips Highway.

F: Right, but not too much East, it's just...

J: Not too much East.

F: Is that what they made the junior college.

J: Yes.

F: You went from Atlantic Beach to Douglas Anderson ?

J: Yes.

F: By bus. That's very interesting, as a---now all of a sudden they don't want to bus people.

J: Huh ?

F: Now all of a sudden people can't be bussed. How far is that about ?

J: About...20 miles I guess.

F: Each way ?

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

J: Yeah, from the beach.

F: How long would it---did it take you ?

J: Hmm...at least an hour.

F: Each way ?

J: I---well not---I don't know whether it would take an hour. Probably take, I don't know, 45 minutes or something---an hour, something like that.

F: Um huh. Can you think of any other changes that could be brought about to ...I think those are both excellent ideas about the history thing. How did you get along at Fletcher, as a black student ?

J: I don't know, I met some nice people, pretty nice people, not that many, not a whole lot of people. I just met a few nice people.

F: Um huh.

J: Real nice people.

F: Did you feel you were treated better there than you are here ?

J: At the university ?

F: Um huh. Yo---

J: Uh, yes. I enjoyed it there.

F: Why ? What kind of differences were there ?

J: I don't know, but in high school it was...I guess in college the people are, I don't know, they're really way out, way out; but the people in high school are just, I guess they feel closer together or something.

F: What do you mean, "Way out" ? I'm not familiar with what you're...

J: They're in the clouds, I mean, th---people walk with their...their, you know, their head in the air, looking down at the ground, something like that. They're not there---

F: You think the high school people communicate better, are closer together ?  
All right, I see.

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

J: I got to know some people therethat I'd like to see again...that type of thing.

F: Um huh.

J: I felt...more of a part of the school.

F: At Fletcher ? D---wer---yo---uh...did you participate in a lot of extra-carriculars at school ?

J: No I was just there for this year, and I was working also...

F: Um huh.

J: Trying to...at night I was working as a busboy, and I just didn't take time to...

F: Yeah. Would you like to be involved in some kind of extra-carriculars here, or do you feel you have the time ?

J: Hmmm...yeah, I started to, uh, join the track team, try to join the track team...

F: Um huh.

J: 'Cus---because one of the guys who stays where I stay, uh, he's in the tripple jump, but he's one---

F: What's his name ?

J: Grover Howard. And there's another one, uh, his last name is Bolique.

F: Um huh. Did you run track at Fletcher ?

J: No, I didn't do too much. My coach tried to get me to play football, an---but, uh, see, like the school was so far...I couldn't come to practice, where I wanted to play, but I couldn't come to practice, I mean, it would have been too much trouble. My brother tried to get me to get on, and he told me that the guy would, you know, uh, fix it up, you know, I guess...pay my whole fair or something...

F: Um huh.

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

J: ...you know, to come to practice, but I...I don't know, I just didn't want to be bothered I guess.

F: What's your best event in track? What event do you run?

J: Uh...me?

F: Um huh.

J: Nothing, but I was thinking about, uh, distance.

F: Have you ever done it before?

J: No, but I---

F: You just sort of feel that you'd be good at it?

J: Yes.

F: Um huh.

J: You know, I've, I've, you know, done some running, and I figured I can hold out pretty good.

F: Well what happened?

J: I don't know...after while I just, I just thought...let me think a minute...some reason, I just...

F: Well, that's not a very...ha, ha, that's not a fun thing to do, like seven miles a day, or whatever. I mean, it's a lot of hard work. But anything else?

J: Anything else that I'd like to be doing...or something?

F: Yeah, o.k.

J: I can't think of any organization on this cam---I don't even know that much about it.

F: Yeah, but as you said, this is your first quarter, so your probably going to find out more things.

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

J: But anyway, I wouldn't ju---I probably wouldn't join even if I could, even if I could get on things.

F: Why ?

J: Because some of the people just aren't, just aren't going to accept you, as a---

F: Join---you mean---you're talking about the track team, or are you talking about things in general ?

J: Anything. I would have joined the track team, but, I don't know, I just kind of...it's just a lot of running...

F: Um huh.

J: ...and stuff like that, so I just shried away from that, but like...I mean, I'll tell you, if I think, if I was, if I wanted to join some of the organizations around campus, I think, I think that if I had the qualifications, and...if uh...if I had the money, if I needed money, and everything, if I had, I think I could join most of the organizations. Well, some of them, I probably couldn't go into a fraternity row...if I tried...

F: Um huh.

J: I mean I don't know, but I would try...if I wanted to, but I just wouldn't, I wouldn't do it because...I wouldn't try because, I figure that...even if I did, and I figure that they probably would let me in, some of the fraternities might let me in, but what they're going to---the reason they're going to let me in is because of the Civil Rights Bill. They're going to say that, you know, "I mean we've got to let him in." And I think that's what a lot of the white students are saying around here, they got to let us in, but that doesn't mean that they've got to treat us like another...like they treat there other, like they treat the rest of the white people.

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

F: I think, you know, some fraternities might be a little different from others, there are some fraternities that have black brothers in them now. Did you know that ?

J: No.

F: Yeah, there are...that, that I think, you know, get along very well. And I, I...

J: Well, there's some people would because...

F: Yeah, but that's true...there're some white kids that feel like most people in the fraternities don't like them.

J: Yeah, but it's, it's a different thing though...

F: Oh yeah.

J: Like it's a different reason, I mean, they might dislike another person, a another white person for personal reasons...

F: Um huh.

J: They only dislike me because I'm black. That's the only difference.

F: Have you come into contact with anybody else that got this questionnaire ?

J: I haven't...I didn't ask anybody, no.

F: Um huh.

J: Have you received very many back ?

F: Quite a few. Yeah. I would like to receive all, you know, so I mean I've really enjoyed talking to you because this is the kind of thing that we find out. See, because we don't know...about people like you. We know, well certain people are all the time making speeches, and writing letters, and...but most black students, like most white students, just don't do very much, you know, except study, and so we want to get, you know, other people's ideas about what's happening.

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

F: Anything else that you feel you...you want to talk about ?

J: I think that the biggest, one of our biggest problems here is attitudes, white attitudes. I think about the biggest problem that we've got to do is change, is try to change the attitudes, because as long as they have the, as long as...they keep the attitude they've got, I mean most of the students, not all of them, I'm just talking in general...

F: Um huh.

J: With these attitudes things just aren't going to be right, because people just aren't going to like you, and there's always going to be discontent. As long as people...well, uh...that's one of the big problems. I think the best, one of the best...one of the best ways we can change the white attitude is by changing...in high school, some kind of way, trying to you know. Instead of, like, if they haven't followed...if they haven't changed the black...I mean the history programs in high school yet, I don't know anything about it, but I haven't been checking on it, but if they haven't changed, I don't...I think that's one of the most important places to start. Instead of turning out all of these people, still turning out all of these people every year...

F: Umh.

J: That only...I mean that don't know anything about it, you know, Black History and everything.

F: Are you taking any special Black Courses while you're here ?

J: No, I'm just taking Journalism Courses, and uh, uh, one, uh, Library Science Course.

F: How many hours are you taking ?

J: Twelve this quarter.

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

F: Are you working ?

J: No, I'm, I'm, I was working at the university. They're supposed to start me working next quarter.

F: What are you going to be doing ?

J: I don't know.

F: Who got you the job ?

J: Well, it's just going to be uh...some kind of student assistantship.

F: Um huh. But I mean, where did you apply for the job ?

J: Uh, Financial Aid Office, I guess.

F: Have you had any contact with the uh, Minority Affairs Office ?

J: No.

F: I see. Well, how, how do you get through school...as far as finances... mostly your parents ?

J: Well, I've been working part-time, at Santa Fe Junior College, the whole time, practically the whole time I was there.

F: What did you do for them ?

J: Well, I worked in the Materials Production Department.

F: Oh really ?

J: And I Xeroxed stuff, and ran the Mirrograph machine---mimiograph...

F: Um huh.

J: The uh...uh, I wish I could think of it...well all of those machines...

F: Yeah, I understand.

J: And then...and I just quit that job as I was coming over here...at the begining of the quarter.

F: But for...how are you studies coming, really, are you spending enough time ? Nobody ever spends quite enough ttime I don't think.

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

J: I think I'm spending enough time doing it.

F: Do the ques...

J: I mean...

F: Go ahead.

J: I'm not in any real danger I don't think, so...

F: Have you had any exams yet ?

J: Um huh.

F: How've you been doing ?

J: Well I passed one in one class, and the next one I didn't do so good on, and I think I could have passed it, but I didn't uh, I missed an essay. I don't know, uh, I wrote something on the wrong thing or something...

F: Um huh.

J: ...in one class, and uh, I'm doing all right in one of my courses, my writing course, and I could have had a 'B' average, but uh...she gave this hand, this thing with the course outline, I mean the assignments and stuff, and I hadn't looked at it, and uh, I passed my assignments in late, and she gave me a 'B-' on one assignment, and a 'B' on---A 'B+' on one, and then she subtracted 20 points, and that brought it down to 'C' point---I mean a 'C' average. I made, I had another paper, and I made uh, an 80, I had, first we wrote the paper, and she made all of us write it over again, and after I wrote it over, I mean first I made a 56 on it, a 50-something, 56, she made us all write it over, and I got...

F: Everybody in the class ?

J: Yeah.

F: Why is that ?

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

J: Uh, because we didn't write it, I mean this is a, well...the paper, I guess it was...most of them were too wordy or something like that, and she made us write it over.

F: Um huh. Are you planning on taking any special Black Courses ?

J: Huh ?

F: Were you planning on taking any special Black Courses ? They're having this special Black Literature Course, special Black History Course, and so forth; have you spoken to anyone about those ?

J: Not really.

F: Would you be interested in taking something like that ? Then you don't really know exactly what you want to do yet, as far as, you know, your occupation. Not for sure. Are you planning on stay---

J: I was...

F: Go ahead.

J: I was thinking about Journalism, Advertising.

F: Um huh.

F: Do you think you'll continue on here ?

J: Uh, yeah, I guess so.

F: Are you going to be here this summer ?

J: I might, If I can get a job I'll work, but if I don't get a job I'll go to school.

F: You mean in Jacksonville ?

J: Uh, I wanted to get a job maybe in Washington or somewhere.

F: Oh, out of town. Oh, I see. Well...I'm really glad you came back---forget that...

J: I think one of the biggest problems, is we need more Negro students---because like, it's, like I can walk all over this campus, and I might not see ten

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

- J: ...Negros, and this is wha---I think this is part of the reason why a lot of white students act the way they do, because, I mean, they don't even see that many of us, and when they do see one, I mean, you're just like a Martian or something, you, somebody strange, I mean they look at you funny, and all that kind of stuff, but if there were more Negros here, there would be more...Negros for whites, different, you know, for whites to come in contact with, and things would just change.
- F: But it's hard for white people to get used to being with black people, because if you spread black people...there just aren't enough.
- J: I know it. There's not, there's no, that's one of the biggest problems here.
- F: Um huh.
- J: Because now, I think that...if there was enough Negros here things would change a lot.
- F: Now how would you suggest getting more Negros here ?
- J: Umh...well I was thinking about it, doing it, with trying to star---started to do it, try to do something myself. Uh, and I decided to uh, I was going to, maybe write some letters to som---go to some of the high schools, get some names...
- F: Um huh.
- J: ...and write some letters, and really talk to them. Instead of talking to them in a real business manner...really tell them what the situation is, and, you know, uh, and uh, try to get some more students to come. Like that, go to high schools.
- F: You know, the Minority Affairs Office is working on that, and maybe you can get connected with them, because they are---do go out and visit schools, and talk to black students, try to encourage them to come.

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

F: So, now that might be a good idea for you, to get connected with them, and travel with them. Although you can do it individually, I'm sure. What about...why do you think black students don't come here for the most part ?

J: Because...because they figure that; number one, there isn't going to be an ...well number one I think would probably be, they figure that they're going to be...they're not going to be accepted, number one, next, that uh, there's no social life...

F: Um huh.

J: ...and, there's not much anyway, and they figure that...they figures a Negro student, a Negro student he doesn't have things to do, you know, and they're used to having things to do, and they don't have to worry about, you know, how people treat them, although all the Negros, like if I went to Florida A.&M. all the Negros there aren't going to fall all over you, and treat you nice, like that, I mean, but uh, but uh, you, but uh, there are going to be people th---you know, that you can associate with, and you know, have fun on a weekend...

F: Um huh.

J: And uh, uh...let me see, I forgot something I wanted to say...I forgot what I was going to say...something sort of important...well...

F: You were talking about why students don't come here...and you mentioned that some felt they couldn't go down, and some felt that the social life was just lacking so much here...

J: And...yes. Uh, th---the reason that, I mean, they aren't going there because they think everybody is going to fall all over them, but they're going there because...uh, they know that if...like if I walked by a person at Florida A.&M., and that person didn't speak to me, it's not because the person...uh...dislikes me because...if I was Negro.

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

F: Yeah. Excuse me just for a second...o.k. somebody got the phone. So it would be because a partial thing rather than...

J: It would be a personal thing rather than a racial thing.

F: Um huh.

J: Everybody's not going to treat you nice there, I mean, it would be better, but I don't think...

R-III-NN-G

F: Excuse me. Hello ? Uh, no he's not here...he should be in later on this afternoon...no, gee, I'm sorry, I, I sure can't tell you that. I don't really know his schedule this afternoon...Yes, uh huh, would you like to leave... um huh...

J: I'm the only Negro student most of my life...

F: Huh ?

J: I'm the only, that is, you know, I---know that the people would go there just because it, because it, uh, thought that people, that there would be that much difference, other than...that you've got a better social life.

F: Um huh.

J: And...let me think a minute.

F: Chances are you'll probably stay on here then ?

J: Yes. And uh...let me see what else I wanted to say. Yes, I have a friend who's going to Florida A.&M., and when I was th---I seen him, once, when I, uh, I went home once, and I seen him, and I mentioned that I was going to the University of Florida, and he...he didn't say too much about it, you know, he just, you know, I told him I was going to transfer from Santa Fe, and I was going to the university...

F: Um huh.

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

J: He didn't think too much of it, he didn't even...say anything to me.

F: Yeah. Do you think that students at A.&M. sort of resent black students that come here ?

J: Some of them probably do.

F: Why ?

J: Because uh...I don't know if they resent them...well, in a way...they would probably infer that you know, that you're trying to...let's see... that you think that maybe that black schools, that black schools aren't good enough, and...

F: Um huh.

J: ...that you're trying to get in, get in with the white people, you know.

F: Um huh.

J: Something like that.

F: Well, what's your answer to that ?

J: Uh...I think that I'm trying to...you know , I'm not trying to...I'm just trying to uh, I mean, like the white schools are better equiped and so forth, and they would---they...most of them are better, I mean physically.

F: Um huh.

J: And uh, uh, what we're trying to do is uh, you know, get it so the Negroes can go to any school that they want to go to, instead of having to go to Florida A.&M.

F: Exactly.

J: And uh, that's why I come her---I came to the University of Florida.

F: Um huh.

J: 'Cause I mean, I mean, I mean the trend of, this trend of Negroes going to all black schools is changing...

SUBJECT: JIMMIE JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: FREDRICK SHENKMAN

F: Um huh.

J: And I just...I mean, why, why go to a all black school, when uh, you know, that's, that's not going to last too long I don't think. I'm not sure.

F: Any last comments you want to make ? That's a good...I'll let you go.

COMMENT BY SHENKMAN: Student felt that after having been at an all white high school, to go to an all black university would be re-treating. Some of his friends that have gone to A.&M. resent his coming to the University of Florida, but he feels that it's not a question of trying to be white, but rather a question of trying to take advantage of better facilities, better faculty, better educational opportunity, at the university. Reiterated several times that to now, at this point, to go to an all black school, would deffinitely be some kind of regression, and feels the trend definitely is toward integrated schools, and blacks going to school with whites, and this is going to be the trend in the future.

END OF INTERVIEW