

24A  
BST

Emerson Thompson

F: Have you been here all your four yrs.

S: N<sup>o</sup> I finished my first 2 yrs. at Daytona

F: Why did you come here?

3 S: It was less expensive and I like a large school

F: Where are you from? How expensive is Beth<sup>un</sup>? *enum - Cookman.*

S: Jax. When I was there it was about 750 per semester? about 2000 per yr.

F: I had no idea that it was so expensive. Are there any scholarships avail.?

S: Right, scholarships, fin. aid, work study. It is a Methodist school. Daytona is a small town. I had planned to go to Washington, B..C. to Howard but I didnt get accepted until very late and I had already made plans and I couldnt afford to go outofstate and so I came here. I was a Fla residetn and it was inexpensive and it is close to home.

F: What did you think when you got the questi<sup>onnaire</sup>.?

S: The main reason that I sent the question. back was that the questions were resonable and that it is about time that someone did work on valid questions. See what the results are, I think that it will make it better for studetns who come later on. I was hoping that the resluts would be used for change.

F: What school did you go to in Jax.? Do you remem. any questions that you would have liked to add to?

S: not really I think that you could have gone to greater detail as to why stddents choose to come here.

f: Have you spoken to any othere studetns who got the question.?

S: My roommate; he filled it out

F: How many studetns do you think will sedd it back?

S: Most of the kids that I spoke to will

F: How do you feel since you have been here?

S: The first yrs. was very difficult, the second and third were pretty nice. When we first came there weren't many blacks here--especially the 1st 3 yrs. it was very difficult, The second yr. I met a guy who had the same interests that I did and i began to enjoy more freedom.

F: When you ~~xxxx~~ 1st got here you roomed blind--with a ~~black~~ *white?*

S: Right--we had a pretty good time

F: It seems that is really a point of contention

S: I was prepared for a hazzle--he didnt come until later than I did and I had just about made up my mind that there would be a hazzle.

F: Was ~~he~~ he a freshman?

6 S: No he was a soph--the same class. that I was--he was in journalism He showed me the tricks of the game that it takes some kids a quarter to learn--so I had a pretty good roommate--you learn the game. I wished i had been more relaxed--then I could have put out more than I did--I am much more relaxed with people now.

F: What about prejudice

S: He was from Miami; we never did talk about it--but there were some tidbits

F: Do you recall any?

S: Noot about racial things--but I borrowed his umbrella one day and he got caught in the rain.....and he left a little note on the door that he wanted his umbrella and I jumped on him and we divided the room in half

F: How are you doing in school.

S: Pretty well--much better than I was--pretty well. I got average grades, I could do better

F: How do you think most blacks do?

14 S: Initially C's and D's--some of the kids that I came with--some of them have very good grades the first two yrs. and then hit bottom in the jr. yr. because in the first two yrs. they dont have many ~~activities~~ *activities* and them.---

S; The first quatter I really studied and did well and that really ~~surprised~~ surprised some of my teachers from the way they looked.  
18 One of my insturstors in CSS said that blacks usually have trouble in political science

F: Most of the blacks that I have talked to mention the non-academic things zhat bother them--like no social life and if they dont have a date they are hung up which is pretty common among white students. What do you think about social things on this campus?

S: when I first came here I lead a pretty active social life--you begin to take more things for granted--likedates and you come here and it is completely changed--especially there are few girls here and there wasn't much to do with the girls in the black community. It takes time and I really din't have the time. At first we used to go home every other weekend

F: Did you come ~~xxx~~ here from Bethenum with several other studetns?

S: Only one and I knew several guys who lgraduated from my high school who were going here.  
It is sort of like a big brother attitude here now and I have found that freshman and soph studetns are more ~~so~~ outgoing now than they were and I dont think they have much trouble socializing.

F: Is there a lot of socializing with people off campus?

S: quite a bit--guys date off campus or date white girls  
When you first come here you are very clannish and it is no fun dating somebody in you r classes you see them everyday ~~an~~ unless you are serious. There isnt much stimulation for dating when someone is from the same grp. or very much like you--you know everything there is to know after a couple of dates. Same HS.--and then you dont see them for a white --and then they look~~e~~ them up on this campus anf for ~~1/~~ awhite they are socailly active but for black studetns and you get to know them--particularly if you stay in the same dorm ~~aces~~ <sup>aces</sup>--soyou take claesses together, see each other--there is no incetnive for dating there is nothing to find out. I guess a lot of guys want to be witha a new girls

F; One of the resaons giveem me that black girls are hard to get on this campus is that thdy feel the black guy is ~~threatening~~ <sup>threatening</sup> to them--intellectually

S: Is that right--no I couldn't that--threatening intellectual~~ly~~--no

F: Is that black girls are ;used to a matriarchy and they dont want the black guys to take over-- and obviously some Black guy at this campus would be that kind of threat?

S: I dont belive that--no crediablity at all--you get the attitude that you

S: And they are closer together it begins to become annoying--all the little day by day things. I don't see this repressed intellectual hostility. In fact I know guys who ask girls to help them with their studies--so I don't see that at all.

F: They said that girls would rather date local guys because they have cars,

S: I can see that and also a guy off-campus has a much wider range of activities. He knows the comm<sup>uni</sup>ty, the nightspots, he doesn't have to be rich but he takes you out to a night club...he is a member of the in crowd. The guys who came here at the beginning were interested in their studies more than anything else. I know that I was that way--I had to prove a point--and I really just didn't have the time for social affairs. If you start dating a girl you will have to call her--and what I call putting in time, you have to see her just generally shoot the breeze with her and this is standard operating procedure and I personally even now get very very annoyed with doing this and I imagine a guy off-campus is ~~challenged~~ challenged--he doesn't know this girl and she is ~~at~~ at the UF and many of the girls here are good looking and he can invest the time--dropping in on her unexpectedly. But it's no fun walking from Murphee to Jennings,

F: What about black white dating?

S: Some it goes on--not much.....I think that those who say that is the rule rather than the exception are exaggerating. Some guys date white girls soldy white girls--but these guys get around and what can I say. I know a couple of girls who dated white guys and a couple of guys who dated white girls and it gets to be a traumatic experience after a while. First, they start going through these changes--his interests all of a sudden change like walking a dog on campus on a chain--like most black students don't walk dogs on chains. Look on the Plaza of the Americas--and you will see more of them--and the more exotic the dog the better. Somebody to gross you out. Like we'll see you later, most black kids never say that. I asked him why he said that and he said he doesn't know. It is little things like that. They start criticizing black girls like maybe she is too loud or she shouldn't say this or that and girls notice these things. And if a guy is dating a white girl and there are black girls there he shows indifference. Why? Maybe because they have been repressed and haven't had as many chances to express themselves. Many things that a white guy takes for granted the black guy can't do. For example, if a white guy graduates with a B average, and has a favorable impression on the interviewer then he will get several job offers. Whereas until recently a black guy who had an above average would not get any offers--the female is tied very much into this--it is a form of conquest. And there is that certain mistake that white girls have about black guys and vice versa. So there is a great deal of discovery between

the two races.

f; K Why does he put down the blackgirls?

S: I dont think he does it intentionally--but in comparision the black girl suffers--I dont think that is a passing phenomea. Like in Baldwin, there is always a black guy who thinks that he has arrived but he doesnt actually until he has a white mistres or wife.....Like in Reconstruction, you will notice that the best black guys had white ~~wifess~~/ wives.

F: Talking about the new Black revolution--things have changed--<sup>pr</sup> might go beyond that change quickly. You can read about something 10 times and do it once and you will remember it better from doing it that once than reading about it 10 times.

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Even thou a person is aware of the past and the things that one goes thru, he has the attitude that it can never happen to me. . ~~W~~When you get near the lproblem--dating a white girl--you dont see how you are changing. You hav e ~~valid~~/ valid reasons but it is a cop-out.

It is naviee to thnik that if a good looking girl ~~wlaks wlaks wla~~ walks by that you wont get somekind of reaction--perhpas he should date white girls.--but that should<sup>be</sup> be his reasonfor living, but not that he cant stand black girls or understand them after t hat. What happens during that time is what is important--

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I used to tease-- my uncle told me about his, he graduated from colege and went to NYC and got maried and he told me about the black guys who come to NYC, first they cultivate a NY accetn--like they have been there 2 days and like wow and then they date black girls and the black girls intro. them to white girls and they date white girls-- white Jewish girls--and he told me but it didnt register because I was in a black HS and then I got here I bwgan to see a pattern--and here the first white girls that the black guys dated were in most cases Jewish Like we would be talking about whites and there would be a Jew sitting there and he would say dont talk~~if~~ about whites I am white too, ~~A/AN/~~ and we would say 'you're not white, you're Jewish.' But you're Jewish then you'r white and I guess that most black studetns look at this way. I remember when I told a guy that I still had my roommate, he said I bet he is Jewish and I said yeah, I guess the reason is thqt Jewish people have been oppresed and they are more aware <sup>of</sup> the problems. Most Jewish that I know dont try to hide it. I do know several girls who have had their noses changed.

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F: You made this statement, 'that dating a Jewish girl is a transition to dating a ~~real~~ white girl'  
*real*

S: Right, it is higher status to have a real white girls <sup>especially</sup> ~~especailly~~ a girl in a sorotori~~y~~. Jewish girls are like black girls, they are loud.

F: What about social things on this campus?

S: I thibk that every studetng goes thru a transition perios in which he questions why he is here

2 S: Like my uncle wanted me to go to Fisk and why didn't I and join a black frat and become a big man on campus and at times it is a big problem. Was it because I know the status for a black to grad from UF, more opport. for employ., and that I had gone here 4 yrs. and had no problems and this would show that I could blend with white people. It is very difficult to deter. Why you do something if you think about it you might say just because I wanted to but I was really ..... I started reading more especially black lit. And this whole idea of assimilation vs. separation, you begin to see patterns especially this hang up with Homosexuality (Baldwin) you really being to question in your own mind your motives and in most cases ..... ~~because~~ because there is a black cultural revolution and most of these things are thought

4 out for them and they can see how others solved their problems so this means that black students don't have that initial hang up so they can go in other activities and not worry about being swallowed up. or making mistakes. When I was around white girls, I was very conscious of making mistakes and it really did cause me a lot of trouble till I began to separate my thoughts. and saw how if any this was going to make a change on me. Most of the blacks who come here now were leaders in high school and they are very articulate and they voice their opinions as to the good points and the bad. They make themselves heard. They begin to feel that they can do anything they want to and not lose themselves. Like track, chorus, dorm act. I would like to see black kids involved in more activities. One of the reasons that I came here was ROTC, pe act. like handball,

F: Are you in the ~~Judo~~ judo club

4 S: I never did follow that up--when I was in the 10th grade--you can get pushed around--so I took Judo and after taking it--the guy who was teaching it was very wonderful person, The confidence you have, you can walk away from most things and not worry. I went here for white when I wanted to get in shape but I found that I had lost my basic interest. I play tennis, handball, running, swimming, this is one of the reasons that I came... the opport. you have to learn these skills are better here ....for \$60 you can jump out of a plan which doesn't sound too exciting but when you have it you are unique. There are so many things that you can do around here for little or no charge that most white kids take for granted more black kids should get involved--like student govt.--The guy who gets elected student pres. has to talk to people on a state and national level and he has to develop certain skills. Even the lower levels even if you don't succeed you get to know yourself a little better....doing things I think that kids should get involved in more things.

F: The picture you paint is very different from most black students.

S: Maybe because I am older.....I <sup>guess it is just</sup> just the kind of person that I am has something to do with it and I guess that I have gotten around a little more than other kids..

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S: Like this wasn't the first white-black relationship that I have ever been into and that didn't phase me. To say that UF is racist is begging the question--everywhere in the USA is racist including the great haven of NY--and I have some immensely interesting things happen to me in Manhattan. That is like stating an obvious fact.. I would say that the UF is beyond racist it is something a little more insidious and dangerous. Their way of life is threatened and it would be the same thing if there were a large no. of Mexican-Am. or Spanish-Am. or Chinese they might have it a little easier because--he doesn't think that you are carrying disease or are going to rape ever white woman you see--it is not that but that you threaten what they want to protect. Like when they started to integrate the school and all those good liberals withdrew their children you are getting to close to home....they don't dislike black kids it is just that they think their kids can grow more at their own speed somewhere else. To say that the country is fascist is accurate but you come from that point and you are going to miss some of the minute pts. and you will find that as you define a person as a racist you expect certain things from him ...Like O'Connell just because he can shake your hand because he learned a long time ago that it won't rub off--doesn't mean that he won't be insidious in his own ways.

F: How would you tell people to deal with the situation here?

S: What can I tell them. For ~~example~~ example, the Italians had a great culture. You say well, it is interesting to see the Pope and see what Michelangelo did but in this country they just don't have the financial, political machinery that we have and we can't accept you. And what you did across the sea is good but I am still on top Y so ..... What can I tell him that we had great leaders in the past and maybe he will out of the generosity of his heart accept me, work ~~at~~ hard and eventually you will be let in the great Mecca of Babylon, I don't buy that and it is really very difficult what to tell a person. I am very cynical. Actually I am being very derogatory because I think their ideas are naive. It is idealistic to say that you have washed your soul off the white ways.

F: Who are the leaders on this campus

S: Mitch Daschun, he operates on a very methodical method he does accept the predominately white view--I think that they respect him for his intellect and resources and other than that you are falling into a very common thing that most white people do--and the group of blacks is not a united group.

F: That is exactly what I think, but what I am trying to do--you ask the average white teacher and those are the only names he knows--Mitch Daschun Larry Jordan,.....

S: Well freshman and jr coll transfers tend to.....(end of the tape)

Sussann Brown

F: What were you before?

S: I was just working here and then I decided to take courses part time

F: Whyd did you come here to work?

S: First of all, this was one of the few places that I could get a job  
The field in chemistry--especially if you are a recent grad. it is sort  
of hard to find a job. When I got into the field of chemistry, I thgt.  
it was a wide open field and once you grad you wouldnt have any problems.

F: Where did you go to college?

S: Bethum-Cookman

F: ~~4~~ YRS?

S: No, the last 2 yrs.....that is a 4-yr coll.--it is private coll.....

ANOTHER VOICE

*Emerson Thompson (B)*

S: They tend to follow this person for awhile --like Mitch Dashun, Jesse James

F: Did you know Jesse James? that was a long time ago

S: YES, he was here when I started.. When you admire a person for the things  
that he represents--and there is no one around to listen to us and.....  
if they come together for any point it would be because they believe that  
this person is so dynamic but because they believe the pt. is valid..  
Like I remember the anniversary of the Supreme court decision and kids  
came together not because they had a dynamic leader but because they  
thgt. that the pt. was imp. to their past. They think for themselves  
they dont follow anyone's nose. I got to lead my people this way --many  
people say there is dissention, it is not dissention but that;the people  
are not monotholic they will come together but they will not be shaped into  
a mass and be catalogued. I will tell a story about a girl I know from Jax.  
who is a freshman and she told me about some commenst that had been made in  
class, they say something about the racial problem and she told them about  
how things were in the ghetto. Most of it was accurate; but I happen to  
know here she lives in a split level pad and her family has 2 caes, the  
closest things that she had been to the ghetto was in Gainesville, but they  
were absorbing it like they were getting the word, it is like  
watching t.v. and taking a cold shower.....Amish people are moving  
into the area and the cows die ~~and~~ etc and they blame the Amish people  
and ~~then~~ then they find out that it was an error and what they do--go  
home and pray and then pay the Amish for the damages done to their home  
and this waht whites do--they pay to have their consciences salved.  
When white people ask me to tell ~~what~~ what my problem is I say' which way  
do you want me to come--I have 3 speeches I can give, the conservative  
speech in which I will work to integrate into the society, the radical speech  
in which I tell about the oppression for the many yrs., or I can give the  
middle of the road..... I am very serious.....I havent decided

F: IS that a cop-out

7 S: No, I haven't decided.....Like integration of the schools, whenever a school is phased out it is a black school ~~is~~, like with black educators, like there are good black educators but you dont want them teaching your children

F: What happened to all the good black schools?

S: IN 1927, Harvard made a study of the black schools in Am and he said that they weren't any good and people screamed and thy screamed loud and it is interesting thing the norms and evaluations you just dont have and this was a fairly liberal guy. I try to get information, and think

F: Are you invilved with any organizations at UF

S: ROTC, I could never join a frat

9 S: Guys who have been in the army for 30 yrs ~~know~~ are the greatest goof-oofs ever--they know what it is all about--that the army is ~~is~~ not a machine marching across Eurppe to protect the homeland....they put in 8-5 and go home to their wives and forget it. This is radically different from the guy who when you first go to class says I dont like people missing my class, dont come late to my tests....he wants to break you.....people say that ROTC gives structure and I am saying there are certain things that you can do and certain things that you cant....it is not completely authoritarian, but some of them you dont cross and live to tell about it. I found that I had many political science teachers who are much more authoritarian and dictatorial than officers in the cadre over here, primarily because they dont have anything to prove and they are dealing with a selected grp. of guys who are out there because he want to be. KAnd if he is indifferent or something, they send him a letter saying that maybe ROTC is not for you. When those guys take off their uniforms you cant tell them from adam, they are going around defending the policy of this country in fact many of them are thinking men. Ask students who good teachers are, and they will invariably tell you wrong.

F: Dont you think that there are people that you can trust more than others?

S: No, I know one guy--it depends on what you want out of the course--HE is a PHI Beta Kappa member and he says there is not such a thing ~~is~~ as a good teacher. Like he said I guess the things that I want I bet and the other--it is up to me. Like the average student wants to be entertained Like Prof. Battley(?) I think he is the worst prof and should be gotten rid off he lectures from notes 5 yrs.--he puts on a good show--he has 400 students 4 times a week --he cant help but win.

S: Things to do on campus is very limited and night life is .....once I leave work I am beat and I have to go home and study a couple hrs. that is my leisure time I dont have any

F: Socially what do you do in Gainesville?

4 S: Bowling, go to the movies there isn't anything else to do that I like to do AS far as clubbing I have gone to the University Inn once and the Village Gate that is it. Usually I go home to Ocala My boyfriend lives in Ocala. When I was dating on campus--a couple of grad student I was dating-- the only place we went were bowling to movies or friends houses for coffee But I havent dated anybody but Frank for a long time I wouldnt have gone even if I were asked because the guy that I am engaged to I have been going with a long time and I wasn't interested in anybody else. If I werent engaged and there was a white guy who asked me for a date, I would probably go--I dont see anything wrong with it. As far as most black people they dont feel that way maybe deep down, I dont know

F: How do they feel?

S: That they wouldn't date one for nothing in the world. But if the guy is nice, he likes me, and we go somewhere interesting, I dont see anything wrong with it, If you want to suffer the consequences of what your friends say--those that are extremely radical but as far as my family they would accept it if that was what I wanted but most of my friends they would go for it

F: I have heard that a lot of black guys date white girls have you heard that?

S: I dont know from personal experience because I dont know anyone but I have heard guys say that they have dated white chicks and it is probably true. I guess they want to keep all the black girls for themselves.. IF I werent' engaged I probably would date white guys.

F: Do you resent black guys dating white girls.

S: Not as long as my guy doesnt--date anybody Not just white, white anybody, take my brother for instance he can date whom he pleases I think right now he has a couple of white girlfriends in HS

F: How are you going in school?

S: When you take a few courses you dont get an average....I took one course and got a C, Dr Norall teaches it, and another I got a B and the philo. course that I am taking I am doing good in it. All the courses I take are 300 or above because anything under that doesnt count.

18 S: The only reason that I got a C in the Botany course was that I keep goofing off and waiting till the las min. to sudy but I dont find the courses ~~hard~~ I dont mind studying, if you can get the material you can get it hard, and and if you cant you cant but I dont have any trouble

F: Do you feel that there is any difference between herde and Bethuen

19 S: Well there I could about tell what the questions were going to be ~~fff~~ but like in that courses I got a C in I couldnt tell what He was going to ask and when I first came here I had to adjust to a new job and a new academic enviroment and I ~~dropp~~ dropped a course CY511 because it was getting the better of me but I am going to pick it up in the summer. I am a b student.

F: Do you feel that teacheres act any different because you are black?

9 S: I dont feel that I am treated any different but I guess it is my attitude I didnt expect the teacher to act any different toward me and treat me as a student....usually 2 blacks to 35 whites. I havent seen any difference--they seem eager to help me if I have a problem but no more eager than to help any other studetn if they asked

4 S: Some speak and other dont but that is the way it is everywhere

F: Do studen<sup>ts</sup> have a different attitude?

S: One incident I can think off--in a core of education class we had a disc. and there was one part. questiona asked and this white girl answered this question I told here 'I dont think that is right--tthe question was , we were analyzing a teacher and she had adm. to rank her and she had a rawdy class and she couldnt teach the studetns anything academic so set out to teach them about etiquette and when she went to the principla he wouldnt hepl her and the girl said that she was looking the ~~fb~~ the easy way out and I disagreed I said that if she couldnt teach them anything academic then she should try to teach them etiquette because everything isnt found in a book and she rolled here eyes and I dont know ~~xxxx~~ whether she rresented a black person telling her something or whether she just didnt like being told that she was wrong. But other than that ....no other kThe way that peopl look.....like thy think that black people dont think and I am very talkative especially when the teacher aska a question.... some people dont think that blacks can think or walk or talk and they are amazed and some how surprized whenl voice an intelligent ~~pb opinion~~

*opinion*

BS: Most students dont want to get involved with black studetnts they would rather go by heresay. It is my nature to be friendly unless I had pushed too far. Most Negroes--blacks--they resethn the term Negro they even there are 2 different typees-Negro and black-- I dont know..

F: What about with the ~~xxxxxxx~~ secretaries?

9 S: I was discriminated against when I first came here. I applied for a post. aasa technician and I came here form Clearmont(?) for an interview I forgot the Dr.s name but I he told me htat he would call me in 2 days and when the 2 days passed and he didn't call me I called him and H;s sec. an. and she talked to him but he wouldnt come to the phone and she told me that I didn't get the job and I asked why and she said that I didn't have enough chem. but the job only paid 5300 and You cant hire someone with a Master degree for that salary and I told here so and then I came for another interview and everyone seemed very nice . This was in the soilk dept where I work now . And they sent me a condolence card when my fathere died and I haad only been wriking there for ab olt 3 months.

F: You mentioned about black, Negro and colored--what are you?

S: That is a good question because even I am confused about the terms. The way it is beeing said now. I am definately not colored, ~~why~~ it has not meaning everybody can be colored-white is a color I guess some of the black studetns on this campus would call me a Negro becaues I dont have the violent view they have and I dont wear an Afro

F: What do you think?

7 S: Accoding to sharing the traditions and contributing to black American-- I am a black person I am not denying that that my native home is in Africa because I dont wear an Afro. Helpin the blacks get ahead is something to st rive for--like wroking for the Univ. and even thou it is not something to be proud of it is an achievement. This is one way of exhibiting proud in being a black person I could be walking the streets or have a house full of illegimate kids and be wearing an Afro but that doesnt mena that I have it in my heart.... and if I thgt. that I looked better eith an Afro I would wear one.

S: When I wash my hair it is almost like having an Afro, unless I go to the beauty shop i could easily wear an Afro but I dont look better with one. The people that I respect and that respect me dont think that I look better with one .

S: I dont resent blacks calling me Negro--I ask them how they know what I am usually there is no answer. or why dont you wear an Afro/ I say that i dont look good with an afro and that is why I dont wear one.

F: Malcohm X said that it is better to be black insides and processed outside than processed inside and black outside.

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S: True I dont care what they call me Like on the job for instance I know what I am doing is right, I ask my prof over me to let me leave early, so sometimes I leave at 4 and when I go out there are remarks "sussanna you're leaving early." and I say 'Care to go with me' I dont care what they say; I know that I am doing my job right.. When I got engaged they tgggt that was funny becuaset they dont think that Negroes get engageds I got a ring, and I am pregnant I dont have to get married, they couldnt' belive it and when I said that I might go to the Bahamas for my honey moon they had never of that....I do have a nice ring....and one girl in the lab who just got married she said ' Your rign sort of looks better than mine' Isaid I'm glad you realized it too. It is sort of funny because they dont think Megros can do the same things that whites can do.