

Interview with Jay Reed
5 November 1989
Interviewed by Chris Koehler

Chris Koehler (CK): It's November 5th, about 3:30 in the afternoon. Okay, what's your name?

Jay Reed (JR): Jay Erica Reed.

CK: Okay, and you were born in?

JR: Mobile, Alabama.

CK: Really?

JR: Yeah.

CK: What's your birthday?

JR: 11/6/67, my birthday is tomorrow.

CK: Alright. When did you move to Detroit?

JR: When I was 6, 1970. Thanksgiving weekend.

CK: Do you have any hobbies?

JR: Reading, besides gardening.

CK: Gardening, that's cool.

JR: I like making decorating, floral arrangements, traveling, eating, and cooking. [Laughter].

CK: [Laughter]. Okay. What radio stations did you listen to when you were down in Detroit?

JR: WJLP, WJZZ, WHQT, something like that It's 1400 AM, 1440 AM.

CK: I listen to all the rock and roll stations.

JR: I might listen to WHPT. Because that's one of the black community radio stations. WDET, I listen to the the access public radio.

CK: Yeah, they've got some good jazz on there sometimes. Do you ever go to see a pitch?

JR: The occasional one that was in our neighborhood.

CK: What other bars do you go to when you're down there?

JR: In Detroit? Nothing really, I don't go to bars very often. I go to Floyds sometimes. Just I haven't been to Detroit in such a long time I can't remember.

CK: Where do you go up here?

JR: Up here? I go to Spankeys, if I go anywhere to drink I go there. I don't go out.

CK: Yeah.

JR: There's no place for me to go really, I don't like bars. I'm just not much of a drinker, and standing around with drunk people in bars...

CK: Getting abused.

JR: Right. The only place to go in Marquette to go dance is the Alibi and Spankeys and I refuse to go to the Alibi.

CK: [Laughs] I can see that. What school did you go to before you came to Northern?

JR: My high school was Cass Catholic Technical High School in Detroit.

CK: What about middle school and elementary?

JR: Oh a million of them.

CK: Were they all Detroit?

JR: Yeah, well no one is in Alabama when I went to school in Alabama, the rest were in Detroit
_____.

CK: Oh did ya, your grandparents are down there?

JR: Yeah.

CK: Are they still alive?

JR: My maternal grandmother is and my paternal grandparents both of them are, and my great grandmother, my dad's grandmother, are still alive.

CK: Oh, so you're gonna live a long time [laughter].

JR: And my grandmother is 80.

CK: Wow.

JR: My mom's mom, and her dad was like 70 something, like pushing 70, when she was born.

CK: Jeez, wow.

JR: And then they had another one after her. Her and then she has a twin sister, and then about a year after the twins my grandmother had another baby.

CK: Wow.

JR: So my granddad was real old.

CK: What jobs have you had?

JR: I beg your pardon?

CK: What jobs have you had?

JR: Jobs? Telemarketing, salesperson, counselors, peer assistant, tutor.

CK: Up here? Where all these up here?

JR: Yeah. Up here. Tutor, I went to Baskin Robbins one summer.

CK: Where?

JR: In Detroit.

CK: Which one?

JR: On Wyoming. I worked at, in the language lab the Foreign Language Lab here on campus. I worked in maintenance for about a week, one time. It was over in guest housing and I was cleaning up the guest rooms. Which would have been okay with me, I didn't mind the work, it was just that it was like 7 o'clock on a Saturday morning. That didn't last long at all.

CK: So that's your worst job that you've ever had?

JR: I think, yeah probably because I didn't get anything out of it. I was a camp counselor one summer, the summer before I came here in fact. I really enjoyed being a counselor. It was for you know mentally handicap children and I really enjoyed that. But the people that I worked with were just really crazy, I couldn't stand it.

CK: Was it up here?

JR: Not it was in Detroit, near Ann Arbor.

CK: What was the best job you've ever had? So that was the worst, being a counselor, camp counselor?

JR: Yeah.

CK: What was the best job ever?

JR: I don't haven't really have a best job yet. Nothing that I've really liked more than anything else.

CK: I worked a summer for _____ that was my favorite time, got to drive the trucks around campus.

JR: That sounds like fun!

CK: I always wanted a truck, and I didn't even have to pay for gas.

JR: You don't really get to go anywhere either.

CK: Well yeah, it's still fun driving a big truck.

JR: Okay.

CK: It was good for my ego, it's a toy.

JR: I think here at Northern my favorite job was last summer, the summer of '88, I worked for Minority Student Services, I was the editor for the magazine.

CK: A campus magazine?

JR: Yeah, I really liked that.

CK: Was it just for minority students?

JR: Not, it went to a lot of different people, administrators and stuff. It was, everybody in there was a minority student. That's what we _____ most administrators see that.

CK: Oh so it was mainly for, so the administrator see what life was like?

JR: No, they just got it because they just worked in the office and there would be like complimentary copies and you know sometimes they contributes articles and stuff for it. So it was like a goodwill gesture to give it to them. But it was directed mainly at minority students here, actually it's not minority students it's just black students here. And yeah, this is probably messing up your thing. Chris just confiscated my thing. [Laughs]. And for recruitment to send to black students where we're recruiting at so we can get them up here.

CK: That's cool. Okay, now your family. Your grandparents are still alive we already talked about that. What do your grandparents do for their job?

JR: My grandparents?

CK: I mean what did they do you know in their lives?

JR: My dad's mom was a nurse, or is a nurse. Has she retired yet? I don't know if she's retired yet. If she hasn't she should be retiring soon. Her husband, my grandfather, was a construction worker, worked construction. He's retired now. My mother's mom, she worked with the family business, but she never had an outside job.

CK: What was the family business?

JR: Real estate. My grandfather owned a lot of property in the area, they also had a bar, and she ran the bar and kept the books. You know how women back then, they did everything you know. Ran the bar, raised the kids, kept up the farm, she kept the books for all the property and going through the rents and stuff like that. Some of it was just vacant land, fields and stuff. They made a lot of money off of it when the highway came through.

CK: Oh wow.

JR: Yeah it goes through a lot of our property.

CK: Sold it like to gas stations and stuff?

JR: No it's not...

CK: Not developed?

JR: It's residential. You have to know Alabama, it big pretty houses right next to a 6 lane highway.

CK: And this is all in Mobile?

JR: No it's in Mobile County, our town is called Mount Vernon.

CK: Your town? [Laughter].

JR: It's about 27 miles outside of Mobile.

CK: Do you go back often?

JR: When I was a child I went every summer, spent 4 months of every year there. As soon as school got out and till right before school started.

CK: Pace of life is a lot slower down there?

JR: Oh god yes, much slower.

CK: Guess it's safer.

JR: Yeah, for the most the part. They've got you know problems too. They've got theft, they've got drugs, they've got you know crazies running around. Compared to Detroit, it's much slower.

CK: What kinds of educations do your grandparents have?

JR: My grandparents?

CK: Because my grandpa, I think he's got an 8th grade education.

JR: My grandmother has an 8th grade education. My father's parents, I really have no idea. Well my grandma is a registered nurse so she had to have, but back then you could have probably did that out of 8th grade.

CK: What kind of education do your parents have?

JR: My dad has his masters of administration, he's a teacher.

CK: He's a teacher. Does he work for Detroit Public Schools?

JR: He lives in Alabama.

CK: Oh! Your parents are divorced?

JR: Yes.

CK: I'm sorry about that.

JR: _____. Yeah, he's a teacher down there, and my mother she had two years of college and then she had me. That ended that.

CK: Accidents happen. What is your, is your mom married again?

JR: Well she's engaged.

CK: Oh she's engaged.

JR: She's getting married sometime this year.

CK: So she's been single since she's been up here. What does she do?

JR: She works for General Motors.

CK: Oh does she really? What department?

JR: Design styles, stuff like that.

CK: Is that what she studied in school?

JR: No, she studied history like me.

CK: Oh really?

JR: Yeah she just got the job, you know because she worked at GM in one of the plants before. She was laid off and then when the economy got back, they got her there. And it was really luck, I don't know if maybe she knew somebody or something.

CK: How long have your parents been divorced?

JR: Since I was three.

CK: Mine have been divorced since high school.

JR: It's harder on older kids then it was one me.

CK: Yeah I was a basket case.

JR: I'm sure.

CK: Do they get along?

JR: Yeah they get along well.

CK: So you went to visit your dad too when you went down for the summers?

JR: Yeah, I usually stayed with my grandmother but I did go visit my father. He was a man, he didn't have time for a four years old running around. Plus I had all my cousins at my grandmothers.

CK: Oh you have a big extended family down there.

JR: Yeah.

CK: Are they very close then?

JR: Yeah, pretty close. It's sort of like a family compound. Well two different because my dad's town is about 20 minutes from my grandmother's town. So I jot going from one family to the

other when I'm down there. What was I saying, about the extended family yeah? My grandmother, my mom's mother had 13 kids. About 6 of them live down there, or 7 now. The other 6 live up here. So when I'm down there, there are a lot of cousins and stuff. Out of 13 kids there are only 2 only children. Me and my cousin Louis and so happen to be the oldest cousins.

CK: Do you have much of a family, extended family, up here?

JR: In Detroit?

CK: Yeah, do you have relatives up here besides your mom.

JR: Yeah, the other 5 kids. 6 or 7 of the kids came up here when I was young.

CK: You have 6 or 7 brothers and sisters?

JR: No, you said extended family.

CK: Oh so part of the family moved up here to Detroit?

JR: Yeah, half the family stayed down there and half the family came to Detroit.

CK: Oh wow. So you have a winter home and a summer home? [Laughter].

JR: [Laughter] sort of, yeah I guess.

CK: Okay, and I asked you about your dad. Do you have any brothers and sisters, you're an only child?

JR: By my mom yeah, my dad has three sons.

CK: Do you see your brothers much?

JR: When I go down there yeah.

CK: What do they do? What are they doing now?

JR: My older brother is in college, goes to Selma University, Selma College in Selma, Alabama. Which was interesting, a pretty well-known black college. That's where the Selma March was from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery, Alabama with Martin Luther King.

CK: Oh wow.

JR: Yeah, then I have brother who is about 13, so he's a 13 years old. Then I've got a baby brother who just turned 5.

CK: Yeah, I was in 6th grade when my sister was born, it's interesting.

JR: I was a senior in high school.

CK: I was a professional diaper changer by 7th grade.

JR: Yeah. I ain't never gotten too much of that since he lives in Alabama and I live here.

CK: Do you have any famous relatives?

JR: No.

CK: You told me one of your uncles was a judge?

JR: Yeah, in Detroit but I wouldn't call him famous. I guess he's locally known.

CK: Is he a federal judge?

JR: No.

CK: State judge?

JR: Yeah I guess.

CK: What court?

JR: Records court, he was appointed by the governor so that makes him a state judge.

CK: Oh really?

JR: It's not district court or anything like that.

CK: What did he do before he was a judge?

JR: He was a lawyer.

CK: He was a lawyer. [Laughter]. Private lawyer? Defense? What kind of law did he do?

JR: Defense I suppose, since he's in criminal law.

CK: Do you have any black sheep in the family?

JR: Oh, I've got tons of them.

CK: [Laughter]. Really?

JR: Yeah, but they're not really black sheep you know, we accept them. Our family goes from one end of the socioeconomic spectrum to the other. One's a judge, some are just middle of the road families.

CK: So they're the most, where do they live.

JR: In Sherwood Forest.

CK: Is that in Detroit? That's on the west side right?

JR: Yes, the black part.

CK: Not the east side. I mean I've heard of it, it's like Indian Village, it's one of those type places. And there's like Lafayette Park.

JR: Lafayette Park is nice.

CK: What's the, there's one other one.

JR: Palmer Woods.

CK: Palmer Woods yeah that's it. That's on the west side too kind of?

JR: Yeah, they're right next to each other. You can kind of cross back between the two. It's a really nice area, you should go over there the houses are really nice.

CK: Yeah, when I did landscaping, I did a lot of landscaping in Grosse Pointe and I had some jobs in Indian Village too. I worked all summer for someone, and they built up like a \$600 bill and they screwed me. I sued them, and it's like everything in his wife name, I did all the contracts with him. So I was out 600 bucks. Politics, new topic. Who'd you vote for for president?

JR: I was in France.

CK: Oh who'd _____.

JR: You're a republican ain't you?

CK: Definitely. What do you think of Bush, he win?

JR: Yeah, he seems pretty windy to me.

CK: Do you like anything he's doing? I mean there's stuff that you might think, you know he's doing okay and stuff that he's not doing okay. Do you have anything that sticks out that you think he is doing just okay?

JR: What is he even doing? I can't think of anything that he's really done. Everything seems to just be floating. I haven't noticed any big changes.

CK: Is there anything that he's doing that you think is really wrong besides this floating? I mean is there any actions that he's taken that you think are really stupid?

JR: I think the floating is bad enough. I think he should come up, coming up under the Regan Administration, you know he changed a lot for the people. I mean he's trying to assert himself and stuff. People still recognize, like when I was in France people recognized Regan as our president still, they didn't even think about Bush. Do you know what I'm saying? He doesn't have the authority, you know he's got it legally but he just doesn't agree.

CK: Abortion?

JR: I've very pro-choice.

CK: Alright. How about, okay would you agree with this statement that you know having an abortion is a bad thing to have? I mean that's not like something someone wants to have.

JR: Yeah, I agree with that. No woman wants to have abortion, no one would get pregnant on purpose so they could have an abortion.

CK: How about, what about these parental consent laws?

JR: I don't think it's good. No because, well I don't know, some cases it is, but there are a lot of girls that really can't go to their parents. You know I mean, they really just can't go to their parents they don't have that type of relationship. Now me, I could go to my mother and she would give me all the support I needed. But a lot of girls can't, I mean a lot of girls don't have that type of relationship with their mothers, and especially not with their fathers. I wouldn't think anyway, I can see, I would go to my mother before I would go to my father.

CK: So you would turn in favor, because that's what they're debating about in the United States.

JR: Then they've got it where they want, in some cases, this might just be in certain states. Where a girl has to get permission from both parents, even if they're divorced even if she has nothing do to with the father.

CK: Here it's just they need the permission from one.

JR; Yeah. I'm against it because why? What's the point? A lot parents will make the girl keep the baby that she doesn't want.

CK: What do you think about what's going on Eastern Europe? Poland, East Germany?

JR: Yeah, I think it's good though.

CK: What do you think's gonna happen? You think they'll crack down? Think they'll backslide?

JR: No, I don't think so. There's always one step back for every two steps forward, it's not going to be overnight. I don't think that a lot of, I mean what we're getting is just propaganda. We never see it the way it really is. We get what the United States wants us to see. Well first of all we get what their country wants the United States to see, then we get what the United States wants us to see. It's a trickle down version.

CK: You're a history major.

JR: Yeah.

CK: You think Germany will ever become united again?

JR: No, not really. I guess, they could. I mean one day maybe. I don't think we'll ever see it in our future.

CK: We could.

JR: I never really thought about it.

CK: I'm German.

JR: Are you? I think it could...

CK: Completely.

JR: For my sentimental aspect I think it would be really good.

CK: My mom still has her Green Card and my dad came over when he was 8.

JR: Really, wow so you want to see it united.

CK: I don't think France will like it.

JR: I know France won't like it.

CK: They'll be the biggest obstacle.

JR: Yeah, and see you gotta think that I'm coming from a French perspective too. All the things I heard about it I heard it over there. I'd still like to see it.

CK: What did you hear over there about it? About Germany becoming united?

JR: That it wouldn't happen, that's all.

CK: Are they afraid of it you think?

JR: The people I talked to were. But I was talking to college students, they usually are a lot more political.

CK: Are they anti-German?

JR: My friends weren't, in fact a lot of them liked Germany a lot, and would go to Germany a lot for vacations and would get really frustrated too. You know West Germany is really Americanized.

CK: Are people talking a lot about 1992 over there?

JR: Yeah, a lot. A lot, they're really looking forward to it with their economy and everything. They really think Americans hate it. Which is not new.

CK: Yeah, they say that we might be shut out from the market.

JR: Yeah.

CK: They've been putting up a lot of barriers. It's good for Europe but terrible for us.

JR: The way that I see it that the United States just has to get on it themselves and you know get in there. You know it's open, and it could either be a bad thing for us or it could be a great opportunity for us it depends on how you look at it. Me personally, I plan on making it an excellence opportunity for me. You know French and English are the official languages of languages of Europe in '92 and I speak both. So, and that's why I speak both. I've been trying to learn German too.

CK: Are you going to go back to Europe?

JR: Yes, as soon as I can. Soon as I can find a job over there.

CK: Think of American Express, General Motors, Ford?

JR: Yeah, actually I'm going to be interviewing with Clinique next week.

CK: How long is that?

JR: Clinique.

CK: Oh it's just a...

JR: I think so, I don't know. I went, this is a great story. I went into Franny's the other night with my boyfriend, my boyfriend just came to visit me from Turkey and we went in there to get him some stuff, and we were at the Clinique counter.

CK: Is that the person that I saw you with at Econo Foods?

JR: No, that was just a friend. So we went, you know we find the stuff and we were talking to the girl, the sales girl, and I knew the product line really good because I've used Clinique for years. She was like "you should work here," and I was like "oh thanks." She was like "no I'm serious, you should try to get a job here because I'll be quitting on the 11th." And I was like oh maybe. So the next day I came back and filled out an application there.

CK: Here at Franny's?

JR: Yeah.

CK: That's cool.

JR: I filled out an application and I just asked by chance if the manager was there and if I could speak to her. And she interviewed me right then, the manager, and then the second floor manager interviewed me. You know I guess if hadn't done well on the first one that wouldn't have given me a second. And now they're going to have me interviewed by Clinique because Clinique interviews their own people individually, you know there sales people. So even though I'm working to be on the floor, it's a plan B. I'm going to do the interview with Clinique and save my money, I think that I'll make more money than regular sales person too.

CK: That's cool.

JR: So I'm going to try to stick with Clinique for a while.

CK: That's good. Okay, how about back into politics. How about Young and Barrow?

JR: Um, yeah Young's gonna win. Barrow doesn't have the strength.

CK: Some people say he's an Oreo.

JR: Yeah, I've hear that too. He lives right behind me.

CK: Does he?

JR: Yeah, my patio looks at his patio.

CK: Oh wow.

JR: I look, when the sliding door is open I look straight into his house.

CK: Do you think that label is his weakness?

JR: Well I don't know if he's an Oreo or not, I think that it's just, that's just something that people say. People have said it about Young before too. Not that's he's an Oreo but that he's kissing up to white people and stuff like because a lot of his power structure, his power base, is from white people. From Conyers and Lance Fischer. They've got the power in Detroit, the economic power, so why shouldn't Young have it? And Barrow's trying to get his own power base. It's not going to be Fischer and Tubman that's for sure, so he's getting it from someone else.

CK: Tubman's from Troy though? That's where all this money is going.

JR: I mean out of anywhere in the metro area.

CK: Do you think when Colman retired Barrow will?

JR: I don't think so.

CK: You don't think he ever has a chance period?

JR: I don't think so. Well because first of all this will be the second election that he's lost and that's really bad for a political candidate you know to keep losing the same election. It shows we don't want him. Actually I think Conyers would have had a good chance if he had gotten into the race early and you know kept his race together, kept his campaign together.

CK: You don't think he's too radical?

JR: No. I'm probably pretty radical myself.

CK: I mean, yeah okay that's what I'm trying to find out. I'm trying to find out if you think, would people say "well he might be too radical."

JR: Radical how?

CK: Make things worse, turn off a lot of people.

JR: Radical how? See I missed all of that, I wasn't here.

CK: Well because he's, wasn't he part of the, he was with some really radical activist group from Florida wasn't he? Like the Muslims or something.

JR: Black Panthers?

CK: Yeah, that's it. Wasn't he a part of those?

JR: I don't know but I'm glad if he was. That makes me want to vote for him even more. Not the, I don't get into the violence or stuff like that. But the Black Panthers were basically just, like their thing was stop complaining about it, get up and do something about it and be forceful about

it if you have it. The white activist groups that work to dominate black people aren't peaceful about it, you know they use violence themselves.

CK: Like the KKK?

JR: Yeah.

CK: We really don't have that up here in Michigan do we?

JR: Yeah we do.

CK: We do?

JR: Yeah. It's all over here. I don't know the number or anything.

CK: I got involved in politics up here and a lot of people in the Republican Party are all Pentecostals. And they're like more of the majority. It's like they're really.

JR: [Scoffs].

CK: I know, because the Republicans downstate are people L. Brooks Patterson and just they're more business people.

JR: They're more for the money in it.

CK: They're more to develop and you know develop free enterprise and protect it then they are for religious reasons. And it's like I come up here, and is that what you mean? Like the people, the really fanatic religion people? Because they try to push their views on other people and I just don't think that's right. I don't know, I'm German and I'm Lutheran and that's what I want my kids to be. Maybe I don't know.

JR: But if they're not you're not going to disown them, and as far as how you raise them. If they should betray to decide that they want to convert to Catholicism you're not going to disown them from the family are you?

CK: No, no I mean, I'd like to, I don't know. No I wouldn't do that. I would like to see them grow up from a friendlier place. It's just, I mean. I don't know they're just. You don't want, you like your values right? And I like my values.

JR: And you don't want to change my life, but you don't want me to try and change yours.

CK: Right. And that's why I'm afraid of those people, that's really scary. I like the city. Okay. New topic, drugs. [Laughter]. Do you know any?

JR: Do I know any drugs?

CK: Do you know any dealers?

JR: Do I know drug dealers? Yeah I know a lot of drugs dealers?

CK: Do you really?

JR: Yeah!

CK: Okay. That means you probably know drug buyers too?

JR: Oh yeah, I know a lot of those too.

CK: I have a friend and he got hooked up on crack. You ever been by the waterworks park? There's a bunch of crack houses right there? Yeah I had to go get him every once and a while from there. His dad was like vice president of, well his dad's dead now, but his dad was a vice president of Ford, in charge of purchasing. When Ford made a profit he made like 2 million dollars. This kid would get a new car every 6 months. Like he had a convertible Mustang, he dropped out of high school in the 10th. Like god he's got it made, what a dummy!

JR: Yeah I wish!

CK: But do you know victims?

JR: Yeah, I know a lot of victims too.

CK: Do you think, this is hard to say without...

JR: Incriminating yourself? [Laughs]

CK: [Laughs]. No, no, no. That's actually not the topic I want to bring up. Okay do you think, are people getting sick of it? I mean it does bring a lot of money in. There's people that get stepped on, so they turn to that. And they can make a lot of money. Are they doing it smart, like getting a lot of money and then getting out?

JR: No, well it depends. You know each drug dealer is different, I can't just generalize it. Some of my friends are very smart drug dealers, you know and they're, _____ walking over here.

CK: Has she hit on you? Has she hit on you yet?

JR: No, not yet. Well I don't know, I'm not gonna say sort of. But you know I've got a couple of, I know a couple of drug dealers that are like serious millionaires and they've got it well invested and...

CK: Are they getting out now? Do you think that they'll get burned? Do you think they'll end up in jail or do you think they'll get out?

JR: It's different for each one. It's different for each one.

CK: Do a lot of people have that attitude?

JR: Get in and get out?

CK: Yeah. Get in, get out.

JR: Some of them do, some of them do. But some of them, you've gotta understand that a lot of drug dealers at least, black drug dealers, inner city. They've never had anything in their life, you know?

CK: Right.

JR: Then all of a sudden they've got all of this money. They can buy whatever they want, and that's what money is for, to buy things.

CK: Right.

JR: So that's what they do. And the more they get, the more they spend. They get greedy, you know how the nouveau riche.

CK: Yeah, we've got that part in Grosse Pointe.

JR: So some of them don't get out. They do get burned, and they'll go to jail for a couple, 2 or 3 years. Or even less with the penal system the way it is right now.

CK: Do you think that will change?

JR: No it ain't gonna change, because that's the way they system wants it. Let's face it, if the government wanted these drugs out of the country they could get them out. They just wouldn't have to let them in, I really and truly believe that.

CK: I'm an econ major, there's no way they can stop them from coming in.

JR: I think so, I think that there is some way that it could be stopped, something that could be done. First of all in Detroit, they can stop the police from hassling kids walking around downtown, or giving tickets to people on Belle Isle because they've got their music loud and worry about the three crack houses that were in my own neighborhood. And we called the police, you know we when the police came we weren't afraid to talk to them, and those crack houses still stayed there. If it got bombed, which did happen, they'd just move next door. And the police would drive up and down the street and never do anything about it. I never saw it get busted, not once.

CK: So if someone was a landlord and they wanted those people out there's nothing they could really? Except for burn down the house?

JR: Not really, right basically. They can do that, or they can try to evict them through the proper channels and stuff. But it's usually somebody on welfare living there. So welfare keeps the rent paid and keeps stuff like that. It's hard to evict somebody if they're paying the rent.

CK: Are there forces in the community that are saying, are there forces building against it?

JR: Against drugs?

CK: Yeah

JR: Yeah a lot.

CK: Do you think, has it been noticeable lately? Do you think they'll someday overcome?

JR: Mhm. But it's, it's not going to be overcome until they have more jobs. Nobody wants to work at McDonalds and make \$3.35. First of all, McDonalds in Detroit pay \$3.35 an hour, if you go to Dearborn or anywhere in the suburbs.

CK: Or St. Clair Shores. There's one on 9 mile that pays like \$4.50 or 5 bucks. There's two of them on 9 miles.

JR: Yeah, see like that's not fair. You're not going to get a kid...

CK: Well that's like labor, supply and demand. Okay, do you think people who, like you, you go to college, and don't you resent these people at all?

JR: The drug dealers?

CK: Mhm.

JR: Uh no.

CK: Are their people in the community that do?

JR: Yeah, the people, the victims. The people whose families are being devastated by the son that's stealing everything to feed that high. Or the daughters who turn to prostitution to get crack. Me, it doesn't effective me. I don't use crack and nobody in my family does.

CK: That's good.

JR: You know, the only contact I have with it is drug dealers, the dealers. I do resent that because in Detroit right now I have... Well first of all, I can go to school far.

CK: The thing I'm pointing to is, you're going to school, you're sticking it out, don't you think "well, why don't they do it?"

JR: They can't do it! How can they do it? They can't do it.

CK: Their parents don't have the education your parents do right.

JR: It's not just that, even some of them do. They can't afford to go to college. I don't get any financial aid. The financial aid that I get is in scholarships, which is based on merit not need. The rest of it is loans, and I'm going to have to pay through the nose to pay it back you know, as soon as I graduate. They can't afford that.

CK: When you first came here you were on a free ride right?

JR: Yeah...

CK: That's how they got you up here.

JR: They can't afford to go to college, and then they can't always get in college. They're not ones that do get in college, they can't stay here. You know the education, the public school system is really shot out. They're not learning what they're supposed to be learning. Especially black kids too. The teachers, especially boys, they don't care about them, they're not teaching them what they're supposed to learn to survive. If they do teach them something, it's like wood shop. Welding. We have enough welders! You know give me some doctors and lawyers. But they don't want black men to become doctors and lawyers.

CK: Do you think, okay Detroit's lost half its population, more than half. Do you think they'll come back again?

JR: Oh yeah because the reason that it's lost population is because they're taking all the black people and sending them out to Southfield, Oak Park, Ferndale and others.

CK: Do you have friends in Southfield?

JR: Plenty.

CK: I installed water heaters in Southfield right next to North Land. What's it called? West Hampton, West Wood? These are names of streets.

JR: I don't know.

CK: Melrose Park, you know that park? That's where I worked, that's funny. I worked in this one neighborhood, and it's where all the black jazz musicians used to live, so it was all black people. There was about three white people in the whole...

JR: Well that's where they used to live.

CK: Yeah, that's where they used to live. They don't anymore. I mean they're really nice houses. They all have built in, in ground sprinkler systems. It's like when I worked in the black... the first three streets were all black people except for like 3 white families. And then the next streets were mixed.

JR: And then the next streets were white.

CK: Well, I don't know, I didn't work that far. Do you know where St. Johns Armenia Church is? It's like all Armenians, all black people, and all Jewish people basically. It's like, a lot of black people like to have something else like they do. I got used to it though, it was a good job. I had fun. Do you think, so you think people will start going back into Detroit?

JR: I can see it in how they were developing my neighborhood, I live right downtown. And Harbor Town, Harbor Place and all along the river it's being redeveloped.

CK: Where the Uniweld plant is, the lofts right across the street from there.

JR: Exactly, they're doing all that stuff over there. I can promise you they're not doing it for us.

CK: Why do you say that?

JR: That's the way it is, most black people can't afford to live down there. Most black people can't even afford to buy a \$100,000 house that you don't even have a backyard.

CK: How about if they buy a house in a neighborhood that's on the way up? Before the neighborhood takes off.

JR: Yeah, but most black people don't have the business acumen, you know. They weren't educated like that to do something like that. And then, where are they going to get the money to buy anything there? It's hard to get a mortgage. You know they don't have anything. They don't have \$10,000 for a down payment. You know a lot of red lining goes on, a whole lot. Red lining, when they red line the neighborhoods and if you don't have as many lines of credit you automatically degrade your 20 points, or how ever they do it.

CK: Oh okay.

JR: If you live in this neighborhood, then you can't get insurance without it being expensive

CK: That's what people were saying, that's what they do in Grosse Pointe, like the 1st and 10th streets towards Alta Road and your causality, which is theft, fire, it like double the rest of the neighborhood. So they really do that? They had that in the paper, they had that in the free press about everybody was getting on the bank. I guess MBD's the only really fair one.

JR: I've got a great family for it. I went to Highland Plains in Highland Park, which is right in the middle of Detroit and filled out an application for a credit card and it wasn't approved. Okay, I filled it out and I left, you know call back in an hour or two and find out its ready. We went

from there straight to Southfield to Art Van, and I filled out an application for a credit card there. It was refused. It was, the one in Highland Park was refused, but the one in Southfield it was granted. It was the exact same company.

CK: Right.

JR: The exact same bank who issued the credit card. Yet in Highland Park it was refused and in Southfield it was accepted, with the exact same information. Now why was that? The only reason is that, you know it was the exact same information on the credit slip. The only reason is where I filled it out at. In the inner city they said no, and out in the suburbs they said yeah.

CK: In Europe all the most expensive real estate is downtown.

JR: Yeah.

CK: And it gets cheaper as you go out.

JR: That's how it is in a lot of other cities in the United States too. Detroit is one of the largest cities in the country, it's pretty big. But our downtown is _____.

CK: Okay, new topic. Northern. [Laughs]. What do you like about Northern?

JR: Small classes.

CK: Go out and touch you from here, to an administrator and professors, personal? Is that what you mean by small classes? It's personal?

JR: Yeah, you can talk to your professor. You don't have to worry about a GA teaching the class. Stuff like that. If I have a problem I can call my professors, I can catch up with his easily. If I can't reach them in their office, I got the home numbers for all of them. I can just call them there. Even, some of the professors give you their home numbers personally to make sure that you can call them if you have a problem, and I like that. What else do I like about this place?

CK: Do you like the woods?

JR: Yeah.

CK: Do you go out in the woods often?

JR: No.

CK: Like climb over Sugarloaf?

JR: No.

CK: Ever been to the top of Sugarloaf?

JR: Yeah.

CK: Have you seen the new deck they built there?

JR: No.

CK: Do you ski?

JR: Cross-country.

CK: Oh do you really? I ski downhill, I'm too lazy for cross country.

JR: I'm too scared to downhill, I'm scared I'll break something. I'm very clumsy.

CK: My parents used to send me into blizzards. Every Saturday morning they'd dump me off. It's getting expensive though. Okay, so your major is history. And you have another major that's French. What's your grade point?

JR: Yep. 3.04.

CK: Really? That's good.

JR: Thanks.

CK: Mine's terrible, mine's in the 2.0 range.

JR: I don't know what's mine's gonna be after this semester but.

CK: That one year with Gary and Tim on the same floor as me, I didn't do too much studying that year. What extra-curricular activities do you do?

JR: I work with the Minority Student Services a lot. A bunch of things like that. I work 20 hours a week at least, and like I said I worked with Minority Student Services.

CK: Part of the French club?

JR: No.

CK: Part of French Table? You know where they sit around and talk French?

JR: Nope, I can't stand Clarisse whatever anymore. [Laugh]

CK: [Laugh]. Okay.

JR: So I don't participate in that.

CK: Who's the one guy whose mom teaches? Who's from here?

JR: That's ____ boyfriend, Grus something. I don't know his first name. Do you know him?

CK: No, just part of conversation. What don't you like about Northern?

JR: There are not enough black people up here, that's my biggest problem.

CK: Is there a lot of racism up here?

JR: Yes, a bit.

CK: Is it actual hate or just misunderstandings?

JR: I think it's pretty much misunderstanding. In some places it's hate, but in some cases yeah there is a lot of serious backwards rednecks, which is _____.

CK: [Laughs] that's funny.

JR: But yeah, you're right for the most part I think it's misunderstanding.

CK: I don't think they like anybody from downstate. It's like I tell everybody "I'm from the east side." I don't tell anybody I'm from Grosse Pointe. [Laughs].

JR: [Laughs]. That might spark a few.

CK: Except from it's not as bad up here, if I tell people from up here, because some people haven't heard of it.

JR: Oh yeah.

CK: But if I tell people from downstate it's like "oh I'm from the east side" you know I might tell them I'm from Harbor Wood or St. Clair Shores or something. And then they're like "oh I'm from the east side too, what street?" It's like ahhh, 8 mile and Mac, and then they look at me "oh." [Laughs]. It's like thanks. Alright, we were talking about the future. Here let me change the tape.

SIDE 2

CK: Racist taunts? Any really bad ones?

JR: No, because it's so subtle. It doesn't really affect me that much, I think it affects those guys more than it does girls. Like with the Alibi.

CK: Yeah there was like a fight last weekend.

JR: There's a fight almost every weekend. That's why I don't go there, because I don't want to give my money to someone who doesn't want me. They don't want black people there, so why should I go? Why should I spend my money there? I don't enjoy myself there anyway.

CK: [Laughs]. I don't think anybody does.

JR: Right, it's too racist there. Anything ever happens, any type of discrepancies between blacks and whites, it's always the blacks who gets in trouble. They think that we just come up here ready to start a fight and that's not true. They never consider that there are a lot of guys in the Alibi, you know muscle bound, muscle head guys, you know who are just ready to prove their manhood. Like "yeah I just beat up those black guys, you know they're supposed to be such big studs you know blah blah blah boxers and fighters and athletes." So they go to the Alibi.

CK: Boxers can't even get in fights, that's the thing, because they can get put in jail.

JR: Right. But they come up and bother them anyway to try to prove something.

CK: My first 20 some days of the semester I spent in the Olympic Training Center because I couldn't find an apartment. [Laughs]. Oh! Did you have trouble finding housing?

JR: Yeah, no actually I didn't. My job arranged for me to get a room in West and then after I got that they gave me a roommate and I wasn't, because I got it so late they gave me a roommate. And I wasn't going to settle for a roommate, especially because we had nothing in common. And so I got an apartment in the summer, it was illegal.

CK: Yeah, they finally caught me too. But they... it was too expensive. I pay 137.50 a month plus I think the biggest heat bill for the whole house was 170 dollars, like in January I have to pay \$160. So it's not bad, it's a dump. Complete pig sty.

JR: See I don't want to live in a dump, and I don't want to live far away from campus. I don't want to have a roommate. I don't want to live with anyone. I guess I got a roommate now though, and we don't get along that great. But I pay with student loans, so _____.

CK: Do you have friends or know people who ended up with apartments out in Harvey or Ishpeming or Gwinn or something?

JR: I've heard stories of stuff like that yeah.

CK: I guess there's what 15 hundred more students than 2 years ago? Makes a big difference.

JR: That's one thing that shows the problem with black students every year, 15 hundred more students overall up here but there are at least 50 black students less here.

CK: Oh are there? So the ratio is going down?

JR: Yeah it's getting very rare.

CK: Are problems getting worse or better you think?

JR: Some things are better, because you know they've got these programs like my job in Minority Freshman Services, you know is working to help black students adapt. Then they've got the general students program helps a lot of black students. The problem is that it's the students that they're bringing up here. They're bringing students up here that don't have a chance to stay. It's true, they're bringing kids up here who barely graduated from high school.

CK: [Laughs]. Yeah, like me?

JR: Yeah, but it's easier for you.

CK: Yeah, I get a lot of support.

JR: No, it's not just that. Their families are giving them support, but it's hard. School is hard for anyone. Getting up and going to class, especially for a freshman, getting up and going to class on your own, studying, you know you've got to learn new study skills and things like that. You've got to put a lot more effort into it, and then to have to deal with an environment that's completely alien? You know they're not used to being around all these white people, and they really have no desire to be.

CK: Right.

JR: And that's really hard, even without racism. Our interests are different. I don't listen to rock and roll, you know very little of it.

CK: So there's no radio stations to listen to up here?

JR: Right, no radio stations. No place to go dance and stuff like that. The Alibi, you know they get in funky moods and won't play any black music because "black music provokes violence." That's their 'why.'

CK Oh, okay. Wow.

JR: You know, Spankey same story. They don't play any black music. Black people can't get, can't rent any property to have something themselves.

CK: What do you mean they can't rent anything?

JR: They can't, you know it's hard for them to rent a bar, get a bar property.

CK: Oh yeah. Just because there isn't a lot of people up here.

JR: No their plenty big enough to support a small place. But whose gonna rent it to them? The landlord people in this area are afraid to work with black people. They're afraid they're going to tear up their property.

CK: Oh my god.

JR: You know, "blacks move in, there goes the neighborhood!"

CK: [Laughs]. Okay, so there's a lot of stereotyping.

JR: Yeah, too much. And the thing is, you know we have a lot of stereotypes for you all too.

CK: [Laughs]. Do you really?

JR: Yeah.

CK: Yeah, I guess, yeah. That's why I tell people I'm from the east side. [Laughs].

JR: No, what bugs me, is actually black people tend to like rich white people than they do poor white people because poor white people...

CK: They're more competitive.

JR: Right, they have less you know, rich white people have less to lose to someone black. Whereas a poor white people could be vying for the same job, or live in the same neighborhood or something like that. Rich white people are usually less insecure about who they are, I mean usually not always.

CK: Okay future. What do you think Detroit is going to be like?

JR: I think it's going to grow up and be a nice place to live. [Laughs].

CK: [Laughs]. Not so quick.

JR: No seriously! Yeah, I think that it's gonna because a lot of...

CK: The east side really is shaping up, I mean I'm just. I want to get a loft, I want to live downtown by the stadium or something. I want to be a real estate baron and buy all those abandoned building and fix them up.

JR: Really?

CK: Really.

JR: Let me know when you're getting ready to do that, I'll invest in that.

CK: I used to do landscaping, and that's what I'm going to do. I've decided.

JR: Yeah that's something I've always wanted to do, take those abandoned buildings.

CK: It's kind of depressing, so like however excited I'm going to live in Detroit for the rest of my life.

JR: I've always wanted to take those really old houses over off Woodward, on the edge of Chicago, Boston those streets.

CK: Between 7 and 8 mile?

JR: No, between... Highland Park and the other area.

CK: Oh! All the old lumber baron houses and stuff like that.

JR: Right, right.

CK: That's like where the parade goes.

JR: Right, I wanted to take those and renovate them. They're like Indian Village.

CK: A lot of people are doing that.

JR: Yeah, a lot of them were never sold. A lot of them were, some of them like the white families moved out of the city, but they just kept it and waited it out for when the tide changed. Which is _____.

CK: Do you think we integrated? Do you think Detroit will be integrated? I mean you say everybody, all the black people will move out to Southfield.

JR: Not all of them, I mean my family's gonna stay in Detroit. Yeah it'll be integrated but I think that it's going to change. Well, I guess it will reach a point where it's more like 50/50. If it'll stay like that I don't know.

CK: Do you think it's bad?

JR: No I think that'd great.

CK: Cuz you said, you told me, when I was talking to you in the office by student activities. You said, let me see what you said, "all the black people are moving out and all the white people are moving in."

JR: But that's the way it is.

CK: You kind of like said it...

JR: Sarcastic?

CK: Yeah.

JR: Because it is, it's just forcing black people out. They're not really, I don't know.

CK: Hudd is putting a lot of effort into community colleges. I mean they, I watched on CNN and the head of, the spokesman for Hudd was ridiculing the Department of Education because they don't put any emphasis on community colleges. He says "we're the only ones, they don't think it's worth it, we do!" Do you think that'll?

JR: I don't know I hadn't heard about that. I think it's good that they've got community colleges, they've prepared a lot of students.

CK: Do you think it'll help? Do you think, I mean community college, do you think they have the, like Wayne County Community College in particular because they used to be, I guess they had a problem where they were about to lose their accreditation, or they did or something like that.

JR: Yeah, no they were about to.

CK: Do you think it'll make a big influence if they really get their butts in gear?

JR: Yeah. But I don't really like community colleges. Because community colleges steer black students into vocational associates degree programs and not onto 4 year programs. Do you see what I'm saying?

CK: Yeah but don't you think some people can't handle those?

JR: I don't see why not, Northern is not at all difficult for me.

CK: But your parents are literate.

JR: So?

CK: Cuz my parents, I mean my dad's a hairdresser. And I had a real hard time because I had absolutely no study habits whatsoever. You know and I think, I can see people, you know Sarah Kelly?

JR: No.

CK: Oh well her dad's a professor and her mom's a teacher. She gets straight As, she's an econ major, she gets straight As and I'm like [sighs]. Helpless. Okay, how about the future of America?

JR: The future of America?

CK: Yeah.

JR: I hadn't really thought about it, I plan on moving to France for a bit, not for good. Future of America, if the United States going to grow and be a dominant force in the future they're going to have to work more at home. Get off defense so bad, you know spending all that money on guns and star wars and stuff. Work more on educating the people that are here. The women of minorities are going to make up, I think what is it 50% of the workforce by the year 2000? And if they don't start treating us better, educating us more, I think they're gonna be shut out. Who can do it, especially with this new technological stuff? People aren't gonna know how to do it if they don't start training little black and Hispanic kids on computers and stuff like that. They're not going to know how to do this stuff when it comes time for them to carry the country. Which will come soon, just think it's our turn now.

CK: Yeah.

JR: It came a lot quicker than I thought it would you know.

CK: Yeah I know what you mean, I'm graduating in April. I was thinking about getting my Masters but I don't know.

JR: I think I am. I'm sort of considering staying at Northern.

CK: Are you really?

JR: Yeah, but Northern can't really offer me that much.

CK: Remember Eileen?

JR: She's still here isn't she?

CK: Yeah she's teaching, while she's getting her Masters. She's teaching like the beginning biology and anatomy classes.

JR: Oh really? That's what's she's doing here?

CK: Gary's, she does, she teaches Gary sometimes. Gary's got anatomy and she teaches his class sometimes. I guess he's like the ultimate brown noser right now. [Laughs]. And he does it, because he's a real smart ass, and he's kind of like a baby so he does it be, he does it for the fun of it. And all the guys in his class hate him. Absolutely hate him. This is what Eileen says, this is what Tim told me Eileen says. And all the girls like him though, he's like telling me he's got down with them and stuff. So you're going to get your?

JR: Masters.

CK: You Masters here?

JR: I'm considering it, I don't know.

CK: You don't want to go someplace else?

JR: Yeah I do.

CK: Where would you go if you didn't stay here?

JR: I don't know, I'd like to go to school in Washington D.C.

CK: Do you want to be a lawyer?

JR: Do I?

CK: Yeah.

JR: No.

CK: Why not? I think you'd make a great lawyer, I already told you that.

JR: Yeah, a lot of people tell me that. But I don't know, I'd put it into consideration eventually.

CK: I'll continue to harp on it for the rest of the year. But in a good way.

JR: Law just really doesn't interest me. Corporate law I suppose, but that's you know something, that's a consideration for the future. I want to be in school for most of my life.

CK: Really?

JR: Yeah, because there's so much I want to learn.

CK: Yeah, because if I go downstate I do want to like stay in contact with Wayne State. I guess I'd like to, you know like I mean work and be real estate baron. But like work in public committees and stuff like that. Like urban development and education and stuff like that. So I guess I'd really have to get my Masters. Okay, what do you think of the future of the world?

JR: I have no idea. The future of the world?

CK: Well like with Central America, or East Europe. Do you have any thoughts about anything like that?

JR: Yeah, they should just do it themselves! You know the United States should get out of it. Every other country should get out of it, so we should get out of it. Quit directing all these other peoples. Let them do it themselves, we did it ourselves why can't they do it themselves? Yeah

give them the moral and economic support if they need it, but I agree with the United States. If you're not doing what we want politically you shouldn't get any of our money either.

CK: Right.

JR: But apart for things like feminine and stuff like that I think that politics should be pushed aside and you know, feed the people.

CK: That's what a lot of those famines are, simply politics.

JR: Right.

CK: Because like in Ethiopia it's people in the north against people in the south, in Sudan same thing people against the north, people in the south.

JR: Like my ring? My boyfriend just gave it to me today.

CK: It's nice.

JR: He just gave it to me.

CK: It's gonna last forever.

JR: I hope so.

CK: Well that's good. Your boyfriend's from Turkey? Or is he just stationed there?

JR: He's stationed there.

CK: He's in the army?

JR: Air Force.

CK: Oh, is he here from K.I Sawyer too? Or you met him?

JR: I met him at K.I Sawyer.

CK: Oh okay. How long is he gonna be in for?

JR: Just 3 weeks.

CK: Oh he's visiting here? Oh, he's going back to Turkey. How long has he been in the Air Force for?

JR: About 3 years.

CK: 3 year more?

JR: A year and a half more, two years more.

CK: Okay, what do think your future's going to be like? Have you seen yourself grow being here at Northern?

JR: Yeah, a lot. A lot. A year in France pushed me even more.

CK: Do you know Joan?

JR: Yeah I saw when I was over there.

CK: Are you two friends?

JR: Yeah, I guess. Why?

CK: I just know her, and she married some Armenian guy.

JR: Oh did they get married?

CK: Uh huh, in Green Bay.

JR: Oh wow, I knew him too I used to see him all the time.

CK: Oh really?

JR: Yeah. He's a really nice guy.

CK: You were only supposed to stay there a semester right? You stayed there the whole year?

JR: I was supposed to go a year.

CK: So back to the future...

JR: Where do I see myself in the future?

CK: Yeah what do you see yourself?

JR: I see myself working for some international company for a few years and going back and forth with them to France. And then eventually settling in France for a period of maybe 5, 6 years maybe as much as 10 years. And what I want to do is start my own magazine over there and.

CK: Gonna have kids?

JR: Yeah, I want 2 kids.

CK: When you get married?

JR: Yeah.

CK: Gonna stay married?

JR: I hope so. I want to live in Africa for a while.

CK: Do you? What part?

JR: West Africa.

CK: That's the French part! East Africa is the English part. South of the Sahara or north?

JR: South of the Sahara definitely. I'm black not...

CK: Arab.

JR: I've got a lot of friends from Senegal so that's inspirations. I've got a couple of friends from Benin which is right next door to Nigeria. I don't really know where yet though, probably Senegal because that's where most of my friends are from. _____.

CK: What's it like there?

JR: I don't know I've never been there.

CK: I mean the climate.

JR: Oh, hot.

CK: Is that the part where they have the sleeping sickness or is that farther south over by The Congo?

JR: That's south of The Congo. But I want to live there for a while. It'd be great to work for a company that was in France and West Africa. But it's not just because West Africa not just because they're French but also because that's where most of the slaves in the United States came from. That's my roots.

CK: Let's see. Do you think the black people as whole, do you think their lives in America will improve?

JR: Have improved?

CK: Do you think they will improve relative? I mean can you see it right now?

JR: Yeah.

CK: Like it's relative to the rest of the country you think?

JR: Yeah I think so because, well like I said the United States is recognizing we're gonna make up half the workforce and so they've got to treat us with respect. And also because my generation is pretty militant, pretty radical. We're ready to get up and fight for what we want, what we deserve. You know, it's like everything goes in the tides and stuff and the secrecies' and a lot of it came from stuff that throughout the '70s and '80s they were pretty much, well throughout the 70s they were pretty much satisfied with those _____. They wanted so much that would break and enjoy it right? In the '80s when Regan came in, it sparked up all kinds of shit. Turned back on a lot of laws and stuff that made it easier for us. Now it's time to start the fight again. And in my generation I think it's pretty radical. When these _____ what's going on.

CK: Regan's, I guess Regan's theory behind it was that...do you think affirmative action is needed? I mean do you think racism is bad? I mean because I've worked in a plating shop in east Detroit and it was all, there were like 2 black ladies and they both had kids and they were both single, and the rest of it was white people. And all the white people went out and they....

JR: Did things together?

CK: Yeah, they did things together and so they knew how to be promoted. You know they told each other like on an informal level you know they'd go out and discuss it at the bar or whatever. And those two black ladies, who I ended up working most of the time with them because I had like the swing shift and they worked in the afternoon and everybody else worked during the day. So they worked...

JR: I need a cigarette.

CK: You too? Do smoke Marlboro Lights?

JR: No, umm Newports.

CK: Oh, okay. I wish you could smoke in here.

JR: They don't catch me I smoke in here.

CK: [Laughs] shhhh tapes going! I'm almost done. I mean do you think that's the norm? Do you think that's the norm for needing affirmative action? Do you feel, does it hurt you when you know that you, if someone says "oh you just got the job because of affirmative action?"

JR: Yeah because, well I honestly don't think that's ever happened to me before. Well actually I got my scholarship here because of that.

CK: I mean that's probably the problem with it.

JR: That's the problem with it that they're doing it and they're hiring the wrong people. Not the wrong people, because they deserve a chance too. But they're hiring people who normally wouldn't get the job no matter color they are. Unfortunately, it should start at a lower level. They should train more black people so that they can have the right jobs. You know educate them so that they are really eligible for the jobs and not just hiring them to fill up a quota. Because then they're hired for the quota but they're not promoted, they don't rise any farther. So affirmative action is needed but it needs to be...

CK: I think we could do a different system.

JR: Yeah.

CK: More with the courts and discrimination and less with...

JR: Hiring practices need to be monitored also because there are a lot of really disgusting ways of hiring people.

CK: That's really the responsibility of the personnel office, that problem in that plating shop, that personnel director should have seen that and said "okay, these people they need special attention because they don't hang around the same social circle."

JR: Right, exactly.

CK: So really the personnel director should be liable.

JR: I think they would not go for that.

CK: You think it should be more of a system like that?

JR: Yeah, because you're right a lot of it is because of the social system within the workplace not just, yeah because the personnel director should be more on it than he is. But the ladies, they should be more sociable too I guess.

CK: Well they had kids too.

JR: So do probably a lot of the white people that work there.

CK: No, they were mostly young girls.

JR: Single?

CK: Yeah single, you know looking for a husband.

JR: And they work around all girls [laughs].

CK: I still remember when you told me that in the...

JR: Attending college to find a husband?

CK: Oh god, I was like, you see my jaw hit the floor?

JR: That's not true though, that was a joke.

CK: I realized that after I walked by and I was like "Is this Jay saying this?" Oh my god. It doesn't sound like Jay, what happened it must have been a traumatic summer! Well I guess that's the end of the interview. Do you have anything you'd like to say? Any last comments?

JR: Yes.

CK: Oh! Say your comments, then I have a question for you. This isn't going to take long.

JR: Okay, ask me a question, I can't remember.

CK: You said that black people like rich white people more than middle class white people?

JR: No, not middle class white people, poor white people. Middle class white people it goes both ways.

CK: What was I gonna say here. So you don't see yourself competing with rich white people?

JR: In a sense that they want to keep their money and don't want me to get any, yeah. But they don't want any poor white people to get any either.

CK: I mean...

JR: I'm not rich so.

CK: Yeah, but you're not poor. Well you're a college student we're all poor.

JR: Yeah but my family isn't wealthy. I mean they do well, but socioeconomic. On the white socioeconomic level we're pretty low. But within the blacks we're really high, you know you usually have to separate the two of them.

CK: Do you see yourself becoming rich some day?

JR: Yeah, well not filthy rich I'm not into money that much. You know so I'm not working to become filthy rich.

CK: You'd rather work more on your career then?

JR: No I want to make money.

CK: Career points and goals are more important to you than your wallet.

JR: What I'm doing, enjoying my money, is more important to me than just having it. I want to travel, I want to dress nice, I want to eat well, I want to have a nice house and be able to entertain well. I want to be able to travel.

CK: So do I. I went to Germany, have you been Amsterdam?

JR: No.

CK: Just go to Amsterdam. That place I was with my mom. We couldn't see any of the good parts because I was with my mom. Couldn't go into any coffee shops, bummed me out.

JR: That's the point of going!

CK: I know! [Laugh]. Okay well I guess that's the end of the interview.

JR: Okay.

CK: Thank you Jay.

END OF INTERVIEW