

The University of Texas at Arlington

Significant African American Public Figures of Texas

POLITICS OF AFRICAN AMERICANS

Interviewee: JAMES C. BELT, JR.

**Interviewers: Anteria Barrett, Roshon Davis, Silas Panzu,
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JAMES C. BELT, JR.

James Belt: Good Morning class.

Class: Good Morning.

Anterria: Today's date is November 14, 2002. You're at University of Texas at Arlington African –American Politics class. Thank you for coming today Mr. Belt.

James Belt: Glad to be here.

Anterria: Who is James Belt?

James Belt: That's me.

Anterria: And where were you born?

James Belt: My name is James C. Belt Jr. I'm a.... I was born in Texas and raised in Texas. I was born and raised in Harlingen, Texas a small town in south Texas about 25 miles away from the Mexican border. I attended elementary, kindergarten, elementary, and junior high school, and high school in Harlingen. I'm an original Texan, really about a third generation third or fourth generation Texan. And I love Texas for all its faults I still love Texas.

Anterria: And who were your parents?

James Belt: My mother and father, James Sr. and Florence. Sorry, I'm so accustomed to saying, "James and Mollie Belt." Mollie is my wife, but my parents were James and Florence Belt.

Dr. Gutierrez: I think it's a senior moment.

James Belt: Right, that's what it is.

Dr. Gutierrez: Halfheimers.

Anterria: And when were they born?

James Belt: My father was born and raised in Goliad, Texas. Remember the Alamo? Remember Goliad? For those of you who are Texans you took 7th grade Texas history and you studied the Alamo and you studied Goliad. That's where my dad was born and raised. He was the oldest of about ten children. My dad, I believe was born in 1899. My mother was born in Arkansas, Helena, Arkansas. She migrated to Texas to live with her aunt and uncle, and that's where they met. They met in Harlingen in the early 40's.

Anterria: Do you have any brothers and sisters?

James Belt: Yes, I have two sisters.

Anterria: And what are their names?

James Belt: My older sister, Maxine, and my youngest sister is Janet.

Anterria: And what was it like being raised in Rio Grande Valley of South Texas back in the 50's?

James Belt: Oh it was great. It was great. I had a great childhood. We lived... We lived in an area of Texas that is predominantly Mexican-American. And if you know anything about the Mexican culture, it's an open culture. *Mi casa es su casa*; my house is your house. And they really live that. And being raised in that environment gave me a, a, a Mexican-American perspective, so to speak, on Texas and on the world. So I'm really, really bi-cultural in that I was raised in south Texas. You

know? I mean... it's just, when you get to I say Raymondville from Raymondville back to Brownsville I mean its just it's a Mexican-American country, very much a Mexican-American world. You know. And I loved it. A matter of fact... And I'm not answering your question, maybe I'm just rambling. My wife moved to the Valley to take a job with the Texas Employment Commission just before we got married. It had to be in the late 60's, and she just fell in love with it. A matter of fact, she's always threatens to leave me and go back.

Anterria: O.K. one quick question that I was meaning to ask earlier.

What is your birthday?

James Belt: 2-12-44. I was born February 12, 1944, Lincoln's birthday.

Anterria: And since we have established you are married, do you have any children?

James Belt: Yes I have three.

Anterria: And what are their names?

James Belt: Carlos, James, and Melody.

Anterria: And what's your wife's name?

James Belt: Mollie.

Anterria: And who are her parents?

James Belt: Her parents were Mildred and Fred Finch, also another group of Texans. And while I... While I'm talking about family history. My mother always told me as a child... And she said it jokingly that you can't go to heaven unless you're a Methodist, and, and, and although she

said it jokingly she never really had a smile on her face when she said it. I know she was joking. So I've always been a Methodist and my wife is a Methodist. My father was a Methodist, his parents were Methodist, my wife parents are Methodist, so we're all Methodist. Now, my children are Baptist.

Anterria: And you were raised in all... in a mixed neighborhood with mostly Blacks and Hispanics?

James Belt: Nah. I wasn't raised in a mixed neighborhood. Just us and just us... just us. A matter of fact, I never even saw any white folks till I went downtown as a kid or one of them was coming out to collect a bill or something from my daddy.

Anterria: And what brought you to Dallas?

James Belt: Well.... After... And I gotta rewind for you just a second. After I... I finished college, I just kinda went from job to job to job to job. And then got married, and I still went from job to job. And I always read a lot. I always read social, political material and felt that there was something for me in life other than teaching school or working, working at the port. It just was something different, and I have a good friend. A real good friend named Moses Vela, who was a lawyer in Dallas. And he's always kinda been my... in Dallas in Harlingen he's always kinda been my mentor. He's from a great big family and there is a whole bunch of them ten or twelve others. They are lawyers, and judges, and doctors, and business folks. And so Moses was always a mentor of mine, and he

never encouraged me to go to law school or anything but I just kinda felt that that's what I wanted to do because that's what he was doing. And I saw all the good that he was doing. And so I decided to go to law school and my wife supported me. By this time I had already gotten married and had two children. Two babies, really, and I decided to go to law school... I went to Texas Southern University in Houston which is a story in itself, in terms of how it was created and how it has survived all these years. I finished there and my father-in-law was a lawyer in Dallas. And it was just natural that I would get out of law school and come practice law with him.

Anterria: And one quick question...

James Belt: That's how I got to Dallas.

Anterria: Previously you mentioned it was just us in your neighborhood. Just meaning us are you just talking about Hispanics or just like you being the only...

James Belt: Mexican and Blacks that's all. That's all that was there... Don't go to sleep fellas.

Roshawn: If you would, could you describe your experience as a Texas Southern University law student?

James Belt: Ah man, it was a great experience; coming up in the Valley... you gotta understand man that, that you don't really... You're really not... Really not involved that much in an African-American culture, a black culture. You know? You, you live, you live in a community where

the culture is, is, is an adopted culture of yours but then you still live in your culture cause there is an African-American community. There is an African-American church, African-American social events, and things of that nature. So the experience at Texas Southern at first was kinda, kinda shocking. You know, cause you go to Texas Southern which is an all black school. The president is black, the vice president is black, the counselors are black, the teachers are black, all the students are black. It's ... Instead of "*Que paso?*" Its "What's happening?" You know? So its kinda at first a, a kinda a culture shock, but then, I'm, I'm, I'm an adapter. Bingo [snaps fingers] yeah, "What's up? What's happening?" So it's... It just took a minute. You know, it just took a minute. It was a great experience, such a great experience for me that I have dedicated really the rest of my life to doing what I can do to help Texas Southern [University] be a viable university. Because you gotta understand something, eighty percent of Hispanic lawyers in Texas finish at Texas Southern [University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law]. Eighty percent of Black lawyers in Texas finish at Texas Southern. So without Texas Southern, hey, you going to have a big void... a big void. Now those percentages... I know this is recorded history. Those percentages are off the top of my head and I don't have any correct percentages, but the percentage of Hispanic and Black lawyers in Texas is very high and most of that, most of those people, most of those, those kids finish Texas Southern law school.

Roshawn: As a student there did you have any type of campus involvement?

James Belt: Oh yeah! Man, I can't go anywhere without being involved. [laughing]. What happened when we got to Texas Southern, I realized we were the largest class to ever come in. It was hundred and one of us. Hundred and three or something like that, and it dawned on me that I didn't like the way the student government was being runned. So being the largest class, I felt that we should run it. We should have a bigger say in the political overtones of the school. So I decided, as a first year student, to run for president of the Student Bar Association. Now... How did I pick the Student Bar Association? Well, the Student Bar Association is an association that really governs the students of the law school. They have the money. And if you control the money, you control everything. So I think it was x amount of dollars taken out of your tuition every year that goes to the student government and we had thousands of dollars, two or three thousand dollars and all the other organizations would go to the Student Bar Association for funding for their program, so that was a logical thing to takeover. So I decided as a first year student something that had never been done before, to run for president of the Student Bar Association. I ran and I received all kind of criticisms form the upper classmen because it wasn't my place. I wasn't supposed to do that. I formed a coalition between the first year African-American students and the Hispanic students and I won. So I was president of the

Student Bar Association, and... Oh my God! That was just...

It was beautiful for me and for our class.

Roshawn: Maybe you could describe your role as one of the members of the Board of Regents?

James Belt: Ah, when I came back to get even with everyone that stepped on me when I was there. One of the things I did as president of the Student Bar Association, right after... You got to understand, man, this is a very nice facility but this is part of the University of Texas and is supported by tax dollars. Historically in Texas, the, the, the black and brown entities are not funded in the same fashion as the white institutions. So Texas Southern, although, it was created historically, we had to sue the state of Texas to get in the University of Texas law school back on the late 1940's... Heman Sweatt was the young man, young man who sued, and they said, "Well, what we're gonna do is create a law school that's separate but equal. And that law school is going to be Texas Southern." So when I got to Texas Southern University, although there were a thousand students on campus already, the law school was housed on the second floor of Hanner Hall. The second floor was the law school because there was so much hell being raised that the... And this time you gotta understand attitudes were changing in the state. The, the legislature funded a new law school. So they determined they were going to name the law school, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, named after Thurgood Marshall. Who in fact was a Supreme Court justice. Who in fact was the

lawyer that handled the case for the N.A.A.C.P. [National Association for the Advancement of Colored People] that sued the state of Texas to create Texas Southern University. Just a little history, so the, the, the, experience was that we were jammed all up on the second floor of Hanner Hall. And it was very enlightening to move from the second floor of Hanner hall to the new law school which is a beautiful facility. I don't know if that answers your question. What, what...

Roshawn: I was just trying to see more of what your role was as a member of the Board of Regents.

James Belt: So yeah, so when we get the new law school... When we get the new law school, the controversy comes up as to the banquet. And that Thurgood Marshall is coming, and how we gonna handle it? So administration brought over to the law school the agenda that they were gonna follow. Well I... When I went to law school I was not a kid. I had not just finished high school or college. I was already a grown man, already had a job, already had a business, and had a wife and a family. I wasn't twenty-one, twenty-two, and twenty-three and not accustomed to folks telling me what to do. So I told my, my group I don't like this. I don't like that. I don't like this. I don't like that. And so we got together and went to the administration and said, "Look this is what we don't like." And the president of the university at that time was a real... You know what I mean. [Class: laughter] You know what I mean.

Prof. Gutierrez: The real president.

James Belt: Yeah, real asshole. He gave us back the thing and said, "Whatever ya'll want it really doesn't matter." So at that time what I did was... I say I. I don't take all the credit. And my comrades, we determined that we were just going to call a strike. We just were not going to attend the banquet. We were not going to any, any of the functions. And he just went irate. And so he called a meeting and we had the dean... And so everybody was just sittin' in there and we, the students, came in. We talked and he said, "This is what you're gonna do." We said, "Well, look, you're stating off on the wrong foot." So blah, blah, blah. We get up to leave, "Wait! Stop! Stop! Stop!" Anyway he gave in. We wanted free banquet tickets. We wanted.... You know, I mean how can you charge a student twenty, twenty-five dollars to go to a banquet to honor them. You know it just didn't make sense. So we, so we got most of everything that we wanted. And so... I said that to say that while I was a student I don't think because of that incident... I was a marked man at Texas Southern. I was really a marked man and I'm not one to forget my enemies. So when I came back to the board, I remembered my enemies. And I made it a point to go by their offices to let them know, "Hey, I'm back." And ya'll I'm not saying ya'll should be like that. [Class: laughs] You know everybody has their own makeup, you know, and I guess my makeup is my makeup. That's just me.

Roshawn: How many years did you serve on the board?

James Belt: Six great years for me. Six... Well, four for some of 'em
[Class: laughter] and six bad years for some of the others.

Roshawn: Maybe you could tell us how you became a member of the
Board of Regents?

James Belt: Well in order to become a member of the Board of Regents in
a Texas system the governor has to appoint you. Gov. Mark White
appointed me. And you have to be confirmed by the Senate and once
you're confirmed by the Senate, you're on. And we're gonna have
probably some new appointments coming up across the state in February.
That's when they usually make the appointments to board of regents. And
by the way that's a real, that's a very, very powerful position. You're in a
position to do a lotta, a lotta good for particularly... for students because
see ya'll are the future. Ya'll are the future of this country, of this world.
And being on the board of regents setting policies and procedures puts
you in a position to be helpful to those students.

Roshawn: Have you ever been associated with any major law firm?

James Belt: No. No I don't have the personality to be associated with a
major law firm. I, I, I have a hard time saying, "Yes sir." I just can't say,
"Yes sir." I mean I just don't... I don't look up. I look at you and there
is a difference. You know what I mean? And that's not to offend people
who are up there. I just feel like we're equals. I don't... And I just don't
fit in. My personality doesn't fit. I couldn't be a judge because I just, it
just, I don't fit. You know the people like that, you know people like that?

They just don't fit. Well I'm one. I don't fit. I don't fit into following the crowd. You know? I gotta get the facts myself, and once I gather what I consider all the facts, then I make a decision. [Smack] Then I make a decision and I go from there, and in a law firm you really can't do that, a big major law firm. If you wanna make partner, you gotta conform.

Roshawn: Has it been difficult having a practice in the Dallas area?

James Belt: Man it's the most fun I've ever had in my life. It ain't even a job. Man, I ought to pay folks. It's just fun. It's just, I mean, its just, its just, its great. You know? It's great to be in business for yourself. It's just great to be a lawyer. It's great to be able to help folks. Folks that need... And you'd be surprised my offices in Dallas, in south Dallas on the corner of Malcolm X and Hatchett. Man, you talking about a hell of a corner. Everything goes on that corner; I mean everything goes on that corner. I mean and, and let me tell you something. The law offices where I am... have been a law office for excess of forty years. We've never had a break in. We've never had anybody break in our cars on the parking lot. We've never had anybody break in our office and that's because of the kind of services that we provide for the people in that community. Now, I'm not rich. I don't make a hell of a whole lot of money. I make a living, but I have a inner feeling everyday when I go home that I just feel great about because I know that because I'm on that corner because I'm there somebody was helped today.

Roshawn: What is the name of your law firm?

James Belt; Law offices of James C. Belt Jr. What else? [Class: laughter]

Roshawn: So the reasons you choose to keep your practice in, in Dallas is I guess is due to the people, basically.

James Belt: Yeah, yeah the people and you know I've had guys to come by my office. Just about a year ago a guy came by the office and he told the secretary he said, "I wanna see Mr. Belt" so and so and so and so... She said, "What's this about?" He says, "I need to talk with him, its personal." And I was busy, you know, how you're busy and you, I just didn't have time to get out there and you.... I just didn't have time to get out there. And she came back about twenty minutes later and said, "That young man is still out there; he wants to see you." I said, "Tell him to hang on just a second; I'll be out there." Got on another call and about fifteen minutes later she came back she said, "The young man is still out there; he wants to see you." I guess he sat there maybe a hour and I go out there and I say, "Yes sir, how can I help you?" Well, you know, I wanna tell you something. He said, "Because you were on this piece [of property] I'm a lawyer now..." Well he wasn't a lawyer. "I'm in law school now," he said. He said, "It's because I passed by, I went to, to Lincoln High School and I passed by here everyday." And he says, "That name, 'The law offices of so and so and so and so. I don't even remember the name," he says, "but I have always. Because of that I've always wanted to be a lawyer. He says, "I 'm in law school now, and I just want you to know I appreciate ya' so much." Its just, just, I just came

overwhelmed and I almost...[laughing] let him go. You know when you get too busy that that's what happens to folks they, they, they [are too] busy for their, for their own good. And I almost missed a blessing that day because I was too busy.

Roshawn: How do you, how do you attract business in that area of Dallas being that it's considered a depressed part of the area?

James Belt: Well, you got to understand that the cream always rises to the top. And like I said that's been a law office there for about forty years. My father-in-law was there for twenty something' odd or thirty years before I got there. And when you have a good reputation in the profession that you choose it doesn't matter where you are. People come to you and that... I just don't represent folks that live in that community. I have folks that have all kinds of things. They park in my parking lot and walk, you know, in to my office. You know? I mean, if they, if they want services, the type of services that I provide they'll come. People, it doesn't matter where you are. And let me tell you something else. It doesn't matter where you finish school. It doesn't matter where your office is. If you are, if you are good at what you do; you're diligent at what you do you'll get business.

Roshawn: What are some of the things you've done in order to help people of color in pertaining to filing lawsuits?

James Belt: Oh man! You have to understand.... Well let me just give you an example, right now. Case I'm working on right now. I'll tell you

the guys name; his name is Wiley Fountain. Maybe you read about it in the paper a couple a weeks ago. Wiley Fountain is a black man who lives in what you call a depressed area ...[laughter] you need to come out to south Dallas.

Roshawn: Well that's what people say about types...

James Belt: Go down Park Row, go down Park Row anybody ever been down Park Row in south Dallas? You seen them houses over on Park Row?

Roshawn: Mansions.

James Belt: They're mansions, they're not houses, I live in a house. Anyway, and black folks live in those houses. You know what? It kinda... It kinda... A white boy bought a house on the corner of Malcolm X and Park Row. And I guess they're comin' back [Class: laughter], but he's going on down anyway, and they comin outta here, you know they're voting Republican, straight Republican ticket. Anyway, what was the question? Oh yeah, Wiley Fountain let me tell you about Wiley Fountain. Wiley Fountain is the brother... He standing out on the corner, you know, how brothers do. You ain't working nowhere standing on the corner; police run, and grab him, "Son let's go." Put him in the car, roll the window down. He sees this woman; he says, "What the hell is going on?" They get him downtown and they charge him with rape. He says, "What? Rape!" They charged him with rape, 1986, 1986. He sits up in jail for six months, a year however long. And he goes to trial and the

woman says, "That's the man who raped me." And that's every man's nightmare, every man's nightmare! I don't... I'm a... Regardless of color, his nightmare is when a woman says, "That's the man that raped me." Because I don't care who's sitting on that jury, they gone believe that woman, and Wiley Fountain was convicted. He got forty years in the penitentiary. Poor Wiley, served fifteen years of those, of that sentence. Recently, we have D.N.A. that has advanced to the point that, you know, they could tell you now the last time you even thought about having sex. What... And so, and so, and, and... It's gonna get better. And so Wiley took it upon himself... He never, never admitted it. And one of the ways to get parole now is you have to admit to your crime. Wiley says, "I didn't do it; I didn't get it. I didn't do it." He filed a motion with the court. The court uh.... We got involved in the case. And guess what happened after they took the... D.N.A.? It wasn't Wiley. It wasn't him. And the jack-legged D.N.A. they did back in 86' just wasn't enough. And so the D.A. [district attorney] wasn't convinced. So they said, "O.k." Now the same... Remember, you got to understand, the Texas Department of Public Safety who took the D.N.A. is the same department who took the D.N.A. that initially convicted him. But now they say, "Oh well, its not him." So Wiley is sittin' in jail and the D.A. says, "Well what we gotta do? We wanna take a test of the water. We wanna find her husband and take a test of the husband." Maybe this is... What they said, they said maybe what happened was the husband had sex that night and

Wiley raped her that morning. And so the, the it was fused... was mashed in there. So his sperm was mashed uh...Some kinda bullshit. [Class: laughs] I still don't understand. Oh, anyway, he stayed in jail another eight months and, and the D.A. knew, knew, Bill Hill's office knew that his test has comeback that its not him. At any rate, Wiley was released about three weeks ago. And I feel real good about that. A number of... another guy I have... He... A young lady accused him of assault. His wife pulled a gun on him or something like that, and he got... Well, he just didn't have the money to go to trial. So we had to, he had to plead guilty, took a deferred. I get called from the D.A.'s office telling me that they had found that the woman had lied. She's done this to two or three other men. And so therefore she's lied. Had another brother over there in Fort Worth, and he's not from here. He, he moved from a little town outside Fort Worth called White Settlement. Now why a black man would move to a town called White Settlement? I don't know. At any rate, he is accused; he was accused of kidnapping and raping a little twelve-year-old white girl. Now, I told him that if, you know, if, if, if just in our lifetime... just the accusation that he was accused of raping a white woman; he would've never made it to the county jail. They would've lynched him out there in White Settlement, in a little old city jail. But we investigated the case and we found witnesses to determine that the little girl had stayed out too late and.. with her friends. She took her fist and hit herself in the nose and caused herself to bleed. And she climbed out of

the bedroom window and ran to her mother's house saying that she was raped. And she pointed out my client and he stayed in jail for about four months. And then... We had, right at the trial, right the day of the trial, when I march in all of these witnesses are gonna testify as to what this little girl did. Only till then did the D.A. dismiss the case. So, I think that that the need for African-American and Hispanic lawyers... And let me go ahead and say this to white lawyers with conscience... and there are many white lawyers with conscience. That we're needed in these communities because there are people who are accused, believe it or not, who are accused of crimes who are really are not guilty. Let me tell you what Wiley Fountain told me when I first met him at the jail. Introduced myself said, so and so and so and so. I said, "Wiley it looks like the evidence is showing that you really didn't do this." He said, "Look man, let me tell you something..." A brother he's relatively educated, uneducated. You know how you get educated in the pen. He said, "Man, let me tell you something," He said, "I done a lot of things in my life. You know." "I do hustle for a living," he says, "but I ain't no rapist. I didn't get that pussy." Those were his words. He says, "I didn't rape that woman, man," he says, "I done, done this. I done, done that. I done, done this. I done, done that. I done, done this. I done, done served some time, I done, done this, but I didn't rape that woman." And I believed him. He is a free man now, fixing to be rich cause we gone sue the hell out of the state. [Class: laughs.]

Roshawn: How do you feel about Mr. John Wiley Price's decision to eliminate the positions of one of Dallas' few black judges and two black constables?

James Belt: How do I feel about it? I , I think it was probably the worst decision that any political person, African-American person, could have made. You got to understand, man, that Texas is a former slave state. So we have come from slavery. We've gone through Black Codes [laws]. We've gone though our women being raped. Our men being lynched. Our little boys, Emmett Till, being just decimated. And the man... The men who did it wrote a book about it went around... Went across the country speaking on it. We've gone through segregation. We've gone through integration, and believe me integration in, in its initial stages was not nice. You all are too young to even remember. Ask your parents about integration and how [Governor Orville] Fabus acted in, in Little Rock, Arkansas at, at, at uh, at Central High School. And how [Governor Geroge] Wallace acted at University of Alabama when he stood in the door and said, " Segregation now, Segregation forever." We've gone through all of that. We've gone through the, the, the attempts to vote. People being mutilated by just going to try to vote. We've passed the poll tax; we've gotten past the poll tax. We've gotten past the literacy test. Literacy test like how many blades of grass are at the or on the White House lawn? How many stars are in the Milky Way? I mean those kind of test they giving black folks to, to see if you were eligible to vote. And

now that we got the right to vote, we got certain laws passed, we got the 1965 Civil Right, 1965 Voting Rights Act passed. In, in many instances we now have across this country, we have single member districts. We can't win; we can't win citywide. White people vote as a block against us, and so, we can't win citywide. So therefore we need single member districts, and that's for.... We can elect our own representatives. When we come through all this and we have a black man to tell us we don't need these positions anymore. If we were a separate country that would be a treasonous act punishable by death. That's treason; that's treason. After all that we've gone through to get what little bit we got. We know who the enemy is and in many instances the enemy is us. He's our enemy. He's our enemy, and he does not deserve one bit of credit for anything he's done after that. Prior to those acts, he was our hero. He stood up for us, but to come in, now, and take away what our ancestors have literally died to get. He's a traitor. He's a traitor. And not only am I telling you all this, and I'm telling it to the camera for history. I've told him, he's a traitor. And anybody who has been in this struggle will tell you that. Al Lipscomb, Diane Ragsdale, Lee Alcorn just go down the list and stop them on the street and ask'em that question about John Wiley Price.

Roshawn: O.K. you're the attorney for the Wilmer Hutchins school board.

James Belt: That's correct.

Roshawn: Maybe you can give us some insight on the lawsuit that's currently pending.

James Belt: What lawsuit?

Roshawn: Between the Wilmer-Hutchins school board and I guess for not having enough Hispanic members on it.

James Belt: There's no, there's no lawsuit pending.

Roshawn: There's no lawsuit pending.

James Belt: No, unh, unh. Not that I know of, but I'm the lawyer if there was, I'd be the first to know.

Silas: Mr. Belt I, I've heard that during court cases you make often reference to biblical scripture. I was wondering, what's the effective purpose of this? And, you know, why do you use this tactic?

James Belt: I don't know if I do that often. In many instances, you know, you got...[light chuckle] You know the people on the jury don't know nothing about the Bible no how. [Class: laughs.] So I'd be wasting my time. You know but in many instances it depends on what kind of jury you have. You know if you have, if you, if you're perceptive enough to go prior to the picking of the jury outside and look and see who has, maybe somebody has a Bible in their hand or somebody reading some religious material and they do get on the jury, in order to sway them you might wanna quote some kind of scripture... You always, you always pick people who like you because you gotta remember the person that you're sitting next to in a criminal case in particular is not very, is not

very, is not necessarily a real likeable kind of guy. He raped somebody, robbed somebody, or beat the hell out of somebody. You know, and then people get on the stand talking about what he did to 'em. You know the jury, the jury is gonna automatically dislike him. So you wanna find folks who like you. You know, and hopefully you can associate, you can help your client because they like you. So if you can quote a scripture, or you can quote Thoreau, or you can quote something that you've seen that they have, have a liking to then you can maybe win them over. Maybe that will be a vote to stop, stop a conviction, or if it is a civil case maybe that will be a vote to help you get more money.

Silas: Changing shifts here a little bit, what, what is your political affiliation?

James Belt: In terms of... who is my political party?

Silas: Yes.

James Belt: Historically I've been a Democrat. I do vote in many instances for Republicans, and I did in this instance. In this past election I voted for a number of Republicans. I voted for Michael Williams who's black and he's the chairman of the Railroad Commission. I voted for Wainwright who was running for Supreme Court. I voted for [Wallace] Jefferson whose running for Supreme Court. I voted for Lisa Hembry, these are all Republicans, who was running for County, County Treasurer. So I had to split my ticket. I mean, and we have to. As African-Americans and Hispanics throughout this state we have to learn

how to split our tickets. You know, we can't go in there and post just straight democratic tickets over just republican tickets. We have to split our tickets because it's to our advantage. We have for the first time in Texas history two African-Americans on the Supreme Court, the highest court in the state of Texas, and they're both Republican, so I had to vote for them. I couldn't vote for the other guy. [laughs] You know.

Silas: Your political affiliation does it directly correlate with your economic status?

James Belt: Na heck, no. Black Republican make a whole lot more than Black Democrats.

Silas: And based on the up coming events of this past election, how do you feel being that it's a unified government with a Republican cohesive legislature; how do you feel the outcome of the country is?

James Belt: Well [sighs] that, that's a real good question young man.

One of the things that I'm, I'm really concerned about is the gains that minorities have made, minorities and women have made in this country.

And now that we have the presidency controlled by the Republican party, the Congress, the Senate, and the judiciary, all branches of government,

are now all three branches of government controlled by the Republicans

I'm hoping that we don't have a turning back of the clock. Now you got

to understand that whole lotta' the country is in bad shape now. Today is

November, this is November 14, 2002 and we've had a hundreds of

thousands of folks laid off of jobs in this country. It is amazing to me how

those same folks went out and voted Republican, but they... So it's it's... Race plays such an important part of every fabric of our life in America, and when you all get my age you'll understand... You can look back and say, "Damn, that guy is telling the truth." But many of these folks voted the way they vote not voting for their pocketbooks but they were voting to more or less I believe to keep us under control. And I think that now they have no excuse. They can't blame it on the Democrats blocking nothing because they're in complete control. So hopefully we won't have a situation where the clock is turned back. The 1965 Civil Rights, Voting Rights Bill comes up for another vote in 2007. Civil... Affirmative Action is being attacked on all fronts. I mean many of us are in, in schools because of laws. You'll may not know this but we had to sue to get in to this school. They didn't just open the door. Everything that African-American got, we had to sue for. Didn't nobody ever gave us nothing, we sued for it. And don't you let nobody tell you that everything is alright cause the gains that we've gained in the 60's, 70's, and the 80's, and the latter part of the 80's and 90's are being taken away from us. So I think that it's good and it's bad that the Republicans control everything. It's good in that now they have no excuses; it's bad because hopefully they won't be mean spirited enough to take away the gains of minorities and women that we've gained in the last thirty years.

Silas: All right, what are some tactics you personally feel we could initiate to induce political participation for minorities?

James Belt: I don't know brother. If you ever figure that out let's put it in a can. We'll all be millionaires. [Class: laughs] I don't know. Let me tell you one of the things that we did. My wife and I also own a newspaper, *The Dallas Examiner*; it's an African-American weekly newspaper. We publish it every week and it's on the Internet. If you would like to look it up it's www.DallasExaminer.com. One of the things that we did in the governor race in 1994 when Bush was running against Ann Richards, we published what's called a voter roll call. Now I'm not gonna' ask everybody, I know everybody in here is registered to vote. I'm not gonna' ask ya'.... How many of ya'll voted? I'm not gonna' embarrass.... One of the things that we did with our paper we went to the elections bureau and we pulled the elections. We picked African-Americans precincts and we printed the voting record, and you would... Did I bring that with me? You would be sure... Are we gonna' take a break.

Professor Gutierrez: Nope.

James Belt: Oh well I'll look in a minute, it's all right. We printed the voting records. We picked three races. We picked the governor race, the president race, and the senate race. Races that everybody should've voted in and we printed their name, their address, and not... We can't tell how they voted, but if they voted on any of these races. And you'd be surprised that the folk just go down the page just all the way down the page and the here's a guy that voted, all the way down the page another guy, just people that don't vote. And then we had what's called a

celebrity corner. We picked elected officials, popular folks. We started with my family, and then we went to our pastor, and then I went to my best friends, then I went to elected officials, and you'd be surprised at the folks that don't vote. Katherine Gilliam been on the school board [Dallas] for twenty some odd years and the only election she ever voted in was the school board election. Reverend uh, reverend uh [snaps fingers] over on Goode street, what's his name, Goode street, Goode street very popular pastor in this area of the country wasn't even registered to vote. [Class: chuckles] You know, I mean that, people that, newspaper publishers, teachers, people that you'd think were on top of things didn't vote. To answer your question, what can we do? I think that... And we put a disclaimer at the top of the paper: "If you feel that your name there is an error in this report do not call *The Dallas Examiner*, call Bruce Sherbert at the Elections bureau," and give his number. We only had one call, and we printed for four weeks, we had one... four or five weeks and that was from a friend of my wife. Oh yeah, two calls, my pastor called cause he didn't vote in the election of 1990 or 1992, and he called, he said, " I voted James." I said, " Well Reverend I called you the night before to you. We were going to press and if you had some proof that I would not print your name." I said, "but you did not return my call." It's Zan Holmes, your pastor [pointing at Camille White] and he was on the Board of Regents at the University of Texas, and he was appointed by [Governor] Ann Richards. Very powerful pastor, probably one of the

most powerful in Texas being the University of Texas. And so what he did is he went and got proof from Bruce Sherbert's office and brought it to us, and the next week reprinted and indicated we made an error. Needless to say every time I call him now he returns my call immediately. [Class: laughs] But I think to answer your question, I think that you have to use some kind of mechanism to hold something over black people's head. I mean if they have to have a fear, that hey man I better go vote otherwise my name maybe on the Internet or something. You know, [laughs] you know, them guys with Belt with *The Dallas Examiner* they printing my name, you know. And I think that what happened we got a letter from at the time, Ron Kirk, who was the Secretary of State [Texas] congratulated us on our efforts to get the vote out. And we do believe that the precincts that we printed their vote tabulation increased immensely. [Class: laughs] So that's one of the things you can do to answer your question. One of the things you can do to entice folks to vote is to have some kind of mechanism to have them to think that if they don't vote other folks going to know about it. Cause if you don't vote, who knows? You know, I mean if you don't, who knows? Nobody knows. Well, I voted nobody knows. And the next thing we're in the process of doing, we have a technician who is in the process of, of doing it programmed that will convert, here again, for the Internet. We're gonna' put it on the Internet, put everybody that lives in Dallas County, that lives in Dallas County, has lived in Dallas County, were gonna' print

your record for the last ten years. So all you have to do is just put the name, and we had that at one time, just put the name, like my name, James C. Belt Jr., hit Enter [pop] bingo. There is your voting record.

Silas: I personally believe that the media, you know, being a vital link or source with the masses is responsible for manufacturing consent as far as you know the government perspective. How do you feel *The Dallas Examiner* contributes to that, or do they really highlight problems within the black community and minorities at large?

James Belt: Well you're right the press has an obligation the obligation being to... I like the way you put that, manufacture opinion. We can form opinion by printing the news and most African-American newspapers print news from a black perspective, and if you wanna' read the news from a black perspective you really have to get it out of an African-American newspaper. You cannot get it out of a daily news even if a black reporter is reporting the news an editor edits what they say, and so in order to get the news, the real news, you have to get it out of an African-American newspaper, and so we do form opinions. People read... It is amazing the people who read our paper, and let me tell you on the internet I bet you we have 2,500 or so hits a day on our paper and really from all over the world. It is amazing the Anglo population that wants to know what we're thinking and I would say the vast majority of our hits come from the Anglo population throughout www, World Wide Web. It's our obligation as a newspaper to print the news as you and I see it.

Silas: All right, we're gonna' change gears a little bit. Mr. Belt I'm gonna ask you what is leadership?

James Belt: Leadership let me tell you what leadership really is in my opinion. Have you ever been to a playground and if you just stand back and watch I'm not talking about young adults. I'm talking about watch kids in the first grade and kindergarten play, and if you sit there and watch long enough you see that many of the kids are attracted to one or two of the other kids on the playground. Those are your leaders. Those are your leaders at the very outset of life. You'll find a kid who everybody wants on their team, or you'll find a kid who everybody wants to be with. Those are your initial leaders. Leadership is the ability to lead people, and unfortunately in many instances people are led in the wrong direction. Hitler was a leader; he led folks in the wrong direction. Mussolini, Stalin and these folks were what we consider leaders but they're bad leaders. They are folks who had strong opinions and an ability to guard people to follow them. And what the ability is, who knows? I mean if you just it, it begins as a child; I mean it just begins as a child. You see those true leaders. Now when you look around and you watch'em as they grow, they're not necessarily the people who are elected to office. In many instances your people who are elected to office they're not really leaders. They're elected officials; there is a difference between a leader and a elected official. If you gotta a lotta money to put your name all over the little old single member district that you're living in and people see that

name, and unfortunately people, in many instances, they're like sheep. They see the name, the name identification, they get to the ballot, that's who they vote for, and that's who's considered by many people as a leader, but he's not necessarily the leader or she. In many instances, that person is just the elected official, and the leader is somewhere else doing something else. I don't know if I answered your question or not, but leadership is the ability of a person, an individual, to formulate ideas and use that mechanism to carry those ideas out.

Silas: Alright, who is the most effective African-American politician today, nationally and locally?

James Belt: Nationally it's probably Jesse Jackson. It's probably Jesse Jackson, and locally it's probably Sen. Royce West.

Silas: And which is the most effective African-American political organization today and why?

James Belt: Where, nationally?

Silas: Yeah same nationally and locally.

James Belt: I don't know that we have a national political African-American political organization that is viable to the point that it's viable. N.A.A.C.P. probably comes close to that, but then you uh [chuckles] you can't have white corporations financing your revolution. You know what I mean. You know and that that's what N.A.A.C.P. is all about. You know corporate support and I'll give you an example. We had a guy come here about five or six years ago, real tough young brother. He's about 27

or 28 years old, damn, went blank on his name and he headed up the N.A.A.C.P. anyway just a real dynamic brother. First thing he did went out there and jumped on the Cowboys about not being uh for not being responsive to African-Americans. No African-American concession stands and such, Cowboys gave in. Next thing he jumped on somebody else, they gave in. Went out and jumped on Dr. Pepper, Dr. Pepper has no African-American on the board, they have no African-American distributors, no African-American executive offices, most African-American drive the trucks, laborers and things like that. That's just an example of what he did. And so what did they do? They knew not to deal with him. They went straight to the national headquarters, bought a table at the banquet, gave'em four, five thousand dollars, and guess what? The brother got transferred. So to say that you have a viable, viable organization you have to support it or otherwise you can't run it. Locally I don't know if we have one.

Silas: What is the most pressing issue facing African-American today?

James Belt: Unity, we have to be united. We're not united. I don't even have to think about that. We're too individualistic. You know, I mean conformity is bad in many instances, but in instances of freedom, justice, and equality there has to be unity and conformity. And even I will conform when it comes to freedom, justice, and equality for our people.

Silas: Mr. Belt what are the underpinnings of tension between African-American and Hispanics today?

James Belt: I don't know; peons fighting for crumbs. Instead of uniting and taking the cake over, cutting the cake up, peons fighting for crumbs off the table of master. I don't know what the underpinnings. I don't know, I don't know, I guess it's just... I don't know what it is. I can't tell you that. It's just jealousy of part of both groups, I guess. I don't know; I really can't tell you. Hopefully it'll change.

Anterria: We now have a couple of question from the class. One of our classmates, Pam Bass, would like to ask the Voting Rights Act called for single member districts to be created and no more at large districts.

Wilmer Hutchins is called an outlaw city. And it's one of the five in Texas because they did not and will not comply. Can you enlighten us on this dilemma?

James Belt: I'm not familiar with that necessarily being a dilemma. An outlaw, an outlaw city [sighs] you know that kinda' disturbs me especially in light of the fact that, you know, I can't even count the lynchings that they've had here in Dallas. I don't know that we've ever had any. You know it never was called an... You know it never was a problem until black folks took over; you know what I mean. I mean as long as white folks were running it, no problem. Nobody had any problems, and then when black folks move in a little old small community and a elected school board and a city council all of a sudden it's an outlaw city. What do you mean outlaw city? Ain't never been no lynchings out there. [Class: laughs] You know have any white folks got

lynched out there? Not that I know of. Ya'll ever heard of any white folks getting, getting maimed or anything out there. I mean why is it an outlaw city now that we run it. Now that we got an all black school board, an all black city council, now it's an outlaw city. Ya'll be careful how ya'll let, see the media will twist your thinking. You know when we take something over all of a sudden it gets bad. It's bad. Did I... What was your question? [Class: laughs] Anywhere we go, you know, the folks look back and say when we get a hold of it, it ain't no good. Gary, Indiana ain't no good now; black folks took it over. You know, when mayor, when Mayor Washington was running Chicago, it ain't no good, it ain't nothing about Chicago good no mo'. You know when ever we get in a position of power all of a sudden it ain't no, no... You know what the problem is it's the money. See those entities have money and you, do you... When you look at D.I.S.D. it's about 80% minority, but white folks still run it, why? The money, a billion dollar budget, you think they going to let us have that, you crazy. Is anybody calling Dallas Independent School District uh Dallas an outlaw city cause they still got control of the money. You know, let the money get outta here; they'll leave it go on in Richland where they belong. You know what I mean? Then they'll be a outlaw city Irving and Arlington they even coming back to Oak cliff.... I had one move in my neighborhood last week as a matter of fact. Out there voting a straight republican ticket. I'm sorry did I answer your question, baby?

Anterria: Yes you did, and how much money do you make?

James Belt: Ain't none of your business. [Class: laughs] No it's not, you don't I mean that's not, that's a personal question. I mean, you know, I'm sorry. I mean it's just kinda' spontaneous response, honey. In law that's called rage justae statement. You know kind of a spontaneous reaction you don't tell anybody how much money you make. It's like asking you when you have your period. [Class: laughs] I mean that's kinda personal question, you know. [laughs] Check mate.

Dr. Gutierrez: We've got five minutes.

Anterria: Do we have any more questions from the class? [Class: laughs]

Dr. Gutierrez: I have a couple of questions. The thousand black men idea will you talk a little about that? The question was really about why aren't there single member districts in Wilmer-Hutchins I. S. D. That the question, I think.

James Belt: Okay, I don't know.

Dr. Gutierrez: I stepped out for a minute, did you answer how you got appointed to the regents.

James Belt: Yeah, oh yeah that's a interesting story. Mark White was the governor at the time in 80 [chuckles] galee hot flash your to young for that. Mark White was the governor in 86' and he was a Democratic governor and he was relatively a liberal white man and made a lot of appointments of Hispanics and Blacks to boards and commissions. He didn't appoint nobody to the University of Texas though, but

nevertheless. I mean that's the plum that's where all... That's, you know that's they little ol' thing. Although, they ain't got no white boys playing football, they ain't got no white boys playing b-ball, they ain't got no white boys playing track uh running track, but they got the tennis team and the swim team. We gone' take it over too, and the golf team. You know we gone' get the golf team after Tiger. At any rate the Governor uh I petitioned my Senator at time that was Oscar Mowsey another liberal Democrat white brother. And I petitioned him through my pastors Zan Holmes. Zan Holmes is a very powerful African-American pastor in this state and this country, and I told him I wanted to be on the Board of Regents of Texas Southern. I wanted to be on Board of Regents of Texas Southern cause, as I told you, when I walked across that stage I made a commitment to work with that university and do all I could to help it to survive and to grow, and he said he would talk to Mowsey, and he talked to Mowsey. Mowsey set an appointment up; we had lunch one afternoon, and I wasn't... I'm not Mowsey's kind of guy, but Mowsey was in trouble politically because that district out there was changing. You know we were moving in, and they were moving out. You know wherever we move in, they move out. We move in; they move out. We move in; they move out. We get their house cheap; we get everything cheap. Then we get the values up, they move back in closer to town, anyway that's what they doing now. Anyway, so Mowsey was afraid, I'm sure, and he didn't want to offend Zan Holmes who was a very powerful African-American

preacher, and so he agreed. So he agreed to submit my name to the Governor, and being the Senator he was, the Governor submitted my name to the Senate appointed me. And to get the appointment, I had to write the letters and do the little things you have to do. Well you gotta show the governor your strength. He wants to know how you can later help him, and my strength was I knew everybody in Texas. Start in Brownville with the county judge Moses Vela to McAllen his stronghold a Democratic stronghold that's where I'm from, to Wichita Falls, to Dallas, to Houston, and I'm sure when he got these letters he asked his people. His secretary called me back and said, "How do you know these people." And the Governor asked Moses Vela, "Do you really know James Belt?" and Moses who I told you earlier was my mentor all of my life you know he says, "Yes I know him. I know his family. I know his mother, his father, everybody in his family. He's a good man, appoint him." That's how I got the appointment.

Dr. Gutierrez: Thousand Black Man... Uh Coach, you wanna talk about Coach for a while, another mentor.

James Belt: Coach Gonzalez, I can't leave him out. Angel Gonzalez was a guy.... See you all gotta' understand back in the late 50's early 60's it was a turbulent for black students at white schools, turbulent, turbulent. I mean it was nothing there was nothing a white student could do to a student that wouldn't cause that black student to be put outta' school, nothing. And of the twelve of us that went six graduated, seven, the rest

of them got kicked out. The rest of them went to school somewhere else. It was tragic; it was criminal, criminal what they did to us, criminal. So you well this guy got a bad attitude; he got a right to have a damn bad attitude. That's why I got my ass kicked as a kid by these folks. Damn, what was your question?

Monica: Coach.

James Belt: Coach Gonzalez. During this time the only beacon of light throughout that system was Angel Gonzalez. You know he was the guy who really shielded us; he really did. He took a lot of crap, and I will always respect him, always. Because he was right there and he knows what was happening to us, and he made sure the ones of us that got through, he got us through. Would not be for him, I don't think I would have even finished high school because I just, I just was not... I was not gonna take no... You call me a nigger; you fixing to get yo' ass kicked. I'm coming at you period. I mean yo' Mamma is a nigger. You know, I mean don't go there with me so whatever the consequences are and they knew the Coach knew it. You know this guy called me a nigger one day, and uh well I did the best I could to kill him. And as I was leaving... I was on the track team. I was just so mad and I had my track shoes, and you know track shoes have those cleats in them, and I would run across the tennis court, and to be honest with you I wasn't thinking. I was still upset. See when you call a black person a nigger that's like taking a board and hitting a individual. I mean that's the first lick, that's the first lick. So

I'm upset and I'm running and the coach of the tennis team runs over there and says, " get out over there, nr nr nrnrnrnrnrnr nr nr." And I just took that track shoe off and I went at it. I really did. I was a about junior, but I was a star on the basketball team; I was the track team, you know. I mean you go to state you can't go without James Belt. [laughs] Shit.

[Class: laughs] You know, you put me off the team you put me off I'll fix your smart ass. All that glory ya'll been getting, you ain't gone' get.

[Class: laughs] You know. So uh the Coach man he runs.... Angel runs over there and gets me and talks to me says, "Cool, settle down, settle down" Man I went home; I got my little shit and went home walking. And he came to the house, and he... I knew I was fixing to get put outta school, I knew that. You know, I was just ready, just ready to go move to Houston or something or move to Chicago with my Uncle and them, I was just ready to get outta' there. And he worked it out. He worked it out, and of course we went to sate in track.

Dr. Gutierrez: Thousand Black Man, last question.

James Belt: Thousand Black Men.... Historically African-American men have been pissed on, crapped on, lynched you name it and it has happened to us. And it has had a tremendous psychological effect on black men in particular. And so what I have come up with is an idea to first of all to gather black men, and to unite them, and to give them pride in being a black man. We came up with the idea a thousand. A thousand is key number; a thousand is a frightening number and then when you add

black to its even more frightening. Ant then when you put a thousand black men it's horrible in the eyes of a lot of folks. And so what we want to do we want to formulate a group of, a group of a thousand black men to work on the economic, social, religious, uh political atmosphere in our community, and do something about it in a positive manner. For example, if in fact there is something pending at the city council of Dallas that has a negative effect on the black people in the city, what do you think would happen if 400 or 500 black men showed up? It would scare the living crap out of them, including the black city council people. So there are powers.... See, see ya'll we are the power. We have the power; we the people have the power to do whatever we want to do. Those guys that we've elected are just conduits for us. They are to do what we tell them to do, and if we don't tell them what to do, John Wiley Price made the motion, made the motion to get rid of those black elected officials because he knew he didn't have to answer to anybody. You know the mayor has never, never done anything to help black business. Sam Lindsey has never been involved in anything, anything that benefits black people. You think I won't tell him that. What they gone' do, stop talking to me. I don't give a damn, you know. And that's what we need; we need black men who are for the African-American community not these lackies that 's being paid by white folks. What kinda' mayor you think we got make 140 thousand dollars a year from a white law firm. He went in a jack-legged lawyer making bullshit money and he came out a millionaire,

but you ask him what African-American business did you help? And I have statistics, while he was on, while he in... Don't you let him take credit for the college out there in uh in uh north Texas the one that just moved to Duncanville. That was Royce West; Senator Royce West brought that here. So we have, we have gone back on leadership under this leadership that we have at the city council. African-American business has gone back; Hispanic business has increased three fold and they only have two representatives on the city council. Now the Thousand Black Men their primary purpose is not necessarily to correct these things, but to make sure that the African-American leadership understands what the African-American people want not who's paying you. You need to know what we want.

Dr. Gutierrez: One other question over here?

James Belt: Just a minute and the second function is to bring some sort of viable coalition between African-American and Hispanics, because see ya'll we can run Texas. We can run Texas. We have to first of all we ain't got to like each other, but we gotta' understand that we have common interest. Sanchez should be governor of this state. Ron Kirk should be our senator. I voted for Ron. You know, I, I, I gave him money. You know because his effort was a historic effort, and so was Sanchez's. And they should be our senator, and they should be our governor, and they should take turns. The next time Ron should be our governor and Sanchez our senator, and don't leave Henry Cisneros out, and don't leave you teacher

out. A hell of a brother. This is the guy who you ought to be doing a story on, that's the documentary right there. I ain't done shit compared to what he's done. [Class: laughs]

Dr. Gutierrez: That's true. [Class: laughs]

Candace: Real quick I want to know the mother's maiden name, and I want you to also speak just a little bit about the leadership luncheon that was previously housed out of St. Luke Community United Methodist Church.

James Belt: Why you need to know my mother maiden name; you trying to get a credit card or something. You know, you know you'd be surprised that is a password for a lot of folk's computer entrance, the mother's maiden name. You trying to figure something up on me? Her maiden name is Juitt.

Candace: Juitt.

James Belt: Uh huh, J-U-I-T-T. Helena, Arkansas you wanna look her up, look the family up for me.

Candace: She's still living?

James Belt: No she's not, and the other question.

Dr. Gutierrez: Luncheon.

James Belt: When I got to Dallas in the late, mid 70's there was a luncheon going on in Fort Worth. I forget the name of it, and we were having a revival at our church, St. Luke Community United Methodist Church. And I talk to the pastor and say, "Look Man we ought to have a

luncheon for the speaker that was coming over. A guy named Walter Kimbro from a Cascade United Methodist Church in Atlanta, and we had a luncheon upstairs and about 25 or 30 guys, and uh we had a luncheon for Kimbro and turned out real well. The food was real good, and so I just determined that we ought to do this on a regular basis. So we started doing it on a regular basis uh just to get uh not to.... We wanted to make sure it was a St. Luke thing. We wanted the community, and I doubt as I tell people all the time, I doubt if any St Luke people ever really attended on a regular basis. It was really a community effort. People from all over the city would come, and after about a while maybe it was a year or so. I think we were doing it on a monthly basis and after about a year or so uh contacted Commissioner Price, this was when he was doing good in the community, hey man you ought to come on and do this cause he's the Commissioner we could get a bigger draw. He said well yeah if I do it let's do it on a weekly basis. He went and talked to KNO.... Uh KKDA and KKDA started putting us on the radio, and for a month or so, and it was a real kind of informative situation. I think what happen to it eventually is uh, I don't know. I just don't know; people just stop coming, you know, people just stop coming and we just let it go.

Dr. Gutierrez: Anything else.

Anterria: Thank you Mr. Belt for taking time out of your busy schedule to come and join wit us here at University of Texas in Arlington. We thank you again for coming out.

James Belt: yeah and I thank you very much for inviting me, but you know something we didn't do, I didn't get a chance to meet ya'll. What's your name man?

Roshawn: Roshawn Davis.

Silas: Silas Panzu.

Anterria: Anterria Barret.

Monica: Monica Esquivel.

James Belt: Please to meet ya'll, *mucho gusto*.

Dr. Gutierrez: Well thank you Mr. Belt.