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THE ASSOCIATION OF BLACK COLLEGIANS

NEWSLETTER.

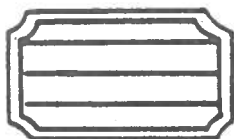


Boothe

BE PROUD.

The Association of Black Collegians Newsletter is the result of the combined efforts of the following: Renee Becton, Barrisford Boothe, Denise Farrington, Anthony Green, and Robert Ross. The influence of other black students on campus, especially the freshmen students, is greatly appreciated by us all. The idea of the Newsletter grew out of our realization that the voice of the black population here on campus has not been heard by the entire Lafayette Community. We'd also like to extend a very special thank you to Mr. Frank Dobson, Freshman Prep Program Director and friend of us all.

The Black Cultural Center, which is the "home" of Lafayette's Black Collegians, is located just off the Quad, in the main campus area. To phone, call 594-6058. Responses to the Newsletter are solicited.

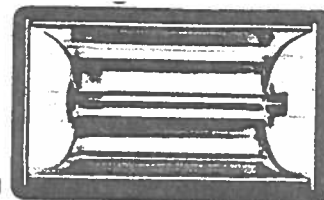


Whiter Than America

by Denise Farrington

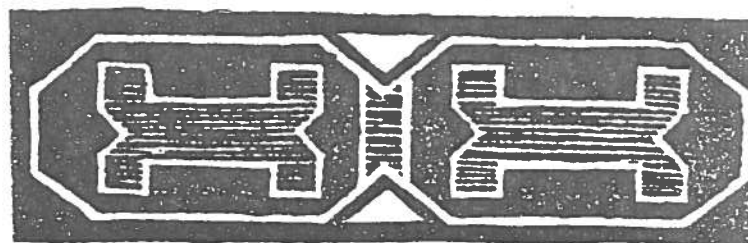
Here at Lafayette College there are 64 Black students--that's 3.1 percent of the student population. The percentage of Blacks in the United States is well over three times that. We can gather from this that Lafayette is not representative of "real life" in America. Not only is this a disadvantage for the Black students here, but it is also disadvantageous for white students as well. Though they may not realize it, they are lacking the necessary exposure to fully understand the social aspects of America.

Afro-America is not fully represented on this campus. Granted, there are a few token administrators and coaches, together totalling five Blacks. But these are people with whom we seldom come in contact unless we seek them out on our own initiative. The people whom students interact with on a daily basis are those in our dorms and our professors.



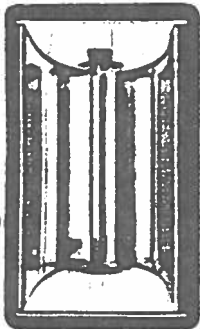
Look around the dorms! Who is mopping the floors? Who is scrubbing the toilets? Black men and women from the Easton area are cleaning the dorms. Oh, there are a few whites in these positions, but just a few.

The other group that interacts regularly with the students is the faculty. This group is the most crucial to and responsible for the students' academic success or failure. Naturally, there are no Black professors at Lafayette. What is so natural about it is that it certainly fits in with the going trend on campus. One might assume here that most Blacks are only good for cleaning up bathrooms, etc..



It's not that there are no Blacks qualified to teach at Lafayette, for Blacks are receiving advanced degrees all over this country--as well as all over the world. It's just that Lafayette College employs none on its faculty.

What do we have at Lafayette? We have white professors teaching Black History, white professors teaching Black Literature and the Anthropology of Africa! Where are the Black professors who have experiential insight on these subjects? They do exist (just not at this college). Is Lafayette so blind that it cannot see the benefit of Black professors teaching Black History, etc.? Or, can't it even see the benefit of having a few Black professors, period?



Perhaps in the 1950's in the southern states of America, this type of "lily white" atmosphere might have been accepted. However, we are thirty years beyond 1950, and we are not in a southern state. I don't believe this situation should be accepted--or even allowed!

Here at Lafayette, there are many Blacks in the maintenance department, a smaller percentage in the student body, five token Black administrators, and no Black faculty. Something is terribly wrong here. I can see it; I hope that you can see it as well. I am sure that Lafayette sees it. By "Lafayette," I mean those who are responsible for the hiring and firing of staff members. I am forced to believe that these people--Lafayette--are white, or else wouldn't they see the need for a wider variety of Black employees? Yes, Lafayette College must be white, whiter than America, herself.



ATTENTION---CLASS OF '85

by Renee Becton

The Freshman Prep Program is a new and long-needed addition at Lafayette. The Program was designed specifically with the needs of black freshmen in mind...including the disproportionately high attrition rate among black students here. Its aim is to make the first year of life at Lafayette easier academically and a little easier to adjust to socially. The administration has finally recognized the need for the supportive services that the Prep Program offers. The Program, its director, Frank Dobson, and the peer tutors and counselors are all here and ready to help you. So now it's up to you, the Class of '85, to help yourselves.

BLACK ADMINISTRATORS AT LAFAYETTE:
PART I

by Robert Ross

The Association of Black Collegians at Lafayette College would like to introduce the Black administrators who presently hold positions here on campus. In our first feature article, we would like the Lafayette community to meet Mr. Frank Dobson.

As our newest Black administrator, Frank is currently the director of Lafayette's Freshman Prep Program and is also the minority advisor on campus.

Frank, who is a native of Buffalo, New York, was educated in the Buffalo public school system. After high school, he attended the State University of New York at Buffalo where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. College life had its ups and downs, considering the riots and boycotts that took place between 1970 and 1973. During this period, Frank was inspired by an Afro-American Literature teacher and novelist, Dr. Carlene Polite. She not only taught the literature, but she taught the life as well. For example, she introduced her students to Attica prisoners' views and also give "behind the scenes" information on famous Blacks who had been falsely depicted in literature and movies. Her concern and inspiration personally motivated Frank's life.

After receiving his Bachelors degree in 1973, Frank left Buffalo in pursuit of a Masters degree in English at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. He received his Masters in 1975 and went on to work for the Nevada Department of Welfare. After a year in this occupation he went to Bowling Green State University in Ohio to obtain a Ph.D. in English. He is currently in the dissertation stage of his Ph.D. In the future, Frank plans to finish his Ph.D. and would also like to further develop his creative writing skills in order to publish poems and short stories.

Through the "Chronicle of Higher Education," Frank learned of the position at Lafayette that he presently holds. After submitting the necessary applications and a resume, he went through the rigorous day-long interview process. The administration

was obviously satisfied, and Frank secured the job during the summer of 1981.

When asked what type of promise he saw for Blacks seeking administrative positions at colleges similar to Lafayette, Frank said, "the competition for positions at schools like Lafayette might not be as stiff as for larger institutions such as N.Y.U. or Penn State. The reason for this is that Blacks tend not to think that they can get positions at schools like Lafayette." He also feels that because of the location, which often socially and culturally deprives the Black professional, Blacks hesitate to apply for positions outside of the large city universities. "Lafayette and schools like it must do a bit more than Penn. or Howard would have to do to recruit Black professionals.

As director of the Freshman Prep Program, which is a support services program designed to aid freshman students, Frank is responsible for coordinating tutoring, peer and professional counseling, academic support workshops and close communications between the students and their instructors.

Aside from the Freshman Prep Program, Frank also functions as a minority counselor/admissions representative. He deals with the concerns and problems of the Black students on campus individually and collectively. He is willing to assist the Association of Black Collegians and help to develop the Black pride and identity that the majority of white institutions lack. He also feels that the A.B.C. must prosper for the purpose of preserving what little Black heritage there is on campus.

Concerning the position of the Black man in America, Frank feels that it is not improving at all. He feels that programs such as busing and affirmative action have not worked. Black unemployment is much higher than the national figures and Black teen-age unemployment is over 50%. The prison system

