

In Colton Chapel . . .

The pews of Colton Chapel were packed during the Black Forum Monday night.

Black students had come from Lehigh as well as Lafayette to give moral support to the panel. Many interested whites had come out of curiosity. White liberals and radicals had arrived to prove to themselves and to each other that either 1) they had nary a shred of racism in their souls, or 2) they had plenty of it and they were eager to do public penitence for their sins of thought.

In truth, the size and friendly tenor of the audience indicated that the Zeitgeist is very definitely on the side of the Blacks, and if they want to get things down, now is the best time to do it.

The "demands" presented by the Association of Black Collegians at the forum were, on the whole, quite reasonable and just. Surely they deserve careful consideration.

One of these "demands" was that for more Black students. We see two reasons for fulfilling this request: 1) The college should help clear the way for the Black drive for a dignified place in all facets of American life. 2) Another face should be added to the sterile cultural and political life at Lafayette. Just as we need more representation of the conservative political po-

sition on campus, so do we need more cognizance of the modern culture of the Black American.

The forum panel mentioned the need for more Negro faculty members and a full time administrator. We don't have to obtain these by "raiding" major Negro universities. Surely we could start by arranging a yearly exchange program with such institutions.

We agree, too, that Black Studies should be expanded—especially within the context of other courses. At one time, almost 20% of the American population was Negro—60% in some states. Yet most of our American history courses ignore the role black citizens have played.

As for a Black cultural center . . . Well, this is a good idea if it does not become a refuge for Black separatism. What it has to offer should be open for Caucasians as well as Negroes. With certain safeguards, however, an adequate black center can be a valuable addition to the campus.

To fill this void, the Board of Trustees would do well to rent the "house behind Marquis" to A.B.C. In this way, an edifice with a long tradition could continue to serve a valid cultural purpose.

RGN