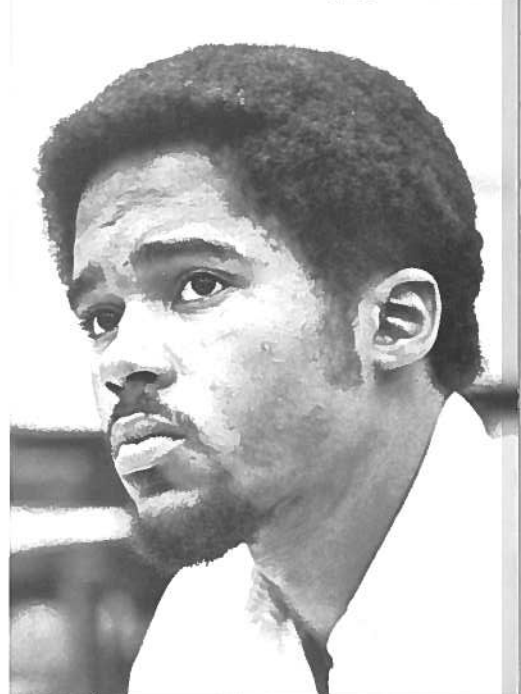
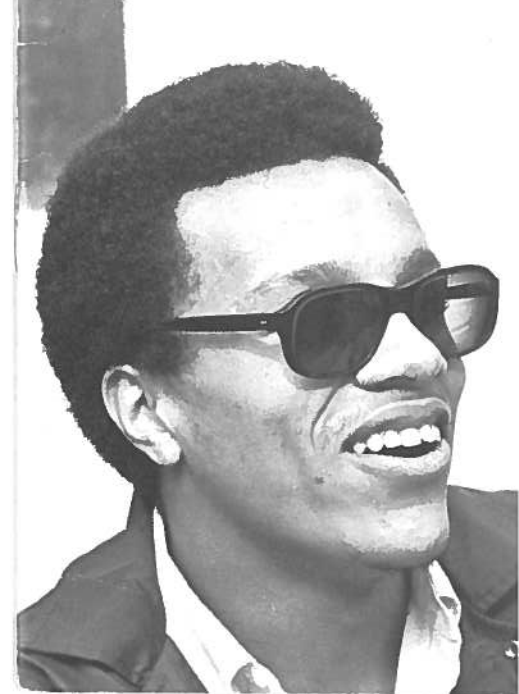


RAPPED IN BLACK





RAPPED IN BLACK

The purpose of this booklet is to inform the prospective Black freshman about the academic and social conditions at Lafayette College. It has been produced through the efforts of the Association of Black Collegians and the Assistant to the Dean of Students whose primary concern is the problems and affairs of Black students at Lafayette.

Four Black students and the Black Assistant to the Dean have answered questions often asked by Black applicants. It is impossible to include every question that might be asked, but this booklet is a glimpse at the Black students' experience at a college that is predominantly white and academically difficult.

As you will learn from some of the questions and answers, a considerable amount of any student's time must be spent preparing for classes that are demanding. Lafayette prepares the Black student as much as it can—short of changing the color of his skin—for a profession or graduate school. If you are interested in an education, Lafayette has it to offer.

As of September, 1969, there were 43 Black students among Lafayette's 1,850 men. The Association of Black Collegians is working with the Admissions Office to bring more black students to the College.

In addition to recruitment, the ABC is making efforts to improve the social situation. We are in close contact with all of the area colleges where Blacks are enrolled and we share our social events. Whatever is happening at another school, we have knowledge of it and vice versa. Most of the sisters in the area find their way to Lafayette or we find our way to them. Also, in June, 1969, Lafayette's Board of Trustees approved a resolution that will soon permit the admission of women for the first time.

Black students at Lafayette need *more* Black students to fill out our community. We need more Black students so that the Black experience is not lost but shared while we are being educated for ourselves, for our people, and for humanity.

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE
EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA

James R. Hairston '71
Social Chairman
Association of Black Collegians

WHAT WAS MOST DIFFICULT ABOUT YOUR ADJUSTMENT TO COLLEGE?



GILL: I went to an integrated high school where I sometimes found myself to be the only Black student in a class. Still, I had difficulties in adjusting to life at Lafayette. I had never been in an environment where I had to actually *live* with white people. In high school contact with white students ended at 3 p.m.; here the contact is 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Fortunately my adjustment was made easier in that I lived in a tightly knit dormitory section where everyone got along well. Part of my academic problem arose from getting along too well with my roommate. Instead of studying, our room was the community center where everyone gathered after dinner. On the whole, Black freshmen get along quite well with their roommates. In the freshman year Black students are assigned to room with white students. After that year brothers are free to choose their own roommates.



CURETON: Coming from a large, predominately Black high school, I soon found that my educational background was inferior to the majority of white students. Because of a lack of competition in high school my study habits never fully developed. I had to learn how to balance my time since I was now on my own. This is a problem for both Black and white students. It's necessary from the beginning to work at balancing your time because it will seem as if you have so much time at the start of a semester. Wait until exams come around!



CANN: The black student at Lafayette must not only make the transition from high school to college, but also the adjustment to life on our predominately white, small college campus. Things have changed a lot at Lafayette since my freshman year. I found life very miserable my first year. I found it impossible to get good grades, no matter how hard I worked. I saw very few girls and met even fewer sisters. The freshman mixers were poor. The few sisters who showed up always seemed to disappear with a Black upperclassman. Black freshmen never really were together. Freshmen in general and Black freshmen in particular are less separated now from the rest of the college community.

WHAT'S YOUR ACADEMIC WORK AND STUDY SCHEDULE LIKE?



CUMMINGS: As an engineering student I found that during my first two years the majority of my time was spent learning the sciences, both theoretical and applied. The amount of study time needed during this period was approximately six hours daily. During my junior and senior years when I took courses in my major the length of time fluctuated between six and eight hours daily depending on how close we were to exams and the number of papers to be written.



GILL: I'm majoring in history. Like most A.B. students my first two years were spent fulfilling all the requirements for graduation. I didn't really get into my major until my junior year. I probably average at least five hours a day studying. Most of the studying involves a thorough reading of the material assigned. Studying for exams usually requires seven to eight hours. As a history major I have to write research papers for my courses. These papers have to be a minimum of ten typed pages, but once I start it isn't too hard because the topics are of my own choosing. The writing of a paper usually takes all my time for a few days.



CANN: As a biology major I get both the papers of the liberal arts major and the exams of the science major. I enjoy the varied work. I have found Lafayette a highly competitive place academically. Although I have not found the subject matter of my courses extremely difficult, I have often found my work load heavy. I have to spend a great deal of time just to keep ahead of the material. Generally I spend about seven hours a day in actual studying during the school week. I usually don't study on the weekend, though sometimes it's necessary.



CURETON: Since I am an engineering major the majority of my courses are math, sciences, and the required courses for my engineering major. As a freshman I was required to take calculus, chemistry, English, and two basic engineering courses. These courses required about eight to ten hours a day if I was to be successful.

CAN I GET HELP IF I GET INTO ACADEMIC DIFFICULTY?



PORTLOCK: Lafayette is small enough to be personal and large enough to offer virtually any service that is needed to assist students who find themselves in academic difficulty. If you are admitted to Lafayette you should graduate; if you have academic problems we should be able to help you solve them. There are a number of programs available, ranging from the Big Brother Program for Black freshmen to paid tutors provided through the Dean's Office. As a Black student you may find academic difficulty resulting from pressures outside the classroom. If you feel you have a problem, even if you can't put your finger on exactly what it is, let us know in the Dean's Office. All we ask is that you show the initiative and desire in bringing your problem to our attention.



HOW ARE BLACK STUDENTS AT LAFAYETTE ORGANIZED?



CUMMINGS: The Black student organization at Lafayette is the Association of Black Collegians (ABC). It is an official college organization and is funded by Student Council. According to constitution rules, all Black students are members of the ABC, but not all of them come to meetings or other functions. However, those who don't attend the meetings are not scorned by those who do. The ABC was formed to improve the condition of Black students both academically and socially, and to develop a power base from which changes in the structure and scope of the so-called 'Lafayette experience' may be developed and projected. We brothers have learned that united Black students are listened to.

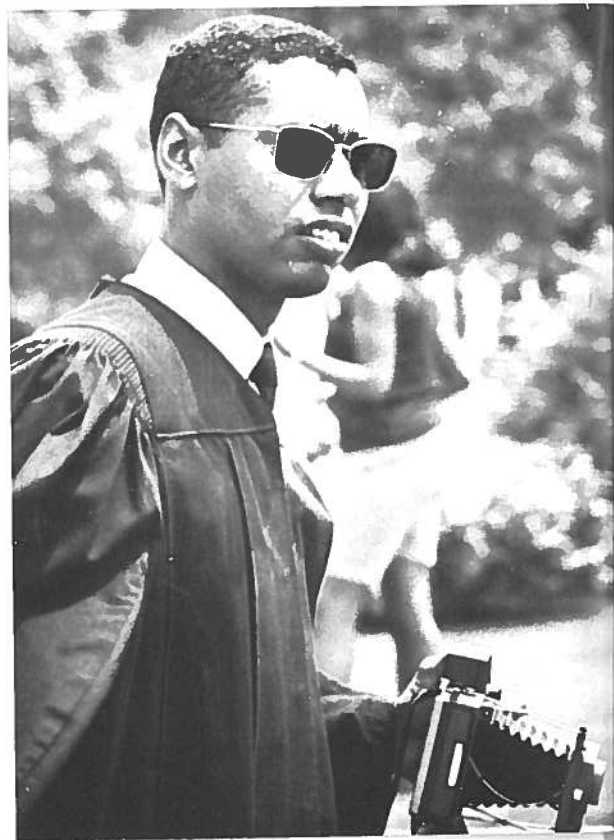
The ABC has pressed for an increase in both the number of Black students and Black faculty members at Lafayette. We are actively involved with our Admissions Office in the recruitment of Black students. We are also pressing for an increase in the number of Black Studies courses offered at the college. Academically, the association sponsors a Big Brother program in which freshmen are assigned upperclass brothers whose job it is to help them adjust to the academic realities of college. The organization has held a series of Black parties. We put out a newsletter and publish a directory of the Black students at colleges in the area. A new venture is a program in which several ABC members will conduct Black History and culture courses for the teenage brothers and sisters in Easton. The social committee hopes to have a Black Arts Festival for a weekend in the spring.



IS SPECIAL ADMISSIONS OR FINANCIAL AID CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO BLACK APPLICANTS?



GILL: Since most Blacks are disadvantaged (that is, economic, educational and/or cultural deprivation) we qualify for special consideration. If the Admissions Office knows that you are Black, regardless of economic condition, they give you special or additional attention. If you are accepted, you will have to work just as hard as everyone else before you graduate. Financial aid is awarded on the basis of need. Usually you will receive a scholarship (a gift!) and a loan that must be repaid after graduation. Sometimes students receiving financial aid are given a job as well as a grant and loan, but this isn't common. The aid may be adjusted from year to year because of college costs or family income which may change. This can mean either more or less aid. The 'financial aid package' is one of the best parts of the college. Many brothers decided to come to Lafayette because of it.



WHAT'S THE REAL STORY ON FRATERNITY DISCRIMINATION AND SOCIAL LIFE?



GILL: As an ex-officer and ex-member of a fraternity at Lafayette I can say that discrimination does exist in several fraternities. Certain houses have clauses in their charters that prohibit them from taking members of minority groups (brothers). At the moment Black students are or have been members of ten of the 19 frats on campus. But the brothers are usually represented in ones or twos in a fraternity. The number of Black fraternity members has decreased as fraternity membership in general has decreased.

The social life for all students revolves around four "party weekends" each semester. During 48 hours brothers are expected to cram in a lot of partying to make up for the weeks they don't. When I was a freshman it was damn hard for a brother to get a date from any of the neighboring schools. This situation has changed as more and more Black women are entering Beaver, East Stroudsburg, Cedar Crest and Centenary. Secondly, more and more brothers have established outside contacts with other schools to improve their social life. Some of the brothers have been fortunate enough to have found girls to date in Easton. In fact, two members of the class of 1969 married Black women from Easton.



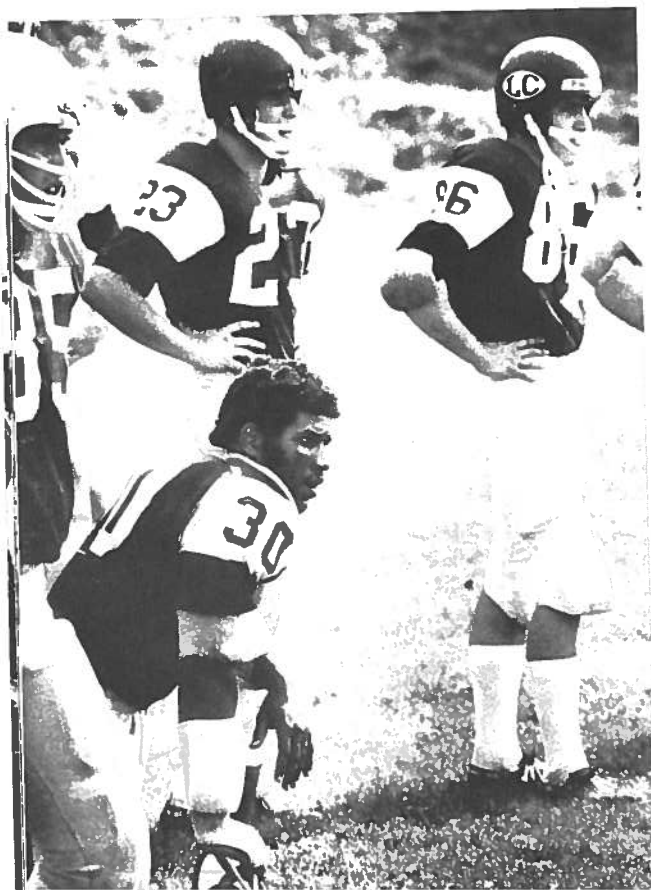
CANN: Fraternity discrimination does exist. This has been a major issue for at least three years as both discrimination and the fraternity system have come under attack from the faculty, Black students, and the college newspaper. The faculty has set up a committee to receive complaints of discrimination and the Board of Trustees has passed a resolution to eliminate the "blackball."

There are some social alternatives. It's possible to become a reclusive and not be interested in the "finer" things of life. That borders on insanity! It's also possible to have a date every night. That hinders your academic performance. Your social life is what you want it to be. There are sisters at the local colleges and in the community. Your social life really depends on how well you can rap.

ARE BLACK STUDENTS INVOLVED IN STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND CAMPUS LEADERSHIP POSITIONS?



PORTLOCK: The brothers are active in all areas of campus life. There are few activities in which they are not involved and they often hold positions of responsibility and leadership. They are involved in football, basketball, track, lacrosse, soccer, all intramural sports, cheerleaders, SDS, Student Council, class councils, Interfraternity Council, yearbook and newspaper staffs, Glee Club, College Church and choir, band, radio station, McKelvy Scholars Program, ROTC Rangers, Scabbard and Blade Society, engineering professional societies—and there are only 43 brothers!



A FINAL WORD

This is just part of our story. The only way to really know us is to join us. We Black students at Lafayette are engaged in a struggle to educate ourselves and to maintain our Black self respect. If you are interested enough to apply and if you are accepted, you can benefit yourself and the Black students at Lafayette by enrolling.

We are building a strong and progressive Black community at this college. Its purpose is to provide a social life, academic assistance, a tie between the Black community of Easton and the college, and a base for the development of a Black college experience.

The problems Black students find at any predominantly white college exist at Lafayette. However, the Association of Black Collegians is eliminating many of those problems and we hope by the end of this school year they will be non-existent. The brothers will be able to find a citadel of education that is truly relevant to us.

The Brothers
of ABC

