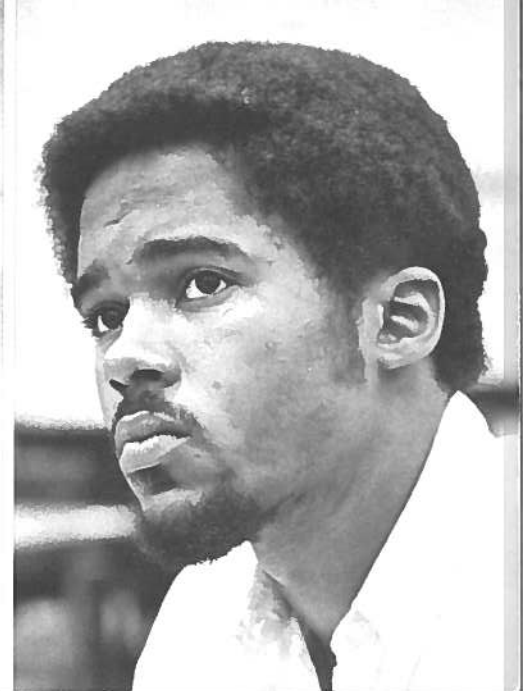


RAPPED IN BLACK





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RAPPED IN BLACK

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Rapped in Black is only one year old and it is outdated. In the past year, the brothers of the Association of Black Collegians (ABC) and Lafayette College have gone through many changes. This year **Rapped in Black** has been revised in order to inform prospective Black freshmen of these changes as well as to acquaint them with the academic and social conditions of Black students at Lafayette.

In October, 1969, the ABC presented the following demands to the College community:

1. More Black students
2. More Black Faculty Members and Black Administrators
3. Black Studies Courses
4. Black Cultural Center
5. End or Neutralization of the Effects of Racism on this Campus

Out of our numerous meetings with the Board of Trustees, administrators, the faculty, and the student body, these were the results:

1. Enrollment of Black students rose from an average of 12 per year to 33 for the entering class of 1974.
2. Black men have been appointed Assistant Dean of Students and Assistant Director of Admissions. Five Black men are now on the faculty with another joining them in January, 1971. Also, a recent Black graduate has been named to the Board of Trustees.
3. Three courses that deal specifically with the Black experience are being offered along with a number of courses that have been revised to include the Black experience.
4. A Black Cultural Center has been instituted for September, 1970.
5. The College community, as a whole, has become more aware of and sensitive to the problems of Black students and Black people.

In addition, Lafayette is now a coeducational college

with 14 sisters entering in the freshman class. Also, most basic degree requirements have been dropped by the College, along with a reduction in the number of credits needed to graduate.

In this booklet, four Black students and the Assistant Dean of Students have answered questions often asked by Black applicants. Although it is impossible to answer all the questions that could be asked, this booklet will give some idea of the situation of Black students at Lafayette College, a predominantly white and academically difficult institution.

As you will learn from some of the questions and answers, a considerable amount of time must be spent preparing for classes. But Lafayette prepares Black students as much as it can — short of changing the color of their skins — for a profession or graduate school. If you are interested in an education, Lafayette has it to offer.

In the social area, the ABC is in close contact with the brothers and sisters enrolled in all of the area colleges. Whenever something is happening at Lafayette, they know about it and vice versa. The ABC also shares its social functions with the brothers and sisters in the Easton community. Lafayette being co-educational also helps out the social situation.

We are still involved in bringing about more changes at the College. One of our main interests is working with the Admissions Office to bring more Black students to Lafayette. As James Hairston '71 said in the first edition of **Rapped in Black**:

"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."

Larry Lennon '71
Recruitment Coordinator, 1969-70
Association of Black Collegians



JOHN CANN '70 lives in Somerset, Bermuda. John received an A.B. degree in biology when he graduated from Lafayette. He is now attending Howard University Medical School. While at Lafayette he played soccer and served as a member of the freshman and junior class councils. He was chairman of the ABC's Academic Assistance Committee which aids Black students who have academic problems. John was a student member of Lafayette's Faculty Committee on Admissions.



GERRY GILL '70 is a native of New Rochelle, N.Y., and is now teaching school there. He majored in history at Lafayette and served on the Student Council, Academic Affairs Committee, and the Freshman Class Council. He was Coordinator of the ABC in his senior year.



BILL FAULK '73 is a graduate of Weequahic High School in Newark. In his freshman year at Lafayette Bill ran track and was active in various committees of the ABC. He is majoring in electrical engineering.



JON CURETON '72 is from Philadelphia and a graduate of West Philadelphia High School. Jon is a defensive halfback on the Lafayette football team and a sprinter on the track team. He is enrolled in the engineering curriculum.



DAVID A. PORTLOCK is Assistant Dean of Students at Lafayette. Prior to his appointment he was a part-time assistant to the dean and an industrial arts teacher at Easton Area High School. A native of Allentown, Pa., Mr. Portlock received a B.S. degree from Cheyney State College and a master's degree in education from Millersville State College. He has also taught in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

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 randomly assigned roommates — usually white — by the College. If two prospective freshmen request to live together, the request will usually be approved. After the first year brothers and sisters select roommates of their own choosing.



CURETON: Coming from a large, predominantly 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 a predominantly white, small college campus. Things have changed a lot since my freshman year. Coeducation is probably the biggest and best change. 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?



FAULK: In the technical area the work is pretty stiff. As for the humanities, more should be done in regard to the Black man, particularly in English. The schedule is so different from high school that one has to be ready. You might have one class one day and three the next.



GILL: While I was majoring in history, my first two years were spent fulfilling requirements for graduation. But now a student has much more freedom. He can get right into his major or explore different fields for two years. I probably averaged at least five hours a day studying. Most of the studying involved a thorough reading of the material assigned. Studying for exams usually required seven to eight hours. As a history major I had to write research papers for my courses. These papers had to be a minimum of ten typed pages, but once I started it wasn't too hard because the topics were of my own choosing. The writing of a paper usually took all my time for a few days.



CANN: As a biology major I got both the papers of the liberal arts major and the exams of the science major. I enjoyed the varied work. I found Lafayette a highly competitive place academically. Although I did not find the subject matter of my courses extremely difficult, I often found my work load heavy. I spent a great deal of time just keeping ahead of the material. Generally I spent about seven hours a day in actual studying during the school week. I usually didn't study on the weekend, though sometimes it was 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 attendance at class and concentrated study at night.

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.

Garry Moore '71



Gerry Gill '70, Hop Hairston '71, Larry Lennon '71, Riley Temple '71;
John Cann '70, Tray Davis '71, Edwin Gardner '72, Nate Stone '71



HOW ARE BLACK STUDENTS AT LAFAYETTE ORGANIZED?



FAULK: The Black student organization at Lafayette is the Association of Black Collegians. It is an official College organization and is funded by the Student Council. All Black students are eligible for membership. About 90 per cent of the brothers and sisters attend meetings and are active in the association which is very good in comparison with other organizations. The ABC is involved in improving the academic and social life of the Black student.

The ABC has pressed for an increase in both the number of Black students and Black faculty members at Lafayette. We are actively involved in recruiting brothers and sisters and increasing Black Studies courses. We help brothers and sisters in academic difficulty, organize parties and other social gatherings, and publish newsletters and student directories for Black students in the Lehigh Valley. We also use the Black Cultural Center as a place to manifest the Black experience for the College community and the brothers and sisters in the Easton community.

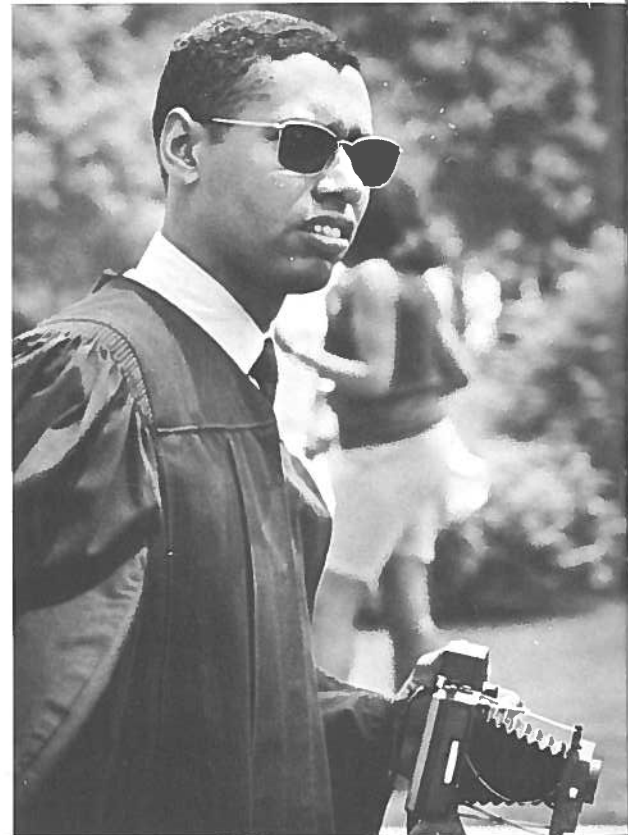


IS SPECIAL ADMISSIONS OR FINANCIAL AID CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO BLACK APPLICANTS?



GILL: Since most Blacks are disadvantaged (that is, suffer 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 and sisters decide to come to Lafayette because of it.

Lamont Leos '69



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. At the moment Black students are or have been members of 10 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.

At one time the social life for *all* students revolved around four party weekends each semester. During this period the brothers were expected to cram in a lot of partying to make up for the weeks they didn't. It used to be damn hard for a brother to get a date from any of the neighboring schools. But the situation has changed. We have worked with the other schools in the Valley and give parties frequently. More girls have enrolled in the neighboring schools and there are 14 sisters at Lafayette. Outside contacts can also be made with the brothers and sisters in the Easton community. But the social situation is clearly in favor of the sisters.



CANN: Fraternity discrimination does exist. This has been a major issue for at least four 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 recluse 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 make it to be. There are sisters at the local colleges, in the community, and now at Lafayette.

IN WHAT WAYS MIGHT I BE DISAPPOINTED IN LAFAYETTE?



CURETON: A Black student could be disappointed by the seemingly all white way, by the shortage of social life, or just disheartened by the fierce academic competition. Black students have an identity of their own that can be lost if these identities are not maintained by some common bond between Blacks. Through the ABC the Black student can, by uniting, overcome many of the barriers of white college life.



GILL: When I first came to Lafayette I was disappointed by the number of requirements and the oppressive social code; both of these problems have been done away with. I'm still disappointed that there aren't enough brothers and sisters here, not enough Black faculty members, and not enough courses dealing with the Black experience. Thus, I'm disappointed in that brothers and sisters who come to Lafayette are given little to increase their Black awareness other than what they do on their own.



FAULK: A Black student may be disappointed in the social life. This being a predominantly white college, you don't have the same outlets as you might have at home. But at least it's close to Newark, New York and Philadelphia.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'LL BE DOING FIVE YEARS AFTER GRADUATION?



CANN: In five years I hope to be finishing my internship. After that I'll probably return home to Bermuda.



FAULK: I plan to go back to Newark and help Black people through politics as Dennis Westbrook is now doing.



CURETON: Five years after I graduate from Lafayette I expect to be a successful engineer just reaching the peak of my earning capacity.



GILL: I'll still be teaching, either in New Rochelle or New York City.

(Many recent Black graduates of Lafayette are doing well. For example: Clarence Curry '65 works for Westinghouse; Ron Brooks '65 is head of computers in the Business Center of the University of Chicago School of Business; Ken Rich '67 is with a Wall Street brokerage firm and is on Lafayette's Board of Trustees; Ernie Wynne '68 is at Jefferson School of Medicine; Fred Strickland '69 works for Bethlehem Steel; Bob Maffett '69 is attending the University of Pittsburgh graduate school in urban studies.)

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



PORTLOCK: Black students 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, wrestling, soccer, all intramural sports, cheerleaders, 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 they only make up a small percentage of the College population!

Ron Jones '71



Michael Jackson '70, Beverley Jackson, Hypp Harrison '71



Dominick "Nicky" Alston, '72



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 and sisters will be able to find a citadel of education that is truly relevant to us.

The Brothers and Sisters
of ABC

If you should have any questions or desire more information, write to:

The Association of Black Collegians
College Station, P.O. Box 492
Easton, Pa. 18042

or

Office of Admissions and Financial Aid
Lafayette College
Easton, Pa. 18042

