

Rapped In Black

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Rapped in Black is now in its third edition. In the past two years, the brothers and sisters of the Association of Black Collegians (ABC) and Lafayette College have gone through many changes. This year *Rapped in Black* has been revised to inform prospective Black freshmen of these changes as well as to acquaint them with the academic and social condition of Black students at Lafayette.

Two years ago, 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 a record 33 for the class of 1974 and 24 for the class of 1975.
2. Black men were appointed Assistant Dean of Students and Assistant Director of Admissions. Five Black men are now on the faculty. 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 was opened in September, 1970 and is the scene of much activity of the Black community on campus.
5. The college community, as a whole, has become more aware of and sensitive to the problems of Black students and Black people. An example of this awareness is the excellent response of the college community to the first week-long "Black Arts Festival" held in May, 1971.

In addition, Lafayette is now a coeducational college with 14 sisters in the class of '74 alone. 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, eight Black 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 reading more about Lafayette, 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's being coeducational also helps out the social situation.

* * *

Our ancestors were enslaved because of disunity; the reason we continue to be shackled is still disunity. Unite or Perish!

The Association of Black Collegians is a vital organization in the Lafayette College community. The ABC is an official college organization and is funded by the Student Government. All Black students are eligible for membership. Fresh, innovative thinking is essential to the success of the struggle. Therefore, we are continually reevaluating our role as Black college students who are part of the struggle. The ABC sponsors seminars, social gatherings, poetry readings, and helps the brothers and sisters in their academic lives. Also, we aid the college in the recruitment of Black students and faculty. We need you to continue our fight for liberation.

BILL OWENS

Meet the authors...



Darlyne Bailey '74 is a native of Englewood, N.J., and was very active in the programming of this year's Black Arts Festival. She is majoring in psychology.

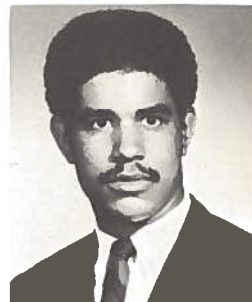


Bill Faulk '73 is a graduate of Weequahic High School in Newark. Bill was largely responsible for coordinating recruitment of Black students this year for the ABC. He plans to teach in the near future after leaving school.



James Hairston '72 is from Pittsburgh and is majoring in American Civilization. 'Hap' was instrumental in developing the five demands ABC presented to the college last year.

Michael Jackson, '70 served as assistant director of admissions at the college in 1971-72, and is now a commissioned officer on two years' active duty with the U.S. Army.



Charles Lambert '73 is from Plainfield, N.J., majoring in government and law. Chucky was partly responsible for the pictures found in this brochure. Very active politically, he plans to go to law school.



Garry Moorer '71 is from McKeesport, Pa., and recently graduated from Lafayette. Garry was the Community Relations chairman of ABC. He majored in civil engineering.



C. Peter Thomas '73 is from Kingston, Jamaica, and is active in the Easton Tutorial Program. A member of one of the most aware classes to come through any college, Pete plans to return home to help build a nation for the people. His major is electrical engineering.



Riley Temple '71 is from Richmond, Va. He was very active in all aspects of college life especially student council and its student affairs committee. Riley graduated recently after majoring in American Civilization.



William Owens '73 lives in Baton Rouge, La. Extremely conscious of being Black in a white environment, Bill gets great satisfaction from working in the ABC. He was in charge of putting together the new *Rapped in Black*. He plans to attend medical school.



What is the role of the Black student at Lafayette?

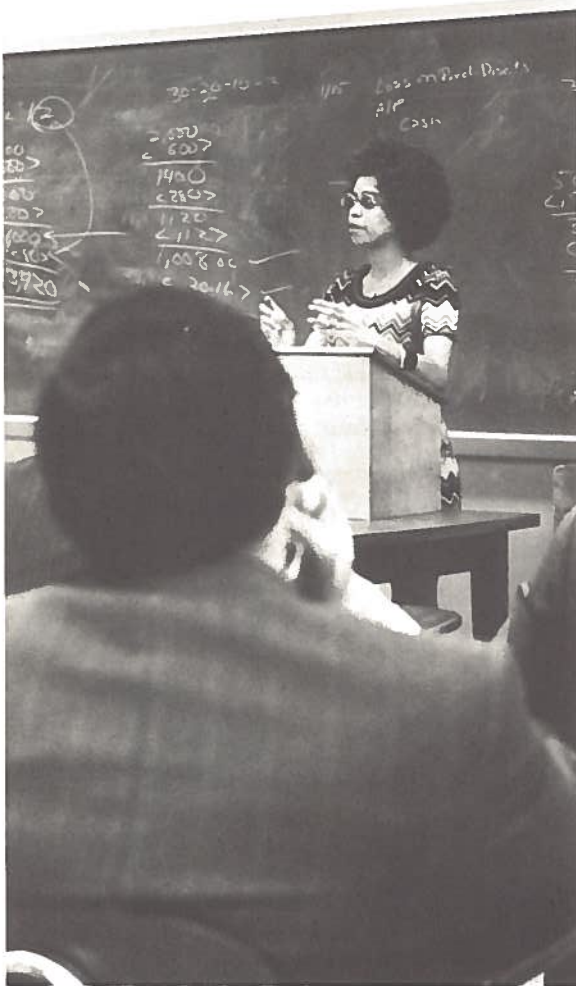
Black Liberation, as an experience at Lafayette, will become a total reality only when all brothers and sisters understand their roles within the struggle itself. The new Black student at Lafayette will be asked to fit many roles. Some will play the role of the educator, others, the intellectual. Still others will be docile, nondescript. To meet the needs of Black people, the role must be that of the *Black student* — Black in the knowledge of himself and of his people. A student will be teaching others, leading others and learning from the new reality around him. In this way he will learn to cope with the reality which white America has put around us. Only then will Black students be totally together. Malcolm was a Black student; he evolved and moved through his learnings, not his teachings.

To the brother or sister who thinks that he or she is really bad, Right on! You probably are. But you will find out quickly that you are not alone. (The day that you find that you have been programmed and computerized in a real sense by society will also be the day that you are Black in a real sense.) Black people don't need doctors, lawyers and engineers. They need selfless individuals who are doctors, lawyers and engineers and *who are Black*. It is simple: One can either profit by one's mistakes and achievements, or wallow in stagnation, miseducation and egotism.

The role of the Black student at Lafayette is simply to organize, educate, agitate oneself in order to organize, educate and agitate one's people.

CHUCK LAMBERT

What was the most difficult adjustment to make at the college?



I am not much different from everyone else, Black or white. Leaving the security and familiarity of home and friends and coming into a totally new situation where I had to take on the responsibility of establishing my own educational and social mores was a very big step. Lafayette's relatively non-restrictive atmosphere makes it necessary for every person to formulate some identity of self, deciding how he will fit into the college picture. However, this is where the universal adjustment ends. As a Black woman I had to adapt to a predominantly white, male environment. Most people coming from a racially and sexually integrated high school to a coed college would not see this as a problem. I didn't think it would be. But imagine your first day in a class of 23 students where you are both the only Black and the only female present!

But, as with all new things, time wears off the strangeness. By remembering you are a Black woman, this awkward situation can become for you what it is for me: an exciting challenge.

DARLYNE BAILEY

I've been here almost four years and I haven't been able to make an adjustment yet. What is so difficult to adjust to? First, an adjustment to the idea of going to college must be made. College is not high school and does not function like high school. In college, there is much more freedom, some incentive for creativity exists, and the scope of potential knowledge is greater than in high school. One must adjust to living with strangers, making new friends and acquaintances, and being virtually independent.

But the primary adjustment for us is that of a Black student in a white, hostile environment. Here you are finally made to realize that you are different and that you are Black. In this regard a white institution is much better than an all-Black institution. In the environment of a white college, Black students are not able to forget their Blackness. We are constantly reminded of it. This consciousness within ourselves is our means for survival. Perhaps one could fall right into the "groove" at a Black school and have an entertaining time. However, the experience of working and surviving in a hostile situation is more profitable in later life. Often, it is neither enjoyable nor a "groove," but neither is nation building or revolution.

We must retain our cultural heritage because without it we are lost. We must remember that we are Black, that our brother is Black, and that this is our bond, a bond to be capitalized upon. We must not simply work for ourselves, but our entire community. If we remember these things, live these things, and do these things, any adjustment can be made — especially that of a Black person in a white, residential college.

JAMES HAIRSTON



What is the relationship of Lafayette to the Black community?

In the past Easton's Black community has viewed the Black student at Lafayette in many different ways. Usually the student has been ostracized by the community. The community's attitude was not unjustified. Lafayette's Black students had been socially aloof, callous, or indifferent toward the community's problems. However, the ABC has realized the responsibility of the Black student to the Black community and has taken steps to remove the gap separating the Black community of the college and the Black community of Easton. Through ABC programs we are "agitating, educating, and organizing" both Black communities. The results of our efforts have been sometimes extremely satisfying, and sometimes very disappointing. Much headway has been made, but a great deal of work remains to be done. We realize the struggle will not be won in a day, but complete commitment on the part of all Black people will hasten the victory. The ABC has "dared to struggle," but the ABC is a group of individuals. This is where you and I come in. If we are to survive, the commitment must be made by us. I say, Right on to the ABC! Right on to the brothers and sisters of Lafayette College! Right on to Black people!

GARY W. MOORER



What's the social life like at Lafayette?

I could start off ranting and raving about the social life at Lafayette being so great it could rival the social life anywhere, but you'd know I was lying. Or I could say that Lafayette had no social life for Blacks and you'd know I was lying again. The truth is simply that the social life is what you make it.

Coming to Lafayette does not mean a sister will automatically fall into your arms, brothers, or that a flirtatious glance at any brother on campus will get him hooked, sisters. What it does mean is that new faces, new social challenges, new friends, even new enemies await you as a part of our Black experience on campus. The increasing unity between us at the College and the Black community in Easton, plus the rise in the number of Black students at the other Lehigh Valley schools and our continuing unity with them, promises to make social life in the entire Valley really together for Blacks.

The question of administrative attitudes towards conditions making for a pleasant social life does arise. But with liberal views ranging from dorm autonomy (usually resulting in 24-hour visitation privileges) to proposals for coed dorms, you need not let it worry you.

We, as well as the other schools in the Valley, have our parties. In the past, some have been successful, some not-so-successful. The parties will continue; we hope you will soon be with us to help make the social scene even better.

BILL FAULK





How is Lafayette disappointing?

What do you expect from college life? Study, jive, eating, sleeping, sprinkled with occasional "good" weekends is what I am getting. Lafayette is disappointing for me because this is not enough. The center of extracurricular activity is found in sports and fraternity life. The latter I have nothing to do with because I believe brotherhood cannot be legislated. As far as sports go, one cannot keep "playing" all year.

Another source of my disappointment is the fact that students, on the whole, don't communicate with each other. They come and go to classes, but that exposure to new ideas and new people which is supposed to broaden your mind at college is rare.

My biggest disappointment has to do with the advancement of the Black experience in campus life. The Black experience is not found here. This is known and expected. Black students have to create it and it involves a lot more than partying. Are some of us concerned about its creation? Yes. We hope you'll come and lend a helping hand.

C. PETER THOMAS



How has Lafayette been rewarding?

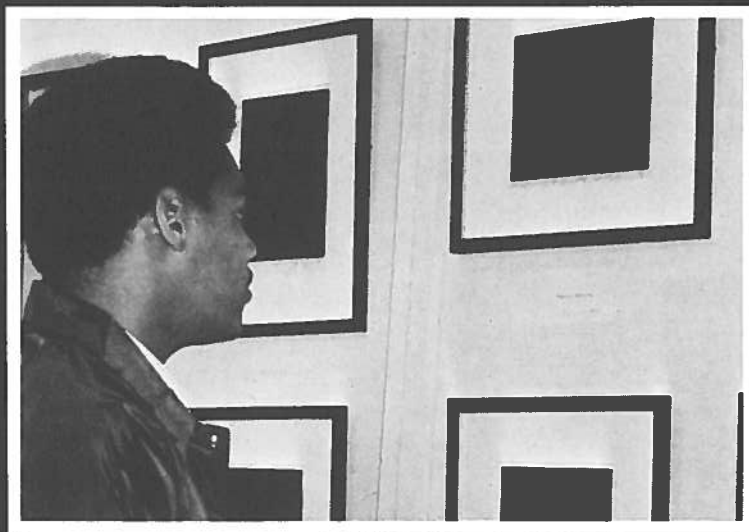
It is difficult (maybe unfair) to say to you in a few words (which will presumably be of some value to a Black high school senior) what I consider rewarding about my Lafayette experience. I share with the other brothers and sisters many of the frustrations resulting from this experience, and we also share the qualified rewards — among these being the college community's growing sensitivity to the needs and goals of its Black minority.

When I came to Lafayette in 1967, the Black student population was small and fragmented, and it was easy for the white college community to escape coming to grips with the Black experience. This, of course, is not to suggest that with the present increased Black presence in the form of students, faculty and courses, that escape is impossible. However it is less easily accomplished.

We have a good deal of work to do in order to make our presence truly felt, but the work we have done and the goals we've reached, no matter how minimal they may appear, cannot be considered valueless and unrewarding. These accomplishments are, in part, the manifestation of the community's sensitivity and awareness of the needs of its Black and white members. Because of this growing awareness, we have profited in many ways. I suppose in this sense, my years at Lafayette College have been rewarding.

RILEY TEMPLE

Black Arts Festival





The *Black Arts Festival* was held over a 5-day period in May, 1971 and was an outstanding success. ABC organized the festival which included workshops directed by the parents of Black students, an evening of theatre with an original play by the brothers and sisters of ABC, an Afro-American art exhibit, various dinners and social events, and appearances by George Weston, a leader for more than 50 years in the Black rights movement; Julian Bond, the dynamic and articulate Georgia legislator; and Bill Russell, former player-coach of the Boston Celtics and now a nationally-known lecturer.



Admission



Admission to Lafayette is competitive. Applications from minority and disadvantaged students are placed in a separate pool. In essence they compete only with those applicants who demonstrate similar deficiencies which are traceable to cultural or economic deprivation. Although no quota or yearly margin is set, Black student enrollment is generally limited by the amount of available financial aid. Consequently, to the extent of their individual needs, minority and disadvantaged students compete among themselves for available financial resources. Stated simply, you must compete for admission and financial aid within a peer group which has been regulated to minimize cultural, racial and economic bias.

As a group, Black students at Lafayette receive substantial financial assistance. Usually aid offers are packaged in varying proportions of grant, loan and term employment. Grant (scholarship) generally offsets the bulk of your need; loans usually make up the difference in addition to giving you a stake in financing your education; term employment is limited in the freshman year, although opportunities will expand as you progress.

In addition to your academic and personal qualifications, your hopes for admission and aid at Lafayette will be enhanced by meeting these procedural guidelines:

1. Complete the Scholastic Aptitude Test and 3 Achievement Tests (to include English Composition) no later than January of the year you plan to enter college. Designate Lafayette College to receive your scores directly from the Educational Testing Service.
2. Secure a Parents' Confidential Statement from your high school guidance office. Have your parents or legal guardian complete the form designating Lafayette College to receive a copy of the analysis. This should be done as early as possible, preferably in the fall of your senior year. This is the only aid application required by Lafayette; without the PCS we will have no basis for an aid award.
3. Complete and submit your application as soon as possible. The deadline is March 1.

If you fail to meet these guidelines, you may be considered but your chances for admission and financial aid could be diminished.

A personal interview on campus is strongly recommended, but is not required. If you would like to visit do not hesitate to contact:

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

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

Acceptance to Lafayette is an expression of our confidence in your ability. If you share that confidence, write for an application today.

MICHAEL JACKSON



LAFAYETTE COLLEGE
EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The art for this booklet is by Beverly Jackson.