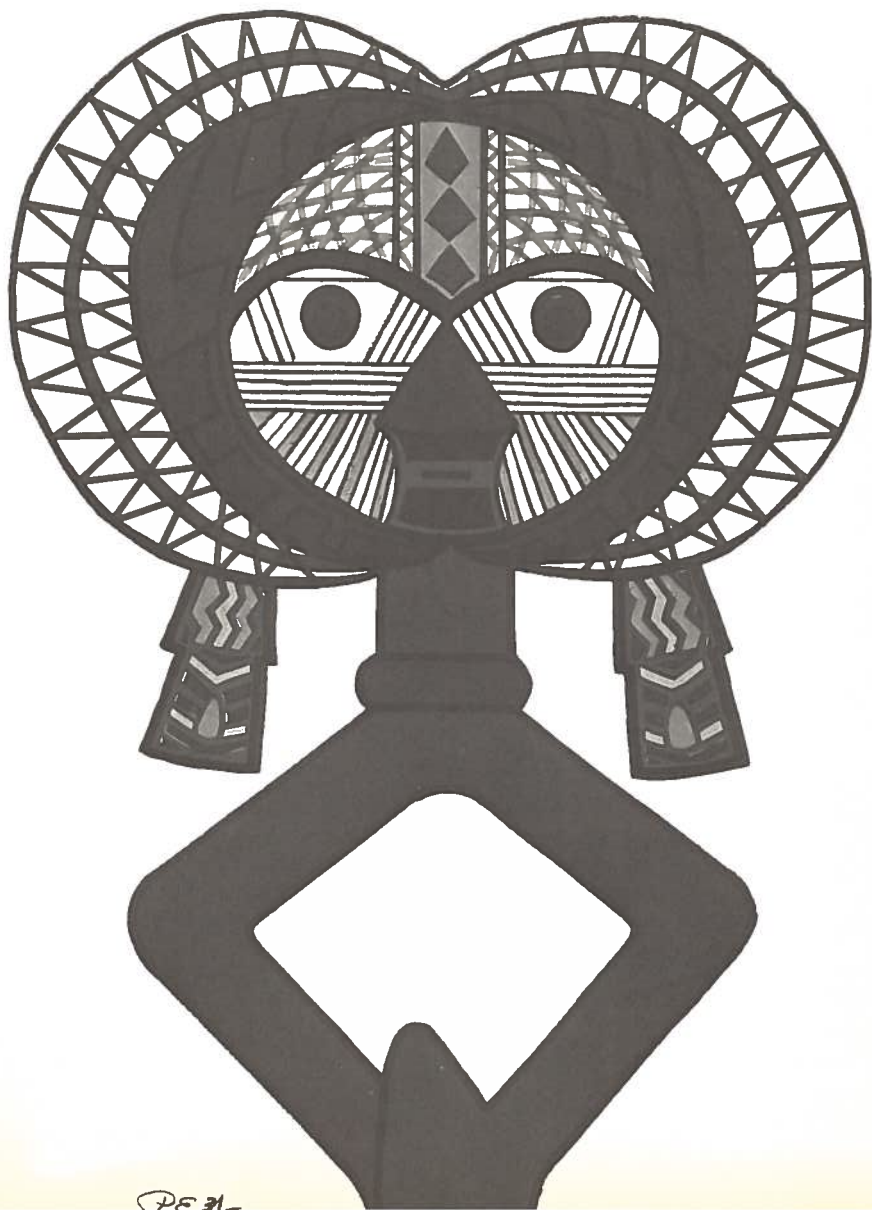
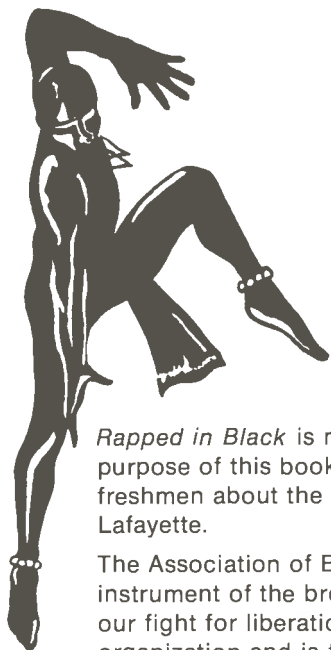


RAPPED in BLACK





RAPPED in BLACK

Rapped in Black is now in its fifth edition. The purpose of this booklet is to inform prospective Black freshmen about the academic and social conditions at Lafayette.

The Association of Black Collegians is the main instrument of the brothers and sisters of Lafayette in our fight for liberation. The ABC is our official college organization and is funded by the Student Government. The primary purpose of this organization is 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 Lafayette experience may be developed and projected. We have learned that united brothers and sisters are listened to.

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

Through unity of purpose the ABC has made many advances in the past year. These are some of the advances:

1. Institution of weekly rap sessions with white students at the Black Cultural Center in an effort to make the white community more aware of "the Black experience."
2. A program called "Black Children Can," in which little brothers and sisters in the Easton area are brought to the college for educational experiences and to take advantage of the facilities available. This program is one of many organized in an effort to bring the brothers and sisters at Lafayette and the Black community of Easton closer together.
3. A highly successful Big Sister Program has been initiated similar to the Big Brother Program. The purpose of these programs is to help Black freshmen adjust to college life.
4. The ABC, in conjunction with various college clubs and organizations, sponsored a series of African speakers.

5. Because of its week-long "Black Arts Festival," in February, 1973, the college community has become more aware of Black contributions to culture and sensitive to the problems of Black people.

The addition of 19 Black students in the class of '76—10 brothers and 9 sisters—brings the total Black student enrollment to 72—43 brothers and 29 sisters. Although 8 brothers graduated in the class of '73, the addition of 28 brothers and sisters in the class of '77 will greatly enhance our enrollment—92 Black students. Though small in number, brothers and sisters are active in all areas of the campus life from football to the school newspaper. The president and vice president of the class of '75 are Black. During the past year, the number of Black dorm counselors has increased to the point where they constitute one-fourth of the entire system and has thus become an effective voting bloc. In the spring of 1973, a brother received the George Wharton Pepper Prize which is awarded on the basis of superior leadership and achievement.

Socially, the ABC keeps close contact with the Black students at surrounding colleges. Whenever something is happening at Lafayette, they know it and vice versa. All of our social functions are attended by brothers and sisters in the Easton community.

Academically, the brothers and sisters spend a lot of time preparing for classes knowing that Lafayette prepares us as much as it can for a profession or graduate school.

In this booklet, 6 brothers and sisters give their opinion of Lafayette by answering questions most often asked by Black applicants. The questions and answers were tape-recorded during an informal conversation among the brothers and sisters. Unfortunately, it's impossible to answer all questions that could be asked but it is our hope that *Rapped in Black* will give you some idea of how the brothers and sisters feel being at Lafayette College, a predominantly white and academically difficult institution.

Problems that exist at any predominantly white institution exist at Lafayette. The brothers and sisters of the ABC are working to eliminate many of these problems. We hope to build a strong and progressive Black community.

If you are interested enough to apply and if you are accepted, you can benefit yourself and the brothers and sisters at Lafayette by enrolling. We need help in our continuing fight for liberation.

Roland Watkins □

MEET THE RAPPERS

Roland Watkins '74 is from Norfolk, Virginia where he attended Booker T. Washington High School. He's a student member of the Faculty Committee on Admissions, a tour guide, head residence hall advisor, former treasurer of the ABC, member of Student Government, and organizer of the last two editions of "Rapped in Black." Roland's major is economics.

Anita Lee '76, a liberal arts student, is from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where she attended Westinghouse High School. She is Chairman of the ABC Community Relations Committee.

Guilford Queen '76, prior to coming to Lafayette, went to Sidwell Friends School in Washington, D.C. Guilford is an Economics major, Co-chairman of the ABC Recruitment Committee and a member of Student Government.

Linda Jackson '74, a native of Richmond, Virginia, attended John Marshall High School. She is Co-chairman of the Recruitment Committee and an English major.

Alfonzo Owens '75 is from Mount Vernon, New York where he attended Mount Vernon High School. He's a member of the track team and a residence hall advisor. Al's major is Biology.

Beverly Brown '74 is from Richmond, Virginia where she attended Maggie L. Walker High School. Former Co-chairman of the Recruitment Committee, she is a member of the Student-Faculty Cultural Program Committee and Chairman of the 1974 Black Arts Festival. "Ghetto," a nickname give to her by the brothers and sisters, is majoring in Sociology and Anthropology.

Michael Jackson '70 is assistant director of admissions. He is returning to Lafayette this year after active duty service as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army.



Photo credits: John L. Thomas '74, and Lafayette College Public Information Office.



WHAT WAS MOST DIFFICULT ABOUT YOUR ADJUSTMENT TO COLLEGE?

Lee: The most difficult thing I found was being taken from a big city and being here. It's a smaller place and I am from an all black environment and now I'm in an all white place. When I first came up here I felt like all eyes were on me, as if to say, "watch out and see what this Black chick is going to do." Does she act the same way as I do? A lot of white girls have come up to me with questions like—How do you get your hair like that?

Queen: I would agree with Anita—coming from a city—coming to Easton, Pennsylvania—you find a cultural shock. That is, there is a lot less to do and a lot less of a variety of people. I was surprised at the conservatism of the school as an institution—the people that it seems to attract.

Owens: I came from a high school that was twice the size of Lafayette, with a black population that was about 51%. Coming to this school where there are only about 75 brothers and sisters and living in a totally white environment—that's a big change, you know.

Brown: Being a Black woman on this campus, you find sometimes you are faced with stereotype images and you have to overcome a lot of these. The main thing is about misconceptions. You correct them where you can.



DOES ABC REALLY SERVE A SOCIAL NEED? HOW MANY ABC ACTIVITIES ARE PART OF YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE?

Queen: The one thing that I found was that the Black Cultural Center was a nice place where you could just go and relax and get together with people. You didn't have to watch what you said or who you were talking to.

Lee: The ABC also serves a function in adjusting to working within the white system. Being a member of the ABC helps the brothers and sisters to adjust to the campus.

Watkins: Well, I think that's evident by our projects this year. One of the functions of the ABC is not only to help because of the struggle but also, at the same time, to give everybody else here a chance and a place to come together. The ABC is geared toward helping people.

Brown: We don't ordinarily plan things in advance. For instance, we don't plan on having a party Saturday. We all meet at the Black House and then eventually we all have a party.

WHAT OUTSIDE THE SOCIAL REALM—WHAT OTHER FUNCTIONS DOES ABC SERVE?

Watkins: "Black Children Can" probably fulfills a big need. We are helping to educate Black children as well as give them a chance to grow up to be Black men and Black women.

Jackson: I feel as though a lot of people might believe that you are doing a big thing by helping the poor Black kids in the city; but the kids are helping us just as much. By having kids around, it's more like being right at home with your brothers and sisters.

Owens: If you have any problems, you can usually come to a meeting and they can be hashed out.

WOULD YOU SAY THAT ABC IS VERY POLITICAL?

Queen: At this time, I don't think so. It may have political overtones because of how the members feel one way or the other but the organization right now is pretty low key as far as politics goes.

Brown: I disagree with that. I think the ABC is political. I agree there are a lot of individual political views but I think one can say the ABC does take firm stands and action in political situations or racist situations—any type that would happen on this campus to any brother or sister. The ABC as a whole will stand up—it will try to right things.

Watkins: I saw the ABC doing a lot of stuff politically that it hasn't really done before like when we had Brother Richard X. Clark speak. What he talked about was activism. And this year we co-sponsored Chailand, the speaker on revolutionary movements in Africa. That was a form of Black activism. It might not have been anything outright like taking over this or that but it was introducing something new to the campus and that in itself is a form of activism.





DOES THE ABC ENCOURAGE YOU TO FIND YOUR OWN BLACKNESS OR DOES IT KIND OF CHALLENGE YOU ALONG INTO A CERTAIN PRE-DETERMINED IMAGE OF WHAT BLACKNESS SHOULD BE?

Lee: I think that the ABC is composed of many people who have different ideas as to how to go about finding their Blackness. I can always identify myself with it.

Watkins: I think the brothers and sisters here just let everybody act the way they want to. Different people have different ideas on Blackness. They are respected and the fact that there are people with different views makes us just that much better.

Brown: I think that those students who feel that they are on a lower level in Black awareness are the ones that get the most attention. We can't make anybody become socially aware but we can present to them our feelings about Blackness.



HOW DO YOU FIND THE ACADEMIC WORK LOAD HERE?

Jackson: I think that anyone who comes to college is expecting a work load, so I don't really feel as though Lafayette is any harder than what I expected it to be.

Watkins: The work's harder because many teachers expect you to know an awful lot. When you come here and you take English, you're expected to know all the rules of grammar and everything so you start off directly writing compositions. I, for one, did not have that good a background. So my transition from high school to college has been hard. As a matter of fact, I'm still making the transition.



HOW OFTEN DO YOU STUDY?

Brown: You can't say exactly the average amount of time you study because for each course it could be different. Sometimes if you keep up with reading, it's enough. Sometimes studying is intermittent because, for one thing, when you're involved in a lot of other activities it has to be intermittent. Maybe you study on Sunday night if you have a heavy schedule, but I usually never study on weekends. The only time I've been overtaxed is when I allowed myself to get so far behind that I had to struggle to catch up. You've got to stay ahead. You know—stay with it.

Lee: It shows the Lafayette workload isn't as taxing as all that. You can still have a good time and still get on with your school studies.



SUPPOSE YOU HAVE STUDY PROBLEMS. CAN YOU GET HELP?

Jackson: Well, the first thing I'd do if I had an academic problem, is try to find some brother or sister on campus that had the course. I would talk to them and see what they could do to help me out.

Queen: If that doesn't work, the school provides free tutoring service, and if you really get in desperate straights the teachers here are pretty willing to help you.



THE ABC HAD SOME CONFLICT WITH THE ADMINISTRATION. WOULD ANYBODY LIKE TO TALK ABOUT THAT?

Jackson: I think I would like to talk about that. I had a conflict with the administration as far as working as the recruitment coordinator. And I found out that when the brothers and sisters heard about what the conflict was that I was having and how the administration was trying to have some control over the ABC, everybody came out and it made me feel good to look back when I'm sitting in front of a white man's desk and see all the brothers and sisters backing me up.



WHAT IS THE ADMINISTRATION LIKE AT LAFAYETTE COLLEGE?

Watkins: We attempt to get the administration to cope with not only the problems of the brothers and sisters here but with the problems of the community as well—like with the "Black Children Can" program.

Owens: The ABC by constantly bringing up the faults and the shortcomings of the administration makes them aware and doesn't let them be complacent.

Brown: I think I would give them credit for listening and giving us a chance to express ourselves.



WHAT PART OF THE BLACK EXPERIENCE DO YOU THINK IS REFLECTED IN THE COLLEGE CULTURAL PROGRAM?

Watkins: The school as a whole seems to be bringing in more things that deal with the Black experience, but then the initiative behind that for a lot of speakers will come from ABC. A lot of Black students have become active in those groups which bring those speakers to the campus.



WHAT ABOUT ADMISSIONS POLICY? WHAT ABOUT FINANCIAL AID?

Queen: Right now the Admissions Office says it gives somewhat special treatment to minority students. So officially the administration says that they do look over your case a little more than another incoming student. From what I've seen they do make a great deal of effort to look over Black student applications.

Lee: They know Black people can't afford to come to college. They're going to help pay your way because they want you up here. So like that's no special attention, that's just what they're supposed to do.

Watkins: In actual practice aid is awarded for one year but is normally renewable for all four years. The amount may fluctuate year by year, being dependant more or less upon your need. When a brother or sister comes here it is important to try to project the amount of aid they can expect. You will lose your aid only if you leave school, flunk out, end up on disciplinary probation, or if you're on academic probation for two consecutive semesters.

Owens: I can't help but feel that there is some type of ceiling that they put on the amount of financial aid for Black students that can come here on financial aid. This does, in fact, establish a quota system.



LOOKING AT LAFAYETTE—FOR WHAT REASON MIGHT A BLACK STUDENT COME HERE?

Queen: One thing about Lafayette in general is you can get excellent academic education. The facilities are very good as compared with any other school, large or small. If you're the kind of person that doesn't necessarily like to live in high-rise apartments and to go to classes and possibly lose yourself in the crowd, you'll like it. You can stand out at Lafayette. You can find yourself in a lot of ways. You make a lot of good friends.



Lee: I came to Lafayette not because of its academic standing but because of the financial aid.

Owens: Lafayette gives you a good academic background to enter graduate programs for careers in the legal and medical professions.

Jackson: It just depends on the individual. I'd have to say for myself that it was mainly the financial aid.

IN WHAT WAYS WOULD OR COULD YOU BE DISAPPOINTED IN LAFAYETTE COLLEGE?

Brown: You could be disappointed in the number of Black-oriented courses and professors. I think it's growing and with some pressure from the ABC or—suggestions maybe—I think it will continue to grow.

Queen: Coming up here you meet a lot of conservative people and it has had quite an effect on me. There's a better cross-section of just the general population and I really didn't realize that they have a lot of misconceptions about Black people.

Owens: You may be disappointed in the basic ignorance toward Blacks of many of the white kids.

DO YOU FIND THE SAME THING TRUE OF INSTRUCTORS AND COACHES? HOW ARE BLACK ATHLETES TREATED?

Watkins: I think a lot of the teachers here when it's time to learn something that deals with the Black experience are ignorant. In some instances being a brother or sister puts you in a position where you can correct that stereotyping of people and transmit it to the rest of the people in that class. I think that the

brothers here who are athletes have had to go through an awful lot. I think that the brothers and sisters here who are not athletes recognize that. At almost all of the athletic events where there are brothers or sisters playing—members of the ABC show up to give support.

Owens: The coaches don't know what to expect in the actions from their Black athletes. They don't know whether to tell him to work hard and whether he's going to drop out or whether he's going to do it faster. And they're very inquisitive. So it just shows their basic ignorance about Black people and Black athletes.



HOW DO THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS AT LAFAYETTE RELATE TO THE EASTON COMMUNITY?

Queen: Probably right now we have the best relationship going with the community.

Brown: I know lots of times that we help many of the Black high school students academically by showing them how to use the library, helping them write papers, and other things.

Watkins: Our relationships have improved to the extent that there is a lot of interaction between brothers and sisters on campus and the brothers and sisters in the community.



IF YOU HAD ONE IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO COMMUNICATE TO PROSPECTIVE BLACK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS THINKING ABOUT COMING TO LAFAYETTE, WHAT WOULD YOU TELL THEM?

Watkins: Just like anywhere else, racism exists at Lafayette.

Brown: But I'd just like to say, "come with an open mind." Be prepared to go through many changes. They'll be good and bad. This is all part of maturing and getting rid of misconceptions.







BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL

The annual *Black Arts Festival* has now become one of the cultural and entertainment highlights at Lafayette College. Designed to bring the Black experience to the campus, the events in the 1973 program proved to be a tremendous success and were attended by students, faculty, alumni, and members of the Easton community as well as brothers and sisters from the neighboring Lehigh Valley colleges. Organized by the ABC, the Festival included an African fashion show and soul food luncheon, appearances by Attica prisoner-negotiator Richard X. Clark and Black poet Lucille Clifton, and a cabaret show and dance. The week long Festival concluded with the Pulitzer Prize-winning play, "No Place to be Somebody," which was presented by a Broadway cast and a concert featuring Kool and the Gang.



ADMISSIONS

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.

The amount of self-help (loan or job) in your financial aid package may be adjusted upward or downward each year depending upon your record, but over 80% of the aid held by brothers and sisters at Lafayette is in form of a grant.

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

