

RAPPED in BLACK



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Rapped in Black is a publication put together by the Association of Black Collegians and the Admissions Office of Lafayette College. Our intention in preparing Rapped in Black is to give you, the prospective Black student, an idea of the social and academic atmosphere here at Lafayette.

The Association of Black Collegians is an official college organization and is largely funded by the Student Government. As stated in its constitution the dual purpose of the ABC is to improve the social and academic conditions for Black students here and to make the way better for future Black students. Membership in the ABC is voluntary. Those who do wish to join, however, are welcomed wholeheartedly. The number of Blacks on campus is small, 63, and the only way we can make our voice heard and bring change is to stand together. Our unity in the ABC is, in effect, our power.

Through this togetherness the Association has been able to initiate some programs that both serve the campus and help to improve relations in the Easton community. This program includes:

1. Black Children Can, which is a program where Black children from the Easton area are brought to the College and given a chance to make use of the facilities here. Black Children Can is meant to be a supplement to the academic and social conditions that prevail in Easton. This program enables the ABC to assist in the development of the young brothers and sisters in the area. Black Children Can also provides a very important link between the College and the Easton community.
2. A Big Brother-Big Sister program in which upper class brothers and sisters advise freshmen. This helps the incoming freshmen adjust to college life.

- 3. A Book Bank in the library of the Black Cultural Center where old texts are kept. These books are used by all members of the ABC. Many times instead of buying certain textbooks ABC members can borrow them from the book bank free of charge.

Besides all of this the ABC provides for the social and cultural life of the Black student here at Lafayette. The ABC plans parties, picnics, trips and open houses. It also provides a link for Lafayette and the other colleges in the area. In this way we are all kept informed of each others' social events. The brothers and sisters of the Easton Area also attend ABC social and cultural events.

Culturally the ABC brings in speakers and dance and theatre groups. We also have receptions for well-known Black artists who are brought here by other college organizations.

The Black Cultural Center, which is in effect the headquarters of the ABC, provides an atmosphere that is both sociable and relaxing. It is here that many of the brothers and sisters do their studying.

The members of the ABC participate in all facets of college life from football to Resident Advisor in the dorms. We also come from very varied backgrounds as the addresses and majors of the rappers indicate.

- | | |
|---|---|
| Gwen Henderson Sophomore
Horseheads, N.Y. | Earl T. Richardson Junior
History Major
Roebing, N.J. |
| Andre McDaniel Senior
Economics Major
Seat Pleasant, Md. | Leroy Nunery Junior
History Major
Englewood, N.J. |
| Maureen Hailey Junior
Psychology Major
Rahway, N.J. | Jeffrey Cox Senior
Electrical Engineering Major
New Rochelle, N.Y. |
| Ronald McMillan Sophomore
Columbia, Md. | Sheila Baisden Junior
English Major
Atlanta, Ga. |
| Kenneth Soares Freshman
New Bedford, Mass. | Brenda Jones Junior
Psychology Major
New Market, N.H. |
| David Williams Freshman
Philadelphia, Pa. | Valerie Davis Sophomore
Brooklyn, N.Y. |
| John Taylor III Junior
History Major
Richmond, Va. | |



Academically speaking, Lafayette is a challenging institution. Much time and thought goes into class preparation. For this very reason Lafayette prepares you for the even greater challenge of either graduate school or training in some area of professional work.

Potential is the catch word for today. We the members of the ABC feel that we have the potential to be a growing, thriving group. We have come a long way in the past few years but the future is still uncertain. Our source of potential is you. We need brothers and sisters with new ideas and who are willing to initiate new programs. We want Black men and women who will stand as individuals and contribute to the growth and betterment of the Association of Black Collegians.

Earl T. Richardson

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST IMPRESSION OF LAFAYETTE?

Henderson: My first impression of Lafayette was very good. I came to visit on sub-frosh weekend. The ABC had a party and a cabaret and I really enjoyed myself. I didn't get the idea that coming to school here would always be a party. I just really felt good about the warmth and vitality that was here.

Richardson: The first thing I noticed about Lafayette was the beauty of the campus and the overall attitude of the people here. I found Lafayette students to be generally down to earth and friendly.

McDaniel: I also felt the campus was great - and the people I met seemed to be rather friendly compared to other (larger) schools I had visited. Of course it took some getting used to, since there was not exactly a lot happening in Easton and because I'm from a large city with a large Black population. I found out soon that campus life was what you made it.

DOES THE ABC REALLY SERVE A SOCIAL NEED?

Henderson: Definitely. As a resident of the Black House, I see everyday the need that the ABC serves. The ABC provides us with a way of getting together and celebrating our Blackness in our own - unique - way.

Nunery: The ABC is a real, live and constantly-changing organization that should be flexible enough to accommodate all Black students on Lafayette's campus, without becoming so diverse as to lose its character as a **Black** student organization.

Hailey: Yes, the ABC does serve a social need. The Black Cultural Center is a very important asset of the ABC. Most of our social functions take place there, such as parties, receptions for guest speakers, and picnics. It is also a communication center for Blacks on and off campus. But, most importantly, it's a place where I feel I can go and relax and "get away from it all."

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE WHITE ATTITUDE TOWARDS BLACK STUDENTS AT LAFAYETTE?

Cox: The white attitude here on campus can't really be summed up in one phrase. I guess you could say it's very typical of the white population at large but on a smaller scale. Being on a smaller scale everything seems to be more noticeable. In time you begin to accept the different attitudes just as you accept life in general.

McMillan: The white attitude towards us at Lafayette cannot possibly be different from that of the United States as a whole. I more than get along with all people here. Whites definitely take a lot for granted as far as our attitudes, background, and our feelings are concerned.

Baisden: Of course upon entering a situation where a large number of whites have never been exposed to daily interaction with Blacks on any level, one should expect a degree of naivete and apprehension. Yet, there are white students at Lafayette who seek genuine friendships. Their sensitivity about you as a Black comes from their acceptance of you as an individual. Realizing that your background is reflected through your personality, they (white students) usually gain some knowledge of Black culture. In the same way, Black students can gain some knowledge of white culture by keeping an open mind. What I am trying to say is one should not expect all whites to be open, friendly and willing to start friendships, but one can expect to develop a few, genuine, lasting relationships that will enhance the Lafayette experience.



HOW DO YOU FIND THE ACADEMIC WORK LOAD?

Soares: Let's face it, Lafayette is no picnic. The main problem is distractions. There is a time to party but the books cannot be abandoned. The main advice from most upperclassmen is to not get behind. This is where the other problem occurs. Once behind, the catching up is difficult.

Nunery: The academic work load is typical of a small high quality college. The teacher supplies each student with a syllabus, and expects each student to complete the course with the best effort possible. If help is needed, tutoring and outside aid from other students can be easily obtained. The biggest problem with the work load is that one must learn, usually in his/her freshman year, how to cope with it and not to lose sight of the fact that he/she is supposed to be getting an education, and not just a grade.



Mary Lou Williams, the great jazz pianist, visited Lafayette College for three days in September, 1975. She was a guest at a reception held at the Black Cultural Center.

Jones: For me, the academic work load at Lafayette is not that bad. Coming from a private school which has a high academic standing, I was used to spending a great deal of time in the books. So at Lafayette, I haven't had any major problems. The work load can get difficult, if you let it. In other words, if you don't waste your time or wait until the last minute to do your work, you will have time to relax and for other activities.

HOW DOES THE BLACK STUDENT FIT INTO EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES?

McMillan: Even though the ratio of the number of whites to the number of Blacks is small, the diversity of interests of Black students is equal to, and in my opinion, greater than the majority here. There are many athletes, student government representatives. McKelvy Scholars, radio DJ's and leaders in other activities.

Taylor: Extracurricular activities are an important phase of college life and Blacks fit right into this phase. A brother or sister can be found on any of the athletic teams. It doesn't stop with athletic participation though. Blacks are in the Student Government, on the radio station and on other clubs. Extracurricular activities are important to student voice in the college's operation and important to Black voice in the college's operation. This is why Blacks fit into this important phase of college life.

Richardson: Black students fit very well into the extracurricular activities here at Lafayette. We are represented in all major varsity sports and our intramural sports program is growing. We also have DJ's in the radio station and RA's (Resident Advisors) in the dorms.

I think that most Black students are into extracurricular activities for the same reasons that I am. I find them relaxing and I also feel that they are part of the whole learning experience. Extracurricular activities also give you an opportunity to get to know a lot of the students here.

SUPPOSE YOU HAVE PROBLEMS IN STUDYING, CAN YOU GET HELP?

Williams: A great advantage at Lafayette is that the low student-teacher ratio makes it easy to find or call a teacher in his or her office or home.

McDaniel: Yes, there are many sources of help. There is a school-organized tutoring system. But even better, most Black people find that other people who have taken the course are usually glad to help. This is usually the first source of help and the tutor system is the last.

Davis: Yes, help is available if you have problems in your courses. It is possible here to talk with your professor, get help from a student tutor, talk to someone who had the course, or go to the Counseling Center. It should be remembered though, that help is obtained by asking for it - not by just wanting it.

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

Taylor: Lafayette prepares you. The problems you encounter at Lafayette in many instances are problems you can relate to the world. Academically Lafayette offers you a good educational background. Many of the brothers and sisters that graduate get jobs in a business or engineering company, others go to law or medical school.

McMillan: A Black student would come to Lafayette for 3 main reasons:

- 1) To get an excellent education from a well-known high quality institution.
- 2) To get an over-all look at how the white dominated world operates and how to succeed in it.
- 3) To associate oneself with a group of hard-working dedicated brothers and sisters who are genuinely interested in each other.

Hailey: If you're a Black female, Lafayette can give you the confidence you need in yourself to go on to graduate, med or law school. Lafayette is a white-male dominated campus; so are most law and med schools. When you find yourself functioning well in this situation you know you can make it later in med or law school. Also, Lafayette's excellent reputation enhances your chances of getting accepted to graduate, med or law school.

Davis: The engineering and science departments are a good reason for coming to Lafayette if that is what you are interested in. Lafayette also offers some prestige and contact that might not be available at other colleges, and which could be helpful after graduation.

Jones: Lafayette as a whole has proven to be a worthwhile experience for me, not only as a Black student, but as a student period. Lafayette has been both good and bad, fulfilling and disappointing, but that is the way life is. And to me college should prepare you for the future. And Lafayette has given me a taste of what life is all about.

IN IT

Breathe -
Open Your Eyes -
And Let the World Know that you are Alive,
With Hope,
Peace,
and Time.

Let the Blackness
Eboniness
Lightness
Tanness
of Your Skin Effect the
Growth,
Development,
Experiences
of Your Mind.

LEAD US!

SHOW US!

MAKE US BELIEVE IN YOU!

In Your Hands You Hold the Key to Life and
Power ---

Don't Say No -

Don't Look At Your Limitations,
But Realize Your Potential.

As the Mysterious Life Force has influenced you
shaped you --

We at Lafayette will shape you
influence you,

And you will come away GROWN and MATURE,

No Longer a child of your mind

But a man/woman of your world

It is ours to show you yours. . .





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 help 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 3003
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.



“Black Children Can” is one of the most successful programs reaching out into the community sponsored by the Association of Black Collegians.

So this is college! With all of its problems, and questionable situations, and people with hangups, and people with solutions to cure the world's illnesses --

I WONDER WHY I STAYED HERE. . .

AND I WONDER WHY I DIG IT HERE. . .

Philosophically, there is no outstanding reason -

Scientifically, there is no element of eminent importance

But inside of me, I feel at home -

motivation to stay here and

Do the Best that I can -

for myself and for others.

I found out that I/we/us/you are the most important element of Lafayette and life.

This is the last rest station

before I/we/us/you take the

BIG STEP. . .

Future unknown,

but I/we/us/you are prepared.

What can we do?

Get all the Knowledge you can,

and use it for everything

you can.

Because you can -

you will

you have to

SUCCEED!

PEACE,

LEE 77

Leroy D. Nunery



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