



RAPPED IN BLACK

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This is Rapped in Black, a cooperative effort between the Association of Black Collegians and the Admissions Office of Lafayette College. Our purpose is to give you, the prospective Black student, a glimpse of the realities at Lafayette. Choosing a college is a difficult proposition and the more you know about a particular school the easier it is to make a choice. We realize this and so we have put down those questions which were foremost in our minds when we were entering college. We hope that our answers to these questions will enable you to get a clearer picture of the social and academic atmosphere here at Lafayette. We also hope that Rapped In Black will arouse your curiosity enough so that you will visit the college. We believe you will like what you see.

There are 57 Black students on campus and we come from a wide variety of backgrounds. Most, though not all, of us are affiliated in some capacity with the official college organization known as the Association of Black Collegians (ABC). We are largely funded by the student government and our purpose is to provide a viable social and cultural alternative which is uniquely black for all Lafayette students. The ABC serves as the medium through which individual desires are united and translated into realistic goals.

A few examples of the resources and programs which are available through the efforts of the ABC may be of interest to you. The Black Cultural Center (we call it the black house) is the ABC's own meeting house here on campus. The house has many different functions; it's a meeting place, a place to study, a place to watch TV, a place to party and most of all it's a place to be yourself.

Black Children Can is our attempt to augment the educational and black cultural experience for Black children in the Easton area. The children are brought to campus each Saturday and thus are able to make use of the available facilities. Not only are the children helped but the program serves as a link to the surrounding community.

We have also established a book bank in the library of the Black Cultural Center. Used text books are placed here and are available free of charge to all ABC members.

The ABC also provides the bulk of social and cultural activities for Black students here. The organization plans parties, trips and open houses. The ABC also brings in speakers and dance and theatre groups to augment our cultural experiences. Through the organization we are kept informed of the social and cultural events held by other colleges in the area.

Although the ABC provides a lot, it is not the only organization on campus in which Black students are involved. The resident advisor program, the college radio station, and the varsity football and basketball teams are among the organizations in which Black students play integral roles.

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.

Our intention in this edition of *Rapped In Black* has been to show you what Lafayette has to offer. We, the members of the ABC, have helped put this book together because we feel that you have much to offer us. We are seeking the fresh ideas and new initiatives that only you possess. The ABC has been a dynamic organization which is receptive to the changing times and conditions here at Lafayette. We need new and diverse attitudes to continue this tradition of adapting to the times. Our source of these new attitudes is you. We, the present members of the Association of Black Collegians, look forward to working with you.

Earl T. Richardson

The names, hometowns, majors and class years of students who helped prepare this edition of *Rapped in Black* are:

Robert Phillips, Baltimore, Md., Biology, '78
 Ronnie McMillan, Columbia, Md., Biology, '78
 Jeff Robinson, New Castle, Del., Government, '80
 Renee Covington, Roosevelt, N.Y., Psychology, '78
 Ellen Cochran, Alexandria, Va., Engineering, '80
 Kevin Thomas, Brooklyn, N.Y., Engineering, '80
 Kenny Soares, New Bedford, Mass., Economics, '79
 Renée Saunders, Richmond, Va., Anthropology & Sociology, '77
 Donna Richardson, Roebing, N.J., '80
 Sheila Baisden, Atlanta, Ga., English, '78
 Joe Greene, Philadelphia, Pa., Engineering, '80
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 Earl Richardson, Roebing, N.J., History, '77

Cover Design by George A. Woods '80



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

Phillips: I believe that a primary reason for a Black student to attend Lafayette is the quality of education. At few other campuses can a Black student reap the benefits of both a small student-faculty ratio and the prestige of a major college institution. Because class size is usually small, one can become familiar and even friendly with a professor. The student can easily receive individual help as a result. In the circle of Eastern colleges and universities, Lafayette holds a place of high esteem in regard to the academic quality of the students. Blacks graduating from Lafayette are offered numerous opportunities in the job market and also in graduate education.

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.

Robinson: A Black student would come to Lafayette for a chance at a good education from a well-known college. Coming to Lafayette also gives a Black student a chance to experience surviving in a white dominated society, which would be valuable after college life.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST IMPRESSION OF LAFAYETTE?

Covington: I visited Lafayette for a weekend as a pre-freshman my senior year in high school. I was greeted with a very warm welcome from all the Black students I met. Everyone was very friendly, and honest in informing me of factors that I should consider before I made the important decision as to where I would spend the next four years of my life. The Association of Black Collegians, and the various social, cultural and community programs it participates in for the benefit of ALL particularly impressed me.

Cochran: My first impression was that there were not many things a Black student could identify with when it came to social activities. What I failed to realize is that people make things happen. So if there is the need, there's always the possibility, but you have to become involved and help, not sit back and complain.

McMillan: My first impression of Lafayette was an excellent one. I knew that I was headed for what will probably be one of the biggest, most important challenges of my life. Certainly, Lafayette is a challenge for anyone. But a Black person has to be — and in most cases is — even stronger-minded.

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.

Thomas: The work load is no joke. The only problems come when your allotment of time for "booking" is less than it should be. Many of us come through high school with a minimum effort and find it hard to book when it is necessary. Time and effort will pay off but half-stepping and playing the line will only help you to an early departure.

Saunders: The academic work load is heavy — there's no way to sugar coat it! But it's a manageable work load and one that is overcome by careful budgeting of your time. It's best if you try to keep on schedule with your syllabus rather than get behind.

SUPPOSE YOU HAVE PROBLEMS STUDYING, CAN YOU GET HELP?

Saunders: If you have problems studying, help is always available — you only have to ask for it. A lot of students at Lafayette are afraid to ask for help but the best thing to do always is to ask for help if you're having difficulties. The only way your professor is going to know if you're having trouble is simply to tell him. This way, he knows you're trying and he's concerned with your progress. Another source of help is through the tutoring program set up by the Dean's Office. Don't hesitate to use the tutoring program if you're experiencing difficulty in a course. Whether you receive help or not is up to you — it only becomes a problem when you sit back and do nothing!

Richardson: There always seems to be someone around to help you with your studying if you need it. It seems to go much easier when you're working with a group of people rather than by yourself.

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

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.

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 feelings are concerned.

Robinson: The white attitude towards Blacks at Lafayette is the same as everywhere else. The only difference is that most of the white people here have had little or no experience with Blacks and therefore they don't know how to relate to Black people.

DOES THE ABC REALLY SERVE A SOCIAL NEED?

Phillips: No Question! If it weren't for the ABC and its social contribution to Black student life on campus, the Black population would be 10 times smaller. Every once in a while, you need a release; the ABC can usually meet this need. Whether it be a party, serious dinner, or just an every-day game of cards, the Black Cultural Center can usually house the function. The Black House, as it is affectionately called, is the center for most Black activities on campus. It is here where most Blacks congregate.

Greene: Hell yeah! If it wasn't for the ABC the togetherness which I think is very much in evidence wouldn't be. The house is a good place to cool out, watch TV and whatever else one would do at his or her home. In a way the ABC is a buffer for those students who are coming from an all Black environment to Lafayette.

"Black Children Can" is one of the most successful programs reaching out into the community sponsored by the Association of Black Collegians. Saturday morning arts and crafts is one of the activities planned.





Thomas: The ABC serves a definite social purpose. Many of the affairs which the Black Lafayette student get involved in are sponsored by or promoted through the ABC. It also helps to keep you in touch with the College through general meetings in which issues relevant to the Black student are discussed.

Cochran: Most definitely. To me it serves as a home away from home. It may not be as attractive as the fraternities, but the atmosphere is warm. You can go there and talk, cook, dance, listen, and be Black!! Without it, I feel that it would be hard to have unity among the Blacks. To me the Black House brings us together.

SENIORS REFLECT BACK ON THEIR 4 YEARS AT LAFAYETTE.

Lawrence: The four years I have spent at Lafayette, besides affording me a good academic education, have also helped me to develop in other areas. The various situations and confrontations I've met have forced me to ask questions about my values and beliefs. Rather than being able to float in the crowd, I was forced to really examine and question those beliefs to see if they were really relevant. This is something that I would not have been forced to do had I been surrounded by people with similar values.

I don't think that the people or situations at Lafayette are very different from society as a whole. One thing I learned at Lafayette is that in order to make things happen, it's up to the individual to put forth some effort. I think there are a lot of opportunities for Black students to become involved in various aspects of the College – and not necessarily window dressing spots either. But again it comes down to the individual getting up and putting forth the effort.

Richardson: Reflecting back on my four years here at Lafayette brings to mind many different reactions. On the (negative?) side I suppose I could say that academically Lafayette hasn't been a picnic, but then I really didn't expect it to be. When I applied to Lafayette I knew of its reputation as a small highly competitive college. Lafayette has most assuredly been competitive, but it's that aspect of the school that enables you to get a top-notch education both academically and practically. I say this because academic competition serves the dual purpose of making you apply yourself more conscientiously to the books and helping you begin to learn the rules of the game we seniors will have to play soon after graduation. Though I can't really speak authoritatively for all seniors, it seems to be the general consensus that Lafayette has prepared us well for what we wish to do after graduation. Be it graduate school or a job I would venture to say that the majority of seniors are ready.



ON TOP OF THE HILL

Way up here.

On Your Own.

Independence never felt so funny . . .

But you have to make Headway:

Going to Class Everyday,

Bookin' hard,

Messing around in the hall, so the R.A. has to get

Up at 2 AM,

Livin' Here.

A Social Life that depends Upon You, that makes You a bit
more open, or aggressive;

Tryin' to Keep Tabs on Yourself,

And Seeing Your Head & Body Mature,

Seeing Your Perspectives Widen

Seeing The Difference When You Go Home –

Seeing that being on Top of the Hill

Is going to make an Improvement
in You . . .

Around and Around and Around it Goes

Where it Stops

You Hope Someday to Know,

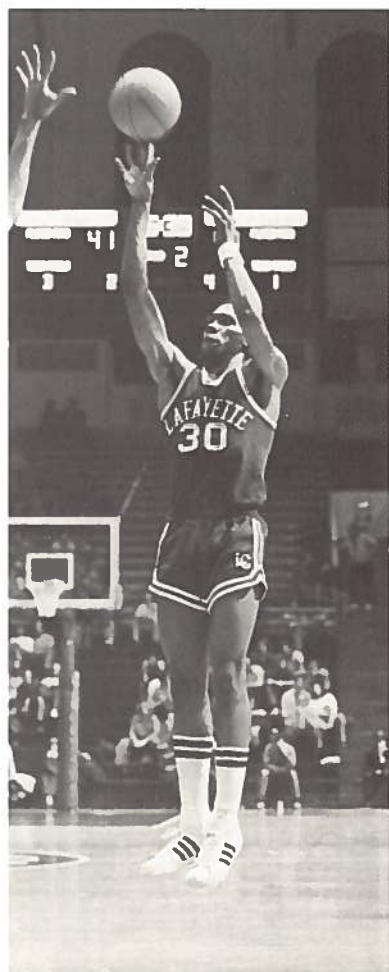
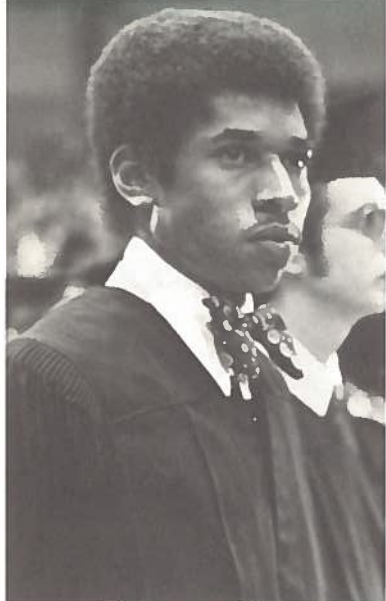
Putting You Off Ready and Able,

To Eat,

and Live

and Benefit

from Life's Table.





Among the cultural and entertainment events at Lafayette are programs related to the Black experience. Above, featured in recent programs were jazz pianist Mary Lou Williams, the George Faison Dance Company, and the Duke Ellington Orchestra conducted by Mercer Ellington.



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 come from similar backgrounds and circumstances. 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.

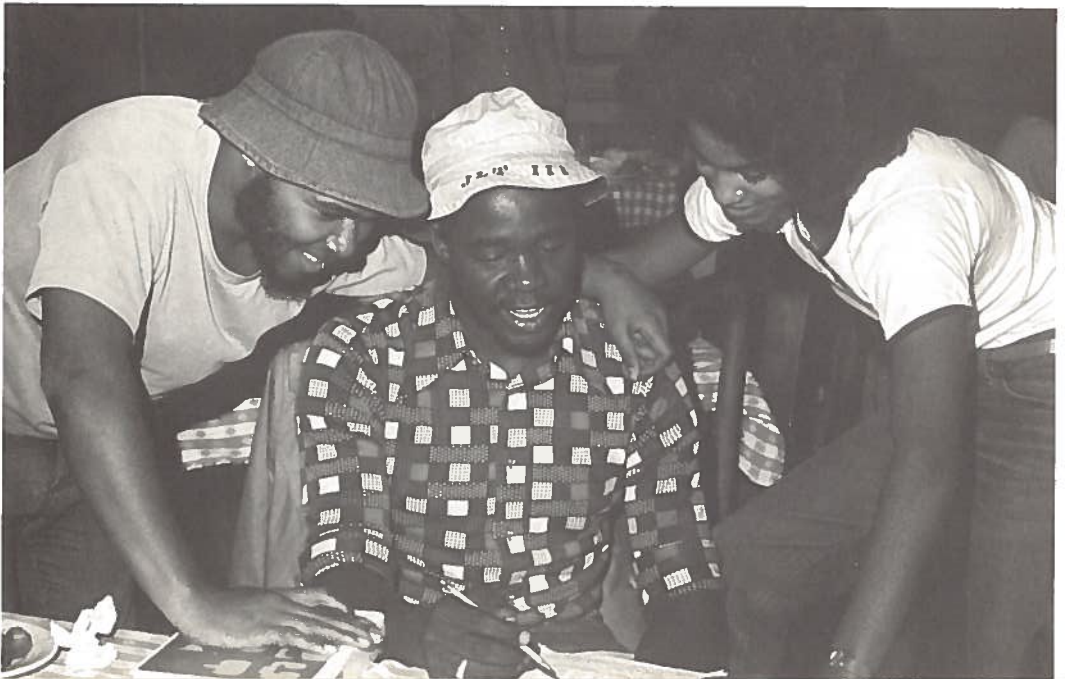
If you fail to meet these guidelines, you may be considered but your chances for admission and financial aid could be diminished.

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.



— BONA FIDE —

You come here expecting a lot . . .

An education. Friendship. A serious hook-up
Dreams fulfilled by those

Who have Made It,

Came from Desire,

Hard Work,

Sacrifice,

Good Friends,

Integrity.

Strive on, Brothers and Sisters!

. DO IT TILL YOU'RE SATISFIED

Let yours be the language not only of

Success,

But also of Purpose,

But also of Joy,

But also of Achievement.

We all came here to do a job,

Seeing it done takes

Four long worthwhile years.

A collegiate experience

Is what we have to Offer . . .

Your expectations will not

Be denied —

But become Bona Fide . . .

Peace,

Lee '77



**LAFAYETTE COLLEGE
EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA**

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