

The Lafayette

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Lafayette College

April 20, 2001

Vol. 127

Number 26

College News -- The Way It Should Be

Secret faculty society is a campus mystery

BY DAVID NORTON

They call themselves "The Apostles."

A secret faculty society that has existed for almost a century, the group was formed to oppose Lafayette's administration and is said to have caused the downfall of at least one college president.

Though The Apostles seem to have lost their political focus — reportedly failing to meet this year — they were once a powerful force on the school's campus and are still a topic of secrecy and speculation.

According to Al Gendebien, college historian and a retired Apostle, membership of the group has been constantly kept at 12, a play off the 12 biblical apostles. The group's name, he said, came in part because the society originally had that many members.

New members, always tenured professors, were only appointed when there was a vacancy, he said. Until the 1950's, said Gendebien, not even the spouses of Apostles were allowed to know about their membership.

Physics Professor Emeritus Winfield Keck, an Apostle from 1959 to 1983, said that though the group was originally

formed to influence college policy, it had become more of a social organization by the time of his membership. Gendebien, one of Keck's peers, called much of the activity "intellectual beer drinking."

"We would meet [the night] before faculty meetings every three weeks," Gendebien said, "so that we could have 12 meetings a year." He explained that at each meeting, one Apostle would submit an academic paper to the group.

"One of the rules was that the papers had to be out[sid]e of your area of interest," Keck said. Despite internal rules, however, no written records of the group were ever kept, said Gendebien.

While academic discourse and informal fraternization have been integral elements of The Apostles, they seem to have developed as an afterthought. According to Gendebien, when the group formed in 1913, their primary goal was to counter the administration, specifically the then college president, Ethelbert Warfield.

"In 1912 President Warfield forced the resignation of Professor Mecklin, a philosophy professor at the college," Gendebien said.

"Warfield was upset with Mecklin for teaching philosophy not in accordance with the Westminster Catechism of the Presby-

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Tight semester calendar prevents exam reading day



PHOTO BY ADAM BUCHWALTER

Among other factors, tight scheduling leaves room for only one weekend of finals study, officials said.

BY BETHANY BOUCHER

As is typical for the spring semester, students will only be given the weekend as a reading period before exams, said Registrar Francis Benginia. In the fall semester, an extra day is given, but the packed nature of spring semester prevents that he said.

Students have mixed opinions about the schedule. Keith Woythaler '01 said, "I think it's unfair that we have absolutely no reading days. All College Day is two days before finals and the school condones our participation in it."

Anita Muduli '04 said, "I think it [a reading day] would be a good idea."

On the contrary, Melissa Hoh '04 said, "It really doesn't bother me."

The last day of classes is Friday, May 4 and final exams begin the next Monday, May 7. Some schools offer reading periods of up to a week for students.

According to Dean of Studies Christopher Gray, Lafayette does not have this option due to a longer semester, a three-week winter interim, and a tight schedule in the spring.

Gray said Lafayette has a 70-day semester whereas many schools only have a 65-day semester. Also, Lafayette begins its spring semester later in January than most schools because of its interim program, said Gray.

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Students desire more AIDS awareness

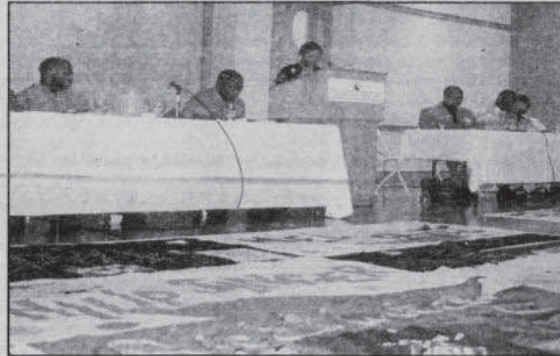


PHOTO BY MATT JOHNSTON

Debra Frazer-Howze of the national Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc. was a key speaker at last Wednesday's AIDS Symposium.

BY CAROLINE MARIE ESHMAN

Following a recent AIDS symposium held on campus, some Lafayette students are voicing concerns about what they feel is a lack of AIDS/HIV awareness at Lafayette.

Conway House Head Resident Ad-

visor Scott Wynne '02 said, "AIDS awareness is an important topic and it needs more attention on campus. Most students feel like they are invincible, but in reality they aren't." Similarly, Evan Adler '02 said, "I think that students have adequate knowledge of HIV and AIDS, but there is a misconception that they will never be af-

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Tutoring program trying to reach more freshmen

BY PAMELA ROTH

Lafayette College is hoping to convince more freshmen to give peer tutoring a chance.

"It is very challenging to get freshmen to utilize the Academic Resource Center's peer tutoring program," said Assistant Dean of Studies Elisha Nixon.

According to Nixon, many students are in denial that they need academic help because they achieved high grades in high school. Nixon said she thinks freshmen might not access the program "because they haven't made the transition from high school to college."

Academic Resource Center Coordinator Barbara Lipkin agreed, saying

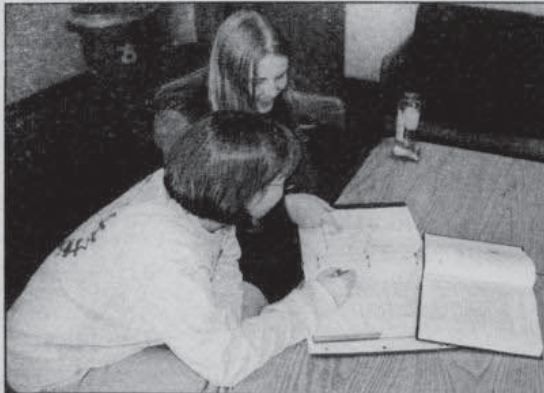


PHOTO BY MATT JOHNSTON

Lafayette freshmen make the majority of tutorial requests, according to the Academic Resource Center.

Lafayette students keen on high grades

BY JESSIE WALTERS

Finals are fast approaching and grades are on the mind. While some Lafayette students consider extremely high grades as incredibly important, others are content with simply passing.

Most Lafayette students said that high grades are very important to them. According to an informal survey conducted by *The Lafayette*, 97 percent of students aim for a GPA above a 3.0. Of those students, 19 percent aim for a 4.0 every semester.

According to Dean of Studies Christopher Gray, the current cumulative all-college GPA is a 3.10.

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NEWS

National

■ Cincinnati, Ohio (AP) Promising to make police more accountable, the mayor lifted a citywide curfew Monday that helped end rioting over the police shooting of an unarmed black man. The 8 p.m.-to-6 a.m. curfew was imposed Thursday after three nights of arson, looting, attacks on white motorists and clashes with police.

■ Washington (AP) People who log onto dozens of federal government Web sites may be unknowingly tracked despite a privacy policy forbidding it, investigators say. A report found 64 federal Web sites used files that allow them to track the browsing and buying habits of Internet users.

■ Boston, Massachusetts (AP) Lee Bong-ju of South Korea won the Boston Marathon on Monday, snapping a 10-year victory streak for Kenya. Catherine Ndereba won the women's race for the second consecutive year, making sure the Kenyans were not shut out. Lee finished the 26.2-mile course in 2 hours, 9 minutes, 45 seconds. Ndereba finished in 2:23:53.

International

■ Jerusalem (AP) Israel on Monday signaled a new tougher policy in dealing with guerrilla attacks in Lebanon, sending its warplanes to attack a Syrian radar position. Syria warned that Israel would pay a "heavy price" for escalating the violence. Jordan's foreign minister presented Israel on Monday with an Arab peace initiative to end fighting in the West Bank and Gaza. But Israel indicated it would reject the plan.

■ Manila, Philippines (AP) Former President Joseph Estrada turned himself in on Monday after an arrest warrant was issued. Estrada was forced to leave the presidential palace on Jan. 20 by mass protests demanding he resign over a corruption scandal.

■ Amsterdam, Netherlands (AP) A Bosnian Serb who was a commander in the bloody siege of Srebrenica was jailed at The Hague on Monday to face trial on charges he helped massacre thousands of Muslims, then tried to hide the deaths by burying the victims.

Weekend Weather

registered from www.weather.com

Friday
showers
to 47° to 60°

Saturday
mostly cloudy
to 51° to 71°

Sunday
partly cloudy
to 49° to 70°

In This Issue

The crew team is still afloat and going strong despite a tight budget.

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Students evaluate tutoring services

Tutorial requests by class

	1998	1999	2000
Freshmen	296	138	138
Sophomores	159	125	83
Juniors	24	35	44
Seniors	18	6	16

supplied by the Academic Resource Center

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ing, "Students at Lafayette are very independent and have done academically well up to that point," she said.

Nixon said the main goal of the peer tutoring program is not to help students with their academic problems, but to aid freshmen by making beneficial adjustments in their study skills. Lipkin said the main goal of the peer tutoring program is to provide academic assistance outside the classroom that supplements what the professor is doing.

"Upper-class students know about our program already," said Nixon. "We try to concentrate on getting freshmen to use the tutors," she said.

Most students realize they need a tutor only after they receive low midterm grades at Lafayette, said Nixon.

With regard to direct academic assistance, Assistant Coordinator of the Academic Resource Center Sharon Bright said, "Your professor is your best source for help."

According to statistics provided by the Academic Resource Center, from fall 1998 to spring 2000, the freshmen class was the majority of tutorial requests. In spring 2000, for example, the freshmen class of 2003 constituted 53.7 percent of the students who requested help.

According to the Academic Resource Center, there are 85 active tutors this semester, in addition to several others who have not yet been requested by students.

Rachael Blackman '04, a psychology tutor, said she was approached to be a tutor two months ago but is still waiting for a tutee. "They definitely don't have enough tutors in the physics department, and the biggest flaw of the program is that they don't have tutors in the subjects students have a lot of trouble with," said Blackman.

According to Bright, most of the courses that offer tutors are 100-level classes. Student assistance is highly requested in science, math, computer science, economics, and foreign languages, said Bright.

Some Lafayette students have complained that tutors are not avail-

able upon request.

Bright said the number of tutors for each department varies each semester, but that 300-level course tutors are generally hard to come by.

According to Lipkin, students may have trouble accessing a tutor for a 300-level class because seniors do not have time to tutor a student.

Bright said that there have been a few situations in which 300-level tutors were not available for students that requested them. In such a case, Bright said a student is placed on a waiting list. The Academic Resource Center then contacts the student's professor to supply a tutor from the class, or the student is recommended to attend study sessions and work closely with the professors themselves.

Nancy Friedman '01 said she applied for a 300-level engineering tutor two weeks ago, but still has not heard back from the Academic Resource Center.

However, most students interviewed said the peer tutoring program is effective for students, especially freshmen, and that the tutors are easily accessible when needed.

"I think the tutoring is really effective, especially for freshmen who don't really know what to do in their classes," said Michelle Kamine '03.

Both Bright and Nixon feel that the Dean of Studies and Resource Center have advertised the program well, although some students disagree. "I'm sure the program is beneficial, but I think they need to advertise it better," said Jim Sarruda '04. Blackman said that academic services and the tutoring program are effective, but are definitely not being publicized enough.

Eric Stauffer '02, a general chemistry tutor, said he thinks the program is effective and is advertised well. "The program helps students keep up with the learning material." However, Stauffer thinks that most freshmen do not know about the program and therefore would not use it as much as they can.

HIV/AIDS awareness low on Lafayette campus

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Student concerns at Lafayette are reflected in a recent study by the University of Central Florida, which shows that college students are knowledgeable about HIV/AIDS preventative measures, yet underestimate their risk in light of their sexual behavior, according to the National Library of Medicine.

Concerning the actual presence of the disease at Lafayette, Director of Health Services Dr. Alan Johnson cited that there has never been a positive HIV test recorded at Bailey Health Center.

Johnson said that Human Papilloma Virus is far more frequent on campus than is AIDS/HIV, and should therefore, receive greater focus. Nevertheless, he said, "There is probably not as much [AIDS awareness] as there should be."

"We do not have any formal program addressing AIDS directly," said Health Promotions Coordinator Cindy Adams. Adams said there is collaboration by various campus organizations, including the Brothers of Lafayette, Association of Black Collegians, Lafayette Activities Forum, and the Resident Advisors to inform students about sexual health.

Adams said that one student program, HIV/AIDS Prevention and Education Now (HAPEN), addresses AIDS and HIV in the surrounding community. Heather Rabinowicz '02, who leads the program, said its purpose is to teach AIDS education at local elementary and middle schools, raise money for a local outreach center, and participate in the Blood Drive, Wellness Day, and World AIDS Week.

Associate Dean of Students Pamela Brewer said Residence Hall Council and the Outreach Center promote AIDS awareness through

programming as well.

Despite student concern, there may be a lack of interest in personally promoting AIDS awareness. Adams said Students Educating on Responsible College Health (SERCH), a program focused on

"I think that students have adequate knowledge of HIV and AIDS, but there is a misconception that they will never be affected."

---Evan Adler '02

promoting campus health, is inactive this year due to lack of student involvement.

Several students expressed concern about the lack of AIDS awareness on campus. Samaiya Council '02, who is also a resident advisor, said, "I think that the disease needs to have more visibility at Lafayette. All I have seen in AIDS awareness is a VAST class and the recent symposium."

Other colleges and universities take different awareness initiatives. Bucknell University Director of Community Health Promotions Tracy Shaynak said, "To get students to understand the risks involved and to change their behavior, Bucknell sponsors various events in addition to several sexual health programs where guest speakers with AIDS/HIV come and relate their experiences."

Pennsylvania State University has campaigns involving student government, art exhibits, mock trials, and attempt to reduce the fear surrounding HIV tests, said Nathan Thomas, community health educator and supervisor of the Pennsylvania State's HIV testing program.

Thomas suggested, "Before any new programs are initiated, good feedback must be obtained from

the students." A needs assessment must be conducted of the student body. After this, creative ways to reach the campus can then be discussed." Thomas also commented that when you personify the disease and get a person to relate their experience, the results could be very effective.

Many Lafayette students agreed with Thomas' idea that a personal connection must be made in order to create AIDS awareness. Nana Bentsi-Enchill '02 said, "Sometimes statistics are helpful, but they are just numbers. When you add the human element it is much more effective."

Associate Dean of Students and Director of Student Activities Pam Brewer said she believes there is a "relatively good degree of awareness through programs like Residence Hall Council and ones offered through the Community Outreach Center." Brewer said, "You cannot have forced education, you can provide the resources so students who are interested can access valid information."

The most recent attempt to educate Lafayette students about AIDS and HIV was the first annual AIDS symposium last Wednesday. This event focused on educating the campus on the disproportionately higher growth rate of AIDS and HIV among members of the Black and Latino communities, said Event Chairman Bruce Edwards '01.

Student and faculty members were very supportive of the event. Bentsi-Enchill stated, "I think AIDS/HIV is very scary topic and the symposium was very effective because the consequences of AIDS/HIV hit me hard." Council said, "The AIDS symposium was a good first step in increasing the AIDS awareness on campus, but it's not over. There has to be repetition to get the point across that AIDS is a problem and it can affect college students."

Public Safety Crime Log

4/9/01-4/16/01

Theft 4/11/01	Student reported the theft of her bookbag from Alumni Hall of Engineering. Incident under investigation. (VAN YA)
Criminal Mischief 4/12/01	Officers observed a student kick the card access reader at McKeen Hall. Referred to Dean of Students. (NESHEIWAT)
Criminal Mischief 4/13/01	Woods employee reported a scratch on the roof of his vehicle which was parked between Zeta Psi and Watson Courts area. Incident under investigation. (VAN YA)
Criminal Mischief 4/13/01	Anonymous complaint of a group of males damaging lights standards by Ruef and Keefe Halls. Upon arrival, the group was gone. Several lights standards were damaged. Incident under investigation. (NESHEIWAT)
Criminal Mischief 4/13/01	Student reported damage to her vehicle which was parked in the Watson Hall rear lot. A piece of cement block had been thrown through the rear window of her vehicle. Incident under investigation. (SNYDER)
Theft 4/12/01	Student called to report he left his keys in his room door at Kirby House. When he went to retrieve them, they were gone. Incident under investigation. (ZAUN)

This security log is compiled by the Office of Public Safety and submitted to The Lafayette. It is an account of all crimes handled by Public Safety officers and does not cover non-criminal reports. All reports printed here have been listed and also submitted to the Easton Police Department.