

#11

INTERVIEW OF BLACK STUDENTS ENROLLED AT WASHINGTON AND LEE

1. *Have you decided upon a college major? Yes*
*If yes, what? **History, concentration Africa and Asia***
 2. *(If the answer to question 1 is no, skip #7.) What is your grade point average (GPA) in your major field?*
I believe it's a 3.23, but I'm not positive.
 3. *What type of degree are you working toward at Washington and Lee?*
Bachelor of Arts
 4. *What is the occupation or profession you want to enter upon finishing your education?*
Right now I'm leaning towards maybe going into paralegal, and then maybe if I like that go into law as a career, but I'll just try it for a couple of years and see if I like it.
 5. *Do you plan on working toward an advanced degree at some time after finishing your undergraduate program?*
Yes
 6. *While growing up, did you attend or were you personally active in church? yes*
If yes, please give the denomination, and the type of church activities in which you participated.
When I was really young, I would guess up until I was like nine or ten ... would go to church with my grandparents, but not so much during my teenage years, definitely been rare.. What was the denomination? **Baptist. What kind of activities did you participate in when you were younger..? **When I was really young I used to be in a choir for little kids, I actually had a little ukelele I used to play.****
- How would you characterize your church involvement in Lexington?*
Besides Lee Chapel I don't think I've ever been to church in Lexington ... certain special occasions.
7. *How would you compare your level of participation in extra-curricular activities in high school and at Washington and Lee?*
I played a lot of, well I played three sports in high school and I play football here, and I'm also in a fraternity here, so..
 8. *How did you learn about Washington and Lee University?*
My college advisor actually told me about it. I really didn't know anything about it. I'd never even heard of it before until she brought it up, but she knew what I was looking for, and she thought it would be a good school for me to come and check out.
 9. *To what extent were you assisted during the admissions process by an alumnus of Washington and Lee?*
Not at all.

10. *Did you visit the campus before you matriculated as a student? Yes*
If yes, under what circumstances?

Yes, my senior.. I think it was end of winter my senior year in high school - the big snow storm of '93. So I was stuck here for like 4 or 5 days. I had a good time though.
Was it a Prospective Student Weekend? I guess it was a black prospective weekend.

Did all the kids get stuck here? Yeah, It was a good time. Did they have planned ... events for you?... I don't know if I went to all of 'em, but they did. They had lots of stuff planned. I went to some of it, like the important stuff. I didn't go to everything though.

Please describe your reactions to this campus visit. I had a really good time. I stayed with John Rider and Jim Scott, I stayed with those guys in Gaines and I mean I just had a good time hanging out with them and meeting their friends. I mean I had a really good time when I visited. that's actually my main reason for coming here. It was between Hopkins, Davidson, and W&L... and like those were the three final choices. I never visited Davidson, and I didn't have a great time at Hopkins, but I had a lot of fun here so I came here.

10a. *Was W&L your...*

When it was three finalists, it was my first choice of the three. When I first started looking into colleges I didn't , like I said, I didn't really know that much about it, so I wasn't really first or second or third.. but when it came down to the three finalists I was actually going to go to it was the first choice.

10b. *About how many other colleges did you apply to?...*

Altogether, I believe 8.

10c. *How many other colleges accepted you? Six*

11. *What made you decide to attend Washington and Lee?*

Besides what I said already? ... Well I know, when I was in school, I thought I wanted to go to school in the south. and I knew I wanted to play football wherever I went. Like I said, when it came down to the three schools ... of those three this is the one I liked the most. What was your connection with the football people before you came?... I actually, well the weekend I came I was supposed to talk with coach Fallon, and, like I say it was a snowstorm and like you couldn't even move around the city at all, and I'm not even sure if you could get to campus, and for some reason I missed the interview, or he couldn't get to campus and I missed the interview, so I may have talked to one of the coaches over the phone, but I really don't remember. I really don't remember talking to them that much at all before I came here.

Were there other factors you considered in making the decision? . Well, financial aid was a very big decision, that's why it was those three colleges. Cause, neither one of them was my first choice, My first choice of schools, but when it came down to the schools I could actually afford to go to, it was these three. These three offered you financial aid. Um hum. Hopkins, Davidson and here and I decided to go here.

12. *Once you decided to enroll at W&L, what was the reaction of friends and relatives?*

Well, most of my friends and relatives didn't know where it was or what it was, or like I said hadn't heard of it, like I hadn't heard of it. Most of them were just happy I was going to a good school. They didn't know exactly about Washington and Lee.

Were there negative images about W&L that made you think seriously about not coming?

Um, I think one of the things that really really caught me off guard was the confederate flags that are always flying around. *Did you see them when you were here as a perspective?* I don't remember seeing them when I was a perspective, but when I actually came here like it seemed like I saw them everywhere, and that was really...shocking 's a good word ...

13. *Once you were enrolled, did you find the University to be as you had expected?*

Well, I think the whole living in the south thing was unexpected, cause I had never, I mean I didn't know what it was like before I actually came here. My college advisor, .. actually I guess she tried to warn me about some things I might see ... *Is she black as well?* No, she's not, I guess she just realized, well where I was from in New Jersey I didn't know it was like a big deal between like North and South and like Confederate flags .. I mean, really, I guess everyone up there kinda just thought the war was over and everything like that. But I guess southerners take it really really seriously, so they're still hung up on it, so that was a really big surprise when I got here.

Anything else that was different from what you expected?

Not really. That was the thing I remember most, cause I didn't notice it when I was here over the weekend I was here, so. *Did the other black students when you were a visitor warn you about anything in advance, ...* Um, I guess, I mean I remember them talking about, I mean I remember them talking about - I guess they told me pretty much same thing my college advisor told me, like it was a lot different from where I was from, but I guess I really didn't think about it that much until I actually came here and realized for myself what they were talking about. *What form did that take besides the flag?* I guess it was almost, well not a different culture, but, everyone's just a lot more hung up on North and South relationships and where you're from and I don't know, it was just different from where I was from. I don't know, I can't really explain it, just everything, well not everything, but I mean so many different ways every day. Like people wear flags on their shirts, or when you get here everyone wants to know where you're from, and "Ah you're from New Jersey, You're a Yankee." Even like, in town you see people riding around with bumper stickers "I'd rather be shooting Yankees." or something. I was just, I don't know how to explain this, I just wasn't prepared for it I guess, I didn't know it was a big deal still down here. *Did that effect you especially as a black person, or as a northerner, do you think?* Well, I think the probably the confederate flag might have affected me more as a black person, cause -- I don't know what white people from the North think when they see it. I guess before I came here I always thought -- it always symbolized to me like the Confederacy and I always thought like that was mostly about keeping blacks slaves and stuff like that -- so, like I said, it was very shocking, you know what I mean? Everyone throwing the around their rooms or hanging out the windows, and shirts, and stuff like that.

So did you feel like you were -- assuming that they were still into white supremacy?

I really wasn't sure. I mean, I didn't know what it meant. I mean I wasn't sure what I was expecting to happen. I don't know. I mean, I guess it wan't until I was actually here for a while and got to know people -- whatever -- it kind of took the edge of it. I really don't know what I actually really thought.

If the school differed from the way it seemed when you first heard about it or visited the campus, please describe how it differed. I think you just did that. Any other ways that we didn't cover?

Yes, I think so.

14. *Please describe what you consider to be your greatest challenge at Washington and Lee. How have you dealt with it?*

My greatest challenge is just adapting to everything. I mean, first of all, the workload here is a lot tougher than I thought it would be. I went to a pretty good high school and I got pretty good grades, but I don't think I had to work as hard as I have to work here to get pretty good grades. So that coupled with the whole southern thing -- I mean it's almost a different culture here. I don't know how to explain it, but it's different from where I'm from -- I mean a small, conservative, southern -- I mean, I guess the whole experience I had to adjust to and fit in.

How did you deal with it? **I think it was good that I played football because by the time most freshmen came here I already knew about 70 or 80 other guys, and I liked most of them --**

You came early to practice --? **um-hmm, we were here 2 wks. in August -- so by the time other people came here, I already had friends, and also during the fraternity parties I just got to meet more people. I mean, I got to meet more people and make more friends.**

15. *How has your academic performance at Washington and Lee compared with your performance in high school?*

Like I said, in high school, I got really, really good grades. I mean, I worked hard, but I think I work a lot harder here -- more often than I did in high school, and I'm still not getting the grades I would like to get -- but I think I'm doing okay. I mean I'm satisfied, but I wish I could have done better.

16. *What academic resources have you used at Washington and Lee?*

I use the library a lot. I don't use the science library. I use the computers in the library. I use the writing center. I've used the language labs, but just when I was taking Spanish which I took for 4 semesters. I've visited professors, but it's usually they're either my advisors or one other professor that I go talk to for a while.

Do you have any suggestions for the development of these or any other facilities?

No, not really. I think the library is great, it stays open 24 hrs. and I have no problems with anything.

17. *What factors contribute or contributed to your selection of a major course of study?*

Well, when I first came here, I was supposed to major in business or business administration, or whatever --

Supposed to? **Well, I thought I was going to -- but when I actually got here, the courses that I liked were the history classes. Actually, it was the class that Professor _____ taught on World War II. I really liked that and that's what actually made me change my major to history, and also changed -- or concentrate on Africa and Asia. I just**

really enjoyed the classes a lot.

18. *Have you changed majors since you have been enrolled at Washington and Lee? If yes, please describe that change.*

No.

19. *If you saw a person or group of persons lying, stealing or cheating would you report it as an honor violation? Please elaborate.*

I think it would depend -- I mean, if someone lied or stole something -- I mean, if I saw someone cheating on a test, I would probably report them. I mean if it was something I thought was big deal or something I thought I should report, I would, but if it was something small I don't know if I would or not. I'm not sure if I would or not. I'm not sure I would report every time I thought someone lied, or cheat, or steal -- if it was something important like a test or something I thought was important, I would turn them in.

So, you'd have to make a judgement call? Yeah, like in the fraternity house, you might see someone go into someone's room and take something -- one of your friends, but I'm not sure if, according to the rules, you're supposed to turn them in for something like that. If I thought it was important, I'd turn them in.

20. *Do you find Washington and Lee professors easy or difficult to approach? Please describe in what way they are easy or difficult.*

For the most part, I believe, they're easy to approach. All my professors -- I can't think of any professors right now that I thought was really hard to approach.

Well, they're just easy. Any professor I've had, I mean, they've all got office hours or I could make an appointment to talk about a problem.

Have you been able to establish close working relationships with a member or with members of the W&L faculty?

What do you mean by close working relationship?

I guess you could define that. It would be different for different people. Some people have done RE Lee things or some people have gotten close to a particular professor that they do a lot of work with or sometimes there's work study interactions.

I can't think of any close working relationships that I've had with faculty members.

21. *What has been your experience at W&L with regard to social life?*

I'm in a fraternity and I also play football. It hasn't been difficult to find friends here I don't think even though the friends that I have here are a lot different from the friends that I have when I'm home. I still have a lot of friends here.

In what way are they different?

Their whole background is different, where they're from. They're completely different because they've led different lives, whatever. I can't really explain it. They're just different.

But you've had an easy time making friends?

I have a lot of good friends here.

What about the social scene? What you do with your time in your social life?

I go to parties and stuff on the weekends at the fraternity houses or my own frat house. Once in a while I go to town with people from different schools. Since I live so far away for the most part

I'm here on the weekends or whatever.

You mean your hometown is far away?

Yes, hometown.

How important to you is alcohol at a social event or social engagement?

I would say that most partying on weekends has alcohol there. Sometimes I drink, sometimes I don't. I don't know how you find the level of importance. There is always alcohol there.

So it's medium importance, not a big deal.

How important to you are drugs at a social event?

Drugs are not very important at a social event. I don't really think they're very important at all. I think people who do drugs don't really do them out in the open, you know. It's not like you see them when you go to parties and stuff like that.

And what about you personally?

I don't think they're very important at all at a social event.

22. *What experiences, if any, have you had with Greek organizations on campus?*

How would you evaluate or describe any experiences you may have had?

I'm in a fraternity here. I did the regular rush thing and pledged.

Are you happy with your choice?

Yeah, I'm very happy.

What's it been like to be in a fraternity?

To be in my particular fraternity, it's been a lot different from most people here, because we were kicked off my freshman and sophomore year and we finally got back on last year, but we missed rush a year or something like that. It all worked out well. This year we did really well and got a lot of good pledges. I think we're better now than when I first came. It's a good experience.

How did you hang together as a group when you were kicked off?

We were all friends anyway. It didn't really matter if we were in a fraternity or not. We were all friends, hung out together.

Did you live in houses together?

Uh-huh, I lived with two other guys in the same house.

23. *Evaluate your experiences with regards to athletic teams/athletic facilities/and physical education classes.*

I'm really happy that I was on the football team and stayed on it for 4 years. Last year I got hurt during the season. My freshman year I sprained my ankle and was out for half of the season. In high school I was captain of two teams and pretty much the star on both teams. I was used to playing a lot. Here I've only played two years, this year and my sophomore year. I haven't played nearly as much as I wanted to play or thought I should have played. As far as facilities, I think the facilities are pretty good. I don't think they're great. I don't think they're bad - just pretty good.

How would you like to see them improve?

Actually, we got a new football locker room. That was really good improvement.

As far as Phys Ed, the fact that I played football for 4 years, one pre-season is more than you're ever going to do in any Phys Ed class. It kind of seems pointless to make people take it. They should take 3 other Phys Eds besides playing varsity sports for 4 years. I still think it's pointless. I love playing sports, but I don't think I should be forced to do it. I always played basketball. I think varsity athletes should not take as many Phys Ed courses as they have to now.

24. *How would you characterize your opportunities for "dating" while enrolled at*

Washington and Lee?

The girls here are quite different from the girls I've dated my whole life and girls at home. I really don't think the opportunities for dating are that great here at all. For a black person anyway.

Even among the black community?

Just because the black community is so small. There's not a lot of females in general in the black community. I've dated white girls since I've been here. I couldn't feel like I'd have any lasting relationship with any of them. I don't think dating opportunities are very good at all for black people.

Do you think it's because the black community is so small or because the whole culture is different?

For me it's not good because of both of the things. The white students are different from the girls I'm used to dating. And there are not many black girls here. So it's a combination of both.

What about going out into the other schools, more in the community or something?

I've been to other schools. I don't really go out that often, like enough to actually find a girlfriend or date a girl from different school. I don't know about girls that live in town. Just in general I don't see my opportunities for dating as very good at all.

25. *Have you ever considered transferring from Washington and Lee to another college/university?* Yes, I've considered it a lot of times. I think the main reason I never transferred is probably money issues. Financial aid here is very good. The Financial Aid Office is very helpful. Whenever I had a problem, they would always take care of it right away. Financially it was just easier to stay here. W&L for a black person is not - it's almost like you don't fit in. There's nothing here that's geared toward black people. At least that's the way I felt. Nothing that's geared toward black people as far as girls and stuff like that. Sometimes it feels like you're different from everyone else here, I guess is a good way to say it. Even though I have a lot of friends, it still seems like I'm different from everyone else that goes to this school.

Is that why you thought about transferring?

That's the main reason, I guess. That along with the confederate flag stuff early on.

That made you think about leaving right away?

Right away.

So you stayed mostly for money reasons?

That's the main reason.

But you repeatedly thought about leaving?

Oh yeah, there are always times when you're having like a bad day or week. I'm different from everyone else that's here. I wish this was a school with more people from my same background or something that I could identify with and that could identify with me.

26. *Have you had a paid job on campus (including work-study)?*

Yes, I worked in the Admissions Office up until November. That's when my mom passed away and I went home for a couple of weeks. Since then I've been catching up on work, so I haven't worked there since then. 3 years and this year up until November I worked in the Admissions Office.

If so, has this influenced your level of satisfaction at W&L?

I was probably less satisfied. On top of work and playing sports - I was working because I needed the money, but sometimes it almost seemed like it was unfair that I had to go to work with everything else all the other students had to do, plus go to work on top of that. I liked the people I was working with - my advisor and everything like that. Sometimes it just seemed like

there wasn't enough hours in the day or week to get everything done.

27. *Would you be willing to recruit other students for Washington and Lee either as a student yourself or as part of an alumni program? Please elaborate.*

I think I would recruit other students. I don't know if I'd recruit other black students for W&L, but I mean I guess I would recruit, but I would be honest with them. I would tell them exactly what to expect or what my experiences were here.

What would you tell them?

It's a pretty much southern all-white conservative school. I guess the best thing it has going for it is its reputation..... I was told my high school was similar to W&L. In fact it was all-white, like a rich white school in Preston, NJ. I guess it was easier for me to adapt that someone who went to a predominantly black school or something like that. Coming from my old high school, I would recommend it if they thought they would be able to deal with it, deal with very very few blacks here. If there were white students from my school who wanted to come here, I would tell them definitely to go for it.

Now we ask some background information:

28. *In what geographical location did you grow up:*

Country:

State: New Jersey

*In what type of **area or community** did you spend most of your growing up years?*

Urban. I lived in Cleveland for a few years.

Did you really? I'm from Cleveland. Small world.

29. *Describe the type of **high school** you attended.*

A private prep school in Princeton, NJ. Mostly rich kids, actually. I wouldn't really conservative; I guess it was to a point, but it was a lot more liberal than W&L.

And you said it was predominantly white.

Very predominantly white.

So did you drive a long way to get to this school?

Without traffic it was maybe 20-25 minutes to drive there. With traffic, a half hour, 45 minutes, an hour.

30 *Please give the kin relationship(s) between you and family members in your home when you were growing up.*

My mother, me, my younger brother who's 16, my younger sister who's 20 now.

31. *What was the highest level of education achieved by your parents, guardians, or others with whom you lived when you were growing up?*

My mom went to college but she never actually finished. She had some college education.

What was her occupation?

She was a secretary, administrative assistant.

32. *As compared to other W&L students, how would you characterize your overall social class position (based on parents' education and family income)?*

Very very low.

How do you think this has affected your experience?

Where I'm from at home, I would be considered one of the lucky ones, not rich but well off ones I guess. When you come to W&L, it's a whole different level.

How do you think it affected your experience that you consider yourself very low?

I felt like I was a lot different from everyone else here. I wasn't rich. I didn't go to Hawaii every year like other people. Have a brand new car. Call mom and dad for money whenever I needed it. I was always worrying about paying bills, getting work study done, having enough to pay off whatever, taking out loans and stuff like that. I don't know if it was a good or bad thing really.

33. *In general how do you think about yourself first at Washington and Lee -- as a member of a particular racial/ethnic/national/gender group, or as a student?*

In general I always think of myself as a black man. That's the way it is.

34. *How homogeneous do you believe black students are on this campus? In answering please consider racial identification, political perspective, and/or social class position.*

When I was a freshman and sophomore I hung out with the same guys that I hung out with when I came to visit here. Those are pretty much the only black people here that I hung out with a lot. Since they graduated 2 years ago, I have black people here who I'm friends with, but I don't really hang out with them that much, so I really don't know.

Why did that evolve do you think?

Well, I think probably the biggest reason for that was because I played football - until this year we got one other black person on the team. I was the only black person on the team. No one else did that. I was also in a fraternity, which black people here are in organizations. Between those two and everything else, it took a lot of my time. The people I hung out with were either people who played football or were in my fraternity. The Minority Student Organization would have gatherings, but I would always have something to do either a game or practice or something at the house. Before I knew those guys, got to know them anyway, I guess I just found time to hang out with them when I could. I really didn't meet a lot of blacks when I was a freshman, I guess. Football season was going on. I would guess that's when people make their friends that they hang out with. Football takes a lot of time. I didn't get to meet them early on - I know most of them by face and maybe even by name. We speak but I don't really hang out with them.

35. *How similar or different do you believe blacks and whites are on this campus? Consider the same categories that are mentioned in number 34 above and add any other factors that you deem important.*

I don't know really. I just know for myself, and I already told you about that. I don't know if every black person here feels that way. I really can't say.

36. *Do you believe the size of the black student enrollment at Washington and Lee is adequate or inadequate?*

Do you mean for me or W&L?

Why don't you answer both ways?

In my opinion it would definitely be inadequate, but I don't if W&L wants a lot more blacks here. For me to be adequate it would be like half and half. I don't really see W&L ever being half and half.

Why would that be what you would aim for for yourself?

That would just be a good ratio. I guess even if it was half and half, blacks could stay by themselves, stick together and whites together. If it was half black and half white, it wouldn't

really matter if you were black or white. Even number. Hopefully everyone would hang out together. There would probably be more people from the same background that I'm from. I don't know if W&L really wants to have a lot of blacks here.

What do you think would be good for W&L?

Do you know what the percentage of blacks here is right now?

Someone told me 3%. I know there's 44 of you, but I don't remember what the total enrollment is.

For W&L I think an adequate number would be 10, 15, maybe 20%. I think if you had 10 or 15% blacks here, it would be enough where blacks would feel less different than they do now. At the same time it would still be W&L.

Do you believe the number of black professors is adequate or inadequate?

I would say inadequate. I've only had one black professor since I've been here. That was just this year. I get along with him really well. I probably talk to him more than I talk to any professors. I just had him last fall, and already I've talked to him more than any other professor, including my advisor. I would love to see some more black professors here.

How does that benefit you, having him in your life?

Even though he grew up in Lexington, VA - being black in general you just have some things in common for the most part. Probably being white you have more things in common, I don't know.

Do you believe the number of black administrators is adequate or inadequate?

Explain.

Inadequate. Since I've been here, I've only had one. I wish I could have had more. I would have known more professors better than I do now. I get along with all my professors. But I don't ever go talk to them or hang out with them.

37. *Should the university offer activities designed to bring new black students together?*

If not, why not?

If yes...do you have suggestions?...

Sorry - when I started the transcriber here, it was in the "Record" mode and I lost this answer. It recorded a blank section over the response.

Has the Chavis House played a role in your life at W&L? Please describe.

My freshman and sophomore year I hung out there a lot. ...lived there so I would go hang out there with them. Since they graduated, I haven't been there very often. I stopped in for a party once in a while. It hasn't really been a big influence on me at all.

Has the Minority Student Association played a role in your life at W&L? Please describe.

No, not really.

38. *Do you believe that it is important that courses in the humanities/social sciences include recognition or study of works by persons of color?*

Do they mean have classes about black people?

It could mean that or it could mean that the classes that already exist should be sure to include works by persons of color.

I think they should. I'm not positive on this, but my guess would be that a lot of people that go to W&L (white students) especially from the south, probably have ideas or notions of black people. They probably wouldn't talk about blacks in school. So I think it would be good to introduce them to works by people now. They know that blacks were important in contributing to society

in different ways. The professor that I have now, he teaches American history. This is a very class ... There are a lot of white people that were surprised in that class and enjoyed it too. I didn't know it was offered here. I'm really glad I took it. I think it was very informative. I'm learning a lot and I think white students are learning a lot. I definitely think it should be kept up and maybe even more classes like that added.

More classes specifically about black culture.

Uh-huh.

If you think works by persons of color should be included do you think the recognition was adequate, inadequate, or excessive? Please explain.

Most of my classes I've taken up until this year, I don't really remember hearing that much stuff, specifically saying this was done by a black person. I don't know if they weren't recognized or if no works by black people have been included in classes. I don't remember ever being in a class where the professor said that this was done by a black person. I don't know if it was done by a black person and they just didn't recognize them or just didn't include any works done by a black person.

39. *How would you characterize the climate in the classroom for you [as a black student]?*

I don't really feel like being black – I mean I just feel like a student, I don't feel like a black student. Like a specific class that deals with black people, like the class I'm in now, maybe being black I might have a – maybe I might get more out of the class or contribute more to the class. I guess early on I noticed if I was the only black person in a class. Over the years I got used to that.

40. *What is the role of the Office of Minority Student Affairs?*

I guess the role would be to get the black students introduced to each other. They could meet each other early on. They had a dinner for the parents to meet. I guess it would just be to bring the black people together, at least let them meet each other. Also they sponsor speeches, parties, things like that. I guess the role would be to organized social functions for black people.

Actually, the Office of Minority Student Affairs is Dean McCloud's office. The MSA is the organization.

Oh, I really don't know much about the Office of Minority Student Affairs then.

Do you have any ideas about how that office could serve the community?

Could you tell me what the role is right now?

No. I do sort of have an idea. It has to do with counseling for black students who feel they need to have someone to go to. Mediating when there's a need to mediate. Offering tutoring.

I didn't know we had this office.

But you knew Dean McCloud.

Yes, I knew Dean McCloud. I don't think I really knew what she did exactly. I met her before. I don't think I knew what he job was. Unless I feel really close to a faculty member, a professor, I don't just stop in randomly and talk to them. I'm just not that type of person. So this office hasn't really influenced me, the Ofc. Of Minority Student Affairs.

41. *From whom do you receive the greatest emotional support on campus? Do not use name(s), but please describe the person(s) in terms of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, and position (i.e. fellow student, faculty member, administrator, staff member). If appropriate, include more than one individual and describe the type of situations in which the person provides emotional support (i.e. personal, family, religious, etc.)*

Up until this year I would say my fraternity brothers. Those were the guys I was closest with at

this school. I don't really call it emotional support. I really didn't feel like I was getting a lot of emotional support here at this school. This year I had this one black professor. Now when I need to talk with someone, I can go talk to him. I just wish I had known. I don't know if he was here my whole four years or not, but I wish I had met him earlier. Up until this year I didn't feel like there was anyone here to get emotional support from. I guess I'm not the type of person who goes out to look for emotional support. Most of my problems, I deal with myself. If I need to talk, I can always call home. Here at the school there's really no one I went to for the most part until this year.

The situations where he provides emotional support are conversations in his office especially.

Yes, in his office. We sit there and talk for 20 minutes or a half hour, whatever. That's it.

What percentage of your friends are black, what white, and what international?

I don't have any close black friends at the school at all.

At home it's real different?

At home it's the opposite. It's not total opposite. Like I was saying, I went to an all-white high school. I have friends, but I haven't talked to them that much since high school. So at home my friends, cousins and stuff - they're all black.

42. *Have you experienced any discriminatory behavior on campus directed against yourself?*

No actually I haven't. I don't feel like anyone has discriminated against me to my face. When I first got here, the whole black thing felt discriminatory to me. I don't know if it was or not.

There's never been an incident where someone called me a name or something like that.

In terms of the flag question, who was responsible for that behavior? Was that mostly individual students?

Well, this school is called Washington and Lee - you kind of have to expect that. I don't know why I didn't think about it or notice it before I actually came here. Then when I got here, it was the only thing I noticed for a while. I guess when you stop and think about it, the school is named for Robert E. Lee, so I guess I have to expect that. Where I'm from in New Jersey - Newark - it's not an issue at all. There's more black and white issues, north and south issues.

So you had this flag thing and this southern thing - I just want to pursue this a little bit more.

When you were first describing it, the picture I was getting in my mind was all the flags hanging from people's dorm windows and stuff.

Yeah, dorm windows, tee shirts - it seemed like everywhere I looked there were confederate flags.

Did you see it at the university?

No, individual students, but a lot of indiv. students. Almost every individual student.

I just wanted to see if maybe the university was unconsciously doing anything?

The university prides itself on being ..., traditional, whatever. I don't know if the university is doing anything actively, but just the fact of what university this is.

Leaving aside behavior, do you sense racial tensions on campus beyond what exists in the larger society?

I don't think there's a lot of racial tensions, because I don't think there's enough different races to have tension there. Everyone at the school knows that there are different fraternities that black people would never get into just because they're black. I believe everyone knows it. The administrations knows it. This is my opinion, that everyone knows it because no blacks have ever been in. Over the years I've heard stories about different fraternities.

Like what kind of stories?

I've heard there's one fraternity that used to have a toast "to another year without niggers in it." I

don't know if it's true or not. I feel like there are fraternities here that black people will never be admitted to just because they're black.

And you know which ones they are. Have you felt a difference when you've been in their house, like when you've gone to parties or anything?

A lot of the guys I've known from the football team - I don't hang out with or anything - a lot of those guys I actually kind of like. At first I used to have my own stereotype about a lot of houses on this campus. I guess for the most part I try to treat everybody individually. If you don't do anything to me or I don't notice your behavior is different to me or whatever, I'm not going to hold it against you because I've heard things about you. It's hard to know that some of the guys I'm playing with are in houses that will never admit a person who is black. I don't know how I've managed to deal with that, except that I'm friends with some people in these houses. It's almost like - what I'm doing here in my four years, I'm gonna get my degree. I have to make sacrifices while I'm here, but I'm gonna have my degree and it will be worth it.

It sounds like you feel you're compromising yourself, being friendly with people who might be prejudiced.

Their behavior toward me - I would hear things - I don't know. It feels like I am compromising myself, I guess. I feel like while I'm here, I'm making sacrifices, I guess. In the end, I'll have a degree from here, college degree. It'll be worth it.

But it sounds like the friendships that you've had with these people, even just the friendly interactions have been honest and pleasant.

Even if no one ever said anything to my face, if I felt like they were being nice to me but inside, then we wouldn't be friends. It would be no problem for me not to talk to them or even tell them how I feel. I'm not friends with anyone who I feel is prejudiced toward black people, whatever.

Are you saying you don't think there's racial tensions beyond what exists in the larger society or are you saying you don't know or are you saying there might be?

I'm saying I don't think there's as much as the larger society, because there are not enough black people here for there to be enough. If this school were 50% black, 50% white, there would be a lot of tension.

43. *Aside from the Honor System do you believe that the student Executive Committee, the Student Conduct Committee or other University judicial committees treat black and white students equally fairly?*

I've never had any experience. I've never had to go before the EC. I assume they treat everyone fairly.

44. *Do you believe that the honor system is applied in an even-handed way to black and white students?*

I would say yes.

45. *How would you evaluate student publications (i.e. the Ring-tum Phi, the Trident, etc.), the student radio and television stations with regards to opportunities for black students to participate.*

I'm not even sure if the radio station plays music that I listen to, R&B, hip-hop, like that. But I really don't listen to the radio station anyway, so I don't know. I accept the fact that while I'm here, I'm out of my element. I don't really expect the radio station to play black music here. I didn't look for it.

How would you evaluate them with regard to their treatment of news about black

students?

I can't think of any instances where any of the papers treated blacks unfairly or differently from whites. I've never noticed any differences. Actually, I don't really read a lot of the papers. I'm not informed enough to answer that question.

46. *Do you feel that black students at Washington and Lee today have problems that are basically different from, or basically similar to those of whites? Please describe in what way you feel they are different or similar.*

I would definitely say different. My problems have been very different from a lot of the problems of whites. A lot of my white friends, their biggest problem is ... Like I worry about money and how I will pay a bill, not where I'm going for a vacation, if I'm gonna get a new car. I feel like I have real, serious problems - not just trivial. "I hope I'll get a B+ or A- in this class. I don't know if all blacks have money problems.

But your guess is that it's quite different?

Yeah, very different. Not only that, but you feel like you don't fit in. I know white people here also get homesick, whatever, miss their friends. I think that the majority of the white people here have friends who are like their friends at home or more like themselves. I feel like none of my friends here have the same background that I have or really similar to me at all.

*47. Sex Male

*48. Age? 22

*49. Year in college? Senior

*50. Cumulative grade point average [as of Fall 1996]? 2.927

*51. How do you identify yourself in terms of nationality? American

52. *How do you identify yourself in terms of race?* Black

53. *Are there additional comments you wish to make about any aspects of Washington and Lee?*

I just think Washington and Lee prides itself on being small, southern, conservative, traditional. If I had known everything that I know about it now before I came, I don't know if I would have come here or not. I really don't know. A lot of times I wished I wasn't here or I wished I could have left. But I just felt like I was the only person in the world, just like very very alone here. I don't think it was trying to hide what it is. I should have found out more about it before I came here. I just think it is what it is.