

### #13 INTERVIEW OF BLACK STUDENTS ENROLLED AT WASHINGTON AND LEE

1. *Have you decided upon a college major?*

*If yes, what?*

Yeah. Computer science.

2. *(If the answer to question 1 is no, skip #7.) What is your grade point average (GPA) in your major field?*

No, I really don't

3. *What type of degree are you working toward at Washington and Lee?*

BA

4. *What is the occupation or profession you want to enter upon finishing your education?*

Software engineer.

5. *Do you plan on working toward an advanced degree at some time after finishing your undergraduate program?*

yes, immediately. Definitely

6. *While growing up, did you attend or were you personally active in church? Yes / No  
If yes, please give the denomination, and the type of church activities in which you participated.*

Well, OK. I'm Catholic, I went to Catholic school, but I really didn't go to church on a regular basis. So, personally active - probably say no.

*How would you characterize your church involvement in Lexington?*

There is none.

7. *How would you compare your level of participation in extra-curricular activities in high school and at Washington and Lee?*

Oh, a lot more active in high school. I don't do anything here, but in high school I was very active.

*What kinds of things did you do in high school?*

I was in like Students Against Drunk Driving, National Honors Society, I did community service, I did choirs, a lot of different things.

*And you're doing nothing at all here?*

Nothing. With the exception of Minority Students Association. I do do Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

8. *How did you learn about Washington and Lee University?*

At a college fair.

*Did a representative from W&L come to the fair..*

Yes, it was a college fair in DC, well it's outside of Washington. It was at Project Excellence Scholarship thing. See, I was one of the winners, so that's why I'm here.

9. *To what extent were you assisted during the admissions process by an alumnus of Washington and Lee?*

10. *Did you visit the campus before you matriculated as a student?*

Yes.

*If yes, under what circumstances?*

I think I visited during an accepted students weekend.

*What was the weekend like? Describe your visit.*

I think they had a lunch for us, and I was with my parents. WE walked around on campus, got to see the dorms, that kind of thing.

*Did you get to stay on campus when you came?*

I think.. we didn't spend the night on campus.

Please describe your reactions to this campus visit.

I thought that I would probably get a good education here, but I knew socially I'd be unhappy probably.

*You could tell that right away.*

Um hum.

*How was that?*

Well, I didn't see any. It didn't seem to me that there were any activities that I would want to participate in. And people were kind of cold to me, so.

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

Less than third.

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

It'd be six or more, cause it was probably eleven or twelve.

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

Probably about eleven. I got accepted by everybody.

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

Well, I guess it would be the offer of financial assistance and the good academics, because my parents, they're close to retirement age, and they could pay for me to go anywhere I wanted to, but I decided to be nice and go to school for free and help them out.

*Were there other factors you considered in making the decision?*

Well, it wasn't too far from home.

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

[Pause] Well, everybody asked me was I really sure that I wanted to attend Washington and Lee. and, You know all the history about it, you know, Robert E. Lee and all that. [starting to try not to cry]

*So they were concerned for you..*

Yeah.

*Is that specifically what they meant when they said "Are you really sure?"*

Um hum.

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

No. I don't think there were negative images, I didn't think so, that made me think seriously.. I just thought, I mean I saw that there was a very small number of minority students, but I don't think I really thought negative about the school for that.

*But, apparently there was some sense that you might not be happy because of the tradition, the Robert E. Lee tradition, etc?*

Yeah, people were like.. to pick a predominately white school, they had no problem with that, but they were like "Why did you pick Washington and Lee,.. the school of Robert E. Lee." Because a lot of the school I picked, for some reason predominately white ones that I applied to, a lot of them were in the south. People were like "Why are you doing that?" They could see applying to like Boston University or something. But I had picked like Rice, and something in the South.

*So they thought you might be getting yourself into a pickle of some sort.*

Yeah.

*So why did you choose predominately white schools in the South, do you remember?*

It wasn't anything. It wasn't - I hadn't even really thought about it in that terms. I guess I never, cause I never thought of race that much, so..

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

Academically, yes. And, socially? I'd say, I don't know, socially it's gotten worse every year I've been here, so..

*Worse for you or the social situation has gotten worse?*

well, worse for minority students in general. Really, the social situation at the university has gotten worse for minority students..

*Tell me more about that.*

OK, when I was a freshman, OK, the minority students, I guess we had more social functions with each other, that were geared for us - I guess we planned them ourselves, though. Cause we had more parties, and just more social activities, and then last year, and I think we might have had one or two parties, and we're just having our first one this year tonight.

*Why is that, do you think?*

Part of it has to do with the type of, it's the type of leadership we have in MSA, and then with their views for the organization, what they think the organization should be. Cause, like last year, we had this leader, and I think personally, he didn't want Minority Student Association to be viewed as a black organization. It should have just been another organization. To him. So, I

think he tried to downplay the fact that we were minority students, and he wanted our parties to be like fraternity parties, and that's not what we like, so it was just...

*What do you like?*

Like, let's say with the party scene.. The fraternity parties, it's nothing but liquor. and music is extra, but liquor is primary. And we can have a party without liquor. When I was a freshman, we didn't have drinks at our parties, we just had music, and you know, it was nice and we enjoyed it, and we had a lot of people.

*Did you do a lot of dancing?*

Um hum, so..

*Did you have a lot of attendance at your parties?*

Yes.

*Mixed.. black students and white students?*

No, not really.

*Did you have then at the Chavis House mostly.*

Yeah, Chavis House.

*Well, it's true that the complection of each organization on campus changes as the student body that happens to be here changes. It might change back. Do you feel that you have much input in what happens?*

[pause] [crying]

*You obviously wish it were different.*

I know I could do more than what I do..

*I guess I'm sort of asking, do you feel like anyone's keeping you from making a difference.*

Oh, no, no one's keeping me from making a difference.

*If the school differed from the way it seemed when you first heard about it or visited the campus, please describe how it differed.*

*You've described that some, is there more you want to say? Socially it's quite different than you expected.*

Yes, that's probably about it.

*\*You said that when you were in high school you hadn't really thought about race all that much, so that's one of the reasons why you didn't think too much about why the school was in the south or not.*

Yeah, and I guess, see I'd lived in a predominately black neighborhood and had gone to a predominately black school, then had I had gone to a mixed school. So I didn't naturally assume.. I guess I never had really experienced though that being only 2% [factor?], so.. that was an awakening experience.

*You said you .. what did you naturally assume?*

I guess I naturally assumed I thought I could handle it more.

*So when you got here it turned out to be different than that. So what's it like, being only 2%, that's different. [pause] We can turn this off any time you want to.*

[crying] Yeah, let's turn it off.

Which question are we on?

*Well, I kind of thought it would be a good idea to go back to 13 because clearly you hadn't*

*expected things to be so hard, being only 2% of the population as a minority student. And so I wondered how it was different than what you expected it to be.*

Well, I guess I thought it would just be more comfortable, like freshman year, I can remember that when we went to the dorms, and people just weren't friendly. [still some struggle to not cry] *And, in your life before people had always been friendly, and suddenly people weren't friendly..*  
[nods]

Yeah.

*Anything else? anything specific about what the dorms were like, or..*

Not really, cause I think in some ways I think the dorm experience was good, because I met some nice people, and then, you know, I met some not so nice people, ..

*So you got a chance to meet some people that you might not have met otherwise?*

Yeah, because, I don't think that otherwise I would have.. I think if it wasn't for that initial freshman dorm experience, I think, I couldn't see myself as having - I wouldn't view myself as being close with some white students as I am, unless I've lived with them.

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

[pause] Could we come back to that question, cause I can't think of anything?

*Sure, absolutely.*

*Let's go back to 13 for a minute [\*]*

*..Do you want to come back to this greatest challenge question later?*

...Academically I don't think it's been like a really big challenge. I mean, my grades aren't that good, but I don't think it's because it's been so over my head, it's just - I'm a procrastinator, so.. you know.. [chuckling]

*So, it's not academics. What is it?*

I guess, ... I guess I'm angry. And I guess I'm angry about it all the time.

*Wow, that's a challenge.*

That's probably what it is.

*What are you angry about?*

I mean, like I don't know, I guess, you know, I guess it's like the race factor is there, like 24 hours a day, seven days a week [struggling with emotions again] it doesn't matter where you go, like on the weekends in the fraternity parties, they ask the black people to leave.

*Really, every fraternity?*

No, last weekend it was Chi Psi, and they asked us to leave.

*How many of you?*

There was probably about four of us.

*What excuse did they make?*

Oh, they said, we didn't know you were Washington and Lee students. [Bob, keep in mind that white students from other schools are welcome]

*And then when they found out you were W&L students they still asked you to leave?*

No, when they found out we were students, they were, OK we had one friend from VMI, and he had to leave because he wasn't from Washington and Lee, but I knew there were white people there who were not Washington and Lee students. Like a hour ago I'd just seen this group of white girls from [U Ma?] get in a fight and they weren't asked to leave, so.. So, and we were just

standing there, so..

*Is it certain fraternities that ask you to leave, or is it across the board?*

It's not across the board, it's only certain ones, but it's not like, I don't really like pick out which one's have the problem. Like there's some we know you just don't go to. And then it's like, I don't know, because that time it was the house president that asked us to leave, at Chi Psi, and then in the past, I don't know, cause it's not like, like one night I can go to a fraternity party, and then if I come back in a couple of weeks somebody might ask me to leave.

*Same place, huh?*

Yeah, so it's not like an across the board thing, it's just people with personal problems, maybe.

*Yeah, but it's a crap shoot for you.*

Un hun.

*So those kinds of things happen enough that you feel angry all the time.*

Yeah, and in the classroom environment, like I used to really like politics, and one time I thought I could major in it, but Nope. Because that's one of those majors that have way too much discussion. And when people start discussing things you hear people say things that really, that just really anger me. But I still like politics. I take politics classes quite often., I just end up angry a lot.

*Is it students that say things that..*

Yeah, students, and sometimes teachers.

*So how do you deal with that? The fact that you have to carry around this anger all the time?*

[pause] I don't know, I mean, I've been here three years, you'd think I'd get used to it. It's just part of life here.

*So you just keep going..*

Yeah. There's really nothing I can do, so..

*So you haven't found any way to deal with it that really helps.*

No.

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

*You already answered this a little bit. This is going to happen actually, throughout this, that you mention something that comes later and then when we get to that question you can see if there's anything more you want to say about it.*

Not well, it's a lot worse here than what it was in high school.

*In terms of grades?*

Yes. Academically it's just suffering right now.

*Why do you think that is? you said it's not so much that it's harder..*

No, I don't think so much.. I don't know.. I think a lot of it's just me, I mean it's like I worked so hard from kindergarten through twelfth, and then I guess I feel that this is the time for me to relax, but .. I don't know. I think - and I wonder - Some of my roommates and I had a talk about this last night. I don't know if it's - like we said we wonder if the happiness issue is actually related to how we do in school, because my best grades were freshman year. And I was happiest then. Since then it's gone downhill, grades have gone right along with it, so I don't know.

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

x Undergraduate library

- Science library
- Computer facilities.
- Writing Center.
- x Tutors in the disciplines.
- x I've done a study group or two
- Public lectures on academic subjects.
- x Language lab.
- x Yeah, I've visited some professors

So, basically most of them.

*How do you find your tutors?*

I would go through Dean McCould. Cause I only actually had one tutor, for calculus, and so..

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

Like, I've noticed how fraternities and sororities, well, mostly fraternities, they seem to keep like cold tests a lot, and really I think there's no way minority students can actually get these. We don't have - I think that's one way we're at a disadvantage, cause most of these people have cold test rooms where there's nothing but cold tests. We don't have nothing like that.

*How do they get them?*

I think they just like - people just save their old tests and they keep them in a room.

*You could start that in MSA.*

Yeah, I think they have started it.

*So, that's something you wish were available to you.. anything else?*

No, I've taken advantage of all of them. I'd say they do a pretty good job.

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

It's probably interest in the particular academic discipline..[chuckling] I've always liked computers. And previous to here I was always good at it, so..

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.*

[pause] Probably not. Well, I'd say probably not.

*Tell me more about that.*

Well, I guess that maybe I just have a problem with the honor code all together. Because, number one, some things need to be covered over there. Like, you can rape a person, and you can no longer go in the freshman dorms. And it's just like, that's so ridiculous to me.

*You mean that's the punishment?*

Yeah. Like you can't go in the freshman dorm and you can't go to parties, and it's just like, that makes no sense. So this lying cheating stealing thing. Its just so - I don't mean petty - but there

are like worse things that could be done and there's like no penalty for that, just lie cheat or steal and get then kicked out. Like possession of drugs. You don't get kicked out for that - like if they asked you, you say yes, I do have a drug, and you get to stay. But you know, if I say, Hey, I took a... like lets say there's some, like if you steal a soda or something you get kicked out for that, and possession of drugs you don't?? I don't know, it's just strange. I don't like the honor system. *So you wouldn't report it because you wouldn't choose to support the system?*

I think to some degree I don't.

*What else? what other reasons would make you not want to report it?*

I guess I just don't think .. I don't know, to me it's just too much of a .. too me the punishment is too severe for lying, cheating or stealing. That's just what I think.

*Anything else?*

No.

20. *Do you find Washington and Lee professors easy or difficult to approach?*

Well, most of em are easy to approach. Most of em.

*Please describe in what way they are easy or difficult.*

They're easy because, like I have a computer science program due Monday, and the teacher's like "You can call me at my home if you have a problem, or e-mail or whatever." So, in that way they're accessible. [In listening I'm picking up some hesitation I failed to catch and follow up on.]

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

Nope.

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

Miserable. For me the whole social life at Washington and Lee is geared around fraternities and sororities. So if you're not involved, there's nothing for you, basically. And that's going to be all minority students, basically, with the exception of maybe two or three. I think there were two or three, or there may be five of them now. Maybe four or five in fraternities.

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

Not important at all. That's why I'm not in the fraternity scene, because it's nothing but a bunch of drunk people. Drinking is not that important to us. I'm not going to go to a party just to get drunk.

*But do you drink sometimes, or do you abstain entirely, or is drinking just a small part of your life.*

It is not even a part of my life. I had a daiquiri last night, but that's once in blue moon. It's not like I go out and drink every weekend. Months go by without a drink. So it's not even a part.

*How important to you are drugs at a social event?*

Have no importance at all.

*Do you see it out there?*

Actually, I'd have to say no. I know it's there. I know people are using it around, but I don't know any. I've heard talk of it but I'm not around it.



22. *What experiences, if any, have you had with Greek organizations on campus?*  
Sometimes I'll go. If they have a good band, just to hear the music or whatever.

*How would you evaluate or describe any experiences you may have had?*  
I've had my share of negative experiences.

*Any other kind of negative experiences besides being asked to leave?*  
Let me think. That's the only kind I've personally experienced. My friends have had other experiences.

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

I enjoy the P.E. classes. I don't like the swimming requirement, but that's OK. I don't like to swim. But other than that, everything's been OK with the PE classes. I probably haven't used the athletic facilities other than that. I go watch the teams sometimes. I used to play basketball, so I go watch.

24. *How would you characterize your opportunities for "dating" while enrolled at Washington and Lee?*

I don't think there are any opportunities for dating Washington and Lee students.

*Why is that? There are some black men here, if that's what you're talking about.*  
Yes, there are some. I've dated some people at VMI. I guess there are opportunities but we've got less than 10 black men here. Not a big field. A lot of the girls here date from VMI, most of the black girls do. We have no black couples at W&L, made up of two W&L students. That doesn't occur. Since I've been here, I've seen a grand total of one couple, and that's it. That's all I've seen since I've been here! Usually the black girls date black guys from VMI. And the black boys here, I don't know. I think a lot of them end up dating white girls. That's what I've noticed.

25. *Have you ever considered transferring from Washington and Lee to another college/university? Yes, I've thought about it, especially at the end of my freshman year.*

*Why/why not?*  
I guess I was unhappy here. But I decided to stay because I'm close to my friends and I'm getting a good education. I thought OK. We were all going to live together, so I thought I could do it. So that's why I stayed. Then after sophomore year, the grades are too low to go anywhere so I'll stay here. But I don't think that really played any part. I think I just said that. I think it was basically the roommate factor. I had developed a close circle of friends and I think that's what made me stay.

*If yes, what factor(s) influenced you to stay?*

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

Right now I have. I work as a lab monitor on Thursday nites.

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

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 would definitely do that. I'd be willing to recruit other students because I think the only way that this situation for minority students can get any better is if we get more. If we get more minority students, I think it would be better. And I'm talking about African-American students. I'm not talking about Caribbean students, because I think that's something I'm noticing, that there seems to be, this year, 9 minority freshmen in the freshman class, and out of that 9 I believe 3 are African-Americans, and the other six are Caribbean students. They tend to go off and join fraternities and sororities, so it's a different thing. I just think they could do a lot more to recruit African-American students. I don't know what they're doing, I don't know how they're getting so many people from Jamaica and Trinidad and they can't get any from D.C., which is 3 hours away. I'm quite sure they can find some students there. It just really bothers me to see so many Caribbean students and I know they are giving these people scholarships, so it's just like, let's try this African-American students. I don't know why it's like that. There seems to be no focus on trying to recruit African-Americans or they're just doing a bad job of it.

It's just like all Caribbean students. And they view themselves as Internationals, they don't view themselves as black. They don't join MSA so they're not contributing to our strength.

*OK, so you would want to recruit because you would want to change the picture of things at W&L.*

Yes.

Now we ask some background information:

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

Country:

State: Maryland

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

Urban

Suburban X

Rural

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

Urban

Suburban X

Rural

*Predominantly*

Black X (one)

White

Mixed X (one)

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

Mother, father, sister.

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

Masters's, my dad had a master's.

*What are the occupations or professions of your parents or guardians?*

My mother's a teacher and my father is a principal.

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

I've always lived comfortably. I've never — I mean, I went to private school for twelve years, like most of these people. I don't see myself as any different. Middle class.

*How do you think this has affected your experience?*

Not at all. If I wanted to go to Mexico over spring break, I could ask my parents and I could. So I don't think it's affected my experience at all.

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?*

My race comes first, before American, before Washington and Lee, everything. I am an African-American student. Gender doesn't seem to be a big problem.

*Please explain.*

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.*

Oh, we're very different in all aspect. Very heterogeneous. Because I say, like social class position, you probably have some people who are poor, and we have some in the upper middle class. And then racially, just like I said, you've got the Caribbean students, I don't know what they think they are, and then we have black Hispanics. So racial identification is very heterogeneous. Political perspective, that's a big one. Because we have some students who gear more towards integration, as in getting involved in fraternities and sororities, and I guess we have some of us who just, forget it all and stick with your own. And with regard to Democrats and Republicans, it's heterogeneous. I consider myself a conservative.

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.*

Compared to the rest of the students, we probably have more poor people and we are probably more heterogeneous than the whites on this campus. On this campus it's mostly conservative, to say the least, I think we're more heterogeneous politically. Our social activities are different, what we like is different, I think.

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

Inadequate.

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

Hey, since we make up only 2% of the population, I don't see why they would have any black

professors. I can't see the big push for more black professors and you still only have 30 black students. They can all fit into one class. I mean, I appreciate the two we do have. I'm taking both those classes this semester, the one with Delaney and the one with Grant-Thomas. I'm enjoying them mostly.

*So you'd like to see the student enrollment concentrated on.*

Yes.

*Do you believe the number of black administrators is adequate or inadequate? Explain.* If I thought the administrators would be more sympathetic to the needs of black students, I would say it's adequate. But at this moment, I don't think anyone is taking the black students into consideration when they make decisions, such as housing. This year, they've got this new housing thing, rules, basically now housing is not guaranteed for students and once you're an upperclassman they figure most of them are going to fraternity houses or when the sorority houses are built, they'll be going there. But they fail to realize that still leaves minority students out in the cold. So I have a serious problem with that. I have a meeting with the Dean on Friday about that. When I was a freshman, housing was guaranteed. Now it's not. And it used to be that upperclassmen had seniority, and now they don't. I live in Gaines right now, but if a rising sophomore wants my room, she can take my room. So that leaves me with what? They believe minority students can get left-over housing. That's what I'm saying. I don't like that.

*What about apartments?*

I don't want to live off campus and I think I should be guaranteed housing. I really do think I should be able to live where I want to. I don't see where there should be such a problem for me to keep my room. This is what I'm angry about, because we are giving sophomores first choice in housing in Gaines because we're inconveniencing them because we're making them live on campus. Well, you're inconveniencing me by making me wonder where I'm going to live next year.

*So you think the number of black administrators is adequate?*

Well, like I said, if I thought the administrators would be more sympathetic to the needs of black students, I would say it's adequate. However, they're not. And the one black administrator we do have, I'm not sure what she does. And how much influence she actually has. Is she a token black person administrator? I believe so. With the exception of study skills, that's all I see her do. I don't know if she has any other influence.

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

Yes, because I notice they did matriculation this year during the hurricane reports. As soon as I got here, I had no idea who the new black students were, and it just seems that there should be some way for us to get to know each other. Like MSA usually has a get-together.

*So would you like to see the University offer something besides what MSA offers or are you saying you'd like to have MSA offer something more?*

I guess I'm happy with the way MSA does it. I just missed it this year. In previous years I got to know people that way.

*So, let me ask again, should the University offer activities?*

I can understand why they wouldn't. Well, with only 30 people here? To me it just seems as if to a large extent, I think in some ways we're just forgotten about. When decisions are made, I don't think people take us into account. It probably wouldn't even cross their mind to have activities so new black students can get together. They wouldn't think about that.

*If not, why not?*

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

*Has the Chavis House played a role in your life at W&L? Please describe*  
I go there for parties, but I don't hang out there..

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

I'd say yes. I think like recently we had Yolanda King, that kind of thing. Cornell West. I think in a way it's been good. I go to meetings.

*It sounded from what you said earlier that it played more of a role in your life earlier and less later because of the way it was changing, the leadership was changing..*

Yes. And I don't know if the black students changed. As a freshman, I guess, the organization was much stronger because I think the students who were in the MSA when I was a freshman thought more along the lines of "we have to do for each other because basically no one else was going to." And I think some people, particularly Caribbean students, seem to think that everything is fine and dandy, there's really no need for us to have to do things on our own because we can just go with the white people. I think that's what they think. But when I was a freshman, I think the organization was stronger because the theme was more racial solidarity back then than there is now. We've strayed a long way away from that.

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?*

Yes. Because I believe that in general most of these students here, and most of the freshmen will tell you this, have had no relationships with minorities throughout their life. Like "we had one black person in my high school"; they don't know anything black people. They think we're all criminals or whatever. I think there needs to be more studies, more courses geared toward the study of minorities.

*This question I think is implying that do you think that some representation ought to be made of works by persons of color in just normal humanities and social science classes that aren't specifically African-American studies.*

Yes, I think they should. Because most of these white people aren't going to take a class in black studies. I think if it was incorporated into the general studies, more people would be exposed to it that way.

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

As a freshman, English 105 was pretty good. We read narratives from a variety of authors, some of them were black. It was interesting. Then last semester I took some course called The Novel and there was a total absence of anything black in that one. I think it should be included.

*So, are you saying that sometimes it was adequate and sometimes it wasn't?*  
Yes.

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

My roommates and I had a ..... last night. I mean basically it's like, you go to class and you participate in discussions, maybe, but sometimes, like I know in politics class, you're so angry where it's like you've learned that sometimes it's best not to say anything, because it's just

— Like I've done that. In some politics classes I just shut down, I'm not even going to say anything because you get so angry at some of the things you hear in the classroom. The other day we had a discussion in one of my classes on about Clarence Thomas, affirmative action. One of the students said that there shouldn't be affirmative action. I can understand what he was saying, and then he [the professor] said, "What do you propose then would happen to qualified minority people who are refused jobs because of their color?" And the student said, "Well, let the chips fall where they may."

*Was this a class that was being run by a white professor?*

No, it was run by a black professor.

*How did he handle it?*

I don't know. He just let it go.

*So is that a good example of the kinds of things that happen?*

Most of the time people just deny that there's a race problem. I mean, that's what you usually encounter in classes.

*Is there any behavior in classes that's —*

I think the classroom in general is a hostile environment for us. You're here to learn, and you go in and take your notes and you go back out.

*But when subjects come up that are related to racial issues —*

Yeah, that's what get me upset, but other than that it's alright I guess.

*If you have encountered problems in the classroom, how have you dealt with those difficulties?*

I guess I've never — I'm not sure. It it's like an issue, a racial issue, I will smile. But I don't think the classroom environment in general is hostile.

*So when it's a racial issue that is upsetting to you, how do you deal with it?*

If I'm calm, I respond. About 85% to 90% of the time.

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

I assume they're talking about Dean McCloud's office. It's non-existent. What does she do? I mean, I don't know. I don't know if it's a token role. I don't understand. I really don't. I think all she does is study skills, and that's all I see. I don't see anything else. And she's also in charge of International Students, maybe she does more with them. I don't know.

*How can the role of this Office be improved?*

First identify what their goal is. It really needs to be stated. What is the Office of Minority Student Affairs there for? That's the biggest thing. Because I really don't know. I don't know when I would go to her for something. I remember that I went to her for a tutor once. But I can't see where she does anything. I think that in some ways the Office of Minority Affairs should somehow address to the administration as a whole the problem that the black students have. Because obviously I don't think this is being done. Especially with the housing. To me the person in the Office of Minority Affairs should that this could be a problem for minority students. I doubt that was voiced. I really do. So I think she should be, the office should be, more representative of the minority students to the administration as a whole. I would like to know, is she doing that? Are we being represented?

*Will you ask Dean Manning that when you meet with him?*

That'd be interesting. Yeah, I might ask him. Because I'd like to know if she was in on the

meeting, did she have any sayso? Are they representing us? That's what I really want to know.

*Do you have specific ideas about how that could happen better?*

We need someone is more in contact in with Minority Students. She has very little contact with us. So I don't know how she can be the office of Minority Student Affairs, when we have very little contact with her as a whole.

*So you would like to see the person in that position reach out to the minorities more rather than you having to go to her?*

Exactly. There is no reaching out from her side. She doesn't come to MSA meetings. If she came it would show that she 's actually thinking of us. Cause at the moment, I don't think she is. I'd like to know if she is doing more for International students than she is for us. What is she doing? I would like her to get to know from us what we think on certain issues, so that she can represent the thoughts of the minority students to the administration. Because that's not being done. That's why I say that the administration is ignoring us, I don't think on purpose, but no one hears the thoughts and needs of minority students. I would think that would be the role of the Office of Minority Student Affairs.

*How do you know you're not being thought about?*

Everything: socially, like in activities if people play for independents, or whatever, I just don't see anything that's for minority student specifically. I just don't say anything at all on this campus, in any form or fashion. So it's obvious that we're not being thought about.

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.)*

That would be fellow students, fellow minority students, because they obviously understand more about the daily struggles. Administration and faculty just don't understand. There is a certain professor, a minority professor, who I enjoy talking to . He understands and give support. I guess it would be in personal matters that my fellow minority students would give me support. I guess it would be in hanging out and talking to each other that I get that support.

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

International, 0%, black about 97% and 3% would be white.

42. *Have you experienced any discriminatory behavior on campus directed against yourself? What form did that behavior take (written remarks including graffiti, spoken remarks, physical assault, discriminatory treatment). Who was responsible for that behavior?*

Individual students

Student groups

Greek

Non Greek

Faculty

Staff

Security

I remember when I was a freshman, I was called to the dean's office because there was somebody who was a black male and was on this campus, not a W&L student, and who had come to look

for me. I think he just wanted to talk to me. This was a town person. And I believe that some of the white people got scared or something, but I knew about it because about a week later I was called into the dean's office and was told to watch who my friends are, in so many words.

*Was this dean's purpose to protect you from friends that might be harmful to you?*

No, I don't think so.

*Tell me in what way you see this as discriminatory behavior.*

I think if you have — take the white girls, they can have all the white men in the world can hang out on my hall. But as soon as a black person comes up there, they're complaining, security's coming.

*So that was discrimination against you by fellow students and also by an administrator.*

Sometimes people make jokes that just aren't funny. Like, I can remember last year, I don't know what happened with one of my roommates. Something happened, and I remember a Lexington policeman coming to knock on the door. And I was involved, I don't know what was going on. Then one of the girls on the hallway, said, "Why was a policeman at your room?" And I said I didn't know. And she said., "Well, they asked me where was the room and I pointed to that room. And I said that's the room where all the crack dealers hang out, that's the big cocaine drug ring."

*That was supposed to be a joke, but it was pretty bad. So that was discriminatory behavior on the part of a student.*

Uh-huh. They knew it was a bad joke. That's what most of them are.

*Do you think that when people say these bad jokes, it's because they're ignorant?*

Yeah, I think some of it is that. I don't think a lot of them are harmful. Some of my friends have had harmful ones and intended ones, but I think most of mine have just been ignorant.

*How do you deal with that? Do you tell them how it sounds to you?*

Yes. Like I told her, I don't appreciate that joke. And I remember her, like they assume all black people know each other, so she was asking random black people what had happened in my suite. I told her that I would appreciate it if she didn't involve herself in what goes on in my suite. She was just asking random blacks. It's not like we're all the closest of friends.

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

I don't think it exists, that it's much worse on campus than off. In a lot of ways, the racism here isn't open racism. It's not open because you're not even thought about. It's pretty similar to the larger society. You're just forgotten about in general.

*If so, how do you think such tensions could be eased within W&L?*

I don't know if there's a way. I still think if white people learned anything about minority students and what they go through it would be different. They have no idea, because unless you ask, you're not going to know. I don't know how the University can help.

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?*

Yes, I think so.

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



Yes. From what I've seen.

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 don't know about the newspapers, but I do know that with the radio and television there seems to be no problem. They seem to be actively involved.

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

I'd say fair.

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 think our problems are basically different from those of white students at W&L because simply they make W&L what they want it to be. To me, Washington and Lee is made up of white students. They choose and decide which way they want their lives to turn. What we think and feel just doesn't play a part. The University is theirs, that's how I feel. I just don't see any similarities. I guess that's just being a minority.

*Can you be more specific as to the problems that are different?*

I guess the hostility thing. The unhappiness. That is so different to me from white people. And it's a problem where I guess — I've heard white girls say that they're depressed and then they go get some drugs for it. Yeah, I can remember as a freshman, there were so many on Prozac and anti-depressant drugs. And I was thinking, we're unhappy all the time but you learn to deal with it. I guess it's just a matter of being prepared to live in America. It's something you're going to have to do.

\*47. Sex F

\*48. Age? 20

\*49. Year in college? JUNIOR

\*50. Cumulative grade point average [as of Fall 1996]? 2.396

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

52. How do you identify yourself in terms of race? African-American.

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

I just want to reemphasize the importance of recruiting more African-American students. And that's all I can think of.