

“We Were Pioneers”

A Lafayette College Archives EXCEL production
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Scene One

Class of 1974 white male: The administration moved very slowly and studied the issue for two solid years. As far as we were concerned that was just ceremony to appease some alumni who apparently had made threats. We were going, “Do it already. Come on. Do it. Fifty/fifty. Right now. Let’s go.” And then we heard that they would admit a small number of women and see how it worked. They planned on stopping at one-third, so it would always be male dominated. And we were all going, “Oh what a sop. How miserable. Just throw the whole thing open. Come on.” Little did we know that women would be so smart that pretty soon it was darn difficult for a guy to get into this school.

As a male student how did you feel about coeducation?

Class of 1970, African-American male: I was a supporter from day one. One of my major frustrations with Lafayette became evident shortly after I was here. I knew it was going to be all male. But knowing it was all male in terms of a recruiting brochure and experiencing it being all male were markedly different. So I was very much supportive of coeducation. I mean, I never had a woman in any of my classes. And I only had one female instructor. What does that mean in terms of socialization with women? What kinds of attitudes could I get about women?

Class of 1972, white male: They took a survey when I was a freshmen. I recollect that the majority of my class said let it remain all male, the way it was. Now human nature is if people are given the choice of something that’s old and familiar or something new and strange you’re gonna stick with the old and familiar. Everyone I talked to seemed to say, “No we want to keep the school all male for awhile.” That was my class, Class of 1972.

Class of 1973, white male: My freshmen year, the year before coeducation I liked the fact that we could focus on academics during the week and you didn’t really have to focus on male/female relationships. You know, I almost viewed it as a distraction at that time. I kind of felt like Lafayette was making a change that wasn’t necessary because it had functioned a long time as an all male school. So at the time I didn’t really understand what the folks were thinking about in terms of the benefit in making the change. I mean, to this day I still think that there should be all male and all female institutions available for men and women who want to go to them.

Class of 1972, African-American male: I could not have been more thrilled when Lafayette became coed. I felt that the environment was very unhealthy and there was a lot of objectification of women. Women have a civilizing effect on men.

Scene Two

Class of 1974, white female: There was a period of time really early on where we were having a hard time studying because the boys were standing outside in the evening yelling, "Panty raid. Panty raid. Panty raid." So I called a meeting of all the girls in the dorm, and I said, "Well if we want this to stop I suggest we do a jock raid and put an end to it." So we went screaming into their dorms through their drawers and threw jock straps all over the lawn. And they stopped yelling "Panty raid" every night, and we got back to studying.

Tell us about moving in and your first few days on campus.

Class of 1975, white female: I have a very vivid memory of orientation because I met my freshmen year roommate there. We were at a general meeting and an incoming freshmen raised his hand to ask a question. He had a very bad speech impediment, and he wore hearing devices. And when he asked a question there was this laughter that went through the audience. It was horrible. And this woman got up and walked out. And she said, "I must have picked the wrong school. I can't believe that I'm going to be in a school with people that would laugh at somebody for attempting to talk with an obvious impediment." And she was in tears. She said that she had a handicapped brother and so she just was very sensitized to any kind of disability. And so I looked at her and said, "Would you room with me?" And that's how we met.

Class of 1974, white female: I remember that actually my mother took over my college wardrobe before I arrived. This was a big project at home. There was a table set up, a board on horses or whatever, to organize all these clothes, as she understood I would need. And I remember coming with a lot of stuff, and we weren't even bringing computers then. When we pulled up there was a Lafayette upperclassman standing there, and I thought maybe some people were going to try to help us. So I asked him if he would like to help me, and he was quite insulted. I guess he thought that women were coming to Lafayette, and they were going to make the men the servants.

Class of 1974, white female: I remember the very first day my mom dropped me off. As she left and I was walking back to the hall it was this overwhelming feeling of, "Wow, I'm on my own. This is really cool." And then in like a split second it was, "Wow, I'm on my own. Is that so cool?"

Class of 1974, African-American female: One thing I remember about the first day is, I went to Pardee Hall. I had an eight a.m. class. I was gonna be early, but I got there, and I couldn't open the door. It was too heavy. So I had to wait for some guy to come along and open the door for me.

Class of 1974, white female: One of the things that we noticed very early is that all the girls were in rooms with basically roommates the same size. So there would be two tall girls and two

short girls and two rounder girls. And I do remember also the black girls having roommates who were black.

Class of 1974, white female: My roommate and I, our tolerance for cleanliness let's say was very different. She was cleaning every ten minutes and was really compulsive about everything. I had picked up smoking and instead of asking me to quit she moved out on me. I came back to my room and all of her things were gone. She had bought the curtain rod and I had bought the curtains so the curtains were folded neatly and the curtain rod was gone.

Scene Three

Class of 1975, white female: One thing my floor mates did to me one year was take all my clothes out of the bathroom. I'm fairly modest and they knew that the worst thing in the world for me would be to come out completely naked and have to get to my room. So they stole all my clothes and anything else I could cover with. But then I saw a poster on the wall and I said, "Ah Ha. They don't know that I'm very resourceful." So I took the poster down and wrapped myself in it. I was so proud that I came charging out of the door to say, "Thought you got me but you didn't," and they had stacked suitcases in front of the door. So not only were they expecting that I would be naked, but that they could stop me and take pictures. They had cameras. Looked like a press conference.

What was dorm life like?

Class of 1973, white female: All hundred and fifty of us were in that one dorm. Even if you didn't get to be close friends with all the other women you knew who they were to say hello to them.

Class of 1974, white female: I remember sitting on the steps in front of New Dorm and there used to be a gang of boys that just sat there watching us come in and out. They just would sit there and watch us.

Class of 1973, white female: There wasn't a lot of bathroom facilities which is something that women probably need more of than men.

Class of 1973, white female: They put a sewing machine in the dorm. Well I'm not sure that sewing was exactly what any of us wanted to do, but that was the male perspective on what women wanted.

Class of 1975, white female: I loved dorm life. I would never, ever, ever have gone in an apartment. I did not understand the appeal of buying your own toilet paper and soap and all that.

Class of 1972, white female: We were told that we had curfews, that they were locking the doors at ten o'clock at night. None of the men on campus had curfews. It felt like, "Well here we are, but we're being held captive in our dorms." We complained and ultimately we got keys and were allowed to come and go as we pleased.

Class of 1974, white female: We were given the privilege to vote on how we wanted to arrange male visitation in the dorm. And the majority ruled that men were to have twenty-four hour access.

Class of 1974, white female: There were no rules that I know of about men staying over, and if there had been I would've broken 'em. It was come and go. Anytime. Twenty-four hour

visitation. My husband to be pretty much lived with me in the dorm sophomore year. So I know there were no restrictions.

Class of 1973, white female: I remember that we had a cleaning lady come two times a week and clean our rooms. Every Tuesday and Friday she'd come in and dust and make the bed and do the floor and we thought, "Gee this is a great place. This is really living."

Scene Four

Class of 1974, white female: I know that freshmen year the doctor on campus was very unfamiliar with females and female problems. One of my friends went there with very, very, very severe menstrual cramps, and he gave her an aspirin and sent her home. He was clueless. I do remember having a big change on campus when they got a nurse or somebody who had seen a woman at least once in their medical life.

How well were women assimilated into the campus? Were they ever treated differently or unfairly?

Class of 1974, white female: Lafayette seemed to put an awful lot of effort into making us feel welcome here.

Class of 1973, white female: Oh, it was terrible. As far as anything to do on campus, Lafayette wasn't ready for coeducation. I mean there were no sororities. There were no real organized competitive sports for women. And most of the men were still going to Cedar Crest and Beaver to meet girls.

Class of 1974, white female: I don't remember the administration getting terribly involved in terms of assimilating women. But all opportunities were open to us.

Class of 1974, white female: I think it was a sink or swim. I don't think they went out of their way to provide any particular supports for us.

Class of 1974, white female: I think the administration was very attentive to us.

Class of 1974, African-American female: I don't think they really had a clue. So their preparation was eh. But their commitment to making it work could overcome any lack of preparation.

Class of 1974, white male: There was an ironic view that women needed to be protected, and men by implication didn't. Women needed to cook, and by implication men didn't. The administration could not seem to think outside of a paternalistic framework. The men were on their own, but the women the institution would still take care of.

Class of 1975, white female: The administration really needed to prove to the alumni, especially the nay-sayers that women were having a positive impact on campus, so there was definitely a sense of being watched.

Class of 1974, white female: I think I realized that we weren't getting the support that we needed because I always turned to the other women. And they didn't really know a whole lot more than I did.

Class of 1974, white female: I really feel that the women had good sense of humor. A lot of what happened to us was really quite comical during those times because it was a whole new experience in coeducation.

Class of 1974, white female: The males were very disturbed by us being here. Some of the men had applied early decision thinking they were going to an all male school, and then they got here and women were here. They didn't want us here.

VOICES FROM CURRENT STUDENTS

Class of 2005, male: But it's different today. I'm sure everybody would know about it if anything unfair were to happen to women at Lafayette.

Class of 2004, female: As a woman, I've been treated differently, but for the better. I've never been offended. And I should say that I'm one of the five girls in my class for mechanical engineering.

Class of 2006, male: I think everything in class is on par.

Class of 2004, female: Originally I had a math major. Sometimes I wonder if part of the reason why I didn't enjoy the classes much is that usually I was one of the only women in the class. I wasn't as confident in the classes because I felt like nobody really expected me to do well.

Class of 2004, male: I've never seen any girls complaining about lack of any kind of facilities or any kind of opportunity.

Class of 2004, female: I guess coming from a 2000 perspective I don't see any problems with women being treated differently. I've never felt ... Well with the exception of a political organization on campus. That's why I left being president. I felt like they really didn't take me seriously. But there's a reason why they call it the old boys club.

Class of 2003, female: My freshman year as an engineer we were assigned groups, and I was the only female in the group. And the guys were making jokes: "Oh well, you're a girl, what do you know about that?" And they even tied in race jokes with it. It was something that I wasn't sure how to deal with.

Class of 2006, female: I feel like the way that I dress, some people feel that a woman should be showing off more skin or something.

Class of 2005, female: My worst experience at Lafayette was in an engineering group. This man would just belittle me. He wouldn't listen to a word I said and I would be saying the correct thing. He would tell the others not to listen to me and he would mock me. It was just terrible. I had to wonder if it was the race thing or the girl thing, but it made me feel so helpless.

Class of 2003, female: There was this one time when the Art History Department had a dinner for a visiting artist. And this man is pretty old and he sat next to me, and his hand was on my thigh for the majority of the dinner. And I didn't really think about it too much at the time. I mean, what are you gonna do? This guy was five years older than God, and the guest of honor. I just left his hand there.

Scene Five

Class of 1973, white female: My roommate was deathly allergic to peanuts and one evening we ate at the dining hall and unbeknownst to her the veal cutlet had been done in peanut oil. So we go back to the room and she said to me, "I don't feel very well." And I looked at her, and her entire face was swollen almost to the point of not being able to recognize her. And now she's starting to have problems breathing. So I go flying into the RA's room and fortunately one of the guys was in there. He literally picked her up, and we ran her to the infirmary which was down the hill, and they gave her a shot. That is one of my vivid memories of what happens to you when you eat at the dining hall.

How did gender affect living, eating, and recreation?

Class of 1973, white female: We wanted to live off campus my senior year and we were not allowed to.

Class of 1974, white female: The administration also told me we couldn't live off campus because we were women. And I said, "Well in the catalog it says you're allowed to live off campus. It doesn't say anything about women not being allowed to. You can talk to whoever you want about this, but it says here that we're allowed to do this. So we're signing a lease." And we did.

Class of 1966, African-American male: Women were second class citizens when you get right down to it.

Class of 1975, white female: There were men who rated women going through the cafeteria line. It was checkers, they would hold up one through ten for the women who came through the line.

Class of 1974, white female: Freshman year everybody ate at Marquis, but then after that the women had to make choices. For the men it was just assumed that their eating would be taken care of by the fraternity they joined. But would the women join a fraternity to eat, as an eating member? Would they stick with Marquis? Or would they do something on their own?

White female faculty member: Women had to apply to be eating members at fraternities, and they were judged on the basis of their looks. It was just outrageous that something as basic as meals would depend on to that kind of selectivity.

Class of 1974, white male: I think five thirty was the mealtime in the fraternity. So we'd eat, and then by six, which was when *Star Trek* came on, we'd be picking our teeth and sipping our coffee. Then we'd mosey on into the TV room and shout the dialog back at the screen. And so we would just sit there and go, "Oh, oh this one. Oh, this one's great." And so you've got a

pause and then sixteen people in chorus yell, "He's dead Jim!" The mealtime almost seemed to be fixed so as not to have anything compete with our time with Jim Kirk.

Class of 1975, white female: Sophomore year I tried eating at a fraternity. Ew. It was awful. It was Kappa Sig, and these guys were all into *Star Trek*. Dinner revolved around *Star Trek*.

Class of 1974, white female: There weren't a lot of sports available to the women because how do you make up a team with a hundred women on campus?

Class of 1974, white female: The guys would "teach" us how to play powder puff football. Now I know how to play football. So it was just that you still had your place as a female, and yet I kind of grew up like a tomboy. You know, I was an athlete. I had muscles when nobody had muscles, and they weren't fashionable.

Class of 1974, African-American female: We had a complaint because they still had not changed the swimming arrangement. There was a time period where guys could swim in the nude in the pool. And so we were like, "Oh no, we ain't gonna have this. Now if you're going to allow them to do that then we have to have a time period when we will be able to swim in the nude as well."

Scene Six

Class of 1974, white female: I took my dog to class as a puppy. I mean, she was a puppy. I'm sure you can't do that now. Well, you know, back then I thought, nobody's gonna tell me I can't do this. I would walk into class in the lecture hall with a puppy, and they would look at me, like, "Well, that's different." Maybe they didn't have the nerve to tell me I couldn't do that. I don't know. But I wasn't gonna leave her at home. She was just a puppy.

What was the classroom dynamic like?

Class of 1973, white female: I remember the first day of one of my classes. I was the only woman. So I went in, and I sat down. And the men came in and they sat in every chair except for the ones around me. No one would sit by me.

Class of 1972, white female: I think I was treated as a novelty early on. Like, "Ooh look. I got a girl in my class. Oh I want to sit next to her. She's cuter than you are" kind of jokes.

Class of 1975, white female: I don't remember that there was any serious discomfort about the male/female ratio in classes. And I think that's just because I wasn't taking any math or sciences.

Class of 1974, white female: There weren't many women in science courses.

Class of 1973, white female: I was often the only woman in my classes, and I was often looked at for the female point of view. Sometimes I just absolutely refused to cooperate with that because I didn't want to be representing all of womanhood.

Class of 1974, white female: Being the only female in class was horrible. You'd always try to buddy up. You'd try to talk your friend into it. "Switch a course and come in the class with me."

Class of 1974, white female: I always felt that we were respected academically.

Class of 1973, white female: I can't say that I related very well to men in class. I just wanted to be invisible in class because a lot of times I was the only woman in the room and that was very uncomfortable.

Class of 1974, white female: I think that every time I walked into a classroom I had to prove that I could do the work first. And then I would get the support. You didn't get the support from the minute you walked in the door. You really had to prove yourself first.

Class of 1974, white female: The women ran a much higher grade point average than the men, and there was a lot of resentment about that. I remember when the first semester was over and

our GPA was higher. There was a lot of talk of boycotting women, never date them, don't go near them, because they're ruining life here.

Scene Seven

Class of 1973, white female: I went to do research with this one Lafayette professor at another university and he was driving me back. And it was a rainy night and coming back at one point he made a comment that he wished his car did not have bucket seats, that it had a bench kind of seat. And I just looked at him and said, "Why?" And then he put his arm around me and he said, "This is why." And he started touching my leg. He started caressing my hair and telling me how attracted he was to me. How it's really too bad that I'm graduating this year, because he would really love to get to know me better. That I had been very elusive, because I had been. I had always had a feeling, just the way that he looked at me, that he was undressing me. There was just something about him. He stopped the car, locked the door. He tried to kiss me, tried to push himself on me. I was able to unlock the door and get myself out of the car and it was pouring rain. He got out and said, "Get back in." And I said, "No, I'm gonna hitchhike." And this was nine, ten o'clock at night. He said, "No, you're not gonna hitchhike. You're my responsibility. Get back in the car." So I did. I went back to the car, in the back seat. That was the scariest experience I have ever had with a man.

How were you treated by professors?

Class of 1973, white female: I think male professors were more receptive to us being there than the male students.

Class of 1974, white female: I don't really recall any professor treating me differently, but I might have just been too naive to realize it. You have to remember that there was no such thing as sexual harassment or gender bias then. We didn't understand those kinds of concepts.

Class of 1973, white female: I never felt like I had a really friendly relationship with any professor, and I knew guys who did have that kind of relationship with professors.

Class of 1972, white female: I remember one time when I got a very poor grade on a chemistry exam. I went to talk to the professor about it and I cried. He was very uncomfortable because I don't think he'd ever had a student cry in his office before.

Class of 1973, white female: I had a friend who her senior year second semester had a B in all four of her courses. She went to each professor and batted her eyelashes and said, "You know, if you give me an A, I'll have a 4.0 this semester" and every one of them did it. So there were girls who definitely played on that--like either the helpless female or the femme fatal thing.

Class of 1973, white female: I felt disrespected by a professor. I needed special attention because my English was not very good. He had no patience for me. Once he said, "How dare they put this foreign woman in my class?" He actually said that, and I ran out of his class crying.

Class of 1974, white female: One of my professors told me that the department panicked when they heard there was going to be a woman geology major. Their first thought was, "Well what are we gonna do when they are on field trips?" They thought I was gonna go running off in the bushes with the guys or something.

Class of 1974, white female: I was not assertive and I didn't trust in my own abilities. So I gave up the idea of medical school when a professor basically told me to get married and have children because I thought I wouldn't get admitted. Now my guess is I would have gotten in.

Class of 1975, white female: There was this one professor, he was a law professor. If you sat in the front seat with a short skirt on you were guaranteed an A.

Class of 1974, white female: One day in my junior year as I was getting ready to apply to law school my advisor said to me, "What's a matter with you? You're a nice Jewish girl. Go and get married. Don't go to law school."

VOICES FROM CURRENT STUDENTS

Class of 2004, female: The faculty is very good. They're very attentive and very helpful whenever you need anything.

Class of 2004, female: In certain classes I feel that being a strong woman and an intellectual woman has really harmed my grade. I think that certain male professors of mine have felt threatened.

Class of 2003, female: In most of my classes ninety percent of the students are female, and I feel like the men don't even talk. So I feel like my experience is not representative of most people's experiences.

Class of 2005, female: I remember this one thing with a professor. He used the analogy of "like when you're digging into cars." And I found that example orientated towards the males in the class. That example immediately put them at an advantage.

Class of 2004, female: On a trip abroad my roommate and I always carried our own suitcases. When the male professor saw us he repeatedly told us to let the boys do that. When we helped load the suitcases on the bus the male students ripped them out of our hands and seemed offended instead of thankful for the help. The professor who had seen us helping continually thanked only the males for being strong and smart enough to fit all those suitcases on the bus, as if only Superman could accomplish such a task. No one ever acknowledged that my roommate and I had helped.

Class of 2003, female: Sometimes it seems like some of the older professors give women a little bit more deference, are more patient with them. I have a bad tendency to cry and I think because

I'm a woman they let me get away with it and will even comfort me. I don't think they would do the same for a man.

Scene Eight

Class of 1974, African-American female: Sometimes we would look out the window and the Caucasian students would be doing some wild thing. I remember one weekend it had rained horribly and there was a big hill from Marquis Hall, and they were out there sliding in that mud and just having a good ole time, just getting covered with mud. And we were in the dorm looking out the lounge window saying, "What in the world? What kinda fun is that?"

What kind of social groups formed among the women?

Class of 1974, white female: Very, very quickly cliques formed here. You had the perky, preppy girls, and you had the hippie, free thinking, more progressive ones. And then you had the girls who were absolute misfits.

Class of 1973, white female: The campus was divided into different cliques. There were the jocks. There were the ROTC guys. I guess there were some girl jocks too back then, but mostly guy jocks.

Class of 1974, white female: I hate to say this, but as teenage girls we were pretty catty, and when you have that in a small group it's very noticeable. So cliques developed. Between the men that weren't really keen on you being there, and not having a larger pool of women it could be difficult.

Class of 1973, white female: There was a group that we used to call the color co-ordinates cuz they were these girls that looked as if they'd all gone to prep school. They all dressed very, very nicely in that old fashion kind of way. Everything always matched. They had these perfect Villager sweaters, the flowered sweater with the flowered blouse, and then they had the Popogallo shoes that matched the sweater. They were a clique that we didn't talk to at all.

Class of 1974, white female: The cliques were casually friendly to each other. There wasn't a whole lot of understanding between the two groups. There were those who had bras on and those who didn't, sort of split right down the middle. I didn't wear a bra.

Class of 1975, white female: I think the women all really recognized that we were all pioneers, and that there was a lot of respect among the women. I saw very little in the way of cattiness or that sort of thing.

Class of 1974, white female: Generally the African-American women pretty much kept to themselves.

Class of 1974, African-American female: In the first class we had fourteen black women, and unfortunately that fourteen kind of broke down into two cliques and then some stray folks. You

had one group I considered more bourgeois, more into fashion and style. Then you have folks who were more into school. And then each of them had various fringe friends all around.

Scene Nine

White male faculty member: I lived on the corner of Hamilton and High Street in a faculty house where the Williams Center is now. One Saturday morning around three a.m. I heard this yelling and shouting, and I looked out the window and Phi Gam was on fire. Fortunately everyone made it out of the house, but by the time the fire company arrived the flames were shooting through the roof. The first fire truck to arrive came down McCartney Street and stopped at the corner of McCartney and High, and they kept looking to see where they could get in to fight this fire. Finally they drove down High Street and one fireman said to me, "Is it okay to drive on the grass behind the building?" I said, "Well you better do something quick. To hell with the grass." The next fire truck came up. It had the elevated ladder for a fireman to be on top, and shoot the water down into the flames. So they hooked up their hose to the fire hydrant on the corner of Hamilton and High Street. Just then a third truck came up Hamilton Street and stopped to ask me directions. And of course they had stopped the truck right on top of the other truck's hose. So the guy on top of the ladder suddenly didn't have any water. It was a circus.

Tell us about social life, Greek life, and the dating atmosphere.

Class of 1974, white female: They used to have an *All My Children's* group at Phi Gam. Twelve o'clock all these guys would just sit and watch *All My Children* everyday. So little by little that became the big social thing for a lot of the girls. To go to Phi Gam and watch *All My Children*.

Class of 1973, white female: It was the fraternities that really provided the social life.

Class of 1970, African-American male: Eighty percent of male students joined social living groups. Seventy percent joined fraternities because you couldn't have a social life otherwise.

Class of 1974, white female: There were no sororities at the time. So in some ways women had to affiliate with guys in the sense that the guys had somewhere to go. Fraternities offered a community and women couldn't have that.

Class of 1974, white female: Of course there were the typical stereotypes that were assigned to each different fraternity. Certain kinds of people belonged to certain houses.

Class of 1978, African-American male: If you didn't have money you weren't getting into a certain fraternity.

Class of 1975, white female: The Soles guys for the most part were cool kids who just didn't like the fraternity scene.

Class of 1974, white female: If you were at Soles Hall you probably smoked a lot of dope.

Class of 1975, white female: The Kirby guys were the nerds.

Class of 1974, white female: If you were smart and intellectual you wanted to be in McKelvy House.

Class of 1971, African-American male: In 1968 there were two fraternities, maybe three, that had a history of accepting blacks.

Class of 1970, African-American male: Jewish students were also excluded from fraternities in the late '60s.

Class of 1973, white female: There were certain fraternities that did not treat women well. You could tell what their attitude toward women was by whatever might be yelled at you out of the window.

Class of 1972, white male: In the fraternities we went to great lengths to police ourselves. If you did something that embarrassed the fraternity somehow, you were fined plus you had to pay the cost of whatever got broken. We were responsible for what happened.

Class of 1975, white female: I grew up in Easton with a positive image of the fraternities here. However, when I got here I did begin to question the behavior of men en masse in the absence of women and parental figures. They seemed to as a group lose their inhibitions and behave in ways in which they would never behave individually.

Class of 1974, white female: The first semester guys would get the freshman year directory and pick out a picture and dial the phone on that floor and ask the girl out. And that's how people socialized.

Class of 1974, white female: Social life was not a great thing. The guys who wanted to date us felt there weren't enough of us because there were 1800 of them. And the rest of them met women other places.

Class of 1974, white male: There were some women who just didn't go out with anyone. And that was not good psychologically for them because I believe some of them came here thinking they would have this booming social life. And they didn't.

Class of 1973, white female: I can remember going out with one or two of my girlfriends and looking for guys on Northampton Street because we certainly weren't gonna meet anybody on campus.

Class of 1974, white female: A football weekend meant that the game was home and that there were all these festivities that were associated with it. You would be a date for the whole weekend. So Friday night there was a wine and cheese party, and then Saturday the football game. And then after the football game we would go to the fraternity house for a cocktail party followed by dinner, and then normally a party with a live band. Sunday morning there'd be breakfast. And that would be the weekend.

Class of 1974, white female: You were stuck with these stupid men all weekend. I can remember several times going out with a guy on a Friday night, and then sorta like disappearing Saturday. You know, they'd come to my room, "Where is she?" I was gone cuz I couldn't stand to be with them for another minute.

Class of 1973, white female: Having a date was not a big deal. That wasn't what we did. We went to parties or concerts. But it was always as a group.

Class of 1974, white male: I got locked into going out with somebody here for like nine years. You know, there was nothing wrong with her. I never married her. But I don't know that I would have done that if the male/female ratio had been different, if there were more choices.

Scene Ten

Class of 1974, white female: I had a blind date with John Doe. He was a drop dead gorgeous football player, like the dream boat of the campus. He was a junior; I was a stupid freshman. And that day I went up to South College where my friend Bob lived. And he fed me screwdrivers, which I thought was orange juice. I had no clue what it was. I must have had about fifteen and I was unbelievably drunk all of a sudden, just like that. And I went into Marquis to have dinner, and I can remember standing up and looking at the clock as everybody's eating dinner there. And I just screamed, I announced to everybody in Marquis, "I am so drunk, and I have a blind date with John Doe in fifteen minutes!" Well I remember friends carried me back to my dorm. They just threw Scope down my throat so that I wouldn't smell. And I remember John coming in through the door, taking one look at me and turning around and leaving. And I was devastated. That was my one and only date with him. And that cured me of drinking, I'll tell ya.

What was the role of drugs and alcohol on campus?

Class of 1974, white female: The students were very split on kids who did drugs and kids who drank.

Class of 1975, white female: There were keg parties. There were taps built right into the walls in the pub rooms in the fraternities.

Class of 1974, African-American female: I learned to drink at Lafayette. We used to drink Boon's Farm apple wine.

Class of 1970, African-American male: I came from a culture where people didn't drink. I still hate beer.

Class of 1973, white female: The alcohol policies for the dorms were very strict which was kind of unequal because that's where all the women lived. Most of the men lived in fraternities where there weren't many restrictions on alcohol at all.

Class of 1974, white female: Even in the dorms freshman year we had alcohol on our windowsills. And when it would get real cold and we couldn't keep the windows open we would try to drink everything that was on the windowsills.

Class of 1975, white female: Certainly there was a big alcohol factor. But there were a lot of kids who did not drink also. And I think it's important because it's so easy to hear about those who do drink.

Class of 1975, African-American male: We all experimented with a wide range of drugs to assuage the feelings of boredom I would say probably four days a week.

Class of 1974, white female: My son knows what I did, you know, he jokes around, "My mom was a pot head."

Class of 1975, white female: Pot was being grown on campus.

Class of 1974, white female: But it was different then. Pot was a cultural phenomenon. If you didn't do it you were suspect of being not only very uncool, but just, "What's wrong with you?"

Class of 1974, white female: There were times when kids would get together and take acid and sit around and look at black lights.

Class of 1975, white female: It was our own little Haight-Ashbury here on College Hill.

Class of 1973, white female: Speed was big.

Class of 1975, white female: There were robin's eggs, little blue things that would help keep you up all night. And Quaaludes too.

Class of 1975, white female: I was always called mom because no matter what I was on I could always straighten myself up to think clearly and get a person help. Like once there was a guy who did heroin that was laced with arsenic. I took care of him.

Class of 1975, white female: I just saw *Austin Powers* and it was way too familiar.

Scene Eleven

Class of 1975, white female: My roommate was a streaker and she fell on the track and got her backside full of cinders. I remember having to get tweezers and pick out cinders, so I was not happy with her. But it was kind of a funny time in a way. Other streakers made the area news. I remember seeing a report on the Philadelphia news. Somebody came out of the library holding a sign that said, "Hi Mom. Send money."

What was the political climate like?

Class of 1975, white female: Conservative. Conservative. Conservative.

Class of 1974, white female: I think it was pretty centrist to right wing in general with a vocal minority of left wing people verging on hippiness.

Class of 1973, white female: I think there was a very liberal atmosphere.

Class of 1974, African-American female: I never got the impression of it as it's conservative, it's republican, it's democratic.

Class of 1974, white female: I never got involved in any political opinions or anything here. My father was very political. It was always, "You're a republican. You gotta be a republican. Everybody in the family's a republican."

Class of 1974, white female: The whole scene was here -- drugs, and love, and anti-war -- the whole nine yards. This was a very active campus. People were getting involved. There were demonstrations. Nobody was able to justify the war to themselves, and so there were marches. A lot of the guys came to school because if they didn't go to school they were going to go fight. So some of the people that were here weren't here to get an education, they were here to avoid the draft.

Class of 1974, white male: The semester before coeducation began, that May was a month of unrest. When the students were shot at Kent State that May there was enormous anger on campus here. A student strike formed and essentially shut the college down for several days.

Class of 1971, African-American male: For matters of conscience we wanted to stop and express our opposition, outrage and dismay.

Class of 1973, white male: If somebody had asked me to vote on whether I wanted to go on strike or not over the Cambodia thing, I probably would have said no. I didn't think it was a big enough deal to strike. I didn't like the fact that those kids got shot out in Ohio. And certainly none of us wanted to go to Vietnam. But I pretty much thought the strike was an excuse not to go to class.

Class of 1973, white female: Several of my friends were in ROTC. I have to say that I was not a radical. I supported the efforts of the president and the military. I saw my friends who were going to go into the military, and I valued them and I could not protest against them.

Class of 1972, white male: I felt that the only group that got overt animosity on campus was the ROTC people. Like during the student strike we were told not to wear our uniforms. Eventually the school decided everybody was allowed to accept their midterm grade for the semester. And everybody may have been militant about Vietnam, but nobody was that foolish if they had an A at midterm not to take it and go to the shore. That's how the strike ended.

Class of 1975, white female: It was very, very difficult for any of the students who were members of ROTC. They were teased mercilessly. Probably had a more difficult time on campus than women who were teased. To be a member of the ROTC was just really difficult.

Class of 1975, African-American male: I was never drafted, but even if my number came up I probably would have left the country before joining ROTC or going to war. My affiliation politically, I was a Black Panther, and I wasn't going to join in some group that was going to kill someone else of color for a reason I didn't know.

Class of 1974, white female: My father's words, I'll never forget. He said to me, "I don't ever wanna see your picture in a newspaper carrying a sign." You know, there was a proper way to behave that was expected in my house. I always had it in the back of my mind that I had to be very careful.

Class of 1974, white female: I would be picketing in high school down at anti-war movements, and we would go to rallies. My senior year in high school my class voted not to have a prom because it was socially irrelevant at the time. You know, how could we have prom when we're out there picketing the war? And then I came to Lafayette, and there was just nothing here. You know. Who? Vietnam? What? Being up here on the hill was just isolating.

VOICES FROM CURRENT STUDENTS

Class of 2004, female: It's still isolating today. I think a lot of people are apathetic and just don't care at all about politics.

Class of 2004, female: I think two-thousand members of the silent majority go to Lafayette.

Class of 2005, female: Right wing republican. Just straight down the line conservative.

Class of 2003, female: Liberal. Probably a little bit more Democrat.

Class of 2004, male: I think that this is as liberal a campus as you can be.

Class of 2003, female: I think the professors are much more liberal than the institution itself.

Class of 2003, female: I think this is a group of people who love America and are not interested in discussing the country's faults, but will back it blindly. I think this was particularly apparent right after the 9/11 disaster. On September 12th somebody had posted a very nasty sign on the Lafayette statue. It was something that was anti-Islamic I believe. It was down by the time I got out of my first class, but it's interesting that somebody would post it in the first place. It shows I think a blind devotion to America.

Class of 2004, female: I think the response to the War on Iraq was very muted, although there were some students who were very upset. It didn't seem to engage students.

Class of 2006, male: I think that decision making is a very secretive affair at Lafayette. So you don't really know who's making the decisions.

Class of 2004, female: The internal politics of Lafayette I think are based on a hierarchy pretty much like the old boys hierarchy. If I'm at the top what I say goes.

Scene Twelve

Class of 1971, African-American male: Was there racism? Good Lord yes. And homophobia let me add. I remember my freshman year a fellow across the hall from me, and I admire the comment only because of how much creativity went into putting so many insults into one statement. He said, "You know, I thought you were here on a football scholarship, until I saw you walk down the hall." Meaning that my walk was a little effeminate, and that we are of an interest as black men only if we can do something with a ball. There was also a guy across the hall from me who was "born again," religious. He went out and got drunk and threw up in front of all the urinals in the bathroom and left it there. I went to him, and I said, "Would you please clean up your vomit from the bathroom?" He said, "You black bastard you go and clean it up yourself." Another time someone etched into a bulletin board "S.P.O.N.G.E". They put a translation beneath it: "Society for the Prevention of Niggers Getting Everything." I pretended that it didn't exist. They pretended that it didn't exist. And this was the middle of the second semester, and it stayed on that wall until I went home for the summer.

What were racial relations like?

Class of 1965, African-American male: The ROTC band in 1962 was going to a competition down south. When it came time to go the band director called me and the one other black student in individually. He showed me a letter which said, "We've confirmed reservations for you to stay at such and such a place. We understand that the band is all male and all white." So he said to me, "Well, you're from the South. You know what it's like down there. We've made arrangement for you and your friend to stay at the colored Y. And if you don't want to do that we won't go, but you know how disappointed your friends will be."

Class of 1970, African-American male: We were invisible. In my freshmen year in 1966 the overwhelming majority of fraternities did not accept black men as members. We weren't here in sufficient numbers to indicate a real appreciation of black life and culture. They were trying to make us into white men, in terms of socialization. That's one of the things that we balked at. That was also one of the reasons why we wanted to set up the ABC.

Class of 1965, African-American male: I got asked dumb questions. "Did you ever pick cotton?" "We had a black maid. Her name was Sally. Did you know her?"

Class of 1970, African-American male: A few years before coeducation we made demands for more black students, more black faculty and administrators, a black house on campus, more black studies courses, and the end of neutralization of racism on campus. We put it in writing and called it The Black Manifesto. We had several meetings with administrators and faculty, but those meetings largely proved unproductive, so we met with the Trustees. They were very impressed, and I think that was the impetus that caused some of the changes.

Class of 1974, white female: At that time the black students wanted to spend more time thinking about and learning about their own history, and handling their own issues. They wanted to be a little more separate because I think they felt that they were separate anyway, so that this would give them a place where they could develop strength. But I remember at the time being saddened by that. We couldn't all be a part of the same community.

White male professor: The College recognized the importance of having separate facilities at that time where African-American students could congregate and get together, and that's why they created the ABC house, now the black cultural center. But this wasn't without resistance. There were other students saying, "Hey, African-Americans want to integrate into the larger society, so why do they want separate facilities?"

Class of 1974, white female: There were just not enough black students. There were not enough students from different parts of the world. There were almost no Latino students.

Class of 1974, African-American female: I think the school was more ill prepared to bring a number of students of color on campus than to introduce coeducation. I don't think they even thought of the financial distinction between the students of color and the rest of the population. I don't think they thought about the fact that all of the students of color wouldn't just automatically befriend each other. That if you brought someone from the inner city of Newark, and you put them in with a person who is the son or daughter of a corporate executive, just because they're of color doesn't mean they have anything in common.

Class of 1973, white female: Did I notice racial issues? No, not really. Maybe I was just oblivious to it.

Class of 1974, African-American female: I think my worst memory was that there was a young man on campus that I was going to kill because he spit on me in the dorm. We had a stairwell in the dorm that goes all the way up to the third floor so you can be on one level and look down all the way through. And this child spit on me. And he was losing his mind. He did not know who he was playing with. I was really literally going to kill him. I would probably be sitting in jail right now, but for the goodness of the Lord.

Class of 1973, white female: I don't think that race was an issue. I had two African-American women that lived on my floor. One of them was the RA. We got along with all of them fine.

Class of 1974, African-American female: One of the real rifts among African American students was those who felt that we should have no association with the rest of the population, and those who felt we were here to have an association with the rest of the population.

Class of 1972, white female: The black students liked to hang around with themselves.

Class of 1974, African-American female: I know that there were at least two times when I was here I'd been asked out on dates by white men. And they felt that both I and they were pressured by the ABC for me not to do that.

Class of 1974, white female: I dated people of all races cuz that's the way my high school was. And so when I got here other students did ask me about my ability to interact with people who were different from them. They just didn't know how to do it.

Class of 1974, white male: My friend took me to dinner at the black house. And if you were a white person you didn't go in the black house cuz there were all these fictions that there were guns in the black house.

Class of 1974, white female: The Association of Black Collegians, I remember that being a good group and an important group. Was there active discrimination against students who were African-American on campus? I'm ashamed to admit I don't know.

VOICES FROM CURRENT STUDENTS

Class of 2005, female: Well let me tell you about discrimination today. I am often called upon in class to say, "As a black woman from the Caribbean how do you feel about this?"

Class of 2004, female: I think automatically being from a different race puts you in the spotlight. And you are the one who determines whether that spotlight's gonna be good or bad. And personally I've had a good experience.

Class of 2004, female: Once during a class discussion about affirmative action the class was split pro and con. There was one African-American in the class and he was pro-affirmative action. And one day a white woman looked at him and said, "Why do you always take the black position? Aren't you half white?" And first of all he was not half white. Second it was rude and unnecessary to even bring up someone's ethnic background in class that way. And third she ignored the fact that half of the white people in the class thought that affirmative action was justified, and she made it the black position. She was essentially saying "You only think that cuz you're black. You couldn't have a good argument."

Class of 2003, female: Race has a definite impact, but it's not a negative or positive impact. There's constant events going on that are sponsored to enlighten the campus about different cultures and different races.

Class of 2005, female: I feel isolated. There's not many people who are able to understand you. And you're not going to automatically like people just because they're black. When you don't have a wide range to choose from that leads to much loneliness. Not to say that you cannot look for white friends, but it's much harder at least for me. It's much harder to do that especially coming from a country where white people are to be distrusted.

Class of 2006, male: I think race impacts life greatly at Lafayette. One obvious thing that comes to my mind right now is the fraternities and sororities. Minorities are not really members of these fraternities and sororities.

Class of 2004, female: I was in one class where I was the only white person. And every once in awhile I would kind of realize "this is what it's like for a non-white students all the time."

Class of 2004, male: Race doesn't have a big impact here. It's a liberal campus. People are pretty open minded. The minorities in terms of number open other people's minds to their race and their experiences. And I think that's a positive thing.

Class of 2003, female: There was a protest art seminar in spring 2000 where somebody used a picture of a black student that came out the brochure for financial aid. And the College was facing a lawsuit over this because the student in the picture actually paid his way through college without any help from financial aid. And the students took this picture and turned it into a mock application where they talked about how many years in prison and things like that. And a lot of people were in an uproar over this. It caused such an uproar that the Provost held a meeting in the chapel and students gave many ideas for improvements. And when they got to the end of the whole thing one student stood up and said, "You know, when we're in class we take notes so we can remember things for later. I notice that nobody's taken any notes at this meeting tonight." And I think that overall many of the things that were spoken about have not been instituted.

Class of 2002, male: The poster incident may have been my best and worst experience here rolled up into one. The worst because it really put out there for me what this campus really felt and really thought particularly toward black students. But at the same time it allowed me to open up my eyes that much more. That has allowed me to become the conscious person that I am today.

Scene Thirteen

Class of 1972, white female: I was a pharmaceutical sales representative. I had taken a number of on campus interviews and I ran into a situation of sex discrimination during one of them. I signed up as Chris and he was expecting a man. I walked in and he was astounded. He said, "Look. Sales reps do a lot of driving, and women don't drive as well as men. So you couldn't be a sales rep. And because you do so much driving you get flat tires, and women don't know how to change flat tires. And we're expected to work five days a week, fifty weeks out of the year. Women don't like to work in the rain cuz they don't want to get their hair wet." The campus interview office said that they would assist me in any type of retaliation I might want to take against the company. But I remember the director said, "Well why would you even want to work for a company that hires people like that?"

Were you a feminist as a student?

Class of 1974, white female: Feminism was an important topic. It was something we all agreed on. It wasn't the least bit controversial.

Class of 1974, African-American female: I wouldn't say that I've ever been a feminist. If you're a woman you're not gonna get treated fairly. Get over it. So I really was not much of a feminist. On the other hand I felt that women should be able to work, should be able to have any job they wanted, should be able to do anything they wanted.

Class of 1974, white female: In retrospect, I was clearly a feminist, but I don't think I saw it that way. I was a girl doing what I wanted to do. My dad said that I could. I always expected to be treated equally.

Class of 1973, white female: Certainly coming to a school that had been traditionally all men and saying, "I can take my place here," was my stand in feminism.

Class of 1974, white female: I'm a feminist. I think feminist means equality for women. I can't understand why anybody would pretend not to be for that.

Class of 1974, white female: I think we were kind of moderate feminist. I don't think we were "burn your bra Radcliffe feminist".

Class of 1974, white female: I was a feminist, but that word was not even en vogue then. At that point women's lib was starting to come out. You were a libber, and it was derogatory, or inflammatory. I just carried on personally in the way I felt was right, and I wasn't gonna be intimidated by anybody. I was born a feminist.

Class of 1974, white female: I was so un-awakened as a woman and as a feminist as a student. My real awakening came with Anita Hill. I had been raised to be submissive to men because I

grew up mostly with my maternal grandfather. What he said went. My grandmother, my mother, my sister and I all hopped when he said hop and I was use to not questioning male authority. That changed.

Class of 1972, white female: It probably was not until after I was out of school and working for awhile that my understanding of what feminism meant really took hold. Lafayette was a very protected and safe environment, and I wasn't struggling. I actually became more feminist when I was working as the only woman in the managerial level. And there was only one black man in the professional ranks. And no one could understand why we were best friends. They'd just go, "Well you guys have nothing in common."

Class of 1974, white female: I sometimes am upset when I think about the women who made a lot of sacrifice to open doors that a lot of young women are choosing not to walk through or even consider.

Class of 1974, white female: Some things that haven't changed. When I was on campus recently last year a student told me women are afraid to be smart because the guys won't like them if they're smart. So they play dumb. And I was really disappointed to hear that.

Class of 1973, white female: What I see in the high school girls that I teach is that they take for granted a lot of things that some of us in my generation and the generation before me really worked hard to get. But isn't that why we did it? So that it would be something you can just expect. But still, they shouldn't completely take everything for granted.

VOICES FROM CURRENT STUDENTS

Class of 2003, female: I don't take things for granted. I'm driven to do things that men have done for so long. I want to make a point that women can do them too. So I'm a feminist.

Class of 2003, male: I would say I'm a feminist. Why? I think that as an African American I can't be biased towards any one group. I can't be a racist. I can't be someone who doesn't like gay/lesbian rights or doesn't support them. I can support feminist issues. I have to support those as a minority. It's just my obligation. You can't support yourself as an African-American and not support other people's causes.

Class of 2003, female: I wouldn't consider myself a feminist. I do think that anything a man can do a woman can do just as well, maybe better. Cause we have had a lot of struggles in the past. But at the same time I'm not standing there burning my bra or anything.

Class of 2004, female: Everybody's scared of the "F" word. The media portrays feminism as some psychotic, militant, lesbian type thing which it's really not.

Class of 2004, female: I would not describe myself as a feminist. My idea is that feminists think that if a man can be a soldier a woman should also be able to be a soldier. And I believe

that men and women have different roles in life. But I think they're equally important roles. So in that sense I'm not a feminist.

Class of 2003, female: It's a question I've grappled with in my time here. Feminism as a term in popular culture has taken all these bad connotations. But there are many types of feminism. And I would have to define myself as a liberal feminist. I think that people need to be more aware of the fact that there are inequalities that exist at all levels including at this college.

Class of 2004, male: I think a feminist is someone who wants more than fifty percent for women so I'm not one.

Class of 2004, female: I think you have a lot of apathy regarding feminism. It's not that people are against women's rights, but it's more like, "Well I want my rights, but I don't have time to work for them. Let someone else do it." Or it's, "I already have all the rights I need don't I?" No, you don't.

Class of 2004, female: I don't describe myself as a feminist. I think that it has negative connotations associated with it. I'm also not really quite sure what feminism is. I've definitely been discriminated against as a woman, but I don't see myself turning towards a feminist approach to critique or solve this problem.

Class of 2005, male: I come from a country where the women don't have enough rights and here I see women who are so much more independent than women at home. And still they are complaining that they haven't had enough rights. I know that they haven't, but there is a long way to go for the women back home. So I am a kind of feminist, but not the kind of feminist that we normally think of.

Scene Fourteen

Class of 1972, white male: I had a blind date from Kutztown one weekend. We had this cocktail party at the fraternity and she imbibed heavily of the rum swivels. And in those days when we had concerts they would seat the fraternities by blocks, so you sat with all your fraternity brothers. My date said to me, "Do you mind if I put my head on your lap? I'm really kind of tired." I said, "Yeah okay." So she did. And shortly there after I started to get this wet sensation on my pants. My date threw up on me. Well of course all my fraternity brothers started screaming, "Oh my God, who blew lunch?" I said, "I think it's my date." They said, "Oh my God, get out of here." I took this poor girl back to the fraternity house and actually undressed her, put her in the shower to clean her off. My clothes were nearly ruined. I gave her my bathrobe and tucked her into bed for the night. And I certainly didn't take advantage of her. I don't understand why that exists today, why a young man would feel he has to resort to that.

Were violence, harassment, or safety ever issues, especially for female students?

Class of 1975, white female: They were not issues when I was a student here. I really always felt safe, surrounded by male friends whom I trusted.

Class of 1974, white female: One of my best friends was raped freshman year by the same guy who had raped another girl on a date. And at the time you did not report this kind of thing. You hung out with your girlfriends and you cried about it perhaps, but there was a feeling that there was no place to go to report it.

Class of 1971, African-American male: In the years before coeducation while I was here I saw things that horrified me with respect to women. I think one night I witnessed a gang rape that was going on, sequential sexual relations with a woman, one guy right after the other. I was shocked, and I realized that we were living in a really unhealthy environment.

Class of 1974, white female: The worst that I can remember is that a friend was in a physically abusive relationship with her boyfriend for over a year. She would come back to the dorm bruised with black eyes. Finally he was hitting her on the quad, and the police came and broke it up, and he actually got expelled.

Class of 1973, white female: I didn't know anybody that anything bad like that happened to when I was here. Now that doesn't mean that it didn't happen. It just means that I didn't know about it. But there were so few women that if something had happened I think we would have known about it.

Class of 1978, African-American male: The girl I dated was raped coming back from town by somebody outside of campus.

Class of 1975, white female: There was a rape on the steps coming up to campus from Third Street when I was here. They also started locking dorm doors and they set up a service where guys would escort us across campus.

Class of 1973, white female: I don't know anybody who was forced, but they probably wouldn't have said if they were. Rape was done by someone who you didn't know. If you were forced by someone you did know it was unfortunate, but I don't think they ever would say date rape.

Class of 1974, white male: Pre-coeducation some fraternities had reputations for having gang-bang rooms. Others had reputations that the pool table was put to spectacular uses during party weekends. This kind of sexist stereotyping of relationships between men and women was rampant, and the amount of alcohol consumed only increased the potential for violence.

Class of 1973, white female: I had no problem walking around the campus at night. I know one night I walked around the campus in my bathrobe. That's how safe I felt, that I could even go out in a bathrobe.

VOICES FROM CURRENT STUDENTS

Class of 2003, female: Well I wouldn't go out in a bathrobe today. I often go to the gym early in the morning and I've had guys whistle at me on campus just cuz I'm wearing shorts. That's not something you would expect to happen today, but it does.

Class of 2004, female: I don't like to walk at night alone. But I don't really feel exceptionally unsafe.

Class of 2004, female: I know of a couple of people who have either been victims of sexual assault or rape on this campus.

Class of 2006, female: I've heard of someone who was raped on campus, but didn't report it. There is definitely more going on than we're aware of.

Class of 2003, female: Personally I had one problem freshmen year that somebody attacked me. That was probably my worst experience at Lafayette.

Class of 2005, male: I felt really bad when I heard about the last rape. I thought, maybe we let it happen. We have some people on campus who are likely to do that and we did not stop them.

Class of 2003, female: One of the scariest experiences was a harassment issue one girl on my floor had. That was pretty scary, just hearing the screams and her crying and not really knowing what to do for her.

Class of 2004, female: Yes, yes, yes, there are problems of safety. Recently there was this young man who was posing as a transfer student on campus. I just feel that it's really scary that someone could come on campus, pose as a student, and people are just so receptive.

Class of 2004, female: I've never felt uncomfortable walking by myself at night. But I have been aware of violence on campus through the things public safety sends out, because it's not talked about. Of course, it's not something you talk about. I remember my freshmen year when there was a rape in a fraternity. And when it was one of my friends that kind of freaked me out. But even still I feel very safe on campus and I don't think it's a very violent place.

Class of 2004, male: Problems of safety and violence? None at all. Except for one or two letters in the last four years from public safety that I've read about rape or possible rape.

Scene Fifteen

Class of 1975, white female: One day I had an interview or something going on or maybe I was going to a funeral, but the first time ever in my Lafayette experience I went to class in something other than jeans. I walked into class in a skirt and stockings and dressy shoes. And there were catcalls and whistles. And even the professor made a comment. It wasn't a nasty comment, but it was a comment. And I know for a fact that today if a woman walks into the classroom dressed like that nobody bats an eyelash. And I think the professor's comment was something to the effect of, "Alright gentlemen, now we all know Ms. Doe has legs."

What was the campus attitude toward sex, pregnancy, birth control, and abortion?

Class of 1974, white female: I must say I was very naïve about sex and sexual relations. Probably too permissive. If I looked at it now I'd shake my head, but, it was the 70s.

Class of 1974, African-American female: I think that there was a great deal of pressure on the women on campus to become sexually active.

Class of 1975, white female: In my group sex was very free. It was almost at the point where the girls were putting notches on the bedpost. I think I get a few.

Class of 1974, white female: We had the pill. We did not have herpes. We did not have AIDS. And free love was the name of the game. That kind of attitude would get me dead now or sick.

Class of 1973, white female: There were a couple of maintenance men in Ruef Hall. They were very nice older gentlemen, and they felt very protective of the women. But they were so worried. They kept telling me, "Somebody's gonna get in the family way." So there was this undercurrent that somebody was gonna get pregnant and then coeducation was just gonna be ruined because it was gonna be such a scandal.

Class of 1974, African-American female: Shortly after getting here I realized that I was gonna have a baby. The school was incredible. Of course, they had no precedent for what to do. Quite frankly I expected to get kicked out of school, so I was quite surprised when they said, "You need to leave when you're about to have the baby. You can stay the first semester, and then if you want to transfer back after you have the baby you can." And I just focused. When I was doing schoolwork I was focusing on school. When I was doing motherhood I was focusing on motherhood.

Class of 1974, white female: We were thrilled with *Roe v. Wade*. That was the ultimate freedom for women to have control of their bodies.

Class of 1974, white female: I remember a girl who had an abortion and I was appalled.

Class of 1975, white female: I was the woman who took the girls to get abortions. I knew where to go. And it was safe, and it was clean. It was a place where all the millionaires and celebrities went. It was right across the street from the Dakota building in New York. I had one my freshmen year. And I hate to say it but you think, oh the first time. Well guess what, the first time it can happen. It had to be me.

Class of 1974, white female: It seemed to me that abortion was accepted. If women got pregnant all the ones that I knew got abortions. And then no one made an issue of it.

VOICES FROM CURRENT STUDENTS

Class of 2004, female: I know that one of my friends had an abortion here. While a lot of people may say they're against abortion I'm not sure how they would feel if it was them who was pregnant. I think that's a little bit of hypocrisy within the system here.

Class of 2004, female: I've heard that the Health Center really pushes the morning after pill.

Class of 2003, female: Once pregnancy and abortion come up there's a tendency to frown upon it. Like we'll talk about how to use a condom, but, if it breaks, don't come crying to us.

Class of 2004, female: In terms of birth control everyone's on it. No one cares if you're not on it. But I think there needs to be more concern about sexually transmitted diseases on campus.

Class of 2004, female: I think that there's a lot of sex that goes on, but I think that it's in some ways a taboo issue. As much as people want to do it, a lot of people get uneasy if they're asked to talk about it honestly.

Class of 2003, female: My freshmen dorm was in one of the first year houses so it was pretty small. We had fifteen girls. One was not a virgin coming in to college. And by the end of the year there were a lot more of us who were not virgins anymore. The next semester while I was abroad I would get emails from one of the women saying, "Now I'm the **only** member left in the virgin club."

Class of 2004, female: I don't interact in a circle of sexually active women, so I wouldn't be very accurate in my perceptions.

Class of 2006, female: You sort of get the impression that everybody's doing it. But realistically I don't think that everyone is.

Class of 2006, male: Generally what I see is people like sex.

Scene Sixteen

Class of 1974, white female: I was dating a fellow and he had gotten into an intensive eleven month MBA program. We were engaged so I went out with him to Pittsburg, but I knew that he wouldn't stay when the eleven months were up. So I didn't want to get involved in a grad program and then have to leave it in the middle. I couldn't find a job. So I said, "I'll do the house wifely thing so that you can get through this MBA, and then when you get settled in a job somewhere I'll go back to grad school." So after he graduated I told him to take a job wherever he wanted as long as there was a school with a good graduate program in geology nearby. He took a job in Rochester. The University was just starting a new program where they were tracking students into one of two specialties in geology. The one that they were doing was paleontology which was not my area of specialty, nor did I think it was going to be an area I wanted to be in. But I made an appointment that first fall and they said, "Well what do you want to be?" And I said, "I want to be a paleontologist." Hey, if they're only taking paleontologists, then I want to be a paleontologist. So that's how I ended up in paleontology.

What was your attitude toward marriage, parenthood, and career as a student?

Class of 1974, white female: The women that I knew did not come here to find husbands. And most of them went on to make a career for themselves whether it was going to graduate school or going right into the workforce.

Class of 1974, white female: In my day if you were really successful you not only got your education but you found your husband while you were in college. It's almost embarrassing to say looking back because it sounds so archaic. You know, how could we think that way? And yet that was the drive in a lot of our heads. So many of us found our husbands here and got married right out of college.

Class of 1974, African-American female: I convinced my advisor that a school near my hometown had some classes that Lafayette did not offer, and so I got to go there for a year. My ulterior motive was that I wanted to get married to the boyfriend that I had when I first went to Lafayette. And we did. We got married the summer between my sophomore and junior years.

Class of 1973, white female: My husband and I got married while we were students in a local field and his hair was on the longer side. Well a reporter took our picture and it ended up in Lafayette's *Alumni Magazine*. And the next quarter when the magazine came out there were very negative attacks on us as not representing the Lafayette ideal. We were called hippies. They said, "If this is what coeducation means, then I knew it wasn't a good idea."

Class of 1974, white male: Well when I initially graduated I was very concerned about a career, but I fully expected that one day I'd be a husband and a father. And that all happened.

Class of 1975, African-American male: When I first graduated I wasn't interested in getting married. I wanted to establish my career and be a provider for a life companion whoever that was going to be.

Class of 1973, white female: I think we were all trying to figure out how to balance a family and career. And honestly I thought it would be better now, but it really isn't. There were very idealistic men that said, "Oh well, it'll be shared parenthood. Nobody will have to make a choice. It'll just work out." And, of course, that realistically that doesn't happen very often. I now have a grandchild, and my daughter's faced with the same thing. You know, we really haven't come very far in many ways. Family responsibilities still fall very much on women, and it's a tough little wire to walk.

Class of 1975, white female: I wanted to be a stay at home mother so when I got pregnant with my first child I quit my job and stayed home for sixteen years.

Class of 1974, white female: All I can say is that having a family is a pretty full time career.

VOICES FROM CURRENT STUDENTS

Class of 2003, female: Family plays a huge part in my future plans. I feel like all the hard work I'm putting in now is for my children, for my husband, so that I can have a base established.

Class of 2004, female: Marriage and children are probably the most important plans in my life, because I think that's what would make me feel the most fulfilled.

Class of 2004, female: I can't get married because I happen to be gay. But I would love to get married.

Class of 2006, female: I really don't want to get married until like very late twenties or like early thirties. I'd like to have children, but I'd like to adopt kids more than to have children of my own.

Class of 2004, female: I want to get my advance degree. I don't want to have children. I don't necessarily feel like I'd be a good mother, so I don't want children. Marriage eventually, but I'm not rushing anything.

Class of 2005, male: When I hear people who've decided that they're not gonna have kids I'm really surprised. I don't know how they ever come up with that kind of decision. So I'm not one of them. I'll definitely have some kids.

Class of 2003, female: Fortunately if children do come along I'll be in one of those fields which is flexible for me to be able to take care of kids. Because I do believe that a mother should stay home with her children. But at the same time I really expect the father to help out in that regard as well.

Class of 2003, male: I know that somewhere there's a woman waiting for me. I'd rather be settled financially before I get married and have kids.

Class of 2004, female: I don't want to get married. Some people say, "Oh you'll change your mind." Maybe I will, but I'm not a fan of the institution. I definitely would like to have children though, specifically adopt children.

Class of 2003, female: I don't think our culture has yet figured out how to cope with marriage where both people are professionals. And I certainly intend to have a career, and I'm not sure that marriage will work with that. I would, however, like to have children, but I'm not sure that marriage is necessarily a prerequisite for having children.

Scene Seventeen

Class of 1975, white female: The irony of it is that my father did not see the need for women to have college degrees, and my parents felt that they were not going to invest a lot of money in my higher education because it would be wasted when I got married and had children. And I had a younger sister who also knew that she wanted to go to college, and then a much younger brother who was very bright. But I ended up working full-time and going to school part-time for several years to pursue my undergraduate degree because I was pretty much financially independent. So it took me a long time to get a bachelor's degree, but I earned it day by day both in the classroom and working. My father many years later acknowledged that he should have done more for his daughters. I went on to get a master's degree, and my sister has a bachelor's degree. My brother ironically decided he didn't want to go to college, and he was the one they had a college fund for. And so many years later my parents made a contribution to my sister and myself to help pay off our student loans. It was probably my brother's college fund.

How did you feel about being in one of the first coeducational classes at Lafayette?

Class of 1973, white female: I kind of felt like a pioneer. Somebody has to start. I might not have been thrilled with some things, but it was kind of neat to be one of a kind.

Class of 1974, African-American female: After I came to visit and realized that Lafayette was just going coed, it became even more attractive because I would be pioneering something. It was also a year that Lafayette was really trying to very hard to bring in people of color. So again I thought I'd be able to be a pioneer.

Class of 1974, white female: I was just a rebellious young lady, and I was going to go to a school that was gonna be cool. And one of the things that was cool to me was to be in a first girls' class.

Class of 1974, African-American female: I just like being the first to do stuff.

Class of 1974, white female: I didn't come here to be a pioneer. I mean it was interesting that that was the case. But I wasn't out to make my mark or anything like that. It just was a good school.

Class of 1974, white female: One would like to think that things that we said or we did while we were there made it easier for the women who followed or made things better in some way. Or at least the fact that we got through showed that it wasn't such a dumb idea to make the school coed, and that they had made the right choice.

Class of 1972, white female: Over the years I feel that the women in the classes of '72 and '73 have been ignored in favor of the class of '74. In terms of recognizing the pioneering efforts that

we were doing, setting up standards... We were in some of the advanced classes academically so we took the brunt of the professors dealing with women in their classes for the first time.

Class of 1974, white female: Do people remember the first girls' class, class of 1974? I don't know. I remember thinking that my yearbook didn't have anything about the first women's class. We were the first full woman's class and that was brought up at graduation by the speaker. But there's nothing permanent. There is no picture. There's no plaque. There was nothing that I'm aware of to commemorate that.

Scene Eighteen

Class of 1974, white female: After I graduated from Lafayette and then law school I was working for the public defender's office, and I had my first case. It was a prostitution case. Now in the 70s we wore miniskirts, and we went braless, but I'm going into court. Obviously I can't dress that way, so I wore the only long skirt I owned and a shirt that covered my neck, and long sleeves. I walked into this courtroom with my file, and I was nervous even though it was just a prostitution case. And the prosecutor turned to the judge when the case was called and said, "We're going to nolle pros the case." And the judge said to me, "Do you know what that means?" And I said, "Yeah, you're dropping the charges." He said, "Yeah, that means you're free to go." Well the courtroom was packed, my supervising attorney was all the way in the back, and he burst out laughing. The prosecutor said, "Your Honor, that's the lawyer." And the other hookers that were waiting to have their cases heard said, "Oh, come on judge. She doesn't dress right. She doesn't wear her makeup right. She couldn't be one of us." So I wasn't considered a lawyer. I wasn't even good enough to be a hooker. And I had a whole courtroom laughing at me. That was my first experience as a lawyer. But after that I never lost a case in that courtroom. It didn't matter what the facts were. He was so embarrassed that I was sent in there for everything after that 'cuz I won them all.