

**T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History**

**ABSTRACT**

**INTERVIEWEE NAME:** Leo Charles Hamilton

**COLLECTION:** 4700.0322

**IDENTIFICATION:** LSU alumnus, Baton Rouge attorney

**INTERVIEWER:** Mary J. Hebert

**SERIES:** University History - Integration and the African American Experience

**INTERVIEW DATES:** Session I - August 21, 1993; Session II - September 11, 1993

**ABSTRACT:**

**Session I**

**Tape 453**

Family background; parents attended McKinley High School; importance of education to parents; father's involvement in Civil Rights Movement; Baton Rouge civil rights leaders; working odd jobs as teenager; attended segregated elementary and junior high schools; enrolled in desegregated Lee High School; isolated from black community because attended Lee High; abused by white students at Lee High; ten year class reunion and changed attitudes of white students; camaraderie among black students at Lee High; discrimination in grading; teachers ignored abuse; decision to pursue career in law; guidance counselors at Lee High; rivalry between black neighborhoods; reasons for not attending Southern University; white students at LSU; camaraderie among black students at LSU; Martin Luther King Action Movement; some believed no place for whites in the movement; lack of radicalism at LSU; Black Power in Baton Rouge; H. Rap Brown; fear by some blacks that integration would hurt black community; attempts by black ministers to control movement; organization and goals of Harambe student group; racism of white fraternities; Chancellor Cecil Taylor; sit-in in Taylor's office; Dean James Reddoch; disagreements between black students; members of Harambe; Black Cultural Center versus Black Student Union;

**Session II**

**Tape 471-472**

Social nature of Harambe; use of St. Albans and Methodist Center for meetings; activist ministers; fight against white fraternities reserving seats at football games; urging university to recruit black athletes; racism of Kentucky basketball coach Adolph Rupp; African American students felt like outsiders; sit-in in chancellor's office in 1971; Dean James Reddoch; integrated student housing; black cultural awareness; Southern students' animosity for LSU; Southern University; Southern Riots; division within Harambe over how to protest riot; Ted Schirmer and Progressive Students' Alliance; march to state capitol after Southern riots; black muslims; Harambe's community outreach program; racism of Baton Rouge and campus police; political

activism of Harambe; David Duke; SGA president Kerry Pourciau and problems getting Harambe's support; death of Harambe; race relations at LSU in the 1990s; working for state government; specialty labor law; establishing own firm; merger with Breazeale, Sachse, and Wilson; law school professors

**TAPES:** 3 (T453, T471, T472)

**TOTAL PLAYING TIME:** 3 hours

**# PAGES TRANSCRIPT:** 112 pages

**ADDITIONAL MATERIAL:** Correspondence, newspaper articles

**RESTRICTIONS:** None