

Case 1: They Haven't Kicked You Boys Out Yet?

Consider the story of an incident as retold by two different students at two different interviews, unbeknownst to the other student. Rashid and Daevion are two first year medical students. They are the only two Black men in their cohort. They each described an interaction with a White male professor.

“So, me and a fellow classmate, who is also Black, were coming in early to get some last minute studying in before finals. And we ran into a professor that we had in Block 1. And I held the door for him, said, ‘Hi, how’s it going’ and then he’s like, ‘Oh, hi, how are you boys doing? They haven’t kicked you out yet?’ I didn’t know... was it unintentional or did it have deeper meaning? And me and my friend looked at each other and were in shock a little bit and didn’t know how to address it.

But we just went on and studied. But it was interesting because microaggressions don’t usually get to me but like I think with this one I was like, ‘Man!’, like, for 10 minutes instead of studying I was like, Ugh! Did he really just say that?” *Daevion*

“There was a time when I saw a previous professor who I consider a friend and I think he considers me a friend as well. And me and a classmate, he’s also African-American, were walking in the building. And he was like, ‘Oh, they haven’t kicked you all out yet?’ We’re friends, like, sarcasm whatever... But to somebody who isn’t like me, they could have easily been hurt by that, struck by that, triggered by that. And a bit of me was too. I was kinda like, ‘what?’”

Rashid

