

Honor case ended; grievances remain

By HALE DELAVAN

This is the first half of a two-part article on the controversy surrounding the recent honor trial of a black student and the complaints from the Student Association for Black Unity.

Much of this report is based on interviews with members of SABU. Details of honor trials are hard to get from the E.C., even in such a well-publicized incident, because of the White Book stipulation that a trial is private until a public honor trial is held.

Junior Raynard Scott learned of his impending honor trial before the E.C. on Jan. 17. The trial was held the following evening from 7 p.m. to midnight. Scott was represented by two law students, Johnny Morrison and Eugene Perry, and Assistant Dean of Students Curtis Hubbard sat in as an observer.

One source close to the E.C. said later that Hubbard's presence was unprecedented for an honor trial, but that the E.C. wanted to avoid any claims of racism on their part at a later date.

A SABU spokesman said the atmosphere of the trial was unprofessional and the E.C. members were uncourteous to the accused. A member of the E.C. said later that apologies were ex-

tended from both sides following the trial, which ended when Scott told the E.C. he would withdraw from the university rather than face any more of what he considered unfair treatment from the E.C.

The next morning some twenty members of SABU came to Dean of Students Lewis John's office to complain about the trial. During the previous night they also decided to bring up other grievances that, according to SABU president Mike Brooks, have been pending since 1971.

The students were referred to President R. E. R. Huntley and remained in his office until 8 p.m. They were prepared to stay all night. They left when the E.C.

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Ambassador Lebanon in

"U.S. interests in southern Africa are no different than they are anywhere else in the world" said Ambassador Talcott W. Seelye last Monday night in Lee Chapel. "Those goals are to point out the interdependence of nations and each other and stability" said

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decided to meet on the question of whether to take the unusual step of retrying the honor case.

Following the E.C. decision to rehold the hearing Brooks went to Richmond on Jan. 22 to confer with the executive secretary of the Virginia branch of the NAACP, Jack Gravely, to explain Scott's story and ask for the organizations' assistance.

Gravely visited W&L the following day and also wrote to E.C. President Tom Hunter expressing his support of Scott's position, according to Brooks. SABU is still seeking NAACP aid in researching the legality of the E.C. actions in this case, according to Brooks,

but the matter is not getting the organization's full attention because of a situation at the University of Virginia.

The NAACP is currently involved in a case at U.Va. where the black head of the honor committee has been asked to resign by his colleagues because of charges of inattention to his job and threats to fellow committee members.

The gentleman in question charges that the complaints against him are racially oriented.

On Jan. 25, Scott was retried and found guilty by the E.C. He did not attend the trial and decided following it to ask for a public trial before a student jury.

The trial was set for Feb. 1. According to Brooks, SABU hoped to buy time to enlist NAACP aid in bringing an injunction to prevent further proceedings against Scott; however, court action was made difficult by the fact that the tape of the original hearing had been destroyed, in keeping with White Book regulations in private cases.

The public trial was cancelled when Scott decided to withdraw from the university.

Next week the RTP will look at the SABU complaints against the university and what progress has been made following the actions of the last few weeks.