



Ossie Davis

Minority Affairs Office Busy With Recruiting Activities

by David Greer

This week is Black Emphasis Week and this function is keeping one of the assistant deans very busy.

John White is the coordinator of minority affairs. Presently, his office deals chiefly with the interests of black students on campus and those who are applying for admission to W&L.

White says he is trying to expand recruitment efforts to other minorities, but most of his recruiting efforts have been focused on blacks. He spent about six weeks this year on recruiting trips.

While most of the activities sponsored by White's office seem to focus on black students, they are designed to include all students.

"The big misconception is that white students see the black activities are for black students only. They are open to all students," White says.

For example, the SABU Ball this weekend is open to all students free of charge. Only those outside the W&L community will be charged.

White is the advisor for the Student Association for Black Unity. Of the 12 black undergraduate students, 10 are members of SABU. There is another group for black law students.

The minority affairs office sponsors many functions during the year. It is presently sponsoring a Black Alumni Conference in conjunction with Black Emphasis Week.

Many of the functions are not funded entirely by the minority affairs office but are shared with other organizations.

For example, poet Vernon Turner's fee was split with the Glasgow Endowment Fund, each paying \$300.

Stokely Carmichael's speaking fee was \$350, Ossie Davis' \$2,000.

The office is co-sponsoring a jazz group with the Va. Historical Society. The group will perform here later this semester and admission will be free to students. The office is paying \$300 so no cover will have to be charged.

The office is paying \$1,200 for the SABU Ball. It will provide hors d'oeuvres; the university will sponsor a cash bar.

There are many misconceptions about special privileges for minority students on campus. For example, they are not given special housing preference in the dorms, seven of the 12 are freshmen and many of the others live in Woods Creek.

The lounge in Davis dorm has not been given to SABU either, despite a popular notion. The facility is open to all students who would like to sign it out for functions.

SABU does have an office in the student center, which is also used by the university for other needs.

Lecture Rescheduled

The first lecture as part of Black Emphasis Week at Washington and Lee has been rescheduled.

William Syphax's lecture on the current status of minority business development will be held at 8 p.m. Monday in Lee Chapel. He had been expected to speak this past Monday but was unable to get here because of weather conditions in the Washington area.

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