

When the nineteen guys came, I remember kind of picking out seven people and immediately struck up a bond with these seven guys. I mean, it was just like we had never met each other in our lives, but within five minutes we were brothers. I mean, it's like, "I know you. I don't know your name, I don't know where you're from, but I know you. And we became like this. The others weren't quite that close to me, but that initial core of people – Thomas Penn, Philip Hutcheson, Bob Ford, Bill Hill, Johnny Morrison, Matthew Towns, and Bobby Smith – that was kind of the core of what became SABU, Student Association for Black Unity.

We decided we needed to adopt a model, and if that that model was something along the lines of the Black Panther Party or whatever, we needed to do it because we needed to band together for what I'd really call self-preservation, and we did. We met over in the Student Union and created SABU, Student Association for Black Unity. I was the first president of SABU and founding director or whatever you want to call it. SABU, for a number of years, became really *the* focal point for black students on campus. It became a fairly effective organization, went through its own internal struggle because there was a change in the nature of the student that came through here.

**Blake:** They were all in SABU. Everyone was in SABU. Every black student on campus kind of was in SABU, whether they wanted to be or not. Really, going back to the old analogy "cream rising to the top," it's just the natural leadership and force of personality of that group. You can tell we had some strong personalities in that group, and managing the personalities was not really a chore, but it was something that had to be

done, and I managed to get it done. But those were the guys who I think everybody else said, "We'll be in SABU as well, simply because we know we feel protected. They weren't as blatant in their membership of SABU as we were. We wore our SABU jackets everywhere. Everybody may have been a member of SABU, but you really knew who SABU was. SABU was six, seven, eight guys, and that basically was it. Technically, SABU was twenty-some, twenty-one, twenty-two people, but the core group of SABU, the SABU Seven or Eight or whatever you want to call them, you know, that's those guys.