

Complaints explored

By HALE DELAVAN

On Jan. 19, 1977 some twenty members of the Student Association for Black Unity came to Dean of Students Lewis John's office to complain about the recent Honor Trial of Junior Raynard Scott. The previous night they also decided to bring up other grievances that, according to SABU president Mike Brooks, had been pending since 1971. They were referred to President R. E. R. Huntley and remained in his office until 8 p.m. While there, they presented two major complaints which they had concerning the University's attitude towards them. The complaints were: 1) the lack of black faculty 2) the lack of recruitment co-ordination.

The Ringtum Phi researched these complaints and went to the Administration to find out what it had to say. In answer to the first issue concerning the lack of black faculty, Huntley said that the University has made "sincere" efforts to make it clear to potential applicants for faculty positions that black candidates would be welcome. The University has talked with applicants and has made offers of faculty positions to blacks and it continues to do so. Huntley added that thus far there

were three major reasons for the failure to attract black professors. The first is that there is a large demand for such persons around the country. The second is that the number of blacks that are qualified is small and that the demand is high. He elaborated on this point saying that the services and the abilities of such people are being sought by non-educational institutions to a greater degree than are the services of whites. Therefore, many blacks leave their teaching positions. All in all, "The supply is low, and the demand is high." He also felt that Washington and Lee would be in a better position to attract black faculty once it has some. "The fact that there are none makes it difficult to get any.", Huntley said.

The second issue that SABU presented was the question concerning the lack of recruitment co-ordination. Assistant Dean of Admissions Kenneth Ruscio stated that the University has made a tremendous effort to encourage blacks to apply. Curtis Hubbard, the SABU advisor, had been sent to several predominantly black high schools in search of potential applicants. The Admissions

(Continued on page 4)

SABU grievances examined

(Continued from Page 1)

Office had also sent, at the University's expense several members of SABU to high schools in Virginia and has sent one member as far as Atlanta to promote the school.

Ruscio went on to say that the admissions office receives a list of black students who have done well from the National Merit Scholarship Board. They do not necessarily have to be Finalists. These students are sent a letter and a brochure encouraging them to apply. This letter also states that the application fee will be waived if they decide to apply. This year, so far, the University has had twenty-three black applicants.

In the same light, SABU presi-

dent Brooks said, "My main complaint is that the Athletic Department brings in Black recruits and SABU never sees or hears of them except by chance." Coach William McHenry was asked by the Phi what he had to say about that. He replied that the Athletic Department has made efforts to co-ordinate recruiting efforts of black students with black athletes on campus. He said he had a list of black students that have been contacted. Copies of that list were sent to Dean of Admissions James Farrar, Curtis Hubbard and Football Captain Tony Perry. McHenry said, "My disappointment is that we have not had enough interest from the black students that we have contacted. We have contacted 15 and thus far, only three have applied this year."