

## Voices entertain in Chapel

by Ned McDonnell

On Tuesday night, Voices Inc., the highly acclaimed Manhattan black theatre troupe staged a "Roots" type of play, "Journey Into Blackness." The piece, intended to increase Black Awareness among all Lexingtonians (with the white community in particular), failed to attain its desired effect in two areas.

First of all, the first half of the production, from Africa to the Civil War, scanned the historical period too briefly, (e.g. Harriet Tubman, antebellum black underground leader for freedom, was mentioned at glance one time throughout the play). In addition, certain historical errors were also present. For one, the black consciousness musical strongly implied that Europeans captured the slaves. The truth was that slavery was introduced to the Western World through the systems of slavery present in Africa where the kings of certain tribes had subjugated the blacks of other tribes to involuntary servitude.



*Pictured above are the members of VOICES, the SABU-sponsored group which performed last Tuesday in Lee Chapel. For details, see story this page...*

Through the combination of the desire of the African slaveholders to trade off residual slaves and the need of the whites for cheap labor as agricultural resources, the institution of slavery germinated and later thrived in Western Society. Later in the first half, the drama implied that plantation owners were insensitive to the needs of their slaves thus minimizing the benevolent paternalism which existed on many plantations. Such factual distortions served only to increase the relative culpability of the white man in order to enhance the sympathy of the audience for the lot of the black man.

The second half, however, saw a vast improvement in its excellence of portraying the black up until 1950 and how blacks coped with the hell of the unfair work-week, their blues, with wine, women, and jazz on Saturday nights and gospel singing on Sunday morning. Indeed the weekend became the black man's recreational and tension releasing institution. But the play faltered on the last scene about the protests, wrenching freedoms for blacks from the whites. Again the cast overlooked an important

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Larry Crocker announced in regards to the Black Ball and W&L whites , "We print up little pamphlets that say when the Ball is" and that "you can pick the tickets up in my office or in Carole's office in the University Center." Secretary Ardith Collins felt coordinated progressive admissions with area girls' schools would prove ineffective. President Crocker also pointed out that, according to the SABU Constitution, no white is automatically turned away from membership to SABU but that, somewhat similar to a fraternity "Ball meeting", the white applicant would have to be approved by all SABUs and not belong to a frat.