

Lexington leaders, SABU form group

By PAUL FOUTCH
News Editor

A group of black community leaders met this month with members of Washington and Lee's Student Association for Black Unity in an attempt to improve the relationship between the two groups.

Dr. A.W. Pleasants Jr, a Lexington physician, organized the meeting after reading a newspaper article about blacks at W&L that said black students feel isolated from the rest of the school and from the community.

"I felt maybe the community probably had some responsibility to those fellows," Pleasants said.

The meeting was held March 4 at Pleasants' house.

City Council member A.C. Jordan, Lexington School Board Chairman Hughey Johnson and the assistant principal of Lexington High School George Warren, were among the community representatives.

"The purpose of the organization is to bring together W&L's community with the community at large, espec-

ially the black community," said William Rhinehart, secretary of SABU and one of the five W&L students at the meeting.

"I saw Dr. Pleasants on the street one day, and we decided to call a meeting," he added.

The problem of isolation was addressed at the meeting, Pleasants said, but no decision was made on what action to take.

"We may have another meeting with them, or we may have some type of social gathering," he added. "It may include the black cadets" at Virginia Military Institute.

What "disturbed" him about the newspaper article, he said, was that students said they had no contact with black leaders in Lexington. That could lead to their not having enough role models, he said.

He said the organization would do "whatever those fellows think the black community could do to make them feel better about this town."

Rhinehart said the students might work with the Big Brothers program in town. Another meeting might be held this week, he said.



By W. Patrick Hinely/W&L

Count that one down

A couple enjoys the music of Thad Jones (standing) and the Count Basie Orchestra at Friday Night's Fancy

Dress Ball. Nearly 4,000 people attended the ball, and few problems were reported.