

Low Ball turnout leads to SABU loss

By JOHN WINTERS
Special to the Phi

After planning for a crowd of over 1,100 and spending more than \$10,000 preparing for the 13th Annual SABU Ball, the W&L Student Association for Black Unity was stung financially Saturday night when only about 300 people attended.

SABU officials are blaming the timing of the ball for the poor attendance. The loss has been estimated to be between \$5,000 and \$8,000.

Ron Magee, past president of SABU, felt the main problem was student apathy, especially in regard to the conflict with the Spring Weekend. "I got a few remarks that because of the conflict with Spring Weekend, people were upset and not coming," he remarked.

Magee stated that SABU had "made an honest attempt to provide a good time for the W&L community and to make it more accessible to everyone." Yet it turns out that by trying to give everyone a chance to participate, SABU was financially hurt. One of the main reasons for moving the ball to the spring term was so that students would not have to shell out more money so soon after Fancy Dress, Magee said. The usual date for the ball is in late March.

Attendance for the ball was approximately 200 fewer than usual, according to Magee. The reason for this was in the late date, he said. Many people from surrounding schools in Roanoke, Lynchburg and the area women's colleges attend. Yet due to the late date, Magee said many of the schools were either in exams or, as in the case of James Madison University, out of school.

The lower attendance had a profound effect upon the financial status of SABU. D Train alone cost \$7,000 while Lite Year added another \$700, according to Dean of Minority affairs John L. White. Added to this were the costs for food, security, and rental tables. Cleanup and the setting up and break down of the band's equipment were all done by the students themselves, White said.

SABU was allotted \$1,500 by the EC in September, and Magee said that the EC refused in April to grant SABU additional funds. White said, "We didn't lose any

money, but we didn't have enough to give a substantial gift to the Poindexter Fund." This fund is in memory of Marjorie Poindexter, a secretary for over 15 years here who recently died while at work. She handled the affairs for the minority students before a dean was selected to handle it. The fund is an emergency loan for students with urgent need.

When questioned further about where the additional funds to pay for all the expenses came from, Dean White responded, "let's just say that all the bills were paid," he said. Magee was more open and admitted that they had to use funds from the SABU budget. He added that, "I do not believe that we are in the black, we took a beating and it will have repercussions on our future activities."

Overall both men felt that despite the poor turnout, everyone there had an excellent time. Magee felt that "on May 5, SABU put on the best show found anywhere in the area." White furthered that line by stating: "The bottom line is that it was an outstanding show and I wish more people could have seen it, but it didn't slow down D Train or the people there."

Contact b Speaker committee

By ANDY HOPPE
Staff Reporter

Three thousand dollars will be deducted from Contact's budget in both 1984-85 and 1985-86 to help eliminate a deficit of \$6,000 that had built up over a period of several years.

The deficit cutting measure was approved 9-1 by the Executive Committee last week.

Contact, an organization designed to bring speakers to campus, is funded by student taxes, individual contributions and a contribution from the Interfraternity Council.

The deficit was not discovered until March, when Contact co-chairmen Marty Harmon and Gov Slahor found out that the organization has a deficit of \$15,000 accumulated in previous years. The deficit went unnotic-