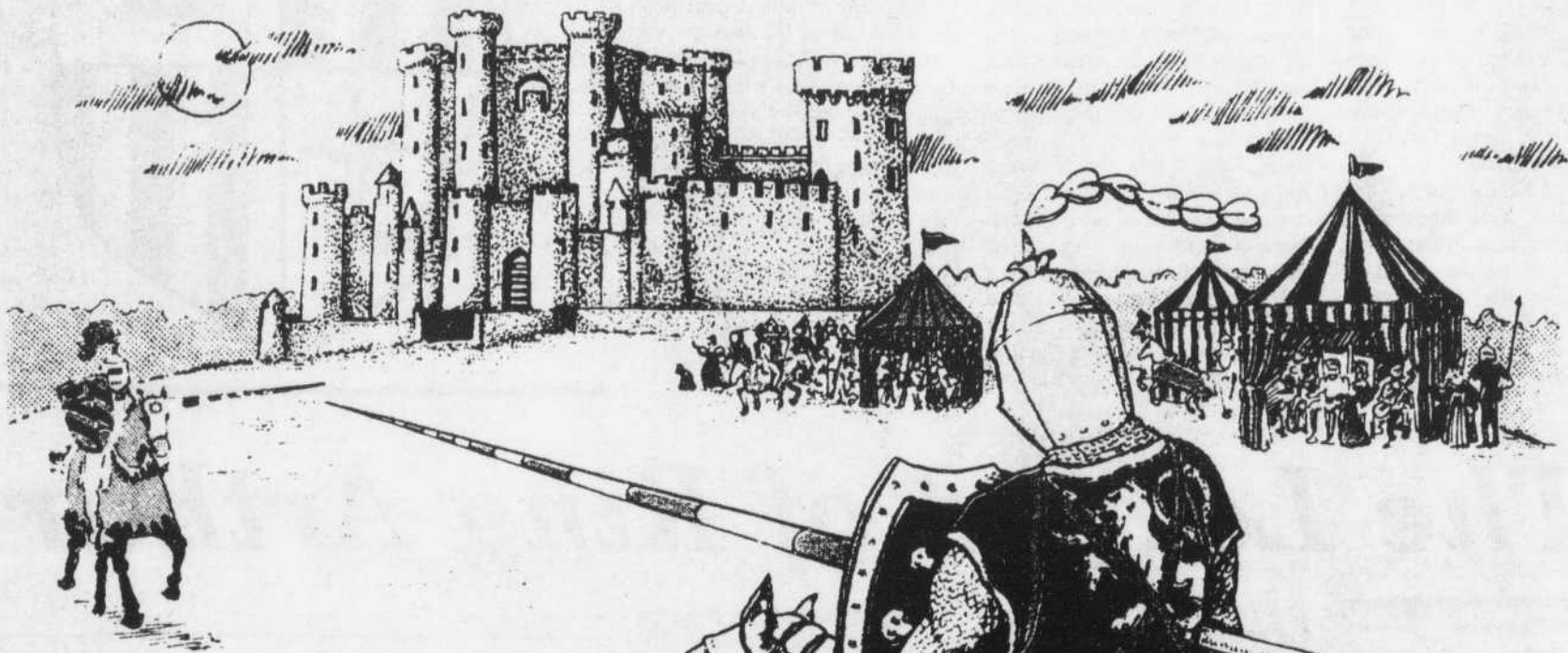
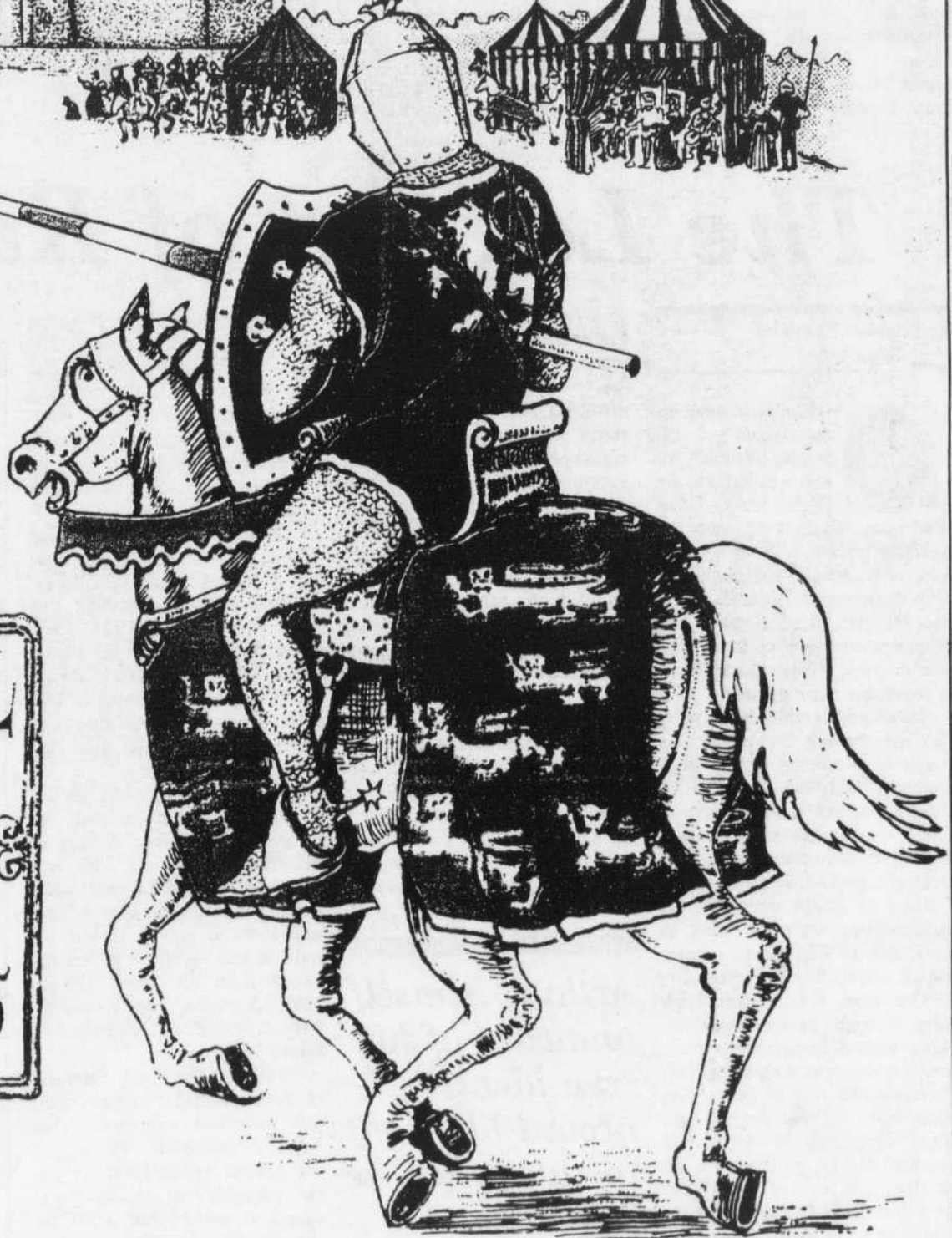


THE RING-TUM PT *Fancy Dress Supplement*



A
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AT
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ARTHUR'S
COURT



84TH ANNUAL FANCY DRESS BALL
WASHINGTON & LEE UNIVERSITY

Welcome all to Arthur's Camelot

By Pamela Kelley
Supplement Editor

Finally the long-awaited announcement of this year's Fancy Dress theme: "A Royal Festival at King Arthur's Court."

By the time the expected 2500 guests enter the transformed Warner Center next Friday night, more than 200 people will have contributed to its organization. Close to 3000 man-hours and approximately \$74,000 will have been expended to recreate the

splendor and fabled aura of King Arthur's Camelot.

At the Ball you may wander into an Enchanted Forest, encounter a fiery dragon, or catch a glimpse of Merlin the sorcerer in his magic room and maybe even see Arthur himself at his castle.

Following in the footsteps of last year's theme, "Gatsby's Great Gala," this year's theme combines Washington and Lee's largest gala event of the year with those of another time period. As well, the Ball could exemplify a joining of the noble ideals shared by W&L, as exemplified in our Honor Code, and the gallant attitude and chivalric code ob-

served by the inhabitants of Camelot and the members of The Round Table.

Included in this supplement are explanations of various aspects of the Arthurian legend and medieval life. Take some time in reading its contents. Perhaps you will glean from these articles a greater appreciation for our honored event, which has been called "the South's outstanding collegiate social event," and the spirit in which it is being celebrated, and perhaps you may gain an understanding of a culture so far away, yet so similar in principles.



The Legend of King Arthur

By Jennifer Zambone
Staff Reporter

Once upon a time, on the Island of the Might which we know as Britain, the High King Uther Pendragon fell in love with the beautiful Igraine, wife of Gorlois, duke of Cornwall, and mother of three daughters: Morguase, Elaine and Morgan (At this time, the daughters are but children, but later they are pivotal so please try to remember their names).

Uther told Igraine of his love, and she, having the proper instincts of a woman of the time, promptly told her husband of Uther's desires. Her husband, acting as most husbands would if their wives were tractable enough, promptly packed Igraine off to Tintagel, a castle noted for its fortifications, while he went to the Castle of Terrabil to prepare for the inevitable confrontation.

One does not become High King through passive behavior. Uther wanted Igraine even more now that she was forbidden fruit. Therefore, he laid siege to Terrabil; but this was not enough. Uther, desperate to fulfill his physical desires, enlisted the aid of Merlin, a man of much wisdom. Merlin advised the King who then acted upon his advice.

Disguised as Gorlois, Uther safely entered Tintagel and had his pleasure with Igraine. Some say that Igraine was not deceived by appearances, and yet because of this the lady was eager. So the two sported, while Gorlois having been killed an hour prior to the liaison lay in a field outside of Terrabil.

When the period of mourning was over, Uther made Igraine his queen. Two of Igraine's daughters, were married off and the remaining one, Morgan, was put into a convent. The queen, however, had other concerns than her maturing children, for she was with child, a child conceived during the night at Tintagel.

On a stormy night in December, Igraine gave birth to a son who was promptly removed from the castle and given to a poor man who stood outside the gates in accordance with the instructions of the King. The poor man was Merlin. He took the child, who was to be christened Arthur, to a knight called Ector. Thus, it was that Arthur matured in Sir Ector's household along with Sir Ector's real son and Arthur's foster brother Kay (Some of you may be wondering about this strange arrangement.

Arthur, himself unaware of his true identity, proved his right to rule when he pulled the sword from the stone.

(Malory tells us that it comes about through a deal made between Uther and Merlin which basically said that if Merlin could get Uther into Tintagel, Uther

would give Merlin the offspring of that night of pleasure. The truth of the matter is probably the fact that Arthur is technically a bastard, and bastardy, while common, was still not a pleasant state of existence. A bastard had no rights to his father's wealth or property.

(Furthermore, the fact that Igraine and Uther had been fooling around the time of Gorlois' death would be something that Uther, for one, would have liked to keep under wraps. No matter how strong one is there is always the possibility that someone else is stronger and the first rule is to never let this person find the chink in one's armor.)

Uther, however, could not last forever, and when he died, he named his only son, Arthur, as his heir to the throne. This was not a popular decision even when Arthur, himself unaware of his true identity, proved it and his right to rule when he pulled the sword from the stone. (Please note this sword is not Excalibur, I repeat, not Excalibur. Excalibur comes later.)

Many of the kings, resentful of Arthur's claim, demonstrated that they had a problem with Arthur's succession by waging war against Arthur. (War, as you can probably tell by now was waged at the drop of a hat for any "valid reason.") Arthur, counseled by Merlin, enlisted the help of two brothers who had the reputation of remarkable prowess on the battlefield, King Ban of Benwick and King Bors of Gaul.

With the help of these two men, Arthur was able to defeat his enemies and to establish his

□ Please see Legend page 17



The search for the real Arthur

By Jennifer Zambone
Staff Reporter

Who was King Arthur really? No one knows for certain if King Arthur actually existed. Some say Arthur is merely a fictional character, while others claim Arthur is the human embodiment of a Celtic god. Most, however, believe that somewhere in the mists of time there was a figure which gave rise to the origin of the man we refer to as King Arthur. This belief is based, not on solid unshakable fact, but on circumstantial evidence and the conviction that a man who possesses such a detailed history and a world-wide reputation must have some factual origins.

One of the earliest allusions to the figure of Arthur is found in a series of poems wherein Arthur is mentioned as a man of great prowess. Later poems refer to Arthur as a great warrior and mention that he was accompanied by a band of warriors.

By the time the oral traditions of bardic lore such as the *Welsh Triads* and the *Mabinogion* were recorded, Arthur had become firmly established in British lore as a powerful warrior-prince with a mighty group of followers.

Although such documentation of Arthur's existence could be

dismissed as legend, it is harder to dismiss the two Welsh historians who mention Arthur in their separate accounts. In the *Historia Brittonum*, written by Nennius, Arthur is called "Dux Belorum," the leader of wars, and he is also listed as the victor in 12 major battles, including the battle of Mount Badon a struggle which provides a crucial link between recorded history and legend. For in Arthurian lore, Arthur decisively prevented further Saxon intrusion into Western Britain by crushing the Saxon armies at the battle of Mount Badon. The *Annales Cambriae* also refer to Badon and, as an added bonus mention Camlann, Arthur's last battle.



Spurred on by such references, several researchers have attempted to further corroborate them with physical evidence. Noted Arthurian scholar Leslie Alcock conducted an archaeological dig during the 1960s at Cadbury Hill, the legendary sight of Camelot. On the hill, Alcock found a fort which had been

heavily refortified in the fifth century. This observation led Alcock and his colleague Geoffrey Ashe to believe the fort must have been a camp for a major British military figure, for it was situated too far from the part of Britain occupied by Saxons at that time to be considered a place of refuge for oppressed Celts.

In the early 1970s, the use of Welsh literature as a basis for proving Arthur's existence was scathingly denounced by some theorists, and scholars were forced to find other sources to support their theories, and in the 1980s authors such as Nikolai Tolstoy in his book *The Quest for Merlin* and Geoffrey Ashe in his work *The Discovery of King Arthur*, utilized a "new" source upon which to base their explanations, Geoffrey of Monmouth's *The History of the Kings of Britain*.

Apparently Geoffrey was more accurate with his facts than for which he was originally given credit. By studying Geoffrey's work, Ashe has determined that the Arthur Geoffrey described was an actual figure known as Riothamus. Ashe claims Riothamus was really a title meaning "most kingly," and thus this man must have had another name besides his title. Why not Arthur?

Lending further support to this theory are Welsh family genealogies which indicate a sudden surge in the popularity of this name at the end of the sixth century. Such favor would suggest the name was held in great regard, perhaps because it was the name of a national hero. As well, the incidence recorded in which the historical figure of Riothamus is featured correspond with events given by Geoffrey that occur in the life of Arthur.

Riothamus is the only British king ever mentioned who led a group of British warriors into Gaul, as Arthur did. Riothamus was reportedly betrayed by a deputy ruler who entered into a pact with the barbarians. Arthur was betrayed by his son Mordred in a similar manner. Ashe asserts that the time frames in which Arthur and Riothamus existed coincide, but this idea may have been disregarded because of a 28-year time-error margin created by varying beliefs concerning the beginning of the anno Domini period.

Thus the true existence of King Arthur may or may not have historical backing. No one as yet has satisfactorily answered that question. Some theorists have even questioned if the physical reality of a King Arthur figure is necessary to the potency of the Arthurian legends.

Arthurian novelist T.H. White said searching for the historical

beauty found in the legends. Yet the more acquainted one becomes with Arthurian legend, the more one believes in Arthur as a realistic figure, not because the legends

are as tangible proof of his existence, but because, like Arthur and Riothamus, there is no reason why truth and legend should not be one in the same.



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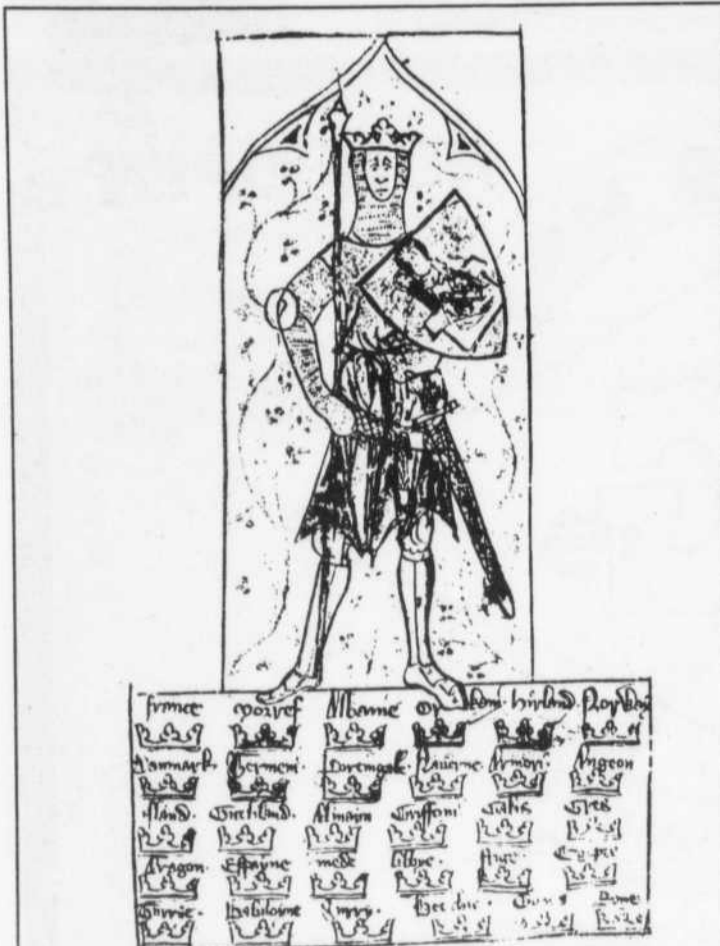
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A medieval depiction of King Arthur standing upon crowns representing the nations he is supposed to have conquered.

All the king's men...

By Jennifer Zambone
Staff Reporter

According to Malory, the Table Round was given to King Leodegrance of Camelot by Uther Pendragon. Thus, one imagines that King Leodegrance found it particularly fitting to give the Round Table, as it is more commonly called, to Uther's son, the newly crowned King Arthur, as his daughter Guenevere's dowry.

Even though Uther may have started the Round Table, it was Arthur who made the Round Table as we conceive it to be. Arthur's formula for the Round Table was simple: take the best one hundred and fifty knights in the kingdom and have them swear allegiance to one, a process which theoretically gives one total control over their actions. Next, instill in them ideas of moral rectitude, then turn them loose.

In theory, these knights should ride about the countryside practicing what they have learned concerning what is meet and proper to do. Thus one has, in one fell swoop, both established a sort of police force to preserve order in the kingdom and managed to prevent the 150 best fighters in the kingdom from running amuck in peacetime.

Surprisingly, Arthur's concept of the Table Round was a stunning success, if only for a while. It became known far and wide as the most noble, honorable and best fighting force around. It

was quite simply the organization to join and knights came from far and wide to do precisely that.

The institution of the Round Table brought these men together. The knights, however, did not become mere carbon copies of each other, but rather maintained their own distinct personalities which in of themselves helped to increase the illustrious reputation of the Table Round even more.

Three knights who through individual prowess and a joint effort greatly contributed to the formidable reputation of the Round Table in a spiritual rather than a secular manner were called the Grail knights.

One of the Grail knights was Launcelot's first cousin, King Bors of Gaul's son, Sir Bors de Ganis. Sir Bors is an interesting character. His only sinful transgression was to have sex once with the daughter of King Brandegoris. He is also a plain spoken man and is the only knight in the entire Le Morte d'Arthur who tells off Guenevere. In fact, he does it more than once.

It would appear that these virtues, as well as his astounding humility, allow him to be one of the three knights who achieve the Holy Grail. For Bors, it is not an easy task. Constantly facing variously disguised trials, Bors manages to get through each one either by obstinate perseverance of will or thought or by dumb luck.

Out of the three Grail knights, Sir Bors is the easiest with whom one can identify. He is the flawed Grail knight who pos-

sesses a faith based in thought.

If Sir Bors has a thought based faith, Sir Percival de Gales is a man who holds a simple, innocent, child-like faith, and it is through this type of faith that he achieves the Grail.

The son of King Pellinor and the brother of Sir Lamorak, Percival never doubts that things will turn out for the best. He does not know that everything will be hunky dory. He just believes that that is the way things will be and when the going gets rough all one has to his pray and the world will be put aright. He is the most endearing of the Grail knights.

The least endearing and the one with whom one tends to identify the least is the pure knight, Sir Galahad. It is his very purity which alienates him from the mainstream of humanity. Sir Galahad possess an unshakable, spiritual faith. While Percival only believes that things will turn out for the best, Galahad knows that they will.

The bastard son of the great du Lac, he rides serenely confident through life untouched by doubt, fear or ignorance and therefore untouched by the human state of being. He lacks compassion for his fellow humans because he can not understand their foibles. The sole reason for his existence is the achievement of the Grail, and when he achieves it, he dies. There is nothing else to hold him on earth.

While the Grail knights contributed to the reputation of the Round Table by stressing a spiri-

tual theme, other knights were bolstering the secular prestige of Camelot.

The best known of these figures is undoubtedly Sir Launcelot du Lac. The son of King Ban of Benwick, King Arthur's ally at the Battle of Bedegraine, Launcelot leaves home at a tender age to fulfill the prophecy made by Merlin that he will be "the man of most worship of the age."

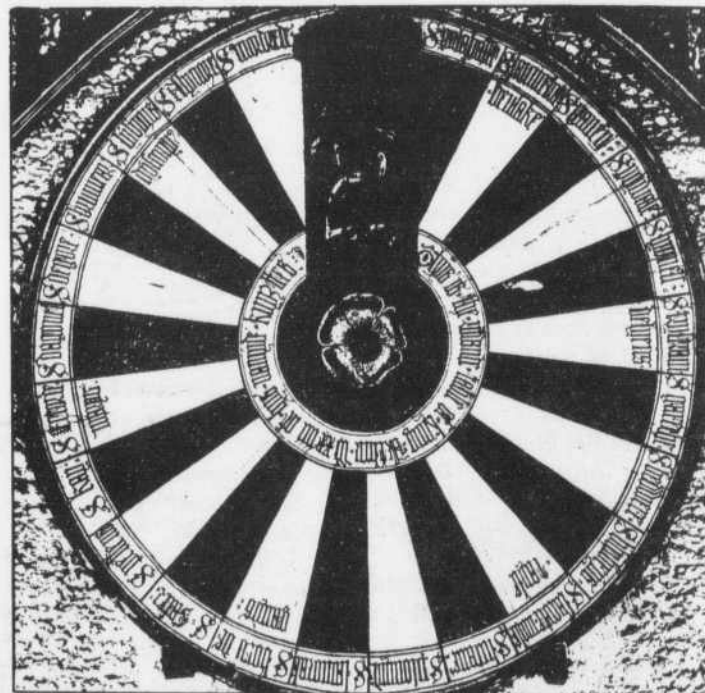
For Launcelot, Camelot is just the place to achieve this status and achieve it he does. In time, because of his extraordinary prowess, his unflinching chivalry, and the respect allotted to him by his peers, Launcelot does indeed become the most valiant knight, and King Arthur's best friend as

well.

Launcelot, however, is not without flaws. In the process of achieving his status, he falls in love with Queen Guenevere and she with him. This illicit love is the major contributing factor to the downfall of the Round Table as well as the reason why Launcelot can not achieve the one quest he truly wants, the Holy Grail.

If Launcelot is the preux chevalier of Camelot, the figure that opposes him is Sir Mordred. From the second of conception, Mordred has strikes against him. It is bad enough that he is a bastard, but the bastard of an incestuous relationship between

□Please see Knights page 19



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More than 20 questions for the FD Chairman



F.D. Chairman John Flippen

Q: Why do you think this year's theme translates well for Fancy Dress?

A: The theme of the Arthurian Legends fits W&L's Fancy Dress especially well because of the formal, honorable and majestic images that come to mind when most students think of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. The idea of a "festival" at his court was added because the big galas in medieval times were called just that. Together, the elements of both create a perfect image of what Fancy Dress is all about.

Q: What's your favorite part of this year's ball?

A: My favorite part of this year's ball will be all the "extras" we have planned, such as the champion breed horses that will be at the entrance (if it doesn't rain), poised as if their knightly masters have gone inside the court, and the harpist from the Roanoke Symphony who will be playing in the hallway entrance of the Warner Center, there will also be a juggler who'll be performing in the balcony.

Q: How much money is being spent? Explain the budget, where does it come from?

A: We plan to spend about \$74,000 on this year's ball, however Fancy Dress is a self-

supporting event. I don't think most students realize their activity fees don't pay for F.D., but instead FD pays for itself with proceeds from ticket and memorabilia sales.

Q: Is there anything different or remarkable about this year's Fancy Dress?

A: One of the biggest differences in this year's ball will be the magnitude of the decorations. We have put scenes in all corners of the big gym on 2 and 3 foot platforms, thus raising them up so that they may be seen even when the room is full of people. Moreover, the decorations will be larger than life, for example, the castle in the gym is 17 feet tall.

Other themes considered included the circus, Mardi Gras... Monopoly, and Czarist Russia."

Q: How many people do you expect to attend the ball this year?

A: We expect about 2300 people to attend this year's ball.

Q: What about the controversy created because the Fancy Dress

date coincides with the Law School's Spring Break?

A: I think that it is unfortunate that moving the ball was an unfeasible alternative for the Student Activities Board, but I feel that better relations and communications were established between the SAB and the Student Bar Association as a result of the ordeal. I am certain the mistake will not be repeated, as we have already planned next year's date in conjunction with the SBA and the 1992 Mock Convention.

Q: Why is the theme kept secret?

A: The theme is kept secret because it adds to the excitement around Fancy Dress. I think if it were released as soon as it was decided upon, people would grow weary of hearing about it, and the ball would lose some of its allure.

Q: Do you think Fancy Dress should be a costume ball?

A: I think the return to a costume ball would be a great idea for FD. It used to be that the students were measured for their costumes, and when they went to pick them up, they discovered the theme. That would be terrific, but it is extremely difficult to find a costume rental place to do that now. Pushing FD as a costume ball, though, ought to be something considered for the .85th ball.

Q: How was this year's theme selected?

A: The theme was selected from a list of over 20 themes suggested by SAB members at large. After it was narrowed down by the SAB (some were not really feasible), the members at large and the FD Steering Committee voted again, yielding the top three choices. Immediately before Thanksgiving break, the top three possibilities were voted on, and King Arthur got the most votes. The exact wording of the theme was decided on over Christmas when I did a lot of research into medieval celebrations.

Q: What other themes were considered?

A: Other themes considered included The Circus, Mardi Gras in Mobile, Alabama, the Pirates of the Caribbean, Monopoly, Czarist

Russia. SAB Vice-Chairman Will Jones' person favorite was Elvis at Graceland. Oddly enough, that idea only got one vote.

Q: How are the decorations selected and organized?

A: The decorations were chosen after Thanksgiving when the FD Steering Committee and its sub-chairmen sat down and brainstormed on what they related to King Arthur. The creation of the sections to be decorated in the Warner Center were refined with the help of Gary Humiston, a director of the new theatre, who has been a consultant for this FD. Susie Wootton and I organized the purchase of all the supplies for the decorations.

□ Please see Questions page 16

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The tradition of courtly love

By Albert Zambone
Special Contributor

Romantic love is an idea, and an industry, which is a product of the Middle Ages. The idea of marrying someone whom you liked was rare in the Classical world. Marriage was primarily a matter of family politics.

No one really knows for certain from whence the ideology of love originated, though many scholars theorize that courtly love began in Islamic Spain.

From thence, the courtly love tradition spread northward through Catalonia to Provence in southern France. There Provençal troubadours, following the form of the Islamic love song, wrote their own songs of romance. Although the origin of courtly love remains a matter under debate, the fact is that courtly love really got off the ground as an ideology in late 12th century France, in the "courts of love" of noblewomen such as Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine; Marie, Countess of Champagne; Isabel, Countess of Flandes; and Ermengarde, Viscountess of Narbonne. Of these, the most influential court of love was that of Marie of Champagne.

There are a number of sources which give us a new view into Marie's court, all of which alone are classic works of the Middle Ages, and taken together are an amazingly creative body of work. One of the most fundamental of these is *The Art of Courtly Love* by Andreas Capellanus, literally, Andrew the Chaplain. It is a

treatise written in scholarly Latin with a heavy pedantic touch. If you were to look it up on the shelf, it would be near the volume of laws of Phillip Augustus, the great French king of the late 12th century. In a sense, that is highly indicative, for although the content of the two works is very different, the purpose is the same.

What Andreas attempts to do is establish all sorts of laws regarding the art and practice of courtly love. For example, observing that blind men cannot fall in love since they are immune to the physical attractions of the opposite sex, he might formulate maxims such as "love goes through the eyes." He also includes a number of "case studies," imaginary situations in which members of different social classes conduct flirtations accord-

Arthur was probably a clean-shaven, black-haired, hard-bitten Roman calvary officer.

ing to the precepts of courtly love, mentioning previous precedents in the art of love established by courts of love like Eleanor of Aquitaine's or Marie of Champagne's.

It doesn't take much wit to see that what Andreas is doing to a large extent is parodying the legal system of the day. Not parodying it in the sense of mocking it, but copying the ponderous formalities of Norman law (by which we are plagued even today, another example of a lasting ideology of the Middle Ages) and applying them to love. The Countess Marie and her noble counterparts did with the actual machinery of Medieval French justice, translating it from decisions on property disputes to romantic disputes.

The process of these courts of love is captured in another great work which sprang from Marie's and other courts, the works of the troubadours. Many of their songs contain stories of lovers' quarrels which are eventually resolved before a court of love.

All very interesting, you say, but what has this got to do with King Arthur's court? Well, in a way, everything and nothing. You see, the historical Arthur was probably a clean-shaven, black-haired, hard-bitten Roman cavalry officer and count who lived sometime in the sixth century; nothing really like that luxuriantly bearded and bejeweled fellow who stares at you from the FD posters. However that fellow on the posters is very much how the French nobles of the 12th century thought Arthur was like. He was their ideal king. Remember that Arthur lived *six hundred years* before the 12th century, as remote from them as they are from us, give or take a hundred years.

So put yourself in the position of a 12th-century adherent to the



ideal of courtly love. You look around and see that not many people are following the laws of courtly love. What is needed, you think, is a model for the courts of the 12th century to follow, a model from the days when knights were brave, ladies were beautiful, and monsters particularly ugly. As it happened, there was a model at hand, available in the so-called Matter of Britain which had filtered across the

English Channel. Chretien de Troyes used this material in the Arthurian romances which he wrote for his patron, Marie of Champagne. It was through his stories, designed to show the courtiers of the day the ways of courtly love, that the legend of Arthur the King took written form. Through him, courtly love and King Arthur's court are intimately and permanently connected.

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The lineage of a king

By Jennifer Zambone
Staff Reporter

One of the most difficult things in Arthurian literature is endeavoring to keep the characters straight and trying to determine who is related to whom. For example, of the approximately 150 knights of the Round Table, many are inter-related, and may also share the same name. Many Arthurian writers, recognizing that the genealogies are bewilderingly complex, have decided to stick only to the basics.

Thus, depending upon what one reads, Mordred, for example, was born to either one of King Arthur's half-sisters, Morguase or Morgan le Fay, or a certain Anna, who is best identified as a kinder, gentler version of Morguase. The only two set rules are that Arthur is the son of Igraine and Uther, and that Launcelot du Lac is the offspring of King Ban of Benwick. Everything else is subject to change.

Despite the problems, one should have at least some idea of the genealogy involved. Thus, a handy dandy chart and a verbal explanation have been provided. The chart and the explanation are based primarily upon Malory. The only deviations from Malory are in the cases of Gawain, Mordred, and Uther's brothers, and these deviations are based on popular legend.

The genealogy tends to be so complicated for two reasons. One, many people have the same name. Two, the amount of bed-hopping that occurs is incredible; bastards are extremely common and it is hard to keep track of whom shackled up with whom.

Uther traces his line and succession back to Magnus Maximus, a Roman emperor who married the heiress to Britain. Uther has two brothers Constantine and Aurelius Ambrosius. Constantine pops out of the scene early when he is murdered by a cousin, Vortigern, in a power struggle.

Aurelius and Uther escape to Brittany and come back later to kill Vortigern, but that is another story. Suffice it to say that Aurelius Ambrosius ascends to the throne. Eventually he dies and Uther becomes King.

Enter Gorlois and his lovely wife Igraine. Uther falls for her, starts a war with her husband, and conceives Arthur upon her. Gorlois meanwhile has kicked the bucket, and Uther then marries Igraine.

The years pass, Arthur ap-

pears on the scene to succeed the dying Uther. He promptly falls for a girl named Lionars, has sex with her, and she bears him a son Borre, who is not given much shift in Malory. Next, Morguase, the stunning wife of King Lot of Orkney, appears on the scene, her fours sons in two, to spy on Arthur. Arthur, finding her ravishingly attractive, desires to sleep with her. The lady is willing, and Mordred is the product of this union.

Mark the sequel, however; it

turns out that Morguase is the daughter of Igraine and Gorlois, and thus Arthur's half-sister, Voila, incest! Thus, Mordred is both nephew and son to King Arthur as well as the half-brother of Gawain, Gaheris, Agravaine, and Gareth. From then on, Arthur apparently abstains from the physical pleasures, until he weds Guenevere, who turns out to be barren. No record of any offspring of Mordred's are given in Malory, although other sources do say that he had two sons who were promptly executed after his own demise.

Gawain, on the other hand, definitely had offspring, but mentioning them would be far too confusing. After all, when one is married three times, one is bound to have quite a few progeny somewhere. Gaheris and Gareth marry sisters, Lynet and Lyonesse respectively. Brother Agravaine kicks in by marrying a cousin of the sisters, Laurel.

Back to the previous generation, Morgain le Fay marries Urines of North Wales. It is not what one would term a happy union, but it does produce a son, Uwain, who is nephew to Arthur and first cousin to the Orkney clan of Gawain, Gaheris, Agravaine, Gareth and Mordred. There are the particulars of the British Houses.

Across the channel, the brother King Ban of Benwick and King Bors of Gaul keep their end up as far as populating the earth is concerned. Ban is wed to Elaine and the little bundles of joy produced by this blissful union are Launcelot du Lac and Ector

de Maris, who is not to be confused with Sir Ector, King Arthur's foster father. Furthermore, the Elaines one meets down the road are not to be confused with a) Launcelot's mother (whatever his passions, he did not have an Oepidal complex); b) each other.

The first Elaine is the daughter of King Pelles of the Wastelands. She seduces Launcelot by pretending to be Guenevere. He falls for it. Galahad is born to Elaine nine months later. The second Elaine is the "lily maid of Astolat." Launcelot does not have sex with her, and she dies of unrequited love. On the other side of the Ban-Bors duo, Bor and his lady wife have two sons who are mentioned, Lionel and Bors. Malory mentions no sons of Lionel. Bors, however, has an affair with the daughter of the King of Brandegoris, and they have a son Helin le Blank.

All of this may seem very unnecessary to modern eyes. After all, who really cares? This genealogy, however, is crucial to the story of Arthur. One must be aware of how strong familial ties are. The relations of the Orkney clan, nearly always side with the Orkney clan even in mock battle, the one exception being Gareth who favors the Ban family. All the relatives of Benwick and Gaul fight on the side of Launcelot & Co., and in the end, this family loyalty will outweigh their allegiance to King Arthur and that for which he stands. The fellowship is broken.



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Bo Diddley

From News Releases

Called "The Originator," Bo Diddley is one of the pioneers of rock and roll. His unique style was a major influence for many musicians and performers throughout the late 50s, 60s, 70s, and straight through the 80s to the 90s.

As a small boy, Elias Bates McDaniel's family lived in Chicago. While in grammar school, he got the nickname "Bo Diddley," which he began using as an amateur boxer. At the age of ten, he got a guitar as a Christmas present and began playing it daily. He was influenced to play guitar by John Lee Hooker when he heard the song "Boogie Children."

In 1951, Bo started playing at the 708 Club in Chicago. In 1955, he auditioned for Phil and Leonard Chess of Chess Records with a song he wrote called "Un-



cle John." The brothers liked what they heard so they signed Bo to an exclusive contract and decided to record the song. They felt the title of the song should be changed, so Bo named it after himself, "Bo Diddley." Bo used maracas in the song to emphasize the beat and sound that he was trying to create. It took thirty-five takes in the recording studio, but they finally had the sound and song they wanted. It became his

biggest hit in 1955, and established his guitar sound.

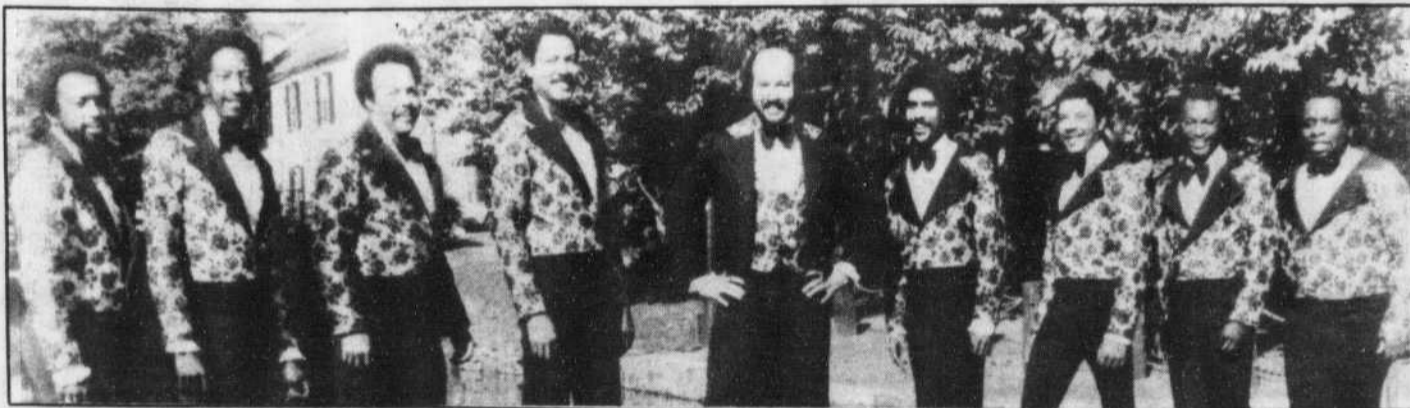
The past ten years have been Bo's most demanding years for performing live, television, and radio appearances and touring. This unique talent has been performing five to seven days a week all over the world within the last year, showing an increase in his popularity with young people. Bo knows music!

Megaphonics



Megaphonics is a classic rock band based in Charlotte, North Carolina. The four-member group came together in the mid-80's and began playing for college crowds in the North Carolinas, Virginia and Georgia with the sounds of Bob Segar, James Brown, The Doors and more. Catch the Megaphonics in Washington and Lee's General Headquarters Wednesday, March 6, at 8:00 p.m.

Jimmy Bishop



Jimmy Bishop and the Turning Point is an eight-member band based in Stafford, Virginia. They grouped in the 1970's and have been wowing crowds ever since with the golden sounds of Motown and Beach music, as well as today's favorite hits. Catch them at Washington and Lee's Student Activities Pavillion when they open for Bo Diddley, Thursday March 7 at 8:00 P.M.

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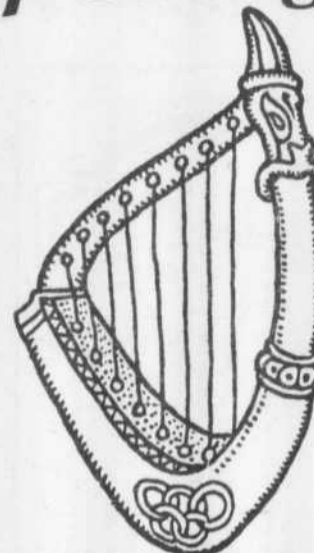
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Kings of Swing

From News Releases

The big band Kings of Swing has been playing the sounds of the forties through the ninties for almost a decade and still hooks people of all ages. This band's exciting sound is being heard on the campuses of major colleges and universities, receptions and before the elite audiences at major social and special events. Glide along with the Kings of Swing Friday night at the Fancy Dress Ball in the Warner Center.



Buckwheat Zydeco

From News Releases

No matter if the crowd is young or old, black or white, zydeco music gets people on their feet.

Taken from the French Creole word "haricot," loosely pronounced "air-eeco," meaning "snap bean," the music pops: zydeco is foot-stomping dance music sung in English and Creole French. The traditional songs are accompanied by accordion and frottoir (rubboard) and grew out of the backwaters of southern Louisiana.

Zydeco was made popular by the undisputed King of Zydeco, accordionist Clifton Chenier, who sported a crown of jewels and sang in French patois. His mark in musical history has been adopted and carried on in the work of 42-year-old Stanley "Buckwheat" Dural, known as Buckwheat Zydeco.



Growing up on the music of James Brown, Aretha Franklin, and Blood Sweat and Tears, Dural also heard accordion music day in and day out; his father was an amateur zydeco player.

Much inspired by Chenier, he moved on to start his own zydeco band. But Dural's music takes a slightly different turn.

"I play music for a different

generation, bringing together the younger generation with the older generation. Now you, Mom and Dad, can go to hear Buckwheat Zydeco and all have fun at the same time," he exclaims.

Buckwheat Zydeco will perform in Doremus Gymnasium next Friday night at the Fancy Dress Ball.



C.J. Chenier

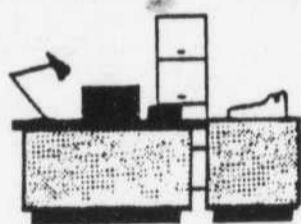
From News Releases

Sort of zydeco's answer to Ziggy Marley or Branford Marsalis, C.J. Chenier picked up the mantle of the zydeco heritage from his father, the late and legendary Clifton Chenier, and today continues to bring zydeco to a whole new audience.

His father, heralded by most as the "King Of Zydeco," was one of the pioneers of the music in its early days, and in later years served as its prime ambassador to the world; meanwhile, young C.J. was growing up in his father's shadow, learning the music from the inside out.

The band will play in Doremus Gymnasium Friday night at W&L's Fancy Dress Ball.

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W&L's Fancy Dress Ball



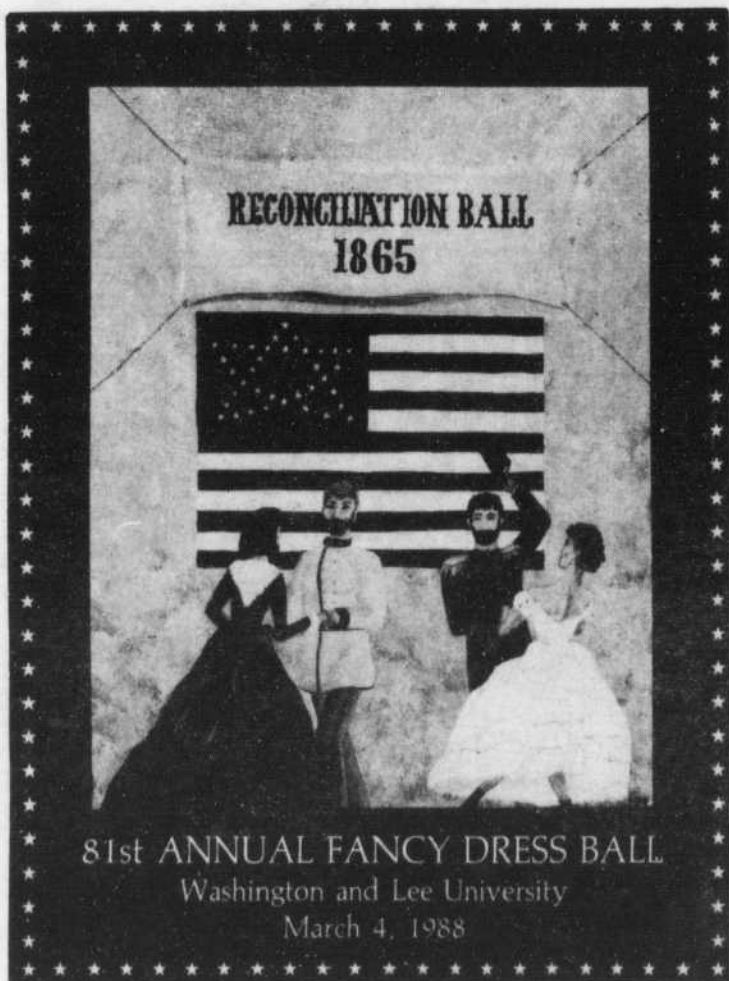
1976 - A Salute to Hollywood



Fancy Dress Ball
1950

Washington & Lee University

1950 - King Arthur's Court



1988 - Reconciliation Ball

In contrast to the thousands of dollars spent on Fancy Dress today, forty-two dollars left over from theatre production proceeds financed the first Washington and Lee Fancy Dress Ball, held February 22, 1907, in the old gymnasium. An orchestra knowing all the latest two-steps came over from VMI to furnish the syncopation.

Annie Jo Robertson White, the college librarian, had directed a student play in order to raise money for a campus organization. Before the event White pledged only a certain amount of money to the organization. Yet after the play she was faced with a dilemma: they had raised forty-four dollars above the original pledge. Miss White decided to use the extra money to put on a small dance for the students involved in the fundraiser. White sent out invitations to the Ball with the only stipulation that those attending had to pay approximately two dollars for their costumes. Those who could not afford costumes might work for them.

In the beginning the "Hill" was not as tolerant of Fancy Dress hangovers and shenanigans. Although the first Fancy Dress did last through the night, it was a Thursday night, and one *Ring-tum Phi* article noted that "the

University gave no holiday for such useless affairs as a Fancy Dress Ball. Students might dance all night at the biggest ball of the year with the understanding, however, that they return to class at 9 a.m. with lessons prepared."

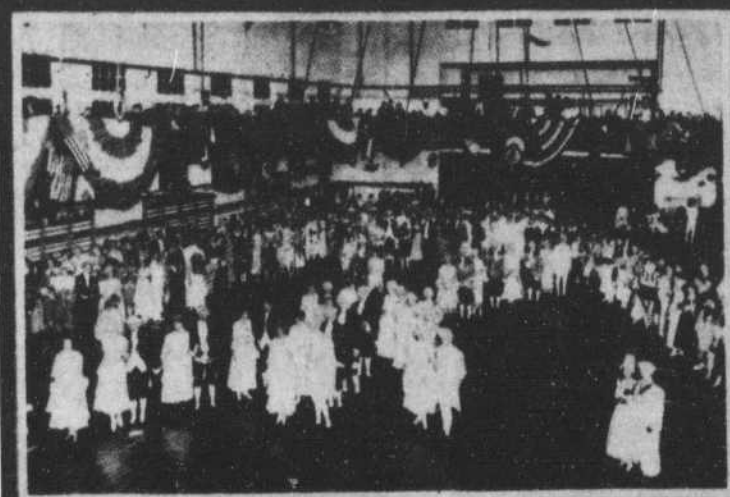
The first Fancy Dress Ball wasn't as elaborate as later balls which have featured camels, elephants, train cars, and spotlights. The forty-two dollars went for decorations, not a terribly small sum of money in those days, and refreshments were provided by Washington and Lee faculty wives. *The Ring-tum Phi* also noted the costume of choice for the Fancy Dress Ball of 1907:

"A favorite costume for that first Fancy Dress Ball was King Arthur's armor — the students coming to the dance clad in steel mail from their helmeted head to their steeled legs. But once was enough. It cramped their style."

Although the costumes may have cramped students' style the concept of a Bal Masque did not. In years to follow the Ball gained overwhelming approval on the W&L campus and became known for its extravagant themes and elaborate costumes and decorations.

The 1920s were considered one of the hey-days of the Fancy Dress Ball, with thousands of people in attendance. The Ball was given national coverage, national radio networks broadcasted the annual Balls, and newspapers from New York to Texarcana reported on it. The biggest jazz bands and orchestras of the day played at the Ball and hundreds of young women are said to have traveled from cities like Atlanta and Baltimore just to attend. By the year 1929 Fancy Dress had substantially grown in size. Whereas White had decorated and organized the entire event initially, its growth led to professional decorations, although the format remained unchanged.

"Decorations changed Doremus gymnasium into the palace of King Shahryar, ruler of ancient Persia. With an Oriental theme and classic background, the ball surpassed by far its famous predecessors in brilliance and novelty."



Washington and Lee students still had a penchant for assuming the garb of historical figures. Washington and Lee student T.G. Gibson transformed himself into King Shahryar, complete with a grand throne and a fawning court. Miss Sophia Dunlap was cast in the role of Sultana Sheherazade and "was brought before the ruler on a litter borne by four Nubain slaves." Dunlap, in the guise of Sheherazade, dazzled the King with her famous stories of Ali Baba and 'The Shipwreck of Sinbad' while a group of costumed dancers interpreted her stories.

Ironically one element stays constant down through the years: the controversy that perpetually swirls around those organizing and running the ball. In the January 17, 1936 edition of *The*

Ring-tum Phi, Glenn Shively, president of Fancy Dress Committee, responded angrily to an earlier student letter which bemoaned the rising prices of costumes. Shively wrote that two costumers offered to furnish Fancy Dress costumes for the price of \$2.40 per costume.

"The committee felt justified Munchkins, wicked witches, and kindly wizards. Fancy Dress chairmen assumed the roles of the Scarecrow, the Cowardly Lion, and the Tin Woodman. Revelers walked through the farmhouse of Dorothy, down the famous yellow brick road, and into the throneroom of the great and powerful Oz. Les Elgart and his orchestra provided the music for the occasion.

Fancy Dress has always been a reflection of the changing soci-



1956 - Wizard of Oz



1981 - On Broadway

is rich in its history



time football."

The March 10, 1971 edition of *The Ring-tum Phi* asked the question "Can Fancy Dress Return?" The question was thankfully "yes," but those canny students heading the Dance Board saw a new, improved Fancy Dress in the future: a ball that forsaked the combination of "imagination, innocence, and snobbishness" of the past events. Was this to be a "kinder, gentler" Fancy Dress?

"The cost is the inhibitive thing," said the Dance Board chairman. "I don't want to spend more than \$2,500 to \$3,000 on the thing."

He added that "my philosophy is to bring it [F.D.] back, but perhaps on a different format. I don't want...Glenn Miller. They won't attract enough people." Like the Kallabash Corporation would!

His solution: the 1972 Fancy Dress was a 1950s revival party with people paying \$5 to hear ShaNaNa. Miss White would have been horrified. No black tie? No dance band? No beautiful decorations in the gym?

But Fancy Dress would rise again. By the mid 1970s Fancy Dress had returned to its roots as the finest party in the South. Fancy Dress 1976 offered the theme "A Salute to Hollywood." In perhaps a slightly mocking tone, the *Phi* noted that the festival was kicked off Thursday night in the "simply yet elegantly decorated Zollman's Pavilion." There are many ways to describe Zollman's Pavilion, but quiet sophistication is categorically ruled out.

Unlike earlier years the main dance was held in Fairfax lounge, Evans Dining Hall, and the Cockpit. The entrance to Fairfax lounge bore a "flashing Hollywood-type theater marquee, open wide to admit the first lucky couple."

One student hoped that "all gentlemen attending will display the proper attire of black tie (tuxedo or dinner jacket, for the hopelessly naive), if not, the burly and altogether unpleasant doorman may be tempted to violence." Obviously some of the "Love-In" mentality still lurked around the edges of the campus.

Evans Dining Hall was filled with the sounds of the Fabulous Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, while Room 144 was decorated as an old theater and offered newsreels, cartoons, and "with luck, dim lights." Even the Executive Committee got into the act: "the fabled E.C. room, scene of many memorable scenes, will unstuff itself long enough to permit continuous showing of ...That's Entertainment."

World-renowned hypnotist Edwin L. Baron, director of the Hypnotist Institute of Chicago, was present to hypnotize voluntary subjects into "gobbling imaginary watermelon." Finally, to thoroughly test the mettle of Washington and Lee students, a grain party was sponsored by the Freshman class during Saturday afternoon. The party might have given birth to the headline that graced the 1976 Fancy Dress edition of *The Ring-tum Phi* - "Fancy Dress Weekend arrives; University braces for hangover." One might pen a more poetic headline, but none more realistic.

Last year's theme, "The Great Gatsby," remained faithful to the lavish decorations and beautiful music that would have made Miss White proud. This year will be no different. Enjoy the 84th annual Fancy Dress Ball.

Editors Note: this article was a partial reprint of one which was researched by Pamela Kelley and written by Todd Peppers last year.

ety around us. In the early years the emphasis was placed on historical characters and events. In the 1940s and 1950s the focus was on more "light-hearted themes" of the rich and famous. In 1969, indicating the turbulent events of the decade, Fancy Dress underwent one of its most dramatic changes.

The 1969 ball boasted "psychedelic music and a professional light show." Gone were the lavish balls and exotic themes; the Fancy Dress Committee offered the languid theme of "An Inauguration Ball." Why languid? Well the inauguration wasn't in honor of a former United States president, or a mythical Egyptian tyrant, but rather for new Washington and Lee President Robert Huntley.

The Saturday night concert

boasted a separate theme from the stogy Inauguration: "Love-In 69." Musical entertainment was provided by the Kallabash Corporation and Fever Tree. The *Phi* recommended that "conventional dress" be abandoned and "appropriate dress" should be substituted. Apparently the student body deemed it necessary to forsake their tuxedos for tie-dye.

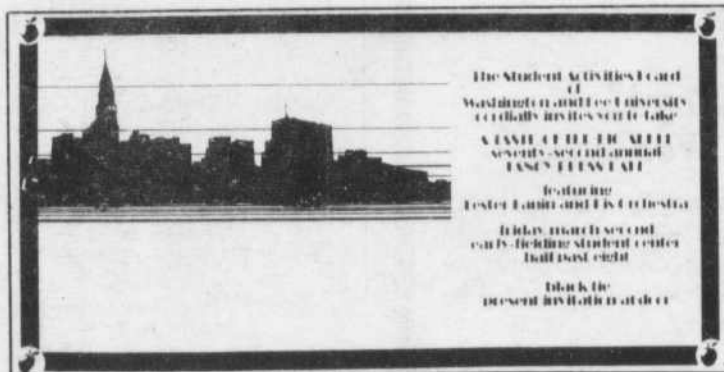
But the greatest blow came in 1971 when Fancy Dress ceased to exist at Washington and Lee. The chairman of the Dance Board informed the E.C. that there would not be a ball "because of a greatly reduced budget and past history of student disinterest." A heart-broken alumnus wrote that "for the old grad from General Lee's college it is the most shattering break with the past since the Generals dropped out of big



1968 - High Society



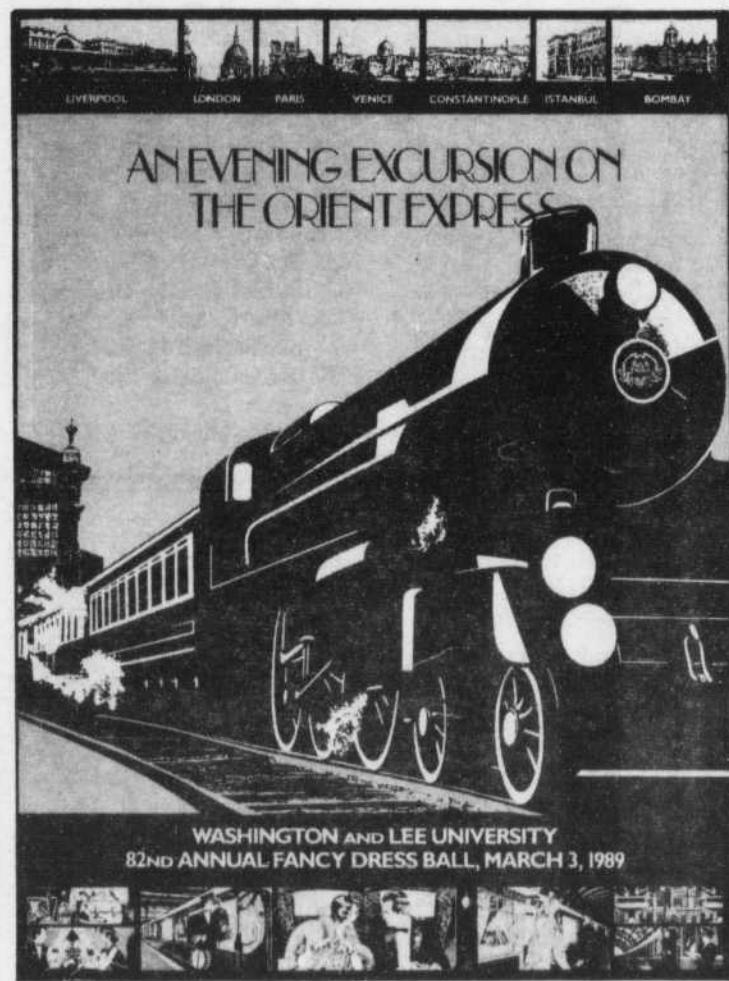
1936 - Queen Elizabeth and Earl of Essex



1979 - A Taste of the Big Apple



1982 - Diamond Jubilee



1989 - An Evening on the Orient Express

84 years of FD



Early FD

From 1907 to 1915, costumes were traditionally of the American colonial style.

- 1907 Bal Masque
- 1908 Fancy Dress
- 1909 Fancy Dress
- 1910 Bal Masque
Decorations featured college and fraternity pennants
- 1911 Bal Masque
Decorations featured hanging Japanese parasols
- 1912 Colonial America
- 1913 Bal Masque
- 1914 Bal Masque
Decorations featured world flags and Japanese parasols
- 1915 Colonial America
- 1916 Court of Louis XIV
- 1917 Bal Masque
- 1918 Europe and Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean
- 1919 A Midsummer Night's Dream
- 1920 Bookland
Ball was moved to April because of an influenza epidemic
- 1921 The Chinese Court of Chu Chin Chow
- 1922 The Scottish Highlands
- 1923 Le Bal des Operas
- 1924 My Lady of the Fan
- 1925 Romance of the Dance
- 1926 Bal Beaux Arts
- 1927 Carnival of Venice
- 1928 Bookland
- 1929 1001 Nights
- 1930 Spanish Fiesta
- 1931 Robin Hood
- 1932 Colonial Ball

- 1933 Ball of the Grandees
- 1934 Coronation of Emperor Alexander III
- 1935 Congress of Vienna
- 1936 Queen Elizabeth and Earl of Essex
- 1937 Italian Renaissance
- 1938 Charleston, S.C., on the Eve of Secession
- 1939 Knights of the Golden Horse Shoe
- 1940 Kentucky Derby
- 1941 King Rex and His Court at Mardi Gras
- 1942 A Night at the Monte Carlo Casino in 1861
- 1943 American Spirit
- 1944 Fancy Dress suspended due to World War II
- 1945 Suspended
- 1946 Suspended
- 1947 Carnival at Rio
- 1948 Hampton Court under Charles II
- 1949 George Washington's Birthday Ball in Philadelphia
- 1961 Shakespeare in the Court of King James I
- 1962 High Society
- 1963 American Civil War Centennial
- 1964 Mardi Gras
- 1965 Mississippi River Boat
- 1966 Derby Day Ball
- 1967 Opening Night
- 1968 High Society
- 1969 Inauguration Ball
From 1970 until 1973 there were only concerts
- 1970 The Allman Brothers
- 1971 No Fancy Dress
- 1972 Sha-Na-Na
- 1973 Billy Preston
- 1974 Mardi Gras
- 1975 In the Mood 1941
- 1976 Hooray for Hollywood!
- 1977 Passport to Paris
- 1978 Glories of Egypt
- 1979 A Taste of the Big Apple
- 1980 Monopoly: A Stroll Around the Board
- 1981 On Broadway
- 1982 A Diamond Jubilee (75th Anniversary)
- 1983 Waiting for Robert E. Lee, An Evening Along the Mississippi River
- 1984 Lost Cities of Gold
- 1985 The Mink Dynasty
- 1986 Carnival, A Night in Rio
- 1987 The Dark Continent
- 1988 Reconciliation Ball of 1865
- 1989 An Evening Excursion on the Orient Express
- 1990 Gatsby's Great Gala
- 1991 A Royal Festival at King Arthur's Court



**Fancy Dress Ball
1950**

- 1950 King Arthur's Court
- 1951 Carmen
- 1952 The Works of Shakespeare
- 1953 The Court of King Louis XVI
- 1954 King Rex and His Court at Mardi Gras
- 1955 An Odyssey Through Empires
- 1956 The Wizard of Oz
- 1957 Mozart's "Don Giovanni"
- 1958 Gilbert and Sullivan at Buckingham Palace
- 1959 Golden Jubilee (50th Anniversary)
- 1960 The Evolution of Man



1991

FD's founder



Annie Jo Robertson White, the founder of the Fancy Dress Ball. White, known as "Miss Annie," served as the school librarian for 27 years. She is revered for her initiation of a tradition of merrymaking, which first took the form of a Bal Masque. Below, White as she appeared at her last Fancy Dress in 1938.



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Fraternity Events

By Carli Flippen
Staff Reporter

Under what's going on at the fraternities and sororities for Fancy Dress weekend? Most fraternities have scheduled band parties for the Saturday night after the Ball, while sororities are planning events for the Thursday before Fancy Dress. Although most Fancy Dress parties will be closed to the general student body, here's what Greeks are up to:

Beta Theta Pi
Saturday afternoon: *Indecision* with Phi Delt
night: *Doug Clark and the Hot Nuts* at the Boiler Room

Chi Psi
Saturday afternoon: *Full Stop*
night: *Bud Greene*

Chi Omega
Thursday evening dinner for sisters and their dates

Delta Tau Delta
Saturday night: *The Press*

Kappa Alpha
Saturday afternoon: *The Convertibles*
night: *The Truly Dangerous Swamp Band*

Kappa Alpha Theta
Thursday night: Dinner for sisters and their dates at Il Palazzo

Kappa Kappa Gamma
Thursday afternoon function for sisters and their dates at the Alumni House

Kappa Sigma
Friday afternoon: *Wildgrass*
Saturday afternoon: *Down Boy Down*
night: *New Potato Caboose* at Zollman's with Pi Phi

Lambda Chi Alpha
Saturday night: *World Without Fear*



Phi Delta Theta
Saturday afternoon: *Indecision* with Beta
night: *IBM*

Phi Gamma Delta
Saturday afternoon lawn party with Chi Psi
night: *The Generics*

Phi Kappa Psi
Saturday afternoon: an acoustic duo with members from *STG&L*
night: *Leggs*

Phi Kappa Sigma
Saturday night: *Mighty Majors*

Pi Kappa Alpha
Saturday afternoon: *The Truly Dangerous Swamp Band* at the Riverhouse
night: *The Stegmonds* at the Pavilion

Pi Kappa Phi
Saturday afternoon: *The Stegmonds*
night: *New Potato Caboose* at Zollman's with Kappa Sigma

Sigma Alpha Epsilon
Saturday afternoon: *Wildgrass*
night: *Left Exit*

Sigma Chi
Saturday afternoon: *The Megaphonics*
night: *Timmy Kaye in 3-D*

Sigma Nu
Saturday night: *Yams from Outerspace*

Sigma Phi Epsilon
Saturday afternoon: *Wildgrass*
night: *Month of Sundays*



Three Sigma Chi brothers relax in a hot tub during a Fancy Dress weekend of several years ago. All Washington and Lee Greek organizations make special plans for members and their dates over the big weekend. Publications Office photo.



In years past, tradition held that the young woman who received a bid to Fancy Dress gave her measurements to her date so he could order her costume. She would not be told the theme of FD, and only when she picked up her costume did she become aware of the theme. Nowadays the theme is revealed a week ahead of time in the annual *Phi Fancy Dress Supplement*.

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Fancy Dress memories...



By Chris Smith
Senior

It was the best of times; it was the worst of times..." "In the game of FD there are no winners or losers, only survivors." This advice was given to me when I was a wide-eyed pledge back in 1988. I didn't give it much consideration back then, but after the story I'm about to tell, you will recognize its real worth.

Freshman year I avoided all controversy, having learned a valuable lesson the preceding Homecoming. Rule #1: Guys, no matter how much you want to go, don't ask someone the day before the event especially if you're barely conscious at the time. If you fail to heed this advice, the girl who shows up might be VERY different from the beauty you remember(?) asking the night before. Remember, you can al-

ways go next year and your checkbook will be happier if you stay home.

My sophomore year experience was what all Fancy Dress Weekends should be modeled on. At the risk of being obscene, everything was perfect: the date, the drinks, the Ball. We awoke on Sunday and it was the beginning of a wonderful relationship.

However, if sophomore year was a dream come true, junior year was living HELL! This brings me to Rule #2: Guys, never ask your ex-girlfriend to FD. Perhaps I suffered so that others may learn from my mistake, at least I hope so. I'll spare you the gory details, suffice it to say that letting my date drink two bottles of wine all by herself at dinner was probably not such a good idea. When I arrived to pick her up for Saturday night's band party, I was greeted not by my date but by a comatose Sleeping Beauty. Abandoned and upset, I vowed never to let this happen

again.

So now it's my senior year. I'm 1-1 in the FD game and determined to leave W&L with a winning record. With 91 days left until graduation by Friday, March 8, I anticipate celebrating in style. I asked early this year, and with a great date, I'm sure the FD magic will return.

Some say FD is an overblown senior prom, others can't wait for it to begin. As a senior, this year will be extra special to me, and I hope your Fancy Dress experience is everything you want and more. If it's not, well at least you'll have some good stories to tell next year. And remember, there's also date-swapping...



By Greg Patterson
Freshman

The Knights

By George Sakin
Junior

Fancy Dress, for what most people remember, is not just a night, but a series of sometimes painful events that create great stories beginning with "did you know that you...?"

I've heard many people say that if FD was canceled because of the war in the Gulf, it wouldn't be the worst thing to happen. There are plenty of guys who said they could get drunk without reaching into their wallets to rent a tuxedo.

Fancy Dress begins to enter the mind when you start to think about possible dates. Of course

this doesn't bother most people because they have a tendency to procrastinate. About a week before mid-winter break, the dating game starts. Some guys sit in front of the Co-op and b.s. while others actually gossip on who is available and who already has a date.

When FD week begins on Monday, most guys will have their date. At this time, the guys will get the orders from their dates on what plans to make for dinner and what type of tux and cummerbund to wear. The process of waiting with checkbook and pen in hand in a line that is wrapped around the university center, The Pit and goes right out the front door of the University Center, for your FD paraphernalia is always fun.

The Wednesday night before FD is always the best party of the year. The women from the girls schools flock to the fraternities in search of "the bid" and every guy knows it. The next morning most students cancel classes for the rest of the week.

On Thursday the dates start to come into town and the guys without dates begin to make plans for Georgetown. That night, you and your date attend the big concert. You enter the Student Pavilion to see Murph, Baner and the Fij security staff at the door. The concert basically consists of staggering around and waiting for the featured band to play the one hit song that you know, which usually comes as an encore.

The Friday night ball is the highlight of the week. This is

where the students, professors and alumni gather in the remodeled Warner Center. The night begins with the attempt to make your tux fit. It seems that the pants are always too tight or your bow tie is too corny. This is confirmed by your date who tells you during the 100 pictures her girlfriends must take.

The dinner you planned for yourself and your date involves either a high class meal at an establishment such as Maple Hall or the White Star Mill (if you want to drive to Staunton) or a lesson in Chinese at Hunan Garden.

Following dinner, members of fraternities gather for their traditional cocktail parties and hall

□ Please see Sakin page 18

There are two things a freshman guy has to worry about when he arrives at Washington and Lee in September: first, getting a W&L belt to go with his Duck Head pants and second, getting a date for FD.

While the first problem is easily solved by a trip to the bookstore, the second is a little more difficult (though some would argue it is easily solved by a trip to a girls' school.)

From what I have seen, read, and heard since I've been here, I have pieced together what I think is an accurate picture of what this thing called Fancy Dress is really like. With that in mind, I would like to offer, as a service to other confused freshman guys, a list of answers to the most-asked questions about FD:

Q: Exactly how far out of town am I supposed to go to take my date to dinner? Is Buena Vista far enough or should I try to get reservations in, say, Washington?

A: Good question. A helpful rule of thumb in this case is that the cost of dinner for two people should be approximately equal to the cost of gas used in getting to the restaurant. This method gives you a wide range of choices. So while you could conceivably take your date to Taco Bell in Staunton, if you are expecting to go someplace where the waiters won't spit on you, you will probably end up at least two states away.

□ Please see Greg page 18

By Craig Burke
Sophomore

Is searched frantically through my drawer, throwing clothes over my head as I progressed. I knew my cummerbund was in there somewhere. Jackpot! I grabbed the culprit and threw it around my waist, waved to my roommate, and ran out the door.

I was 10 minutes late for my first FD date and hoping that my date would be ready.

Since arriving at W&L I had

witnessed the fanfare surrounding several events like the apartment parties at Hollins and the races at Foxfield to name just two. But nothing compares to the build-up about Fancy Dress, the biggest social event in the South and one of the country's biggest parties according to *GQ*. FD is also probably the biggest night for alcohol sales in Virginia.

True or not, I had been told all these things and more about FD, and I awaited the ball with nothing short of a religious zeal. I believed FD would be one of those experiences a person remembers forever, like seeing the

Beatles live or hearing John Kennedy speak.

My date and I met our friends, jumped in our cars and headed to Roanoke for dinner. (Don't do this for FD. Don't ever do this.) We arrived at the restaurant around 6:00 p.m. It was very classy, and the food was excellent. Unfortunately, each course took an hour. (I like a nice meal as much as the next person, but we did have a gala to attend.) We payed our bill (Boy, did we pay!) and rolled out of Roanoke at 10 p.m.

We raced back to W&L in hopes of at least catching a

glimpse of the gym. As we approached the outskirts of Lexington, I noticed a huge spotlight moving through the sky. This was it! FD! My spirits soared as I braced myself for my first Fancy Dress.

We climbed the steps to the gym quickly and entered the world of "Gatsby's Great Gala." By that time it was 11:30, and we didn't have much time left before FD would be over, but we made the most of it.

Looking back I have nothing but pleasant memories of Fancy Dress, but you can bet this year I won't be dining in Roanoke.

...and expectations

By Sharon Widmayer
Senior

Now that I'm a senior, there are a lot of things that I could say about FD, the most important of which is that as of the writing of this article, I have the perfect dress and no date. I recently discussed this dilemma with a friend of mine. He said I could go with his pet rock. That was not the correct response. He even suggested that I attach a string to the rock and put it on my shoulder like an evening bag. Somehow I think the rock would clash with my perfect dress.

It's not all bad. At least I haven't had to worry about my date stripping down to his boxers in the middle of Warner Center or that he gets so drunk at dinner that his head falls into a plate of spaghetti. I don't have to worry about going to FD with someone like Paul Lagarde. (Don't get me wrong; I have nothing against Paul. It's just that two Politics majors with diametrically opposing views should not be allowed in the same room for more than, oh say, five minutes.)

Actually, I'm thinking of going dateless. I figure I'll make a social statement about how one does not need to be accompanied by a member of the opposite sex to have fun. And if you buy this, I've got some bridges in Brooklyn that might interest you, too.

I must say, however, that this is at least a new dilemma for me. My first two FDs, I had a date, but the dress from hell. My mom called me up freshman year and told me she had just bought me two formals-- on sale-- and wasn't it wonderful that I wouldn't have to go shopping. No. Not only did she take away the opportunity for me to go dress shopping, which for many females is more fun than attending the event itself, but my mother and I have taste in dresses more diametrically opposed than mine and Mr. Lagarde's politics.

I wound up wearing this lilac thing freshman year, and discovered that probably the only color I look worse in is lime green. Not only that, but I got my hair butchered over February break and looked like I should be wearing the tuxedo. But I had a date.

Actually, I had a boyfriend, so

I had a built-in, stress-free date, or so I thought until we made the mistake of going to Lynchburg for dinner, and getting completely and totally lost in some part of Lynchburg with a bunch of dark alleys and nothing else. Of course, my date was the typical male. You know-- absolutely refused to ask directions. And of course I was the typical hysterical female and told him-- well actually screamed at him-- to either stop and ask direction or he might as well take me home.

Little did I know, we were about three blocks from the restaurant at the time. I'd tell you I had fun after that, but actually, I don't remember that much.

Sophomore FD was, well, from hell. But I had a date. The same guy from the year before, and we had decided to go to a restaurant where we had already been. This year I had to wear the other "on sale" dress that my mother had bought-- a floor length, off-the-shoulder blue and white number that looked like the high school prom revisited. All my friends were wearing black strapless sophisticated dresses, and I was thinking of ways to torture

□ Please see Sharon page 19



The Ladies

By Kimberly Boots
Freshman

Iwish I may, I wish I might, have this wish, I wish tonight.... Betcha know what I wished for! Could it have something to do with something with the two initials, F and D? Naah...

The intense (agonizing!) wondering over whether or not one would get a date, and who would it be, and WHEN WOULD HE ASK, began months ago, probably even before the Fancy Dress Committee was appointed. Undoubtedly, for some the stress began before we freshmen arrived at the beginning of September. Most of us had heard about Fancy Dress while in the application process, from a tour guide or a student. Or even from a college guide.

I was impressed just because the guide mentioned Fancy Dress, and I thought it must be very important, even though it sounds more like the name of a junior high girls' school dance than the big, exciting college event it is reputed to be.

The guide I read said something about people coming from miles and miles around for this huge social event, one of the most exciting college events around. It then said-- and I think this is the exact wording-- "woe

□ Please see Boots page 19

By Christy Harvey
Sophomore

With midterms and Washington's Break in the past, the thoughts of the students at W&L now turn to more pressing matters at hand...Fancy Dress. The signs of its eminent arrival are plenty. The guys are grumbling about the enormous sums of money they are about to be shelling out, while the female students try to look cute and act nonchalant while they sweat bullets waiting for a date.

All the while, girls' school girls pass through trying their own luck. To some not acquainted with Washington and Lee, it may seem like like a lot of stress and excitement over a mere weekend, but any student will quickly tell you differently. The true appeal of Fancy Dress is its time honored tradition.

It is a weekend of revelry which has survived the years and the inevitable changes those years brought with them.

I believe that the sophomore year is the best year for Fancy Dress. To the freshmen, this is yet another new and different experience, and the feelings of excitement are tinged with those of nervousness. The junior has

already traveled this path twice before, and the glow surrounding the event has begun to fade slightly.

The senior has the driving wish to commit every detail to memory, only too aware that this is to be the final Ball.

The sophomore, however, stands balanced in all of these extremes. The experience is still new enough as to be exciting, but having been through it, vague as the memories may be, they know what to expect.

Their college life stretches before them endlessly, so there is no urgency to "make this formal" there are still more to come, and so enters the weekend relaxed and ready for fun.

The difference in how each person perceives Fancy Dress is minimal in the end, as everyone, except for those with hell-dates, ends up having a good time. And no matter what your class, everyone is participating in yet another building block on which this tradition stands.



By Jennifer Fischer
Junior

The Orient Express, Gatsby's Gala, champagne, fireworks, dancing; the night you want to last forever (that is, if you have the perfect date, or so I've been told). Images of Fancy Dress, the quintessential combination of fascination, suspense, romance and excitement. But is it really these things? After everyone knows it's just a party in the gym, of all places. I mean, who could envision "magic in the air" as they sit watching a basketball game there (no offense, guys)?

When I was a senior in high school, I read about W&L in the *Insider's Guide to American Colleges and Universities*. After it explained the importance of the school's two namesakes, the Honor System, and the high quality of academics, it asserted that "no description of Washington and Lee would be complete without mention of their annual Fancy Dress Ball..." I was astounded and intrigued, a social event being an important characteristic of a university! But after my first FD I understood why: like our Honor System and our Mock Convention, Fancy Dress is one more phenomenon unique to W&L.

But what about the magic of FD? Isn't that pushing things a bit too far? When I was a freshman on SAB, spending countless hours at the pavilion, I turned to a senior who was working with me and said, "Don't you lose some of the novelty and thrill of the night you are working on it and seeing everything beforehand?" Her reply: Even if you see the finishing touches made late Friday afternoon, nothing can compare to the moment when you walk in the night of the ball and see everything alive for the first time. It really is magic." She was so right.

Fancy Dress is all of those things I mentioned, and more. It is the night that Warner Center ceases to exist. It's like fairy tales, Disneyworld, New Year's Eve, the Fourth of July and Mardi Gras all wrapped up in one. It is a time (too brief) to forget every care and responsibility, and to truly experience an unparalleled and uninhibited night of entertainment on a grand scale.

Oh, about that "perfect" date (the one-in-a-million). A perfect date is not only hard to find, but hard to define. I don't think it is necessary to have one in order to enjoy the festivities. But if you don't think Fancy Dress has all of these magical qualities, maybe a perfect date would change that. I can't wait to find out...

Questions

from page 5

Q: There was concern that FD would be cancelled because of the Persian Gulf War, can you respond?

A: I know that when the war started, many questions were raised about having a \$74,000 party when men and women were fighting a war. I even considered the appropriateness of it, but I have since been told by Faculty and students alike that the W&L alumni already in the Gulf would probably feel better that the tradition continued. I have placed a full-page ad in the FD playbill acknowledging our troops in the gulf, and I hope to have the swing band dedicate a song to the troops. Moreover, it looks like we can celebrate a victory for our troops now.

Q: Last year monetary restraints were placed on FD planning. Could you explain the ins and outs of money and expenses?

A: The budget has been the first priority for everyone on the Steering Committee. I really want FD to come under budget this year. The restraints on our spending (such as having an auditor to keep track of the money, not having uncontrolled charge accounts, and having to file for checks through the busi-

ness office) has made us more conscious of how much we are spending. Moreover, this year I broke down the budget so that each sub-chairman had his or her own budgeted amount to spend on decorations or whatever they were in charge of. Ultimately, though, because FD is self-supportive, we will make money only if ticket and memorabilia sales are close to what we projected.

PROCLAMATION

Gentlemen of the Realm ♦♦

IN REGARD TO YOUR LADIES FOR FANCY DRESS—you are hereby forewarned that the lengths, breadths, and poundage of all said ladies—Yea, even unto the provinces of Marye Baldwin, Hollings, Sweet Briar, R. M. W. C.—the Sem—and other such—should be recorded previous to December first. † Any Progress which you might realize in this respect this weekend—without acting in too cavalier a fashion—might well prove to be of advantage.

A gag proclamation given by Zeta Beta Tau to their dates for the 1950 Arthur FD.

Q: What's your most difficult duty?

A: My most difficult duty has been getting everything in line. That is, coordinating all the people, places, and things so that they all fit together and the ball is executed as it was planned to be. Everything you see at the ball, from the fireworks to the searchlights to the white lights strung in the trees took time to hunt down and arrange their use.

Q: Did you have any goals for this year's Fancy Dress?

A: I have two goals for this FD: one is to come under budget, and the other is a goal I think every FD chairman has had. That is, to have every person that walks into the ball say it was the best one yet.

Q: How many people in all will have worked on Fancy Dress?

A: About 200 people have contributed to FD this year, with over 150 of those actually constructing it. Together, we will have put in a total of over 2500 man hours into FD.



This 1950's version of John Flippen and his date led the dances at their King Arthur Fancy Dress Ball.

Q: What part of Fancy Dress are you looking forward to the most?


A: March 9.

Q: Who is your date?

A: I feel lucky to have the incredible date that I do. I'm going with Lauren Rowland, a junior from W&L.

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Legend

from page 2



kingdom. In the process, however, he made a grave mistake. The wife of King Lot of Orkney came to Camelot to spy for her husband. She was a beautiful woman, and Arthur fell in love with her. He propositioned the lady; she agreed. They made love and that night the queen of Orkney conceived a child. The queen's name was Morgause. We have already been introduced to her. The child was called Mordred.

During his early days as king, Arthur went about the countryside engaging in adventures. It was while on one of these adventures that Arthur received Excalibur from the Lady of the Lake. It was also during these early days that Arthur, fearful of prophecies, which predicted that his destruction would be brought about by the child begotten upon his sister, decreed that all children born around May Day were to be put into a boat. The boat then was set adrift. Eventually, it wrecked upon rocks, and only one child, Mordred, was spared.

Even kings have to settle

down, and Arthur did so. He married Guenevere, the daughter of King Leodegrance of Camelard, a woman whom he loved and who also had the added bonus of an excellent dowry, the Table Round. Confined by responsibility to Camelot, Arthur used the Table Round as an extension of his beliefs, ideas and power. It was a highly successful endeavor. Arthur's new order of knighthood attracted knights from all over and the name of Arthur's Camelot became synonymous with honor, power, generosity and other virtues.

All things must come to an end, however; and so it was with Arthur. His best friend, Lancelot du Lac, fell in love with Arthur's wife who loved Lancelot in return. Arthur, unwilling to lose his best knight or his wife, ignored the situation for as long as possible, until Agravaine of Orkney and his younger brother Mordred forced Arthur to pay attention to the matter.

Thus it was that Lancelot was found in the Queen's bed cham-

ber while the king was hunting in the forest. The fall of the Round Table had begun. Revealed as traitor to her husband, Guenevere was tried by Arthur and sentenced to death by burning. At the stake itself, she was rescued by her lover who, in the process, killed two members of the Orkney clan, Gareth and Gaheris. Arthur could do no more.

Arthur chased Lancelot to Benwick leaving Mordred, his son, as regent in Britain. While in Benwick, he received word that the prophecy had come to pass; his son was his bane. Mordred

turned against Arthur. Claiming Arthur to be dead, he had tried to marry Guenevere whom Arthur had taken back by express command of the Pope. Arthur rushed back to Britain and engaged his son in several battles which culminated at Camlann. Camlann was a battle which was nearly averted.

Arthur, in one last attempt to save his kingdom, called a parley with Mordred. Neither man trusted the other, and each warned his men to be on guard. Arthur and Mordred struck a deal and were just about to seal the contract when one of Mordred's lieutenants pulled out his sword to kill a snake that had stung him.

The sight of bare steel was all the overwrought forces needed to see; battle commenced. At the end of the battle, Arthur saw Mordred surrounded by corpses leaning on his sword. Arthur, spear in hand, charged his son and skewered him through the body. With his dying strength, Mordred heaved himself farther along Arthur's spear, swung his sword, seriously wounding his father in the head, and then died.

His blood mingling with that of his son, Arthur calls Sir Bevedere, the last of his knights left alive, and instructs Bevedere to take Excalibur and throw it into

the nearby lake. Bevedere sets off to do so, but doesn't do so twice because he covets the beautiful weapon; finally, at the third time, he does throw Excalibur back. An arm rises from the waters and catches Excalibur three times. Arthur is then carried away by weeping queens in a barge to the Isle of Avalon where his wound is to be healed.

Some reports say that the queens were not successful, and that Arthur died at Avalon that night. Others say that Arthur still lives and sleeps on in Avalon or the Welsh mountain fortress. In a time of distress, he will arise from this sleep in order to save Britain.

This is the Arthur of romance. For the most part, he is often overshadowed by his knights or their deeds, but one must remember that even though he may not have fought another knight for a year, Arthur is always the focal point. It is he and no one else who is able to reconcile and hold together the diverse parts of the fellowship.



A week left to get a date!

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ROUND TABLE TRIVIA

Number of Knights the Round Table Seats: 150

Top Three Knights (excluding Galahad):

1. Sir Launcelot
2. Sir Tristram
3. Sir Lamorack

Best Orator: Sir Ector de Maris. Despite an excessive use of conjunctions, the speech Sir Ector delivers when he beholds the corpse of his brother Sir Launcelot, as it lies in the chapel at the Joyous Gard, is one of the most poignant in the language.

Most Dangerous Place to Sit: The Siege Perilous. A seat at the Round Table which had a nasty habit of incinerating those people who sat in it. It was to be occupied exclusively by Sir Galahad.

Sakin

from page 14

crawls. There, the dates are compared and the lack of memory begins. Going from room to room, you discover what Flaming Dr. Peppers, Zombies and Jell-O shots are.

When you arrive at the Warner Center you cannot believe that this is the same place you go to play basketball. The decorations are incredible and you begin to realize the work that goes into the whole Fancy Dress production.

The dancing and the music from the bands highlight the

evening, but if the Jell-O shots kick in, all you may be left with is the memory, or none at all.

On Saturday the party continues at either one of the fraternity's river or country houses. A band, volleyball and the mysterious banned keg all show-up for an afternoon of food and fun. By the time the sun is about to set, you need some sleep.

But that doesn't happen because you have another band that night. In the spirit of FD, the fraternities get the best band they can and do their best to have a

party worthy of the social probation they will receive.

The end of the night marks the end of Fancy Dress and the end of a magical weekend that has been enjoyed by Washington and Lee students for decades.

As the dates leave and the party smells linger in the air, the remaining students reflect on what they have uniquely experienced. This year let's continue the tradition, noticing the events that make Fancy Dress the proud Washington and Lee tradition it is.

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Greg

from page 14

Q: Is it true that the budget for decorations is more than \$45,000? At my high school prom, the only decorations we had were streamers and some lousy balloons. What gives?

A: Obviously you have not yet become familiar with the lore and tradition of Fancy Dress. When you enter Doremus on the night of FD, you will find that the gym has been transformed into a magical realm of wonder and delight. Of course by the time many people have entered the gym, they are already in a little magical realm of their own. The 45 plus grand is mainly used to clean up after these people.

Q: Why is the FD theme kept a secret until the week before? What's the big deal?

A: Due to the fact that FD is brought to you by the same people who are in charge of Fraternity Renaissance and the Lenfest Center, the theme *isn't* even decided until the week before. The "secret theme" idea is just a hoax.

Q: Is the cost of FD covered

by my financial aid? If not, what should I do?

A: Unless you filled out the university's Social Activities Compensation application back in the fall (also known as the No-One-Told-Me-I-Had-To-Buy-@#*#&#@\$-T-Shirts-Too form), you're not covered. However, a little-known fact is that FD is tax-deductible. Just remember to make your checks out to "W&L Fancy Dress Ball and Homeless Leper Orphan Fundraiser."

Q: What should I wear?

A: Contrary to popular belief, this is not another occasion at which all the males in the room will be wearing navy blue blazers and tan pants. The proper attire for guys at FD is a tuxedo. Thus all the males in the room will still be dressed alike, while females will be wearing dresses which, in most cases, had to be financed through a bank.

Students who are still fairly clueless and have additional questions should call the FD Info Hotline, 1-800-LOTS-O-MONEY.



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Sharon

from page 15



my mother slowly.

Then there was the fundamental conflict that my date and I had about the verb "to plan". In short, I don't think he realized it existed (despite my repeated nagging to remind him of the fact). I had to plan everything-- where we went for dinner, who's place we pre-partied at, what we were going to do on Saturday night. I even ordered my own corsage. Thank God he owned a tuxedo and didn't have to expend any effort planning to rent one, or I might have been in trouble. Big deal, you say, so I had to call up a restaurant and make reservations.

Well, it wouldn't have been so bad except that I think the one thing my date did plan was to complain about all my plans, right down to refusing to pay for my corsage because he didn't like the one that I picked out (I had to get one to match the "prom revisited" dress, didn't I?) My most vivid memory of Sophomore FD is gliding through Gaines Hall in my floor length gown yelling "Shut up! You're ruining my FD" I'd like to tell you I had fun after that, but I wish I didn't remember.

Junior year I was in Austria, so I have no F. D. stories to report. I did have fun on the night of the ball, however. I was at a University Fest (huge party

that makes a frat party look like afternoon tea) dancing with one of the most beautiful men I've ever set eyes on. He sang-- well, actually yelled in my ear-- Sinead O'Connor's "Nothing Compares to You", which with an Austrian accent sounds like "No-zing Cumpaars to You".

The next night I got incredibly homesick thinking of all my friends at FD I consoled myself with the fact that my wonderful friends sent me an FD care package with a t-shirt, Phi supplement, cup, and a poster that hung for the rest of the term on my closet door. I did go to Salzburg University's ball that year, but that's a another story, even more heinous than sophomore year FD. (But maybe in the future I'll write an article about my experiences Slam-waltzing.)

So this year I'm determined to actually have fun at one of these things, especially since I've got a black velvet dress that my mother had no part in picking out. After all, this is my last chance. I nearly panicked when the Phi ran a story about how FD might be canceled due to the war in the gulf. The very thought renewed my dedication to my pacifist sentiments.

So look for me March 8th. I'll be the one with the evening bag that looks like a rock.

Knights

from page 4



King Arthur and his half-sister Queen Morguase of Orkney is an even worse scenario.

In Le Morte D'Arthur, Mordred displays a wonderfully dual personality. In the first half, he is being everything a good knight should be, good on the battlefield, fair in judgement and courteous of speech. Somewhere, however, before we meet him again, he changes radically and becomes a scheming fiend.

Whatever Mordred's character defects are as far as subterfuge goes, all sources give him credit for being a man of great personal courage. Interestingly enough,

Mordred is one of the characters whose name has co-existed with that of Arthur since the Welsh Triads.

Sir Gawain of Lothian and Orkney, the son of King Lot and Queen Morguase, has the reputation of being one of the most courteous knights of the Round Table. He also has the reputation of being quite the lover and his sexual exploits whether good, bad, or uninteresting become the stuff of legend.

Gawain is indisputably flawed, but that is what is charming about him. He is totally human. He has his up days and his down

days, his moments of triumph and his moments of defeat, his times of glory and his times of shame, and everybody knows it.

Whatever the case, Gawain takes everything that happens to him in stride. Galahad eschews earthly existence; Gawain revels in it.

Five men and one angel. Some are loved; some are despised; some are good; some are not so good. But whatever the flaws, these ten knights were all part of Arthur's great experiment, and all contributed threads to the tapestry of the life of Arthur.

Boots

from page 15



surely written to haunt the nervous minds of freshmen. Every member of the opposite sex one meets is appraised for FD date potential.

Other FD anxieties for the first-time FD-goer include having the right dress or tuxedo (although I doubt that you guys get as excited about finding an awesome tux as girls do about having the perfect dress.)

And then, what about knowing how to ballroom dance? I have to admit, those signs that went up weeks ago advertising

ballroom dancing lessons really scared me. But I guess that will just make FD all the more fun... and different from any other dance we have ever attended.

Of course, as we have been told all along, FD is no ordinary social event. We'll just have to wait another week to find out just how extraordinary it is. All we can do until then is anticipate... and listen to our new Bo Diddley tapes to find out just what that guy on the Nike commercials sings, and wonder what the theme will be...



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FANCY DRESS 1991

Wednesday, March 6 8 p.m.

• *Megaphonics*
General Headquarters

Thursday, March 7 8 p.m.

• *Bo Diddley*
• *Jimmy Bishop and the Turning Point*
The Student Activities Pavilion

Friday, March 8 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.

84th Annual Fancy Dress Ball *A Royal Festival at* *King Arthur's Court*

Featuring:

- *Kings of Swing*
- *C.J. Chenier and the Red Hot Louisiana Band*
- *Buckwheat Zydeco*
- *Fireworks*

Warner Center and Doremus Gymnasium
Black Tie

Ticket and Memorabilia Sales:
Monday through Thursday 10-4, Friday 10-12
Room 109, University Center

Thursday Tickets: \$8/Advance, \$15/Door. Friday Tickets: \$45/Couple
T-shirts: 1/\$12, 2/\$20 Posters: \$4 Cups: 2/\$1