

The Student Activities Board presents



# Fancy Dress 1980



Volume LXXIX

A Ring-tum Phi Entertainment Supplement

Special!

## A Stroll Around The Board

by Mike Perry

Washington and Lee's seventy-fourth annual Fancy Dress Weekend, one of the nation's premier college weekends, is slated for Feb. 28, 29 and 30. Although the event has changed a great deal throughout its long history, its charm and character is still best represented at the Fancy Dress Ball. In the old days, Fancy Dress was a costume ball, participants came attired in elaborate costumes. Today, the seventy-five keg gala affair still retains much of its rich historic charm.

Each Fancy Dress is perhaps best remembered for the elaborate decorations employed to depict the selected theme. This year should prove to be no exception. The SAB has been working diligently to transform Early-Fielding Student Center into a real life recreation of the famous Monopoly gameboard.

Utilizing the theme of Monopoly, SAB officials have strained their creative genius to produce the kind of event that W&L students have come to expect at Fancy Dress. SAB co-chairman David Hapole claims that this year's extravaganza "has the potential to be the best Fancy Dress ever."

### PARK PLACE

Drawn to the student center by a searchlight, this year's Fancy Dress goer and his date will present a property deed as his admission ticket to the Income Tax office. Having passed "Go," Mr. F.D. collects \$200, (in W&L money) and proceeds around the Monopoly Board. His first stop will be Park Place, the center of this year's Ball, formerly Evans Dining Hall. The Ballroom will be decorated in blue and white, Park Place's colors and not unknown to W&L, either. Trees, streetlights and park benches will be added to create a "park" scene, while a giant monopoly board gazes down upon W&L revelers enjoying the big band sounds of Bob Crosby and his Orchestra.

### THE BOARDWALK

Leaving Park Place, Mr. F.D. may elect to take a stroll along the Boardwalk. The more adventurous Fancy Dress goer may elect to escort his date "under the Boardwalk," to a beach scene complete with lifeguard chairs, beach umbrellas and fishnet. Rounding out the scene and supplying entertainment will be, who else but Bill Pinkey and the Original Drifters.

### MARVIN'S GARDENS

Walking along a yellow colored Oriental Avenue, lined with colorful Japanese lanterns, Mr. F.D. may proceed to Marvin Gardens. The transformed Fairfax Lounge will be decorated with trees, hanging baskets and terre natural.

The garden effect will be enhanced by the music of Minas, a Brazilian jazz band.

### RAILROAD

If Mr. F.D. needs to visit the rest rooms at this point, he will be happy to learn that Water Works is located just around the

corner, near the Train Station. The E.C. hallway will feature a train complete with tunnel and suitable sound effects.

### JAIL

If Mr. F.D. gets out of line he may find himself in Jail, ironically the former E.C. head-

quarters. The Jail decor will feature bars and metal cups and include a mellow progressive jazz band.

### STATE'S AVENUE

Mr. F.D. may elect at this juncture to head upstairs to State's Avenue. Strolling down State's Avenue, Fancy Dress goers will be sure to notice posters representing all fifty states.

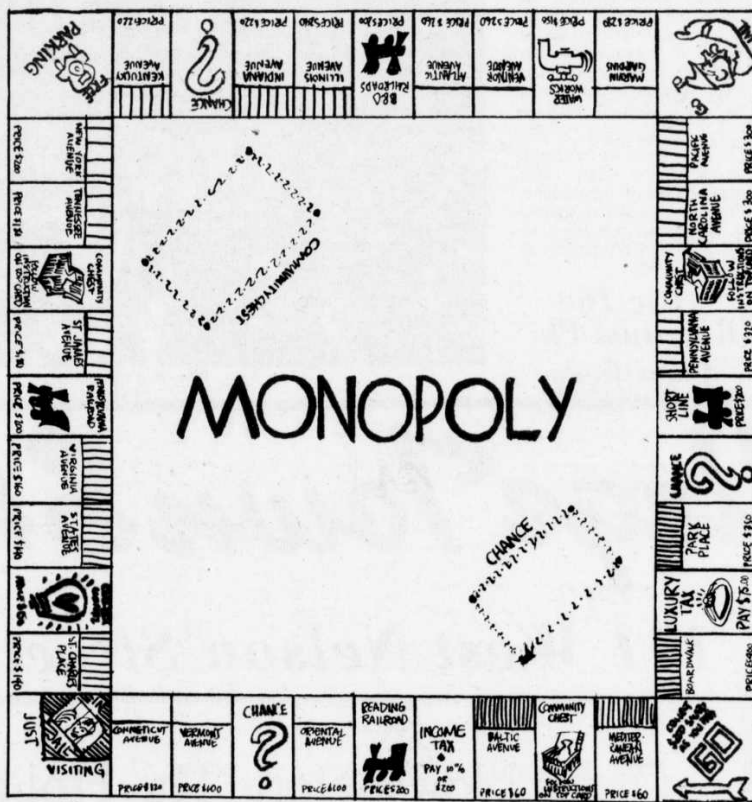
### CHANCE

Feeling lucky, Mr. F.D. may venture into Chance; formerly the T.V. Room, where he will be entertained by Bob Dubac, a comic-magician from Los Angeles. Under the spell of Fancy Dress, Mr. F.D. may venture across the hall to visit two pieces of prime Monopoly real estate, Atlantic and Pacific, formerly Rooms 112 and 113. The transformed lots will feature an arcade housing free pinball machines, slot machines and other games of chance.

Heading further down State's Avenue, Mr. F.D. will probably welcome the opportunity to duck into Room 114 for a chance to rest his feet and catch a variety of cartoons or film shorts.

### TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets are scheduled to go on sale next Wednesday, Feb. 20, at 12:00 in the Student Center. The charge is \$15.00. Grain cups and souvenir posters have been ordered in greater quantities than last year in an attempt to avoid shortages and will be available Monday, Feb. 24.



50 Years Ago

## Depression Didn't Dampen Fancy Dress

by John Wells

January, 1930, was separated from the stock market crash by less than three months, and the effects of the Great Depression had not yet reached Lexington. Huge ads in the Ring-tum Phi urged students to smoke Chesterfields, patronize McCrum's and flock to see the current picture at the New Theater, *Hot in Paris*. While it is uncertain (though doubtful) that the advent of *Hard Times* restricted leisure activities for students in general, it does not appear that any visible economies were imposed upon the Fancy Dress Ball of 1930, fifty years ago.

On January 8th of that year, the Ring-tum Phi reported in headlines: "Fancy Dress Plans

Indicate That Affair Will Surpass All" and "Elaborate Scheme is Prospect in Transforming Doremus Gymnasium." The projected theme was "A Spanish Fiesta in Old Valencia" representing "the evening prior to a bullfight climaxing the fiesta given by the King and Queen in honor or their heir to the throne." Once again in charge of the "famed spectacle" was W&L professor C.E.L. Gill, also a 1922 graduate. Prof. Gill was famous for staging elaborately thematic balls and 1930 was no exception. The newspaper reported: "For the first time, specially designed scenery will be used in addition to the usual decorations. Workmen have been busy for the past month

constructing sets to be used in the gymnasium." Prof. Gill reportedly gathered ideas and materials for the dance from an extended Spanish tour he had taken the previous summer.

The paper rather stuffily announced: "Because of the gala occasion, the decorations will carry out a festive air." The gym was transformed into a courtyard with buildings facing an open square. Readers were assured the dance would be alive with color, using extensively red, pink, yellow, blue, green and lavender.

By January 11th, measurements had been taken for the costumes. It was announced that Jean Goldkette's famous Victor recording orchestra had been secured to

supply the music. The group boasted the fact that it was the original Casa Loma orchestra which had its origins at the New York cabaret of the same name. Prior credits under the band's belt included the Great Yuletide Ball in Brooklyn, Finals at Princeton, and the National Electric Railway Convention in Atlantic City.

Fancy Dress weekend at that time occurred during a brief break between the first and second semesters, a period crammed with social events. The Junior Prom was held the evening prior to the ball. On January 31st "dasants" were given at SAE from 11:30 until 2:00 p.m., and at Alpha Tau Omega from

See 1930, p. 6

# Fancy Dress 1930

2:30 until 5:00 p.m., both accompanied by Jean Goldkette's famous Victor recording orchestra. That evening, following the gala occasion itself, W&L seniors were invited to a hop at neighboring VMI (this is an old newspaper). The next day Phi Epsilon Pi offered the Southern Collegians at a dance from 9-12 a.m. which hard core rug cutters could hit only after attending a similar event at KA from 3-5 that afternoon. Of the latter event it was advertised: "Locklayer's Virginians, a colored orchestra from Roanoke, will furnish the syncopation."

### 'PHANTASMORIA'

The ball itself went off without a hitch, and the following day the Ring-tum Phi proclaimed it "One of the Most Brilliant Affairs in the History of the Ball." The paper reported that students and their dates glided "amid a phantasmagoria of color" (one at first wonders how many survived that ordeal). The reporter, who wisely remained nameless, was probably aided by Prof. Guu when he went on to identify the characters that the dancers' costumes represented: "El Cids, Don Juans of Austria, Isabels, Matadors, toreadors, picadors, and Don Juan Tenorios" were joined by "Gypsies from Andalusia, Flamenco dancers, Infanatas, Goyescas,

segovians, Jota dancers," and even "street-singing Penitents from Holy Week in Seville."

### TANGO

W. Van Gilbert, the student who was in charge of the activities, led the figure with his date, Miss Bebe Saunders of Athens, Alabama. (A photograph of Miss Saunders, slightly reminiscent of Zelda Fitzgerald, adorned the front page of the Ring-tum Phi.) The highlight of the evening came, it was reported, when "Miss Mildred Peirce of Birmingham, Ala., danced a tango with Thomas Smith of Havana, Cuba."

It is doubtful that this year's Fancy Dress will be as elaborately staged as it was fifty years ago. Over the years the nature of entertainment has changed, from contemporary tastes reflected by selection of the Casa Loma band during the Latin American craze of that period, to the more traditional sounds of the Lester Lanin crowd. Whatever the theme is this year, it is sincerely hoped that newspaper accounts won't reach the level of pomposity as recorded in 1930.

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## Fancy Dress Ball

# Crosby To Supply Swing

by Mark Kinniburg

Bob Crosby and his orchestra will be performing as the major dance band in the Evans Dining Hall this Fancy Dress. One does not need to tax the memory too much to realize that Bob Crosby is the younger brother of Bing Crosby, the great crooner who passed away recently. Bob, like his brother, also has had a very big stage career—from his beginnings as an amateur singer in an orchestra at 15 years of age to his famous shows of today.

### Zany Career

Along with Bob's long career, there are many zany events which are recorded in his semi-official biography of the same title. There was that time when the orchestra played five introductions in a row, and poor little Bob couldn't even utter a sound. Another slap-happy antic was when Bob showed up an hour late to an audition with the Anson Weeks Orchestra because he had forgotten his suspenders. So, in front of all those listening, Bob held up his pants while singing! How silly he must have looked holding on for dear life to his pants!

There are many interludes in the career of Bob Crosby where he can be found with the names of the day. Bob was the first male vocalist in the Dorsey Brothers Orchestra and began his recording career with them on the Decca and Brunswick labels. The "big break" for Bob Crosby came in 1935 when Ben Pollack had decided to leave his orchestra, and the musicians he had fronted wanted to stay together as a band. Needing a front man to be the personality of the band, they contacted Bob to help them out.

Bob Crosby took the band on one-nighters across the country playing a peculiar blend of Dixieland Jazz which became known as Dixieland Swing. From this early 1936 tour of the United States also came the now classic "South Rampart Street"—which surely brought down the house at the Lexington Hotel in New York City. (Note: the Lexington Hotel was to have few bands after Bob Crosby's because it was obliterated by lightning in the Great Storm of 1937.)

From September 1936 on, Bob Crosby and his Bobcats were the talk of the popular band set. The

competition between brother Bing began to subside as Bob's, not Bing's, face was on the cover of Downbeat Magazine. By 1938 he had been voted the youngest Grade A bandleader of his time. In 1938, Downbeat named the Bob Crosby Orchestra the Best All-American Jazz Band in the land. Bob's unequaled legacy likens surely his inherent talent.

Not only did Bob Crosby win fame for himself and the Bobcats, he helped many girl singers become famous. In fact, Doris Day, Kay Starr and Gloria De Haven are still stars today. Gradually, the Bob Crosby Orchestra progressed to a weekly radio show on NBC and subsequent record deals. Getting more and more exposure to the American people was no problem for the Bobcats, as they were chosen for film roles by Paramount and Republic. Entering films on his own, Bob Crosby acted in the great MGM films "The Singing Sheriff" and "See Here Private Hargrove" with such fine actresses as Judy Canova and Joan Davis. Requests for Bob as an actor were more than rivaling his musical career, but both were put on ice for World War II.

### USO Entertainer

In May of 1944, Bob enlisted in the Marine Corps to fight in the Fifth Marine Division combat unit. He was quickly transferred to the Headquarters, however, and ordered to form a whole show of Marine entertainers. This Marine show was sent to the combat areas where regular U.S.O. shows weren't allowed because of dangerous conditions. He was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps with a Lieutenant's commission in December 1946.

Bob Crosby is married to his wife of 42 years, June, and together they have five children. Besides this family connection, though, Bob maintains close ties with his music friends in the business. As a closing quote, Bob relates, "My Bobcats played it 15 years ago in a night club where the lights were so dim we couldn't read the music...so what's all the excitement about?" Well, Bob, that's rock 'n roll for you!!




Searchlight signals Friday Night's Ball.

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Thursday Night

# Pavillion Party



The Fat Ammon's Band

## Pavillion Bands

### Brice Street And Fat Ammon's

by Robin Meredith

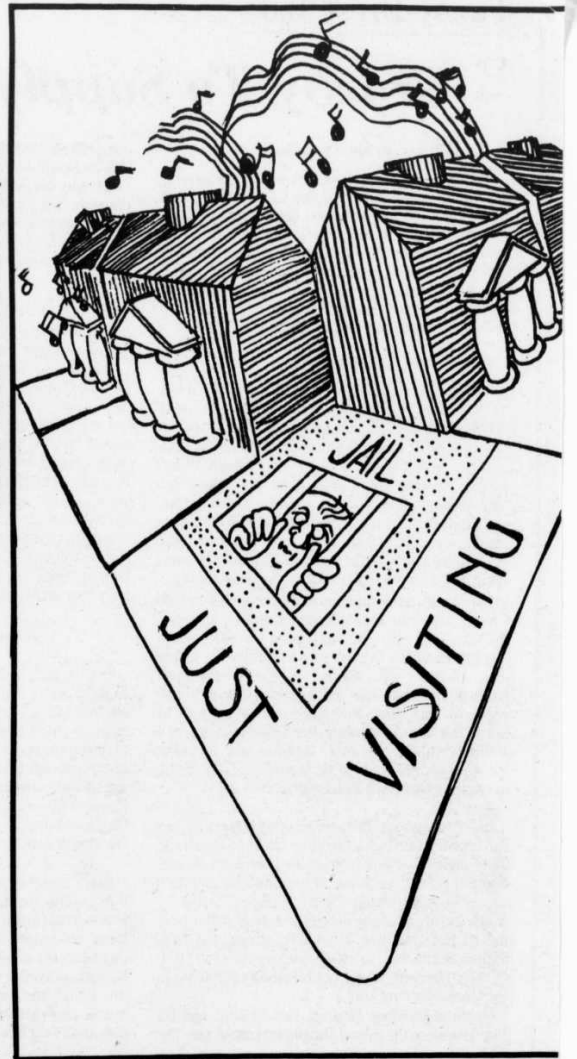
This year's traditional pre-Fancy Dress, Thursday night concert has been moved from the gym out to the Pavillion for logistic reasons, and consequently has been scaled down just a bit out of necessity. But whatever you do, don't despair; the SAB has put together such a solid line-up of bands that this BYOB party, beginning around 8 p.m., Feb. 28, promises to be just as good, if not better, than those held in previous years.

The Brice Street Band will kick things off that evening, featuring their spirited mix of mainstream rock 'n roll and Southern funk. Although they concentrate mostly on covers of material by established artists, Brice Street is not your typical bar band by a long shot. Indeed, any group whose repertoire includes songs by such a diverse bunch as Jean-Luc Ponty, The Band, Chick Corea, and The Beach Boys can hardly be said to be typical of anything!!! Not only are they versatile, they're just plain good; after a few

beers, you just might have a little trouble telling their versions from the originals!

Thursday night's headliners, returning to Lexington after a relatively lengthy absence, are probably among the best and classiest acts going in the Southeast today. Everything you need to know about Fat Ammon's Band can be summed up in one word: professional. Their lighting and sound are first-rate and, like Brice Street, they're a lot more than just your run-of-the-mill cover band. After warming you up a bit with their polished, disco-soul stylings, Ammon's invariably closes out the evening (and brings down the house) with a fast-paced, witty, entertaining floor show that should work like gangbusters in the intimate atmosphere of the Pavillion.

Sound good??? Well, the price of admission is included in the cost of your Fancy Dress ticket, so don't forget to BYOB out to the Pavillion Thursday, Feb. 28, around 8 p.m. and get your F.D. 1980 off to a strong start.



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