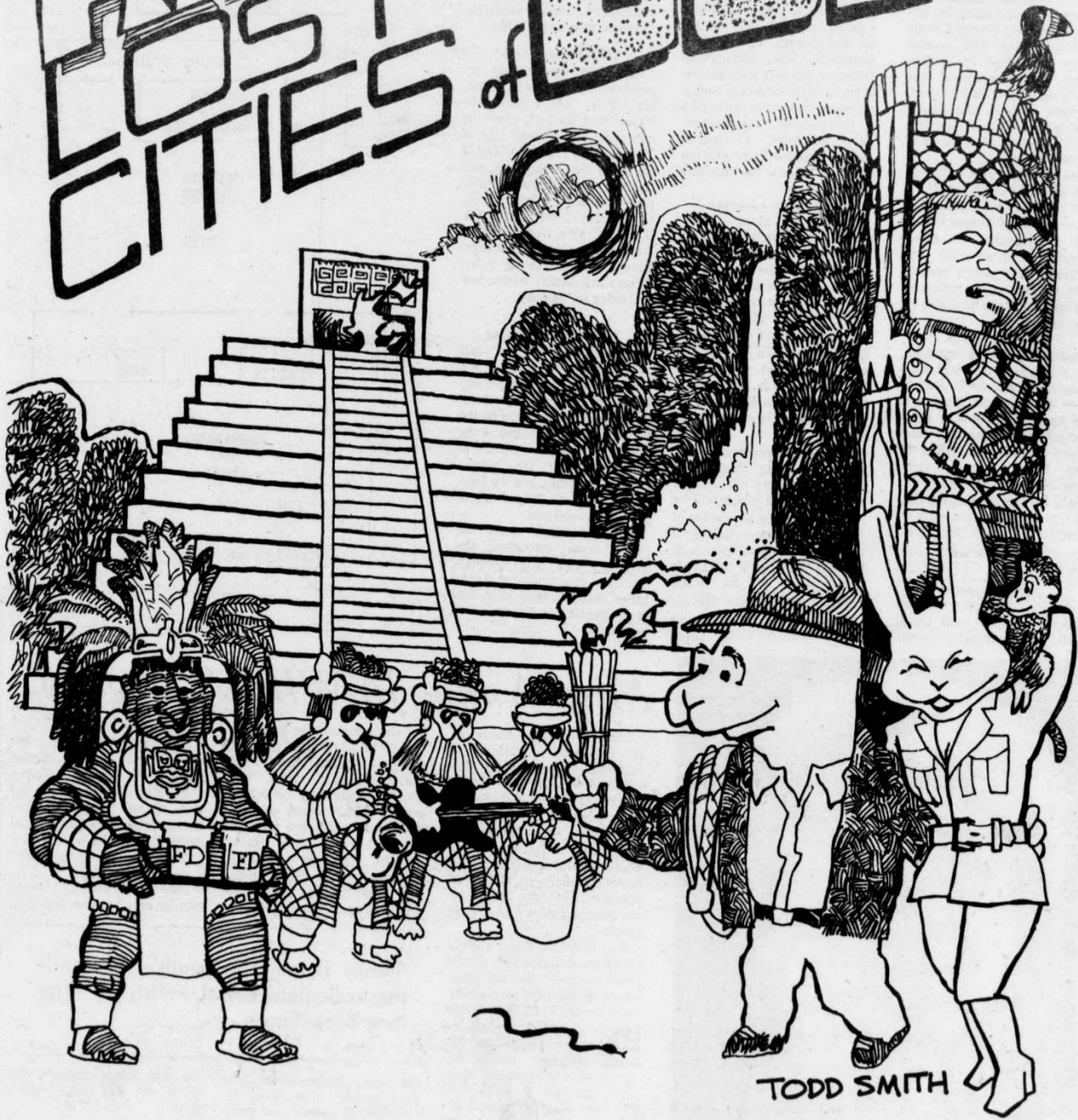

FANCY DRESS 1984 LOST CITIES of GOLD



A supplement to The Ring-tum Phi

A walk through the Cities of Gold

By JOHN HAYWOOD
Summer Intern

The towering search light beams will once again be circling high above Warner Center announcing the 77th annual Fancy Dress Ball on Friday, March 2. The theme of this year's Ball, Lost Cities of Gold, will take students and alumni back to the wild and mystical South American civilizations of the fifteenth century.

The Student Activities Board, with a budget of \$70,000 and a staff of 50, has spared no effort in transforming Warner Center into a panorama of Aztec, Mayan and Incan cities and festivals. This year's decorations are the most expensive and spectacular in the Ball's 77-year history.

Mr. F.D. Arrives

Ascending to the entrance, Mr. F.D. and his date will climb along the falls of the Urubamba river towards Lake Titicaca in the Andes mountains of Peru. Ancient myth claims that this is where the Sun God created the first Incan, Monco Capac. Vegetation covers the rocky terrain to the top of the waterfalls, but a path has been carefully illuminated to lead Mr. F.D. toward the ancient cities beyond.

Gulf of Campeche

Passing through the entrance, Mr. F.D. will travel north to the tropical forests

along the Gulf of Campeche. Traveling past the ancient walls of Vera Cruz, he can view Aztec Lord Montezuma greeting and giving gifts of gold to the newly arrived Spaniards who are led by the famous conquistador Hernandez Cortez. Moving into Doremus, Mr. F.D. will pass the columns of Quetzalcoatl, God of Morning, who, while journeying to the Yucatan, was mysteriously murdered. As legend tells, Quetzalcoatl rose into the sky and became the morning star of Venus.

Quetzalcoatl's Journey

Continuing along Quetzalcoatl's intended journey, Mr. F.D. will find Doremus changed into the rain forests of the Yucatan Peninsula. He can view the abandoned ruins of the two great cities of the Mayan era, Palengue and Chichien Itza. Doremus will be jumping with the rock and roll sounds of the Producers as well as the memorable beach and soul sound of the Chairmen of the Board.

Child Sacrifice

A spectacular display of Aztec architecture will be found in the new gym which will be transformed into the center of Teotihuacan — the ritual city of the gods. Towering pyramids line the Pathway of the Dead, which leads to the Grand Pyramid of the Moon. The exciting sounds of the 1930s and 40s, provided by Lester Lanin

and his Orchestra, will recreate the festivesinging and dancing which once began the ceremony of Tlaloc, the God of Rain. The customary child sacrifice, however, may be excluded.

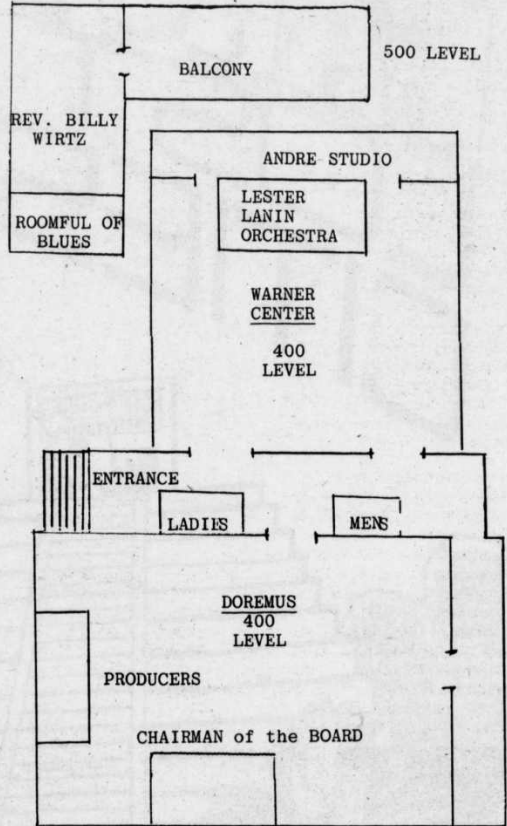
City of Teotihuacan

Ascending the balcony opposite the Pyramid of the Moon, Mr. F.D. will climb the Pyramid of the Sun, where he can view the ancient city of Teotihuacan. The great Wall of the Gods lies before him containing colorful murals of Aztec gods including Tezcatlipoch, God of Providence, Xiuhcuetli, God of Fire, Tlaloc, God of Rain, and Centeol, God of Corn. Exotic and interesting entertainers will display talents new and old on the balcony.

Temple of Inscriptions

Passing through the rain forests of Chiapas, Mr. F.D. will find the classroom changed into the secret chamber of the Temple of Inscriptions. Here lie the ancient hidden treasures of the Mayan civilization. Roomful of Blues, playing the hottest rhythm and blues, and the comedy of the Rev. Billy C. Wirtz are sure to entertain.

Many surprises await the festive crowd throughout the evening. This trip through South American cultures of centuries past promises to be the most spectacular Fancy Dress in history.



ANNIE JO WHITE

Miss Annie Jo White's legacy

Take an energetic librarian, \$47, a handful of students in costume, and you have the essential ingredients of Washington and Lee's first Fancy Dress Ball in 1907. Seventy-seven years later this annual event requires the talents and efforts of 50 Student Activities Board members, six months of planning, a budget of \$70,000 and an expected turnout of 4,000 people.

Miss Annie Jo White, a W&L librarian, initiated the Fancy Dress tradition when she threw a costume party for a few of her student friends, using proceeds from a theatrical production. Aware of her possibilities for social stimulus during the doldrums of mid-winter, Miss Annie set out to make her February event an annual affair. Her efforts were at first greeted with student indifference, but her persistence paid off and her "balmasque" soon gained enormous support and enthusiasm from the entire W&L community.

Each year Fancy Dress grew in popularity and prestige. By 1919 its extravagance and elaborate decorations were

known throughout the South. In 1928 the affair received national acclaim via The New York Times: "Fancy Dress, the South's outstanding collegiate social event." Many of the highlights of that era are still remembered. Van Horn brought his most elaborate costumes from Philadelphia and Walter Winchell introduced Fancy Dress to the nation over

cars to come to Lexington.

Fancy Dress has been interrupted twice in its 76-year history. It was discontinued briefly during the war of the early 40s and completely abandoned for a three-year period beginning in 1971. As The New York Times reported that year: "LEXINGTON, VA. —They're screaming bloody murder here because Washing-

'Fancy Dress, the South's outstanding collegiate social event.' — The New York Times

the Lucky Strike Radio Network hookup. Miss Annie Jo continued to appear and even posed for Life in 1938. The biggest name bands were contracted to play — Benny Goodman, Eddie Duchin, Kay Kaiser, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Jimmy Dorsey And hundreds of girls, from places such as New Orleans, Atlanta, Louisville, Charleston and Baltimore, chartered entire railroad

ton and Lee University has given up its Fancy Dress Ball..."

"Perhaps, as one student sighed, 'it can be resurrected.'"

Resurrection took place in 1974 with the newly formed Student Activities Board's version of Mardi Gras, and the revitalized tradition has been growing in strength ever since.