Mr. FD takes a stroll through the SAB Mink Dynasty

By COTTON PURYEAR Supplement Editor

Once again, it is time for Mr. FD and his date to take a stroll through the Warner Center and Doremus Gymnasium to gaze in awe at the spectacle provided them by the Student Activities Board with a re-creation of China right here in Lexington for the 78th Fancy Dress Ball, "The Mink Dynasty."

As has become customary, Mr. FD will be guided to Warner Center on March 8 by giant searchlights that can be seen throughout the southern Shenandoah Valley. As he approaches the entrance, he will move along a garden walkway lighted by candle-bags.

The stairs leading up to the entrance of the Warner Center will be covered by a red carpet and the whole area will give Mr. FD the feeling of being in the midst of an orchard of cherry blossom trees.

As Mr. FD escorts his date up the stairs, he will no doubt notice the large Chinese gong on his right. From there, he moves through the large gateway entrance and into the garden area.

Once inside, Mr. FD will feel as if he has stepped right into a lush Chinese garden. On his right, he will see a goldfish pond with floating lily pads. A small bridge will go over the pond, which will be surrounded by a bamboo fence.

To his left, he will notice that

the athletic trophy showcase has been replaced with several colorful exotic birds.

As Mr. FD moves further on, he will no doubt first choose to enter Warner Center. The Warner Center will be decorated in a mood that brings thoughts of old, dynastic China.

Blue, white, gold and red banners with calligraphy drawn on them will drape the ceiling. On both sides of the room, a large dragon mural will adorn the walls

Scattered about the room will be a number of tables where Mr. FD can rest as the night wears on. These tables will be decorated with bright Chinese floral arrangements.

Performing in the Warner Center Friday night will be the Count Basie Orchestra. Over the bandstand will be a large pagoda that reaches toward the ceiling.

When the orchestra is taking breaks, Mr. FD will be entertained by a Chinese dance troupe performing traditional Chinese dances such as the ribbon dance.

When Mr. FD turns away from the bandstand and looks to the balcony area, he will see that this area has been made to resemble the Great Wall of China.

From the 400 level of the Warner Center, Mr. FD can climb up the stairs of the Great Wall to reach the 500 level balcony area. Here, he will see more tables and on the walls there will be patterns of Chinese fans that range in size from small, hand-

sized fans to large fans 5 to 8 feet

Moving around the balcony area will be small acts entertaining all the happy (we hope) FD-goers. These acts could range from fortune tellers to jugglers to a lady on roller skates with a boa constrictor.

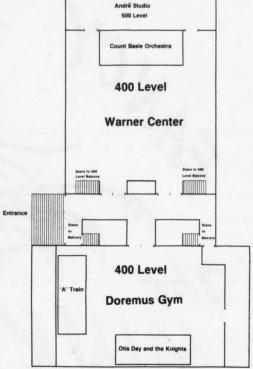
Leaving the balcony area and returning downstairs, Mr. FD's next stop will be the 400 level of Doremus Gym. Doremus will be decorated to give the feel of a Chinese New Year.

The upper balcony will be covered with cherry blossom branches, and Chinese lanterns will be strung across the ceiling. Along the walls of the gym will be decorated scrolls, and plans are to have symbols for the various Chinese New Years adorning the area in between.

The entertainment in Doremus Gym will be provided by "A" Train and Otis Day and the Knights. Mr. FD was a little discouraged when he discovered there would be no mantle to dive from, but he realized that some order must be kept to ensure that all the FD-goers get the most out of their Mink Dynasty experience.

Tickets for the 78th Fancy Dress Ball go on sale Monday at a cost of \$30 a couple. Fancy Dress memorabilia also can be purchased at the same time.

And don't forget — if Mr. FD wants to get an early start on his Fancy Dress weekend, he can go to the student activities pavilion the Thursday before Fancy Dress for a concert with Wild Kingdom and the Four Tops. Tickets for this show also go on sale Monday and are \$6.



By Cotton Puryear/The Ring-tum Ph

Friday, March 8, 1985
78th Annual Fancy Dress Ball
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The Bid

For some, season began in December

By TED LeCLERCQ Staff Reporter

It was no coincidence that Mary Baldwin College threw an expensive party with Liquid Pleasure Tuesday night. The party's purpose? The Bid.

It's every Washington and Lee man's most powerful bargaining tool. But only those fortunates who have yet to succumb to hometown pressure can legitimately play the exciting "Idon't-have-a-Fancy-Dress-date" game. Time is running out, how-

"The closer you get to FD, the better looking the girls get until this weekend. If they haven't gotten The Bid by this weekend, they have probably given up, senior Gray Sanders said.

Women who have never been on campus before and may never be here again until next February are showing up. Everywhere. The parties are packed; there are special road trips to Graham-Lees; even the is full of scheming women. No place is sacred.

Yet these women don't realize that the only W&L students who can study this close to The Ball have already extended The Bid. Even the students without dates are starting to sweat. Margie Copson, a sophomore from Hollins College, agrees.

"It seems late in The Season...girls I know were looking as early as January. If I didn't have a date by now, I would have probably given up," she said.

Yet Copson also said she thinks that women are not exactly "hunting" for a date at W&L parties, but rather primarily just having fun. A Sweet Briar College senior who asked not to be identified echoed a similar

"The way to get a date is to go over and have fun as often as you can but not try too hard. Guys usually see that pretty well," she

"You have to start being 'seen early — as early as December," she continued. "But guys get really cocky and they at least assume that girls are all out for the

same thing — an FD bid."

She added that the pre-FD parties have "every girl within a 50mile radius. The only difference in the parties is the competitiveness and the tension between the girls. They guys just sit back and become spectators for the girls who are trying to get a date."

W&L junior Bill Hanna agrees. "I would say the guys would be a little more cocky because they think the girls are there just to get an FD date.

Blair Eddy, a freshman at Randolph-Macon Woman's College agreed that W&L students have the upper hand for now, but not for much longer.

"Yes, girls here are still looking for dates this week. I think it would be a little rude to ask one next week, though," Eddy said. But I think first of all the girls are there to have a good time and second of all to get a date. It's no big deal for the girls who don't get dates.'

Kerri Castigan, a junior at Mary Baldwin, went one step

"I know a couple of girls who have turned down FD dates because they wanted to go to Florida for spring break. I think freshmen are more apt to look for dates but I don't think it's a big deal. Once you go, I don't



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think you feel that it is as big to miss another one." Castigan said she also is impressed by the

increased courtesy shown by W&L men at this time of year. "I think the guys are much more polite and outgoing," she said, "because they are looking for a date and they don't want to miss out.'

Freshman Brandt Wood agrees that a lot of maneuvering

'A lot of guys are withholding the coveted bid until late. But I would imagine that everybody would like to have given The Bid out by now to avoid the pre-FD panic that is setting in," Wood

The mind games are every-where. Signs for parties that are taken to the women's colleges still display, "FD dates available." Guys at the parties will even walk around with these signs on their backs. But this late in the game, it's like reaching into the Kentucky Fried Chicken basket for some white meat after your seven older brothers have grabbed their

Selected FD themes

1927 - Carnival at Venice

1928 - In Bookland

1929 - The Arabian Nights

1931 — Robin Hood and Maid Marion 1932 - Washington Theme (Bicentennial)

- The Coronation of Alexander III, Tsar of Russia

1935 — Congress of Vienna, 1814 1936 — Court of Queen Elizabeth, Renaissance England

1937 - Court of Lorenzo de Medici, Florentine Ballroom

1938 - The Garden of South Carolina

1941 — Merry Monarchs 1942 — Monte Carlo Casino Opening, 1861

1943 - The American Spirit

1947 - Court of Louis XVI

George Washington's Birthday Ball, Philadelphia, 1797

1950 - Court of King Arthur

1951 — Carmen Theme, Cadiz, Spain 1952 — The World of Shakespeare

1954 — Mardi Gras

1956 - The Wizard of Oz

- The National Theatre Premiere of Don Giovanni

Gilbert and Sullivan at Buckingham Palace

1960 - The Evolution of Man

- High Society

1963 - Civil War Centennial

1965 — Derby Day Ball 1967 — Opening Night

1969 - An Inaugural Ball

1970 - Camelot

- The Era of Rock and Roll

A Salute to Hollywood

1977 - An Evening in Paris

The Glories of Egypt

Monopoly: A Stroll Around the Board

1982 - 75th Diamond Jubilee

Waiting for the Robert E. Lee

- Lost Cities of Gold

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"A" Train

'A' Train: Louisiana's hottest

The music of "A" Train, Louisiana's premier band, has been aired on nearly 100 radio stations in 25 states as the six-member group prepares for its appearance in Doremus Gymnasium during next Friday's Fancy Dress Ball.

"A" Train recently released their second single, "Pass it on By," written by Buddy Flett, and "Fess on Up," written by David Egan. Both songs feature the world-class vocals of Miki Honeycutt.

The group previously has re-

leased three albums, including the highly acclaimed Live at Humpfrees.

The band's members are Egan, vocals and keyboards; Buddy Flett, vocals and guitar; Bruce Flett, vocals and bass; Paul Griffith, vocals and drums; John Howe, vocals and saxophone; and Honeycutt, vocals.

The band records with SOOTO records, with national distributions through Rounder Records and in Europe through I.R.D. records of Milano, Italy.

The band's performances

have included the Los Angeles Street Scene Festival and the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, where audiences have heard "A" Train's blend of rock and soul.

"If you are looking for music that will make you want to get up and dance, look no further than 'A' Train," wrote Cadence a year ago

year ago.
On March 16, 1983, The (Nash-ville) Tennessean said, "With Louisiana and Texas securely in their collective hip pocket, 'A' Train is on the verge of taking the entire South by storm."

And maybe Fancy Dress as

90 students, faculty taking dance class

By TIM RICHARDSON Staff Reporter

British essayist Alexander Pope once said, "They move easiest who learn to dance."

For about 90 Washington and Lee undergraduates, law students and faculty members, Pope's statement is being proven true, thanks to ballroom dance lessons taught by Frank Roupas, a Roanoke dance instructor.

During the past six weeks, on Wednesday nights, Roupas has instructed his pupils in the basic steps of the jitterbug, waltz, tango, rhumba, cha-cha and foxtrot. He hopes to have them ready in time for the Fancy Dress Ball on March 8.

"If you can walk, you can dance. In 29 years of teaching, I've never had a failure. I work with each student," Roupas said.

Roupas, 45, said most of his students at W&L take the class to prepare for Fancy Dress, but quickly added that his classes are useful later in life.

"You aren't going to disco at a governor's ball," he said.

Lesley Conradi, a third-year law student taking Roupas' class for the second time, agreed. "It's a social skill that helps later in life," she said. W&L art history Professor

W&L art history Professor Gerard M. Doyon said it is never too late to learn how to dance. Doyon, who is several years older than the other students in the class, said, "I went to an allboys' high school, an all-boys' college and then joined the Army. I never had a chance to learn to dance until now."

This is Roupas' second year of teaching classes at W&L. Besides W&L, he teaches at the University of Virginia, where he has 400 students, the Greenbrier Hotel, several community centers and churches and private homes.

"I'm the only dance instructor who makes house calls," he said

Roupas' students appear to enjoy his classes. Part of the reason is the enthusiasm and encouragement that he brings to the classes. Throughout the class, he is clapping, singing and dancing.

"Wasn't that wonderful," he says in a Lawrence Welkian accent after watching his students demonstrate their skills

At first glance, Roupas does not fit the image of a good dancer. He is tall, about 6 feet, 3 inches, and appears almost awkward. But when the music starts, he gracefully glides across the floor in perfect time.

His expertise has led to two television appearances, one on the "Lawrence Welk Show," the other at a New Year's Eve party at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City.

When asked why he teaches, he replied, "Ballroom dancing makes people happy, and I like to see people happy."



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From rude to extravagant: planning a \$65,000 ball

Staff Reporter

"It's amazing to me that we do all this for a four-hour ball," said Dain Dulaney, chairman of the Student Activities Board's Fancy Dress Ball committee. He was sitting among the rude beginnings of the soon-to-be extravagant decorations for the 78th Fancy Dress Ball, the theme of which is "The Mink Dynasty.

Dulaney wasn't speaking only of the Oriental screens handpainted and decorated with dragons, or of the other decorations the SAB is assembling in the student activities pavilion. He was talking about a six-month opera-tion that will have cost about \$65,000 and involved 60 SAB members as well as many mem-bers of the Lexington community by the time the festivities come to a close one week from tomorrow night.

The Theme
The planning for Fancy Dress begins in the fall when the SAB directors start kicking around

UDIO, Inc.

One of the first steps is to check a list of themes from the past balls, and try to come up with a related concept or an offshoot of an old theme.

'Most of the themes have been done in some form or variation in the past. This year's theme, I'm not real sure it's ever been done before. It'll be a new and hopefully real colorful theme, something that will be kind of exciting," Dulaney said.

From these lists, the directors come up with a broad-based idea which, Dulaney said, have been 'clever, or 'a visit to:,' or something like that.

This year's theme started as a Oriental idea and evolved into "The Mink Dynasty." Last year's theme began as thoughts about South America and became the "Lost Cities of Gold."

Although "everybody has input" into the decision on the theme, Dulaney said it is the Fancy Dress chairman, the SAB chairman, the board's executive director and a couple of other people who finally decide what

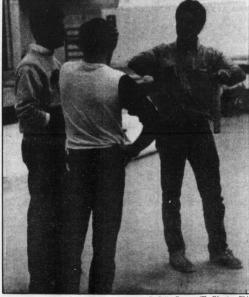
the theme will be. With 60 members-at-large on the board, Dulaney said that this procedure has proven to be the easiest and he added that nearly everybody is happy with the end result

The directors brainstorm and discuss and narrow their ideas down until they arrive at a theme. This is usually done by the beginning of January, and this is when the rumors and speculation begin. When the theme is chosen, only the directors know what it is. The rest of the SAB is kept as much in the dark as the rest of the Washington and Lee community until just before the ball.

Dulaney worked this year with the Fancy Dress committee, something new this year, which was part of the general reorgan-ization of the SAB. The committee was told a week or so ago about the theme, and the rest of the SAB was let in on the secret at Tuesday night's board meet-

There is good reason for keeping the theme secret, Dulaney said. It revolves around the SAB's sale of Fancy Dress memorabilia. The T-shirts, posters and cups that the board sells make a good deal of money, Dulaney said, and that helps keep the cost of Fancy Dress within reason. If the SAB can keep the theme under wraps, it can maintain exclusive sale of the memorabilia and use that money to defray the operating expenses of the ball. Keeping the ticket price down for the students is one of the main concerns the SAB has in its Fancy Dress planning

There have been instances in which other people have produced Fancy Dress items. "We've had problems in the past with people turning stuff out. We run into problems with that because we copyright what we do - the theme basically. We don't want to prosecute anybody.



SAB executive director Mike Guerriero gives instructions to SAB members on how the decorations should be put together.

The Bands

The other major decision the SAB must make for Fancy Dress is the choice of entertainment. The first and most important part of the entertainment that must be taken care of is the big band. Dulaney said there is an incredible demand right now for orchestras because there aren't new big bands starting up anymore. Since the orchestra is a crucial part of the ball, the SAB lines one up early in the year. The Count Basie Orchestra was booked in October for this year's

The rock and roll bands are booked later because there are more variables regarding their performance. Concert tours, band break-ups and competitive bidding with other organizations all are among the factors that must be considered.

Charged with this responsibility are SAB entertainment co-chairmen John Haywood and John Crawford. The rock bands are contacted sometime in Feb-

ruary and the SAB tries to match schedules with some of them. The SAB then bids for a large number of bands and chooses one that will fit its budget

"The way things worked out this year, we got some real good deals," Dulaney said.

The Decorations

Also to be considered in pre-parations for the ball are the decorations that will transform Warner Center into the Far East. "We try to construct and design most of our stuff from materials we can make, because it usually costs less," Dulaney said. The procedure for decorating for the ball operates in much the same way as does the theme decision. A broad conception of how the decorations will look is the first step. From here, SAB members begin to look for decorations for the ball. This year, Dulaney said, SAB executive director Michael Guerriero went to New York City to look for decorations and things have been ordered from Houston and from all over Virginia

At that point, when the decorations and theme are determined. the real work begins for the rest of SAB. Most of the board, the members-at-large, do not participate in the decision-making but play a big role in the implementation of the decision. What this means is that they spend three hours a day at the pavilion constructing decorations and doing everything necessary to put on the ball.

There are certain rewards for this work. Each SAB member receives free tickets to the ball, a free T-shirt and a free poster

Especially helpful in all the preparations, Dulaney noted, are the people of Lexington. They show great interest, he added, and their help in getting the materials together is tial and something the SAB is

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Ball's secrecy adds hype

SAB keeps FD subject under wraps for a reason

By COTTON PURYEAR Supplement Editor

The announcement of this year's Fancy Dress theme ends the months of secrecy that have surrounded the event for almost as long as there has been a Fancy Dress.

Student Activities Board Entertainment Chairman John Haywood said the theme used to be revealed much earlier since Fancy Dress was originally a costume ball and people needed time to get their costumes ready.

Haywood said that in the 1960s the event became a more formal, black-tie event.

He said that the curtain of secrecy is kept over the Fancy Dress theme for two reasons.

One is that the SAB tries to build as much "hype" around the event as possible. "The element of secrecy adds glamour to the event." Haywood said.

Haywood added that it is very important that people continue to want to go to Fancy Dress and the element of secrecy helps add to the promotion of the event.

The second reason for theme secrecy at Fancy Dress is more of a practical one, but is none the less very important, he explain-

The theme of Fancy Dress is kept secret until the very last moment in an effort to make it more difficult for those people who wish to market "unauthorized" Fancy Dress memorabilia.

While at first that may seem to be a stab at the system of capitalism many Americans hold very dear to their heart, Haywood said that bootleg FD memorabilia has a direct effect on ticket prices.

"When we make \$5 on the sale of a T-shirt, it goes to keeping the price of FD tickets down," Haywood said. "When some other guy makes \$5, it just goes into his pocket."

The budget for Fancy Dress is nearly \$65,000, Haywood said, and that money comes from student funds and from ticket and memorabilia sales.

"We have to get the money from somewhere," Haywood said. "If we don't make it on sales of memorabilia then we have to increase the ticket prices."

Haywood said that bootleg FD memorabilia, if left unchecked, could increase the ticket prices anywhere from \$5 to \$7.

While most people are content to wait patiently in suspense for the announcement of the Fancy Dress theme, there are occassions where individuals try to find out before the SAB decides to make the theme public.

Such was the case last year.
Rick Swagler, co-editor of The
Ring-tum Phi, had a friendly bet
with Haywood that he could find
out what the theme was going to
be. Swagler said he would not
print the theme before the SAB
decided to release it if Haywood
would tell Swagler if he guessed
the theme correctly.

the theme correctly.
Swagler toyed with different ideas about how to find out the exact wording of the theme and finally hit upon an idea that worked. Upon learning the name and location of the plastics company that was printing the FD grain cups, Swagler went to

Swagler called the company and identified himself as a student from Washington and Lee University. He said he needed to check the wording on the cup. They read it off and Swagler replied, "Yep, sounds good to me."

Soon after that, Haywood received a "panicked" call from the plastics company, which was not about to print thousands of cups with a questionable theme on them. They then proceeded to Federal Express a cup down to Haywood so he could doublecheck the wording on the cup to make sure it was all right.

Haywood said that everything

turned out OK and the cup makers were actually very amused by the entire thing. On a more serious side, Haywood said that there was a slight chance the cupmaking could have slowed up to the point of not having them on hand for the event.

For those who do not heed warnings of "Don't try to do this yourself — leave it to the professionals," Haywood said they have now implemented procedures that would make it very difficult, even impossible, for any unauthorized person to learn the theme of Fancy Dress before the SAB wants them to.

FDPOINTERS

•Guests must have proper ID at the door.

Tickets must be purchased — what you receive in the mail is only an invitation.

•Tickets and FD memorabilia may be purchased in the Student Center, beginning Monday.

 The dress code will be strictly enforced.

•Washington Street will be blocked off from Lee Avenue to Nelson Street.

•Don't drink and

-only 20 couples will avoid the hassle of crowded restaurants prior to FD

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