

# SABU Ball Saturday night features SOS Band

By GREG COY  
Special to the Phi

As memories of Fancy Dress '83 become distant, Washington and Lee University prepares itself for another very special and entertaining weekend. The Student Association for Black Unity will celebrate its 12th anniversary ball this Saturday, March 19. The semi-formal ball will be held in the Warner Center. It will start at 8:30 p.m. and last until 2:00 a.m.

The S.A.B.U. is very optimistic about the social event. "We are anticipating a very successful ball," replied Robert Stephen, president of S.A.B.U. Co-chairman Ira Puryear said, "I think this will be the best ball in the history of the organization."

Puryear has good reason to

be so positive. Performing at the Pearl Anniversary Ball will be recording artists The SOS Band. This will be the bands first appearance since their new album SOS III was released. Dean of Minority Affairs, John White, said the band is currently on tour and performing some of the material to be used in their next album, SOS IV. The band has just recently had a single from their current album go gold. White said the band was very excited by their accomplishments, and wants to give an excellent performance in Lexington to continue the success of their album.

White was also not short on-praise for the Mighty Majors who will be the special guest of the event. "We want to provide the best quality entertainment. The Majors are from North

Carolina and are one of the best regional bands in the area."

The Mighty Majors originated on the campus of North Carolina A & T University in Greensboro in 1965 as the result of a talent show. In less than two years, the group went on the road with Gene Chandler and others. In addition they have fronted numerous coliseum and auditorium concerts. From 1968-1978, few regional groups played a more rigorous circuit, through Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia, Tennessee, and Florida than the Mighty Majors. The eight member group has blended full instrumentation and vocals to offer masterful renditions of all types of material including top 40, Carolina beach, disco, and rock. Their versatility, especial-

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ly their beach melodies, are superb because the Majors have worked personally with dozens of original recording artists including the Drifters, Tams, Temptations, Showmen and many others.

"By getting the Majors and the SOS Band," White said, "we want to present a showcase ball, a dance with a concert."

"Obviously, this is a major step forward for us with such a caliber band as the SOS. We consider it as a precedent for us." White said the S.A.B.U. Organization and Ball "was founded 12 years ago by a group of students who wanted to introduce white students at that time to a different cultural experience. We try to bring black entertainment and groups that

have their origins in jazz, gospel and blues. It has usually been an event for minority students to celebrate the end of their Black Cultural Heritage Week. The students did most of the work for this weekend. They are very excited to have an opportunity to produce such an event and to see all the previews as favorable."

A spokesman for the organization, Ron Magee said, "We hope that students will come in order to enjoy the function that we are providing for the university."

Tickets for the S.A.B.U. Ball can be purchased at the office of minority affairs, The Minority Cultural Center and at the Warner Center the night of the show.