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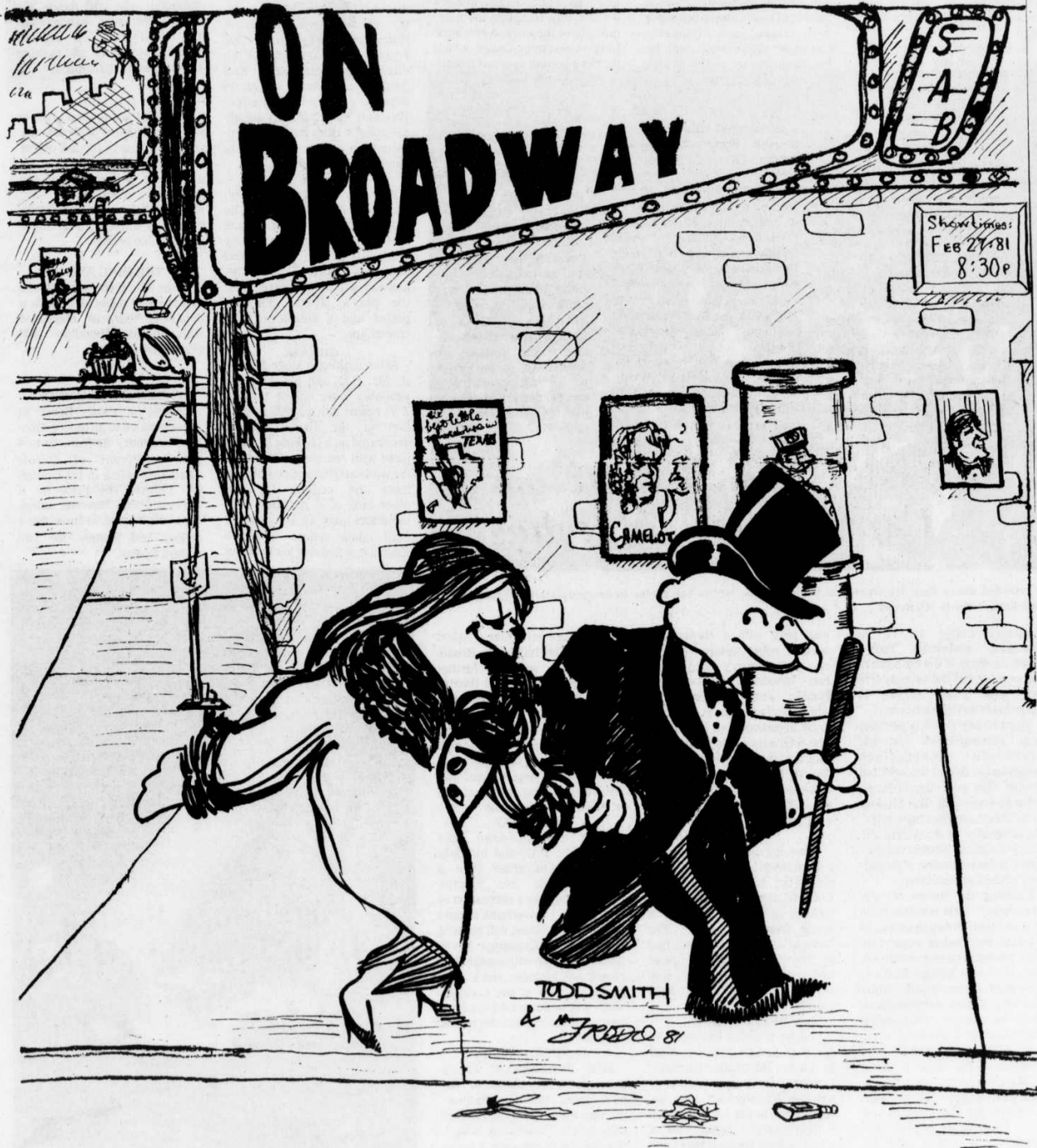
Fancy Dress 1980



Volume LXXX

A Ring-tum Phi Supplement

February 5, 1981



Fancy Dress Ball

ON BROADWAY

by Mike Perry
Washington and Lee's seventy-fourth annual Fancy Dress Weekend, one of the nation's premier college weekends, is slated for February 26, 27, and 28. Although the event has changed a great deal throughout its long history, the events' style and character is still best represented at the Fancy Dress Ball.

In the old days, Fancy Dress was a costume ball, par-

distribute a playbill with a list of all the evening's attractions in addition to 5,000 commemorative coins, while George Benson's "On Broadway" echoes in the background.

CAMELOT

Mr. F.D.'s first stop will probably be in Camelot, formerly Evans Dining Hall, the room will be decorated to depict a medieval castle scene complete with flags and banners. Camelot's decorations will be based on the set of the Broad-

SAB plans to decorate the room with white candlelit tables and beautiful floral arrangements. Harmonia Gardens will be further distinguished from the rest of Broadway by the fact that Lowenbrau light and dark beer will be served.

42ND STREET

After leaving Harmonia Gardens, Fancy Dress revelers will be sure to notice the marquis above the Cockpit entrance to the University Center which marks a tribute to one of Broad-

may even feel the urge to leave his own mark on this year's event. SAB organizers realize this and encourage Fancy Dress goers to bring magic markers and write graffiti on the alley's paper walls.

OKLAHOMA

Mr. Fancy Dress and his date may next be lured by the country and western sounds of Riders in the Sky into the EC room, decorated with checkered curtains and possibly a covered wagon to depict a country barn. Ranger Bob and Too Slim will supply the room's entertainment complete with an electric campfire and tumbleweeds.

A CHORUS LINE

When Mr. F.D. has had his fill on Ranger Bob and Too Slim, he may elect to escort his date upstairs past the University Center television rooms and down "A Chorus Line." This hallway will be decorated with the play's official publicity poster and a silhouette of a chorus line.

GREASE

After making a stage-left exit, Mr. F.D. and his date will probably enter one of the two T.V. rooms into an SAB recreation of the room will be decorated as a parking lot complete with rearview mirrors on the walls and foam dice hanging from the ceiling. On the other side of a partition SAB members plan to construct a malt shop where Wedsel's Edsels is scheduled to churn out

a complete 1950's style musical show.

CABARET

After a couple of malts Mr. F.D. will no doubt want to "bop" down to the Cabaret, that is Room 114 redecorated as the inside of a 1930s German burlesque. Centerstage will feature Bill Clary, a comedian-magician who will dazzle audiences with such feats as sawing third-year law student Susan May in half and making Carole Chappell disappear.

MY FAIR LADY

If you're looking for a place to relax, or maybe just pass out, the SAB plans to furnish one of the side dining halls with tables and chairs in the design of the grandstand from the hit "My Fair Lady" complete with flowers, a winners circle and a gazebo — no horses.

THE KING AND I

In the dining room across the way the SAB plans to recreate a Japanese tearoom decorated with murals, buddhas and geisha girls.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for Fancy Dress '81 are scheduled to go on sale Monday, February 23 from 10 to 4 p.m. in front of Carole Chappelle's office in the University Center. The price for a ticket is \$20.00. Souvenir grain-cups will be sold at three for a dollar, and posters for two dollars a piece.



A crowded dance floor is common at Fancy Dress, but no one seems to be complaining. This year's ballroom theme is "Camelot."

participants came attired in elaborate costumes. Today, black tie dress is the costume of the evening but the seventy-five keg gala affair serves to perpetuate a rich tradition.

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 Student Activities Board has been working diligently to transform the Early-Fielding Student Center into a tribute to some of Broadway's finest productions.

Utilizing the theme of "On Broadway," 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 Jamie Small claims that this year's extravaganza "will be loaded with more entertainment than ever."

THEATRE LOBBY

Drawn to the student center by two searchlights, this year's Fancy Dress goer and his date will enter the ball through one of the two entrances to Evans Dining Hall, which will be decorated to resemble a theatre lobby. SAB members plan to

way play with a throne and several court jesters roaming about. The room's main attraction, however, will be Peter Duchin and his orchestra, whose performance is expected to be broadcast live on WLUR. The SAB also plans to dispense much of the beer from some of the 75 kegs of Erlanger and Milwaukee light slated for the evening from a bar running the width of the room.

THE WIZ

Upon leaving Camelot, many Fancy Dress goers will venture down the hallway above the Cockpit along a yellow brick road decorated to recreate a scene from "the Wiz". The hallway can also be identified by the official Broadway poster and a rainbow on the ceiling featuring a spectrum of bright colors.

HELLO DOLLY

Led by a green canopy rug, Mr. F.D. and his date may elect to enter Harmonia Gardens, formerly the Cockpit — the area will be transformed into the restaurant in the Broadway hit "Hello Dolly." Room Full of Blues, a New Orleans jazz band will play a variety of Louis Armstrong and other hits. The

way's newest hits "42nd Street." The hallway's Broadway motif will be further enhanced by recreated theatre fronts and publicity posters of selected plays. Along the opposite wall, SAB organizers plan to paint a city skyline with a silver sky and "thousands" of tiny lights to depict stars and lend an exciting, carnival-like atmosphere to the scene.

SHOWBOAT

After a stroll down 42nd Street, Mr. F.D. and his date may elect to cross over a wooden plank into Fairfax Lounge and onto a recreation of a steamboat. Riverbank foliage and a ship's railing will be used to depict a Mississippi River scene complete with signal flag, ringbuys, lanterns and a paddlewheel. One of the Lounges walls will be decorated to represent an entrance into the rest of the boat.

WEST SIDE STORY

After disembarking, Fancy Dress goers may choose to venture down the EC hallway through an alleyway decorated with bricks, trashcans and a fire escape to recreate a scene from the Broadway smash "Westside Story." Mr. F.D.



One of the two searchlights which will mark the location of this year's ball.

Duchin To Supply Swing

by John Wells

The SAB has chosen the Peter Duchin Orchestra to play at the main ball in Evans Dining Hall during the Fancy Dress hoopla in keeping with the On Broadway theme, the show represented in the ballroom will be Camelot.

Duchin may or may not know about the Camelot selection. But it doesn't matter because, among bandleaders or anyone else, pianist Duchin has eminent Camelot qualifications. Not only was he raised by Democratic stalwarts like the Averell Harrimans, but his band played for President John F. Kennedy at the White House and he has been a longtime friend of the one and only Jackie O.

Duchin maintains an aura of that brief period in American politics, and he certainly looks like a jet-setter. It is especially fitting that he comes to W&L's Fancy Dress immediately following Bob Crosby and Lester Lanin. Crosby is representative of the big band

era in which Duchin's father, the late Eddy Duchin, made it big. Lanin has made his name playing for the privileged at debutante balls, bar mitzvahs, wedding receptions and various country club dances. Duchin plays big band (jazz is his favorite) and has made big bucks on the Lester Lanin circuit.

Duchin was born in 1937. His father had married New York socialite Marjorie Oelrich in 1933, and Mrs. Duchin died six days after her son's birth. She had been a close friend of the first Mrs. Averell Harriman, and Peter was raised by the Harrimans at their Manhattan townhouse and country estate. (Averell, you know, was Governor of New York before he was FDR's Moscow envoy.) His youth was spent among powerful Democrats, high society and show business personalities. His father died of leukemia in 1951.

Duchin was a music major at Yale, and studied piano and performed in Paris for two

years in the late 1950s. He returned to New York and formed the Peter Duchin orchestra in 1958, and played for two years at the famous St. Regis Hotel. The band was a huge success, playing for the Kennedys, the Rockefellers and the Duke and Duchess of Windsor.

The extended St. Regis gig led to other engagements; and Duchin has been on the debutante circuit ever since. He has played at the White House wedding receptions of both Johnson girls, the 1976 Democratic National Convention, and the inaugural balls of Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan. Duchin is booked up now past 1987.

A primary attraction of Duchin's music is the variety of it. He can move from Bach to Gershwin to Elvis to Rolling Stones to Donna Summer with relative ease. Fancy Dress Ball and the Camelot theme will provide a suitable showcase for Duchin's talent and versatility.



Peter Duchin

In contrast to his elegant social image, Duchin privately enjoys the outdoors and his country estate, where he likes

to spend time with his wife, three children, dogs and goats. He often sports a tan resembling that of his pal Cary Grant.

The Year They Cancelled Fancy Dress

by Chris Peacock

The history of the Fancy Dress Ball contains some most interesting and colorful moments. A look back at Fancy Dresses past reveals themes which range from the European Courts of the Gilded Age to the antebellum South to, and get this, Heaven itself.

Those were the days when the Age of Swing spread the fame of Fancy Dress to wherever

Americans had radios: "Live from Lexington, Va...."

(Nowadays, searchlights outside the building reach about as far up as the exclusive Fancy Dress coverage on WLUR reaches out.)

But if you want a really unique Fancy Dress, you have only to look 10 years back.

The year 1971 was pretty unique in the annals of Fancy Dress history. In fact, it is pro-

bably the most unique.

That's because there was no Fancy Dress Ball that year.

Imagine that. "The outstanding collegiate social event of the south" didn't even happen in 1971.

(The New York Times made that reference to the ball back in the 1930s, but the phrase continues to be repeated each year in newsletters to prospective freshmen.)

In a way the demise, albeit temporary, should not seem so surprising, what with the way traditions were dying by the

dozens here and elsewhere in those days.

Everything from parietals in W&L dorms to coats and ties worn to class was biting the dust.

Other things were markedly different then, too.

The Ring-tum Phi observed that "No one seems to be weeping over the plight of the fraternity system."

And Chicago Seven defendants Jerry Rubin and David Dellinger spoke at Wilson Field to an assemblage called "The Shenandoah Festival for Peace

and Justice."

No one seemed to notice the death of Fancy Dress.

The Phi spent a whole paragraph on the matter.

Nobody even wrote a letter to the editor. Talk about apathy, simple tables left in the rain means a letter or two for the SAB even in those days.

Even those who were in on the decision could not agree on the cause.

The chairman of the Dance Board (now the SAB) told the Executive Committee there (See F.D. HISTORY, page 8)

MIKE MERRICK & DON GREGORY
RICHARD BURTON
 KATHLEEN McKEARNY RICHARD MUENZ

LERNER & LOEWES
CAMELOT

PAXTON WHITEHEAD
 ROBERT FOX JAMES VALENTINE

ALAN JAY LERNER FREDERICK LOEWE
 MOSS HART

DESMOND HEALEY THOMAS SKELTON
 FRANZ ALLERS JAMES MARTIN JOHN McCLURE
 ROBERT RUSSELL BENNETT PHIL LANG JERRY ADLER STONE WIDNEY

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Oklahoma!

Camelot

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AND

HIS
ORCHESTRA

STARRING

**HELLO
DOLLY**

SLOWBOAT

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AND

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ON

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