

D Train, Lite Year featured in SABU Ball



The feature band at the SABU Ball will be the nationally acclaimed "D Train" who will play their top chart single "Keep On."

By STEVEN POCKRASS
Staff Reporter

Desiring to attract at least 250 Washington and Lee students and 500 members of the public, the W&L Student Association for Black Unity will sponsor the 13th annual SABU Ball on Saturday, May 5, at Warner Center.

"We would like to see 250 members from the W&L community at the Ball. That's our goal," said SABU President Ron Magee. Magee said he expects total attendance to run between 750 and 1,000 persons.

The ball, which begins at 8:30 p.m., will kick off with the band "Lite Year." This Virginia Beach group will play two 45-minute sets of Top 40 and contemporary

music. According to Magee and SABU Ball Chairman Ira Puryear, "Lite Year" will be followed by a fashion show of spring and summer wear.

The Ball's feature band is internationally acclaimed "D Train," which has been named best new group by several polls. Having just returned from a very successful European tour, the band has seen its single "Keep On" skyrocket to the top of the overseas charts. Another single, "You're the One for Me," has also been well received.

According to John D. White, dean of Minority Affairs, all proceeds from the ball will go to the Marjorie Poindexter Student Fund, which provides financial assistance to students in times of

unusual emergency or extraordinary need. The fund, established in 1983 in memory of Mrs. Poindexter, who died in November, will be administered by the W&L Office of Student Financial Aid. Mrs. Poindexter had served on the Washington and Lee staff since 1968.

SABU has never kept any of the ball's profits, which have always gone back to the school, according to White. "We hope to at least put \$2,500 into the (Poindexter) Fund," said Magee.

Both Magee and Puryear term the event a "remarkable time." They see it as an inexpensive, enjoyable evening featuring fine music and free hors d'oeuvres, beer and punch. Complimentary

carriages will be given to all the women.

"It (Warner Center) looks like a nightclub," explained Puryear.

"Everyone on campus is invited," said Magee, who noted that there are always plenty of single men and women in attendance. "We would hope the entire W&L community would see what we are doing as an alternative for that Saturday night," he said.

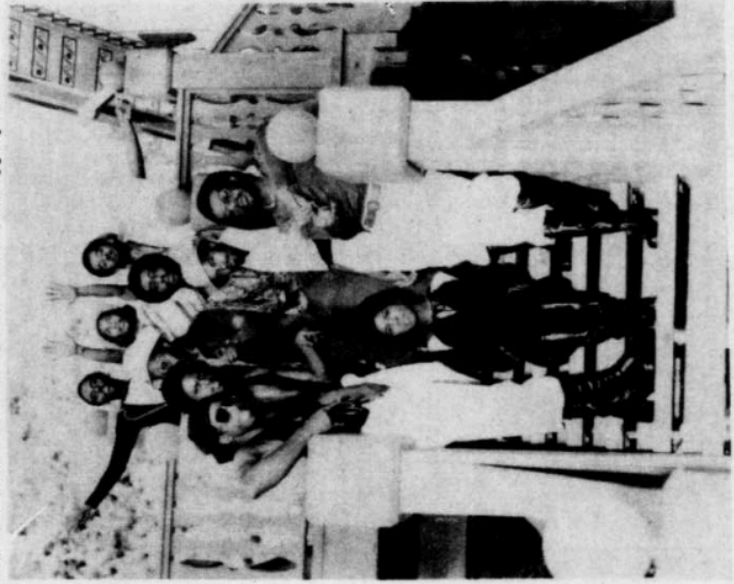
The SABU Ball was never meant to be an alternative to Fancy Dress Ball, although it may have once seemed that way. "In the past, we haven't gotten many white students," said Magee. According to Dean White, the SABU Ball used to be the culmination of Black Culture Week, normally about three weeks after Fancy Dress.

By moving the ball to the spring, SABU has seen the event expand. "Last year was the first year we moved to the gym," Magee said. According to

Puryear, the SABU Ball, now known as "The Spring Thing," was almost always a week before final exams, which cut into attendance. This spring date also makes the ball more accessible for area citizens and alumni who worried about weather conditions when traveling. "The ball attracts a lot of people from the area," said Puryear.

The SABU Ball is the only minority function in the local region that is over a decade old, according to White. "The tradition of the ball has hung on," he said.

Tickets for "The Spring Thing" cost \$10 per person and may be purchased from the Office of Minority Affairs in Payne Hall or the Minority Cultural Center at 10 Lee Avenue, two doors down from the Sigma Chi Fraternity. Proper dress is required. According to Magee, a coat, tie and slacks are appropriate.



The Virginia Beach-based band "Lite-Year 2001" will open the 13th annual SABU Ball Saturday, May 5 at 8:30 in Warner Center.

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