

## A First Hand Perspective on the Binford Formal

by: Tom Lalley

As with any dance the character of the participants determines the character of the dance. The Binford Christmas Formal on December 3 was no different. My job as reporter covering the dance was made much easier with the use of a portable tape recorder. The entire dance was covered starting at 9:00 p.m. and going to 3:00 a.m. In order to accurately convey what the dance was like I have written a chronology of the evening. Certain parts of the evening have been edited or altered to protect the innocent and myself.

Of the quotes, I found that approximately 30 people said that the dance was good, or words to that effect. An equal amount of people said that the dance was terrible, but showed no signs of discontent. Apparently most complain-

ing was done in an attempt at humor. Also, another 40 or so quotes could not be included. These quotes mostly contained a mixture of babble and irrelevant ideas.

December 3, 1987

9:00 p.m. - enter my room from somewhere and quickly get showered and dressed for formal.

9:30 - After a small seven to eight person party in the room we decide to leave for High Point.

10:00 - Things begin to get going. Arrive at Holiday Inn. Find hotel room crowded and noisy.

Karen: "Tequila? Tequila? You've got Tequila?"

10:30 - On our way to the dance we stopped on the way to smell the flowers of High Point.

10:50 - At Top of the Mart where the dance was held. Sudden realization that the dance is in a furniture store, but still very nice.

10:55 - Interview with deejays Chris Harris and Tyrone Davis. "There are a lot more people here than I had expected, and a lot more people are dancing."

10:57 - Announcement is made that a sign has been stolen and that the dance will be stopped if not returned. No one listens and no one cares.

11:10 - Dance has filling up steadily, music switches from "dance music" to rock n'Roll. Dance floor is crowded.

11:20 - Interview with Charles Ramsey, director of food and beverage for Southern Furniture Market Centre. Mr. Ramsey commented on the good behavior of the students which he attributed to "the elegance of the facility."

11:25 - Interview with John Harris, a bartender. "Other than someone stealing my tips I'm hav-

ing a great time."

11:27 - Realize I've spent too much time talking to sober people, decide to begin student interviews. Note: From this point the interviews must be taken with a grain of salt.

11:30 - Christin: "I think the dance kinda sucks but other than that it's great."

11:40 - Tom, president of the student senate: "When we got here at 10:00 there wasn't a sole in the place so I'm glad the place has filled up."

11:45 - The floor is shaking from all the dancers.

11:50 - Songs like Louie Louie and "Shout" fill the dance floor.

12:00 - Jason: "I guess I'm having a good time ... yes, yes, I'm having a good time."

12:05 - Dan: "I'm liking this dance ... eleven floors of total pleasure."

12:07 - David: "The music could use some work, but I'm having a

good time." His date: "I'm trying to teach my date how to dance to this music but we're making very slow progress."

12:15 - Step outside for some air.

12:20 - First girl says she loves me.

12:25 - John: "The drinks need to be improved on." Heather: "Very exciting entertainment, yes." Duncan: "The dance is thumpin'."

12:30 - Wendy: "I'm burning up baby, burning up." Tim: "We need some Grateful Dead." Amy: "This is great, tee hee hee ..." Julie: "We might as well have the dance here, we get kicked out of everywhere else." Jay: "Having a good time, really enjoying myself." Mike: "....." Andrea: "I think that the Christmas Formal is a Guilford Institution."

(con't on p. 14)

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