

Art Center Ball Masks Weather

By Constance Daniell
of The Journal Staff

The brilliant beam of a searchlight pierced the rainy skies and giant waves crashed against the Lake Michigan shore as guests arrived at the Milwaukee Art Center Saturday night for the 17th annual Bal du Lac.

But the ferocity of the elements did nothing to diminish the merriment for 400 partygoers who paid \$100 a couple for an evening of wining, dining and dancing to enrich the Art Center's permanent acquisition fund.

The masked ball theme of the party was readily apparent to arrivals who threaded their way through a galaxy of colored masks suspended from confetti streamers at the entrance to the upper gallery.

Most of the guests brought their own masks, which ranged from the simple dime store variety to the elaborate creation designed for Mrs. Harry Lynde Bradley by her friend, Marcia Mueller Pabst.

Mrs. Bradley's mask, fashioned of gray and white yarn, was a life size poodle's face. Inspiration for the mask was the painting, "Sunny," by Alex

Katz, part of the Bradley collection that Mrs. Bradley donated to the Art Center.

This was the first Bal du Lac held at the Art Center since the completion of its new
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—Journal Photo

Bal du Lac co-chairmen Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jones (left) and Dr. and Mrs. Richard Fritz

Party

Masked Ball Aids Art Center Fund

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wing, and guests were enthusiastic about the setting. Among them was Richard E. Oldenburg, director of the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. He and his wife were guests of Mrs. Bradley.

The 16th Bal du Lac, was held at the Art Center in 1974, but the addition was not ready at the time.

The Sweetbottom, a four piece jazz group, played for the cocktail hour in the Bradley Gallery as David the Magician dazzled guests with feats of magic. Later in the evening David gave magic shows in the Buffet Mezzannie.

Colorful tulips, tiger lilies and birds of paradise were planted in the Claes Oldenburg trowel sculpture in the new Vogel-Helfaer Galleries where guests dined on macedoine of fruit (pineapples stuffed with fresh fruits), beef bordelaise and rice pilaf.

Long before the tables were cleared partygoers took to the dance floor, lured by the music of the Marshall Grant Orchestra of Palm Beach, Fla.

In addition to the \$100 a couple ticket group there were categories for masters of the arts at \$500 and sponsors of the arts at \$250. Another fund raiser was an auction of masks donated by widely known artists.

Co-chairmen of the benefit were Dr. and Mrs. Richard D. Fritz, Glendale, and Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Jones Jr., Milwaukee