



MEL MARCELO, THE UCSD GUARDIAN, U. OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Ballroom dance's grace attracts many students

By Laura Baker
 ■ The UCSD Guardian
 U. of California, San Diego

"One, two, three. One, two, three," my partner hisses through clenched teeth, a grim, determined look on his face. "One, two, three, one, two ..."

Then he starts to smile and relaxes the vice-like grip he has on my hand. He's stopped thinking the rhythm and begun to simply feel it.

We whirl around the dance floor, secure in each other's arms, moving together effortlessly like Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire. Alright, maybe I'm getting carried away. Actually, it's a Monday night and we're both in jeans and tennis shoes. Although he's still counting, we are dancing and it's wonderful.

If you'd ask me what my favorite class was last winter, I would have told you ballroom dance. Taught through U. of California, San Diego's physical education department, the classes are popular and fill quickly.

In fact, ballroom dance is making something of a comeback in the United States. An article in *The Smithsonian's* April 1989 issue states the membership of the U.S. Amateur Ballroom Dancers Association, which has chapters in 24 states, has doubled in the last five years. And more than 10,000 student dancers nationwide are involved in the Ballroom Dance Society.

"I would much rather go out with a man that I know is going to hold me in his arms and we're going to dance together," said Andrea Marshall, who helped establish a Ballroom Dance Society chapter at the U. of Kentucky.

For many, the appeal of ballroom dance is in the pleasure of moving with someone. Daniel Garnett, who also helped establish UK's Ballroom Dance Society said, "It's more romantic to be able to hold somebody and dance with them than it is to go out and jump up and down," he said.

But I admit nostalgia has a lot to do with it as well. Although he was scornful

of the era, F. Scott Fitzgerald has instilled in me a longing to dance away under the stars. Marshall Stern's description of Sunday nights at the Savoy Dance Hall in Harlem in "Jazz Dance" makes me yearn for a similar creative outlet. I listen to old Duke Ellington records and dance out in front of the mirror, my bathroom robe a ball gown.

There are more practical reasons for the increased interest in ballroom dance than my own nostalgia.

"An entire generation grew up in the rock era, starting in the '60s and '70s, and they never ever danced together," said Larry Schulz, co-owner of a local dance center. "Now that they're at an age where they find themselves in professional situations — company functions, galas, balls — that require a certain sophistication. You can't just get up and disco all night."

Regina Swift, *Kentucky Kernel*, U. of Kentucky contributed to this report.

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Lyrics

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he said. "But people forget — things change and go back to the way they were."

Penn. State administrative fellow Terrell Jones agreed. "Prejudice is reinforced in children from five different areas: parents, siblings, peers, formal institutions and the mass media."

The mass media, of course, includes the record industry. "The record companies need to have some type of program for addressing these issues with their artists," Bigelow said.

Louderback also feels the message can have an affect on listeners. "People who don't know that much about Jews and then hear these negative things could be influenced to believe they are true," she said.

Bigelow, Jones and Louderback all agree freedom of speech is of great importance, but they also feel prejudiced statements should not be viewed as acceptable. "There's taking license, but there's also a responsibility," Smith said.

SOUNDBITES

Queen Latifah *All Hail the Queen*

In Muslim, her name means "delicate." But what's in a name? At the young age of 22, Queen Latifah demonstrates an authority and vengefulness some rap artists never acquire. *All Hail The Queen*, her debut album, displays a profound cultural awareness, a wide spectrum of musical influence and killer samples and dance grooves. The album opens with an incredible hip-hop number called "Dance for Me," which is also her first single from the album. Her style is aggressive, tough and upfront. And she can sing as well. Quite a few of the songs on the album showcase her formidable pipes, especially the reggae-influenced tunes that are Latifah's personal favorites. If you've never tried rap before, this is a good place to start. ■ Daniel Washco, *The Daily Northwestern*, Northwestern U.

Camouflage *Methods of Silence*

On their newest album, the West German-based syntho-pop band Camouflage keeps the same digital dance sound that has made them so popular. The album's first single, "Love is a Shield," is a new digital mix of the emotionally-textured dance tune. Other songs that really grab attention are the psychedelic sounding "One Fine Day," "A Picture of Life," a study of the AIDS epidemic, and a remake of the 1980 New Music hit "On Islands." The lyrics to "Les Reus" are sung in French. *Methods of Silence* is a much smoother sounding album than its predecessor and is outstanding on a lyrical scale. Those of you who love the Depeche Mode sound should buy this album; you won't be disappointed. ■ Ricky Swain, *The Daily Helmsman*, Memphis State U.



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