

WALKING DISTANCE

Rhythm & Reviews' weekly feature on art, entertainment or cuisine near campus



Map Quest:
World atlas
on the web

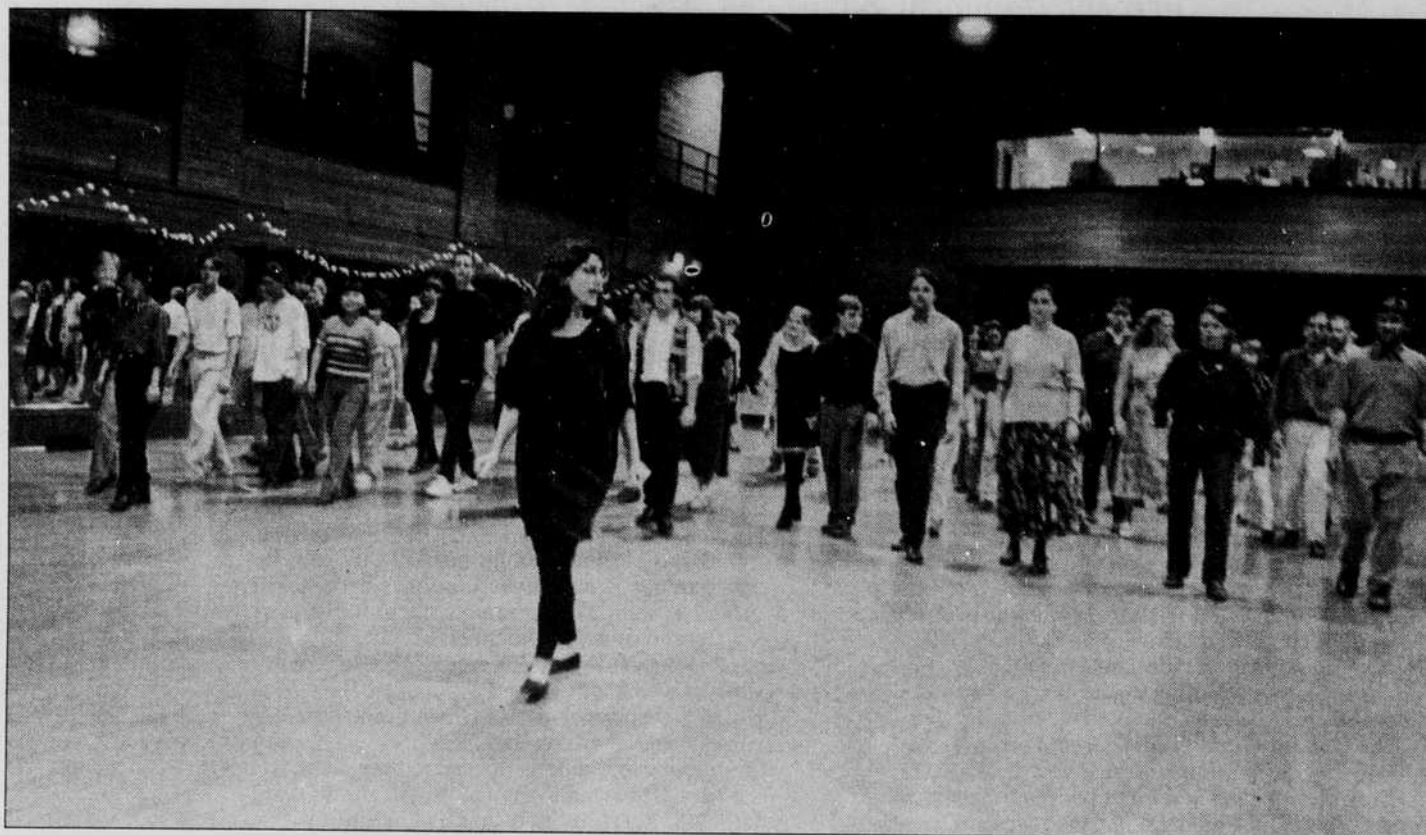
www.mapquest.com

Map Quest is an interactive world atlas that, through the use of Java and Activex technology, allows the user to zoom in and click on maps for continent, national, regional, city and street views.

By simply typing in an address, the user can instantly zoom in on a map of that area.

You can customize, print and even save personalized maps. In addition, places of interest can be searched, including hotels, restaurants, gas stations, ATMs, museums, libraries, dry cleaners, theaters and even wildlife refuges.

—Nicholas Stiffler



Nancy Gamboian teaches basic ballroom steps to a group of students and community members Friday before the formal dancing session.

EN MIN CHANG/Emerald

Ballroom dances offer fun for everyone

REVIEW

Oregon Ballroom Dance

★★★
(fun, casual atmosphere)

■ **WHERE:** 220 Gerlinger

■ **TIME:** Fridays, 7:30 p.m. lessons, 8:30 p.m. dance

■ **COST:** \$2 with student ID

By Kendra Smith
Freelance Reporter

Picture this: 220 Gerlinger is bedecked with tiny white lights, and lemonade and ice water are set out for people who get thirsty and winded from waltzing and fox trotting around the hardwood dance floor.

Sound like a glimpse of the past? It's not.

It's the Oregon Ballroom Dance Club's weekly ballroom dance, offered each Friday night for only \$2 for University students. The dances cater to a mixed crowd of students — in jeans and sneakers or dressed to the nines — and community members in both relaxed and fancy attire. Birkenstocks and Tevas are not an uncommon sight.

The acceptance of casual attire reflects the casual nature of the dances. Though a lot of people know what they're doing — and their dancing is beautiful to watch if you feel like sitting out — a lot of people don't. Don't be surprised if a number of folks are looking at their feet, trying unsuccessfully to find some sort of rhythm or bumping into other couples. It's okay. Everyone giggles, everyone messes up, and the really talented people take to the middle of the dance floor.

Junior biology major John Burzell said he comes to the Friday night dances because ballroom dancing is the only kind of dancing he likes.

"It's like dancing in those old movies. I always dig those old movies," he said. "Fred Astaire kicks ass."

If it's nostalgia you want, this is the perfect place. Although the club occasionally plays contemporary tunes by musicians such as Sting, the music is mainly the '40s and '50s songs that most people associate with ballroom dancing.

For the cha-cha challenged, easy lessons are offered at 7:30 p.m. before the real dance begins, and they are included in the price of admission. They teach the basic steps and a few turns for dances such as the fox trot and the swing, plus a Latin dance or two. The two parts — lead, or traditionally male, and follow, or traditionally female — are taught one after the other to the whole group without music. Then people pair off to practice their respective parts together, this time with music.

People do come solo, and those without dates should have no trouble finding a partner. Most people aren't shy about pairing up, and girls dancing together, whether they're dating or not, is also com-



EN MIN CHANG/Emerald

Karolina Wilczynska dances with Sean Kim in Gerlinger Hall Friday evening.

mon.

Those who don't think ballroom dancing is for them should consider this: when the overhead lights go dim and the colored spotlights come on, 220 Gerlinger looks pretty romantic, and the key to the tango is: "The closer you are to your partner, the easier it is."

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