News

Yoga: Alternative Exercise

Yoga has become a popular way to relieve daily stress and maintain both physical and mental health.

By LINDSAY MATHER Staff Writer

The light sounds of Enya fill the room. Men and women of all ages lunge forward, their arms stretched toward the ceiling. Each movement is slow and smooth, their breath leaving their lungs with a whisper.

It's a Tuesday night, and yoga class is in session. Every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. yoga classes are offered in the Student

Yoga classes are othered in the Studen Recreation Center. Tracy Bogart, the co-director of Triangle Yoga in Chapel Hill and founder of the yoga program at the SRC, said she received positive feedback from student participants. "Yoga improves your daily life. It is therapeu

tic and is practiced in a non-competi-tive atmosphere," Bogart said. Yoga began in India about 5000 years ago as a way to "loosen up" before meditating, Bogart said.

Although known for its physical components, yoga also incorporates the mental and spiritual sides of participants, said Gina Febbraro, a yoga instructor at the SRC. "Yoga is about listening to your body and balancing energy," she said.

Considered an exceptional means of relaxation, yoga relieves muscle stress and strain, Bogart said.

"It touches everything, yet overde-velops nothing," she said. "Yoga leaves you long, lean, supple and elastic." Yoga is also attributed with increas-

ing flexibility and blood flow, toning muscles and enhancing the immune system, said Bob Brame.

Brame has been practicing yoga since 1990 and is the Thursday yoga instructor at the SRC.

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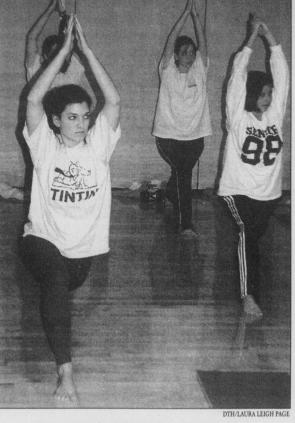
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Kara Stanig (left) participates in a yoga class offered by the Student Recreation Center. Yoga is designed to release stress.

Since the mid 1960s, yoga has gained popularity in the western world as a means of maintaining physical

and mental health, Febbraro said. "Yoga has gotten really trendy," she said. "There's a spiritual side to it that

attracts a lot of people." Celebrities such as Sting, Raquel Welch and Dennis Rodman practice forms of yoga and meditation, said Jo Anna Spector, the owner of the Hatha House in Durham, where she has taught yoga for 18 years.

Despite its heightened popularity, many people continue to misunderstand

"Yoga is not a cult, and you don't

pretzel to do it," Spector said. There are over 840,000 different poses in yoga, although only a few are

while performing yoga, Febbraro said.

"For every movement, there is a breath. In yogaic philosophy, breath equals energy," Febbraro said. Many students interested in starting

the semester on the right foot fill her Tuesday night class, Febbraro said. Daniel Ingram, a second year grad-

experiences after Febbraro's yoga class. "It's like you're walking on air!" he said.

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Police: bin Laden Behind Plot

Indian newspaper reports state that terrorists had targeted U.S. embassies and consulates for bombings.

Associated Press

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NEW DELHI, India - Indian police say suspected terrorist Osama bin Laden was behind a plot to bomb the U.S. Embassy and two American con-sular offices in the country, local news-

papers reported Wednesday. The State Department expressed grave concern Wednesday over the reported threat, and an embassy spokes-woman said U.S. counterterrorism experts were in the Indian capital assess ing the alleged plot.

Local newspaper reports said police had arrested four people, including a Bangladeshi man suspected of working for Pakistan's intelligence agence

The reports said terrorists had targeted the U.S. Embassy and consulates in the southern city of Madras and the eastern city of Calcutta. The attacks were

Watered Down by Brad Christensen

reportedly to have taken place before a national holiday on Jan. 26.

In Washington, State Department spokesman James Rubin said the threats vere directed only at consulates in Madras and Calcutta, and not at the embassy. He also said U.S. officials had no knowledge of the alleged involvement of Pakistan.

"There has been a heightened level of protection around all of our diplomatic facilities in India "There has been a heightened

since the bombings in East Africa. We maintaining that enhanced pro tection and will continue to do so." Rubin said. Security at U.S.

embassies and consulates around the including world,

those in India, has been tightened following the August bombings of the U.S. embassies in Tanzania and Kenya, which killed a total of 224 people, including 12 Americans. Washington has accused bin Laden of being behind

those attacks. A U.S. Embassy spokeswoman,

level of protection around all

of our diplomatic facilities

in India ... "

JAMES RUBIN

U.S. State Department Spokesman

speaking on customary condition of anonymity, said Wednesday that U.S. counterterrorism experts from several federal agencies arrived Tuesday to assess the reported plot. No other details were available.

Indian Home Minister Lal Krishna Advani has assured the U.S. Embassy of full government protection, the Press Trust of India

reported. In Islamabad, Zameer Akram, the senior Pakistani Foreign Ministry official for South Asia, said that "Indian authorities have not informed us about any arrests

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and we don't have any information about the case." The alleged ringleader of the plot, Sayed Abu Nasir, 27, of Bangladesh, was arrested last week and is now in a high-security prison in New Delhi, city police chief R.N., Singh said.







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THE Daily Crossword By Philip J. Anderson

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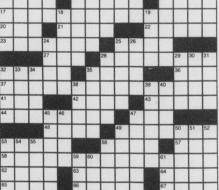
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practiced during a class. Breathing is extremely important

uate student in the School of Public Health, likes the euphoric feeling he

Yoga unites a person's mind and body Febbraro said. "That's what is so awesome about it. All you need is yourself!" The Features Editor can be reached

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yoga, Spector said.

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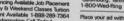
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