

# Disco: Lively and Here to Stay

by Dotty Brown

"Pure, good sounding, good quality music with a lively, up-tempo used to replace live entertainment by playing the records back-to-back, with the intention of keeping the crowd dancing so as not to miss the live entertainment."

That is what disco is, says **Richard Bowling**, owner of the Cosmos Clubs.

The DJ's of Washington, D. C. are often quoted as saying, "Music reflects the time in which we live." If this is true, then what can today's music have to say about us? Especially the disco sound. What does the disco tell us about the people who listen to it, buy it, and produce it?

Some people feel that disco is here to stay, that it is the life blood of young adults. On the other hand, there are those who

feel that disco music is a passing fad.

Of course no one can honestly say what today's music is all about; or where it's going, if it's going anywhere. But, the opinion and theories of persons whose profession deals largely with music or those persons who deal directly with music daily may prove to be more valid than that of the average person.

### Interview with Bowling

In the quiet, dimly lit dining area of his club and restaurant, The Cosmos, Richard Bowling speaks of the disco as though he had rehearsed and said it many times before. "Before we can discuss disco or disco music we must first define it," he said. "The word 'disco' is derived from the word 'discotheque,' which is simply a place where records are played for entertainment. Now the connotation of the word 'disco' is used to

identify a certain type of place, people, atmosphere, and music combined to replace live entertainment."

During a break in the conversation, when Bowling paused to answer the telephone, it was very easy to see how a person could enter this club, melt into its atmosphere and forget that there is an outside world. Bowling jumped back into the conversation as though it had never been interrupted, saying, "Discos will be around for a long time because of recorded music. The name may change, but ten years from now people will still be dancing."

### Afternoon Delight

A disco club that is alive with the energies of its inhabitants by night, stands still, cold, and lifeless by day. **Rodney Barnes**, program director, Afternoon Delight Night Club, is a very business-minded person. Before Barnes says anything about anything, he makes himself comfortable in the compact office of the club. He then fills his pipe with tobacco, and nods to let me know that he is ready to begin.

Barnes says that people began to grow tired of hearing the same local bands night after night. He also said that the fifteen-to-twenty-minute breaks that the bands often took were of no advantage. "People appreciate dis-

co," he says. "A lot of people will come out to a disco just to be with a special crowd." He also mentioned that disco is so popular now that there are recording companies who produce only disco records and distribute them to various clubs and discotheques for promotion.

After a refill of tobacco and a sip of soda, Barnes is ready to continue. When speaking about music in relation to people, Barnes says that most things today are symbolic of sex or sexual encounters; so is our music. "Even disco," he said. "If you were to stop and listen to the lyrics of many of the latest disco tunes you will find that the idea behind many of them is sex oriented."

In a very business like manner, Barnes stated that the disco of the '70's took the place of the "Go-Go" of the '60's, and eventually the name "disco" will be changed, but it's all basically the same.

### An Engineer's View

**Ron Schrank**, engineer and owner of the Lazy Moon Recording Studio, says flatly, "The whole thing is a fad." Schrank's confidence in himself and his knowledge of music shines through his cool exterior.

Schrank believes that the whole concept behind the disco sound is the beat. "It's danceable," he says. This age of technology which we

are now witnessing is given a lot of credit for disco music as far as Schrank is concerned. Looking up from the headphone feeds that he was building, Schrank said, "Disco would not have been possible if it were not for technology."

To point out the good qualities of jazz, which Schrank prefers over disco, he put down his half-completed headphone feeds to put on a mellow album by **Bob James**. After Schrank had resettled himself in his chair, he went on to say, "Jazz will go the extra mile to give you the completeness of full orchestration, whereas disco makes use of synthesizers." We studied the album for a moment, and then, as though he had given it a lot of thought, Schrank said, "One good thing about disco music is that it brings younger people into music." Bob James' album played on, filling the studio with its mellow completeness.

### Summing Up

I have concluded from these interviews that people who are of the "Disco Era" are lively, energetic, creative people, searching for an "outlet" to call their own, an outlet, which is, in fact, one which brings together people who share a mutual interest. That interest is to free themselves from the cares and problems of the world, even if that freedom ends when the records cease to spin.

## Seniors Recognize Inspirations

by Joyce A. Bass

There's an old cliché that says "Behind every good man, there's a woman." Well, in this particular situation, we want to instill the idea that, "behind every successful student, there has been an inspiration."

Graduation is slowly nearing and the rooms in Player Hall are beginning to take on that "bare look," as seniors begin to pack up in preparation for the end of a four-year journey. Now, looking back, was there anything or anyone who contributed to this climb upward, who at this moment in time, should get the pat on the back? Several members of the Class of '78 said "yes" and named names.

Many of the seniors said that persons outside their particular disciplines had played major roles in molding their lives as students at Bennett.

"Miss **Georgie Latimer** and one of her sayings will always be with me. She said to me once, 'Don't let other people determine whether you will smile that day.'" said **Kathy Johnson**, a special education major from Winston-Salem.

**Pamela Dalton**, a social welfare major from Winston-Salem said, "Dr. **Dorinda Trader** has been a source of inspiration. She is an example of strong determination."

"To me, **Dr. Charlotte Alston** is an inspiration. She lets you know what responsibility is all about. To her, your obligations come first and all else is trivial," said **Angel Bynum**, an early childhood education major from Tarboro.

A senior for Elberton, Georgia and a political science major, **Mattilda Allen** said, "Mrs. **Amy Reynolds** fits my idea of an inspiration. She believes in helping you when

you need help. She doesn't show favoritism and I can relate to her on a friend to friend level."

Other senior class members looked within their major departments and found that their "push" to go on had come from that area.

**Audrey Wall**, an early childhood major, from Landover, Maryland said, "Mrs. **Mary Scarlett** is my type of lady. She is well-versed in the field of education. She gives her everything in the classroom. She has helped me through many stumbling blocks. I wouldn't have made it without her. She's alright with me."

"The entire Physical Education Department pushed me on," said **Etta Cox**, a health, physical education and recreation major from Miami, Florida. "I found it easy to relate to each of them on a student-to-teacher level and a person-to-person level."

**Janice Minter**, an intermediate education major, from Cleveland, Ohio said, "Mr. **Jimmy Faison** has inspired me to continue. He has been a friend as well as an instructor."

"Mrs. **Carrie Shute** with her understanding and kind personality, has really given me inspiration in the field of education," said **Vivette Outen**, an early childhood education major from Gastonia.

There were other seniors who were asked to name their sources of inspirations. Many replied that various members of their families or a personal desire to have an education kept them going when nothing else would.

And in many ways, this inner push was a part of each senior. That extra "boost" was welcomed and appreciated far more than words can ever express. So, we close the year with deep gratitude and many, many thanks.

## '78 Graduates to Pursue Careers through Higher Education

by Sharon L. Sanders

**Joyce A. Bass**, ISP/communications major, has been accepted to the School of Journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Joyce will pursue her master's degree.

**Cassandra N. Jones**, ISP/English major, has been accepted to the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) at the University of Pittsburgh, Pitts-

burgh, Pa., to Ohio State University Law School, and to the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

**Marilyn Hicks**, ISP/biology major, has been accepted to Ohio State University. She has been awarded a tuition and fee grant with a teaching assistantship from the School of Biological Sciences. She will pursue a Ph.D. degree in zoology.

**Olivia Penn**, a home eco-

nomics education major, has been awarded a full graduate fellowship from the Ohio State University. She will pursue a Ph.D. degree in educational administration.

**Terry Marie Lewis**, senior business administration major from Washington, D. C., has been accepted to Atlanta University to pursue a master's degree in business administration with a concentration in marketing or finance.

## Gymnastics Classes Host 2nd Annual Ben-O-Lympics

by Ursula Joanne Joyner

The Bennett College Gymnastics classes, instructed by **Joella Hendricks**, sponsored their 2nd Annual Ben-O-Lympics on Tuesday, April 25 at 8:00 p.m. in Goode Gym.

The students exhibited the skills they learned throughout the semester. They did routines on one or more of the following apparatus: balance beam, uneven, vault and free exercise.

The students were divided into two groups, the beginners and the advanced. The

students in the advanced class were: **Mondrell Jester**, **Anita Taylor**, **Donna Simmons**, **Bernice Brunson**, **Charisse Robinson**, **Stephanie Wright**, **Joanne Joyner**, **Angel Bloodworth**, **Annie Howell**, **Pat Carroll**, and **Jackie Smith**.

The beginners were: **Teresa Blakney**, **Angela Briley**, **Lucinda Brunson**, **Loretta Canty**,

**Rita Cobb**, **Jennifer Fennell**, **Coretha Ford**, **Miranda Holmes**, **Barb Johnson**, **Frances Kay**, **Joyce McCloud**, **Robyn McCollum**, **Swanda McCormick**, **Vanessa Morgan**, **Beverly Randolph**, **Ouida Scarborough**, **Dot Sills**, **Rhoda Blair**, **Andreze Bailey**, **Betty Kirkland**, **Terri Ellis**, **Romona Reid** and **Twinkle Richmond**.

## DST Salutes Dr. King

by Joyce A. Bass

It was a day for remembering and with the aid of the Zeta Omicron Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, of Bennett College, members of the student body joined in a memorial service for the late **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, April 4 in the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel.

**Franzine Franklin**, presided over the program which began with tributes and songs dedicated to the memory of Dr. King. President of the chapter, **Marva Vaughn** gave a stirring rendition of Dr. King's speech, "I Have A Dream." Members of the audience were moved to tears at one point during the speech.

The Delta Sorority has had several functions throughout the year. Several bake sales and college dances have been hosted by the group in efforts to raise money for their scholarship given annually to an incoming freshman student. Benefits from their service projects were given to the United Negro College Fund and national endowment fund.

Among their most recent service endeavors were the UNCF Telethon, a Story-Book Hour, Halloween Party for McIver School for Special Children, a clothing drive, a spaghetti dinner, car washes and, the climax of the year, their Spring Cabaret.

The chapter is now collecting clothes for needy Greensboro resi-

dents and has had success in this effort. The members are also collecting stamps in an effort to send money overseas to needy children for education purposes. Their present service project is with the Children's Home Society of Greensboro.

Delta Sigma Theta is a public service sorority dedicated to the ideas of service, scholarship and high social and intellectual life. The organization strives to promote and encourage achievement in education and scholarship through involvement in academic and community endeavors.

The members of Delta Sigma Theta feel that the true gift to mankind is that given from the heart.

MILESTONES FOR BLACKS A Calendar	
by Sharon L. Sanders	
**BE AWARE**	
April 1, 1899	—North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company opened for business
April 4, 1968	—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated
April 5, 1865	—Booker T. Washington was born
April 6, 1909	—Matthew Henson first man to reach the North Pole
April 10, 1947	—Jackie Robinson broke baseball's racial barrier
April 11, 1883	—Spelman College founded in Atlanta, Ga.
April 14, 1775	—First Abolitionist Society in U. S. founded
April 16, 1862	—Congress abolished slavery in the District of Columbia
April 19, 1775	—Minutemen defeat British at Concord with black soldiers, including Lemuel Haynes and Peter Salem, playing key roles
May 17, 1954	—U. S. Supreme Court ends segregation in public schools
May 24, 1854	—Lincoln University (Pennsylvania) founded
May 25, 1937	—Henry O. Tanner, famous black artist died
May 28, 1942	—George W. Carver discovered peanut shell could be used as fertilizer