

Disco duck becomes hula hoop

Can it be that the spangled, blood-pressure-raising era of Chic, Alicia Bridges and the Andrea True Connection is almost over? Is the disco and its music dying slowly but surely?

National trends indicate that disco is on the way out. Disco records have undergone a disastrous dip in sales; clubs across the country are starting to remove the word "disco" from their names; and many night-spots are beginning to dilute the deejay format with live music.

As with many fads, the change is moving swiftly from California to the East. A recent article in SA, the city magazine for San Antonio, Texas, claimed that the only remaining discos there are those catering to gay clientele and that former "straight" disco fanatics are now flocking to clubs featuring bands. Already in Greensboro, several dance-spots have adjusted their formats to include the new demand for live groups.

There are several reasons for the decline. The very definition of a fad or fashion suggests that they are impermanent and fleeting. It's amazing to think a dance like the "Lindy Hop" and a revolutionary movement like "Bebop" in jazz once had devotees as enthralled as disco did. Heraclitus, Greek philosopher, once insisted that you never step into the same river twice, and the same may be said for dance-halls and discos. They only look the same; that's all.

Another main cause of this transition might well be inflation. Maybe people have decided that disco fashion is too expensive and also that they want to see real musicians when they pay their cover charges or plunk down their membership fees.

Then, too, some sociological prophets believe that the Eighties will be a decade of simplicity in which citizens will become more dedicated to what they consider the basic realities and the meaningful essences of human experience. The flash of the disco and the sophistication of its dances could conflict with these desires.

What is more likely, however, is that the public, in its restless pursuit of new stimuli, is weary of disco. Blacks have become increasingly involved with the frolicsome sounds of groups like Parliament/Funkadelics and also admirers of bands exploring the jazz/rock fusion.

In addition, the record charts reveal a revival of such outstanding but traditional performers as Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson, Michael Jackson and the Spinners. After all, even Donna Summer, probably the ultimate disco lady, has recently recorded a cross-over record with Barbra Streisand. Interested in the perpetuation of profits and the diversification of her career, Summer is branching out. She wants to survive.

In the meantime, a revolution is occurring in white musical tastes. The "New Wave" is about to bury the Bee Gees and K.C. and the Sunshine Band. Deeply influenced by punk rock, which never reached mass popularity, "New Wave" groups specialize in primal rock, acidic lyrics about difficulties between men and women and three-minute records. The father of this phenomenon is an Englishman named Elvis Costello, who looks, dresses and sings like Buddy Holly.

The premier "New Wave" group is Blondie, named after its sex symbol and lead singer Deborah Harry. This band chronically appears on every lousy rock t.v. show in your video listings.

The affect of the "New Wave" has become so pervasive that Linda Ronstadt, who used to thrive on making second-rate versions of country hits and "cover records" of such Black waxes as Smokey's "Tears of a Clown," has fired her old band and taken on Blondie-like back-up players. When Ronstadt makes such a change, you know there's big money in it.

Thus disco perishes. In five years, disco's remaining adherents will seem as out-of-time as Black Panthers, hippies and high-heel sneakers. The beat goes on.

Monetta Briarly Brown, alumna



Letters: student bemoans apathy

To the Editor:

Yes, this is another letter on student apathy, only this one comes from the opposite end of the pole—from a student expressing my feelings on the student indifference that plagues our campus. My feelings are those of disgust towards the student involvement on this campus. Who is to blame?

Many of us, students, that is, try to associate our boredom and lack of interest with Bennett College as a whole. If you are bored, could it just be that you yourself are boring? Is your lack of interest a result of your own laziness?

The Bennett morale appears to be dead! Fewer and fewer people are getting involved in activities. If you cannot support a fellow classmate, how in the hell do you expect to have the motivation to support anyone or anyone's cause in the years to come? Bennett is a real world, ladies. We struggle

here just as we will have to struggle later on in life. Nothing comes easy!

Student apathy could be easily overcome here at Bennett because we are so small in size. Familiarity with people and functions should come rather easy if you have the initiative to reach out and grasp the opportunities. Ladies, we all have the same forever existing gripes and complaints. It seems logical that we should all be able to get ourselves together, and get together as a whole to find solutions to change these inadequacies. Our college has its problems just as any Black school has its problems, but we are the ones to try to implement our ideas.

If we don't come together as a student body first, how can we possibly come together as a college? It has often been said, "The college doesn't make the students, the students make the college."

Lisa Harris

College-wide pledge bolsters writing

(From Page 1)

Dean of the College Chelsea Tipton.

Teachers in non-English courses began to closely monitor the writing abilities of their students, marking grammatical errors and suggesting means of improvement. In addition, instructors in the Special Services branch of the college community gave

strong assistance to students with writing problems.

This united front stirred an awareness among students of the critical importance of writing well.

The increase in students passing the comprehensive examination proves the effectiveness of such unity among administration, faculty and students.

Lord gives perfect peace

by Katherine Winston

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord forever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength." (Isaiah 26:3-4)

There are pressures on every hand, and it seems that for everything good that happens to us, something else or another problem comes along to disturb us and blot out our happiness.

Many of us fail to realize that if we keep our lives upright before the Lord, serve Him in all things, and believe in Him, He will keep us in perfect peace.

In briefly discussing the two words "perfect" and "peace," we find that the word "perfect" means "complete." Jesus will give us perfect (complete) peace if we accept Him and His will for us in our lives. By suffering and dying on the cross for us, He experienced everything that we are so that we could become everything that He is!

He experienced pain and agony so that we could have calmness and peace; and sorrow and death so that we could have joy and life. But He didn't stop there because He took all of our sins upon Himself so that we could be eternal in Him. "Surely he hath borne

our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:4-5)

The Bible tells us that by nature man is wicked. Outside of God there is no peace. That's why people try all sorts of things to alleviate the pains of this life.

Mark 7:21-23 states that "From within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man."

The word "peace" means serenity. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27) When we accept Christ into our lives, we accept peace among many other blessings. "And the peace of God which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7)

So with that peace that God gives, there is security and com-

pleteness in it. All we have to do is to want it and be willing to accept it.

If there are pressures on every hand in your life and you can't seem to find the right answers and it's hard for you to stop worrying about things, and all doors seem to be closed—try accepting the peace that passeth all understanding. That peace is in God. He will open doors for you and meet your every need. Just ask Him. "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." (Matthew 7:7)

Lord,
I don't know what to say or how to come to you, but here is this problem that has been bothering me—I can't seem to shake it and I can't handle it anymore. It's hard for me to smile with all this pain that I feel inside.

God, I'm reaching out to You. Help me. Show me the right way to go. Help me to finish all of my work in due time.

Take away the pain. Restore the emptiness in my life with joy. Give me peace God, give me peace.

Amen.

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