

Inescapable Macarena source of annoyance, denial among listeners

■ The 'Electric Slide of the '90s' is quickly grooving right out of style.

BY TRISHA L. DABB
STAFF WRITER

Everybody's doing it. David Letterman's done it. Tom Hanks did it on Saturday Night Live. There's even an MTV commercial exploiting it. It's everywhere. What's "it"? It's the Macarena.

Weddings, night clubs and bar mitzvahs have been infected by the Spanish dance. After more than 40 weeks on Billboard's Top 100 singles list, the Los

del Rio song remains inescapable. And record sales remain strong, said Mike Smith, manager of Blockbuster Music at University Mall.

"It's been holding steady for a while," Smith said. "Some weeks are better than others, but we still get requests for it."

But has this dance craze gone overboard? The inevitable Macarena backlash has begun.

Recently, the dance has been forbidden from being taught in Wake County



schools and an Anti-Macarena web page has turned up on the World Wide Web.

The Smile/Sacbee page (<http://www.sacbee.com/smile/macarena/macarena.html>) is now the official "Macarena-Free Zone" of the Internet.

"This simple dance may soon bring about social chaos as hordes of Macarenians neglect home and job to engage in non-stop waving of arms and wiggling of butts," the page warns.

Even those once enamored with the repetitive dance are annoyed with its dominance.

"It's definitely played out," said Smyth Lai, a sophomore from Wilmington. "At first I thought it was cute, but I had this dreadful feeling it would end up as over-

done as the Electric Slide."

Because of the dance's simple steps and the song's catchy beat, many people, even the rhythmically challenged, have found a place in this line dance.

Brad Williams, a freshman from Wilmington, said he saw the dance as an escape for the terminally bored.

"The Macarena has become a pro-

foundly trendy dance," Williams said. "It's for people who have no more rhythm than a sack of bricks."

Some UNC students said they were so tired of the dance, they refused to utter its name. Matthew Ricketts, a freshman from North Wilkesboro, embraced this philosophy and denied any knowledge of the dance. "The what?" he said. "I

have no idea what you're talking about."

Despite the negative response to the Macarena, it has become ingrained in cultures all over the world.

Yet the Macarena-Free Zone supporters will continue their crusade to fight the "Infernal Dance." The web site asks, "Has mankind already forgotten the toll exacted by the Achy Breaky?"

Pagers, cell phones buzz on campus

BY JOHN MCALLISTER
STAFF WRITER

They're not just for doctors and lawyers anymore. Pagers and cellular phones have evolved into one of the latest trends on the college campus. These electronic devices serve as a popular way to keep in touch with friends as well as a status symbol for many UNC students.

Pagers seem to be the most commonly used of these two varieties of communication. Their appeal stems from low maintenance prices and convenient size.

"They make life easier," said Tom Conradt, a freshman from Gainesville, Fla. "I was skeptical about beepers at first, but they're actually fun."

The relatively inexpensive cost attracts the budget-conscious student. The average base price is about \$50 and the monthly cost is usually less than \$10.

"It's definitely not necessary, but it's really convenient," said Damon Beasley, a junior from Havelock. "It's affordable

and it's good for the weekends."

One disadvantage of these gadgets is the image associated with them. "Many people automatically think you're a (drug) dealer when you have a beeper," Conradt said. "Some people think that's how they became popular for our age group."

The paging companies are not blind to this explosion of their products on the college scene. "I think they're aiming toward college kids," said Brent Pentecost, a Pagenet representative in Raleigh. "Motorola has a commercial that is directed solely toward students."

A few regulations have been created to curb the distribution of pagers and cellular phones to younger people.

"In order to purchase a cellular phone or a beeper, a student must be at least 18 or have a parent sign for the purchase," said Adam Mossod, a representative from Pager City. "We are mainly concerned with individual sales like those to students. I thought pagers used to be stereotyped, but not now."

The use of cellular phones seems to be increasing for those on the go. But the phones aren't sold as frequently as pagers due to the higher costs.

"Cell phones are popular for kids, but mostly parents take care of the cost," said Morris Stevens of Cellular One. "They can get too expensive for college students. The students say they're for emergency use only. Yeah, right."

Parents often don't mind spending the money if it gives them the peace of mind of knowing their children are within reach. "I didn't think (the cellular phone) was necessary, but my parents did," said Cara Allen, a sophomore from Raleigh. "I've got it for safety. During (Hurricane) Fran, the phone was a popular item. Everybody was using it to call home."

The convenience of the devices combined with technology is appropriate for the information age, Conradt said. "We're not afraid of technology," Conradt said. "They're definitely a mark of our generation."

MAKING THE ROUNDS



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Thursday, Oct. 10

NPHC Step Show

Homecoming Queen and King voting will take place in Union 208-209 all day. Cast your ballot. (Union 208-209, 10am to 6pm)
Black greek step troupes will compete in this event, which traditionally is well-attended. The event is scheduled to take place in Memorial Hall from 8pm to 10:30pm. Admission is \$7. (Memorial Hall, 7pm-10pm)

Friday, Oct. 11

Parade, Pep Rally, and Dance Party

Campus organizations enter floats and banners in the Homecoming Parade. The Parade begins at the Dean Dome around 6pm and ends at Connor Beach around 7pm. Prizes will be awarded to the top float and banner. The parade is capped off with a Pep Rally with a visit from members of the football team and a big-screen highlights show. After the Pep Rally, the Dance Party gets underway complete with dance contests and prizes.

Saturday, Oct. 12

The Game

Thousands will pack into Kenan Stadium to cheer the Tar Heels to a victory over Maryland. At half-time, fans will witness a historical event: the crowning of a queen and king for the first time in school history. The game begins at 7pm.

Sunday, Oct. 13

Winding Down

The UNC Women's Soccer team takes on Brewton-Parker at 4pm at Fetzer Field. Also, the UNC Concert & UNC Symphonic Band will perform for the University at Memorial Hall. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

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Resume Drop: November 19, 1996
Interviews: January 15 & 16, 1997