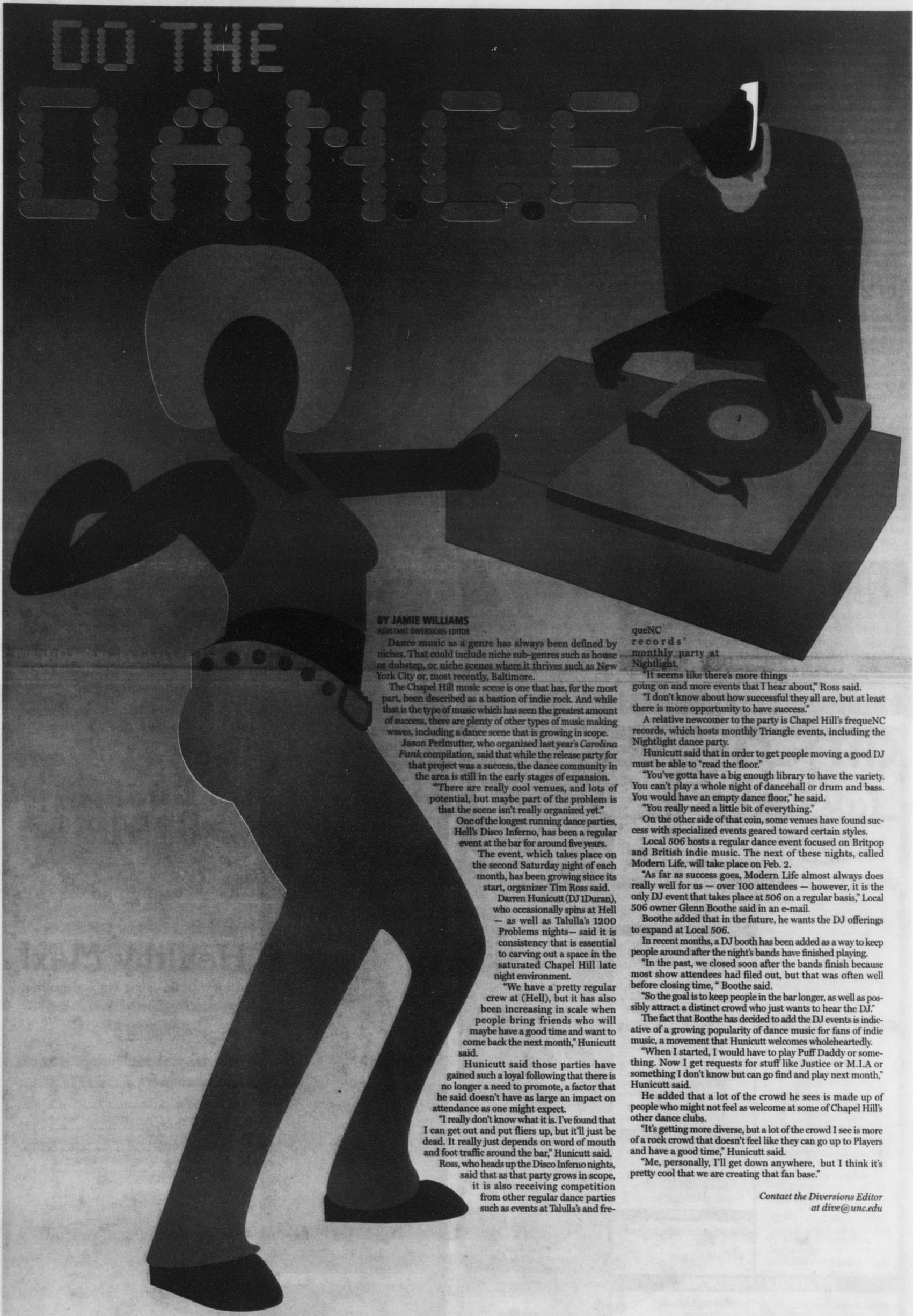


diversions

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Dance music as a genre has always been defined by niches. That could include niche sub-genres such as house or dubstep, or niche scenes where it thrives such as New York City or, most recently, Baltimore.

The Chapel Hill music scene is one that has, for the most part, been described as a bastion of indie rock. And while that is the type of music which has seen the greatest amount of success, there are plenty of other types of music making waves, including a dance scene that is growing in scope.

Jason Perlmutter, who organized last year's *Carolina Funk* compilation, said that while the release party for that project was a success, the dance community in the area is still in the early stages of expansion.

"There are really cool venues, and lots of potential, but maybe part of the problem is that the scene isn't really organized yet."

One of the longest running dance parties, Hell's Disco Inferno, has been a regular event at the bar for around five years.

The event, which takes place on the second Saturday night of each month, has been growing since its start, organizer Tim Ross said.

Darren Hunicutt (DJ IDuran), who occasionally spins at Hell — as well as Talulla's 1200 Problems nights — said it is consistency that is essential to carving out a space in the saturated Chapel Hill late night environment.

"We have a pretty regular crew at (Hell), but it has also been increasing in scale when people bring friends who will maybe have a good time and want to come back the next month," Hunicutt said.

Hunicutt said those parties have gained such a loyal following that there is no longer a need to promote, a factor that he said doesn't have as large an impact on attendance as one might expect.

"I really don't know what it is. I've found that I can get out and put fliers up, but it'll just be dead. It really just depends on word of mouth and foot traffic around the bar," Hunicutt said.

Ross, who heads up the Disco Inferno nights, said that as that party grows in scope, it is also receiving competition from other regular dance parties such as events at Talulla's and fre-

queNC records' monthly party at Nightlight.

"It seems like there's more things going on and more events that I hear about," Ross said.

"I don't know about how successful they all are, but at least there is more opportunity to have success."

A relative newcomer to the party is Chapel Hill's frequeNC records, which hosts monthly Triangle events, including the Nightlight dance party.

Hunicutt said that in order to get people moving a good DJ must be able to "read the floor."

"You've gotta have a big enough library to have the variety. You can't play a whole night of dancehall or drum and bass. You would have an empty dance floor," he said.

"You really need a little bit of everything."

On the other side of that coin, some venues have found success with specialized events geared toward certain styles.

Local 506 hosts a regular dance event focused on Britpop and British indie music. The next of these nights, called Modern Life, will take place on Feb. 2.

"As far as success goes, Modern Life almost always does really well for us — over 100 attendees — however, it is the only DJ event that takes place at 506 on a regular basis," Local 506 owner Glenn Boothe said in an e-mail.

Boothe added that in the future, he wants the DJ offerings to expand at Local 506.

In recent months, a DJ booth has been added as a way to keep people around after the night's bands have finished playing.

"In the past, we closed soon after the bands finish because most show attendees had filed out, but that was often well before closing time," Boothe said.

"So the goal is to keep people in the bar longer, as well as possibly attract a distinct crowd who just wants to hear the DJ."

The fact that Boothe has decided to add the DJ events is indicative of a growing popularity of dance music for fans of indie music, a movement that Hunicutt welcomes wholeheartedly.

"When I started, I would have to play Puff Daddy or something. Now I get requests for stuff like Justice or M.I.A. or something I don't know but can go find and play next month," Hunicutt said.

He added that a lot of the crowd he sees is made up of people who might not feel as welcome at some of Chapel Hill's other dance clubs.

"It's getting more diverse, but a lot of the crowd I see is more of a rock crowd that doesn't feel like they can go up to Players and have a good time," Hunicutt said.

"Me, personally, I'll get down anywhere, but I think it's pretty cool that we are creating that fan base."

Contact the Diversions Editor at dive@unc.edu

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HONORED

The Honored Guests proved that tastes do, in fact, change by stealing the show from The Rosebuds at Cat's Cradle.

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Wilmington hard-rockers, ASG, release a new album, *Win Us Over*, but the band's bland sounds aren't likely to make any new fans.

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SAVAGES NOT SO

Philip Seymour Hoffman could act his way out of a room with no doors and no windows. But even he can't turn a bad plot around.

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NOT QUITE METAL

Calltrap might be the loudest band playing in Chapel Hill today, but if it's angry metal you're looking for — look elsewhere.

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