

# '80s dance transports crowd to decade of excess

**Editor's Note:** Campus radio station WXYC held its annual '80s dance Friday. Staff writer Alyssa Griffith dressed the part and relived the decade at Cat's Cradle.

As I attempted to grab one last strand of pearls from my dorm room to add to the already excessive amount around my neck, my vintage lace dress ripped.

But once I got to Cat's Cradle, few around me seemed to notice as I celebrated the decade of excess with a couple hundred other '80s lovers at the venue Friday for WXYC 89.3's biannual '80s dance.

When my friend pulled out his miniature sewing kit to fix my dress, I came to two realizations. First of all, fashion deity Madonna definitely did not have it as easy as I thought she did. And secondly, I probably should've dressed up like an aerobic; spandex leotard-wearing "Let's get Physical" Olivia Newton John instead of an over-zealous virgin.

When I crossed the threshold into Cat's Cradle, everywhere I looked I saw neon. It took my eyes a few minutes to adjust to the abundance of color.

There has never been a time I've been more thankful not to be

claustrophobic.

I half expected the dance to be mobbed with over-enthused high school students and deadbeat 30-somethings desperate to relive "the glory days" of their youths. I was partially correct in my assumption but also surprised by the number of UNC students present.

"If I could have grown up during the '80s just by wishing it, I'd be there faster than you could peg your jeans," said East Chapel Hill High School student Annie Cate.

The dancing was far different than what one would see at any club today. The crowd was bopping, jumping, break dancing and moon-walking to everything the DJs spun.

Michael Jackson songs were some of the most requested. Either he was the best artist of the decade, or everyone wanted to act like zombies and choreograph their own slightly intoxicated versions of "Thriller."

Though some of the night's songs wouldn't be found on a "Totally Awesome '80s!" compilation, the DJs spun a mix most everyone seemed to sing along to.

Jams from Blondie, Cyndi Lauper, Rick Springfield and The Police were more favorites.

"I'm not just here because of the



DTH PHOTOS/ADAM SHERWOOD

WXYC DJs and Body Collage dance troupe members Steph Russ, Areli Barrera and Helen Kearns perform before the '80s dance costume contest.

hot college girls," said Scott Morris, a Chapel Hill High School student. "I've grown up listening to '80s music because of my parents."

But the dance wasn't only about the music. It was also about the culture of the '80s.

Some credited memories of popular fads, such as the use of environmentally unfriendly Aquanet hairspray, to their '80s affinity.

"I think I'm the reason we have an ozone problem," said UNC alumna Vanessa Marino.

I even bumped into a few Generation Xers who told me they

still listen to the decade's hits and watch "The Goonies" regularly.

"The '80s were the best time of my life," said alumnus Scott Russet as the dance came to a close. "I lost my virginity on Jan. 1, 1980 in the backseat of my brand new TVR Tasmin to a Pat Benatar song."

Considering he was surrounded by students with makeup smudged from hours of flash dancing, Russet's trip down memory lane seemed like a fitting end to the night.

Contact the Arts Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.



Hundreds dressed their best and danced the night away to the tunes of the 1980s at WXYC's '80s dance Friday at Cat's Cradle in Carrboro.

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