

New York 'elite' abandon roller disco

And now, roller discos for the masses

United Press International
NEW YORK — To do all this careening around, risking life and limb on roller skates in a posh disco, a party of socialites wore cocktail dresses and tuxedos.

There was a man in a Superman cape and two men in matching lavender jumpsuits.

There were celebrities galore of the stage and screen variety, as well as the not-so-colossal stars of New York City disco action.

The self-conscious, like Neil Terk, Holly's date, settled for jeans like many of the less trendy folk who seemed to have enjoyed themselves just as much a lot cheaper in a roller rink in Greenwich Village.

But to be with the "in" crowd uptown, where dress seemed all important, Candee Rogow wore \$25 black Lycra slacks with sequined tux stripe, a \$45 black blouse with flamboyant red sequin design, and \$130 indoor-outdoor skates she bought

that morning at a new roller disco boutique in Macy's.

All this colorful garb was nothing compared with the lighting — or noise.

When an \$80,000, 36-speaker system blares, people don't talk. This makes interviewing difficult.

Taking notes is worse in what is claimed to be "the most powerful laser lighting system in the entertainment industry."

Still, one remembers. Like trying to get up off the floor amid dervish-like dancers on wheels whirling at 20 mph.

Judy Lynn, who with her partner, Bob White, operate a skate rental concession in Central Park, said roller disco had its origin on the sidewalks of Venice, Calif., and at Brooklyn's Empire Rollerrome.

"Isn't this fun?" shouted Gloria Marti, my date. "Get with it. Move with the beat."

I tried. One leg went one way and

the other in the opposite direction. The rest of my body took off in different directions.

Melanie Shorin, 23, in blue blazer and beige skirt, was tottering along. When told of my purpose, she shouted an apology, then grabbed my shoulders to remain upright.

"Can't help you. Reporter, too. Doing same story."

The site of this disco event was Xenon, which is ordinarily just

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another Manhattan disco where exclusivity is ostentatious. From would-be customers clustered outside, burley attendants choose those to be admitted through the red velvet entrance ropes.

The chosen are allowed to pay \$12 to get in. An annual membership — \$150 to \$350, escalated according to age — assures being chosen and gets you in for \$10. Drinks start at \$3.

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The "elitists" got bored quick. Shortly after our visit, Xenon went back to just another plain old disco, leaving the roller field to less expensive competitors like Village Skating just off Washington Square in Greenwich Village.

By this time, Gloria was enamored of the fad and at Village Skating we risked life and limb again. There was none of the laser lighting or super amplifiers in this basement emporium. It is situated in a former warehouse where scores of less status-conscious young people filled the hall in a scene reminiscent of a Toulouse Lautrec painting. It's where the clerks, writers, artists, secretaries and construction workers go.

Here, teen-agers and young adults hustled like mad on skates. In addition to those in jeans, some were shirtless in overalls. Others wore athletic shorts and T-shirts. Dramatic costumes were few.

You could talk above the heavy-beat disco music and the lights were such that you could still see where you were going and practice your skill — or try to develop some.

The young people were delighted to give us some tips and the employees were pleasant and quick with advice and assistance.

"Aren't the personnel nice?" said Gloria. "Much less snooty."

Unlike the disco, the place was boozeless. It also was highly affordable — \$4 admission; \$1 for rather battered skates.

For that, you also got entertainment — a volunteered performance by three young couples who call

their group The Villagers and dance on skates with more dynamic exuberance than some of the professionals Xenon had on hand to show how it all should be done.

Village Skating owner Dick Clammar, who opened the place a year ago to give his kids and others in the neighborhood a place to go, said it was tough sledding at first. "If we had 15 skaters on a weekend, it would be good." Now, he said, the crowd filling his small floor showed how roller disco has caught on.

Back at Xenon, Linda Fudge, 26, and her husband, Gary, 23, a professional skating team, said roller disco is coming in around the country, but mostly at less costly roller rinks like Clammar's.

"We demonstrated it at a rink owners' convention in Kansas City in October. They were all enthusias-

tic and are getting into it.

The Fudges have demonstrated roller disco from Chicago to Grandview, Mo., and Otumwa, Iowa. Roller disco is giving new life to the rinks, Linda said.

"Until a month ago, I hadn't skated in 30 years," admitted actress Polly Bergen, a bit breathless. "Then I started at a rink outside Los Angeles that a group of actors, writers and producers rent on Monday nights. I love it."

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Applications for MSC Leadership Positions now being accepted

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General Orientation Meeting Feb. 8, 7 P.M. 601 Rudder.

Information sheets will also be available from Feb. 5-16 in 216 MSC, 108 YMCA, and the offices of Dr. Koldus, Academic Deans, and Dept. Heads.

what's up
Wednesday

BASEMENT COFFEEHOUSE: General meeting and auditions 7 p.m.

E.E. STUDENT WIVES CLUB: Barbara Denton, a representative of Mary Kay Cosmetics, will speak at 7 p.m. in Room 115-E, Zachry Engineering Center. All E.E. student wives are invited.

HILLEL CLUB: Will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Hillel Foundation Building.

ACT CLUB: Planning of the spring Agriculturalist and a discussion press room responsibilities at the Houston Stock show will be in Room 007, Reed McDonald Building, at 7:30 p.m.

EIT APPLICATION DEADLINE: Applications for the EIT Exam should be in Austin today.

STAMP CLUB: A collection of worldwide stamps will be presented and discussed at 7:30 p.m. in Room 502, Rudder Tower.

BRIDGE CLUB: Will begin playing at 7:15 p.m. in the MSC Chamber monitor for room number. Everyone is welcome.

TAMU ROADRUNNERS: Final preparations for the Valentine's Run and final dues payments will be made at 5 p.m. in G. Rudder White Coliseum. Be ready to run.

TOWN HALL: The Blackstone Magic Show will begin at 8:15 p.m. Rudder Auditorium.

SOCIAL DANCE CLUB: Will hold group lessons in country western, disco or ballroom dancing 7-8:30 p.m. in Room 266, G. Rudder White Coliseum.

STUDENT AGGIE CLUB: Will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Letterman Lounge. All interested students are welcome.

SPORT PARACHUTE CLUB: Will meet at 8 p.m. in Room 100, Rudder Tower.

PLACEMENT OFFICE: Graduating seniors who wish to interview for the following companies may begin signing up today for interviews on Feb. 21: Airesearch Manufacturing Co., American Micro in Austin, American Microsystems Inc., Army Material, Bell Telephone, Cent Power & Light, Conoco, Joske's of Dallas, NCR Engineering & Manufacturing Div., Standard Oil of Indiana, Texas Eastern, Texas Instruments (Sherman), U.S. Navy, U.S. Steel Corp., Worthington Compressors Inc.

Thursday

POLITICAL FORUM: Bob Kupperman, a military scientist for U.S. Arms and Disarmament Agency, will speak on "Patterns of Leash On Terrorism" at 8 p.m. in Room 701, Rudder Tower.

TAMU HUMAN FACTORS CLUB: Barry Tillman, a Human Factors Analyst, will speak on "Human Factors in the Design of Military Vehicles" at 8 p.m. in Room 342, Zachry Engineering Center.

TAMU EMERGENCY CARE TEAM: Will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 504, Rudder Tower.

CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST: Walter Bradley will speak "Love, Sex and Dating" at 7 p.m. in Room 510, Rudder Tower. Everyone is welcome.

ROTRACT CLUB: Will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 308, Rudder Tower.

METHODIST STUDENT MOVEMENT: A study on charisma will be held in Room 350, MSC, at 7 p.m.

TEXAS SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS: "Engineering registration" will take place at 7:30 p.m. in Room 103, Zachry Engineering Center.

BASKETBALL: The women's team will play Lamar University at 8 p.m. in Beaumont.

CEPHEID VARIABLE: "Them," in which James Arness battles gamblers who manufacture counterfeit money, will be shown at 8 and 10:30 p.m. in Basement Coffeehouse. Admission is 50 cents. (G)

PLACEMENT OFFICE: Graduating seniors who wish to interview for the following companies may begin signing up today for interviews on Feb. 22: Airesearch Manufacturing Co., Arizona Public Service Co., Conoco, Core Laboratories, Crawford Russell, Dallas, Moore Products Co., PPG Industries Inc., Price Waterhouse Co., J.E. Sirrine Co., TRW Systems, Turner Collie & Braden, Navy, Wrangler Jeans.

Friday

DEADLINE: For applying for degrees to be awarded in May is today. The \$8 fee is to be paid in the Fiscal Office, Coke Building.

SWIM TEAM: The women's team will swim against the University of Arizona and LSU here at 7 p.m.

AGGIE CINEMA: "Three Days of the Condor," a high tension thriller concerning the C.I.A. and international conspiracy, starring Robert Redford and Faye Dunaway, will be shown at 8 p.m. Rudder Theater. (R)

MIDNIGHT MOVIE: "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," about two bank robbers caught out of their element when the Old West closes at the turn of the century, starring Paul Newman, Robert Redford, and Katherine Ross, will be shown in Rudder Theater (PG).

PLACEMENT OFFICE: Graduating senior who wish to interview for the following companies may begin signing up today for interviews on Feb. 23: Aramco Services, Capital National Bank in Austin, Dandry, Div. of Northern Telecom, Data Point, Dresser Industries, Oilfield Products, Ferguson Enterprises, Hallmark Cards, Ingersoll-Rand Inc., Lockheed Missiles & Space Co., Marathon Co., NCR Corp., PPG Industries Co., Rolm Corp., Santa Fe Drilling Co., Southern Pacific Trans. Co., TRW Systems, Turner Collie & Braden, U.S. Gypsum, West Texas Utilities.

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