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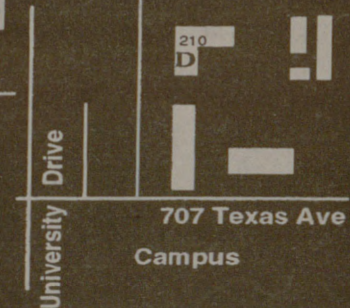
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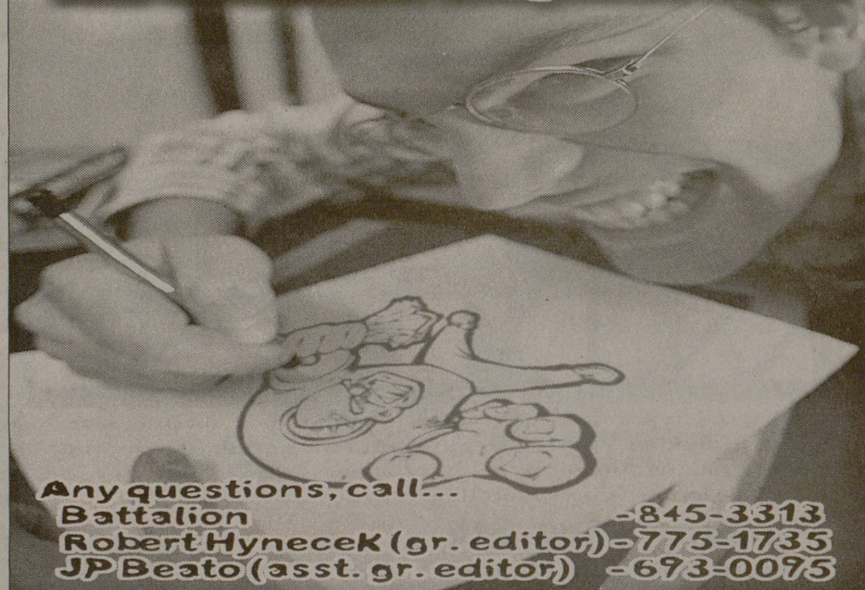
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Let's Dance

Fade to Black annual show presents "Dancing Around the World"

Story by Bobbie Eftekhari • Photo Illustration by Sallie Turner & Mike Fuentes

Math, music and dancing are said to be the universal languages.

Although algebraic equations may have some students jumping their feet, music and dancing arouse the most emotion.

With each country having their own steps, costumes and music, "Dancing Around the World," Fade to Black's annual spring show, will showcase what the world has to offer.

Chasidy Allen, director of publicity and a junior environmental design major, said the program consists of seven main dances — African American, hip hop, jazz, tap, salsa, belly dancing and spiritual.

Accompanying the main dances are many duets, solos and ensembles. Allen said to kick off the show there will be an introductory dance performed as an ensemble with all the members.

This year with the theme of the show being "Dancing Around the World," Allen said each main dance comes from a specific country.

"For example, the salsa comes from South America, and the energetic style of hip hop comes from Africa," she said.

During the course of the year, Fade to Black performs specific dances at functions at the request of the organization.

Allen said the annual spring show enables the dance society to choose the types of dances they want to perform.

"This program gives us the opportunity to show all the types of dances we can do," she said. "We have members with various backgrounds and experience, and this is our time to show that off."

LaTarah Lacey, president of Fade to Black and a junior journalism major, said audience members should expect to see different dance styles.

Lacey said the members contributed to choreographing a dance in the show.

"The officers decide beforehand what categories of dances to perform. Every dance group has an officer assigned to it to make sure everything is going smoothly," she said.

Allen said the program will also include special guests such as Tiffany Grant, 1999 Miss Black and Gold Queen, who will be singing; Elegance, a musical group of women from A&M and the New Zion Missionary Baptist Church youth dance team.

For this year's community service project, Fade to Black members have gone to the New Zion Missionary Baptist Church every Saturday to teach kids, ages 5 to 16, the dance they will be

performing, which was choreographed by members of Fade to Black.

Allen said this is the first year the organization has had a community service project.

The organization has been preparing for the spring show since the start of the semester.

Allen said the theme is different every year and there is a lot of planning involved.

The goal of Fade to Black is to promote African-American culture and heritage.

"We are a non-professional society that performs all types of dances," Allen said. "We make up our own dances, and we see races or differences. We are all here to see each other."

Fade to Black is a diverse group of members of all different backgrounds. The goal is to see races or differences. We are all here to see each other."

"We come together to dance and have fun."

Doors open at 6:30 Saturday night at the Theater. Tickets are \$5 at the door and \$3 in advance.

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