

Page 3 • Tuesday, February 10, 2004

ERNES ERNES REVELUTION

AGGIES FIND RELIEF FROM WORKOUT MONOTONY IN THE REC HIP-HOP CLASS

By Sarah Szuminski THE BATTALION

NE ATTAL

page 1

poses. s were ail Adv

consist te and epresen em Offi

at is in g studen f cheatin

ule revis

The des

es that

n be found Junior wildlife and fisheries sciences major Hatice Thomas stops Web s ming and turns around to face her students in the hip-hop dance tamu.edu cas she teaches along with co-instructor Shay Jones, a junior computer engineering major.

"Y'all ready for some music?" Thomas asks, after she and Jones hish teaching the last eight-count for the day.

The class of about 50 students cheers and the dancers get ready to page 1 ntheir new moves to music. As the beat begins, Thomas and Jones es to dom' The one-hour hip-hop class is one of the most popular courses edge with fired by the Student Recreation Center, as students flock to the stairs archery room each week to learn new dance steps and get who threadme exercise

ts jealous Freshman biology major Leanne Skinner said she found the class violent tenter searching for an outlet to fill the dancing void left after comhas a violege to college and leaving behind her days as captain of the high wants to avoid ance team.

where y "I's a lot of fun, and it's definitely a good workout," Skinner said. erbally an flomas and Jones) are really good; they've got some great moves." The fee for the class is \$15, which buys anyone with a Rec g you don ater membership admission to four classes - one per week. Each names a ek, students learn four new eight-counts, which ultimately comof a poter to make up a full-length dance routine. elationshi

lones and Thomas not only instruct the class, but also choreowhethe original routines.

in four a "We've been dancing for awhile," Jones said. "We just put on e study h memusic and make up the steps."

rape ("A lot of the time, it's just us being silly," Thomas added. f these, The dances are kept at a difficulty level that will fit everyone's

attacker, b mity, since some students have previously taken dance while othnotified the have not. "We try to keep it easy," Jones said. "We throw in easy steps, but

emake sure to challenge everyone.

Kelli Phelan, a Ph.D. student studying human resource developrkins said m, agreed that the class requires some coordination, but said it is ent of car ol-relater mostly just for fun.

"Is not geared for performance, so it's okay if you can't get it and one actly right," she said. e sexual

While the class mostly appeals to women, there are a few men age of l ibity their hand at learning hip-hop.

lmors Tommy Nelson and Jeff McFadden said they were drawn tes, doma othe class after taking a free introductory session. account

"he always wanted to take a class like this," Nelson said, "and all calls tere a lot of girls in here.

Madden said it seemed like a good opportunity to have fun and ento le insme new moves, adding that he could use the practice. violen "legot a really bad case of the white man's disease," he said.

Turnas said about three or four men usually enroll in each of the commu e domest

four class times offered, but she hopes there will be more in the future. We need to get the males out here," she said.

Thomas said girls seem more willing to take a dance class and tell their friends about it.

Phelan said she was surprised to see men in the class, but they seemed to be holding their own in a room full of women.

"They have their own style," she said. "They put a guys' twist on the dance.

In fact, everyone in the class puts some of his own style on the steps learned. Thomas and Jones' choreography leaves room for their students to add a personal twist. Some of the funkier moves, however, can be intimidating when first introduced.

When teaching a step they called the "snake," Thomas and Jones had to provide some additional instruction for many people in the class who could not master the move.

"The bigger your step, the bigger your snake will be," the instructors explained, instructing the class on how to drop their head to the side before following with their hips.

Making sure everyone understands a step is one thing to which the instructors give a lot of attention. Throughout the class, Thomas and Jones have everyone rotate, so dancers in the back get a chance to have a front-row view. They also create an encouraging environment where their students can feel comfortable trying to get the new moves down.

"We ask people to challenge themselves," Thomas said. "Most of the time, when someone says they can't do something, they end up being able to if they just try."

Thomas and Jones step up the intensity at the end of every class with what they call the "Outkast challenge." This is when the instructors have the class perform the routine to a song with a faster beat.

The idea started with last year's instructors when they created the Justin Timberlake challenge to the song, "Like I Love You." This year, Thomas and Jones switched it over to Outkast's "The Way You Move.'

The class shifts into high gear during the challenge, as the dancers struggle to keep up with the song's quick tempo. It is an energetic way to end each class and give a final kick to

the workout. Skinner said she enjoys the class and would recommend it to anyone.

'Last week after I left, I was so excited I couldn't wait to get back," she said.

Phelan agreed, saying the teachers' energy and spirit keep the class entertaining.

"I'm really glad they're offering it," she said, and \$15 is a steal.

Thomas and Jones said they plan to offer a second session of hiphop classes later in the semester, complete with new choreography The Rec Center also currently offers classes in jazz and belly dancing.

More information about the hip-hop class can be found at recsports.tamu.edu or at the member services desk at the Rec Center.

RUBEN DELUNA. THE BATTALION



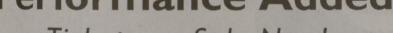
* MSC Variety Show *

Now accepting applications for all kinds of acts. Compete for local fame and

Extra Rockapella Performance Added

nore, sis emore, m ory at e read h e began ue; get h chelle s

99-SAFE



Tickets on Sale Now!



Due to the overwhelming response to ROCKAPELLA, MSC OPAS has added a second performance by the popular ensemble. ROCKAPELLA has rocked audiences across the globe! Now is your chance to witness the incredible musical talents of the undisputed champions of contemporary a capella.



a prize money fortune!

I want to

suck your

talent. and

blood. and i also love chocolate.

Applications in Town Hall cube in the Student Program Office or online at townhall.tamu.edu

Auditions Feb. 17th, 18th, and 19th.

Application deadline Feb. 12th at 5pm.

