

# Social dance class attacks variety of students

By Mary Shackelton

"Don't be afraid to move your right foot."  
 "1,2,3. Don't look down."  
 And "wunnerful, wunnerful," (Lawrence Welk style).  
 To social dance instructor Ellen Havlovic and her twinkle toed students, these utterances mean a return, and to some, a continuance of social dancing: the foxtrot, the rumba, the swing, the polka and the cha cha.

The Tuesday night social dancing courses, sponsored by the UNL Recreation Dept., has drawn both professionals who've said they've been dancing almost 40 years, and college students, whose feet have never moved to anything but Grand Funk and Froggy Beaver.

Louise Simmons, a 53-year-old secretary who takes lessons from another dance instructor, says she likes the class because "people can enjoy themselves and mix with different age groups."

John Muehlbeier, an agricultural economics professor who contends he's still 39 and has been "interested in dancing and going to dances for a long time," said he has picked up a lot of new steps from the course.

"I couldn't have more fun anywhere for a quarter a night than I could here," he said. The cost for the 8-week course is \$2 a person.

Adeline Muehlbeier said she was impressed by the enthusiasm shown by both the instructor and the students. She also said she learned some steps that she didn't know before. The steps taught in this course are not the intricate ones dance instructors usually teach, she said, but rather the kinds a person can use on a crowded dance floor.

"The course is practical as well as delightful," she added.

Other students came to class with little or no experience in cheek to cheek dancing.

Jolene Armbrust, a UNL junior majoring in elementary and special education, said she took the course "because I wanted to learn close dances. I've learned a lot, and it's really been fun."

Debbie Spicka, a secondary education major, agreed.

"I like to dance and took this class to improve my dancing ... It's easier to come in couples, though."

Terry Princ, a sophomore majoring in music, said he thinks "guys are afraid to dance with girls."

"I'm the kind of person who likes to try different things," said Princ, who's taking a square dancing and social dancing class for a physical education requirement.

Asked if he thought social dancing was on its way back, he responded:

"I hope so. I really hope so. Dancing to rock just doesn't have it. I really get into square dancing and the 2-step ... people that don't try these dances don't know what they're missing."

A contrasting view came from Willard Hartz, 43. "The modern dances are more fun," he said.

Others took the dancing course for more practical reasons.

"We're getting married and decided to take this class so we could dance at our wedding," said Kathy Oak, a dental hygienist. Her fiancée is Dwayne Odvody, assistant manager in the UNL Food Purchasing Dept.

Dorothy Jorgensen said she and her husband, Physics Prof. Theodore Jorgensen, took the course so they "could dance at the faculty dance parties."

Richard Reinke, who described himself as a "tired custodian," had his health in mind when he decided to take the course.

"Dancing is a way to catch up on jogging without running," he said.

Watching the whirling from the sidelines were Barbara Patronsky and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Havlovic, the instructor's parents.

Her arm in a sling prevented Patronsky, an elementary school teacher, from dancing. However, she was busy taking notes on new steps, and said she'd be back on the floor next week.

Ms. Havlovic explained that Ellen had been exposed to dancing since childhood.

"We're from Brainard, a Czech community, and we all like to dance," she said. Polkas and waltzes are popular there, she said.

Ellen first became interested in teaching dancing while attending Patricia Stevens College in Omaha, Ms. Havlovic said. She was studying fashion merchandising and was required to take a poise class.

The instructor noticed she had a flair for dancing and suggested she consider teaching dance.

Ellen is now an Arthur Murry dance instructor and a UNL senior majoring in physical education, besides being a Recreation Dept. dance instructor.

"There were 68 people in this class the first week," she said.

Attendance leveled off to between 30 and 40 people by the fourth week.

Asked if she thinks social dancing is making a comeback, she said:

"Definitely. Social dancing goes right along with the whole nostalgia thing—honky-tonk, the '40s clothes."

Dance instructors are younger now than they were in past years, and more high school students and couples under 30 are taking dancing lessons, she said.

## Course for SUN gets regents' ok

The SUN's rising in Nebraska, and the Board of Regents gave it a boost Saturday.

The SUN is the State University of Nebraska project, a multimedia educational project that will allow persons to earn college credit at home.

The "boost" was the approval of the project's first course, an introduction to accounting. Lessons for the course will be carried by newspapers and the Nebraska Educational Television Network. They will be supplemented by textbooks and tape recordings.

The regents appointed Prof. Melvin George, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, as chief academic officer of the project. George will be on leave from the college until he takes the position Dec. 31.

Max Larsen, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, will become interim dean until a permanent appointment is made.

In other personnel matters, the regents appointed T.E. Hartung as dean of the college of agriculture. He is now director of resident instruction at the college.



The Recreation Dept.'s modern dance class has attracted students of all ages.

Waffle-Stompers  
50% off

Ski Boots  
50% off

Ski Gloves  
25% off

**GIGANTIC SALE**

Ski Pants  
50% off

Ski Coats  
25% off

Downhill and Cross-Country Skis  
30% off

**Gerry's Ski Shop**  
1324 P

**QUEEN TINS**  
122 P I

*Pre-Summer Special*  
 on Name Brand Swimsuits  
 70%-80% off  
 and  
 Denim Jackets, Pants and Skirts  
 1/2 off

**QUEEN TINS**  
122 P I