

Diversions

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1991

**THIS WEEK:
DANCE**



William Lauer/DN

Tammi Wilburn, a freshman broadcasting major minoring in dance, performs ballet during class.

Studios offer opportunities for dancing to everyone

By Anne Steyer
Staff Reporter

"Feet don't dance," said Kent Conway, owner and operator of Dancingly Yours, one of Lincoln's social dance studios. "It's not how your feet move, but how you move."

Conway's studio at 140 N. 31 St. teaches various kinds of social dancing, recreational dancing with a partner.

Conway said he would like to dispel the myths surrounding social dancing. Generally, the idea of dance class conjures up images of old fogies moving to a little geriatric Lawrence Welk. But Conway is

quick to point out the contrary.

The room fills with the raucous noise of Guns N' Roses' "Welcome to the Jungle" and Conway starts to dance. His movements are in perfect synch to the rhythm of the music and seem quite natural.

Illustrated this way, it is easy to see that dancing is not just about waltzing, although Conway says the waltz is the "granddaddy of all dances."

Conway shows that it is possible to find a traditional dance beat in all contemporary music.

He demonstrates the mambo with M.C. Hammer's "You Can't Touch This" and the rumba with Basia's "Time and Tide," then turns to a surprising waltz to Pink Floyd, a band which does not typically inspire dancing of the ballroom variety.

Conway's clients are as varied as are his musical selections. Although his clients generally are in their 30s and older, he has taught dancers from 7 to eightysomething.

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Dance class shows why primitive dance exists

By Stacey McKenzie
Senior Editor

Intro to Dance is one of those college rarities.

It brings together students of all backgrounds and encourages them to break down walls of inhibition and to build up walls of creativity. In other words, the classroom has no regimented rows of desks fronted by a lecture podium.

One class assignment asked us to answer the question: Why did humans dance?

A small and diverse group of students, we sat in a circle contem-

plating how to answer the question. The class had been divided to cover different periods of time.

When told we were to cover the dance of primitive times, some in the group probably thought, "How am I possibly going to get up in front of other students and move my body parts like a primitive dancer?" I know I wondered.

Nevertheless, two class periods, some research about primitive culture and some guttural drum music from Ghana brought about a dance sequence that went something like this:

Movement #1 — Dancers lie face down on floor with legs tucked under stomach and arms extended in a worship-some-sort-of-god position, moving arms at individual pace. (Primitive dance of many cultures centered on religious ritual.)

Movement #2 — Dancers wave arms sporadically, circling body while still in face-down position and beat on ground to the rhythm

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