



The Courier

The Trend
Monday, April 2, 1984

Break dancing comes into its own

Break dancers exhibit panache

What a feeling! Like the line from the popular musical hit, "Flashdance," Victor Clark and Darryl Kelly have the feeling—for the beat of the music.

Clark and Kelly specialize in break dancing, an combination of several varieties of dance mixed with a smattering of acrobatics. Break is a form of street dancing, where the dancers spin and dance on the pavement on top of pieces of cardboard.

The art form became popular with the release of "Flashdance." That's when Clark and Kelly decided to learn more about it.

"A lot of people think, you know, you have lessons and all that stuff," Clark said. "I never took a lesson in my life."

Clark said he viewed "Flashdance" five times and studied the dancing closely. Kelly said he learned break dancing in the same manner.

Both Kelly and Clark have had previous experience in dancing, however.

Clark has been dancing since he was 14. He started out locking, then moved into bugaloo; both were forms of street dancing. Next, he advanced to popping, and finally, he began break dancing.

Before Kelly teamed up with Clark, he performed with the Bugaloo Poppers. He said his group was very popular in the area, performing on the television show, "What About People" and for the Ernest McGee summer review.

"We were the hottest group that came through Fort Worth," he said.

Kelly and Clark, both 20, have been working together six months. But they each knew about break dancing before they teamed up. Both became interested in the art when they saw it performed on "That's Incredible."

Clark said he loved watching the show, but added that after the telecast, break dancing was not publicized very much. He said it was difficult for him to find out more about break dancing until "Flashdance" was released.

"It was so quick and fast. I never saw it for a while after that (the television show). I



Victor Clark performs one of his routines at an Alpha Phi rush party, held in January.



Michael Rodriguez demonstrates his technique at an Alpha Phi rush party. He performs with Clark and

couldn't do anything about it," Clark said.

After "Flashdance" was released, Clark and Kelly began spending much of their spare time learning how to perform break dancing. They practiced and watched several videos that portrayed break dancers.

Now, they practice part of the time at the Jolly Time skating rink, where many people try their hand at break dancing. But Clark said when he and his partner appear, everyone just stays back and lets them take charge of the floor.

"They have to stand back," he said.

Clark said he and Kelly are the best break dancers around.

"Since break dancing, I haven't seen anybody as good as us yet," he said.

He and his partner prepared to show me just how good they are at the Roxz, a Fort Worth nightclub where they perform regularly.

First, they switched on several dozen small orange, pink and white spotlights. Some flickered, some flashed. Then, they selected Herby Hancock's "Rock It" to dance to. The lighted column in the middle of the floor, covered with thin vertical mirrors and ringed with several rows of yellow, pink, blue and green neon lights, further set the mood for their routine.

Clark and Kelly flicked on an "On the Air" neon sign above the disc jockey's booth. Then they began the record—a mixture of funky, spunky beat and synthesizer-produced music.

Clark removed his lightweight black bomber jacket, revealing a yellow and white striped, sleeveless polo shirt. His dark brown arms—well-muscled, but not too thick—were like a knotty length of rope. He was slim in his black Calvin Klein pants. Black cotton oriental-style shoes.

Kelly was clad in light beige painter pants, the ones with special loops on the side for carrying tools. His dark beige, long-sleeved shirt had its collar turned up. The sleeves were pushed up around his elbows, leaving only his dark forearms exposed, ready for action.

Kelly on Saturday nights at the Fort Worth Roxz.

He also wore colored Converse All Star basketball shoes, with orange stripes up their backs and bright shoelaces. And orange-billed baseball cap crowned his head.

"They supported themselves with one arm, turning rapidly in a handstand."

Step, heel, step, heel. Clark and Kelly began. They moved with a certain grace, spinning on their backs noiselessly, like toy tops.

They spun on one shoulder, the other not even coming in contact with the floor. They supported themselves with one arm, turning rapidly in a handstand.

Clark and Kelly moved their arms and bodies in wave-like motions. They did figure 4's, figure 3's, pretzels and "freeze moves," where they momentarily posed in different positions.

They also did some locking and popping steps, which were mixed with their break dancing. Also combined with the routine were acrobatics—flips, backbends and bridges.

Although Clark and Kelly both have full-time jobs and are not able to get together very much, both think their dancing is very good. Ultimately, they said, they would like to dance for a living. And soon, they may have a chance.

Besides performing at the Roxz on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, they also dance at the Disco Palace on Hemphill Street. Currently, they are auditioning for the television show, "Dance Fever." And in the near future, they will appear on "What About People" again.

Clark and Kelly have danced at clubs in Dallas and Addison in the past. Also, they have recorded a video with a woman singer, which will be shown soon in Japan.

"I guess we just had the determination. We wanted it badly," Kelly said.

By Donna Pettison

Nature center: a refuge for humans

A person doesn't have to be a rugged outdoorsman to enjoy the hiking trails, wildlife, fresh air and scenery of the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge.

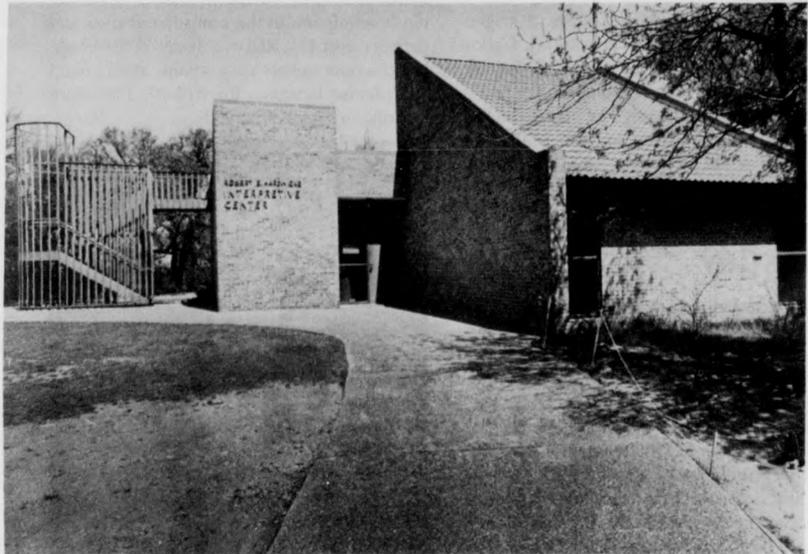
The refuge, which consists of 3,400 acres of wilderness, offers a little something for everyone.

The nature center, located in north Fort Worth, was established 20 years ago on a 40-acre stretch of land called Greer Island. Fully owned and operated by the Fort Worth Parks and Recreation Department, it is the largest city-owned park of its kind.

Major attractions of the center include several miles of recreational trails; a lotus marsh with a 900-foot boardwalk for the public; and Limestone Ledge, a paved half-mile path which provides an opportunity for the physically handicapped to view the scenery.

Also featured are a nine-mile horseback and hiking trail, a canoe dock for trips down a river, a buffalo range, a prairie dog town and a one-mile prairie trail.

"Our main objective for the park besides taking care of natural resources is that of enjoyment, entertainment and education of those who visit it," said Gwenn Hicks, administrative assistant of the recreation department.



The Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge is located just off Jacksboro Highway, two miles west of the

Lake Worth Bridge. The center offers trails, wildlife and varied recreational facilities.

The center, which employs three naturalists, offers guided tours for individuals and groups. The guides can help explain or answer any questions and eradicate some commonly-held fears about wildlife.

Besides serving as a permanent home for animals, the center also is used as a refuge for injured or abandoned animals. Wood said that animals that are brought to the nature center are given proper treatment by veterinarians who donate their services until they are able to be released into their natural habitat.

"The center also is used as a refuge for injured or abandoned animals."

On the tours, hikers can see all kinds of plants, fossils, unusual birds and possibly, several types of wildlife, said Tom Wood, director of the center. Among the wide range of animals to be found there, he said, are beavers, foxes, minks, coyotes, bobcats, hawks, possums, white-tailed deer, squirrels and six buffalo.

Wood said that because of the good location of the refuge, a variety of eastern and western animals—such as the prairie dog and flying squirrel—are able to come together.

"With the exception of the buffalo and prairie dogs, most of the animals were already here," he said. "We weren't really concerned with bringing more in, but primarily protecting those already living here."

One of the abandoned animals frequently brought in is the raccoon. Wood said that 40 to 50 raccoons that people have tried to make into pets are brought to the center each year.

Wood said that once the owners get tired of their raccoons, they bring them to the center. He said when the center gets the animals, it literally has to retrain them how to eat and survive as a raccoon.

"Sometimes the physical injuries are easier to deal with than the psychological ones," he said.

The director said that the center also serves as a refuge for visitors.

"I believe it serves as a refuge for people as well as for animals," he said.

The nature center is located just off Jacksboro Highway, two miles west of the Lake Worth Bridge. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends.

By Roann Hale



A fox recovers at the refuge. Veterinarians donate their services and time for treatment of animals that have been injured or abandoned.

Photo by Phillip Mosier

Au Courant

Au Courant is a student publication produced by the Texas Christian University journalism department every Monday of the semester year, except for review and finals weeks. Views expressed herein are solely those of the staff and contributors. *Au Courant* is located in Room 291S of the Moudy Communication Building, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas, 76129.

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METROPLEX

Monday

Theater Three in Dallas hosts a staged reading of "Metrosville," a play by Carlos Diaz-Canals. The play is a comedy-fantasy built around a town's reaction to a murder with several explanations. The play, which is free, will begin at 7 p.m. Another reading of the play also will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday. For more information, call (214) 651-7225.

Tuesday

A staged reading of "Outside Waco", a play by Patricia Griffith about three sisters and their out-of-control father, is held at Theater Three in Dallas at 7 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call (214) 651-7225.

The Flying Karmazov Brothers perform at the Plaza Theater in Dallas through April 15. Their act includes a 5-piece band, jokes, puns, high drama, low drama and continual conversation augmented by Klezmer music inspired by the vaudeville era. Performances are held Tuesday through Sunday at 8:15 p.m. with an additional Sunday matinee at 2:30 p.m. For tickets, call (214) 363-7000 and all Ticketron outlets.

Pianist Grant Johannesen plays during the final concert of the Cliburn at Wesleyan Series at 8 p.m. at the Texas Wesleyan College Fine Arts Auditorium. Tickets are \$10, but students and faculty members can purchase them at 50 percent off at the Scott Theater box office on the night of the performance. For more information, call 738-6536.

Adam Ant performs at 9 p.m. at Six Flags' Festival Concert Pavilion. Tickets, which include admission to the amusement park and concert, cost \$15.50 if purchased at Six Flags, but discount tickets are available at all Sound Warehouse locations for \$12.50. For more information, call 461-1200.



Adam Ant will perform at Six Flags on Friday at 9 p.m.

Saturday

A Pop Prints exhibition opens April 7 at the Fort Worth Art Museum. The exhibition will run through June 17. For more information, call 738-9215.

All Week Long

Theatre Three in Dallas presents **Second Threshold** through April 29. Ticket prices are \$11 and \$13.50. For more information, call 871-3300.

"The Invisible Universe" opens March 31 at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History's Noble Planetarium. The Invisible Universe will run through June 17. For more information, call 732-1631.

The Dallas Theater Center presents the "Cotton Patch Gospel" for a limited run. Ticket prices range from \$6 to \$12. For ticket information, call (214) 265-8857.

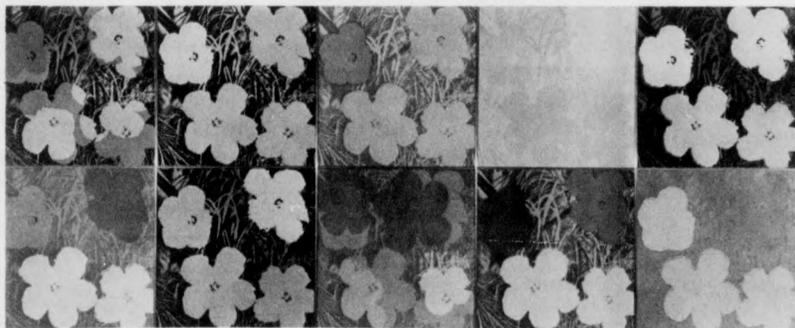
"The Early Landscapes of Frederic Edwin Church" appear at Amon Carter Museum through April 29. For more information, call 738-1933.

Sam Shepard's "Fool for Love" shows at the Dallas Theater Center through April 22. Appearances are at 8:30 p.m. on Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. on Sundays. For more information, call (214) 526-8857.

Wednesday

Theater Three in Dallas hosts a staged reading of "The Pond," a play by Margaret Collins, at 7 p.m. The play is a midsummer's night comedy that distills myth from everyday reality. Following the play, which is free, a discussion moderated by Chris Thomas will be held. For more information, call (214) 651-7225.

Judy Collins appears at the Fairmont Hotel in Dallas through April 17. For more information, dial 748-7218.



"Flowers," by Andy Warhol, is one of the prints that will be shown during the Pop Print exhibition at the

Fort Worth Art Museum. The exhibit opens Saturday, and will continue through June 17.

Thursday

Contralto Maureen Forrester sings with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra at 8:15 p.m. in Dallas' Fair Park Music Hall. Tickets are \$6 to \$15. Forrester also will perform with the symphony Saturday at 8:15 p.m. For more information, call 692-0203.

The Dance Theater of Harlem performs at SMU's McFarlin Auditorium at 8 p.m. today through Saturday. Performances will include pieces from "The Firebird" and "A Streetcar Named Desire." Tickets are \$5 to \$25. For more information, call 335-9000.

Friday

Craftfair Dallas opens at noon in the Market Hall of the Dallas Market Center. The fair will feature works by more than 350 of America's finest craft artists. Admission to the fair, which will continue through Sunday, is \$3.50. For more information, call (214) 361-4733.

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MON 2

Monday at TCU 8 a.m., Student Center, Lower Lobby
 American Marketing Association 8 a.m., Student Center, Lower Lobby
 Legal Seminar 11 a.m., Student Center, Room 207
 Hall Directors 11:45 a.m., Student Center, Room 214
 Brown Bag Ballet noon, Student Center, Ballroom
 Traffic Appeals noon, Student Center, Room 202
 Monday at TCU 1 p.m., Student Center, Room 205
 Presentation of Senior Honors Projects 1:40 p.m., Faculty Center, Reed Hall
 Black Student Caucus 3 p.m., Student Center, Room 214
 Panhellenic 3:30 p.m., Student Center, Room 218
 IFC 3:30 p.m., Student Center, Room 222
 Tau Chi Upsilon 6 p.m., Student Center, Room 204
 Baptist Student Union 6:15 p.m., Student Center, Room 202
 ICTHUS 7 p.m., Student Center, Room 203
 TCU Concert Hour Concert Chorale, 8 p.m., Ed Landreth Auditorium
 Phi Kappa Lambda Honors Recital 8 p.m., Ed Landreth Auditorium
 Campus Crusade 8:30 p.m., Student Center, Room 205

TUES 3

American Marketing Association 8 a.m., Student Center, Lower Lobby
 Resume Workshop 11 a.m., Student Center, Room 218
 Presentation of Seniors Honors Projects 1:40 p.m., Faculty Center, Reed Hall
 Special Events 5 p.m., Student Center, Room 203
 Films Committee 5:30 p.m., Student Center, Room 202
 Angel Flight 6:15 p.m., Student Center, Room 205
 Baptist Student Union 6:30 p.m., Student Center, Room 202

WED 4

American Marketing Association 8 a.m., Student Center, Lower Lobby
 Professional Selling 8 a.m., Student Center, Room 205
 Christian Science 11 a.m., Student Center, Room 214
 University Chapel noon, Robert Carr Chapel
 LOTAS noon, Student Center, Room 202
 Career Options 3:30 p.m., Student Center, Room 218
 Forums 4 p.m., Student Center, Room 204
 Programming Council 5 p.m., Student Center, Room 211
 RHA 5 p.m., Student Center, Room 222
 Student Foundation 5:45 p.m., Student Center, Room 218
 Recreation and Travel 6 p.m., Student Center, Room 214
 Circle K 6 p.m., Student Center, Room 205
 Voices United 6 p.m., Student Center, Room 202
 Beta Sigma Phi 6:30 p.m., Student Center, Room 203
 UCAM 7:30 p.m., Student Center, Room 205
 ICTHUS 8 p.m., Student Center, Room 207

THUR 5

American Marketing Association 8 a.m., Student Center, Lower Lobby
 Honors Convocation 11 a.m., Ed Landreth Auditorium
 Honors Luncheon 12:30 p.m., Student Center, Room 207
 Open Forum: Edward Albee 2 p.m., Faculty Center, Reed Hall
 Interview Tapes 2 p.m., Student Center, Room 218
 Performing Arts 3:30 p.m., Student Center, Room 202
 Parents Weekend 4 p.m., Student Center, Room 203
 Spirit Wranglers 4 p.m., Student Center, Room 204
 ISA 4 p.m., Student Center, Room 214
 Young Life 5 p.m., Student Center, Room 202
 Sailing Team 5 p.m., Student Center, Room 203