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Welcome to 'Tranceford'

Wednesday, February 18th, 2004 | By [Katie Bearman](#)



The DJ spins a mix of trance, techno and Euro dance music.

You know the scene. It's a Saturday night at Stanford, and as the clock nears 11 p.m., the Row starts to buzz with students wandering in search of a good party. Throngs of Stanford students — studious by day, scandalous by night — stumble drunkenly down hills and across parking lots toward the music.

Weary of the campus police who, not surprisingly, have nothing else to do but nail students with MIPs, some party-goers link arms for support and try to suppress their voice levels until they are safely surrounded by hoards of sweaty people on overcrowded dance floors. The usual hip-hop music will blast until 1 a.m. and then, after being jostled around and getting cheap beer spilled on their favorite outfits, these sociable undergrads will walk back to their dorms, play some Beirut, hang out in the hallways and crash.

Ah, yes, another Stanford weekend.

Granted, these parties can be fun. They provide a chance to run into friends from other dorms, to dress up (if you're a girl) and to act as crazy as you want because most people are too wasted to evaluate your dancing skills. And if you're into the random hook-up scene, there's no better place than a massive party to find someone to mack on.

After attending these events on both nights of every weekend of every quarter, however, some people are in the mood for a change. This past weekend, Naranja attempted to throw a different type of party, called "Tranceford."

Some may remember that this East Lag dorm hosted the “Orange Pill” party last year, which had a Matrix theme and featured electronic dance music, good snacks and Jamba Juice. “Orange Pill” was different from other campus parties because the theme, rather than the alcohol, was its key feature.

Max Mednik, who organized last year’s party as a freshman resident in Naranja, wanted people to come to “Orange Pill” in order to experience a different type of atmosphere, dance and enjoy the music.

“Parties don’t need alcohol to be successful,” Mednik said.

His theory proved to be correct; “Orange Pill” was packed.

“I had to turn off the music and tell people to leave because of quiet hours,” Mednik said.

Due to the success of “Orange Pill,” Mednik, who is living in Naranja again this year, convinced his dorm to throw another such party. They renamed the party “Tranceford” to emphasize the fact that the event featured trance, techno and Euro dance music that is generated electronically and spun by DJs.

Like last year, “Tranceford” featured a variety of chips, cookies, soda and Jamba Juice, but no alcohol. The hosts also provided fresh, sliced oranges out of loyalty to their residence named after the delicious citrus fruit. The party was held in the Naranja lounge, which was decorated with black lights, disco balls and glow sticks in order to create a truly captivating aura.

“This party is so hot right now,” said sophomore Angélica Nava, one of the party-goers.

Because of its focus on electronic music, “Tranceford” was meant to cater not only to the Stanford students sick of the usual party scene, but also to the Stanford students that are into electronic music. Mednik loves this type of music and was one of the DJs at the party.

Using a computer and digital mixing software, he has been teaching himself to DJ for a couple of years. Mednik bought turntables in September that he has been learning to use manually, a process that he described as “very challenging and fun.”

Mednik also hired professional trance DJ, Derrell “DJ Digit” Bishop to help out at “Tranceford.” Bishop is 26 years old and has been enthusiastic about the electronic music scene for a few years now. He said that while some DJs write their own music, most remix music using high tech equipment. By “spinning” other songs, trance DJs can compose their own musical phrases and vary the tempo of the already written pieces.

Besides catering to those who enjoy electronic music, “Tranceford” also appealed to people who like other elements of the “rave” scene. Junior Andrew Buck attended “Tranceford” due to his love for “raving with glow sticks.”

While spending time in the many techno clubs that line Miami Beach, Buck learned to dance with his whole body while creating cool, fluid motions with neon glow sticks. His skills include making figure eights with glow sticks, creating moving boxing shapes, using his fingers to make complex patterns and “popping” — using glow sticks to break dance, resemble a strobe light, and freeze-frame himself. Buck shared his talents with the students who attended the party.

“We came for the glow sticks,” said Bries Deerrose and Matt Zafra, both sophomores.

While these bright, colorful toys were a huge hit among those who attended the party, the turnout was drastically lower than that of last year. At 11:30 p.m., there were only about 13 people rockin’ it out in the Naranja lounge. Mednik was surprised that more people did not come because — like “Orange Pill” — “Tranceford” was well advertised. Naranja made use of the resident assistant e-mail system and distributed paper and electronic fliers to spread word about the event.

Mednik attributed the poor attendance to the fact that it was Valentine’s Day and people were hanging out with their close friends and significant others in atmospheres more conducive to conversation and quality time. Toyon and Synergy were also having parties that probably stole some of “Tranceford’s” thunder.

Despite this year’s disappointment, Mednick said that the people who came to the party had a great time. He and his fellow trance music fans want to organize more parties like “Tranceford” this year but say that they will “try a lot harder to make sure that there are no big parties or holidays that same day.”

Additionally, Max thinks that a future “Tranceford” party should be held in a location more central than Naranja.

“I like trance music, but I think you need a few drinks to dance to it,” said sophomore Anthony Viola, who did not attend the party.

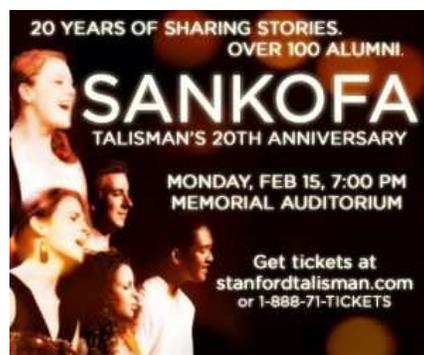
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