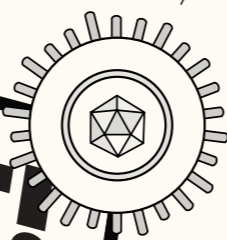


IT'S A PEST!



The DSI-79 virus:
Widespread, contagious virus in the western hemisphere. Transfused by air -> music.
Causes several diseases - in some cases fatal!

■ Fever

An analogy which often appeared in mainstream Disco culture and its conquest was the Disco fever. The rapid success of the genre seemed like an epidemic; Bruce Pollack wrote in "The Disco Handbook" from 1979: "By now you've heard the word and felt the fever. In newspapers and magazines, on radio and TV, in movies and advertisements, on city buses and airplanes buzzing the beach, the word is always the same - disco - and the fever is spreading."

The 1977 movie "Saturday Night Fever" by Robert Stigwood and John Badham had ultimately popularized the music and its corresponding club scene all over the world.

In the movie, the fever had an additional meaning: the urge to get out of every day life and become king at the local discotheque on the weekends. The urge eventually became an addiction until one's life completely revolved around the weekly ritual of going out to dance. The Bee Gee's "Night Fever" from the movie soundtrack also describes the fever as the excitement for nightlife.

■ Dance Disease

As a mass phenomenon mainstream Disco also exerted a certain peer pressure; having to know the right lingo, wear a fancy outfit, know the latest dance moves. The 1970s kids TV show "Sesame Street" made fun of this fact in several sketches (you can watch them on www.dsi-co-fanzine.com). One sketch is spoofing a scene from "Saturday

Night Fever"; at first Grover is dancing like Tony Manero (John Travolta) but soon gets out of breath while everybody keeps yelling at him "dance!". He keeps dancing until he finally faints.

The BBC actually reports in an article titled "Dancing Death" about an epidemic that broke out in mid-July 1518 in Strasbourg, France, where a woman stepped into the street and started to dance. "She was still dancing several days later. Within a week about 100 people had been consumed by the same irresistible urge to dance. The authorities were convinced that the afflicted would only recover if they danced day and night. So guildhalls were set aside for them to dance in, musicians were hired to play pipes and drums to keep them moving, and professional dancers were paid to keep them on their feet. Within days those with weak hearts started to die. By the end of August 1518 about 400 people had experienced the madness."

It's still not clear today what made the patients dance day and night; some think they had ingested argot, a psychotropic mould that grows on stalks of rye, others say they were obsessed by a demon. According to the BBC article the dancers might have had entered a trance state due to "extreme psychological distress" caused by their poor living conditions.

This throws another light on the story line of "Saturday Night Fever" and the motifs of Tony Manero's unhappy life (dead-end job, unsupportive parents, wrong friends) as the medical explanation for his dancing.

■ Ear Worm

Germans have a special term for catchy tunes that get stuck in your head: earworms (Ohrwürmer). Once entered, the earworm repeats the main melody of a song within your mind, over and over again. Disco songs often have such catchy melodies, that's probably also a reason why they became popular so quickly. Who hasn't found themselves singing "thesesounds fall into my maiaiaind" or "vamos a la playa oh ohohoh oh" all day? The biggest producers of earworms were -without any doubt - ABBA. The Swedish group had one hit after another thanks to the signature harmony singing of female lead singers Anni-Frid Lyngstad and Agnetha Faeltskog. This style of creating neat harmonics with two voices already helped The Beatles implant earworms with their music. And once it's stuck in people's heads it's a guaranteed chart hit. Sometimes an Ohrwurm can be killed by listening to or singing another song, so the worm gets irritated and mixed up; during the Disco era, however, every other song was just another earworm...

■ Gay Cancer

More and more people (especially Rock fans) got tired of the omnipresent Disco hype during the late

70s/early 80s with its obtrusive earworms. Hate arose against annoying melodies and lowbrow lyrics, and the "Disco Sucks" movement was started (as described earlier in this issue). Steve Dahl's Disco Demolition Night, where thousands of Disco records were burned, is considered "the day Disco died". But since it's all about "Staying Alive", Disco couldn't be killed. So god created a disease that killed a lot of Disco producers and DJs (many of them homosexual). At first the disease was called gay cancer until it later became known as AIDS...

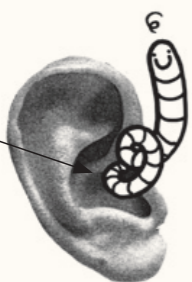
■ Addiction

And because of all of those symptoms people needed good medicine. Some used methaqualone, a muscle relaxant also known as Quaaludes, others inhaled Poppers (amyl nitrite) to enhance sexual pleasure. The most popular medicine was cocaine, a stimulant of the central nervous system. However, most of the medicine used is addictive - a fact that caused more symptoms to appear due to their regular use.

CONCLUSION: As a conclusion I can say Disco is a highly contagious, addictive, and deadly disease. In order not to catch any of the above symptoms make sure you NEVER:

listen to the song "Lady Bug" by Bumblebee Unlimited, especially not the Larry Levan edit

Typical Earworm.
Often transmits
DSI-79 virus

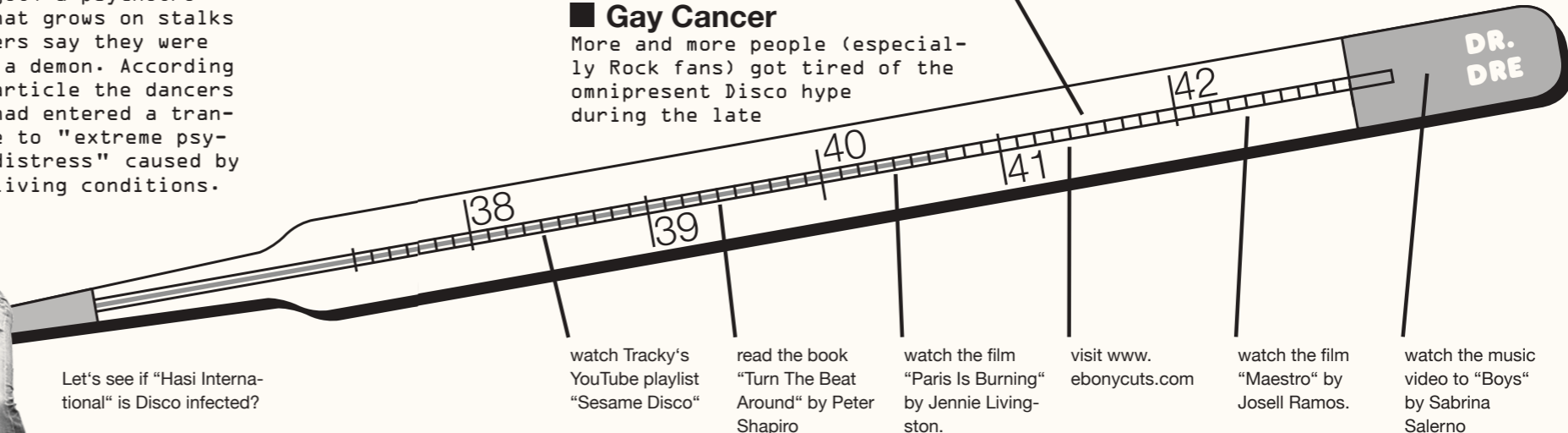


?

?



Let's see if "Hasi International" is Disco infected?



watch Tracky's
YouTube playlist
"Sesame Disco"

read the book
"Turn The Beat
Around" by Peter
Shapiro

watch the film
"Paris Is Burning"
by Jennie Living-
ston.

visit www.
ebonycuts.com

watch the film
"Maestro" by
Josell Ramos.

watch the music
video to "Boys"
by Sabrina
Salerno