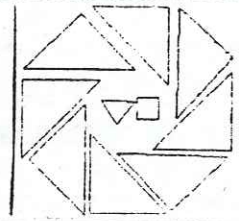


# TALKING TORONTO



Volume 1, Number 3

July 1993

## REMAKE THE CIRCLE A SUCCESS!

It was the unanimous feeling of the dozen or so Toronto people that the convention in Seattle was a success and the people who worked so diligently to pull it together are applauded! Why, even **Camina Putanna, HTQ'92** was overheard to have remarked, "If only I could get these people to cater my soirees!" The people were friendly and helpful, the scenery was beautiful (even if the rain did obscure it at times), and the dancing was energetic to say the very least!

Being my first convention, I really wasn't sure what to expect -- apart from the obvious dancing that we'd be doing. We arrived Thursday night and was whisked in a hair-raising taxi ride to the campus where we were settled-in quickly. There were square dancers everywhere! (As if we'd blend-in with the sedate university crowd?! Please! They don't have nearly enough energy!) I was already getting excited just being among all these dancers coming and going.

Walking into the Plus hall on Friday was an experience I'm used to seeing half to a dozen squares in a room at fly-in's for Plus, and maybe up to twenty squares of everyone dancing. But here, there was square upon square upon square! What a feeling of being overwhelmed! And talk about the enthusiasm!

The only thing better than the dancing was the Grand March. Friends have tried to describe it to me, but nothing short of being there could ever do it justice. It was an incredible feeling to be apart of the multitude proudly marching together and celebrating ourselves, each other and our love of dancing! Just seeing the number of dancers from some of the clubs like **Squares Across The Border** from **Vancouver** with an incredibly large contingent!

The food in the residence wasn't half bad but they did run out of some food items occasionally. (I'm still disappointed that our group dawdled too long and I missed the eggplant parmigianal) Many compliments were tossed around after the brunch on Sunday. The formal table dressings were as impressive as the food! Thank you!

And of course, the finale to the weekend was the open-level dancing Sunday night. What an incredibly fun way to end it off. The spacing was a bit tight but that made for a friendlier and more joyful time as we brushed against one another and bumped and tripped over one another -- and even managed to end-up in the same square with all the same dancers! Everyone was laughing and smiling and having a damn good time!

On a more personal note, I have to mention the shopping at **Santa Fe's**. We went in en mass and came-out all carrying shopping bags. The staff was great and the selection was difficult (when you only have so much money to spend!). Afterall, how can you truly measure the successful of a convention if not for the dancing *and the shopping!*



Thank you Seattle and Puddletown people! I can hardly wait for my second convention!

## SCOOT ACROSS THE BORDER FLYS!

**Memorial Day weekend** was a flying success for our annual fly-in! We had 123 registrants, coming from as far away as **San Francisco!** Everyone raved about having a great time and three people have already registered for 1994 which is sure to be even better! The breakdown of registrants was as follows:

8	<b>Cadillac Squares</b>
4	<b>Chi-Town Squares</b>
30	<b>Cleveland City Country Dancers</b>
1	<b>Cream City Squares</b>
1	<b>Foggy City Squares</b>
4	<b>Grand River Squares</b>
3	<b>Independence Squares</b>
4	<b>Mountain Laurel Squares</b>
2	<b>Squares Across The Border</b>
9	<b>Times Squares</b>
57	<b>Triangle Squares</b>

We danced until our feet were sore, to the wonderful calling of **Paul Waters** and **Joe Uebelacker** as they worked  
(continued on page 2)

## SCOOT ACROSS THE BORDER FLYS!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

people through moves from Thursday to Sunday and Basic to Advanced. The dancing was always energetic but reached a peak for the final Sunday afternoon tip with Paul rockin' and rollin' with such incredible energy that there was only 3 people sitting-out!

The Western Dance Party on Saturday was a fun alternative to square-dancing! (Isn't it funny how our feet can suddenly come alive, again?!) The **Bux-um Beauties** from **Cleveland** graced us with their hilarious version of "Swine Lake", bringing their festive American humour north of the border. Following, in their performance debut, were the **Triangle Tarts** with a dazzling performance that only served to heighten the fiesta fever in the air! **Camina Putanna**, our very own **Honky Tonk Queen '92**, entertained the troops with her version of a Carmen Miranda tune before the **Bux-ums** made their tribute to **Camina** -- complete with tutti-fruitti hats. (With so much plastic fruit leaving the U.S., it was rumoured that Agriculture Canada had an emergency meeting that weekend!)

In honour of our sister club, **Cleveland City Country Dancers**, making-up the largest number of guests from a single club, we honoured them with an engraved silver tray. This same tray was bestowed upon our club in Cleveland last October for highest attendance from a single club at their **Load The Boat II** fly-in. The Fly-In Committee felt that it would be the beginning of a new tradition that would, hopefully, last for many, many years to come. With our mutual support of each other, we should be able to pass this tray back and forth until there is no more room for engraving.

Despite some people having already tuckered themselves out by Sunday evening, there were still plenty of die-hards who came out for Sunday night square dancing to an open mike.

Monday started with rain but (thankfully!) cleared-up in time for the first-ever **Scavenger Hunt** to get under way. There were 4 teams of 3-4 people competing against each other to locate 4 mystery locations and a list of unusual items. Everyone agreed that they'd had fun and would enjoy it again next year! (We had some interesting winning results. Check-out the Scavenger Hunt article in this issue.)

Brunch was another unparalleled dining experience! Thanks to our lovely Brunch Co-Ordinator, she scoped-out a place that had tasty food with a friendly atmosphere. Rumour has it that with two successful brunches under her belt, she'll be given the job permanently!

All in all, it was a raving success (despite our Chairperson requiring medication -- or was that the committee members just wishful-thinking about Valium?!) Thank you to all who attended and helped us all to dance, laugh, smile and enjoy a helluva fun weekend!

## TRIANGLE TRASH

(A Tasteful Gossip Column by Strawberry Dickquiri)

Here it is, again! Another instalment of our tastefully trashy information-exchanging! I must say, though, it's been a tough time trying to pare down all the gossip to anything less than 5,000 words! Goodness, I never realized how truly depraved life can be (and fun!) when you go looking for dirt! But, where should I start?

Because it's so near and dear to my heart, I must confess that we have a **plant killer** among our happy family. While attending a cocktail soiree in honour of a couple of Yankee-Doodle dandies, I was shocked to learn that our host, a certain graphic artist, had neglected a lovely plant bestowed upon him an Easter dinner party. To my absolute horror, this brown-thumbed cherub received not one, but two more plants to add to his list of victims! Future guests be forewarned: buy only plastic for this man!

A festive dinner outing to **Mickey's Hideaway** was undertaken by moi-meme and a cast of crazies. Did our conversation really degrade to Baycrest briefs and "augmentation"? And, did I really hear a death-wish of a certain prominent drag queen, paper-mache'ing herself to death in piniata fever? And has she really started wearing underwear for fear of being reported in this column? And what was the talk about headlines flashing before your eyes: "Tissue Paper Rosettes Ruin Love Fest"? (I wonder if we'll ever be invited back to this restaurant?)

Did our prominent drag queen truly think she could throw plastic fruit at moi and not expect to be held publicly accountable? But, of course, it must have been meant for a certain Tart escort who wanted to do **what** to a paper-mache pig?!

Now, a touch of international flavour: was it a certain **Bux-um Beautie** who abandoned her children on the roof of the Party Centre? A number of witnesses were a "lotta" shocked when the plastic babes were discovered naked on the cold, hard gravel. And isn't this same **Bux-um** showing a "lotta" weight gain? Rumour has it she's in the family way -- again! Moi did not personally witness a certain **J.W.** in leather but a sister confided that he surely must have outshone **T.V. & D.M.**! Any photos for sale?

My heart be still! Was that Elvis in the dorm washroom with me early one morning in Seattle? Brushing my teeth, I looked into the mirror and was rewarded with a brief glimpse of a certain immigration lawyer with morning hair a la pompadour. I can die a happy drag having sighted Elvis (even if he was Chinese)!

And not to leave our prominent drag queen alone, yet, I must compliment her on **suntanning** her fabulous knees next to our near-naked cowboy line-dancer! Try shaving them next time, dear! I'm sure they scared Orange County in the room above!

And to end this column: Thank you for a festive Fun Badge Tour, **Helgal** Oh, and, cute buns, **Thor!**

## NEW DEMO TEAM DIVA!

It was just one of those mysterious intersections of time and fate -- **Don Cheff** wanted to lay down the "burden" of co-ordinating the Demonstration Team and I needed a fresh excuse to avoid finishing my dissertation -- so here I am as the new co-ordinator of the team. My first order of business is to thank **Don** for his hard work in promoting gay and lesbian square dancing both in our own community and the sometimes startled (but always entertained) population-at-large. My second order of business is to thank **Richard "The Straight" Stoveld** for volunteering as my in-town contact. (Editor's note: Sandy lives in a lovely house but, boy, is it in the boonies!)

For those of you who don't know me, perhaps just a bit of biography is in order. My partner, **Catherine Thompkins**, and I joined the Toronto Triangle Squares in 1991 when we moved to Ontario from San Francisco where we had danced and performed with the **Foggy City Dancers** for quite a few years. To be perfectly candid, I wasn't at all certain that I could ever make the transition from the City of St. Francis and my much-loved friends there. Well, I'm still incredibly homesick but the wonderful bunch of people I have come to know at Triangle Squares have made the adjustment much less painful than it might have been. It's true that I still sometimes think we're more into aerobics than square-dancing but I also can honestly say I have never had more fun!

My highest priority will be on adding a little polish to our exhibitions through regular practices and more frequent performances. Ideally, I would like to see us learn a repertoire of varied numbers that we could perform on short notice and in a variety of settings. I think it would be great if we could perform more often at benefits for the gay and lesbian community as well as continue to make ourselves more visible in the larger community, especially in the mainstream square dance community. I believe our presence on **Breakfast TV** (popular Ontario morning show) and at functions like the **Canadian National Exhibition** and the Hamilton convention are invaluable opportunities to let the general population see first-hand what great folks (and dancers) we are!

I would also like us to begin to develop some of our own choreography and to use fewer recorded vocals. We have an abundance of calling and choreographic talent (**Andy, Chris, Don, and Drew**) that I would love to see further developed for exhibitions. Of course, I would love for us to give the other teams a little competition at our annual IAGSDC conventions - again, not by copying them but through developing our own trademark style.

Well -- that's it in a nutshell. I would love to see our team continue to grow with this kind of teamwork, definitely looking good in '93/94!

Sandy Zimmerman

## QUEEN'S QUORNER...

### THE FINAL EPISTLE

Well loyal(?) subjects, where were the rest of you on Memorial Day Weekend? One-hundred & twenty three registered and participated in our largest, to-date fly-in!

Dancing started pm Thursday evening, and seemed to be non-stop until Sunday evening.

Thank you Joe Ubelacker, Paul Waters, and several club callers, for "keeping us on our toes", except for a brief moment in time on Saturday evening, when a few of us were "in heels" at Carmina's Cantina!

Entertainment, at the Cantina, commenced with the entrance of the Cleveland Bux-um Beauties with their new and improved version of "Swine Lake". (Wasn't that "Dying Swine" superb in that supine position?!)

Then, Queen Carmina and her "Triangle Tarts" staged a brief demonstration against North American Free Trade...we just cannot compete with those prices, unless we start "giving it away!" The Tarts certainly **tried** to sell it, then, realizing the futility of it all, fought over a pinata, staged a bull-fight, and square-danced with gay abandon (Who's she?? A new drag princess?), and started giving it away inside the Cantina.

I then made a spectacle of myself (and they keep flashing the photos to prove it!) as the "Lady in the Tutti Fruitti Hat". (And, poor Carmen Miranda thought it could only be done by her -- Ha! fooled her, didn't we?!)

We then regally retired to our throne for a tribute from the Bux-ums. Being conga-lined to exhaustion, spun about on our throne (and you thought we were dizzy **before!**), and pelted with artificial fruit by "real fruits" brought the Cantina to a close.

Thank you Tarts and Bux-ums for your adulation and homage!

Thank you to our Fly-in Committee, for a successful weekend culminating with that Treasure (read Scavenger) Hunt on Monday morning.

There were the usual tears among the cocktails upon departure, but, there's going to be a next year...!

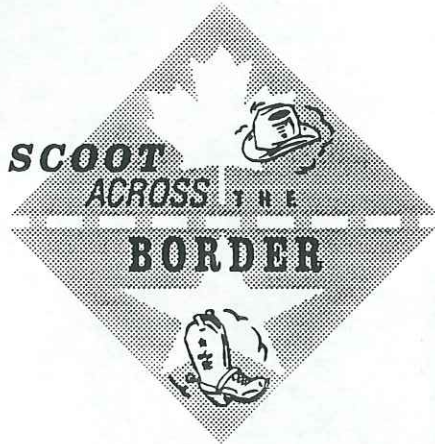
Alas, dear subjects, there will be no next year for us, as queen, Dio Gracias! The crown was heavy, but, thanks to you all, it was not a burden!

Hope you'll be as adoring to the new aspirant, chosen in Seattle, at "Remake The Circle", celebrating 10 years of the IAGSDC.

Regally, Royally & Finally Yours,

*Carmina Putanna. MSQ'92*

MEMORIES  
OF



CARMINA'S  
CANTEENA



CLEVELAND'S BUX-UM BEAUTIES PERFORMED A  
FESTIVE "SWINE LAKE"!



THE TRIANGLE TARTS WERE A BLUR OF  
COLOURFUL CRINOLINES CIRCLING-LEFT!



EL TORO! TORO!



THAT DAMN SARA  
COUENTRY JEWELRY!

## **NEW MAILING ADDRESS**

Effective immediately, the Triangle Squares have a new mailing addressing. Please ensure that your club records are updated accordingly.

**552 CHURCH STREET  
BOX 57  
TORONTO, ONTARIO  
M4Y 2E3**

## **DANCING AT THE C.N.E.**

Once, again, this year, we will be dancing at the Canadian National Exhibition on August 29. We made a historic appearance last year at the "C.N.E." by being the first gay and lesbian square-dancing group to partake in the annual square-dancing demonstrations during this traditional fair and exposition. We were lucky enough to have **Anne Uebelacker** call for us last year.

We're hoping to have at least two squares this year to show the square-dancing community that we're here and we're no different than them. We dance, we socialize and we share the love of square-dancing.

## **FALL DANCING GOES TO 3 NIGHTS!**

Beginning in September, we will be going from two nights of dancing to three nights of dancing. The goal is to provide as much flexibility to accommodate all of our dancers. We have Plus who are ready to move-up to Advanced level, but not enough to form a full square. We have Mainstream grads who felt that more time for learning the basic moves would have been helpful. Thus, after much debate, the Steering Committee decided to move ahead in these less frequently travelled waters of 3 nights.

Our Monday night class will consist of teaching the A1 grads the A2 moves, and adding some C1 moves for the present A2 dancers. Two of our club callers, **Andy Chong** and **Don St. Jean** will be the callers teaching these folks.

Our Basic/Mainstream class will be held on Wednesday nights with our professional caller **Joe Uebelacker** teaching them the fundamentals of these basic but dire levels.

Our graduating Mainstream folks will be joining the present Plus class on Thursday nights to learn Plus with some A1 moves thrown-in for the present Plus grads who will not be able to move-up until there is a new A1 class in '94/95 season.

With the Basic/Mainstream and the Plus classes moved to different nights, the teaching time will be increased from one and a half hours to two and half hours. This should allow for more time to concentrate on learning the moves from varying positions. With the continuing and increased publicity, we're looking forward to a busy season!

## **CLUB CONTACTS**

### **STEERING COMMITTEE**

President	Chris Homer
Secretary	Alan Dearnley
Treasurer	Richard Stoveld
Publicity Co-Ordinator	Stephen Holmes
IAGSDC Representative	Andy Chong

### **NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE**

Editor	Alan Dearnley
Assistant Editor	Chris Homer
Contributors	Strawberry Dickquiri Sandy Zimmerman Andy Chong
Photographer	Herman Pat

### **DEMO TEAM**

Co-Ordinator	Sandy Zimmerman
Assistant Co-Ordinator	Richard Stoveld

### **FLY-IN COMMITTEE 1994**

To be announced

### **MAILING ADDRESS - ALL COMMITTEES**

**552 CHURCH STREET  
BOX 57  
TORONTO, ONTARIO  
M4Y 2E3**

## **DANCING NIGHTS/LOCATIONS**

Monday	Orde Street School
Advanced	18 Orde Street, Toronto
Wednesday	Church Street School
Basic/Mainstream	83 Alexander Street, Toronto
Thursday	Church Street Community Centre
Plus	519 Church Street, Toronto

Please call (416) 960-5458 for exact times and changes to dates or locations.

## **NOTE FROM EDITOR**

We welcome your comments, suggestions and letters to us. Please feel free to send them to the attention of "Newsletter Editor" at the above address.