

TRIANGLE SQUARES

P.O. Box 57, 552 Church Street
TORONTO, ONTARIO
M4Y 2E3

News from all Angles
April 1994

Club Night: Thursday, 28 April

Remember that Joe Uebelacker will be calling for the Club night scheduled for the 28th, at the 519. We will be dancing Mainstream through Advanced from 7:00 to 10:00.

Scoot Across the Border May 27-30

Have You Registered Yet?

Our 1994 fly-in is well on its way - the space is booked, our callers, Joe Uebelacker and Tim Crawford, are set to go, 8 clubs are now represented by guest registrants and the Tarts are all a flutter with springtime shopping plans! Everything is on track, except maybe for some new pumps.

John Nishikawa, our fly-in matchmaking service, er, billeting/housing host, is looking a little nervous as he attempts to accommodate the various needs of our guests. (But that's OK, John always look a little nervous under pressure!) Please - if you haven't already notified him of your ability to house someone - I know he would like to hear from you. John can be reached at 203-1377.

What we need now are **lots of volunteers!!** Below you will find a list of tasks that we need help with over the next few weeks. There are lots to pick from and many are not too onerous. This list will be circulated over the next couple of weeks at the various classes where you can sign up or, if you are interested in finding out more about one of the specific tasks call Kevin Kavanagh (Scarlet to some), or Kevin Seymour at 322-6115.

If anyone has something that they would like considered for the registration package, please make sure it available to us by Tuesday, May 24th.

And get those costumes in shape! Remember, we have five fun (and not too onerous) costume categories at the Gay 1890's dance on Saturday night. Best dressed cowboy, cowgirl and leather apparel open our first three categories. Most outrageous saloon vamp (or is that tramp, dear) makes four and finally there is COW (as in Moo!) -- you know, those old horny western critters that are central to any good western flick. Now for the best part, the Tarts (can they agree on **anything?**) will be the judges for all five categories. Of course, that means that they are not eligible themselves for prizes but their exquisite taste in outfits makes them the

natural choice for such honourable duties.

See you all there!

Scoot Across the Border '94 Volunteer Roster

Registration Package: 1 week prior to fly-in

- The Tarts and Their Tastes: Eateries & Drinkeries in the Gay Ghetto & Surroundings
or
How to pick up a fresh tart!
- Coupons, coupons, coupons. We like to include restaurant coupons to assist our guests culinary needs.
- Name Tags
- Obtain 100 copies of TTC Ride Guide & 50 Rev Can GST Refund Pamphlets for out of town guests.
- Obtain Mayor's "Welcoming Letter" & other appropriate formalities

Friday, Saturday, & Sunday

- Setup & Cleanup Committee

Friday Night Dance

- Food & Beverages

Saturday Afternoon

- Organize Guest Club Callers

Saturday Night - Gay 1890's Dance

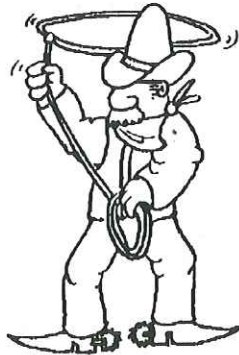
- Design Tickets for production by late April
- Food & Beverages
- 50/50 Club Draw
- Decorating Committee
- Advertising
- Door & Costume Prizes

Sunday Afternoon

- Get raffle fundraiser item donated, & design tickets for draw.

Toronto & District Convention, 12 May - 15 May

A reminder that the one day registration forms attached to last months newsletter are due by the 15th of April. Registrations will still be accepted at the door, but dancers will have to pay the full weekend fee of \$28.



John Mills has undertaken to coordinate car-pooling for the event, and sign-up lists will be available at Wednesday and Thursday dances.

Line of Fire Why at My Club?!?

by Roy Gotta
reprinted from American Squaredance,
February 1994

"Why do they have to dance at our club? Why can't they keep to themselves? I don't mind if they want to square dance, as long as they stay in their own club. This used to be a nice family club. If you let one or two in

... WANTED ...

Eight Tasty Toronto Tarts & 4 young(ish) studs make spectacles of themselves in front of non-judgemental (Hunh!) square dancers.

Date: Fly-in Saturday, May 28.

No pay, no star treatment, and definitely no DIGNITY! The weak of stomach need not apply.

Call 463-9064, ask for Crystal.

then, before you know it, your club will be taken over by them."

Do the above statements sound familiar? Have you heard any of them recently at your club, or another club where you were dancing? Well, these statements were overheard back in the late 1950's when my father-in-law had the nerve (or was it courage) to bring a Jewish couple to a square dance club.

Is there any difference between this and the current uproar over "allowing" gays and lesbians to dance at straight clubs and festivals? I think not. Is there any difference between this and the same uproar in the sixties when Blacks entered the square dance picture? I think not. Prejudice and hatred are the same whenever and wherever they appear. I know of one major square dance festival that has actually had meetings to discuss "the problem."

Before I discuss attitude, let's take a look at

a couple of facts. Barring gays and lesbians from your club or dance, or segregating them at said affairs is illegal! It is discrimination! Also, you have been dancing with gay and lesbian square dancers for many years. You just didn't know it! Gay and lesbian dancers have been coupling up and dancing as "traditionally correct" couples. If you are concerned about coming in contact with gays, keep in mind that a week doesn't go by that you probably have contact with a gay individual outside of the square dance activity.

I have heard the argument that "I can't dance in a square with same sex couples." Two things come to mind when I hear this. One, this person probably didn't say anything in the past when two women were dancing together, and two, this person is a very poor dancer. Some men are uncomfortable swinging with other men. This is not a problem if you just say so up front. It is no different than not swinging someone of either sex who has a physical problem.

Let's suppose for a moment that your club decides to break the law and ban gay and lesbian dancers from dancing as same sex couples at your dances. Do you now follow the same rules for the two senior ladies who have been dancing together at your club for the last 2 years? How do you know for sure that they are not lesbians? And how about the times when I have jumped into a square to be the needed 8th body? Since that 8th position was the "girl's" part, do seven people have to sit down, because the rules prohibit same sex couples? Does my 84 year old mother-in-law have to give up the activity she has been doing for over 40 years because she dances mostly the "boys" position?

Finally, whatever happened to "Friendship Set

to Music"? Does this mean only my friends, by my rules, and to my music? It is not easy to change one's attitudes and feelings. It is similarly not easy to accept lifestyles and customs that are radically different than your own. Remember, you are not being asked to accept, condone or embrace anyone else's lifestyle. However, you are being asked to not deny anyone the right to enjoy their chosen form of recreation. After all, that's all square dancing is, recreation. It happens to be recreation that involves interaction and interdependence on at least 7 other people. If your prejudices are so great that you cannot even dance in the same square with a person who believes or lives differently than yourself, then perhaps you should be looking for another form of recreation.

Roy Gotta is the husband of Betsy Gotta who has called for a number of Gay and Lesbian square dance conventions and fly-ins, including the Philadelphia Freedom Fly-in on the Easter Weekend.

The Triangle Squares Demo Team will be dancing at a **PWA benefit** on the 16th of April at the 519. This will be a Country & Western night with dancing, entertainment & a casino. Admission is \$10.

Stars & Squares Forever IAGSDC™ Convention, Washington DC

The hotel rooms at the Omni Shoreham Hotel have pretty much dried up, though organizers are hoping that an International Soccer group will release some of their block of rooms to dancers. Dancers are being referred to the nearby Day's Inn (800-942-3060).

A number of our members are attending the

Caller's School being held prior to the convention. Club callers Don St. Jean and Andy Chong will both attend, as well as Dan Cooperstock from the Mainstream class. We strongly encourage any of our members interested in Calling, or simply learning what goes on "behind the mike", to consider attending Caller's School, though this year's class is apparently filled.

Joe Uebelacker will be holding a weekend caller class this summer, and anyone interested in attending should speak to him for details, either at Wednesday dancing or by phoning (705) 742-6368.

Happy Birthday to:

Walter Buchwalder
Andrea Hill
Tony Kwakkenbos
Richard Stoveld



Like the swallows to Capistrano, my flamingos have returned! Actually they never left (lost due to poor housekeeping) Thanks everyone for your concern.

Steve.

Oasis
Toronto's Close-Harmony
Vocal Jazz Ensemble
Presents
Special Blend
An evening of distinctive harmonies
and rhythms in the unique Oasis
tradition
Friday & Saturday
April 29th & 30th 8:00PM
MCC
115 Simpson Avenue
Tickets \$8 in advance,
\$10 at the door.
For tickets see Alan Gotlib
(466-7040)

CLUB STEERING COMMITTEE

Richard Stoveld (PRESIDENT)	266-4634
Andy Chong (IAGSDC REP)	925-2602
Chris Homer (PUBLICITY COOR)	960-5458
John Mills (TREASURER)	421-9625
Marion Carroll (BASIC CLASS REP)	462-3063
John Bailey (SECRETARY)	921-0571

Triangle Squares Dance Calendar

April 1994						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	Mainstream 6 Class	Plus Class 7 Advanced Class	8	9
10	Demo Team 11	12	Mainstream 13 Class	Plus Class 14 Advanced Class	15	16
17	18	19	Mainstream 20 Class	Plus Class 21 Advanced Class	22	23
24	25	26	Mainstream 27 Class	Club 28 Night w/ Joe Uebelacker	29	30