

SQUAREUP!

*Honky Tonk
High, Hon!*

*and other
Crack the Crab
highlights*



Editor's Note

MIKE STAPLES

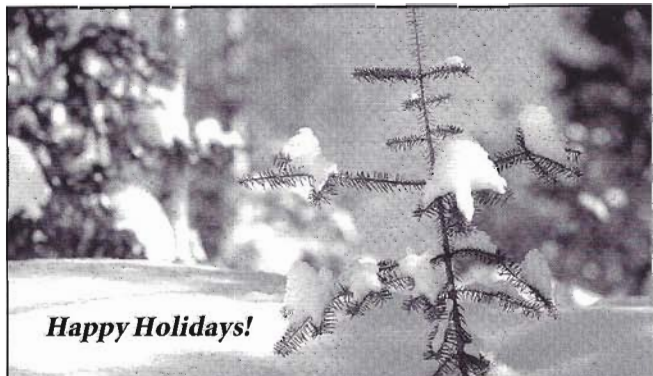
THE SEARCH FOR A NEW SQUAREUP EDITOR IS ON. IN this issue, I have announced my intention to turn over the SquareUp project after publication of the next issue, Number 24. (See article, page 11). Unless someone else volunteers as editor, Issue 24 will be the last SquareUp published. Having put so much work into launching and sustaining SquareUp, I—probably more than anyone else—hope that the publication will continue.

To encourage someone to volunteer as editor, I would suggest that SquareUp does not have to be published as a magazine. The task of commercially printing a publication may scare away potential editors who might otherwise be interested. Simpler formats, including a newsletter or web publication, could replace SquareUp.

A newsletter format may appeal to someone who has basic desktop publishing skills but little or no experience with commercial printing. Master pages could be printed on a laser printer and then copied commercially prior to distribution. Most copy companies will even create "signature pages" and collate and fold the finished piece.

A web-page format is one that I seriously considered but never adopted. It has obvious advantages over printed material. For starters, the subscription and distribution database could be eliminated, as could collecting revenues, sending out renewal notices, and printing and distributing copies. With this format, SquareUp's expense and financial risk would be minimized.

Serving as editor of SquareUp, whatever the format, is a serious commitment. I would not kid anyone by suggesting otherwise. But there are ways to reduce the production effort as well as to relieve the financial pressures. (Incidentally, SquareUp has paid for itself over the last several years.) I will work with a successor as long as needed to provide the support that will sustain the magazine. Please call me at 505-232-2594, or send an E-mail to mstaples@flash.net to discuss this opportunity to serve our community.



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One for the Books, "Hon!"



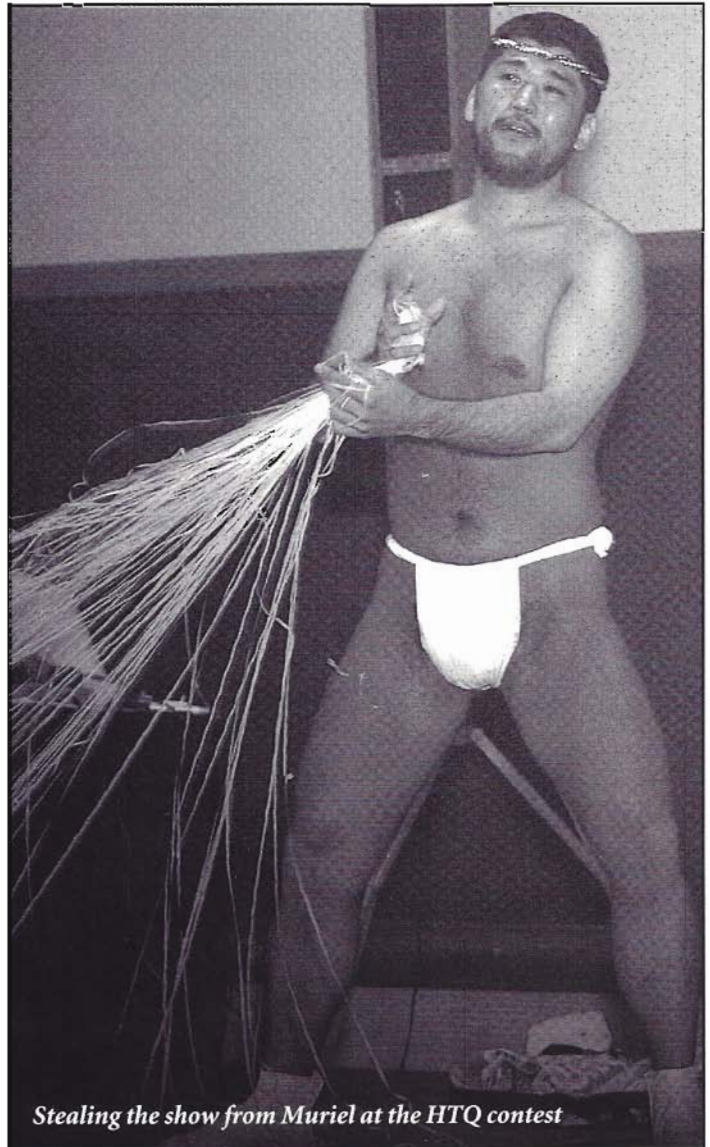
MIKE STAPLES

CRACK THE CRAB HAD SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE, Hon. Whether you traveled to Baltimore to dance, socialize, or sight-see, you found each conveniently available. The Baltimore Convention Center offered a spacious venue for the dancing and was complemented by both the Sheraton's central atrium—an inviting space to congregate and socialize—and Baltimore's Inner Harbor, where restaurants and shops were but a skywalk away.

Though the credit for Crack the Crab's success deservedly goes to the convention planners, the venue itself played a large role. The Inner Harbor setting fit the bill for everyone, including those convention veterans who favor socializing over dancing. The atrium of the Sheraton became a focal point where dancers gathered prior to the banquet, brunch, Honky Tonk Queen Contest, and the Moonlight Cotillion. Even a casual walk through the atrium on the way to the elevators would almost always lead to a greeting and conversation.

A short walk from the Convention Center and host hotel, Baltimore's Inner Harbor served as an "off-campus" gathering area. Dancers could meet at the many restaurants and shops along the harbor while sampling Baltimore specialties, including mouth-watering crabcakes and fresh potatoes fried to order. For those who wanted to explore Baltimore's past, the watertaxis at the Harbor offered convenient service to Fort McKinley and Fell's Point.

Of course, the dancing remained the main attraction. We occupied only a small portion of the sprawling convention center, but didn't seem lost within its vast corridors. Each hall afforded more than ample space for the level it accommodated. Through these chambers echoed the voices of the convention callers, a mixture of convention favorites and local callers alike, including Barry Clasper, Mike Desisto, Pete Diven, Todd Fellegly, Betsy Gotta, Dayle Hodge, Mike Jacobs, Kris Jensen, Linda Kendall, Ben Rubright, Anne Uebelacker, and Paul Waters.



Stealing the show from Muriel at the HTQ contest

Perhaps the most memorable events from Crack the Crab occurred at the convention banquet, held Sunday evening. Here, Mike Desisto was honored for the many years of fun

and entertainment that he has brought to our community. Sadly, this was his last convention to call for us. Kathie Dreher (Diablo Dancers) and Sue Geisler (Puddletown Squares) solicited donations from all IAGSDC clubs and presented Mike with a Memory Book and a \$250 gift certificate to Camping World. Earlier, Mike was surprised—some say even speechless, though that is hard to imagine—to find out that his wife Kathy was flown to Baltimore to be with him during the special tribute.

Another tribute was made as Anne Uebelacker recognized two special dancers, Bill St. John and Stan Boyden, who celebrated their 50th anniversary this year. Anne told the inspirational story of how Bill and Stan met, how they became square dancers, and how they have served our community. Following Anne, Paul Waters, the 1999 Golden Boot recipient, presented Darrell Ertzberger with the 2000 award for his many years of service to the IAGSDC.

Later that evening, the crowd gathered to watch the perennial parade of tacky contestants at this year's Honky Tonk Queen (HTQ) contest. Here, in a stunning announcement of the end of two very distinguished careers, Ms. Tami Whynotte and Ms. Lois Carmen Denominator officially retired. (Without them, where the contest goes from here is anyone's guess.) In addition to Tami and Lois' biting humor, entertainment was provided by last year's HTQ winner, Muriel, who

performed two dazzling numbers—one accompanied by her entourage of jock-strap-clad compatriots. But the night and the crown would ultimately belong to "U-can-lay-me Amy," whose extemporaneous performance of Marilyn Monroe's "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend" impressed even the most discerning onlookers.

Over 500 dancers and friends who stayed after the convention attended the Bay Lady Cruise on the Fourth of July. All were treated to a magic night of relaxation, fun, and frolic as they enjoyed a spectacular fireworks display over the Inner Harbor. The Bay Lady staff provided a scrumptious dinner of crabcakes, roast, vegetables, and desserts, accompanied by complimentary beer and wine. Dancers enjoyed Bill Eyler's calling, with line dancing and two-stepping between tips. The Bay Lady Cruise topped off a great weekend at Crack the Crab.

Crack the Crab will easily join the list of memorable conventions. Thanks go to the convention planners—Kirk Hurley, Ett McAtee, Russell Cashdollar, Steven Hunnicutt, Michael Pemberton, and Cameron Aishton—for the many years of hard work and diligence that preceded the convention. We're left with savoring the memories of both the convention and the crabcakes! It was a fabulous convention, Hon! Now on to the other coast for our 2001 celebration in Vancouver, *Make Magic*. ■

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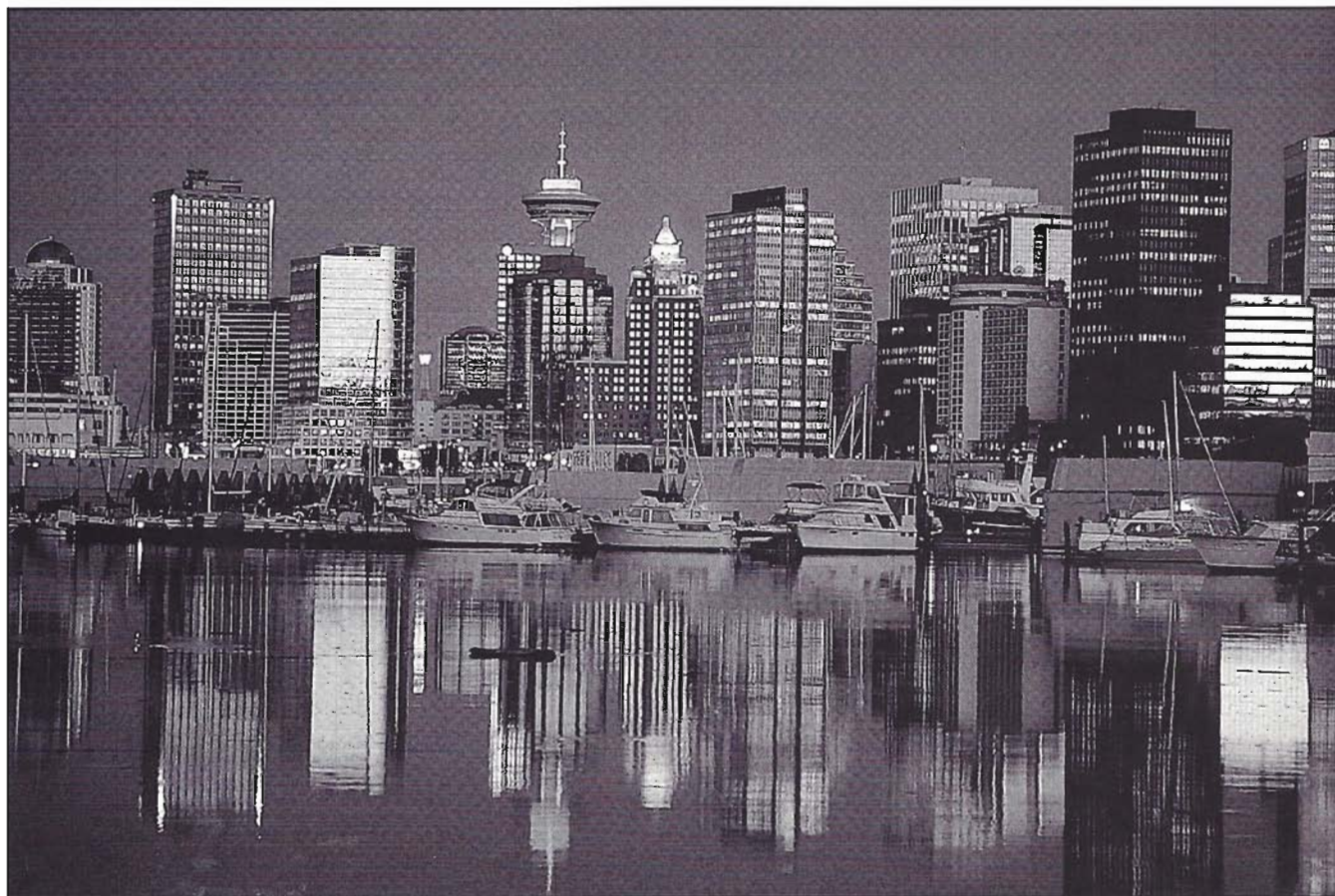
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Make Magic

JOHN MCKINSTRY, CAROL VAN CAMP (ROBERTS) & BRIAN L. SMITH
CO-CHAIRS OF MAKE MAGIC.

TIME AND TIME AGAIN, WE ARE ASKED—"WHY ARE YOU doing this?"

There is something exciting about having the opportunity to help create a little Magic in the lives of the people you care about and being able to set the stage for the future—and in doing so, remembering those who have shared our life and touched our lives with their own Magic.

We at Make Magic and Squares Across the Border have been given that opportunity; we are reaching for that star. We like to contribute and know that we receive far more than we give as we watch the enthusiasm build for 2001. That little spark of excitement that is shooting from IAGSDC member to IAGSDC member is giving us the energy we need to push our own limits and to be out there.

From Square Dancing we've clearly learned that the process of learning and working together for a common goal al-

lows us to drop whatever pretense we use to protect ourselves and just let others know who we are—to be ourselves—and that's not a bad trade off, eh!

It feels as if we are wrapping up this big, wonderful, amazing present that, when opened, will truly "wow" the lives of the members of the IAGSDC, and we will be giving back a little of what was given to us. Sort of like passing the torch, only it's going to be a hell of a lot more fun!

For the past three years, as we've planned the events of the weekend, we've consumed a lot of coffee at John's house, sent Carol on many an errand, made Brian create and print many a flyer, and asked Daphne to record it all. Vancouver is a marvelous venue for this convention: it's beautiful, exciting, affordable, and good for the complexion. We are three closet directors who want to set the stage for you from Thursday to Sunday, and yeah, I guess we want to show off a little.

Our home for the weekend will be the luxurious Westin

Bayshore Hotel & Resort, Vancouver's only downtown resort hotel. We deserve the energy and friendship that comes from what many of us consider a family reunion of our "chosen family." We've lined up ten amazing callers, five Canadian and five American, who will provide you with the high energy calling you've come to expect at all levels.

Ms. Beverley Elliott, along with her band, will let you "dance up a storm" at our Western Dance on Thursday night. It is here that we will invite Vancouver's Gay & Lesbian community to come and meet the IAGSDC members as we celebrate at our annual gathering. The other evenings, Beverley will wrap you in song in what will be the largest Gay and Lesbian piano bar in Vancouver. You may never want to leave the hotel!

We want to watch new dancers wake before dawn, to dance until they can't pull off their cowboy boots without help, all the way to those of us who dance a level or two down because our brains are too bogged by C3A to comprehend another concept. We want to see the Magic that happens when music, dance, and laughter join together at any level. We want that rush from the Grand March when we all come together in our club finery to raise the roof. We want to share great food and conversation at a banquet where we have the chance to dress up in our finest Western Wear. We want to enjoy the laughter and amazement of the Honky Tonk Queen Contest, as we love to be entertained. We love to see the cross section of different groups (Leather, Bear, etc.) coming together and dancing together, the opportunity for dancing sans clothing, the look of amazement and delight on the face of the Golden Boot recipient, and the joy shown by those who proudly receive their 10 year medallions.

We look forward to seeing 200 plus dancers stagger off the buses after traveling this city and dancing at all the beautiful locations that Vancouver has to offer. And we're certain that the Easter Bunny will conjure up a few surprises for those folks as they travel along our city streets.

And then, before we know it, we'll be at the closing ceremonies, where we'll witness new friends and old coming together to end the weekend, to thank our callers, to pass the torch, and to make plans to attend the next year's convention.

But most of all, it's our desire to provide a safe, beautiful, inclusive environment to just "be"—to experience the love, laughter, excitement, tears, memories, and most of all, the strength that comes from knowing that we have made friends for life—that's why we are doing this—it's about **Making Magic.** ■

Make Magic will be the 18th Annual IAGSDC® convention and is being hosted by the members of Squares Across the Border at the Westin Bayshore Hotel and Resort in Vancouver, Canada from April 12 to 15, 2001. For further information please visit our web page at: www3.telus.net/makemagic or write us at: Make Magic, #211-788 Beatty Street, Vancouver, BC, Canada, V6B 2M1.

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as we begin our 11th year of
gay square dancing



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Vanderhoof*



*Danny
Alvarado*

An American's Guide to Gay Square Dancing in Vancouver

By ALLAN HURST (ALLANH@SUPPORTNET.COM)

SO, YOU'RE ALL BOOKED FOR YOUR FIRST SQUARE DANCING trip to Canada, eh? Don't be nervous. It's a wonderful place, with friendly people and excellent dancing! Canadians seem to take square dancing much more seriously than Americans do—to the point of holding Junior Grand National Championships every year! However, this isn't a reason to avoid square dancing in Canada; if anything, it assures you of both a terrific dance experience and a great vacation!

Let's start off with the tough stuff:

Most Canadians seem to think we Americans are weird, but they can be rather fond of us all the same.

Most Americans seem to think Canadians are weird, and we can be rather fond of ourselves all the same.

OK, I'm exaggerating a bit, but there is a kernel of truth there. Many Americans visiting Canada for the first time are less than clueful about what's really "up there," and think that "The 'Marican Way Of Life'" is the norm. This little guide is meant to explain some basics about visiting our Canadian counterparts, and present some suggestions about how to not step on toes (when you're not dancing).

I decided to write this article after watching a couple of otherwise charming American dancers completely and inadvertently tick off their gracious Canadian hosts at a fly-in some years ago. Even though the Americans were doing so through ignorance rather than malice, it didn't cast us in a particularly pleasant light. And I thought to myself, gee, I wonder how many Americans really *are* that clueless about what's shaking in Canada? The sad answer, after talking with many of my Canadian friends, is: most of us.

(In retrospect, I'm surprised some of my Canadian friends will still talk to me, given some of the things I said when I visited Canada for the first time.)

Getting There: The Legalities

Used to be, it was fairly easy to get in and out of Canada with just a US Driver's License. In recent years, officials on both sides of the border have cracked down a bit, and it's generally a good idea to have one of the following sets of identification:

- A Driver's License *and* a copy of your birth certificate

- Or—

- A current passport

Frankly, the passport works better. I've found that having a passport substantially reduces the hassle factor entering or leaving Canada.

When a Canadian customs official asks you what you're doing in Canada, it's usually best to simply say you're on vacation, visiting friends or family. Sometimes they ask me if I know anybody in Canada. By reflex, I usually say yes, which must trigger a flag somewhere in their database, because they usually ask me *who*. I tell them I have a number of friends in one of the local square dance clubs. (In my case, Squares Across The Border.) That usually stops them dead in their tracks, and they pass me on through. (A soft answer turneth away wrath.) More than once, they've actually checked my answer against their computer. Oh, those subversive square dancers...

In general, I seem to see more problems with people entering (or re-entering) the US than I do with people entering Canada.

One strong recommendation—don't be sarcastic or joke with a customs official on either side of the border. Smartasses usually end up being whisked away into nasty little rooms where they and their baggage are thoroughly and unpleasantly searched. Save the jokes and cute comments for the people you'll be dancing with.

As with most situations involving law enforcement personnel, use your own best judgment.

Getting There: The Practicalities

If you're driving, expect there to be anywhere from a few minutes' to a couple of hours' delay at the border, in either direction. If you're travelling during a peak period (holidays and weekends, especially Friday and Sunday evenings), expect your border delay to be longer rather than shorter.

If you're flying into Vancouver from the US, as soon as you hit the Customs Entry Hall ... *stop*. Turn around. Look at the gorgeous room. Arriving at YVR is one of the biggest "little pleasures" of travelling to Vancouver.

Vancouver is the only airport in the world that I've seen that has a waterfall running through the middle of the arrivals hall. The First Nations carvings, textiles, and art are 100% authentic, and utterly beautiful. Savor the room now—this is the only chance you'll have to see it. Departing passengers are whisked away to another area of the building, and can't see the art and waterfall up close. Signs at the top and bottom of the escalators provide information on the First Nations art, including the myths and stories that each piece represents.

If a friend at YVR is not picking you up, there are three choices: the airport bus, a taxi, or a private limo.

The cheapest practical method of getting to your hotel is the airport bus, for about CDN \$10. This runs every 30 to 60 minutes (more often during peak seasons or periods), and routes lead to all the major hotels and areas of the city. (Actually, the cheapest way is via local transit, but that can make an awfully long trip which isn't appropriate for the faint of heart or those carrying heavy luggage.)

The fastest way to get to your hotel (or other destination) is a taxi or limo. If you're going to take a taxi into downtown Vancouver or the West End, save your money and get a limo instead. Taxi fares run between CDN \$25 and \$40, depending upon traffic. Given that there's no freeway or expressway between YVR and central Vancouver (no, really!), a taxicab via surface streets in bad weather or peak traffic periods can be very expensive. The airport limousine service to and from YVR is charged at a fixed price of CDN \$29 per trip and is much more comfortable than a taxicab. If you're travelling in a group, the limo is definitely cheaper.

There's a "Visitors Information Bureau" desk in the final arrivals area (you'll know you're in the right area when you see a Royal Bank ATM and money-changing window). Purchase your roundtrip limo or bus vouchers *before* you leave the enclosed arrivals area.

If you're flying in or taking the bus or train—save your boarding pass or ticket stub once you arrive! If you plan to apply for a visitor's tax rebate once you return home, you must submit your arrival and departure board pass stubs to get your rebate.

Telling You Where to Go

If you don't have a local person escorting you around

town, the two best guides I've ever found to Vancouver are:

1. *Vancouver: The Ultimate Guide* by Terri Wershler & Judi Lees

Greystone, 1999; ISBN 1550546597.

This is probably the best general guide to Vancouver I've ever read, listing stores and restaurants, parks and hidden attractions that even some life-long residents don't know about. If you buy only one book about Vancouver, buy this one. It's a great mix of tourist information, basic area history, and practical advice.

2. *Vancouver: Secrets of The City* by Shawn Blore & the staff of Vancouver Magazine

Arsenal Pulp, 1999; ISBN 1551520621.

This is the "Hollywood Babylon" of guidebooks. If you want to know where the bodies are buried (some, literally), where certain TV shows and movies were filmed, or where the best local political scandals erupted, this is the book for you. Some of the items in this book aren't practical, but they do answer questions such as "what's in the little room over the bridge?" or "where is there an underground lake in downtown Vancouver?" OK, maybe they're questions you never thought to ask, but it's a fun book.

Getting Around

Vancouver is one of the best walking cities in the world. If you'd prefer not to walk, however, the area boasts an excellent transit system, called "TransLink" (formerly called "BC Transit"). There are buses, trolley buses, light rail (the SkyTrain), and even boats (the SeaBus). The TransLink Transit Map is available from most bookstores or convenience stores, and is well worth the \$2.

If you want a contemplative walk that offers jaw-dropping views, go to Stanley Park and walk along the seawall. It's about a 9 kilometer walk (that's about 5.5 miles) surrounding Stanley Park, offering a 270-degree view of English Bay and Burrard Inlet. The walk is thoughtfully separated in half for bicyclists and walkers. The walk runs from the West End entrance of Stanley Park to the Westin Bayshore (site of the 2001 "Make Magic!" IAGSDC convention). You can start the walk from either end.

But Do They Take American Express?

Relax. The least confusing thing about Canada is the money system. Unless you have professional financial connections, it's not worth worrying about the exchange rate, or trying to find someplace to charge money. Most businesses will happily take American money, but you may find the exchange rate isn't to your advantage. I usually suggest taking minimal American cash, and stopping at the first ATM you see once you've arrived in Vancouver and grabbing some Canadian cash right away. All of the credit cards we take for granted in the States work just as well up in Canada.

The best way I've found to maneuver around Canada financially is to use an ATM card. None of the Canadian banks seem to have gotten into the nasty habit of their USA coun-

terparts of charging extra usage fees to "foreign" ATM users. Most stores will happily accept ATM cards as well as credit cards or cash. The rate of exchange via ATM is as good as you'd get at any bank (sometimes better), and is updated on a daily basis. The only problem is figuring out exactly how much each ATM transaction will cost by the time it hits your bank account in US Dollars. The exchange rate in Canada is roughly two-thirds of a Canadian Dollar to each US Dollar.

One thing to be aware of: Canada no longer uses paper singles. Instead, Canada issues CDN \$1 and CDN \$2 coins, which are respectively nicknamed "Loonies" and "Toonies." Loonies are bronze-colored, have 11 facets, and are between the size of a US quarter and half-dollar piece. Loonies were originally so-named because they had an image of a loon (bird) on one side, and Her Majesty on the other. Toonies have five sets of ridged and smooth edge areas on a silver ring which surrounds a bronze center, and are quite striking.

It's a little annoying in terms of having more weighty pocket change, but the coins are quite practical in terms of lasting longer and being harder to counterfeit. Most vending machines will take loonies.

Other than loonies and toonies, US and Canadian money are quite similar—dimes are called dimes, quarters are called quarters, etc. Please note that it is considered ignorant (if not actually rude) to thrust your hand full of change at a Canadian, and tell them to "take whatever they need."

Canadian paper money is brightly colored, and each denomination has a different color. It is generally considered rude for American visitors to loudly exclaim "Monopoly money!" or "Funny money!" when presented with Canadian money. You may think their money looks odd, but even though they think our money is ugly, boring, and terribly confusing being all the same color, I've rarely heard Canadians complain loudly about it.

SCTV Doesn't Know Everything

Most of us only know about Canada from watching SCTV reruns. Here are some things to know about Canada that you won't see on SCTV.

"Eh" is used frequently in conversation, but not as often as SCTV implies. I tend to think of Eh as the Canadian version of "like," (as in, "So, like, I went to this mall, like, and..."). You don't need to use it to communicate with Canadians, and it's considered just a bit rude to laugh at them for using it. Be warned: it's quite infectious. After an extended visit, you may well find yourself inserting eh into sentences unconsciously.

I have never heard a Canadian (at least not from Vancouver or Toronto) call anyone else a "hoser." Perhaps it's used more often in the prairies than on either coast.

There are definitely Canadian accents, but they're neither as pronounced nor as monolithic as SCTV suggests. Just as there are a multitude of American accents (think Baltimore versus Dallas versus Boston), there are many types of Canadian accents, most of them fairly subtle to American ears.

In America, people talk about Indians, Native Americans, or even Aboriginal North Americans. Canada has a much more sensible, politically correct term: “First Nations people.” It sounds strange at first, but the more it’s used, the easier it becomes, and if the term offends anyone, I’ve never noticed.

Table Manners

Canadians don’t use “flatware,” they use “cutlery.” “Silverware” usually refers to fine metal trays, teapots, coffee services, and the like.

A Canadian will pass you a napkin if you ask for one, but they may figure out what you want faster if you ask them for a “serviette.”

Canadians often use the word “pop” instead of “soda,” “soda pop,” or “soft drink.”

If you want wheat bread, ask for “brown bread.”

Some people in Canada call fried potatoes “fries” or “french fries,” some call them “chips.” Whatever works. Don’t be surprised if you’re asked if you want ketchup or vinegar with your fries. “Poutine” are fries, layered with cheese curds and topped with a thin gravy.

If you’re a diabetic, and someone offers you a “Nanaimo bar” ...run. It’s a terrifyingly rich concoction that seems to be the illegitimate child of a fudge brownie and a slice of Boston Cream Pie. If you’re not a diabetic (or you have plenty of insulin readily available), by all means, try one. They’re sinfully delicious. (And it’s pronounced “na-NIME-o,” by the way, to rhyme with “the-TIME-oh.”)

Drugs! (The Legal Kind)

In the States, we have “prescription only” and “over the counter” drugs. In Canada, they have “prescription only” (same as ours), “over the counter” (must be requested from a pharmacy employee behind a counter), and “off the shelf” (same as the American “over the counter”) varieties.

If you’re an allergic or asthmatic person visiting Canada for the first time: you’ll be in heaven. Nearly all of the prescription-only antihistamines and decongestants from the States are available off-the-shelf in Canada. This includes Zyrtec (called “Reactine” in Canada), Allegra, Claritin, and Entex LA. On a recent trip, I brought back over USD\$400 worth of antihistamines and decongestants for myself and friends, and declared everything on my customs form. US Customs didn’t even blink. It’s evidently quite a common sight.

If you’re prone to muscle pains or headaches: in Canada, “Aspirin” is a trademark of Bayer Canada. If you want non-Bayer aspirin, ask for “ASA.” If you want aspirin with codeine (which is a prescription-only drug in the States), it’s available over the counter in Canada as either “222” (brand name) or “AC&C” (ASA, caffeine, and codeine). Everything else, such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen, is available under the same generic names as in the States. Some of the brand names and packaging may be different, but it’s the same stuff.

Warning: if you prefer to use Aleve (naproxen sodium)

pain reliever/anti-inflammatory—bring it with you from the States. It’s available only by prescription in Canada, and asking the pharmacist for it will only get you a strange look.

Motion-sickness problems? Dramamine is known in Canada as “Gravol.”

Hugging After Dancing

Not all Canadians like being picked up and hugged to death after dancing in a square, or when meeting people for the first time. Americans have a very different idea of what constitutes appropriate personal space than do Canadians. If you start talking with a Canadian, and they start to back away ... it’s a hint that you may be standing a bit TOO close. (That, or you had something garlicky for lunch.) If this happens to you ... take the hint. If you’re an inveterate hugger, and you want to hug someone you don’t know, it’s always appropriate to first ask, “do you hug?” (This actually applies to all areas of the States, too.)

Navigating Buildings and Staying Warm

Americans rent apartments. Canadians rent suites. (Although I’ve heard the term “apartment” used interchangeably with “suite.”)

American shopping centers have “Parking Lots” or multi-level “Parking Structures.” Many shopping centers in Canada have either “Parking Lots” or multi-level “Parkades.”

Some older Canadian buildings follow the British convention of numbering upper floors starting at 1 (where the first level is called Lobby or Ground, the second floor is 1, the third floor is 2, etcetera.). This isn’t done consistently, so it’s worth paying careful attention to what your current floor is labeled when you enter an elevator at ground level.

On cold days, Americans wear a “knit cap,” which is what Canadians call a “toque” (rhymes with “Luke”).

Coffee and Cigarettes

There are at least a dozen excellent local coffeehouses and coffee chains in Vancouver, and of course, the ever-present evil empire of Starbucks. Even if you like Starbucks, you owe it to yourself to try some of the local blends once or twice during your stay. Ask any of the locals for pointers to popular coffeehouses. Delaney’s, on Denman Street, is one example of a popular and substantially lesbian local hangout.

Compared to the Western United States, nearly everybody seems to smoke in Canada. But it probably only seems that way to me because so few people smoke in California. Smoking does seem a lot more prevalent, however. In British Columbia, a province-wide ban on smoking in any place of employment went into effect on January 1, 2000. Smoking is outlawed in most public places of employment, but enforcement can be spotty.

Stuff to Do When You’re Not Dancing

Walking the sea wall (see the “Getting Around” section above) is usually fun, as long as it’s not raining.

Vancouver has wonderful museums. Go see them. (It'll take at least two or three visits to the area to catch them all.) Some of my favorites: Vancouver Museum and MacMillan Space Centre, Museum of Anthropology at UBC, Vancouver Police Museum, and the Vancouver Aquarium.

If you like scenic views, take a trip to the top of Grouse Mountain.

There are several (male) bathhouses in Vancouver, and one in New Westminster. I don't know of any similar places for women.

Vancouver has an exceptional gay men's chorus. If they have any performances on during your visit, go hear them.

Go visit Little Sister's Book Emporium on Davie Street. It's a terrific lesbigay book and gift store.

What If I Just Want to Spend a Couple of Hours Viewing the City?

My nomination for the Best Cheap Jaw-Dropping View Trip:

1. Go to any SkyTrain station. Using one of the ticket machines, buy yourself an all-three-zones day pass. (You can also pick up day passes at convenience stores, or any establishment displaying a "Fare Dealer" sign.)
2. Board a train headed for King George. Ride the train all the way to the end of line, disembark, and get on another train coming back.
3. Ride this train to the end of the line (Waterfront Station). At Waterfront Station, disembark and transfer to the SeaBus.
4. Take the SeaBus over to North Vancouver, and browse a while at the shopping center at Lonsdale Quay (look for the big rotating "Q" sign). When you're done, take the SeaBus back to SkyTrain.

The whole trip takes a little over two hours, and offers some incredible scenic views. Most of the locals will think you're crazy for wanting to ride SkyTrain to the end of the line and back again, but they've lived there so long that they've become immune to the gorgeous scenery viewed from the elevated trains. At CDN \$6 for a day pass, this is definitely *the* touring bargain of Vancouver! If you're so inclined, you can disembark from SkyTrain at any point to browse shopping centres (such as Metrotown) or local stores.

Shopping!

Best place to buy First Nations art, jewelry, sculpture, and gifts: museum shops. Many people have admired my stylized First Nations dangles, which are actually earrings from various museum gift shops. The Museum of Anthropology at UBC, the Vancouver Museum/MacMillan Space Center, and Vancouver Aquarium are my three favorite shopping stops for First Nations items.

These stores generally buy directly from tribal artists or artists collectives. I tend to avoid buying anything at Vancouver's commercial galleries (especially in Gastown), as

the prices usually seem inflated to me, and I've never been quite sure that the original artist really gets their fair share of the selling price.

If you crave handmade and unique jewelry, go to the museum shops listed above, or browse through some of the local jewelry stores on Granville Island or at Lonsdale Quay (at the North Van end of the SeaBus line).

Bookworm? Chapters is best described as a Canadian cross between Border's Books and Barnes & Noble. That description, however, doesn't really do it justice. Aside from an incredible and huge salt-water fish tank built into the wall of one of the reading rooms, Chapters has a terrific selection of books. There are also many small, specialized bookstores scattered all over Vancouver. (Read the guidebook, "Vancouver: The Ultimate Guide" for a more complete listing.)

Getting Home Again (By Air)

YVR has a mandatory improvements fee (CDN \$10 for US destinations) which must be paid by every departing passenger. Look for the "AIF" (Airport Improvement Fee) automated machine, and slip in your credit card or ATM card to get your AIF voucher. People who don't have their airline ticket, passport, customs form and AIF voucher handy are shunted into a "slow lane" at US Customs.

To check in, you will need your airline ticket, passport (or equivalent), and a filled-out US Customs form. Blank US Customs forms are available as you enter the terminal. Fill them out before you attempt to check in.

If you're flying home from YVR, take advantage of the shopping area and restaurants before you check in at the airline counter ... once you check in, you're expected to pass straight through to US Customs and into the waiting area. YVR has some very nice shops and restaurants, most of which are reasonably priced under an airport-wide voluntary program to keep airport prices to roughly what you'd pay at a similar establishment outside the airport. There are some rudimentary shops and eating places inside the US Departures waiting area, but they're not as good as the ones in the main terminal.

What a Funny Title for an article!

This article's title was plagiarized from wonderfully humorous web site set up and maintained by Emily Way, an American who now lives in Canada. Her site is called "An American's Guide To Canada", and is located at:

<http://www.icomm.ca/emily/>

I've asked several Canadian friends to look over the site, and all have confirmed that it's fairly accurate, and quite funny. It's a great way to get "pre-oriented" before you head Up North. She also has a great photo album on the site of "Big Things" that she's found in her travels.

Many thanks to Grant Ito and Anne Uebelacker, for helping me proofread and pointing out inconsistencies or inaccuracies in early versions of this article! ■

One More Issue

MIKE STAPLES

GOOD AND BAD NEWS. FIRST THE BAD: I'LL BE PUBLISHING only one more issue of SquareUp. The good: after my stint as editor of SquareUp, I'll be co-authoring a book about gay and lesbian square dancing. More on that in a minute.

First, I want to reassure all subscribers that no one will lose money spent on a subscription. In the next issue, I will include a form that shows how much of your subscription (in dollars) is unused. You are then entitled to either a) receive a full refund of the unused subscription, b) apply the unused subscription as credit toward the purchase of the book, or c) if someone volunteers to continue the publication, maintain your existing subscription. All of this will be clearly detailed in Issue 24.

The decision to complete my term as editor of SquareUp deserves some explanation. This issue marks the beginning of the seventh year of SquareUp. The work has been consistently rewarding, but each new issue seems more challenging than the last. It is time for the publication to take on a different perspective that only a new editor can bring. More than anything else, the SquareUp project will be validated if someone steps forward to continue it. That person has not yet been identified, but I remain optimistic.

Publishing a book seems a perfect way for me to bring my editor work to a close while creating something of lasting value for the community. Many remember an earlier book, *10 Years IAGSDC*, published by Luis Torres in 1993. It is an excellent reference filled with anecdotes and interviews that captured the early history of our community. This project will be different in many respects, but will hopefully take its place along with *10 Years IAGSDC* as an important community reference.

One key difference is the audience that the new book will serve. I had originally envisioned marketing this book only within our community. In conversations with John Paul—a former square dancer and the designer of earlier SquareUp covers—John suggested that I publish the book for a much larger audience. After all, the story of gay and lesbian square dancing is a compelling one that should be told beyond our community. So, I not only accepted John's suggestion, I invited him to collaborate with me on the project. I'm very happy that he has agreed.



I can not relate much else about the project since it is in the planning stage. What I know so far is that each chapter of the book will capture the story of one particular aspect of our activity. While factual information will be included, it will not be the focus. Square dancing is so much more to us than learning and executing calls, or for that matter knowing all of the details about our history. It is the spirit of our community and the underlying emotions that have forged our activity that will be highlighted.

Though the topics to be covered are not set, I guarantee that the publication will be polished. It has to be worthy of publication and distribution by a professional publisher, since the goal is to reach a large audience. With John's collaboration, I am confident that a book in which we can all take pride will be produced.

I have already begun the project, but will not engage in earnest until after the last issue of SquareUp is completed and distributed in March, 2001. I am excited about this new endeavor and hope that you will support it, as you have SquareUp. Of course, I will need the participation of a cast of hundreds to complete this project. Don't be surprised if you receive an E-mail or phone call from me asking—perhaps even begging—for help. Once each chapter's content is set, I will begin directing questions to those who can best remember and tell our story.

Thank you for your support of SquareUp—the magazine would not exist without you. I hope that you will be equally enthusiastic in your support of this new project. ■

2000 IAGSDC Executive Board Meeting Highlights

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
JULY 1, 2000

DURING "CRACK THE CRAB", DELEGATES REPRESENTING the Full and Affiliate membership of the IAGSDC met to discuss issues related to the growth and development of the Association. The three hour meeting, chaired by IAGSDC Chair Darrell Ertzberger, took place during the 17th Annual IAGSDC Convention. The following are the highlights of this meeting.

Welcome to Baltimore and "Crack the Crab"

On behalf of the "Crack the Crab" Convention Committee, Chair Kirk Hurley welcomed the IAGSDC to the 17th Annual Convention in Baltimore, Maryland.

Roll Call

46 Full Member Clubs and 6 Affiliate Member Organizations were present.

Approval of Minutes for the 1999 IAGSDC Executive Board Meeting

The Minutes of the 1999 IAGSDC Executive Board Meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report

Mel Heupel presented a detailed and in-depth view of the financial condition of the IAGSDC. The association is in stable condition, but is showing a slight decrease of income in badge sales, banner dance donations, and annual dues income. Although this situation is not critical, it is advised that steps be taken to reverse these trends to assure funding for future years. A special acknowledgment was given to clubs that sponsored a banner dance for the IAGSDC. The 2000 budget and annual dues level was submitted and approved.

Membership Report/Applications

The following club applied for and was approved Affiliate Member status:

Bathing Beauties, The New York City, NY

Lights, Camera, Linear Action Financial Report

Paul Waters reported that the final "Lights, Camera, Linear Action" budget showed income of \$196,542.32 and expenses of \$196,510.78 leaving the event with a net profit of \$31.54.

Report from the Convention Advisory Committee

Dana Backiel, committee chair, reported on the activity of

the committee. The committee has been expanding and developing the Convention Manual Outline which was presented at the 1999 Executive Board Meeting in Los Angeles, CA. The efforts during the past year have been directed toward the expansion of the Administration/Organization component and have focused on the financial safeguards and financial reporting.

Dana thanked the committee members, John Faulds, Rick Hawes and John Pope for their tireless efforts.

The committee will host a convention planning session on Monday, July 3, 2000. All interested individuals are invited to attend.

Future Conventions

The following convention dates and locations have been confirmed:

- 2001 Vancouver, BC (April 12-15, 2001)
- 2002 Toronto, ON (July 5-7, 2002)
- 2003 San Diego, CA (July 2-6, 2003)
- 2004 Phoenix, AZ (July 1-4, 2004, confirmed at 2000 meeting.)

The following Clubs are interested in hosting future conventions

- 2005 El Camino Reelers, San Jose/Santa Clara, CA and Times Squares, New York City, NY (Bids closed at 2000 meeting)
- 2006+ Cleveland City Country Dancers, Cleveland, OH
Alamo City Wranglers, San Antonio, TX
Shoreline Squares, Long Beach, CA

Status Report on Rainbow Trust

Ralph Lorier reported that the Trust is growing moderately. The current value is approximately \$179,887.13. The interest income to date is \$42,420. Expected interest income to be added July, 2000 is \$6,000+. Interest income is to be distributed by the Petersen Fund Committee.

Report from the Petersen Fund Committee

Scott Philips reported that the committee distributed the guidelines for Petersen Fund monies. As a result, the committee has granted \$11,421.73 to 15 separate requests during the past year (July 1999-June 2000). Club delegates were encouraged to apply for monies from the Petersen Fund to assist

their club with the development and promotion of Gay/Lesbian Square Dancing.

Petersen Fund Committee Proposed Guidelines Change

Motion to change the terms of elected members of the Petersen Fund Committee from one to two year terms and stagger terms. Changes to read as follows:

1. Committee Composition

C. 3 voting IAGSDC members elected by the IAGSDC delegates. These committee members will be elected for two-year terms: one being elected the same year as the IAGSDC Vice-Chair, and two being elected in the alternate year.

2. Relationship to the IAGSDC

D. The voting IAGSDC members of the committee will be elected by the delegates after the election of the IAGSDC officers at the annual IAGSDC Executive Board meeting.

E. Elected committee members will serve two-year terms beginning with their election and ending with the election of their replacement two years later.

3. Election of committee members at the 2000 Executive Board Meeting.

A. Elect two committee members for full two-year term.

B. Elect one committee member for a half-year term (one year).

Proposed changes to Guidelines Passed.

Report on Meeting of National Council of Square Dance Organizations (NCSDO)

Darrell reported on the IAGSDC's involvement with the National Council of Square Dance Organizations (NCSDO). The committee did not meet this year. Darrell reported that the NCSDO may well have failed and will not be meeting again.

Report from Callerlab Convention

Andy Shore reported that this year was the first year that the chair of Callerlab publicly acknowledged the IAGSDC/GCA. Andy also reported on the activities of Callerlab Foundation, a nonprofit organization. Callerlab Foundation is working to raise funds for a national Square Dance marketing effort. To date they have raised \$10,000 of the \$100,000 they will need for this effort. They are currently looking for corporate sponsors. As part of the national marketing effort, they will organize focus groups. They are also looking for a gay/lesbian representative for the Foundation Board.

IAGSDC By-laws Changes

Darrell reported that there were no submitted changes to the IAGSDC by-laws. As required by the IAGSDC by-laws, Darrell questioned the delegation for any new by-laws changes. No changes were voiced.

Announcements by Karl Jaeckel

- National Square Dance Convention: Staffed IAGSDC booth. An estimated 24+ gay/lesbian dancers attended the National Square Dance Convention held in Baltimore. The 2001 National Square Dance Convention will be held in Anaheim, CA.

- IAGSDC Display Booth: Currently developing a new display for the IAGSDC booth.

- IAGSDC Calendar: The green calendar has current updated association events. Please call the 800 line with any additional updates.

- Archive Items: Please send any historical items to be included in the IAGSDC archives.

- Crack the Crab: The Crack the Crab committee has requested help with dismantling the dance floor on Monday night at 6:00 PM. Also, Fun Badge participants are reminded to arrive in time for a 7:00 AM departure Tuesday morning.

- Club Demographics: Please review and report any changes in your clubs demographic information.

Election of Officers for 2000-2002

The following officers were elected for a two-year term:

Chair

Scott Parker (Finest City Squares, San Diego, CA)

Treasurer

Mel Heupel (Finest City Squares, San Diego, CA)

The following officer was elected for a one-year term. (This special election was conducted to accommodate Scott Parker's move from Secretary, 1999-2001 to Chair 2000-2002.)

Secretary

Michael Deets (Chesapeake Squares, Baltimore, MD)

Election of Petersen Fund Committee

The following two representatives were elected by the delegates to sit on the Petersen Fund Committee for a two-year term:

John Faulds (Desert Valley Squares, Phoenix, AZ)

Brian Smith (Squares Across the Border, Vancouver, BC)

The following representative was elected by the delegates to sit on the Petersen Fund Committee for a one-year term:

Michael Pemberton (D.C. Lambda Squares, Washington, D.C.)

Adjournment

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned by chair, Darrell Ertzberger, at 11:12 A.M. ■

Survey Says ...

MIKE STAPLES

THE RESULTS OF LAST SUMMER'S SQUAREUP SURVEY ARE IN. With one issue of SquareUp left during my tenure as editor, the argument could be made that the results are less relevant. However, they have provided a validation that the current format is working as well as some suggestions for improvement. These can be passed on to my successor, assuming that there is one. (Think positive, think positive!)

The first question tells me how much of each issue is read. 40% read SquareUp cover-to-cover, 47% read most articles, and the remaining 13% read some articles. The second question asked respondents to choose which type of articles

they like most, and to choose as many as apply. Here, there was no clear favorite. The results ranged from 51% of respondents liking club bios, to 69% liking special features/themes. The third question asked respondents to choose which type of articles they like least, and to choose as many as apply. Again, there was no overwhelming message from these responses. 18% said that they like the square dancer/caller bios least, with another 16% choosing club bios. The smaller percentages of articles "liked least" versus those "liked most" suggests that the current mix of articles is working.

Finally, respondents were asked to rate SquareUp as poor, fair, good, or excellent. Fortunately, no one rated it poor. 4% found it fair, 44% good, and 52% excellent. This suggests room for improvement, though the numbers are in line with my expectations considering that the magazine is an unpaid effort. Suggestions for improvement and future articles are listed. As many of these as possible will be addressed in my last issue.

To those who took the time to respond, thank you! I am encouraged by the results and will pass them on to the next editor.

Survey Results

	# Responses	Percentage
1. I read SquareUp		
a. cover-to-cover	18	40%
b. most articles	21	47%
c. some articles	6	13%
2. The articles that I like most: (choose as many as apply)		
a. club bios	23	51%
b. square dancer/caller bios	26	58%
c. convention coverage	30	67%
d. fly-in/special dance coverage	30	67%
e. special features/themes	31	69%
3. The articles that I like least:		
a. club bios	7	16%
b. square dancer/caller bios	8	18%
c. convention coverage	3	7%
d. fly-in/special dance coverage	2	5%
e. special features/themes	4	9%
4. Overall, SquareUp is		
a. poor	0	0%
b. fair	2	4%
c. good	20	44%
d. excellent	23	52%

Note: Results of questions 2 and 3 (shown in left box) will not total 100% since respondents may not have selected anything, or may have selected multiple responses.

Suggestions:

- More technical/tutorial articles
- Please try to send out the publication sooner. Living in New England, I receive information on some fly-ins I may want to attend, several weeks after they have happened.
- Would be nice to have at least one article on an upcoming event in each issue; articles on how much fun dances that have already happened are good too.
- How about a series of articles on "How to provide for the IAGSDC in your will," i.e., Foundation info, trusts, etc. ■

Advertise in SquareUp!

Rates for Issue 24

Full Page	7W x 9.5H	\$150
Half Page Vertical	3.25W x 9.5H	90
Half Page Horizontal	7W x 4.5H	90
Quarter Page	3.25W x 4.5H	50
Business Card	3.5W x 2H	25

Deadline for receiving ads for Issue 24 is January 15. For more info, call Mike Staples at 505-232-2594, or send e-mail to mstaples@flash.net.

S

QUARE DANCING? —THE VERY THOUGHT OF IT MADE CHRIS chuckle. Images of strange people dressed in strange clothing came to mind. Chris had long ago ranked square dancing as one of his worst junior high experiences—one that he was not eager to repeat. When his friend Chuck insisted that Chris try square dancing, he quickly dismissed the idea. Only Chuck's persuasive nature could—and did—win Chris over. He agreed to attend lessons as long as Chuck went with him.

It had been raining heavily, and the gusty winds uprighted Chris' umbrella on his walk through the Castro. He arrived at his first lesson soaked. Drenched head to toe, Chris' embarrassment only added to his sense of apprehension. It reminded him of the time that he attended his first—and thankfully last—nude potluck. In the midst of an otherwise enjoyable evening, he managed to spill a plate of ambrosia on his lap. Afterward, he made light of the event by telling friends that “the memories stuck longer than the marshmallows.”

As he entered the basement of the church, he saw a table at the far end of the entry. The woman behind the table looked familiar—though Chris was certain he did not know her. As Chris approached the table, she smiled and extended her hand, “Welcome, I’m Sue.”

“I’m Chris, Chris Johnson,” Chris replied, attempting to sound as confident as he could.

“Nice to meet you, Chris. Here’s your nametag—the hall is straight ahead,” Sue said, as she motioned to the brightly lit room.

After a visit to the men’s room to dry off (as best he could), Chris entered the hall. He scanned the room but Chuck was nowhere to be found. Chris was certain that everyone was staring at him—and even more certain that his first impression was one of a drowned rat. As he looked around, he noticed that there were as many women as men, and his nervousness increased. He had never consciously avoided women, though his entire adult gay life had centered around only male friends.

Chuck arrived just as Chris was plotting his escape. “Hey Chris,” Chuck called out...as if he half-expected Chris not to have shown up and was both surprised and happy to see him.



A Square Tale, Part I

Socially, Chuck seemed everything that Chris was not—always eager to try new things and meet new people. From the beginning, their friendship had baffled Chris, and he always assumed that the bond would be temporary. Chuck had struck up a conversation with Chris less than a year ago while waiting in the checkout line at Cala Foods. Unlike most encounters at Cala, this one led to a friendship.

“Like you to meet some people before we start to dance,” Chuck said eagerly.

“Okay,” Chris replied, attempting to place the right emphasis on the last syllable as if to sound enthusiastic. Chuck steered Chris to a group of men gathered by the refreshment table. He tapped one on the shoulder. When Erin turned around, they embraced. Erin was short and plump, and the contrast with Chuck’s tall and lean build was apparent as they hugged.

“Erin, this is my friend Chris. Finally talked him into coming to class!”

“Great to meet you,” Erin said as he extended his hand to Chuck. “Chuck tells me that you’re nervous about class. Don’t worry, we all were at first.”

“Thanks, I’ll be fine,” Chris replied, even though he felt otherwise. Still, Erin’s presence was reassuring, an unusual occurrence since Chris rarely felt comfortable around someone he had just met.

Chris met the rest of Chuck’s square dance friends. He was beginning to dry off and feeling less anxious about the evening when Erin approached the mike at the head of the room. “Welcome,” he said. “I’m Erin Martin, President of Harvey Milk Squares. We’re happy to have you at our winter Basic square dance class. We’ll get started in just a minute, but first I want to thank you for coming and to reassure you that there are plenty of experienced dancers around to help you tonight—we call them ‘angels.’”

As Erin continued his introductory remarks, Chris glanced around the room. No one could be as nervous as him—of that much he was certain. He noticed that the angels sported glossy, engraved badges, and wondered what they had endured to earn them.

Erin finished his remarks and introduced John Mather, the caller. Chris could only hope that John and the others would be patient and understanding. “If you want to lead, raise your hand,” John said. Chris kept his down, not sure what he wanted to do, or whether he wanted to do anything at all. “Okay, the rest are follows,” John announced. With that, John had the leads and follows pair up and form groups of eight dancers, taking care to place angels in each

square. Chuck and Chris were partners, an arrangement that in some small way helped to calm Chris’s nerves.

John went on to explain how square dancing consisted of a series of calls, each one a set of moves generally designed to take the dancer to another position in the square. “The ultimate goal after all is said and done is to return home with your partner,” John said.

Strange, Chris thought, what’s the point if you end up right where you started?

“Our first call,” John continued, “is circle left.” “Join hands with your partner—and now your corner. Now, everyone circle to the left.”

Neither Chris nor anyone else in his square had noticed his loose shoelace on his right shoe. As they circled left—Chris was feeling grateful that this was the first call, since he only had to follow the direction set by everyone else—the shoelace completely unraveled. What happened next rivaled the best of Laurel and Hardy. Chris’s corner stepped on the loose shoelace. Chris stumbled toward his corner, they collided and fell, and two others tumbled on top of them. Those left standing couldn’t help but laugh at the spectacle.

Mortified, Chris laughed too in an attempt to hide his embarrassment. By the time he and the others stood up, John was attempting to make light of the situation. “We’ve all done it at one time or another,” he said reassuringly. “The goal is to have fun, so don’t worry about the accidents.”

Chuck, who had managed to stay standing during the episode, whispered to Chris, “Don’t worry, nobody noticed.” Chris chuckled, since it was obvious that everyone had.

Not an entire disaster, Chris thought to himself. He had managed to make it through the evening, and now found himself seated across a table from Sue. She had coaxed Chris into joining her for a bite to eat after the first class. As class director, she saw to taking care of her students.

“Started square dancing last year,” Sue said, “and had trouble right from the beginning.” “I was still figuring out the last call while everyone else was working on the next.” Chris listened but was distracted by his feeling that Sue was at least vaguely familiar, though he knew that they had only met tonight. Sue continued, “Fortunately, Erin saw my problems and took me under his wing. Helped me work through the calls I was having trouble with.”

“I can’t figure out where I know you from,” Chris said, purposefully changing the subject hoping to avoid any com-

parison with his first lesson.

"Oh that . . . well my friends have a nickname for me," Sue said. "They call me 'Peppermint Patty.' You know, from Charlie Brown." Sue laughed and Chris joined in. The short red hair, the freckles, the raspy voice . . . it all added up to Peppermint Patty. "I really don't mind," Sue said, "I always thought Peppermint Patty was kinda cool."

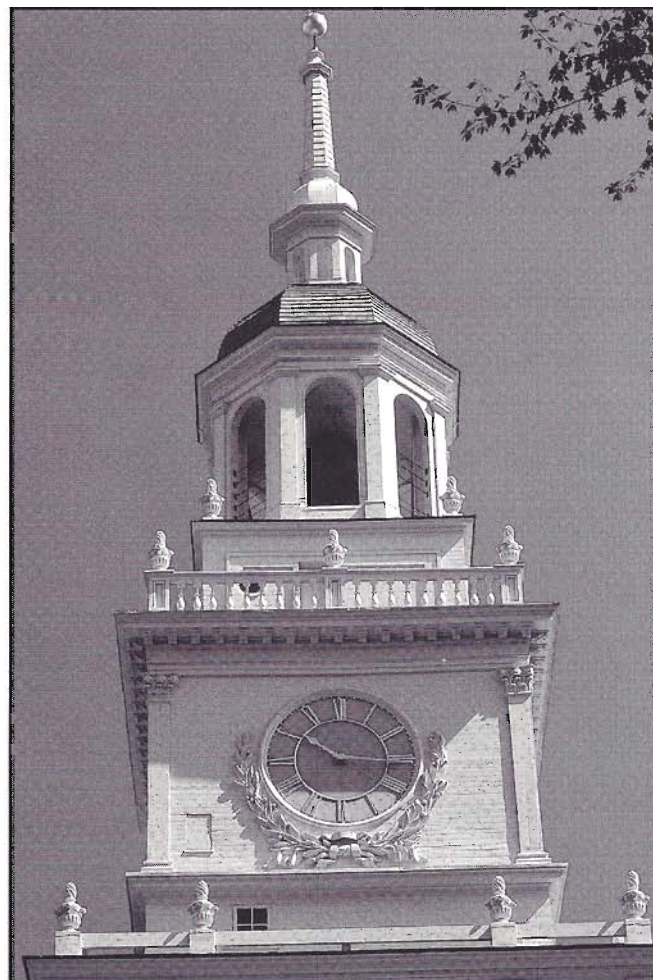
"You're right," Chris replied, "she was the only character in Peanuts who really seemed to have it together. Never saw her square dance though." They both laughed. The conversation continued and, for a change, Chris was actually enjoying himself. He was especially surprised to find that he was warming up to Sue, since he had convinced himself earlier that his square dance adventures were over and that no amount of coaxing would convince him otherwise. They continued to talk for over an hour on a range of topics including careers and past romances. Chris promised that he would return for next week's lesson and was again surprised—though pleasantly—that he had changed his mind.

Chris found himself looking forward to the next lesson. During the week, he received a call from Erin who wanted to make sure that Chris would return. Chris was unaccustomed to the attention and concern, but welcomed both. He could not remember a time where he had so quickly been taken by something he was certain he would not like.

Still, he wasn't sure how long he would continue. For now, he was content to take it week by week. Nothing had yet convinced him that he would be able to dance as well as Chuck and some of the others he had seen. They moved from one call to the next as if without thought. Chris would be satisfied merely telling his right from left.

In spite of his reservations, Chris knew that the activity was different than any other he had undertaken. A couple years back, he had played on the San Francisco volleyball team at the Gay Games. He had fun with the team at practice and games, but never maintained contact with anyone afterward. As a team, they excelled, but as individuals, nothing clicked. There were a host of other things he had done and given up for one reason or another. He enjoyed them all in some way, but had always found the pleasure transient. Chris wasn't yet sure what he could expect of square dancing, but he knew that he was ready to find out. ■

—Stay tuned for the conclusion of "A Square Tale" in Issue 24!



Independence Squares

MIKE RUTKOWSKI AND TOM FEKETE

UNTIL 1988 THERE WAS NO ORGANIZED LESBIGAY SQUARE dancing in the Philadelphia area. This all changed when our founder, Mr. Allan Laufer, had a vision. Allan was an opera singer who danced with the Times Squares of New York and had danced previously with the South Florida Mustangs. After coming to Philadelphia one weekend to check out country and western dancing, Allan decided to share his love of square dancing with his new friends in Philadelphia. Allan spent months talking about it with friends and finally placed an ad in the Philadelphia Gay News to determine if there was any interest in Philadelphia for a gay and lesbian square dance club.

September 26, 1988 found Allan hosting his first open house at the Movement Theater International in the Univer-

sity City section of Philadelphia. His first class of about 20 enthusiastic people gave birth to gay and lesbian square dancing in Philadelphia.

The first year of the club was an extremely busy and exciting time. During the fall Allan was also DJing at the New Prelude in New Hope and hosting informal square dance classes there one night a week. It was from this core group that Allan began a second class in January 1989. He encouraged his first group of dancers to go to Rehoboth for the Chesapeake Squares fly-in, Pass the Ocean, Hon' in May, 1989. He worked even harder to send both of his classes to their first convention, Times Squares' Peel the Apple in July of that year.

While Allan was a demanding taskmaster, what he offered those new dancers was more than just dance lessons; he offered them history lessons as well. Allan interspersed his lessons with commentary on the history of the International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs (IAGSDC) and the people who helped to form it. We heard not only about the hard work involved in the early days but also about the fun times and "interesting" people who brought it to life. Allan spent much of that wonderful first convention introducing us to some of these people, i.e., Wella Balsam, Steffany and the Bradleys to name just a few. He did his best to instill in us a sense of family, a square dance family that existed not only in Philadelphia but also far beyond the confines of the Movement Theater.

That sense of pride and family was brought home at Peel the Apple when Independence Squares was introduced as a new member club of the IAGSDC at its banquet. While we had spent much of that weekend dancing with our fellow dancers, it was with a sense of pride that we all stood that night to be applauded and accepted into a new and larger square dance family.

Allan spoiled us with always having live callers rather than tapes—a tradition that continues to this day. He believed that we needed to be exposed early on to calling styles other than his own in order to become better dancers. He also believed that we should travel elsewhere and dance with other clubs so that we might fully realize the true nature of gay and lesbian square dancing. In promoting both of these ends, Allan initiated monthly dances at the New Prelude. Through Allan's insistence, our early years brought many wonderful people into our lives—Betsy Gotta (our first guest caller and instructor!), Dayle Hodge, Pete Diven, the Times Squares, the DC Lambda Squares and the Chesapeake Squares. Our first graduation dance was called by Anne Uebelacker while she was in town for another engagement! These people were a large and dynamic part of our early history; they kept it interesting and more importantly made it fun. The energy and enthusiasm of the many dances at the New Prelude are to this day fond and ever present memories of good times with friends and family.

The following eleven years have been eventful ones for Independence Squares. In September, 1989, our first board of

directors was elected, with Tim Harper as President. Within four years we added Plus, Advanced and Challenge classes and celebrated our first graduation in 1990 with Anne Uebelacker. In the following years we have marched and performed in NYC Gay Pride Parade, Philadelphia's Gay Pride Parade, the 1993 March on Washington, and Philadelphia's AIDS fundraiser, "From All Walks of Life." On many of those occasions, Glenn Matthew has been our caller. Over the last nine years, Glenn has taught classes from Basic to C1, called many of our dances, and has given unstintingly of his time and talent to support our club.

We mounted our first fly-in in 1993, with Glenn Matthew, Howard Richman, and Anne Uebelacker. At that fly-in, a "VIP" dancer from a nearby club came in on Sunday and asked where Anne Uebelacker was calling. After getting the information and paying for the day, this dancer disappeared for more than a few minutes. Imagine the looks of surprise when he re-emerged wearing an apron, cap and heels but nothing else. Let's just say that for the next tip, the term hotel ballroom took on a whole new meaning. Anne was as perplexed and surprised as the families who happened to be wandering around the hotel during our fly-in. Our next Fly-In will be the Philadelphia Freedom Fly-In IX: 2001 A Dance Odyssey, March 16-18, with Dayle Hodge, Mike Kellogg, and Anne Uebelacker, in New Hope, PA. (For info: www.maplecherry.org/flyin/flyin2001.html)

Ever since our first gender-balanced class of September, 1990, our club has been one of the most gender-balanced clubs in the IAGSDC. We have managed to maintain roughly equal interest for men and women in the greater Philadelphia area. We have had a tradition of welcoming transgendered and even heterosexual dancers to our classes and special dances. For those people who cannot imagine how gay people could be trusted with children, just imagine a family bringing their kids to a dance or fly-in and having a crowd of enthusiastic and patient baby-sitters.

We continue to be a club that eschews tapes and insists on live callers. In addition to the fabulous local and regional callers who regularly grace our dances, we have groomed a large crop of GCA callers who have been increasingly a presence in the local calling scene. Not a month goes by that one or another of our GCA callers isn't calling locally or at a sister club. Our GCA nights have become an established tradition thanks to Sean Crist. We are a club that has a lot of fun doing things together: we've put together a scrumptious cook book, had New Year dinners at the Chinese Cultural Center, tubed down the Delaware River, and just gone bowling. We also like to travel and support our friends in square dancing. We are always well represented at Pass the Ocean, Hon' as well as the national convention. We have several 10 year Medallion recipients among our current and former members. As is true of so many clubs, we have lost a number of our members to early and untimely death. Our continued pleasure of dancing and engaging the world through modern Western square dance is a permanent and living memorial to our departed friends. ■

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— 2000 —

DEC

- 01-03 **Chase Right 2000**, Neon Squares, Las Vegas NV.
Callers: D.Benavides, A.Finch, A.Uebelacker.
Phone: Larry Cormier (702) 457-6933.
E-mail: larrycor@aol.com. URL: www.iagsdc.org/neonsquares/index.html.

— 2001 —

JAN

- 05-07 **Pass the Sea**, Finest City Squares, San Diego CA.
Callers: M.Levy, R.Nelson, A.Shore, D.Wood.
Phone: Scott Parker (619) 583-4595.
E-mail: ferrari@home.com.

FEB

- 09-11 **ACDC 2001**, an A&C Weekend, DC Lambda Squares, Washington D.C. Callers: V.Ceder, M.Jacobs, G.Jedlicka, L.Kendall.
Phone: Michael Martin (703) 931-1849.
E-mail: michaelmartin@erols.com.
URL: www.iagsdc.org/dcls/acdc/.

- 16-18 **Star Thru Hollywood**, Tinseltown Squares, Los Angeles CA. Callers: S.Bryant, A.Uebelacker, P.Waters.
Phone: David Lee Perkins (213) 413-8992.
E-mail: FlyIn2001@aol.com.

MAR

- 16-18 **9th Philadelphia Freedom Fly-in, A Dance Odyssey**, Independence Squares, New Hope PA. Callers: D.Hodge, M.Kellogg, A.Uebelacker.
Phone: Kevin Melvin (215) 482-6954.
E-mail: BobRougeau@isphillyflyin@mail.com.

- 16-18 **Ropin the River**, Grand River Squares, Grand Rapids MI. Callers: K.Jensen, J.Oldfield. Phone: TBA.
E-mail: grsquares@hotmail.com.

APR

- 09-11 **28th Annual Callerlab Convention**. Location: Airport

Marriott, St Louis MO. Phone: (800) 331-2577 or (507) 288-5121. E-mail: info@callerlab.org.
URL: www.callerlab.org/convinfo.htm.

- 09-11 **13th GCA Caller School**, Vancouver, BC Canada.
Coaches: TBA. Phone: Seth Levine (480) 704-9604.
E-mail: SethL@ix.netcom.com.

- 12-15 **Make Magic**, 18th annual IAGSDC Convention, Vancouver, BC. Location: Westin Bayshore Hotel, phone (604) 682-3377. Callers: R.Booiman, R.Brendzy, V.Ceder, T.Crawford, S.Edlund, T.Fellegly, T.Miller, B.Rubright, A.Uebelacker, B.Wise.
Phone: Brian Smith (604) 433-7789.
E-mail: MakeMagic@telus.net.
URL: www3.telus.net/makemagic/.

MAY

- 04-06 **Pass the Ocean, Hon!**, Chesapeake Squares, Rehoboth Beach DE. Callers: R.Brendzy, T.Crawford, P.Diven, N.Martellacci.
Phone: Michael Deets (410) 328-1912.
E-mail: michaeldeets@netscape.net.
URL: www.iagsdc.org/chesapeakesquares/pto.html.

- 04-06 **Peel Off in Palm Springs V** (for men), Cathedral City Boys Club, Cathedral City CA. Callers: N.Martellacci, M.McMullen.
Phone: Gary Dougan (510) 531-1459.
E-mail: gld@pacbell.net. URL: www.cmen.org.

- 18-20 **Stumptown Stomp**, Capital City Squares, Guerneville CA. Callers: K.Jensen, J.Roberts, V.Weese.
Phone: George Fox (916) 929-8697.
E-mail: CapitalCitySqr@aol.com.
URL: www.iagsdc.org/captialcitysquares.

- 25-29 **Moon Over Maryland (for men)**. Location: Camp Ramblewood, Darlington MD. Caller: R.Masker.
Phone: John Herriot (877) 429-6368.
E-mail: wehojohn@aol.com. URL: www.cmen.org.

JUN

- 14-17 **Dixie Style to Memphis III**, Cotton Pickin' Squares, Memphis TN. Callers: T.Harris, A.Uebelacker.
Phone: Cathi Lee Hayes (901) 458-0504.
E-mail: aggiebrown@juno.com.

- 27-30 **50th National Square Dance Convention**, Anaheim CA. Callers: multiple.
Convention office phone: (562) 988-2275.
E-mail: SBaysinger@juno.com. URL: home.earthlink.net/~zebrow/NSDC_50th/.

JUL

- 04-07 **Slide Thru Silicon Valley**, El Camino Reelers, San Jose CA. Callers: TBA.
Phone: Paul Asente (650) 747-0622.
E-mail: dancing@asente.com.

continued on back cover

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IAGSDC Calendar (continued from page 19)

AUG

02-04 **American A&C Convention**, University of Toledo, Toledo OH. Callers: multiple.

Phone: Doug and Joanne Bennett (321) 984-2429.

E-mail: aacc@venue.com.

URL: www.venue.com/aacc/.

03-05 **Cross Trail Thru Eugene, the Great Camp-in II**, Rain-bow Wranglers, near Eugene OR. Caller: TBA.

Phone: Tim (541) 988-0399.

E-mail: timspfd@worldnet.att.net.

URL: www.users.uswest.net/~kitterman/index2.html.

17-19 **Explode the Rockies IV**, Rocky Mountain Rainbeaus, La Veta/Cuchara CO. Caller: V.Ceder.

Phone: Don Kuzela (303) 388-5733.

E-mail: RMRSquares@aol.com.

24-26 **Spin the Needle**, Puddletown Squares, Seattle WA.

Callers: R.Brendzy, V.Ceder.

Phone: Kelley Wilt (206) 935-6080.

E-mail: sgeisler@home.com.

31-03 **Great Chicago Crossfire XII**, Chi Town Squares, Chicago IL. Callers: TBA. Phone: Rob Sierzega (773) 327-7496.

E-mail: rob@sierzega.net. URL: http://www.iagsdc.org/chi-townsquares/GCCF11.html.

SEP

07-09 **Pass Out in the Desert**, 12th Gay A&C Weekend, Desert

Valley Squares. Location: Ramada Valley Ho Resort and Convention Center, Scottsdale AZ.

Callers: R.Brendzy, V.Ceder, B.Haynes, A.Uebelacker, D.Wilson.

Phone: Gordon Macaw (602) 331-8839.

E-mail: gmacaw@qwest.net.

URL: www.iagsdc.org/desertvalleysqs/.

OCT

05-08 **Load the Boat XI**, CCCD, Cleveland OH. Callers: TBA. Phone: Bob Downing (216) 221-6385.

E-mail: DowningQ@aol.com.

12-14 **Zoom to the Beach**, Shoreline Squares, Long Beach CA. Callers: P.Carnathan, M.De, M.DeSisto, M.Kellogg.

Phone: Roger Bengtson (562) 467-8504.

E-mail: BengtsRA@Maritz.com.

26-28 **Peel the Pumpkin**, Times Squares, New York NY.

Callers: D.Carroll, V.Ceder, N.Martellacci.

Phone: TBA. E-mail: TBA.

NOV

24-26 **PACE Extravaganza**. Location: Clarion Hotel, Ventura CA, (805) 643-6000. Callers: S.Bryant, R.Howell, L.Kopman, B.Rubright.

Phone: Robert and Renee Harris (818) 981-3848.

E-mail: robharr@thegrid.net.