



*Dan Schweitzer*

Square dances are always fun, but there are sometimes signs that things aren't going as well as they should. As a public service, I've conducted a few years of research and testing on this subject. I can now confidently assure you that the following are signs that you are in for, what I'd call, a memorable evening.

- You're running late. You arrive at the dance, and the hall is empty. And dark. You're the caller.
- As you walk up to the sign-in table, you suddenly, and very clearly, picture your cash still on the dresser at home. It is right next to your name tag.
- The first dance starts with Circle Left. ... You draw a complete blank.
- A friend comes up and quietly whispers in your ear. All you can catch is something about a long trip, ... or, was that rip? Next you recall that the undergarment, so casually selected earlier, is rather bright.

- It starts as a simple thank-you hug but his name tag comes loose and dives deep into her cleavage. The tag had a pin catch. As you hug, it becomes obvious that the pin is open.
- As you reach your car, you discover that you have someone else's coat. Your car keys are in *your* coat, not this one. The hall and parking lot have completely emptied.
- You enjoyed some hot sauce at the snack table. It's 2 AM and your gut is hosting the Fight-of-the-Decade. Since round 5, the Sauce has been scoring frequently with low blows.

Of course, if you bunch several of these up in the same evening, you can convert a memorable evening into something truly legendary. My personal record is three.

One last, very important point. Please do not confuse any of these situations with a far more sinister class of slip-ups – those involving icy roads or sidewalks. Those don't get funny with age, so do be extra careful.