



*Dan Schweitzer*

OK, I'm going to close my eyes and just jump into the dress issue.

Should "we" require genuine, authentic, registered, coordinated, square-dance duds at dances?

Cutting to the chase, my vote: Drop the adjectives.

Being a guy, I don't notice the difference between a real dance outfit, and ordinary slacks. Guys only take notice if the gal is wearing a big smile.

So, as far as us guys are concerned, the gals just need to be smiling – having fun, happy.

If she's happy, because other gals compliment her new ruffled and gored skirt, fine.

If she's happy because she's comfortable, and not worrying about a nylon snag, that's fine too.

If she was ready on time, because she only had to whip on slacks and a blouse, super fine – I'm smiling.

Requiring special outfits is just another rule. "Rules" and "fun" only have "u" in common. It's a good rule when *you* think it's fun.

We're better when we all focus on the fun.

How about the promotional argument? Special outfits identify us. People inquire. People join.

Hog wash.

Uniforms are intimidating. ("You got what it takes to join us? Only in your dreams, dude.")

On lesson nights, in the dead of winter, people walking by our hall would stop and watch. No offense, but we're all a few decades past stunning anyone with our looks. Nor was it any fancy outfits, the students wore mostly jeans. It had to be the music and laughter that stopped passers-by. We looked ordinary, except we were having so darn much fun!

And sure, dancers in their special outfits elicit comments when they stop to eat after a dance. Heck, the outfits are *strange*! And, the group is usually still excited and laughing. Which would attract the most interest:

- A few fancy square dance outfits, and lots of laughter?
- Lots of fancy square dance outfits and some laughter?

OK, unfair question, we are *all* laughing after a dance.

I'll amend my earlier vote. Whatever it takes, have everyone wear a smile.

And guess what, most new dancers soon find that the outfits are fun too.

Of course, this is just one opinion, and a guy's at that, so you are free to disagree. E-mail dissenting comments to:

MT-hd@timbuktu.disorg