

Jan. 16, 1983

TO the council- Miami Valley Folk Dancers-International
FROM Sam Fleischer

I want to express to this council my concern at the direction the dancing has taken.

Having been associated with the Miami Valley Folk Dancers since 1956, I am aware of dance interest within the group.

With the number of persons without partners and the number of females, it is only logical that they would be interested in dances that do not require partners.

I have also observed that the newer and younger members prefer and seem to enjoy the dances that do not require a partner. However, if we are to remain an international folk dance group, then we must maintain a balance of dances presented on the Thursday nights and also the workshops.

I would like to see the younger members teaching the dances that require partners as well as teaching the no partner dances. In other words, at present, I see the older members teaching the partner dances and the younger members teaching the no partners. What will happen as the older members leave the group and the dances have not been learned by the younger members? We should, as a council, encourage the younger members to assume this responsibility. If we do not, eventually we would not be an international folk dance group. That saddens me, for over the years we (members) have enjoyed dances from all the countries.

Groups change, usually a few persons at a time. New members, new interest, I am aware of that, but I would like this council to encourage younger members to attend workshops, to teach new dances and to review dances.

I am proposing, that we financially help these potential dance leaders to attend folk dance activities viz KDI, the Maine Folk Dance Camp etc., that we pay 100% of their expenses, that we encourage persons to help with the 7-8 PM & 9-9:30 instruction class, that we -as the council- try to maintain a balance to continue as an international dance group.

The thrust of this letter is that the council develop leadership by the younger members of the group.