



# The DCAT Purr-spective

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## April.. damn, is it ever going to warm up?

Time sure flies, this is the last newsletter before the G.A.S. Reunion.

The chorus is in great shape, we are really singing with confidence and I'm sure that we'll put on a great show in Boston. I only hope that the Friday night format is conducive to a good performance.

After G.A.S., our first rehearsal night Wednesday, May 15 will be a social evening. It will be an occasion to bring friends and prospective members. It will also be a time to share stories and photographs from the reunion. There will be the usual excellent (I'm sure) pot luck spread.

After Wednesday, May 15 the chorus goes into its' summer rehearsal schedule of every other week with the next rehearsal being on Wednesday, May 29, and the next two weeks there after etc.

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**'SCUSE ME!!!!** Did I mention that I need bio's for the "About You Files". Is everybody suffering from *CRAFT* disease (*Can't Remember A F- - - - -g Thing*). We don't want the stuff that's going to embarrass you in front of your second wife or husband, new girlfriend or boyfriend, children etc. We just want to know a little bit about you. If I do not get a response, next month I will have to run "*Paul Kelly this is my life, PART 2*" (see part one later in this issue). After that, I start making them up and they won't be pretty.

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**Things that go bump in the night!** Very late one evening at the Communicorp Studio a strange thing happened. The silent alarm was triggered; Don Gill's partner was roused; the swat team headed for the studio expecting the worst (perhaps another theft of computer hardware). What they found was a DCAT member (who shall remain nameless, but his initials are G. O'H.) wandering around the studio. He had been locked in after going for a last minute *wizz* before heading home. So, they caught him, red faced not red handed. The thing to be learned from this is, ***you must let Don Gill know when you are going to the washroom.***

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We now have our DCAT jackets and hats thanks to Brian, our furry faced procurer of all things wearable, eatable and usable. I think they're are really great and will give us a distinctive look at the G.A.S. Reunion.

## CHORUS NEWS

### UPCOMING...

- John and Dolly Fox are organizing our 2nd annual performance at the Orillia Legion followed by a barbeque.

- Joe and Ann Watson are arranging the same thing in in their new home town of Bobcaygeon, Joe's going to check with the legion "next time he goes to town".
- We would like to get feedback on a proposed DCAT trip to the DCA's in Rochester on the Labor Day weekend, a part of the event is a chorus competition... yes-no? Let someone on the Executive know what you think.

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**Wow, talk about paying your dues.** Two performances, two tough audiences. On Saturday, March 16th, the chorus performed at the ODCA Individuals in Hamilton before an enthusiastic audience (noisy, into the wobbly pop maybe?) We finally got their attention with a superior performance. Thursday, April 11, we performed at the Communicorp Indoor Golf Tournament. Great party, we really enjoyed ourselves and our performance, *we sang, we applauded, we did it all.* We got some good feedback.

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**The basic information about G.A.S. is as follows.** Meet at Nubar Graphics at 5:30 am Thursday, May 2, park your cars in the lockup and board the bus. The bus leaves for Boston at 6:00 am. The bus is scheduled to arrive at Howard Johnsons, Woburn at 5:00 pm. The bus leaves Boston at 10:00 am on Sunday morning, May 5, arriving back in Toronto at approximately 9:00 pm. There is a complete schedule available at rehearsal.

People who are flying down should let John Connell know their arrival time for transportation purposes.

***This month we add to our files; Paul Kelly.***

**"We'd like to know a little bit about you for our files."**

***Paul Kelly - Bass, DCAT Chorus***

**De La Salle Drum Corps 1958 - 1963:**

Student at De La Salle and joined the drum corps Sept. 1958.

- initially 3rd Soprano Section ('cauase they didn't have a 4th); moved to Baritone in Dec. 58.
- Volunteered to move to tenor drum for 1960 season; learned how to play by practising on the cushion of a pool table we had at home; tenor drum 1960 - 1963.
- also learned how to finish second a lot.

*Highlight:* beating Optimists 3 times in 1961.

*Lowlight:* losing Nationals in 1961 to Optimists by 1/2 of a tenth.

**Canada's Marching Ambassadors 1963 - 1967**

- Tenor drummer in '64 (with Bill Selfe and Rick Hosie; still the best tenor drum section I ever saw, with apologies to Gord O'Halloran).
- Won Canadian National Individuals Sr. Tenor Drum caption in Feb. '65 and awarded trophy for highest drum score, senior and junior/snare and tenor, in contest.
- Freddie Johnson persuaded (forced?) me to play snare in 1965 as Dave Cook's not so accomplished replacement (averaged about five dropped sticks per show that year); then played in the "big" lines of 1966-67; moved to Montreal in June '67 and had to drop out of

the line in August, thus paving the way to be in the stands when Ambassadors won the Championship and completed nine straight years of never being on the field as a member of a National Champion corps.

**HIGHLIGHT:** Founding member/tenant of the infamous residence collectively known as "The Pit" - one of the better all day /all night drum corps party pads. Residents (some of whom even paid rent) included such luminaries as Dan Moloney, "Fingers", Dials, "Jack The Rug", "Nasal Sweet Thing", Rick Hosie, Joe Jackson, et al. "The Pit" was a class joint. We used a bass drum case filled with ice as our beer cooler. Rick Hosie slept for months on our "couch" - a door we'd stolen mounted on two telephone cable spools. Our third "Pit", and last, thank God, was a three storey condemned house on Ontario Street. We paid for the top two floors. The first floor was boarded up by the landlord. Joe Jackson lived there for a year and came in through the window.

### **Instructor/Writer/Judge**

- Began as a drum instructor/writer with Simcoe Blue Saints (or were they the Blue Dogs? Blue Goats? anyway, something "Blue") in '65; then instructed Michael Power Knights 66/67; Les Metropolitans (Montreal) 68/69.
- Qualified as a drum judge in '67 and judged all over Ontario in 68/69. Typical summer weekend was judge a night show in, say, London on Saturday, and a day show in, say, Smith Falls on Sunday. Never judged once in Quebec. And I was living in Montreal!

### **Fan, etc**

- Saw my first DCI show at Champions in '74 (Ithica NY). Since then, I've been to 9 more DCI Championships (Philidelphia '75 - sort of; Montreal (81, 82); (organized a trip for 30 via train; what a party as survivors will attest); Madison (86, 87, 92); Kansas City (88, 89); Buffalo (90, 95). With many more to come , I hope.

**LOWLITE** - DCI Philidelphia '75; I ordered tickets for 4 for Friday/Saturday shows; drove all night Thursday, arriving Friday morning at an oddly quiet Franklin Field to pickup tickets - and learned the Championships were next week. Phoned Hawthorne Legion Post. Cabs are somewhere in Baltimore Saturday, Syracuse Sunday. Called Baltimore police to locate stadium; they've never heard of it. Drove to Syracuse for the Sunday show. Got there at 6:00 pm show ended at 5:00 pm. Amazing. Even more amazing, I'm still alive to tell the tale (my three companions were not pleased.)

**HIGHLIGHT** - listening to thousands of hours of drum corps in performance. Now have 891 corps on record/tape and CD and still collecting. If you have any records from the 50's, 60's, 70's let me know. Ditto if you want me to tape anything from my collection. There's a list on the bulletin board at rehearsal.

- Attended GAS in Cambridge '94. You know the rest.

*That's it for this month, thanks to Paul Kelly for his contribution to the newsletter.*

Cheers



Dave Cook (757-2043)