

METRO TIMES

Volume I, Number 20
January 8, 1981



Phone 823-0887

Phone 020-0100

January 11, 1981 - Boys' Boot Camp

>DRAG SHOW<

with

April Love (Miss Boot Camp 1980)

Jerry De Phane Gena La Tate Miss Landy

and Special Guest Star

\$1 cover

9 P.M. - 1 A.M.

THE BOYS' BOOT CAMP
2508 N. Fitzhugh
Phone 823-0138

THE GIRLS' BOOT CAMP
2506 N. Fitzhugh
Phone 823-0887

METRO TIMES

DMC Festivities Planned

Plans have been announced for the fifth anniversary of the Dallas Motorcycle Club January 16 through January 18.

Among the activities planned for club members and for out-of-town guests from across the state are a tour of the nightlife Friday evening, using coupon books good for discounts at various businesses; a brunch at Baja's Saturday from 10 AM until 2 P.M., followed by a beer bust from 1 to 4 P.M. at the Hidden Door; and a cocktail party, buffet dinner, and program from 7 to 10 P.M. Saturday night at the Melrose Hotel.

Sunday activities include a brunch beginning at 10 A.M. at the Hidden Door, followed by a meeting of the Texas Conference of Clubs, with a beer bust at the Hidden Door from noon to 4 P.M. A champagne farewell to out-of-town guests begins at 4 P.M.

The Metro Times welcomes these out-of-town guests and wishes them an enjoyable visit. We encourage our readers to do their part in making these visitors feel comfortable and at home in Dallas.

Rush Explains Towing

For a while, we thought we had another Fitzhugh Avenue tow-truck war on our hands. We had noticed new signs posted at bars in the 3200 block of North Fitzhugh advising us that cars parked at Rush (corner of Fitzhugh and Cole) would be towed.

Now, we have been doing some amount of business with Rush and were planning to do a lot more, so we felt the least we could do is ask them why they had, after allowing the community to use their parking lot for some months without hassle, suddenly gone mean.

Payment Offered for Submissions

For as long as we can remember, we have been told that the gay community was recognized for the talent of its members - artists, writers, poets, and so on. Comes the time when we must suggest that the community prove it.

To start the New Year off right, Metro Times has decided to begin accepting submissions from readers in the appropriate areas covered by this paper. For our first anniversary edition, scheduled for April 30, we will be pulling all stops and plan to offer \$100.00 in cash to the person submitting the best publishable expression of what being gay is all about. This can be an article, a story, a poem, or a photograph. Standard rules for submissions to publications apply. Any materials to be returned must be accompanied by your stamped, self-addressed envelope; otherwise, we can't accept responsibility for returning it.

Pseudonyms are acceptable with all submissions, of course, and we are definitely looking for material for every issue, not just the anniversary issue. (Poetry is sought only for the anniversary issue.)

In our continued pattern of growth, we need a good cartoonist, a couple of good reporters (preferably with photographic experience and good equipment), and (as before) some good salespeople. We are interested in locating a representative to serve the Tarrant County area at this time in order to provide Ft. Worth and Arlington with better coverage than we have been able to give them heretofore. Individuals interested should have their own transportation. If you would like to get involved and are intelligent, literate, community-minded and personable, please send a written resume, along with samples of your past writing, to us at P.O. Box 225915, Dallas, Texas 75265.

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Now, we have been doing some amount of business with Rush and were planning to do a lot more, so we felt the least we could do is ask them why they had, after allowing the community to use their parking lot for some months without hassle, suddenly gone mean.

After some wait, we spoke to the manager, and what he told us was a great shock and disappointment. He advised us that towing was not the way they wanted to do business. In fact, they will be putting cables across the entrances soon to block off after-hours parking. Previously, they had permitted parking with no animosity, but when an expensive fence was knocked down, people drove over the curbs, a windshield on one of their vehicles was knocked out, an expensive electric outlet in the parking lot was ruined (and those are the ones I remember; there may have been more), they put up a chain across the entrance. So people not only started driving over the curb but also stole the chain!

Frankly, we can't blame Rush for their attitude. We had a chance to prove ourselves as responsible gay citizens, and we failed. They were under no obligation to permit us to use their facilities, but they did so, at great expense to the owners. The manager even pointed out that, at one point, they spoke with the managers of the bars, after which things improved temporarily, only to slide back.

If we are adults - and surely some of us are - we must learn that individuals who abuse the privileges offered them must be punished. The Metro Times, and every responsible gay citizen, is and should be deeply ashamed of events such as this. We encourage anyone who witnesses such incidents as deliberate or even unintended damage of private property to get involved. We need all the friends we can get...and it looks like we now have one less, thanks to a few worthless jerks who couldn't care less about the rights of others, and a few others who could have done something but didn't want to get involved.

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Payment for such services would be on a freelance basis only. We are not ready to pay employees for full-time work at this time, but we are confident that this, too, is in the near future. Naturally, the one-time special payment of \$100.00 applies only to one offering, to be used in the anniversary issue. We will, however, attempt to be fair in payment of any material accepted for other issues.

Our Apologies

The Metro Times extends our sincere apologies to our readers and advertisers for this issue's shortcomings. It seems that the 72-hour virus (that's a 48-hour virus, but with inflation) struck us untimely and confined us to bed in the worst possible way. We still could be better, but we not only missed getting out New Year's Eve (and we really had counted on that) but also didn't get to contact several advertisers to confirm whether they wanted to repeat this issue.

Things will be back to normal - hopefully even better - upon our return from New York City Sunday, January 11. However, this is just one of the many reasons we are attempting to recruit an editorial staff to make this a better paper to serve you. If you are intelligent, literate, personable, and have wheels and photographic equipment/ability, we really would like to hear from you. We need community-minded individuals to help improve this paper. Drop us a note, with samples of your work, today!

Book Review: "STATES OF DESIRE"

Just after we reviewed The Menzola Report a short time ago, giving it a very favorable response, we were advised - by someone who should be familiar with such things - that every other publication panned the book. We goofed, in other words, if the opinions of those other reviewers were to be considered.

Then we in turn panned Vincent Virgo's Gaywyck, the world's first (and worst) gay gothic. We were told afterwards by another individual that Gaywyck had received good reviews elsewhere.

States of Desire, by Edmund White (co-author of Joy of Gay Sex), which Bantam Books graciously mailed to us in a plain brown wrapper just in time for the holidays, apparently was anticipating our reviewing habits. The first few pages of the new paperback edition contain nothing but rave review excerpts so we will recognize it without difficulty as a worthy addition to the realm of gay-oriented literature.

There is a temptation to go back and pan White's previous work in Joy of Gay Sex and to comment that a bestseller is not necessarily good writing or even - and more important in my point of view - capable of maintaining the reader's interest throughout.

States of Desire had a slight edge of interest for us, we have to admit, in view of the fact that there was a chapter on New York. In view of our pending trip to the Big Apple, we read that chapter first. We then skipped to the chapter on Texas, which covered a small Dallas suburb named Houston, along with Dallas itself. Fort Worth was not covered, a fact for which they should probably be appreciative.

One of Mr. White's problems, we suspect, was in the manner in which he approached his research. We got the impression that he had been given names of a local in almost each area and had merely been taken in hand by that individual and given their personal view of the area. Houston was an exception, it seems; here he came across with an exception to the rule by just catching a plane and flying in - with no reservations for motel or anything - and wandered into the bars he found listed in his guidebook.

We personally have visited Houston several times, and we know some small bit about Dallas. While we have to admit that we found Mr. White's writing to be entertaining, often amusing or even informative, we did not find it accurate or representative. We would make this challenge: Remove the obvious references which would give away the city's identity - that is to say, geographic names like "Turtle Creek" - and present the review of Dallas to ten people and ask them to identify the city just described. We would venture a guess that they would not succeed in naming Dallas. The review just said nothing of Big D. We have a feeling that Mr. White's view of other cities he paid visits to turned out just as inaccurate.

New Orleans, for example, another city to which we have paid several personal visits, was recognizable only by the heavy aroma of magnolias lingering over each page.



\$2,600 EXTRA



Cu

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Book Review - continued

The strong point of the book is its look at the various individuals across the country with whom Mr. White visited in his grand tour. It is an interesting panorama of the variety of points of view within our community from coast to coast. While many views will not be representative, they can surely be recognized as thought-provoking. For this reason, we would think it worth the while of the average gay reader to pick up a copy of States of Desire soon.

In addition to the cities named, Washington, Portland, Seattle, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Memphis, Chicago, and, of course, Mecca - San Francisco - are covered in some depth, along with others. The cover letter from Bantam Books, the publisher, promised a new chapter on Toronto, which we did not find in our copy.

We would definitely recommend this book for your 1981 reading...along, of course, with a grain of salt. And, should Mr. White choose to revise and update the book at a future date, we offer our personal services to aid him in seeing Dallas a bit more accurately next time.

Writer to Hold Workshop

Miss Rosalind Rinker, a world-renowned writer and lecturer and noted authority on prayer, will be the special guest speaker at all three worship services of Metropolitan Community Church of Dallas on January 25.

Miss Rinker, whose name has been a household word among many evangelical and fundamentalist groups for more than a decade, will also present a workshop at MCC-Dallas on Saturday, January 24. Exact times will be announced in our next issue or are available from the church office (at 528-9944).

The popular speaker will present a study on the topic of "Communicating Love Through Prayer" during her appearances here. She was a keynote speaker at the General Conference of Metropolitan Community Churches held in Los Angeles in August of 1979, and MCC is no stranger to her.

The public is welcome and is encouraged to attend and take part in the worship services Sunday (at 9 A.M., 11 A.M., and 7:15 P.M.) and in the workshop.

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Luke 6:38

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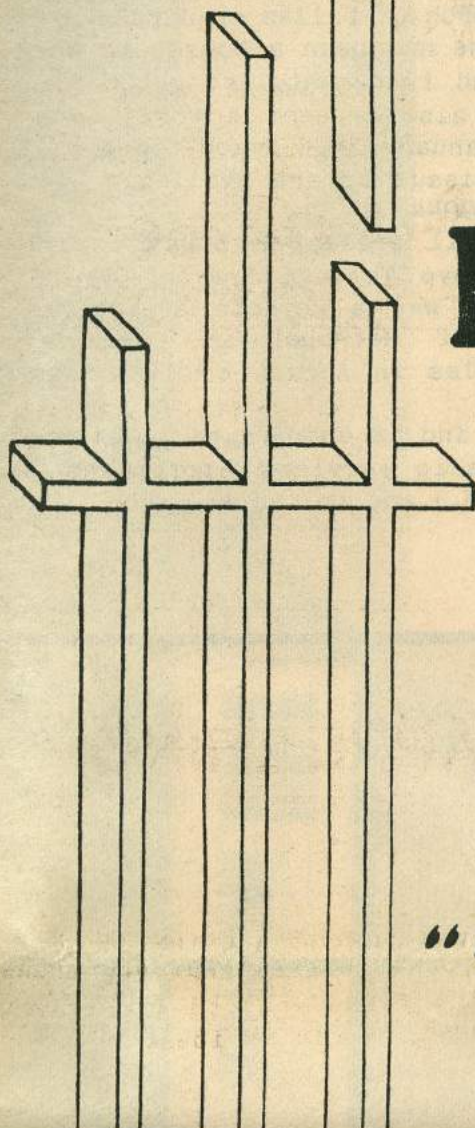
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Three experiences of Christian Worship



ministering on
"The Year of the Lord's Favor"

Three experiences of Christian Worship

* Friday January 16th 7:30 P.M. *

* Saturday January 17th 7:30 P.M. *

* Sunday January 18th 7:00 P.M. *

**Agape Metropolitan Community Church
of Fort Worth**

Jim Norwood
Worship Coordinator



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LIVE A LITTLE LONGER

These tips are offered in the hope that they will prove useful in advising our readers for protection against thieves and attackers. We urge you to study them carefully to keep yourself healthy!

1. SCREAM

Thieves are most afraid of being apprehended. Noise - shouts, screams, whistles, car horns and the like - are likely to draw attention to a theft or mugging or other attack taking place. So, if you are attacked, yell, scream, or somehow "blow the whistle" on crime.

2. AVOID THE DARK

As just mentioned, thieves don't really want to be caught. If you are in a dark alley or other poorly-lit area, you are easier prey to criminals who may attempt to harm or rob you.

3. TAKE A FRIEND

Simply enough, the more there are in your party, the more likely it is that you could turn the tables on the thief, which is not at all what he has in mind. The lone stranger is the most likely victim.

4. AVOID APPEARING DRUNK

Beside the reasons given in our article on problems of excessive drinking, the fact is that the drunk is an ideal target for the robber. With your defenses down and reactions slowed, you're an ideal victim!

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5. FIGHT BACK

The easy-to-take victim who doesn't put up a fuss makes crime profitable. Don't let it happen to you. Fight back. Study up on self defense...and carry with you something such as the Paralyzer, a pocket tear gas spray available in stores across town and capable of stopping thieves long enough to make your getaway.

6. REPORT THE CRIME

Even though you may be wiser next time around, someone else could be the next victim. Protect a friend by reporting the attack - both to police and to your Gay Political Caucus. This will enable both groups to triangulate attacks and anticipate future ones for the protection of the community in general.

METRO TIMES

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January 11 - Jockey short Contest
with Miss Ed & Gena LaTate

January 12 - Talent Night
with Trixie (Leigh Shannon) & Tiger Lil

★ WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14 ★
SPECIAL SHOW NIGHT

Leigh Shannon with Tiger Lil
Special Guest Rachel Wells



Coming January 29 - Tasha Kohl

Problem Drinker is Friend to Nobody

One of the problems which isn't discussed a lot in the gay community, but which came up in our talk with the manager of Rush (see related editorial), is the ever-present drinking problem.

A lot of people have blamed the gay drinking problem on the bars being the traditional meeting place for members of the community. We have to extend that and say that the root cause is irresponsibility and thoughtlessness.

Just think about it: Drinking, of course, is in itself pleasant. We enjoy a good drink from time to time, and sometimes several. However, once a person passes their point of no return, they become poison - if the bartender serves them, he/she can be arrested. A police officer can arrest the drinker, in or out of the bar, for public intoxication. Bar owners find the habitual drunk obnoxious because he/she not only draws an unwanted element to the bar (while driving away the good clientele). Let's face it; nobody likes a drunk.

If drinking turns into a regular thing, inhibition flees away, leaving someone who is likely to say something he or she doesn't mean, alienating friend and foe alike, and frequently even leaving the drinker an outcast, barred from the source by the management. Those fair-weather friends will go their way, avoiding the inebriated and seeking out less loaded persons to spend their time with.

As this isn't enough, if the drunk drives (and it seems drunks are most likely to try to drive when they are the ones who least need to be behind a wheel), he or she runs the chance of picking up an arrest for DWI (driving while intoxicated). The first time, a DWI isn't the end of the world. The second time, a felony goes on the records. And, of course, there's always

the increased insurance.

But perhaps the worst thing that can happen when a drunk gets behind the wheel is the accident. Now, my own experience has been that, even with a few more drinks under my belt than I really needed, I can still drive adequately. But reaction time is down. If some rotten, bratty kid out riding his/her bike after dark without lights decides that the driver can stop or needs a good scare, I might not stop in time. And I, and quite possibly you, have a conscience which would keep me awake nights remembering the sound of my tires going over that bike...the sight of the still body on the pavement...that sudden frightened look on the face in front of the headlights when it becomes apparent that the car isn't going to stop in time.

No, drinking too much may be worth getting sent to jail. It may be worth getting barred at my favorite pub. It could be worth losing my friends, or having my favorite bartender arrested for serving me. But is it worth, even for a moment, the risk to other human lives?

I think most bar owners and managers will agree with no hesitation that their best customer is one who knows when to stop. Do you fill the bill? Will you live to see the rest of 1981, or will someone else not make it because of you?

If you have any reason to believe that you have a drinking problem, give it a test run. Drink juices or soft drinks on your next two trips out on the town and see what a difference it made. If you couldn't handle the loss of the booze, then you need to seek help. If you handled it okay, then keep it that way.

You'll be healthier and happier...and so will a lot of other people!

Cut Your Living Cost in Half!



I don't know

...do they? Squirrels.

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- THE 2 BOOT CAMPS •
- MAPLE RANCH WEAR •
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