

New Year's Eve Party

\$4.00 advance reservations

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Free Party Favors and Champagne

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New Year's Day

Open 1:00 P.M.

FOOTBALL on our WIDE-SCREEN TV

New Year's Dinner with Black-eyed Peas

DRAG SHOW - 10:30 P.M.

featuring

Tonya Lee

Lynn Christopher

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"Where Ft. Worth Women Meet"

VOLUME 19

METRO TIMES

Volume I, No. 19

December 25, 1980



HIDDEN
DOOR

METRO TIMES

Looking back at a good year

In 1980 the gay communities of Dallas and Fort Worth took giant steps forward. In Tarrant County, the Gay Political Caucus came into existence, offering potential for new, bigger and better things.

In Fort Worth, the Agape MCC, under the leadership of Worship Coordinator Jim Norwood, underwent unprecedented growth.

In Arlington, the Gay/Lesbian Association at UTA took shape with a heartening show of interest on the part of the student body.

And in Dallas, the Turtle Creek Chorale, the Oak Lawn Symphonic Band and various other groups came into being. A history-making meeting of the entire community took place at Trinity Methodist Church, inspiring a landslide of victories at precinct meetings across the city. Lawsuits were filed as precedents to future victories for gay rights, including

the Don Baker case, intended to have Section 21.06 of the Texas Penal Code (which makes private sexual activities between consenting adults illegal and punishable by law) declared unconstitutional, and the suit of George Lee against Danny Cain, the infamous Dallas police officer whose name was in the public eye so much during 1980.

In a few short weeks, the Dallas gay community pledged a whopping \$275,000 to help MCC-Dallas build on to their building, long used as a meeting place for various community organizations.

And, of course, benefits galore have livened up the past month; in fact, we weren't even able to make it to all of them. Included were shows at the Sundance Kids (an annual event for some years now) and one at the Crews Inn Country, as well as a pie auction at Studio

69 (buy a pie and throw it at any victim of your choosing). Many of these benefitted such causes as Toys for Tots, Scottish Rite Children's Hospital, and the like, helping to show the straight community that we are a community with heart.

The DGPC also donated a tree to the new Oak Lawn Public Library and put together the Oak Lawn Christmas Gathering (for which they are to be highly complimented) in part of a movement toward greater community awareness and non-political activity on the part of that group.

You've come a long way, baby! And the best is yet to come, as we all work together in 1981 for a better community for us all to live in.

See benefit show pix below and on pages 3 and 5

New board members chosen at MCC-Dallas

MCC-Dallas, now in its eleventh year of service to the Dallas gay community, held its regularly set congregational meeting Wednesday, December 17, and elected members to the Board of Directors.

Re-elected were Alma Sawyer, who presently serves in the position of clerk of the board, to a one-year term, and Darrel Murray, to a three-year term.

New members of the board include Jim Foster, who has been filling a previous board vacancy as treasurer; Foster was confirmed to a one-year term, along with Ken Wright and Sylvia Hodgins, elected to three-year terms. Ms. Hodgins previously served the Dallas community as one of the two co-chairpersons of the successful Gay Pride Week Committee.

The appointment of Rev. Lisa Berry, staff minister at the church and former pastor of Agape MCC in

Fort Worth, as administrative assistant was also announced.

MCC-Dallas has also employed a new architect to finalize plans for the long-awaited remodelling of the Reagan Avenue property which they have occupied since October, 1976.

According to a church spokesperson, both the orchestra presentation held December 14 and the Christmas cantata presented December 21 by the choir were huge successes and drew capacity crowds. The planned remodelling is intended to provide more space for worship services and for the numerous community functions held at the church's facilities.

Morning worship services at the church were split into two identical services, one at 9 A.M. and one at 11 A.M., earlier this month in an attempt to cope with growing attendance at services.



A Crews Inn Country Girl

Gay gothic literary letdown

Gaywyck, to say the most, is a mixed blessing. The idea of a gay gothic (despite a porno novel of the genre about ten years ago) is on the unusual side, but literature with a gay theme, carried out fairly and free of the old "kill one in the end of the book" syndrome, is finally coming into its own, so why not?

Gaywyck could well be the reason why not. In fact, it could set the gay gothic back uncounted years. If one is looking for great literature, of course, the gothic is not the place to start. In my personal view (for what it's worth) the gothic is somewhere in the same general scope of literature as the Harlequin romance, which I somehow see being read by desperate spinsters forced to obtain their romance vicariously through the unlikely experiences of the saccharine heroines of such novels.

Gaywyck, properly handled, could have been a good pastiche (look it up, Mary). It is the story of young Robert Whyte, and of his lover-to-be (oh, come now, that's the idea of the book, isn't it?), Donough Gaylord (even the name is amusingly forced). The author has forced an

unprecedented, amateurish number of coincidences and blatant lies into the plot to mislead and confuse the reader, up to the final moment of truth when he reveals his secrets.

The style is elaborate, stifling and Victorian. One of the most unintentionally funny scenes in the book is one in which young Robert blunders into a cave by a waterfall, sees pornographic murals sketched on the wall of the cave, and (for the first time, at the gentle age of 17, if we are to believe the author) has a bout of masturbation. It has to be the most tastefully worded such scene we have ever read; in fact, we had to reread it to make sure we had understood what was happening.

The plot makes the term "melodrama" seem pale by comparison. The characters are flat, unconvincing, and the sole rationale we can find for a person's wishing to read the book would be as a grotesque parody on an already ridiculous genre of fiction.

The overall effect is amusing. The book is thick, and Avon's cover artist has successfully parodied the classic gothic style - the masterful and masculine Donough Gaylord and

his young, blond protege in a pose before the ancestral mansion - in fact, such a pose that the unwary observer could easily glance at the cover and do a doubletake, so much does it resemble the "classic" gothic style.

One problem we had with the book (aside from the poor fare it provides the reader) is the tendency of the author to show off his classical knowledge with untranslated quotes in Latin and other languages.

An unbelievable and deceptive plot has been handed to us here. If the reader wants titillation, he should look elsewhere. If he wants serious reading matter, Gaywyck will not offer it to him. If he wants to have a good laugh at the unreal, he should run to the bookstore and see if they have a copy left.

It isn't "must" reading, and if we had a star system, we would feel generous in voting it 1/2 star. The book is full of schmaltz, air and light and ridiculousness. It has no redeeming literary, social, or sexual value. And we say this only because we are feeling kind.

In a word - amusingly phony.

New Year's Eve

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New Year's Day

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THANK YOU!



A Sundance Kid

Danke Shoen!

Even though I frequently say "Thank you" generally to readers and supporters in this paper, I don't think it's possible to say it too many times.

At the risk of leaving somebody out (in which case I ask humble forgiveness), I'd like to thank some of the wonderful people whose support, financial, moral or immoral, helped to keep this paper going (please note that names are in no particular order):

In Fort Worth, thanks to the Split Image and manager Katie, whom I have enjoyed visiting with each time I deliver papers and whose praise for my amateurish ad layouts is truly appreciated; and to Agape MCC.

In Dallas, thanks to the ever-enthusiastic support of Mr. Bill Fry and his sincere dedication to the METRO TIMES; to Mr. Jim Norwood; to Jim "Pollock" Roberts of the Hidden Door, one of our very first advertisers and one of the sweetest guys

you would want to meet; to "Papa" Joe Moran, another early advertiser; to genial Joe Philpot, who made us wait for an ad until we convinced him we were here to stay (which made getting his ad mean all the more to us); to Vance Brown, whose Boot Camp has become one of our many favorite places to visit;

To HDI's Harvey Henderson, who is straight but very together and a pleasure to do business with, and to the wild gang at NEI and Gamma Blood Plasma Centers;

To MCC-Dallas (and pastor Don Eastman) and UCC (and pastor Shawn Farrell) for their support;

To the Dallas Gay Political Caucus and particularly to Louise Young, Terry Tebedo and Bill Nelson;

And, along with those many other unnamed advertisers, the uncounted readers who so kindly took a moment of their time to tell me personally how much they appreciated having a local paper.

To each and every one, a happy and prosperous new year, with my love!

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DELLA DALLAS:

Rude and tasteless predictions for 1981

A year ago, the Metro Star ran a feature in which noted psycho Della Dallas predicted the year's events before they happened. In fact, with only a week to go in the year, not one of the predicted events has taken place!

Not to be outdone, Metro Times has spared no expense in obtaining an exclusive on Della's predictions for 1981 (translation: Della predicted we would be dead before 1981 if we didn't print her prophecies in this issue).

Take a seat, then, as Della does it again:

1. In keeping with the old Indian curse which has seen the president in office every 20 years die or be killed in office (an interesting fact substantiated by history!), Ronald Reagan will be the first president to kill himself in office - after a 24-hour non-stop showing of his old movies.
2. A new ultra-conservative fundamentalist minister will catch the public eye with accusations that gays - already blamed by James Robison for the downfall of the American family - are also responsible for inflation. Unlike Robison, however, his show will go off the air due to lack of funds to cover rising cost of broadcast time.
3. Ronald Reagan's son will leave his new wife and become a female impersonator.
4. Deva Sanchez will be discovered by a talent scout, swept away to Hollywood, and make a movie, for which s/he will be nominated for an Oscar. However, s/he will, rather than accept the award, send Marlon Brando to give a speech, which will be disrupted by Lady Shawn streaking the show.
5. Through a clerical error, Tasha Kohl's entry for Miss Gay America will be sent to the regular
6. Miss America pageant, which she will win. (She will be disqualified when the disgruntled first runner-up catches her going into the men's room to relive herself.)
7. The Dallas Police Association will book their annual ball for the Village Station.
8. A pair of uninformed vice cops, unaware of the above arrangement (see #7), will stage a raid on the popular disco and arrest 47 people for public lewdness. The Texas Human Rights Foundation will offer to hold a benefit at the Landing for the victims but will be turned down.
9. Empress II de Fort Worth, Miss Ricky, will turn down an invitation to Ronald Reagan's inauguration because of prior plans to do a show at the Downtowner.
10. Aunt Bea (who has, we understand, given up drag) will form a motorcycle gang and terrorize straights at Queen's point.

(See page 6)

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METRO TIMES

Phone (214) 528-9944

The METRO TIMES is published once every two weeks by Roy G. Hall, Editor & Publisher, and distributed free of charge at selected metroplex area businesses and organizations.

Our purpose is to provide the gay community of the Dallas/Fort Worth/Arlington metroplex with current news of interest; however, mention of the name of any person or group within these pages should not be taken as being indicative of the sexual orientation of such person or group.

Display advertisement rate sheets are available on request by writing or calling at the address or number indicated. Organizations and businesses wishing to have events publicized are asked to submit information in writing at the earliest possible moment as a news item. Special discounts are also offered to qualified not-for-profit groups running display advertising.

Subscriptions are available by first class mail at 50¢ per week (minimum 10 weeks) to cover postal costs.

Manuscripts submitted for publication cannot be returned unless a self-addressed, postage-paid envelope is enclosed and return is requested. Unless otherwise indicated, it shall be assumed that any letter or manuscript received may be published with the name of the author and without payment.

Mail for the METRO TIMES should be addressed to P.O. Box 225915, Dallas, Texas 75265.

Next Issue: January 8, 1981

Copy/Ad Deadline: January 2, 1981



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MISCELLANEY

'Tis the season to be jolly, fa la la la la. Don we now our gay apparel, fa la!

What with the host of New Year's Eve parties planned, we refuse to even get involved. If you question whether your favorite dispenser of delightful potions will be having a party to bring in the New Year in a fitting and proper manner, may we suggest that you call and ask.

We do know that those of you who date to get dressed for the occasion (and Halloween's coverage should tell you what we'll be looking for) can look forward to the possibility of being spotted by the roving camera and made into an instant star. One young man, whom we noticed at Halloween time but weren't able to take a picture of, promised (without even being asked) to dress again in the same outfit so we could catch him for posterity. We have a weakness, we must confess, for comic or scanty attire, although originality can gain our attention as well. We will be looking forward to seeing what you do for that special day....

Della Dallas

(from page 4)

11. Leigh Shannon, Miss Gay Metroplex, will be attacked by Joan Crawford's daughter while doing an impression of the actress.
12. Kandi Delight will retire from drag to go into business - with a bust developing creme.
13. Graham D. Photographer will have a narrow escape when, covering a show for TWT, he gets too close to the stage and Big David falls on him.
14. Metro Times will change format and come out as a slick, full-color magazine weekly after a drop by 1/2 in advertising rates. Publisher Roy Hall will be released from his padded cell three months later and placed under careful observation.
15. Bob Green and Anita Bryant will have a tearful reunion after an exclusive interview in National Enquirer in which Green says he will turn gay without Bryant to keep him straight.

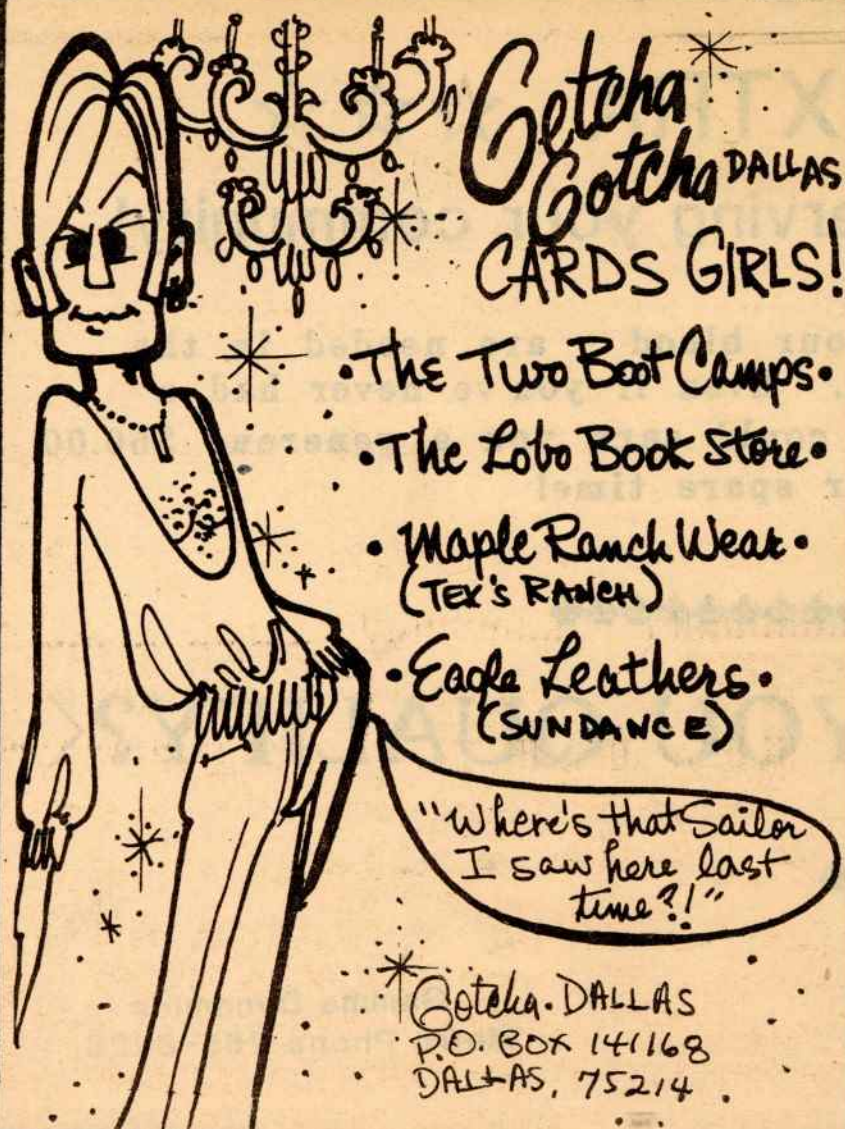
16. In protest over the tasteless forecasts of Della Dallas which appear here, several hundred readers of the Metro Times will burn an effigy of editor Roy Hall - but only because the real one got away.

(from page 7)

Likewise, we will be taking an even closer look at formats and may take under advisement a new format for this publication. Tips picked up at the convention may assist us in gaining more "straight" ads for the paper, and with the added income we will be able to produce a better publication for our readers.

I do know I personally will be looking forward eagerly to the new year and the potential for improvement that it offers this paper. If you have suggestions, columns or topics you would like to see, or if you would like to comment on events in the paper or in the community, your letters are always welcome.

Welcome to 1981! The challenge is before us all. We have the year just past to inspire us to make the new year the best year yet!



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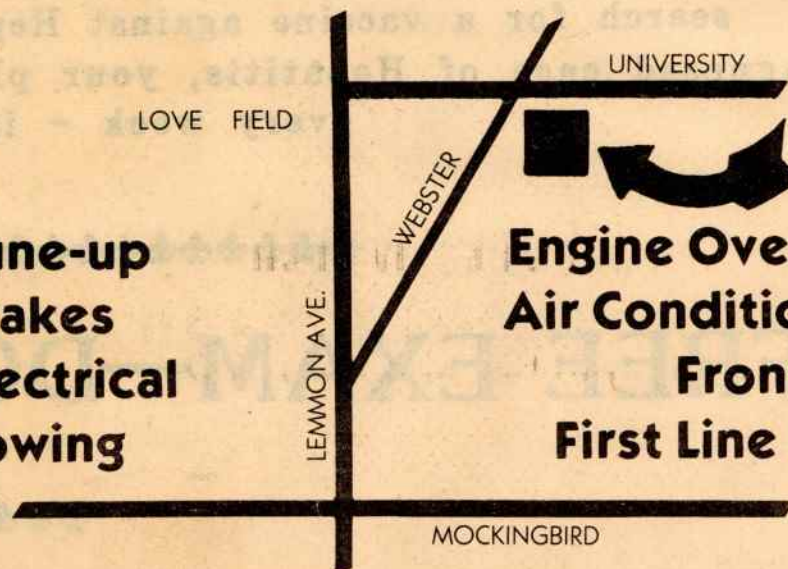
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Roots of a gay paper

It's hard to believe, but it's true. On December 7, 1979, just one short year ago, a paper called the Metro Star hit the area for the very first time. Four months later, on April 14, that paper suspended its circulation, followed shortly by the parent publication, Montrose Star.

But the story goes back further than that...back to April of 1972, when Richard Vincent, then pastor of MCC-Dallas, brought out the first issue of The Channel, Dallas' all-time record-breaking gay publication. At that time, Rev. Vincent asked for a volunteer who would be willing to act as editor for the new paper. And so it came to pass that one Roy Hall first put his name out in front of the Dallas gay community as openly gay. I edited The Channel for more than three years, leaving when a dispute over the handling of the advertising (which profited the printer and not the church) was not satisfactorily resolved. The paper folded shortly thereafter.

In the interim period, my credits got around. I had a photo in the Advocate and in the Atlanta Barb as well as two TWT covers (and two models whose photos appeared but not on the cover). I had an article in a would-be Advocate challenger, by the name of Newsweek, and my news

or photos appeared in Contact as well as Nuntius and maybe others I can't even remember. For a while, there was even a Metroplex Star, by the same essential group as the one which later brought out the Metro Star.

The greatest successes I have known during these years, however, have been with The Channel and with the Metro Star and Times. It was the response of readers, heading to pick up the latest copy as quickly as it hit the cigarette machine in their favorite watering holes, that kept me actively putting out a new Channel monthly. It was response from pleased readers that kept the Metro Star going and, after it went into history, brought out the latest in my publishing history, this paper - the Metro Times.

It's hard to believe how much water has passed under the bridge. When we came to Dallas back in 1968 there was nothing but a bar scene. A private club or two opened up as time went by, until laws changed to permit liquor by the drink. (We still remember our embarrassment when we asked for a screwdriver back in November of 1968 and learned that we

had to bring our own bottle.

Even in 1972, when The Channel came into being, there was little or no news to be published. Now there are new groups being formed so often that someone mentioned one to us the other day and we had not even heard of it. We still have the distinct problem of getting groups to advise the press of their existence and of their events for the much-needed publicity they can get. That will, of course, come with time.

What next? The gay press, at the convention January 9 and 10 in the Big Apple, should really get the ball rolling. In the very near future we should be receiving regularly papers we never even heard of. We will be able to supplement local news with news from other cities, states and even countries. The sky is the limit for the benefits such a group can offer. (By the way, we congratulate TWT, whose Jim Veteto will be on one of the panels!)

(See page 6)

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