

McCalla Concert Impresses Audience

Hello Again! Well, after the feedback I received on last month's column, I was tempted to rename this column "The Gay Muckraker." But then, you would EXPECT me to blast someone every month. I won't do that, but I will reserve the right to speak out whenever I feel something has gone awry. It's kind of like a suspense movie - who will fall victim next?

Did you go to the Deidre McCalla concert on the 14th? If so, you were in the company of about 130 other men and women. Incidentally, I was pleased to see some of my gay male friends there and I think we should acknowledge their support of a primarily lesbian event. Despite a very short window to plan and advertise the concert, and a last minute location change from South Meck High School to the Howard Johnson's downtown (or is it uptown?), the whole evening came off beautifully. Of course, I didn't mention that the QCF committee who undertook this adventure is now in a Rest Home!

I really did enjoy seeing Deirdre though. I'm admittedly not a great fan of "womyn's music," but she has sooooo much personality

THE SOFT SPOT

By Ann Michele

and she's such a fun entertainer that I really had a good time. I even bought one of her tapes, because it has "The Cat Song" on it. (Being an animal lover, I just get tickled everytime I hear that song.) I also appreciated that Deidre hung around after the concert and was available to talk to anyone who wanted to meet her. When I see a performer onstage, they tend to have a surrealistic quality to them; but when I see that performer walking around at my level being a person just like me, then they become real and someone that I can relate to.

I thought the facilities at Howard Johnson's were real good - the ballroom was different than I expected and actually had a cozy, intimate air about it. The acoustics were great, parking was easy, and Ho Jo's even had "Welcome Concert" on their marquee. Another plus was its closeness to Steven's where the after-concert dance was held.

I am pleased to say that Steven's was

really prepared for the crowd that showed up for the dance (about 120 people). They went out of their way to do whatever they could for us; they appeared to be well-organized; bar service was good; the staff was courteous. I feel that everyone benefited from this improvement - Steven's proved that they could provide quality service, and as customers we felt that we got the quality we deserved.

Steven's management announced during the dance that they would be moving to another location in Dilworth very soon. If the new location is not announced by the time Q-Notes goes to press, call the Switchboard at 525-6128 for their new address and directions.

During a conversation with my therapist recently, I was relating some events that had happened over the weekend that were somewhat disappointing. I ended by saying, "Well, that's okay. Everything happens for the best. I'm just part of the overall plan, I guess." He said, "I don't believe everything happens for the best." That shook my foundation because I believe there's a reason for everything, even if we don't know what it is. He went on to say, "I don't believe child abuse, drug addiction, battering and lots of other things happen for

the best." He was right, and I couldn't argue with him. Then he said, "Bad things happen to people but it's what we do with the situation that makes the difference." Then I could see his point - when bad things happen, we have a choice in how we react to them. If we learn and grow from them, if it effects a positive change or understanding for us, then we have turned that bad into something good. It doesn't change the fact that something bad happened. That's reality. But how we handle situations does affect whether we are better or worse for the experience. (That little dissertation is worth 10 Continuing Education Units towards maintaining your Quality of Life degree!)

Mark your calendar for May 20th. MCSP - that's the parent organization of Switchboard, QCF and Speaker's Bureau - is having Casino Night. It promises to be a lot of fun. Check elsewhere in Q-Notes for more information or call the Switchboard.

MAY you all have a wonderful month, Happy Birthday to my Taurus friends, and I'll see you soon.

PLAY IT SAFE!

Nowadays, sex can be frightening. For many of us, fear of AIDS has taken the joy out of intimacy. It's just not gay to be gay anymore.

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