

home

news

viewpoint

local life

main feature

• nite life

arts

sound off

ADVERTISE IN  
OUR SPECIAL  
TRAVEL AND  
LEISURE ISSUES  
March 19, 2004  
August 13, 2004

email updates

New to email  
updates? Then click  
[here](#) to find out more.

email address

 subscribe

 unsubscribe

I have read  
and agree to our  
[terms and  
conditions](#).

advertising

general info

marketing info

about us

about Blade

masthead

employment

## NITE LIFE

### Crazy month in clubland

Alegria triumphs at Crobar, Junior's out at Sound Factory, the Saint-at-Large White Party moves to Roxy.

By [Matt Kalkhoff](#)

Friday, January 30, 2004

What a crazy month it's been in clubland!

Heck, even I had trouble following all the changes and assorted drama, so I can only imagine how confusing it must have been for anyone who's not getting paid to keep up with it all.

In a nutshell: Spirit succumbed to the perils of its grossly inadequate marketing plan and temporarily closed its doors (it will allegedly reopen on Feb. 7). Alegria migrated to Crobar with spectacular success, and the Saint-at-Large recently announced its precarious plans for this year's White Party that could effectively euthanize the dwindling event.

The disappointing decision to hold the first of its two remaining annual parties at Roxy notwithstanding (Black Party will continue its tradition at Roseland on Saturday, March 20), it seems rather foolish to rely entirely on two ill-suited marquee names. While Hex Hector and Frankie Knuckles are both talented veterans of the dance music scene, neither is known for playing traditional White Party music — and Knuckles' set at the event two years ago was widely considered to have been a disaster.

Oh yeah, Junior Vasquez and Sound Factory also got divorced almost as quickly as Britney and "What's-his-name." Even the New York Post's "Page Six" found the dumped DJ's tragic tale too enticing to pass up.

One source is quoted as saying that they should have given him more time (which is probably true — his party only lasted eight weeks, in midwinter, during the holidays). But I think it actually has more to do with the other theory mentioned in the column: that Vasquez "screwed up by making the parties later and later until no one wanted to go out anymore."

Bingo! An after-hours party should never last 24 hours, nor should it continue on past noon (except maybe during occasional special events when a mid- to late-afternoon closing is still considered civilized).

Are you keeping up with all this? In the immortal words of legendary velvet rope warden Gilbert Stafford (quoted in the New York Times no less), "This is why I drink so much."

### Old era gone, new era begins

But seriously folks, despite a few setbacks, I remain optimistic that our nightlife options will continue to



Star\*69 has released a new CD from maestro mixer **Oscar G**. You'll be spinning in your studio with these tunes.



[Sound Off about this article](#)



[Printer-friendly Version](#)



[E-Mail this story](#)



[Search the Blade](#)

advertisement

increase and improve. But as we head into the second month of 2004, I think some earnest reflection might help keep us on track. This was prompted in part by a friend's discovery of the retrospective website 5am Ago ([www.hyperactivemedia.com/5am/index.htm](http://www.hyperactivemedia.com/5am/index.htm)) that chronicles an unidentified author's adventures "through a decade of professional partying" at some of the most infamous gay nightclubs of the late 1970s and early '80s.



**Sexilia** was a fixture on Miami's club circuit. She will be sorely missed. (Photo courtesy of Dale Stine)

Surely as this legendary era drifted to a close there were many cynics who thought that any hope of ever rekindling such magic was gone as well. Yet Limelight, Splash, Club USA, Life, Roxy, Body & Soul, Twilo and others followed, not to mention a fertile crop of new contenders like Crobar and Spirit. While we should never live in the past, I do believe it is important and healthy to remember, respect and celebrate our heritage, no matter how seemingly trivial it may be to others.

For further evidence of the scene's vitality, head over to Arc on Jan. 30 (and every Friday night) where world-renowned DJ Danny Tenaglia and his crew will be celebrating the fifth anniversary of the "Be Yourself" party with a 12-hour dance marathon. The club may lack a liquor license and the straights usually outnumber the gays, but it's still a damn fun party for dance music purists and their admirers.

Speaking of elite musical mavens, original Saint DJ Robbie Leslie will be spinning from 3 to 6 p.m. during Heritage of Pride's Pier Dance on Sunday, June 27, followed by the circuit's new "It" DJ, Tony Moran, who will play the remainder of the event. In keeping with this column's commemorative theme, please note that Leslie's "Silver Anniversary Edition of 'Last Dance,'" a personally remastered five-CD collection of vintage tunes played during his 1979 closing party at Fire Island's Sandpiper (now known as the Pavilion), is now available at [RobbieLeslie.com](http://RobbieLeslie.com).

If you're looking for something a bit more underground — and a lot heavier — Peter Rauhofer has just released the hard-thumping double CD, "Oscar G Live @ Space," on his Star\*69 imprint. The average apartment in New York City might only be as big as the DJ booth at Miami's Club Space, where the live set was recorded, but at the right volume and with some clever manipulation of "The Clapper," you'll feel almost as if you're under the disco ball in one of the "big rooms" listening to one-half of the Murk production duo spin live.

If you like your beats hard 'n plenty, your vocals sparse, and BPMs that push the limits of acoustic endurance, you'll no doubt find this selection in heavy rotation on your personal audio system. With tracks like "Drums Control," "Rock," "Before the Storm" and "Turbulence," well, I think you get the picture.

### Every Vote Counts

It may not be as consequential as November's election (register to vote! [www.elections.state.ny.us/voting/voting.htm](http://www.elections.state.ny.us/voting/voting.htm)), but the polls are now open for DanceStar USA's American Dance Music Awards, clubland's equivalent to the People's Choice Awards. Visit [DanceStar.com](http://DanceStar.com) to cast your vote for the best in American dance music.

Awards in more than 30 categories, including Moby's nod for Outstanding Contribution to American Dance Music, will be presented at a ceremony in Miami Beach on Tuesday, March 9 during the Winter Music Conference that will later be broadcast to more than a billion viewers worldwide.

**In Memory of Sexilia**

This column is dedicated in loving memory to an incredible performance artist and friend, Pagan "Sexilia" Rivera, who passed away last week in Miami Beach. One of my favorite South Beach memories is of Sexilia performing as Cher atop a U-Haul truck in the Marlin hotel's parking lot at one of Jody McDonald's infamous roving tea dances in the early '90s.

But more poignantly, Pagan was an extraordinary human being who was as endearing as he was entertaining. While he will be deeply missed, his playful spirit and many fond memories will live on forever in the hearts of everyone whose life he touched. Donations may be made in Pagan's name at [CareResource.org](http://CareResource.org) or [SoBeAIDS.org](http://SoBeAIDS.org).

Until next time: Be Smart. Be Safe. Be Yourself.

Contact **Matt Kalkhoff** at [Matt@mattunleashed.com](mailto:Matt@mattunleashed.com)



[national](#) | [local](#) | [world](#) | [health](#) | [letters](#) | [viewpoint](#) | [arts](#) | [classifieds](#) | [real estate](#) | [about us](#)

© 2004 | [A Window Media Publication](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)