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NITE LIFE

Where the boys are

The weather says 'winter,' but the Pines heats up anyway, with a full roster of specialty nights at a reinvigorated Pavilion.

By [Matt Kalhoff](#)
Friday, May 27, 2005

I may have been a bit late to the game, having experienced my first share on Fire Island just last year, but I arrived just as Eric von Kuersteiner and his partner, Tony Roncalli, took over from the late John Whyte.

With the ink still wet on the deeds to the Pavilion, Blue Whale, Botel (now called Ciel) and other commercial properties lining the harbor (up to the Pantry), they announced their ambitious plans. True to their promise, island visitors began noticing subtle improvements almost immediately.

Cute young waiters suddenly appeared at Low Tea. Alternative entertainment options began with the "Candis Cayne Variety Hour" on Fridays. But perhaps most notable was the merciful installation of AC in the Pavilion. (Dance floor-induced heat strokes are so passé these days.)

So I didn't think twice about renewing my share this season, which kicked off last weekend in appropriately full-throttle fashion (we don't call it the Extreme Beach House for nothing). OK, maybe it wasn't that extreme (yet). But it was a good start.

Under beautiful — albeit cool — sunny skies, Saturday was spent relaxing and catching up with housemates by the pool. Eager to sip the sweet nectar of my first Planter's Punch of the season, we hit the boardwalk to make our way to the Blue Whale.

There, DJ Carlos Pedraza was emboldening his reputation by delivering just the right mix of Tea Dance tunes, despite a brief power outage. (This is the Pines.)

Next came a quick cameo at High Tea to check out the scene and see where the new portable DJ booth was set up for DJ Lina, f.k.a. Girlina. (It's near the main stairs under a series of shiny new disco balls.)

DJ Joe Gauthreaux helmed the turntables at the Pavilion later that night. He delivered a rousing set of pumping music to a respectably sized, pumped-up pre-season crowd. The \$20 door cover seemed a bit steep for so early in the season — especially in light of the cool, damp weather. But a good time seemed to be had by all.

General Manager and bartender extraordinaire Larry Bullock revealed other additions to this season's



The annual migration of hot men eastward marks the beginning of the season on Fire Island.

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lineup. Robin Byrd will be hosting a "Bulge" party on Thursday nights. I'm sure you can figure that one out for yourselves.

Daniel Nardicio has moved east from the Grove with his Friday night East Village-inspired theme parties at the Pavilion. There's also a new pizza parlor-deli in the harbor. And the gym has been expanded and relocated to a larger space. Check out <http://www.thepinesfireisland.com> for more on the sizzling summer fun (we hope!).

This must also be charity season, since almost every non-profit and community organization in town is throwing fundraising parties.

I wish I had the time and money to support them all (see page 23 for photos), but this already over-committed gal can only do so much. Still, in a post-Fire Island/"Desperate Housewives"-finale haze, I mustered enough strength to attend "Luscious 2005," a benefit concert for the Ali Forney Center on Monday at the Lucille Lortel Theatre.

An eclectic group of performers including, among others, Mistress of Ceremonies and "Downtown drag superstar" Edie, fellow Nightlife columnist Trai La Trash, Boy Meets Boy, Ari Gold and Betty graced the stage to help raise funds to provide housing for displaced gay youth. Regrettably, Honorary Host RuPaul was a no-show, alas.

While all the acts were entertaining in their own unique way, it was the outrageous gender-bending trio Da Lypstyxx that stole the show with two bouncy pop ditties reminiscent of the Scissor Sisters. In the event program, executive director Carl Siciliano wrote, "As adult members of the LGBT community, we must accept our responsibility to protect these young people. These kids need our help, and more than that, they deserve our help."

Visit www.aliforneycenter.org to learn more about this valiant effort and how you can lend your much-needed support.

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

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