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## NITE LIFE

### Sunday, bloody Sunday

The weekend DJ roster continues to confuse, 'Housewives' fill Fire Island

By [Matt Kalkhoff](#)  
Friday, September 09, 2005

These days in New York City the subway's not the only thing that you need a map to navigate. Let's review the latest DJ swaps and other shifts in gay nightlife that are redefining the landscape yet again.

Junior Vasquez, who recently celebrated his 50-something birthday with a spirited romp at Roxy (originally scheduled to take place at Spirit), may soon be taking up a weekly Saturday residency at Avalon — you know, the club formerly known as Limelight, then briefly Estate, that recently announced it was switching formats to become a live music venue. So much for that idea, I guess.

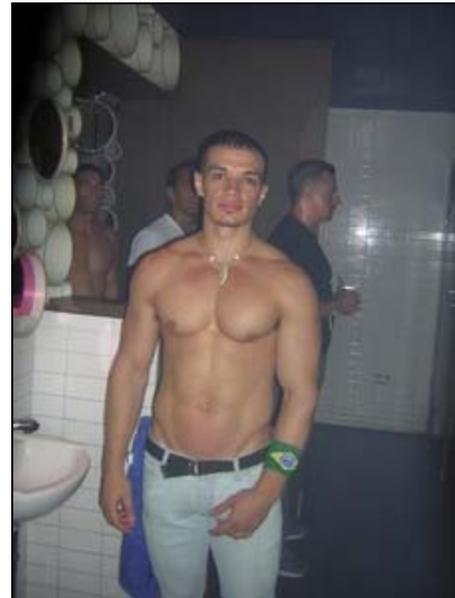
I think this is good news — if it all works out — and it's certainly exciting if the rumor that Peter Rauhofer (recent recipient of Next magazine's "Out There" award for "Scandal of the Year") will soon be resuming his bi-monthly residency at Roxy after several months of events at Spirit turns out to be true. Can you see the fur flying already?

Then there's the Sunday night showdown. As you may know, John Blair recently moved his long-running Sunday night party from Avalon to Spirit, where he took over as manager of the venue's marketing and operations. Now word comes that Marc Berkley, who used to rule Sunday nights back in the day, is resurfacing along with Ben Peraza to promote a new Sunday night party at Avalon beginning this weekend.

All this repositioning might make showing up at the right club on the right night a bit of a challenge for anyone who's not paying close attention. But these changes should, at the very least, help infuse new life into what some lament has become an unacceptably stale scene. And with summer beach retreats winding down, there should be plenty of rambunctious and recharged boys to keep all the venues hopping.

So to recap, you may now take the A (Avalon) or R (Roxy) trains on Saturdays, and either the A or S (Spirit) trains on Sundays. Watch this space for further service updates and advisories.

Somewhat less encouraging is the future of our beloved Pavilion on Fire Island. While most of Erik Von Kuersteiner and company's ongoing revitalization efforts in the Pines appear to be a success, the Pavilion's reputation may have been permanently scarred.



Labor Day weekend ended with another capacity crowd filling Crobar for Alegria. (Photo by Steve Weinstein)

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Attendance throughout the summer was clearly down, and not many weekends seemed to invoke the intensity or enthusiasm for which the legendary disco barn is famous. High cover charges — up to \$50 during some holiday weekends, and no less than \$20 even on slow, pre-season nights — surely didn't help, although they may have gotten that message considering the sensible \$20 cap at the door during Labor Day weekend.

Speaking of which, DJ Escape outdid himself this past Saturday, blowing everyone away with an exquisite mix of relentless layering and nearly non-stop high energy vocals that whipped the near-capacity crowd into the sort of communal frenzy that was all too rare this summer. Sunday night was surprisingly less busy with a conspicuously lower energy level. Yet after a slow, shaky start, Randy Bettis turned out a rousing set of classic vocals and snappy tracks that seemed to hit everyone just right.

Hopefully the owners will get the remaining operational bugs worked out by next summer, and won't be quite so stingy with the much-ballyhooed AC system.

Anyone who spent any time out on the island this summer knows it's not getting any cheaper. So it's an especially nice treat when somebody throws a good old-fashioned house party where the only cost of admittance is whatever dignity you may surrender while traversing the boardwalk in broad daylight decked out in ladies' apparel and a wig.

Special thanks to Kent Fritzel, Patrick Forrett and the rest of the Fool's Paradise gang who generously organize the annual Labor Day drag-fest for injecting another hefty dose of glamour — no matter how deliberately tragic some of the fashion and make-up may be — into the Pines community. With a theme like "Housewives: Desperate or Otherwise," well, you can just imagine the visuals parading up and down Tarpon Walk on Sunday afternoon.

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

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