



D Days

D-Days

the good, the bad, the nasty and naughty of the motor city!
by Tuesday Black and J.L. VonBuskirk

SPACED Case

Rumors circulated last week that Space, one of the area's most exotic and elaborate club concepts, had closed. But sources close to "D-Days" have opined to the contrary. "Rumors on the street that Space Nightclub in Pontiac was closing were greatly exaggerated. There was a change in management," says Chad Shumate, who told us he's taken over management duties. "The club is still open and better than ever. All the great things you expect from Space are there along with some improvements on the way."

However, just before press time, we caught wind of an email from Murray Hodgson, who's until now been a higher-up at Space, that claimed the club "no longer exists as it is known to the public." Stay tuned ...

MEDIABISTRO AT ATLAS BISTRO

"D-Days" is always pounding the pavement for good dirt, so when we got an invite to Mediabistro's third Detroit party last week, we were there. Where better to gather gossip than in a room full of media people who get paid to stay in the know?

Mediabistro is a web community for media types based in New York (www.mediabistro.com). The organization started hosting cocktail hours in Detroit late last year, and each has been more successful than the last. Last Wednesday's soiree was held at Atlas Global Bistro on Woodward in Detroit's theater district. We were stoked to finally check out the restaurant/bar that's quickly becoming the place to be before or after seeing a show. According to co-owner John Lopez, Atlas has attracted the cast and crew of touring productions like Annie, Grease and The Producers, and regulars include members of the Detroit City Council, Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick and Carmen Harlan.

During the Mediabistro event, insiders in attendance included Emilia Askari from the Detroit Free Press, Imani Brooks-Wheeler from GlobalHue, Ken Marten from the Royal Oak Mirror and Ray Wagel from the Ann Arbor Paper. Kelly Lee of www.bussbuss.com snapped photos while hostesses Fara Warner, Ellen Pagilian and Wensdy White circulated through the crowd wearing feather boas and making introductions.

Detroit's incestuous media crowd mainly talked about how to get work in New York City without having to move there and pay \$2,500 a month to live in a shoebox with eight roommates and no closets. Or, they talked about how to get

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WATCH FOR NEW RESTAURANTS

After the shop talk, "D-Days" got a chance to dish about Detroit's coming restaurant attractions with Michael Strong, restaurant critic for Crain's Detroit Business. He said we should watch for Seldom Blues in the Renaissance Center's Wintergarden, to be opened in May by Lions defensive end Robert Porcher, musician Alexander Zonjic and Frank Taylor of Sweet Georgia Brown. Strong also dropped a rumor that the Montreal Expos are trying to strike a deal to move their games to the old Tiger Stadium in order to boost attendance, although he conceded it's a long shot.

In other restaurant news, it seems popular Detroit designer Johnny 5 and perennial party promoter Khalil are opening a sushi restaurant called Crave in Dearborn. The pair threw an invite-only party last week to introduce chef Kenny Wee of New York, and preview their sushi with a twist. Are California rolls stuffed with strawberries crave-worthy? We'll find out in April. .

EATING OUT IN HAMTOWN

As hip restaurants arrive on the scene, we can't forget old standbys like the traditional Polish joints in Hamtramck. It seems they don't have to rely on high design or food fads to draw crowds. "D-Days" couldn't get a table at the Polish Village Café on Friday night, so we headed over to Under the Eagle. As soon as we walked in, retired Hamtramck Police Chief Phillip Peczeniuk, who owns the restaurant with his wife Terenia, yelled across the room for us to sit down and make ourselves at home. Waitress Kasia, dressed in old-country corset and flowered peasant skirt, served pierogi and sauerkraut to an eclectic mix of hipsters like Russ and Roger Ristau and Polish old-timers like Zielony Mezczyzna. Felt just like dinner at grandma's.

GETTING DOWN AND DIRTY

On a more romantic note, Valentine's weekend inspired a variety of events around Detroit celebrating love and sex. The most jam-packed was the fifth annual Dirty Show. Bigger than ever, the show took up four rooms in the Tangent Gallery and Hastings St. Ballroom and featured erotic, exotic and downright offensive works from what seemed like at least a hundred local artists. The whole thing was so obscene and undercover that photographs were banned, so "D-Days" used a secret camera and smuggled out the news.

The art pieces included a mosaic of President Bush composed of penis photos; sketches of Vonlee Titlow, a local transvestite currently serving time for murdering an old millionaire to pay for a sex change; and a photo of fresh bruises after breast implants called "Beauty Hurts." Spotted in the too-cool crowd were artist Gwen Joy and songstress Audra Kubat; Treas Charow from Shapes and hubby Alex; ad exec and clothing designer Jennifer Graham with her boyfriend, photographer Chris Jablonski; yogini Jannell Eagan and longtime social scenester David Brodie; and WJLB's new bigwig Dean Snyder and his leggy wife Kirsten.

If you missed the Dirty Show, you can catch Detroit's most revealing artwork in Miami or New York, where pieces from the show are set to travel next in order to expose other cities

to Detroit's down and dirty. | RDW

Keep the juicy bits and invites coming:
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