

continued from previous page

and they will come' scenario doesn't work anymore," he says. "You have to have a gimmick to get people in. Keeping it fresh and offering different perspectives will make people want to come back."

Smith agrees that "keeping it fresh" can draw in more business. "Your core clientele will always stay your core clientele," he says.

money to make money," Smith says. "Right now the economy is tough. What can you do? Think outside of the box."

Weavil says that diversity can make all the difference. "The more diverse the club, the better," Weavil says. "That is the best plan for all sorts of clubs, gay or straight or however they label themselves."



"But trying new things to shake it up a little bit can help."

He says small things like a new coat of paint and other occasional improvements can sometimes "mean everything."

"There's that old saying, 'You have to spend

Diversity, at least, is something the Carolinas can claim to have. Several female-oriented bars and clubs, like Steel Blue in Durham, Hartigans in Charlotte and Time Out Saloon in Greensboro, offer a place for lesbians and other women who love women.

Charlotte is home to Sidelines, the only gay sports bar between D.C. and Atlanta. In Greensboro, LGBT clientele can chill at The Q, an after-work dive, pre-club dive. Club Myxx, in Charlotte, caters to a primarily African-American crowd. In Columbia, community members can choose from the grungy Art Bar, the strip joint PT's 1109 or drag palace Cabaret.

Please don't stop the music

I don't know if anyone can quite say what the future might hold for gay nightlife. Arguments that the era of the gay bar is coming to an end are met with the stark reality that we still live in a time and place where queer folks aren't always accepted in mainstream society.

With the exception of a few progressive bars here and there, it seems the majority of Carolinas towns and cities still have a need for nightlife establishments where LGBT people can be open and where they can freely express themselves without fear.

Smith says he sees the future of gay nightlife in friendly competition and cooperation.

"Healthy competition can be beneficial," he says. "Even pro-football teams scrimmage against each other because it makes them stronger. We've got a great community, but it is so scattered right now."

Smith, who claims no official "home bar" for his Roxy C. Moorecox performances, says he'll continue to support all his favorite gay establishments across the Carolinas.

"I'm so grateful I get to perform in all

these different venues," he says. "I get to see everything."

Bars are like churches, Smith says. Everyone has their own little denomination — they're Methodist or they're Baptist or Catholic. At the end of the day and despite their differences, they're all Christian, he says. Like all those churches, every little bar has its own flare and charm and no one can deny how fun it can be to mix it up and head out to place you haven't visited for a while.

Is the time of the gay bar coming to an end? I don't think so. Perhaps, 40 years after Stonewall, they're just in a mid-life crisis, of sorts. Give them all a few years and there's no telling what we'll see. Until then, just keep the music, drinks, hot boys and girls and nighttime fun flowing. ▀

Q-Notes wants you... as a nightlife reporter

Q-Notes is looking for several nightlife reporters around the Carolinas. These freelance writers would be responsible for taking photos and reporting on events at LGBT-oriented nightclubs, bars and other establishments. Ideal candidates are regular-bar-goers or staff who can work on a deadline and can devote at least a few hours each month to writing short, entertaining pieces for publication in our print issues and online. And, the best part of all: *Freelance contributors get paid!*

For more information, email editor@q-notes.com.

GAYPARIS GAYLONDON GAYTOKYO GAYBUENOSAIRESE GAYROME GAYMADRID GAYBANGKOK GAYCANCUN GAYAMSTERDAM GAYPRAGUE G
 AY ZURICH GAYATHENSE GAYCAPETOWN GAYACAPULCO GAYCOPENHAGEN GAYTELAVIV GAYBARCELONA GAYSTOCKHOLM GAYBUDAPEST
 GAYSYDNEY GAYVIENNA GAYRIODEJANEIRO GAYBERLINE GAYMEXICOCITY GAYHONGKONG GAYPARIS GAYLONDON GAYTOKYO GAYBUENOSAIRESE
 SAIRESE GAYROME GAYMADRID GAYBANGKOK GAYCANCUN GAYAMSTERDAM GAYPRAGUE GAYZURICH GAYATHENSE GAYCAPETOWN GAYACAP
 ULCO GAYCOPENHAGEN GAYTELAVIV GAYBARCELONA GAYSTOCKHOLM GAYBUDAPEST GAYSYDNEY GAYVIENNA GAYRIODEJANEIRO GAY
 YBERLING GAYMEXICOCITY GAYHONGKONG GAYPARIS GAYLONDON GAYTOKYO GAYBUENOSAIRESE GAYROME GAYMADRID GAYBANGKOK GAYC
 ANCUN GAYAMSTERDAM GAYPRAGUE GAYZURICH GAYATHENSE GAYCAPETOWN GAYACAPULCO GAYCOPENHAGEN GAYTELAVIV GAYBARCE
 LONA GAYSTOCKHOLM GAYBUDAPEST GAYSYDNEY GAYVIENNA GAYRIODEJANEIRO GAYBERLING GAYMEXICOCITY GAYHONGKONG GAYP
 ARIS GAYLONDON GAYTOKYO GAYBUENOSAIRESE GAYROME GAYMADRID GAYBANGKOK GAYCANCUN GAYAMSTERDAM GAYPRAGUE GAYZUR
 ICH GAYATHENSE GAYCAPETOWN GAYACAPULCO GAYCOPENHAGEN GAYTELAVIV GAYBARCELONA GAYSTOCKHOLM GAYBUDAPEST GAYS
 DNEY GAYVIENNA GAYRIODEJANEIRO GAYBERLINE GAYMEXICOCITY GAYHONGKONG GAYPARIS GAYLONDON GAYTOKYO GAYBUENOSAIRESE
 GAYROME GAYMADRID GAYBANGKOK GAYCANCUN GAYAMSTERDAM GAYPRAGUE GAYZURICH GAYATHENSE GAYCAPETOWN GAYACAPULCO G
 AYCOPENHAGEN GAYTELAVIV GAYBARCELONA GAYSTOCKHOLM GAYBUDAPEST GAYSYDNEY GAYVIENNA GAYRIODEJANEIRO GAYBERLI
 NE GAYMEXICOCITY GAYHONGKONG GAYPARIS GAYLONDON GAYTOKYO GAYBUENOSAIRESE GAYROME GAYMADRID GAYBANGKOK GAYCANCUN
 GAYAMSTERDAM GAYPRAGUE GAYZURICH GAYATHENSE GAYCAPETOWN GAYACAPULCO GAYCOPENHAGEN GAYTELAVIV GAYBARCELONA
 GAYSTOCKHOLM GAYBUDAPEST GAYSYDNEY GAYVIENNA GAYRIODEJANEIRO GAYBERLINE GAYMEXICOCITY GAYHONGKONG GAYPARIS G
 AYLONDON GAYTOKYO GAYBUENOSAIRESE GAYROME GAYMADRID GAYBANGKOK GAYCANCUN GAYAMSTERDAM GAYPRAGUE GAYZURICH GAY
 ATHENSE GAYCAPETOWN GAYACAPULCO GAYCOPENHAGEN GAYTELAVIV GAYBARCELONA GAYSTOCKHOLM GAYBUDAPEST GAYSYDNEY G
 AYVIENNA GAYRIODEJANEIRO GAYBERLINE GAYMEXICOCITY GAYHONGKONG GAYPARIS GAYLONDON GAYTOKYO GAYBUENOSAIRESE GAYRO
 ME GAYMADRID GAYBANGKOK GAYCANCUN GAYAMSTERDAM GAYPRAGUE GAYZURICH GAYATHENSE GAYCAPETOWN GAYACAPULCO GAYCOPE
 NHAGEN GAYTELAVIV GAYBARCELONA GAYSTOCKHOLM GAYBUDAPEST GAYSYDNEY GAYVIENNA GAYRIODEJANEIRO GAYBERLINE GAYM
 EXICOCITY GAYHONGKONG GAYPARIS GAYLONDON GAYTOKYO GAYBUENOSAIRESE GAYROME GAYMADRID GAYBANGKOK GAYCANCUN GAYAM
 STERDAM GAYPRAGUE GAYZURICH GAYATHENSE GAYCAPETOWN GAYACAPULCO GAYCOPENHAGEN GAYTELAVIV GAYBARCELONA GAYSTO
 CKHOLM GAYBUDAPEST GAYSYDNEY GAYVIENNA GAYRIODEJANEIRO GAYBERLINE GAYMEXICOCITY GAYHONGKONG GAYPARIS GAYLOND
 ON GAYTOKYO GAYBUENOSAIRESE GAYROME GAYMADRID GAYBANGKOK GAYCANCUN GAYAMSTERDAM GAYPRAGUE GAYZURICH GAYATHEN
 SE GAYCAPETOWN GAYACAPULCO GAYCOPENHAGEN GAYTELAVIV GAYBARCELONA GAYSTOCKHOLM GAYBUDAPEST GAYSYDNEY GAYVIE
 NNA GAYRIODEJANEIRO GAYBERLINE GAYMEXICOCITY GAYHONGKONG GAYPARIS GAYLONDON GAYTOKYO GAYBUENOSAIRESE GAYROME GAY

You heart the world. Orbitz hearts you.
 Save \$200 on international trips with promotion code GAYPASSPORT

Book a qualifying international flight + hotel package between March 1, 2009, and April 30, 2009, for 5 or more nights for travel between March 1, 2009, and June 15, 2009, via Orbitz and instantly receive \$200 off your booking through the use of the promotion code. Limit one discount per hotel room and one promotion code per booking. See www.GayOrbitz.com for details.

