

## \*\*\* ATLANTA -- THE GAY CAPITOL OF THE SOUTH \*\*\*

While one's conception of the "Gay Capitol of the South" may differ, Atlanta certainly qualifies as a strong nominee. On a recent trip to Hotlanta, it was discovered that for the bar aficionado, one may go out nearly anytime of the day or night, any day of the week, and have a great time.

Part of the charm of the Atlanta bar scene lies in its variation. The oldest gay bar, Mrs. P's (551 Ponce de Leon) is a leather/western bar where "Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman" is shown on two TV sets every night. Mrs. P's is a mellow, cheerful place, packed on weekends and pleasantly patronized on weekdays.

For the disco dancers among you, the COUNTY SEAT at 1888 B Cheshire Bridge Road is your place. It is large, imaginatively decorated and a fun place to go on weekends if you enjoy a cast of thousands. During the week it is less crowded and more manageable.

A recent addition to Hotlanta is Stephen's Saloon (1833 Peachtree Road, NW). It is a bar bar: friendly, well planned and laid out, and with a popular Sunday brunch and drink specials. It is THE gay bar on Sundays. The atmosphere is relaxed and sociable. Your reporter predicts growing popularity for Stephen's Saloon.

As for the after work scene, the ARMORY at 836 Juniper Street reigns still. Tuesday and Thursday afternoons after work are the reputed best times to go, but we found it always well attended. A nice place to find a friend for dinner.

And for that dinner, may we suggest Gene and Gabe's (near the corner of Piedmont and Monroe). It is expensive, but good. Reservations are a must! A cheaper dinner can be had at the Home Plate, conveniently located next to Mrs. P's. And, the Pleasant Peasant on Peachtree remains a popular gay restaurant.

Another downtown bar, the ONYX (341 West Peachtree) remains a favorite of your reporter. It is convenient if you are staying downtown. Also, near downtown is the AFTER DARK BOOKSTORE, where you may find your favorite gay publications on sale.

There is currently enough competition in Atlanta among the bars to scare away cover charges and drinks remain reasonably priced. For up to date information, we suggest you get (at most any bar) a free copy of the CRUISE CALENDAR. This pamphlet, published weekly, lists bar specials and events as well as addresses and phone numbers of the bars and restaurants. It would be useful to check this out upon your arrival since the bar death rate has been so high but fortunately so is the bar birth rate.

All of these bars were predominately male. However, it is our understanding that the TOWER (735 Forrest Road) is a popular night spot with gay women.

I have not exhausted the realm of gay bars and restaurants in Atlanta, but I have hit the high spots. Ask around, consult the CRUISE GUIDE. You'll find Atlantans friendly and more than willing to tip you to the "in" spots. Enjoy it, y'all.

