



NIGHTLIFE



DID YOU EVER HAVE ONE OF those nights when you just felt restless? When the thought of going to the same bar, seeing the same faces, and listening to the same music sounded as appealing as, say, being reincarnated as Imelda Marcos' shoeshine boy? Are you a stockbroker—or a housewife—with a secret yen to spike your hair on weekends and head for a heavy metal bar?

Not to worry. Sooner or later, it happens to everybody. It's simply your psyche's way of telling you that it's time for a change of pace and place; time to shed your work skin, put a little oomph in your weekend, and broaden those social horizons. Where do you start? Right here.

For the past several weeks, we've been out on the streets of Memphis, going from bar to bar, night after night, with only one purpose in mind: to bring you a complete and up-to-date guide

to the Memphis post-sunset scene. Our intention was to produce the only guide you'd ever need, whether planning for a weekend or the entire year. Where to go, what to wear, and who—or, in some cases, *what*—you'd meet. That was our intention, and we set about this task with cheerful enthusiasm. Ah, what fools we were! If only we'd known what we were getting ourselves

into.



The Club Scene: A Grown-Ups Guide To Life In The Night.

glad. You won't have to put up with a passel of strangers moving in on your turf. But if you're one of those who's looking for a new place to cast a late afternoon shadow, think about us when you're out on the town enjoying the fruits of our labor. We'd sure appreciate the thought. They don't award a *croix de guerre* for bar-hopping, you know.

Oh well. Here's mud in your eye.

**By Frankie Frontis, David Lyons,
and Carol Penn**

We heard that scoff. You think this was one of those cushy assignments, don't you? Hitting four or five bars a night, every night for a month, and putting it all on the tab. Do you know how many juke joints, dives, lounges, and bars there are in Memphis? Do you have any idea how much practical research it took just to narrow the list to 135?

Okay. You probably saw one of us writing furtively in a dark corner of your favorite watering hole, or out on the dance floor—finally—with Mr. or Ms. Persistence. Sure, we seemed to be having a good time. That's what writers are supposed to do, right? But you didn't see us the mornings after—and there were many—when we stumbled into the office red-eyed and weary, our tongues as thick as mousse'd chinchillas under a hot Texas sun. Somehow, we managed to survive.

So, in the event that we missed the scene of some of your greatest social triumphs, don't be offended. In fact, be



DOWNTOWN

BARRISTER'S—88 N. Second. Among downtown aficionados it's considered trendy, a Marlon-Brando-doing-Cary-Grant kind of place. It's also where a lot of attorneys go to drop their legal briefs (in a manner of speaking) and take a load off their feet. For entertainment there's a small tv, a couple of video games, and an open mike on Thursday night if you want to pick and grin for tips. The menu sports sandwiches, chili, and Mrs. Jones' tamales, and the drinks are reasonable.

BILL'S TWILIGHT LOUNGE—723 N. Parkway. For the young and young-at-heart, this is the place to dance the night away. Bill's is none too fancy, but then who cares, when you can grab a beer and your honey and move to the beat of the R & B tunes supplied courtesy of a disc jockey. On weekends the place is packed, so you'd be smart to come early, especially if you intend to have a spot to park your body after shaking it. Order yourself some of their tasty eats to enjoy between gyrations.

CAPTAIN BILBO'S—263 Wagner Place. What were you drinking, Captain Bilbo? Looks as if your large, unwieldy wooden ship ran aground off the Missis-

sippi... and the crew stayed on, converting it into a spacious restaurant/lounge. This popular downtown gathering spot has the seaside ambience of a weathered pier, and a seafood menu ranging from shrimp Creole to oysters Rockefeller. Pop, R & B, and jazz bands perform almost nightly to a crowd of students, yuppies, tourists, and plenty of just plain folks.

CROWN PLAZA LOBBY—250 N. Main. You don't have to be a traveler to enjoy the sedate elegance of the centerpiece of this Convention Center hotel. Its proximity to the downtown business scene makes it a congenial place to entertain business associates or to gather for an after-work libation. Tuesday through Saturday nights live music is on hand, ranging from piano to flute.

GEORGE'S/ODI—287 S. Front. This legendary Memphis nightspot is primarily a gay hangout, but the weekend crowd often includes some "straights" as well. Female impersonators provide lavish, Vegas-style entertainment, with shows changing weekly. The menu features steaks, seafood, and other substantial main courses, and you can drink where you please—there are three bars and, in nice weather, a fourth outside on the deck. With its A-Number-One sound system and high-tech laser light set-up,

George's is a dandy place to try out your dancing shoes—or just sit and watch.

THE LOOSE END—383 N. Second. At this aptly-named nightspot, it's best to come expecting the unexpected, for that's what you'll get. This small, mobile-home-size club caters to young fans of left-of-center music, who gather for live entertainment Thursday through Sunday nights. Just order a sandwich and beer and prepare to hear most anything, from jazz to rock to new wave to bluegrass. Only one thing's for sure: it'll be loud.

LOU'S PLACE—94 S. Front. Sheltered in a building that's 182 years old, this small, dim, dark-wooded blues/jazz nightclub features a grand chandelier at the entrance, wrought iron railings, and photographs of singers and musicians. Live music attracts a mixed-aged crowd in both casual and dressy attire. Dinners of ribs, catfish, shrimp, and chicken help fill out the evening. The only games played here are in the basement, which houses a variety of arcade machines and pool tables.

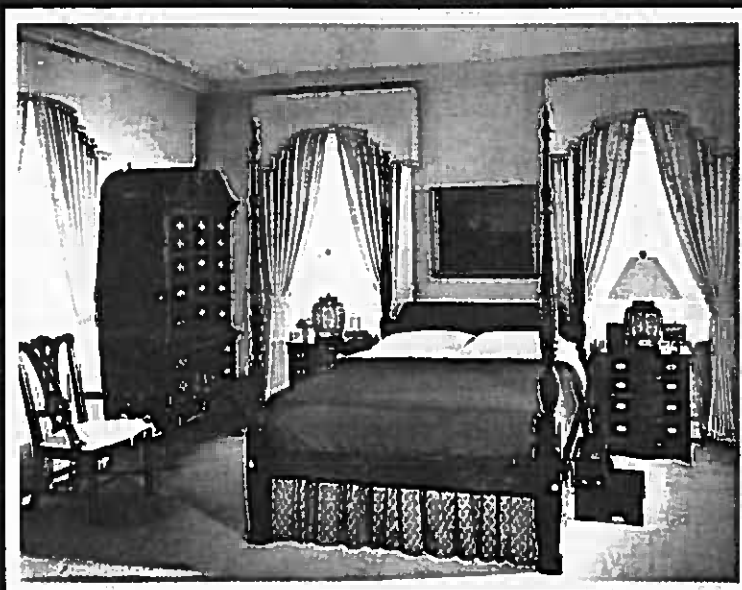
LOU'S OTHER PLACE—56 S. Front. No wrought iron railings and grand chandeliers here. The flip-side of Lou's Place is a heavily-wooded country saloon with large furnace pipes traversing the ceiling. One wall is cluttered with old-fash-

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ioned dolls, ageless wall posters, horse saddles, a fat owl, a ferocious eagle, the head of a moose, a decrepit armadillo, and more—remnants, no doubt, of Prince Mongo, the local eccentric who once operated a pizza parlor at this location. Although this club features mostly country-and-western music, jazz and R & B are offered as well.

MALLARDS—149 Union. After you've "done The Lobby Thing"—but before you go to bed—you've simply got to do Mallard's. Everybody who's anybody and then some has, judging from the photos dotting the walls. Décor-wise, it's got more black lacquer than a 1949 auto showroom and, of course, a ducky theme. Live music nearly every night caters to just about every taste.

MARMALADE—153 E. Calhoun. When reporters first discovered this restaurant/lounge on Calhoun (behind the main post office), right away they suggested it was one of the best kept secrets in Memphis. Not anymore. They started telling everyone about Marmalade's live weekend blues and R & B entertainment, their nightly, big-screen video music, and their good ole Southern cooking. Now, a well-dressed, over thirty, no-chump-change-crowd patronizes this spired, gray establishment to relish the food and music, polished walnut furnishings, wall lanterns, and balloon-decked twin lounges.

THE NORTH END—346 N. Main. The steady traffic in and out of this popular downtown establishment has done a lot to contribute to its well-worn, comfortable feeling. Like the needle on a compass, folks just can't seem to help coming back. For starters, the menu has one of the largest selections in town: plate lunches, hot and cold sandwiches, and countless meat and vegetarian dishes built around wild rice. Then, there's live music Wednesday through Sunday, a walled patio out back, and the fact that they stay open until 3 a.m. every day. If you feel your friends are trying to avoid you, just hang around The North End. Everybody seems to show up here sooner or later.

THE PEABODY LOBBY—149 Union. Had Rhett and Miss Scarlett headed for New Orleans, they probably would have stopped here for a drink. Without a doubt, this is the place to see and be seen in Memphis. Where else could you have the option to (a) sit in your tux in the very lap of Southern opulence and sip champagne, or (b) sit in your shorts in the very lap of Southern opulence and suck down a brewsky. Skeptical? Why, sometimes it's hard to tell the geeks and the gawkers from the movers and the shakers.

PLAYERS—185 Union (Radisson Hotel). Slip into this spot and you can watch

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the goings-on at one of downtown's busiest intersections from the safety of your bar stool. The cool ambience of this haven for travelers gives way to a loud and lively wingding as rush hour sets in, and downtowners scurry in; the crowd is young and the music most definitely *fortissimo*. A generous happy hour—which includes a free buffet—draws mobs, so don't dawdle about the office if you're hungry. (This place is no relation, incidentally, to Raleigh's watering hole of the same name.)

PIONEER CLUB—338 S. Front. This hotspot on the corner of Front and Vance is jam-packed and swayin' to the music. Former teenie-boppers taking their next steps forward blend with older blues enthusiasts. The real action takes place on the dance floor; they have twisting, twirling, revolving lights for songs that thump—and a large, mellow, shimmering ball for the mellower numbers. Show up in your toughest threads, or this place may burn you alive. Open Fri./Sat./Sun., 9 p.m.-3 a.m.

PYRAMID CLUB—217 Madison. Remember "walking like an Egyptian"? Well, despite this club's name, you can forget nostalgia. What we have here is the latest addition to the city's alternative music scene: dim light, black walls and ceiling, and used formica-topped

dinettes; Doris Day chiffons with jackboots and lopsided haircuts. It's almost enough to make you miss hippies. On the plus side, the live music is as good as any in town. They also hang an interesting selection of local contemporary art. Don't bother showing up before 11 p.m., and remember to cancel your morning appointments.

THE RADISSON LOBBY—185 Union. Nestled behind one of the original walls of the old Hotel Tennessee (that's what the Radisson used to be, ya know) is the lobby bar, a fine place from which to observe the hotel traffic and keep an eye on the comings and goings at the nearby Players bar. It's a splendid place to relax after the day's work—the sound of the fountains is oh, so soothing, and tucked in under those trees, you can almost forget you're in the middle of the city.

RAIFORD'S HOLLYWOOD DISCO—115 Vance. Flashing, dancing, tinted bulbs enshroud this white brick nightclub with an awning greeting that says, "WELCOME TO HOLLYWOOD." Enter, and you're suddenly immersed in a soft white interior full of glowing, colored lights racing up, down, and around the walls and ceiling. Even the white bar is laced with speeding color lights. Rolling mist and loud, studio-quality R & B and contemporary music envelopes

dancers, while mirrors add yet another dimension to the whole spectacle. And the "stars" themselves show off; you'll see white Stetsons, maroon Stacies, pink necklaces, dangling dragonfly earrings and, sometimes, a lot more.

SLEEP OUT LOUIE'S—88 Union. S.R.O. is always S.O.P. at Louie's, whether you're looking for a table or a seat at the bar. Downtown professionals in search of excellence find it here, where the bill of fare includes sandwiches, po'boys, and pasta entrées. In nice weather, the wrought-iron-enclosed patio provides an ideal spot for wining and dining, day or night. A favorite pastime here is a champagne celebration complete with a commemorative plaque. Don't let the framed neckties on the walls cause you undue alarm; they're part of an obscure ritual explained on the menu.

THE SOUTH END—16 E. Calhoun. This faded-brick, no-frills restaurant/lounge is to the South Main Historic District what its sister-club, The North End, is to the Convention Center area—a magnet for an eclectic mix of college kids, young up-and-comers, and older professionals. The folks here cook up a storm, everything from catfish to burgers to their specialty, wild rice dishes; at high noon, office workers and jeans-clad laborers pour in to raid the



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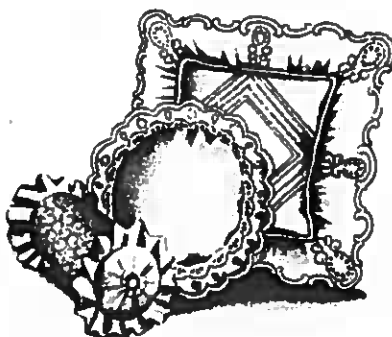
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where it gets its name: what must be the world's largest daiquiri set-up lines the wall between the two entrances. Of course, they won't force you to drink daiquiris if you prefer beer or wine coolers. This brightly-lit and whimsically-painted place is noisy and friendly and serves up sandwiches and pizza by the slice. The adjacent Blues Patio is the place to cool your heels on Friday and Saturday nights with live blues and an occasional bit of rock.

KING'S PALACE CAFE—162 Beale.

This newcomer to Beale is the only spot on the street that features jazz exclusively. Step into its sedate elegance and you'll find it hard to believe that your next-door neighbor is the boisterous Rum Boogie. The chef is from N'awlins, so the surprisingly varied menu includes both Cajun and Creole treats. Live jazz is featured every night (except Monday and Tuesday, when they are closed).

OMNI CLUB—326 Beale. Nestled in the shadow of ol' W.C.'s statue, the former Proud Mary's has a streetside patio for taking in the night air. While it's open only on the weekends, it's worth seeking out for the live R & B, which, uncontained by walls, echoes through the downtown night in all its soulful clarity.

OMNI-NEW DAISY THEATRE—330 Beale. Like its neighbor and namesake, this spot snoozes the week away and awakens just in-time to put on a royal show on the weekends. The primary musical fare here is rock—loud and plentiful. When the rafters are not rattling from the antics of the rockers and rollers, this one-time movie theatre can be rented for private windings. Incidentally, it's also the site of local boxing competitions.

MEDICAL CENTER

THE BUCCANEER LOUNGE—1368 Monroe. Picture Dorothy and Toto sipping suds in a bar. . . . That's the image conjured up by the Buccaneer Lounge, an unpretentious little woodframe house (exactly like Dorothy's) replete with walled lanterns, a large fireplace, a turn-of-the-century piano, and Frank Sinatra on the jukebox. A pool table and shuffleboard do not even jar the tranquility and snugness of this small, dim bar. Beer and sandwiches are the staple here. No mixed drinks, no loud noise and "no place like the Buccaneer Lounge."

J-WAGS LOUNGE—1268 Madison. The partying never ends here. For 24 hours a day, seven days a week, this cozy little lounge attracts casually dressed gay males of all ages. The house caps the alcohol at 3 a.m., but pop hits continue to spin on disc, pool balls roll on, and conversation is as lively as

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ever. Drag shows held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday nights. Beer busts on Saturday.

THE PIPELINE—1382 Poplar. This is a place where you'll find a relaxed bunch of thirtyish gay males sharing conversation and a friendly game of pool. The rear area of the bar houses a jukebox, an island to lean on, and a glass case featuring trophies won in motorcycle contests. Pool contests draw a large crowd and, sometimes, free pizza.

UNION PLACE—1280 Union. You might think a barn would be out of place on busy Union Avenue. But this barn houses a restaurant and horseshoe-shaped bar. Yellow lanterns and stuffed mounted quail adorn the seating area. Several tv's provide diversion, as do shuffleboard, pinball, video games, and darts.

WALL STREET DELI—911 Union. Diners at this airy streetside deli/lounge across from Baptist Hospital can view the outside world—and the Union Avenue traffic—through clear glass walls. In nice weather the patio is the place to pause for some liquid refreshment, or to order a pizza or burger. The bar serves brews and mixed drinks; they close at midnight on weekdays, later on weekends.

WESTERN STEAKHOUSE AND

LOUNGE—1298 Madison. Say, pardner, when you ride into town lookin' for a beer to settle the dust in yer throat, a no-nonsense bite to eat, and a big helpin' of good ol' country-and-western entertainment, look no further than this longtime Madison Avenue haunt. As you stroll through the door of the obscure-looking little hideaway, the first thing you'll notice (after your eyes have adjusted to the dim lights) is a Texas-size collection of glossy photos, featuring every C & W star you've ever heard of—and quite a few that you probably haven't. The stick-to-your-ribs music and food are served up in hefty portions, and they even provide a stool with a saddle, should you feel uneasy astride the more traditional bar stool or chair.

MIDTOWN

ALEX'S TAVERN—1445 Jackson. Norman Rockwell couldn't have produced a better neighborhood bar. The Fifties atmosphere is what used car salesmen call "all original"—right down to the vinyl-upholstered bar stools, juicy hamburgers, and ice cold beer. Best of all, there's not a plant in sight. Come early to check out an afternoon Cubs game on the telly and chat with the retirees who comprise many of the regulars. And, if you've got the time, stick around 'til

nine o'clock or so when the college/professional crowd takes over, and the tv gives way to what is officially the best jukebox in town, plus an occasional R & B group or acoustical soloist.

ANTENNA CLUB—1588 Madison. Whoever said you can't judge a book by its cover obviously never went to the Antenna. Such spray-painted comments on its exterior as, "go die," "slit wrist," and "anarchy in the UK," should clue you in that this is not the place to go for a wine spritzer after an evening at the symphony. It is, however, a mecca for the local alternative music lovers, a place where you fit in by *not* fitting in. Live music is on tap on the weekends, with a musical menu running from rock to new wave to R & B, plus a couple of styles that no one can quite identify. If you arrive before midnight, you'll swear that it's just a big empty room with graffiti on the walls, but show up when the joint is jumpin' and you'll find that the side shows are the main show.

CHARLOTTE'S PLACE—244 S. Cooper. "Easy to miss, hard to forget" might be the best way to describe this 30-year-old slice of Midtown Americana. The jukebox is stocked with recordings from the Big Band Era and Fifties crooners, plus a few current hits for variety. Cold beer, a jug of hot sausages, and a small selec-

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tion of sandwiches redefine the term "short order cook." They sometimes close early—around 8 p.m. or so—but don't let that stop you. Be sure to bring a friend. But, please, only one. Maximum seating is 14.

FRED'S HIDE OUT—2559 Broad. This little hole-in-the-wall spot is home to a combination of working-class types and college students who crowd in for beer and fellowship. Conversation is punctuated by the twangin' of the country music on the jukebox and the clangin' of the pinball machines. The menu features burgers, sandwiches, chili, and stew, while beer and set-ups are available at the bar. You can easily spot Fred's from the street—it's the white building with "The Beer Joint" painted in black on either side of the door. Be sure to mind the drip of the air conditioner so cleverly located above the door. If you're not expecting it, the chilly splash that connects with the top of your head is quite a surprise, and more than a little bit sobering.

HUEY'S—1927 Madison. A legend in its own time. Rockers and boppers, Volvos and toppers—you probably won't find a more eclectic crowd anywhere in town than at this Midtown mainstay. Don't let the toothpicks in the ceiling fool you. It's just part of the

therapy. In fact, Huey's is as comfortable as the proverbial old shoe—a bit worn about the edges, but who cares. And when it comes to food, their mouth-watering Huey Burgers are a tough act to follow. Live music on Sundays (jazz in the afternoon, R & B and blues at night), great tapes on the sound system the other six nights. A "don't miss" for out-of-towners looking for the "real" Memphis.

LORETTA'S MIDTOWN CAFE—1349 Autumn. Formerly Another Bar, the name and ownership has changed, but much else remains the same. Gay males come here to socialize and enjoy a variety of entertainment, including two pool tables and video arcade games. Drag shows and beer busts on Fridays and Saturdays and fish-frys on Saturdays brighten up the regular fare.

MADISON BAR AND GRILL—1680 Madison. A clean-cut singles gathering spot for the thirtysomething crowd. The bar and an adjoining kitchen take up the center floor area, flanked by hardwood benches and dining tables on two sides. Plenty of space separates diners and those who are there to hear the club's music. Attire is casual or dressy. Weekends are the time for mixing, mingling and jazz/fusion. But you'll never have to worry about getting lost in the

mix. A heavy red signpost standing in the southeast corner of the bar tells you exactly where you are—at the intersection of N. Belvedere and Madison.

MURPHY'S OYSTER BAR—1589 Madison. This longtime resident of Midtown is inhabited by a combination of Midtowners, Rhodes students, out-of-towners, and refugees from the head-banging at the Antenna—Murphy's across-the-street neighbor. Known for their support of and participation in the St. Patrick's Day Pub Crawl, Murphy's offers a pleasant retreat after work or classes for a beer and/or a game of pool. A patio out back is in the works. Live blues and rock are offered Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday nights, and occasionally on other nights, too.

P & H CAFE—1532 Madison. When it comes to down-home bars, the P & H is as comfy as your favorite pair of house slippers, and just about as glamorous. That's not to say that you won't find glamour here, however. Among its legends is Wanda, the bewigged and bejeweled proprietress and hostess, who takes good care of her customers, whether they come for a beer, a bite to eat, or a bit of conversation. At midday you can enjoy a wholesome plate lunch or perhaps an unpretentious but satisfying burger and fries combo.



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There's always an interesting parade of thespians, soccer players, journalists, and assorted others pouring in off of Madison, so if watching people is one of your hobbies, you'll be in the right place.

POPLAR LOUNGE—2563 Poplar. A real shotgun bar. Entering the front, you can see clean through this place and out its back door. Entering the back, you get a clear shot out the front door at the passing Poplar traffic. The music mix is rock, blues, country, clashing pool balls, and sometimes car horns. An occasional windshear passes through to keep the jeans-clad crowd stirred and the ice-cold beer chilled.

PRINTER'S ALLEY—322 S. Cleveland. If on occasion you like to take your pet duck, deer, or moose out for an evening on the town, this is no place to buy him a drink. Printer's Alley is a veritable Madame Tussaud's of taxidermy, and may well harbor one of your pet's long-lost relatives. Most every type of wildlife imaginable is represented here—with the omnipresent, illuminated Spuds MacKenzie nestled in their midst—all looking down on you as you drink your brew. (Combine the mirrored walls with too many beers, and you'll swear they're ganging up on you.) The regulars seem oblivious to this ersatz menagerie as they kick back for beer and country music. Above the bar hangs a sign reading, "There ain't hardly no business got around here that ain't been went out after," a thought which pretty well sums up the attitude of this cozy, blue-collar establishment.

ZINNIE'S—1688 Madison. The truly nostalgic of heart migrate to this old-fashioned street-corner tavern, where a relaxed crowd of Sixties refugees and their spiritual descendants gather to eat a sloppy joe, sip brew, and listen to soul, blues, and rock oldies. Ageless novelty signs cover the tavern's dark walls. Come here to meet long-lost pals for a real no-B.S. chat over days gone by.

ZINNIE'S EAST—1718 Madison. Though just half a block from its parent, Zinnie's, this sporty bar is clearly marked for those of a newer age. The Eighties look is reflected here through mirrors, a sooty black ceiling, compartmented seating areas, and stained-glass—and there's usually an Eighties crowd (read: yuppies aplenty) on hand to take it all in. Music spins from a next-generation jukebox; high-tech video games are available too. A patio adjoins the front entrance; drinks can be followed by a variety of tasty entrées.

OVERTON SQUARE

THE BAYOU BAR AND GRILL—2105-1 Overton Square. Authentic Cajun food is the main attraction at this cozy Mid-

town bar and grill. In fact, they consider a mallard swimming in anything but gravy a waste of good vittles. The New Orleans-style breakfast—served from midnight till 4 a.m.—is popular with the late night crowd, as is their oyster-in-beer shooters.

BOOGIE ROCK CAFE—2094 Madison. This upbeat restaurant/bar combo is one of the latest additions to the Overton Square nightlife scene. Would-be reveler/diners are greeted by glossy green walls decorated with attic odds and ends, and a barside ceiling sporting a large, colorful piece of circular stained glass. A full-service bar provides a long list of libations to accompany the kitchen's New Orleans-style cuisine. Live music Wednesday through Sunday offers blues, R & B, rock, and jazz.

THE GAZEBO/ CAFE TOULOUSE—2144 Madison (French Quarter Inn). It sounds like a strange name for a bar—until you walk in and belly up to the gazebo. Actually, one doesn't "belly up" to anything in this upscale establishment. In fact, it has as much in common with most of its neighbors as Barbra Streisand has with Madonna. But for an intoxicating night of good live jazz amid understated, New Orleans-style elegance, The Gazebo is a tough act to beat.

GONZALEZ & GERTRUDE'S—35 S. Cooper. You won't find games, live music, or Mr. and Ms. Whatever contests in this south-of-the-border-style restaurant and lounge, Gringo, just a pleasant Southwestern atmosphere. A summertime patio sets the mood for an afternoon drink or an evening dinner with your favorite amigos. The service is prompt and friendly, with a menu that almost overwhelms you with options. Their Marguerita Mondays will put a definite "Ole!" in your work week.

LE CHARDONNAY—2105 Overton Square. This dimly-lit restaurant and bar is the perfect haven for those seeking to escape the hustle and bustle of the nightclub scene. You can enjoy a relaxed meal accompanied by one of their vintage wines, or make yourself comfy in the cozy bar area and catch up on current events with an old friend—or a new one—without having to shout.

MADISON AVE—2125 Madison. This decidedly upscale fern bar has something for everyone. An ultra hi-tech dance floor for would-be Travaoltas. Video cameras recording the action—and playing it back on a big-screen tv—for the narcissists in the crowd. Plenty of singles of both sexes. And, for those who just like to complain, a sign stating "NO HATS, NO T-SHIRTS, A TWO-DRINK MINIMUM." This place has three bars to handle the business. It also has energy—lots of energy—so you'd

best make sure your Diehard has a good charge.

SILKY SULLIVAN'S OYSTER BAR—2080 Madison. Not only one of the Millington Middies' favorite ports-o'-call, but also home port for a lot of young landlubbers. This Overton Square veteran will redefine the term "party hearty" for you with a floor-shaking evening not soon forgotten. If you don't think you're up to it, try the concoction they brew in a (gulp) bucket. If that doesn't get your internal transmission out of neutral, give up. If it does, you'll probably need a tow.

YOSEMITE SAM'S—2126 Madison. Slip into high gear for this one. In fact, life in the fast lane is a necessity for fans of this Overton Square mainstay: it's only open Wednesday through Sunday. Still, they manage to do just fine on the limited diet. With plenty of beer and canned dance music, a frat party atmosphere prevails.

MID-EAST/MSU

THE BLUE PELICAN—557 S. Highland. If you ordered a college-crowd bar in a plain brown wrapper, this MSU-area hangout is probably what you'd get. Never mind the three R's—the emphasis here is on the three C's: clean, cozy, and casual. The *specialty de maison* is the Pelican Burger (no, that's just what they call it), a half-pound of ground that practically stews in its own juices. Combined with one of their many varieties of beer, it will leave your taste buds crying for an encore.

THE DAILY PLANET—3439 Park. Don't expect anything fancy. The last time this place was slapped with a paint brush, Superman was still prime-time tv viewing. Instead, the emphasis is on music—and plenty of it. Some of the best (and least) known local names in blues, R & B, and rock take the stage Wednesday through Sunday. As a bonus, you'll find a well-rounded group of faithful followers and a good selection of tavern treats in both liquid and solid form.

GARIBALDI'S—3530 Walker. The quintessential college hangout, this pizza parlor provides a haven for many an MSU compatriot. The atmosphere is worn and comfortable, much like a favorite easy chair, with the clientele including all manner of scholars—from English majors to law students and jocks to undecideds. With video games, a well-stocked jukebox, and a wide range of domestic and imported beers, Garibaldi's provides a comfy retreat for the weary academic, within walking distance of the campus.

MIDWAY CAFE—3378 Poplar. A congenial stop-off spot to break up the end-of-the-workday trip from downtown to the

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suburbs—or vice versa. You can hold forth at the bar, cozy up in the privacy of a booth, or in nice weather, perch on the patio out front. The kitchen serves lunch and dinner, with menu selections running from steaks, and home-style vegetables, to munchies. Sunday nights bring live music to the Midway, courtesy of the Settlers and Good Question. Second location—2825 S. Mendenhall.


NEWBY'S—539 S. Highland. An MSU party house going *bananas* with high-spirited banter, raw enthusiasm, rock-and-roll, and the sheer number of young folks usually on hand to participate in mass camaraderie. The less enthused can find comfort in an adjoining seating area, while the more discreet can take refuge in a walled dining booth, or better yet, the wooden phone booth that stands off from the main floor. Mixed drinks, cold beer, and lots of appetizing entrées served by zooming waitresses. If you can't hang with the tennis-shoed, t-shirted crowd, you probably ought to go where things are a little more down to earth.

POOR RED'S—851 Loeb. The more Memphis changes, the more this place stays the same. The regulars—from salesmen to softball teams—wouldn't have it any other way. Randy, the owner, tends a full-service bar. For entertainment, there's big-screen tv, two jukeboxes, and video and pinball games. The kitchen serves up a no-nonsense variety of munchies, steak dinners, and plate lunches. Live music on weekends and a free pitcher of beer for softball teams—after the game, guys.

DR P TRACKS—3547 Walker. You might think this sleepy-looking tavern would snooze into oblivion. But don't be deceived. The rumble from the nearby Southern Avenue tracks takes a back seat to live entertainment three nights a week. While pool balls are a-rolling at one end of this country hut café, rock music pulses to the beat of the passing trains at the opposite end. Despite being a little off the main track, it's definitely on track entertainment-wise.

FRYAN'S OYSTER BAR AND GRILL—551 S. Highland. A fresh-smelling, clean-looking oyster bar? You betcha. And a variety of draft and bottled beers are on hand for those who prefer washing them down (the oysters, of course) to chewing. This new addition to the MSU-area caters to students, workers, and hard-nosed oyster lovers. Interior red brick walls, a glossy, pine-top bar, and petite dining tables and chairs provide a pleasant respite from classes and other workaday woes.

SSIR LAPS-A-LOT—535 S. Highland. This is the city's oldest comedy house. National circuit-riders pass through here weekly, performing stand-up com-




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edy, juggling, music parodies, x-rated stuff, and more. There's a full bar, and the seating area offers patrons a good view of the stage. Word of caution: Order your eats thirty minutes before show time, unless you're coordinated enough to chuckle and chew at the same time. Open Wednesday to Sunday, with two shows on Friday and Saturday nights.

THE VARSITY INN—762 S. Highland.

MSU students huddle here for games and good times: jukebox music, tv, shuffleboard, pool, and a video arcade. An unfinished wood interior and coarse wood furnishings give the appearance of a rather rough play house. Several old-fashioned, high-back benches allow ample seating. Live rock on weekends. Beer and mixed drinks served. Tipplers, try not to knock over the coin-operated breath analyzer.

POPLAR CORRIDOR

BELMONT GRILL—4970 Poplar.

There's no brass and no hanging plants in this unpretentious little tavern, but it attracts its share of the fern bar crowd nonetheless. A mainstay of the Poplar Corridor scene, the Belmont is a longtime favorite with yuppies and other white-collar types—plus a few college students—who pile in for beer, burgers, and b.s. with their buddies. The place can be noisy on weekends, when there's often a wait for a table or a seat at the bar. But after you've spent a lively Saturday evening here, you can finish off the weekend in fine fashion with live jazz and brunch on Sunday.

BENNIGAN'S—5336 Poplar. There's no better way to unwind after eight hours in the adult world than to drape that necktie or string of pearls over the rearview mirror and surround yourself with childhood memories. Checkered tile floors and doodads dating back to Granny's birthday help set the mood in this trendy nostalgia restaurant/bar. The menu offers more choices than a Democratic primary.

CIRCLE CAFE—680 W. Brookhaven Circle. While the weathered wood décor lends a kid's clubhouse atmosphere to the place, you won't find any "no girls allowed" signs over the door. What you will find are chalkboards heralding the daily specials, plus such ever-popular staples as Maryland crabcakes and oysters. Live music Wednesday through Sunday nights, with selections ranging from R & B to rock-and-roll (the latter circa Fifties, Sixties, and early Seventies). On the weekends expect wall-to-wall humanity, young and spirited.

HYCITERA—4730 Poplar. You say you're between 21 and 25 and going off Clearasil cold turkey? You say you're ready to chuck those teenage training

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wheels and have some fun? Well, put away those teddy bears. There's no better place to cast your social bread upon the water than this fashionable junior hi-tech fern bar. For those needing a little assistance with their first social statements, there are contests guaranteed to cure *anyone's* terminal shyness—Miss Wild Thing for the *mademoiselle*, Hard Bodies for the *monsieur*. Sure beats the heck out of ballroom dancing, doesn't it? A dj orchestrates the high-tech dance floor, video cameras, and big-screen tv's. Three bars supply the refreshments, including dollar beer from 8-10 p.m. on Tuesdays. They even have a non-alcohol night set aside for teens. So what are you waiting for already?

THE HALF SHELL—688 S. Mendenhall. Is it their steak sandwiches? Their seafood offerings? Their handy location, just off Poplar? *Something* about this casual restaurant/bar has made it a top choice among Out East types, both young and not-so-young, for a long time. You can stake out your territory at the bar, where you can see and be seen, or tuck yourself away in the seclusion of a booth for business talk or simply a bit of quiet conversation.

THE SPORTS PAGE—764 Mt. Moriah. The Sports Page turns to full-house action when televised sporting events are on tap; rabid fans create most of the entertainment with their jeers and cheers. The ruckus is usually evenly divided whether the competition is between the Lakers and Pistons, 49ers and Bengals, or Yankees and Red Sox. A big-screen tv and several smaller ones dot the restaurant/bar, giving dining fans a full view of the action. Mixed drinks, beer, wine, and food served.

GERMANTOWN/EAST

THE BOTTOM LINE—1817 Kirby Parkway. The closest thing to a neighborhood bar east of the I-240 loop. You'll be comfortable in cowboy boots or brogans, flats or heels. No loud music, no contests. Just a warm, woody atmosphere where you can relax, after work or any time. Live music on summertime Sundays.

BREEZES—939 Ridge Lake Blvd. (Omni Hotel). Ready to be pampered? A mauve and beige color scheme sets a cool and airy mood for this sleek lobby bar. Extra-high ceilings with full-length windows, inlaid glazed marble, and elegantly upholstered armchairs arranged in twos and fours form an appropriate backdrop for anything from high romance to a hostile takeover. On Friday and Saturday evenings, you can brush up on those seldom-used slow dance moves with live jazz and blues.

THE COCKEYED CAMEL PUB—5871 Poplar. The hint of Casablanca is unmis-

MON., JAN. 25	025/341	TUES., JAN. 26	026/340
8 <i>Staff meeting</i>		8	
8:15		8:15	
8:30		8:30 <i>Sales meeting</i>	
8:45		8:45	
9 <i>Annual Report DEADLINE!</i>		9	
9:15		9:15	
9:30 <i>Meet w/ boss</i>		9:30	
9:45		9:45	
10 * <i>Have mammogram</i>			
10:15			
10:30 <i>Meet w/</i>			
10:45 <i>marketing dept.</i>			
11			
11:15			
11:30			
11:45			
12 <i>Lunch w/</i>			
12:15 <i>client</i>			
12:30			
12:45			
1			
1:15 <i>Call Mr. Jones</i>			
1:30 <i>re: decision</i>			
1:45			
2			
2:15			
2:30 <i>Call Bobby's teacher</i>			
2:45 <i>578-3378</i>			

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for a long wait: the regulars never show up before 11 or so.

SHERROD'S—1725 Pinebrook. Call this nightclub Pompous. Call it Uppity. Or call it Seddity. Whatever, you'll want to don a jacket and tie or the latest fashions to enter the doors of its grand, columned brick building. Located in what was formerly Zeta Restaurant, this new club is fast becoming a top style setter on the Memphis black nightclub scene. Urban contemporary, jazz, stylish dress, expensive imports, and black yuppieism (or at least the pretensions to such) flourish here. Something special featured every night.

THE VAPORS-BAD BOY'S—1743 E. Brooks. An evening at this dine-and-dance club is like dancing the night away at Shea Stadium. Folks, this place is big—and packed solid, from mid-afternoon into the wee hours of the morning. Dance your socks off and otherwise express yourself, or sit and sip and watch everybody else. The folks here can be politely persistent, so all you wallflowers better pack your dancing slippers.

RALEIGH/FRAYSER

CHANCES—2857 Austin Peay. If you yearn to relive your *Saturday Night Fever* days, this is the place to do it. Experience déjà vu as you dance beneath colorful flashing lights and the ubiquitous mirror ball suspended above the dance floor, while the disc jockey spins dance records at a volume that would make the airport complain. This is a place where waitresses serve up drinks adorned with cherries skewered on those cute little red plastic swords, and where someone is liable to sidle up next to you and ask you what your sign is. Should you seek respite from the dance fever, there's a game room stocked with pool tables and video games.

THE DYNASTY LOUNGE—3683 N. Watkins. Faded jeans and t-shirts are the order of the day at this popular Frayser bar, located in a shopping center. For entertainment there's pool, video games, country-and-western music and, of course, beer drinking. The folks here are more likely to strike up a conversation with a stranger than ignore him, so don't be shy. You're as safe here as in your mamma's arms.

HARPO'S—4210 Thomas. The sign out front says "Open 25 Hrs" and the parking lot resembles the aftermath of an auto remnant sale, but don't let that stop you. Just hit the front door with a loud "Yeee-hah!" and jump right in. The roadhouse mystique here is genuine right down to the sawdust-covered floor.

HASTINGS PLACE—3338 Austin Peay. The most attractive feature of this establishment is that it plays music that

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you don't have to yell to be heard above. In other respects, it's like most suburban watering holes: lots of brass, artificial greenery, a large screen television, and a collection of collegiate flotsam and jetsam on the walls—and let us not forget the requisite video trivia game on the bar.

LEWIS' NIGHTCLUB—2955 Overton Crossing. One of the better lit, friendlier bars in the area. A 30-and-up gathering comes here to dine, socialize, play pool, guzzle beer, and pat their soles to jukebox Honky-Tonk. A great place for men who tuck their Lucky Strikes inside diamond patterned socks. Open 'til around 2 a.m.

MILLER'S CAVE—2615 Overton Crossing. When you look up "honky tonk" in the dictionary it says, "see 'Miller's Cave.'" A fib, you say? Well, only a white one. This place is indeed the place to go for a rip roarin' evening of drinkin' and dancin'. You can swig your beer at the bar and hash over the day's events with your compadres or indulge yourself in some pool, pinball, or video games. Friday and Saturday nights bring live entertainment which runs from country, to rock, to pop.

MUGS DART PUB—4396 Raleigh-LaGrange. This popular Raleigh after-hours club draws a large and diverse

contingent of local revelers. In fact, it's not unusual to find pert prom queens at the bar rubbing elbows with wrench-toting bikers. A large dance floor in the center usually gets a good workout from midnite 'til, with heavy emphasis on the "til." Two separate areas provide ample room for polishing up your pool cue repertoire or tossing a few darts. Blond walls and furnishings give the place a well-polished look.

SUMMER AVENUE

JOYCE'S PLACE—4310 Macon. The proprietors of this bar apparently don't believe in taking any chances. Perhaps that's why they have rules posted to cover just about anything that might arise. There are rules against gambling and taking beer off the premises, and another edict requiring patrons to wear shirts and shoes. These rules share wall space with a Rebel flag and lots of signs promoting various brands of beer. Thursday night pool and Tuesday night shuffleboard tournaments draw a fair-sized crowd of onlookers and contenders. A wall of video poker machines keeps more than a few folks busy.

SHIRLEY'S OVERTIME INN—4497 Summer. Time was when you could develop a good case of paranoia sitting at the bar of this club, what with all of

those mounted animals on the walls giving you that peculiar marble-eyed stare. Well, now Shirley's has retired the menagerie, except for one deer's head. They've also gussied up the place and slapped on a fresh coat of paint. Some things stay the same, though, as the country-and-western standards on the jukebox play on and on. The generous happy hour features \$1 brew to keep you hydrated while you shoot pool or shoot the breeze.

SUMMER PLACE LOUNGE—3379 Summer. Visitors to this windowless Summer Avenue landmark don't pull into a parking space, they back into it. Inside, it's *nouveau rustique* with weathered wood and extra thick carpets. A late night dj plays your favorite rockabilly and C & W tunes 'til the cows come home. The sign behind the bar lays out the rules: "NO COLORS, NO HARLEY T-SHIRTS, NO TANK TOPS, NO CHAIN WALLETS." Got it? **SWEET'S 4 X 4 LOUNGE**—3103 Summer. The theme of this bar should be obvious from the name. If you still don't get the idea, check out the walls lined with auto show trophies and 8 X 10 glossies of airborne four-wheel-drive trucks. Large windows and lots of gleaming woodwork provide the backdrop for a brief respite after an evening

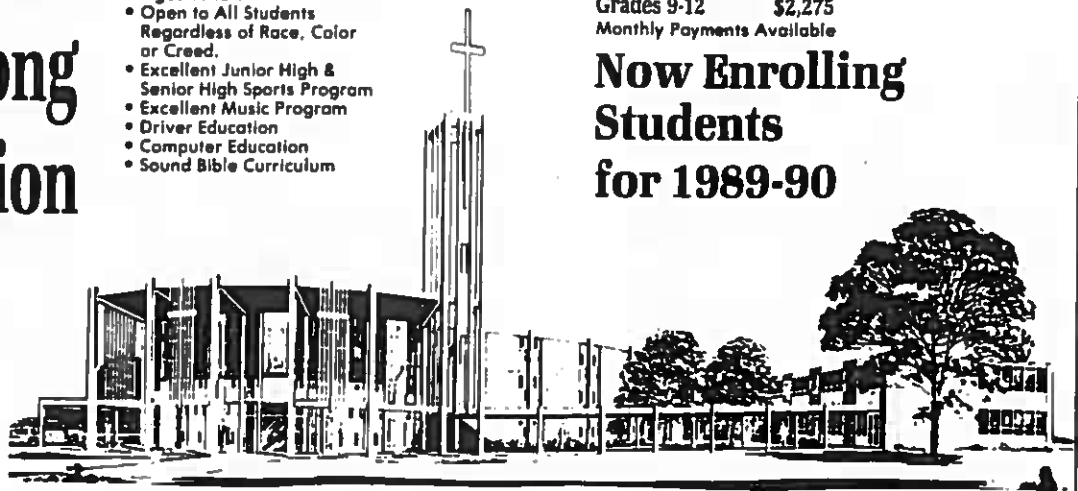
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at the tractor pull. Baseball caps and T-shirts are *de rigueur* here. Five coin-operated pool tables and a bank of video games provide most of the entertainment, while a full-service bar supplies the fuel in a variety of octane ratings. A large, low-lit dance floor in the rear offers a congenial spot for getting better acquainted.

SOUTHWEST

CLUB 306—645 E. Georgia Ave. This nightspot, adjoined to New Club Paradise, snares the passerby with flashing, pulsing exterior lights. Once past the security frisk, you enter a red-carpeted and black- and red-curtained world, complete with a filling of soft-white, spongy chairs. Multicolored interior lights beam, twinkle, race, and prance to driving R&B music, while sparkling wall mirrors reflect the entire scene. Despite the glitzy décor of the club itself, many of the patrons are much less formally attired: sneakers, jeans, cut-offs, and an occasional "gangster cap" twisted to the side.

CLUB UNIQUE—2332 Elvis Presley. When the rooster crows, the crowd here is just preparing to roost. Night owls, insomniacs, and other creatures of the night linger on here until 5 a.m., reveling in R&B and jazz. Dim lighting and a brown and tan décor produce a down-to-earth, soothing effect with plenty of room. Narcissus would have loved this place for its large, walled-sized mirror. Live entertainment and dancing for the mature (30s and 40s) and fashionably dressed, coupled with a modest décor, create a slight air of sophistication.

HAWK—685 Danny Thomas Blvd. This hawk's definitely on the prowl, as an older crowd looking to party gathers at this R&B and blues club. Inside, a dark, heavy-beamed ceiling and dark walls of wood and brick create a kind of nocturnal cavern. Dance floor action comes to a bump-and-grind when the dj is really hot. *Not* the best place for fans of Michael Jackson or bubble gum pop. And rappers need not even apply.

KING RIDER'S LOUNGE—1940 S. Lauderdale. Owned and operated by the King Rider's Motorcycle Club. This is where club members park their flashy, 1200cc choppers for a roaring good time. On Friday nights, the Riders throw big beer busts in this spacious, brick party hall. A dj plays R&B and soul oldies, while a large, free-spirited, mixed-aged crowd heats up the dance floor. The lounge is rented out on Saturday nights. No need to look real tough here; just know how to party like the devil.

L.H.'S LOUNGE—931 S. Third. Home-style cooking is the main business of

this restaurant/lounge. But on Saturday nights, the restaurant and two adjacent wings open up full blast to a dj spinning blues and R&B. There's red-and-black painted brick inside and out, with large mirrors inside. Ladies in high-heels and full dresses rock the dance floor with men sporting flashy hats and big cars.

NEW CLUB PARADISE—645 E. Georgia Ave. Once the mecca for Memphis' black nightclub entertainment, this newly refurbished club is now mostly in the business of booking big name blues and R&B artists. Stars like Johnny Taylor, Bobby Rush, Bobby Bland, Tyrone Davis, and Little Milton pass through here often enough to be treated like home boys. Tune in to WDIA (AM-1070) or WXSS (AM-1030) for information about upcoming shows.

TOUCH OF CLASS—1185 S. Bellevue. A mostly young, R&B and rap crowd turns out here for all-the-way live, hip-swishing dance action. When the dj plugs into the likes of Curtis Blow, bodies seem to almost catapult out of the red-covered lounge tables and chairs surrounding the dance floor. An upstairs lounge provides an overhead view of the dance action below. Dance contests held on Thursday and Sunday; Disco Nite on Saturday.

SOUTHEAST

CARLOS O'MALLEY'S—2860 South Perkins. This East Memphis favorite has the same dark paneling and Tiffany lamps that are trademarks of the fraternity of dimly-lit, suburban singles bars. An interesting ritual takes place here: when an unescorted woman enters, 99 percent of the guys at the bar do the ol' swivel neck. Well, the atmosphere is pleasant enough, and the food—typical SSS fare (that's soup, salad, and steaks)—is quite good. If you opt for fresh air, you can enjoy your repast on the patio which, by the way, is far enough from the street that you can carry on a conversation without the use of megaphones.

CHATS—2625 Thousand Oaks (Marriott Hotel). When the hubbub of Kicks (also in the Marriott) gets to be just too, too much, you can always step across to Chats, the hotel's lobby bar. Upholstered armchairs and love seats are arranged for quiet conversation and a relaxing drink. Live music is provided by a jazzy singer playing a baby grand piano. A definite mellow out spot.

CHILSEA STREET PUB—Mall of Memphis. For those weary souls who have "shop 'til you drop" significant others, this bar—patterned after a British pub—is a welcome haven. It also provides, incidentally, the most painless way to enjoy ice skating; you just sit rink-side and

watch the pratfalls (from the adjacent Ice Capades Chalet) in comfort. If that's not enough to keep you occupied, there's also a menu of sandwiches, soups, and munchies, plus live entertainment every night except Sunday.

CLUB EXPO—4069 Lamar. This warehouse-size nightclub is one of the city's most popular spots for young R&B and Rap lovers. The get-down crowd gathers here on weekends, dressed in everything from cut-offs and tennis shoes to high heels, from a mod jumper to a suit and tie. The dj jams with the likes of Keith Sweat, while feverish dancers fire up the club's two large dance floors. The automobile pecking order here is: late model Corvettes, sporty Camaros, Suzuki Samaras, and then all the others—just so long as they have scoops, spokes, or fancy rims. Getting in and out of the crowded parking lot at 5 a.m. on Sunday is a nightmare at dawn.

COMEDY HOUSE CAFE—4095 American Way. From the parking lot, the Comedy House looks like any other store front in this little strip of suburban businesses. But once you get inside and hear the sound of laughter, you know exactly where you are: one of those places where people get up on stage and try to say things to make your drink come out your nose. And the comedians here often succeed at it, too. This newcomer to the nightclub scene features comedy acts Wednesday through Sunday nights, with two shows on Friday and Saturday nights.

HORSEFEATHERS—2490 Mt. Moriah (Ramada Inn). This lively hotel watering hole is clearly geared toward the upscale crowd, what with polo mallets on the wall and brass objects d'yuppie scattered about. The centerpiece is the large bar, or perhaps it's the big-screen tv, depending on your priorities. Pounding rock and pop music pours out of the speakers—swallowing the crowd and their conversations clear out into the corridor. There's non-stop dancing here, as well as a variety of special events. For a quieter time check out Horsefeathers Café across the hall.

EAST END GRILL—5343 Knight Arnold. While it has many of the trademarks of most suburban bars—wood paneling, stained glass, Tiffany lamps, and such—the East End Grill is actually a solid neighborhood pub that gives you the feeling that everybody knows everybody. Patrons gather under the dark wooden beams (from which hangs what must be the largest assemblage ever of caps) and discuss the world at large over beer and munchies. The atmosphere is decidedly cheerful and laid back, whether you perch at the bar and keep an eye on the tv, or loll about on the patio

and try to ignore the Knight-Arnold-Mendenhall traffic rushing by.

WILLIE'S PUB—3500 South Mendenhall. Look for the purple door—otherwise, you just might miss this little hole-in-the-wall establishment. The fanciest feature is the lava lamp, but the atmosphere is pleasant, and the regulars are friendly and talkative. Beer and set-ups are the order of the day, and the kitchen serves sandwiches and munchies for you to graze through as you mix with the workaday crowd.

ROCKS—2625 Thousand Oaks (Marriott Hotel). Don't look for video games and coin-operated pool tables. This upscale lounge sets a different pace for fun and games. Miles of brass fixtures, acres of mirrors, and lots of potted plants set the tone for the evening. A dj orchestrates a dance floor featuring lots of lights that flash and whirl to the beat of current and not-so-current hits. Helium-filled balloons hug the mirrored ceiling. The smoke being blown by the yuppies and yuppettes—after all, this is prime flirting territory—will have you wondering why they need a smoke machine under the stage. Jeans, t-shirts, and sneakers are turned away at the door.

NEW FRONTIER—3096 Lamar. A cheerful, upbeat spirit prevails in this R&B nightclub. Lively, fashionably-dressed patrons in their 20s and 30s juke on the club's polished wooden dance floor—while overhead lighting casts an assortment of brilliantly colored rainbows. A low black ceiling gives this large, crowded lounge an even more expansive look. A soulful place to party, without fear of running into the teenybopper set.

NIGHT MOVIES—3659 Mendenhall. With a theme for every night of the week, the name of the game at this popular singles nightspot is "action." There's Bop Night, a couples' "Wild Thang" dance contest, the Miss Night Moves Bikini contest, and Ladies Night Out. Despite its impressive size, you'll probably have a hard time finding a place to sit—but don't despair. A large dance floor and three bars upstairs and down provide plenty of opportunities to rub elbows while you're on your feet.

WILLIE MOFFATT'S—2528 Mt. Moriah. There's a dj and a dance floor—need we say more? Actually, this animated bar is a good spot for drinks, dancing, and high-decibel conversations. For those seeking some measure of solitude, a covered patio provides the ultimate getaway on balmy evenings—and a perfect place from which to thumb your nose at Mt. Moriah's logjammed commuters. Willie Moffatt's also has two other locations at 1580 Sycamore View and 4542 Poplar.