



# WINTER PARTY

beyond the border  
with DJ Pagano



March 1, 2007  
Volume 7 Issue 9

ASHEVILLE • DIAMOND DUNHILL • LA BONNE CRÊPE  
[www.the411mag.com](http://www.the411mag.com)



## FROM THE EDITOR

# WINTER PARTY!

The Anti-Circuit Circuit Party

**T**HE CIRCUIT, AS IT IS CALLED, represents true liberation for many gay men. It's a concept that takes hold in various venues and locales throughout the world. The soundtrack is a rolling tribal bass line. The landscape is an endless savannah of glistening shirtless specimens on the hunt for the perfect spot on the dance floor, the ideal companion for a grind, or some alteration of mind and body. Optimally, the scene represents complete freedom. Stand in the corner and watch the herds walk by. Go crazy with your arms in the air, raving and thanking your maker for the breath of life! Chain smoke menthols outside and challenge your new friend with capital cities of the world. Anything goes.

The circuit contains a certain stereotype of our gay culture. It is a refuge of continuous intake for out-comers. Despite being seven years gay, however, my first circuit experience wasn't until about a year ago. I was too proud to venture outside of where the light touches. I felt as though I was above the grazing, feeding, and other animalistic behaviors I associated with the scene. While I love house music, I felt the tribal circuit sound to be beneath my educated ear. But sometimes it's okay to have an experience that doesn't represent exactly how you define yourself. Sometimes it's okay to immerse yourself in something unfamiliar and uncomfortable. Sometimes there's liberation in that. A truly fun person can have fun no matter what he's doing or where he is if he really wants to. A truly secure individual is comfortable exploring what he isn't in order to more clearly define what he is. You can't know what yin looks like unless you have a hard look at yang. These realizations brought me to last year's White Party Palm Springs.

And I had fun. A lot of fun. I met some great people, some of the most emotionally liberated and entertaining souls who make up my current roster of very dear friends. (And yeah, I

did actually chain smoke menthol cigarettes while playing the capitals of the world game outside the closing party – I'm a dork like that.) While I'm certainly not a human billboard for circuit parties, I do think that it's fun to let down all 1 1/2 inches of my hair, shut the eff up, and just have fun being an utterly stereotypical, carefree gay. I think everyone should try it even if just once.

South Florida is home to two of the biggest events of the remaining classic circuit: Winter Party and White Party Miami. So it's no secret that the men of our region love to take their shirts off, and forget about everything at all hours of the morning, noon, and night. Winter Party, however, is in a class of its own. As a newcomer to the area, I am intrigued by the diversity of its events. In addition to the traditional circuit fare, Winter Party features junctures catered for women, lovers of the arts, athletes, and even youth ages 13 to 20. Every last homo should be able to find a way to celebrate life in Miami this week at our anti-circuit circuit party.

This week's 411 features an interview with Sicilian DJ Pagano who will be mixing a soundtrack for your milkshake at the festival, as well as a primer on the dance events taking stage in Miami over the next few days. We're also dishing up the lowdown on Las Olas eatery La Bonne Crêpe. Initiating our monthly Get Outta Town travel column, we'll tell you what we found out about destination Asheville. Plus, we've begun an exciting partnership with Mark's List ([jumpmarkslist.com](http://jumpmarkslist.com)), working together to report the most alluring images from events throughout South Florida for our Seen@ pages.

Until next week, feel your pulse and make sure you're alive. If you are, do something about it!

**Patrick Steven Waechter can be reached at [psw@the411mag.com](mailto:psw@the411mag.com).**



## COVER

BY PATRICK STEVEN WAECHTER

HOUSE  
MUSIC.

AL  
DENTE!

THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S WINTER Party is "beyond borders." The double entendre seems to refer to both borders within the fortress of the gay community and the borders separating the fortress from the rest of the world. Lineups of gay DJs can often be a continuous repetition of the same sensationalized bills. This year, Winter Party features a lot of new names, faces, and sounds to break down those borders for breaking it down on the dance floor. This year's parties feature DJs from gay fortresses all over the world.

We were fortunate to get some time with the refreshingly articulate and devastatingly handsome record producer/DJ Pagano , who will be gracing the 1s and 2s at the Cruising Altitude party at Space, Friday, March 2, 10 p.m. - 7 a.m.

**411: Where are you from originally?**

**DJ Pagano:** I was born in Sicily in the town Catania where Mount Etna is, the biggest active volcano in Europe.

**What's it like to grow up gay in Sicily?**

The contrary to what most people think. Italy might be where the pope resides, but the biggest part of the Italian economy is the fashion industry, which is run by gay people. Without gay people, there is no fashion, and without fashion, Italy is just wine and pasta.

**Are you seeing anyone?**

Yes, for almost 3 years now. He's actually really cute because every time he comes to the place where I'm working, he stays in the booth for as long as my set is. The only time he didn't is when I played a seven-hour set at Here Lounge in L.A.

**When did you start deejaying?**

I started when I was about 16 at the school Sunday afternoon disco. I'm headed for my 31st birthday, so that was almost 15 years ago. I started to play gay clubs when I was 19.

**What songs always get everyone shaking on the floor?**

In Europe right now, everything goes. At the moment, though, a track that is doing quite well is the one by D.Ramirez, "La Discotec." I just released a track with Chus and Ceballos that is doing quite so well called Pagano "Marvellous." Even Junior Vazquez is said to have the track.

**Where do you find the best music?**

I have been shopping more and more on the internet. As much as I love vinyl, when you go to a shop, there have been so many people choosing the record for you. The producer, the label, the guy who owns the shop... so the selection of the shop is so limited compared to the internet. Juno is a great shop for buying MP3 or vinyl at the moment.

**Some people think that the tendency away from vinyl is bastardizing music. What do you think?**

When I play a vinyl versus a CD or MP3, the vinyl sounds warmer. You can feel it. But before, when you wanted to create a track that you wanted to produce, there weren't many ways to get it out there. Nowadays, when I create something, I test it straight away and I'm able to go into the studio and fix the things that don't work.



**What's your favorite party?**

When I'm working, I've had lots of fun at Industry in San Francisco. In London, Heaven is really fun because the crowd is really mixed. There are all different types of gay people and their straight friends, people of all different ages. It's fun because it's a really cosmopolitan atmosphere. As a customer, I have very fond memories of Space in Ibiza. I notice that I wish some clubs wouldn't book me because then I can't experience it anymore. It ruins it. I still believe people go to a club to lose their inhibitions. If you work somewhere, it's hard to lose your inhibitions.

continued on next page

**Who is your favorite DJ?**

Everyone who is creative. I don't like DJs when you know exactly what they're going to play. Let's just say I dislike predictable DJs.

**What is your least favored thing that you encounter as a DJ?**

I really don't like people who make requests. The way I see it is—this isn't school disco night. I have issues with straight girls in gay clubs who ask me for R&B at the house night. "I'm sorry, I can't do that." Actually, it doesn't piss me off. It makes me laugh so much. You wouldn't go to hear Metallica and ask them to cover a Whitney song.

**INFO**

More information can be found at [www.djpagano.it](http://www.djpagano.it) and [www.devilatorrecords.com](http://www.devilatorrecords.com).



## WINTER PARTY DANCE CARD

**THURSDAY MARCH 1**

Lift Off, 10 p.m. - 5 a.m.  
DJ Twisted Dee, DJ Michael Tank  
Score, 727 Lincoln Rd, South Beach

**FRIDAY MARCH 2**

Cruising Altitude, 10 p.m. - 7 a.m.  
DJ Roland Belmares, DJ Pagano,  
DJ Eddie Elias, DJ David S  
Space, 34 NE 11th St, Miami

**SATURDAY MARCH 3**

The Pool Party; Under One Sun,  
12 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
DJ Luke Johnstone, DJ Wayne G  
Doubletree Surfcomber Hotel,  
1717 Collins Ave, South Beach

United We Dance, 10 p.m. - 7 a.m.  
DJ Joe Gauthreaux  
Twilo, 30 NE 11th St, Miami

**SUNDAY MARCH 4**

The Beach Party, 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
DJ Tony Moran, DJ Brett Henrichsen  
South Beach @ 12th St and Ocean Dr

Destination Amnesia, 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
DJ Kimberly S  
Opium Garden, 136 Collins Ave, South Beach

Connections, 10 p.m. - 5 a.m.  
DJ Dudu Marquez, DJ Kate Monroe,  
DJ Manny Lehman  
Crobar, 1445 Washington Blvd, South Beach

**MONDAY MARCH 5**

Red Eye, 4 a.m.  
DJ Abel  
Twilo, 30 NE 11th St, Miami

**INFO**

More information can be found at [www.winterparty.com](http://www.winterparty.com).