

BAR TALK

Guide to the After Party

By Gator



“I’ve got some booze back at my place...”

That’s how it begins. You’re sitting there at last call, ready to stagger away from the bonfire of joy that has burned down to a bed of pleasantly glowing coals, and some lunatic has to throw *that* can of gasoline on the fire.

Going to a party after the bars have closed is like crawling to the peak of Mt. Everest then turning to your expedition party and declaring, “Right, nice view. Now let’s break out the toboggans and see how fast we can get down the other side of this bastard.” It’s a wild, exhilarating ride, all blur and screaming, and usually finishes with a spectacular crash.

Except, since you’re loaded to the gills, it doesn’t seem such an insane notion at all. In fact, it seems like a perfectly fine idea.

Why should the good times end? a little voice whispers. Says who? The clock on the wall? Because you have to be at work in six hours? Screw tomorrow! the voice continues, raging now. Tomorrow is the enemy if it steals one moment from today. Tomorrow is where your boss yells at you for showing up late, if you decide to show up at all. Real men live in the now, and right now we’d like to have some more booze.

And that is exactly the sort of insane bravado a proper after hours party demands. Most people, the sensible ones anyway, are done at last call. But others operate under the principle that too much is barely enough.

So here are some hints to make the after party a success:

Invites: If you are invited to an after party and choose to go, don’t show up empty-handed. Bring some beer, liquor, ice, chicks, or something to contribute. If you are inviting others, be careful who you ask. Don’t invite anyone you wouldn’t want to find sleeping on your floor the next morning, because that’s where they will be. Don’t invite anybody who causes “drama”, or you will have to deal with them. Don’t invite sober people, because they have no business being there and will only cause problems, like a fish out of water. Do invite bartenders, because they always like to unwind after work, and they know how to mix drinks and deal with drunks. Do invite musicians (if they are any good) because free entertainment is great. For the same reason, strippers get the green light, except for male strippers, unless it is a gay after party, in which case, *don’t invite me!*

Don’t forget to stop at a store and grab a bag of ice and snacks, smokes, maybe a deck of cards just in case there are some ladies (strip poker, dude).

Try to keep it quiet because of the neighbors. Of course, this will not last. Trying to keep an after hours party “quiet” is like jumping in the ocean and trying to keep a shark dry.

Have a center. An after hours party needs something to gather around. A home bar is best, but a dining room table will work. What you don’t want to do is gather in the living room, because all the furniture is pointed at the TV. TVs are the death of an hours party. Next thing you know, everyone is falling asleep and the party is over.

Improvise. Homes don’t usually have all of the ingredients you find at a real bar. You’ll have to substitute. For example, powdered non-dairy creamer is a fine substitute for milk or cream, so long as you shake the hell out of it. Orange-flavored Kool Aid makes a great Screwdriver when mixed with vodka. Incidentally, vodka mixes well with everything, including BBQ sauce, tuna fish juice, ketchup, mustard and horseradish.

Lock your bedroom. Yeah, I know your friends would never ever invade your sanctuary and steal your checkbook or mess up your nicely made bed. But just to be on the safe side, lock it up. This way, when it’s time for you and your girl to crash, you’ll have a nice, quiet, clean place to go. Oh, you’re a bachelor? Never mind the clean part then...

Music is good. But you want to avoid music that makes people start crying or want to leave. Songs like “The Rose”, “I Did It My Way”, “House Of The Rising Sun” or really any kind of slow ballads will work against the party. Go for the up-tempo stuff, party tunes, and happy sounds. Karaoke is usually a bad idea for an after party, mainly because drunk people don’t sing very well in groups, and the neighbors will call the law.

Make sure there’s a big trash can. People aren’t going to go all the way to the kitchen to put their beer can in your wastebasket with the footstepper lid opener. For the same reason, put ashtrays on every stable flat surface you can find.

Expect someone to have drugs. I mean, it’s 4 am on a weeknight, what kind of people do you expect to find awake at such an hour? A little weed or coke may show up. If you have rules about this, make them clear at the time you invite people. Don’t invite undercover cops to the party, as they tend to be a real drag.

Fights might break out. It’s natural. The secret is not to freak out, because the two combatants are likely to be declaring their undying love with their arms around each other’s necks a few moments later. Then back at each other’s throats. Then more hugging. Man, it’s all part of the beautiful cycle of life.

Sex at an after party: If sex occurs at an after party, it is considered “no-fault” sex. This means that either or both parties have the right to act as if it never happened, and claim they must have blacked out and can’t remember anything about it.

When The Party Is Over: Things will most likely have collapsed before the sun rises. A few stalwarts might still be slumped near the bottles, moving like Gila monsters during a cold snap, but most will have crawled into corners like poisoned cats or split after the second time the cops showed up. Those who remain should be recruited to help clean up the gigantic mess you will have. Enjoy!

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