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FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS



WAYNE CRANE

Once upon a time, Wayne Crane was just like you. Well, not exactly. Like you, but with ambition and perseverance in spades. You see, Crane once languished on the other side of the ropes like a million other guys trying to score entrance to Las Vegas' hottest clubs. Lacking the necessary accoutrements (miniskirt, boobs), he parlayed his job at a car rental agency into spots on guest lists around town. His connections earned him a promoting gig and, eventually, the director of marketing job at Hawaiian Tropic Zone inside the Miracle Mile Shops at Planet Hollywood Resort.

"I have probably booked more *Playboy* Playmates than the *Playboy* Club over at Palms," Crane said. "It's really crazy. You see how it is with all the lights on, but this place transforms at night."

After restaurant hours, out go the tables and in comes the DJ booth, the stage and promotions such as Red, White and Boobs, last year's Fourth of July blowout masterminded by Crane, in which dozens of girls competed for a free breast augmentation from cosmetic surgeon Samir Pancholi. There was also the performance earlier this year from Mini Lady Gaga, a little person tribute artist who stars as the "Poker Face" singer.

Said Crane, "If you were to come here at 12:30 a.m., you'd be like, 'Is this the same place I was just at, at 2 o'clock today?'" —JACK HOUSTON

LIBATIONS

HIGH TIDE HAWAIIAN

The consensus when it comes to this coconut-flavored cocktail? "It tastes like blue." (Whatever that means.) One of several tropical drinks busy making HTZ famous, the High Tide Hawaiian is culled from Malibu rum, blue Curaçao, Midori melon liqueur and pineapple juice. Best served by a bikini-clad bartender. —JH

