

So many All-Star parties, not enough time

There needed to be two or three Kelleys to maximize all of the potential partying in Detroit these last few days.

Instead, there was caffeine.

Most of the parties for the All-Star festivities were by invitation only. Some were even put together at the last minute — I'm sad I missed out on hearing Biz Markie spin at an invite-only party at Half Past Three on Monday night.

And even though the options seemed endless for partying with the not-so-regular folks, they were small compared to what will come to this city when the Super Bowl arrives next year.

Here's a wrap-up of some pretty good parties:

Best party venue: The New Detroit Science Center was the perfect spot to introduce gadget geeks to the latest in cell phone technology, video recorders and portable DVD players. Stuff magazine — it's owned by the folks who also publish Maxim magazine — took over the large space on Sunday night, letting partygoers test the new, cool stuff. Batting cages were also set up where folks in cocktail attire — including yours truly —



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could step to the plate and take some swings.

Funniest moment: It wasn't surprising that at the Diamonds & Dolls party at Pontiac's Sevin, subscribers and paparazzi were ogling Playboy Playmates. At one point, Brande Roderick — she was the 2001 Playmate of the Year and also has been on "Baywatch Hawaii" and "The Surreal Life" — asked that the photographers take a break from snapping photos of her. She wanted to sit in the roped-off Playmate section of the party and take a smoke break. "I mean, we don't want kids to see us smoking cigarettes and drinking," Roderick said. For the record, Playmates like Moet Imperial Rose and Michelob Ultra.

Best music: Major League Baseball threw two parties while in town, one on Monday night after the Home Run Derby and another Tuesday



STEVE BYRNE/Detroit Free Press

Boston's Johnny Damon, left, poses with Jon Lovitz on Sunday night at the Stuff magazine XPO party at the New Detroit Science Center.

afternoon before the game. Both happened in the parking lots of Comerica Park and both featured good music: Michael McDonald, Carvin Winans, The Contours and Undisputed Truth performed on Monday night. That party was Motown-themed and gave away nifty little gifts to all of the partiers: drink coasters made out of real vinyl records.

Best partiers: Red Sox outfielder Johnny Damon and his wife, Michelle, have to be one of the hippest couples in

the land. They not only hosted a Sunday night party, but they also hung out at the Monday night MLB soiree. Johnny was also seen at Elysium on the same night, where ESPN threw a party that featured free drinks, free food and lots of video games.

Best entertainment: Again, hats off to MLB's Monday night party at Comerica Park, which allowed guests to take pictures of themselves at various photo stations and also allowed them to create

something that I've never seen at a party before. Behind the spread of food and dessert and full open bars, were stations of a Michigan company called Dance Heads Great Lakes, where folks like Todd Sokolowski, Lindsay Wigginton and Greg Via, all of Buffalo, could make short music videos and get them burned to DVDs to bring home. It's almost indescribable, but imagine your floating head and a little cartoon dancing body underneath it moving and popping in ways that are almost humanly impossible. The Buffalo trio sang and danced to an older hip-hop song, Sir Mix-A-Lot's "Baby Got Back." OK, Free Press photographer Eric Seals and I made a video too. Same song. No judging.

Best food: Tuesday before the game at the MLB party at Comerica Park. It celebrated all things Michigan. Some of Motown's popular restaurants served up their specialties, and representatives from Michigan's summer festivals entertained guests.

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