

## Late Night Eats In Denver

The time is pushing 2:00 a.m. - last call is already burned from short-term memory. It's the point in the evening when most revelers' stomachs are so afloat in a sea of swirling shots, mixed drinks and waves of beer that it comes time to seek out a solid anchor to weigh them down for the night. Thankfully, Denver is home to a collection of excellent all-night diners - lighthouses whose beacons shine throughout the evening. Given their direction, no one will have to remain hungry and lost at sea; here are some favorites.

Why not start with the king? **Breakfast King**, located at 300 W. Mississippi is the quintessential late-night spot. In a sea of lesser entities, Breakfast King is a constant. The waitresses are always friendly; a resting trucker or a group of bikers will always be at the counter; the price always affordable; the Dum Dum suckers next to the cash register are always a perfect post-meal treat; and the chicken fried steak and eggs and various pancake breakfasts will always be barely contained on their oversized plastic plates.

One of the most popular all-nighters is **Pete's Kitchen** at 1962 E. Colfax. The line of hungry drunkards here at 2:01 a.m. is typically way out the door, and for good reason. Pete's is a cozy, friendly spot where you're as likely to start up a loud conversation with the folks in the next booth over as you are to leave with a belly full of their tasty specialty: a hearty plate of gyros and eggs. For quicker service, take a seat at the counter, but be forewarned: sitting bleary eyed, gazing at a heaping mound of bacon on the fryer as its grease slowly absorbs into what once may have been a hearty slice of Texas toast, can put to test even the most iron of constitutions. Another crowd favorite is the **Denver Diner** at 740 W. Colfax. For the past 10 years this has been a stopping point for one of the most diverse groups you're likely to see after 2 a.m. A real bonus here is the good amount of window seating, which allows for great people watching. Along with traditional favorites, the menu features a good selection of omelettes and fresh pies; but if you think you can handle it, definitely go for the Mass Confusion - two biscuits, two scrambled eggs, crumbled bacon and hash browns all smothered in country gravy.

**Barricuda's** at 1076 Ogden St. is open until 5 a.m. on weekends. It may not be all night, but it's late enough to stop in for what could be the night's ultimate value - their breakfast burrito. Priced as low as \$3, it's what friends of mine refer to as a "resurrection burrito." Whether eaten late at night or the following morning, this chile-soaked (red or green) beauty is the cure-all to your impending hangover woes. One thing all of these great places have in common is a solid cup of coffee. You don't order it by any other name and it comes one size only (always refillable); it's coffee -

leaded or unleaded: take your pick. Lastly, don't forget, the servers at these diners are working hard and often put up with a lot while you're having fun - so be good, and tip well.