

## **A Bachelor's Life in Atenas**

*by Douglas Benn*

Atenas has great potential for bachelors, starting with the night life. Nowhere else I have lived (England and the USA) do people go to bed at 9PM and the streets are deserted. So the potential for nightlife is enormous if only you can figure a way to keep Atenians awake to 11PM or later.

One big plus living here is the large number of beautiful Ticas you find in Atenas, and if only I could manage to stop falling off of my horse, I am sure we could find something in common to discuss. My Spanish is now good enough for a brief conversation as long as the *senorita* does not mind everything being in the present tense. However, as one wit said to me, "you only need the present tense, since if it is in the past who cares, and as you get older you may never see the future."

One great thing about Costa Rica is that the utilities are designed to promote romantic cozy evenings. There is a special department at ICE that guarantees that just as you are about to start your intimate dinner, the power goes off, and just for good measure, so do the telephones and internet. No pesky interruptions; but if it is not your house beware – how was I supposed to know there was a coffee table there!

Another great Costa Rican institution is sharing of assets. Just like the USA, you find your perfect partner and tie the knot (or is it noose) and off into the sunset you go. Sometime later when your partner discovers that you keep your pet skunk in bed, she begins to wonder whether this was such a good idea. Then the fun begins as you never realized how good it feels to share everything. Oh well, one definition of an optimist is a divorcee planning on remarrying.

So how do bachelors find their way to Atenas? Most of them admit they thought they were going on a vacation to Greece, and by the time they realized people were talking Spanish not Greek, it was too late. So having taken the wrong flight they decide to make the best of an unplanned opportunity. As risk takers they feel certain that everything will turn out for the best, and that somehow Atenas will turn out to be a paradise for bachelors.

Don't hold your breath.....

*Douglas Benn*