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# HOWER REGISTER 2024





PLEASURES





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FRI, MAY 10 @ 9PM

QUALIFIER ROUND V



GUILTY
PLEASURES



FRI, MAY 17 @ 9PM DUALIFIER ROUND VII









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Spring is finally here, and you all know what that means...Polerotica time! I'll have more on that in a bit, but we're definitely excited to start the next chapter of the largest pole competition on the West Coast.

After receiving plenty of fan mail and feedback from our lovely readers over the years, we've decided to share some of it in print. With everything from special appearances of *Exotic* in indie movies and notable livestreams to some of the creative art people have used *Exotic* issues to make, we've received a lot of cool correspondence, and we plan to cover it from time to time.



How many avid *Exotic* readers are ICP fans? Former *Exotic* Editor Ray McMillin recently notified us that Shaggy 2 Dope was sent a copy of our February edition and perused it live on a recent edition of *The Shaggy Show*. Thanks to Jesse from GlowFuckYourself.com & BlowBaggies.com

exotic magazine | xmag.com

for sending him a magazine with some product samples. Pretty-fucking-cool!

When Exotic isn't popping up on livestreams from horrorcore stars in The D, it's being snipped to make elaborate collages on adult store display cases. While delivering magazines to Taboo Video on MLK, we noticed quite the photomontage. Apparently, this is a thing and has been blossoming over time. There's even been visiting entertainers who've noticed themselves on the cases while shopping! That goes to show, ladies...shop where you're appreciated (and where you get a sizable discount)—winning!



How do you *Exotic*? If you have any unique magazine sightings or creative uses to share, send a DM or email us at <a href="editorial@xmag.com">editorial@xmag.com</a>, and we might just showcase it in an upcoming issue!

### THE P-TOWN HAPS

There's a lot going on around town to kick off spring, so let's keep with tradition and

start with birthdays! Now, if you're celebrating an April birthday, just know that you originally came to be in the heat of midsummer. That's right, all you Aires and Tauruses...your folks got all freaky-deaky on a hot and sweaty July night. Now, If that mental picture prompted a mouthful of chunder, that's what I was going for. No spitting! Just do what I do...wash it down with a Flamin'Turkey (one part Wild Turkey, one part Fireball, stir), and no one will be the wiser. Subsequent breath mints strongly recommended—the Fireball can only do so much...

The birthday fun starts at Lucky Devil Lounge on Saturday, April 6, with Tyler's Birthday Party! Be prepared for a long night, folks, because there's another birthday party at Guilty Pleasures on the same night. That's right, you'll have to head to the Eastside to wishw Scott a happy birthday! Head over to Union Jacks the following Thursday (April 11) for Asia's Birthday Bash! Wrapping up birthdays is Azra's Birthday Party at Lucky Devil Lounge on Saturday, April 13! Happy Birthday everyone! And while we're on birthdays, we'd also like to congratulate Guilty Pleasures on their sixth anniversary! Make sure to stop by and celebrate with them on Saturday, April 20. Happy Anniversary, Scott, Julie, and company!

We've got plenty more for you this month! Let's start with Kit Kat Club's Bitcoin Halving Party on Friday, April 19—with sexy nerd feature sets all night long! Lucky Devil Lounge is the spot for the One Motorcycle Show After Party (and Before Party),



so stop by every weekend day before and after the show (April 19 through 21). Let's wrap up April events with an offering for all you peaceful hippies out there. Stars Cabaret in Salem will throw their Flower Power '70s Party on Saturday, April 27, with prizes for the best-dressed flower children, a disco danceoff, and specialty foods and cocktails!

### **POLEROTICA 2024**

Who will reign supreme on the pole for 2024? We religiously ask the question every spring, and we're never disappointed with the answer! The nation's largest and most established pole performance and dance competition kicks off on April 5 at Guilty Pleasures and runs every Friday—and one Saturday—until the end of May. We've got all the dates listed for you on pages 16-17!

Don't miss out on one of our industry's premier events. Support your local entertainers on their quest for the title! See you there!

As they say in corn country...April showers bring May flowers, but Easter blizzards freeze your ass and gizzards!

We out!

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FRI 05 – GUILTY PLEASURES
POLEROTICA 2024 QUALIFIER ROUND I

SAT 06 – LUCKY DEVIL LOUNGE – TYLER'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

SAT 06 – GUILTY PLEASURES – SCOTT'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

THU 11 – UNION JACKS – ASIA'S BIRTHDAY BASH

FRI 12 – KIT KAT CLUB POLEROTICA 2024 QUALIFIER ROUND II

SAT 13 – LUCKY DEVIL LOUNGE – AZRA'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

FRI 19 – LUCKY DEVIL LOUNGE
THE ONE MOTORCYCLE SHOW AFTER PARTY

FRI 19 – STARS CABARET (SALEM) POLEROTICA 2024 QUALIFIER ROUND III

FRI 19 - KIT KAT CLUB - BITCOIN HALVING PARTY

SAT 20 – LUCKY DEVIL LOUNGE
THE ONE MOTORCYCLE SHOW AFTER PARTY

SAT 20 — GUILTY PLEASURES 6-YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY

FRI 26 – THE LOUNGE POLEROTICA 2024 QUALIFIER ROUND IV

SAT 27 – STARS CABARET (SALEM) FLOWER POWER '70S PARTY

SUN 21 – LUCKY DEVIL LOUNGE
THE ONE MOTORCYCLE SHOW AFTER PARTY

### **HAPPY HOURS**

CABARET – 2PM-6PM
DEVILS POINT – 3PM-6PM
DESIRE – 6PM-9PM
DV8 – NOON-3PM
THE LOUNGE - 11AM-5PM
LUCKY DEVIL – 3PM-6PM
UNION JACKS – 6PM-8PM

# APRIL RULES!

# THREE TOTALLY SERIOUS SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE YOUR LOCAL BAND MORE SUCCESSFUL! NO FOOLIN!

### By Blazer Sparrow

Happy April, dear readership! I'm sure all of you are looking forward to the 20th of this month when we can all happily partake in the Devil's Lettuce! You know there's nothing ole Blazer loves more than tokin' a doobie and listening to The Grateful Dead! Boy Howdy, if you know me, you know that describes my perfect weekend. Throw in a marathon of the Marvel movies, and you're describing my own heaven on Earth. Heaven being a place I totally believe in! It's totally real, just like ethical consumption under capitalism. Which—as we all know—is the best and really the only economic system that's ever had any success in Earth's history. That same Earth which we all know is flat.



But enough truth and facts...we're here to talk about music! Specifically, the local music scene, and even more specifically, how to succeed in said local scene. After all, you definitely read this magazine for the most up-to-date journalism and criticism of Portland's live music ecosystem. Also, what nudie mag column is complete without some wellresearched life hacks to climb the ladder to financial success in the arts?

### Opt-Out of Bar Cut / Gouge 'Em at the D

So you wanna make money at this whole performing live music thing, huh, sport? Well, the best way to make money for your art is to flippin' charge for it! Duh! Now, some of you might be thinking that the important thing is having more folks come through the door. You might think a high door price might discourage people from attending. Nonsense! That's not how successful people think! Rather than sulk and complain about barely mak-

ing any money at your passion project, do something about it! Manifest your wealth by charging up the ass at the door. How much is your music worth? You decide! I've noticed that, due to inflation, most local shows jumped from \$5 to about \$10 at the door. Them's rookie numbers. You want a payday after a show well played? Charge \$30 dollars at the door! If you don't value your time, no one will.

Besides, a bar cut takes away hard-earned money from small business owners—the lifeblood of this country! It also encourages people to drink alcohol, which is also bad 'cause alcohol is poison. It's the reason poor people stay poor. You see, it's not the restrictive societal and economic conditions that are firmly held in place by the ruling class to suppress any upward mobility and also destroy morale. It's booze...yes, that's why the poor are poor and also unhappy. That's the only reason. If they stopped drinking so much booze and eating avocado toast, they could own three houses by now.

Hell, charge \$40 at the door. I thought you wanted to be a rock star, not a rock hobbyist. your responsibility! If you do have friends, it's your job to remind them every day leading up to the show that it's happening. Spamming social media and leaving fliers at local record shops is child's play. You need to text your friends incessantly, letting them know when the show is and making them feel like bad friends for not coming. Shame and guilt go a long way. They are the best tools at your disposal while climbing the ranks of the local music scene.

### Do Not Promote Friends' Bands

And speaking of climbing the ranks, you gotta remember this is a competitive market—a zero-sum game. Everyone wants a piece of the pie, but that pie, especially in a smaller, local scene, is not that big. You gotta make sure no one else gets a slice. If you want to succeed financially, it's important to take the whole pie. You see, some unenlightened folks might tell you the best way to create a thriving scene is to support your friends' artistic endeavors and create a reciprocal environment that benefits all creatives in an area. Those people are wrong. There's only room for one on the top, and you have to bite and



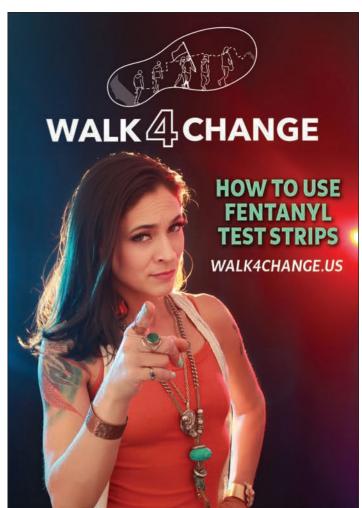
### our Friends Into Attending

Speaking of having more folks come through the door, whose fault is it if people aren't coming to your show? Yours! That's right. It's your job to bring people to your recital. The venue booker even says so in their emails to you. The only reason you aren't seeing a small bar packed with all your friends is you didn't guilt them into coming to the show! Or you don't have any friends. Either way, it's

claw your way up there, stepping on everyone in your way. Remember, anyone seeing someone else's band is a person not seeing yours! Tear down their fliers, don't share their social media posts, and when they tell you about their upcoming shows, stare off into the space behind them and smile vapidly as you change the subject. In group settings, if someone else brings up one of their creative projects, make sure to talk louder over them about yours. This is war. You're here to win.









### **UNDERSTANDING & PREVENTING OVERDOSES**

Except for suicides, overdose deaths are always accidental. The word "overdose" has sometimes carried a moral judgment that the individual was "pushing their limits" in order to get as high as possible, as if it were their own fault.

This is not true. "Overdose" simply means taking too much of a drug and it is always accidental. Even daily opioid users who know that fentanyl is in their product have no way of knowing the amount.

Instead of blaming others, let's work together to end accidental overdoses.

Model: Gi Mary Jane Photographer: @saintsashaphotography

# NYIBNYIBPSILIFIB VYORID

### BY HANNAH ONE CUP

Google came throwing searchable data at humans at the same velocity as people were throwing searches for "funny cats" and "what is a hemorrhoid" into its search bar. The amount of knowledge in our hands is endless, but as the old saying goes, "We don't care. We just want to see funny cat memes."

I bet a lot of you don't know just how powerful Google really is, or how to properly search for things. To most, it's like looking at data in an Excel spreadsheet. You have little to no idea what you're looking at, and if you do know what you're looking at, you do not know how to change anything in it. Hence, this births a lot of interesting searches produced by people (or cats, if you had a cat crawl across your keyboard and hit "search"). A lot of exacting phrases like "That girl that was in the window in that one scene of the western movie that had the guy with the beard in it."



The film was *Django Unchained*, and the girl was Amber Tamblyn, who also portrayed a doctor-in-training on the show *House* 

What's funny is that Google is tracking this data and everything else in the world. We have provided billions of search result babies to Google, and it eats them up like a can of sardines and says, "More, please!"

So, you might as well roll over and take what joy you can out of this. If that means learning absolutely nothing useful each day and simply looking up cat memes...enjoy! By all means, whatever gets you through this disgusting day—which is why I took it upon myself to try to make your day a little less gloomy by going into "Google Trends." Google Trends is pretty much like Googling Google. It gives you some fun insight into how popular searches are and where they were most reviewed. I could write many articles on this theme, and I may revisit this topic in the future. For now, I wanted to focus on memes. So, let's see what people were looking for when the word "meme" was involved in the search (from 2020-2024):

SO THIS TYPE OF MEME ACTUALLY HAS A PRETTY LONG HISTORY DATING BACK TO 2011, BUT IN THE PAST IT WAS ALWAYS DUDES SHOUT-EXPLAINING SOMETHING TO A GIRL AND ALSO THE ORIGINAL VERSION OF THIS PARTICULAR MEME WAS IN SPANISH AND POPULAR IN 2019, SO YOU REALLY CANT UNDERSTAND IT WITHOUT A SENSE OF THOSE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXTS



Girl Explaining Mansplaining Meme – An oldie but a goodie. I do love that this is still relevant today!

Cat Smurf Meme – I have no idea what anything is anymore, and this just gets included with this fact. Somewhere in The District of Columbia and Nevada in October of 2023, this thing was created. I have no intention of being baited into clicking on any references to this, for fear that Google will start sending me ads for "Cat Smurf Meme" memorabilia...



Ant With Bag Meme – This one was just a picture of some cartoon ant holding what appeared to be a hobo sack on a stick. It wasn't that funny, and I don't understand why people searched for this. But then again, I don't know why people search for most of these things.



Blinking White Guy Meme - The story behind

this one is actually pretty funny, considering that, like most people who have memes made out of them, he had no idea it had happened until much later. He also did not recall making this face after a friend on his show made the statement, "Doing some farming with my hoe here," while playing a video game.

When you realize you're the woman from the "THE WHAT" meme but also an advertiser for a deep-cleaner





The What Meme – This ad for a carpet cleaner was able to somehow provide the cringiest smiling woman I've seen on any ad—prior or since—which is what makes her expression for "WHAT" so perfect. We've all been there and had that moment. Especially when we're just shampooing the carpet and realize that the carpet you're standing on could have been shampooed previously by a cleaning specialist before yosu moved in, who was called to clean up the brain and blood residue from a murder.



Grimace Shake Meme – This one gets a little terrifying because the thing being portrayed is—in itself—the very essence of nightmare fuel.

I have to say...I was a bit disappointed in what I found out after all this research. I really did put about four solid hours worth of work trying to find something unique here. I think what I got out of all of this is that we crave nostalgia and that new things like the "Cat Smurf Meme" won't last. Grimace and the Carpet Cleaner Lady™ will probably outlive us all—just like diabetes.

Assuming that this doesn't already take up a solid two pages of meme photos, here are

some honorable mentions of searches (in no particular order of importance, and I won't dignify with a timeline...)

### This cat came out of nowhere and tried to sell me bootleg diabeetus medicine



I respect Wilford Brimley too much to put him in this article without permission, so enjoy a cat-lookalike meme

These were things people actually typed into a search bar at some point:

- "The Bible's main protagonist"
- "Crossword instructions"
- The phrase "hospital" occurs most frequently in the morning.
- "How often do you think about the Roman Empire?"
- "Why do people in Portland, Oregon watch The Golden Bachelor?" (this deserves a "what" meme)
- "Who is God" (right by "Who is Jesus," after they searched for "The Bible's main protagonist")
- Lemonade Diet Recipe (eye roll...)
- Aspergers symptoms
- Hotmail (I love this because it doesn't even exist any longer, butpeople are nostalgic, still have a Hotmail email, and Hotmail.com simply leads to "Outlook.")

I was glad to find out that after all this time with the internet being around, some people still don't quite understand religion or their public speakers (aka Jesus) and that some things like diabetes, shampooing carpets, and posting questions in the wrong forums or websites, will never change. Just look at this question posted in 2015 from Molly.



Carpet Cleaners | Diabetes Daily Forums

Apr 20, 2015 - Hello, This has nothing to do with diabetes, but can anyone tell me the best carpet cleaners out there to buy to clean your carpets that

Hannah One Cup can be found trying not to mimic the blinking white guy, but is failing miserably, and now everyone thinks she either has constant seizures or is just always surprised by what people have to say (it's the latter). She can be found on Facebook by her name, or TikTok (until no longer available?) @thursdaynight\_depression.















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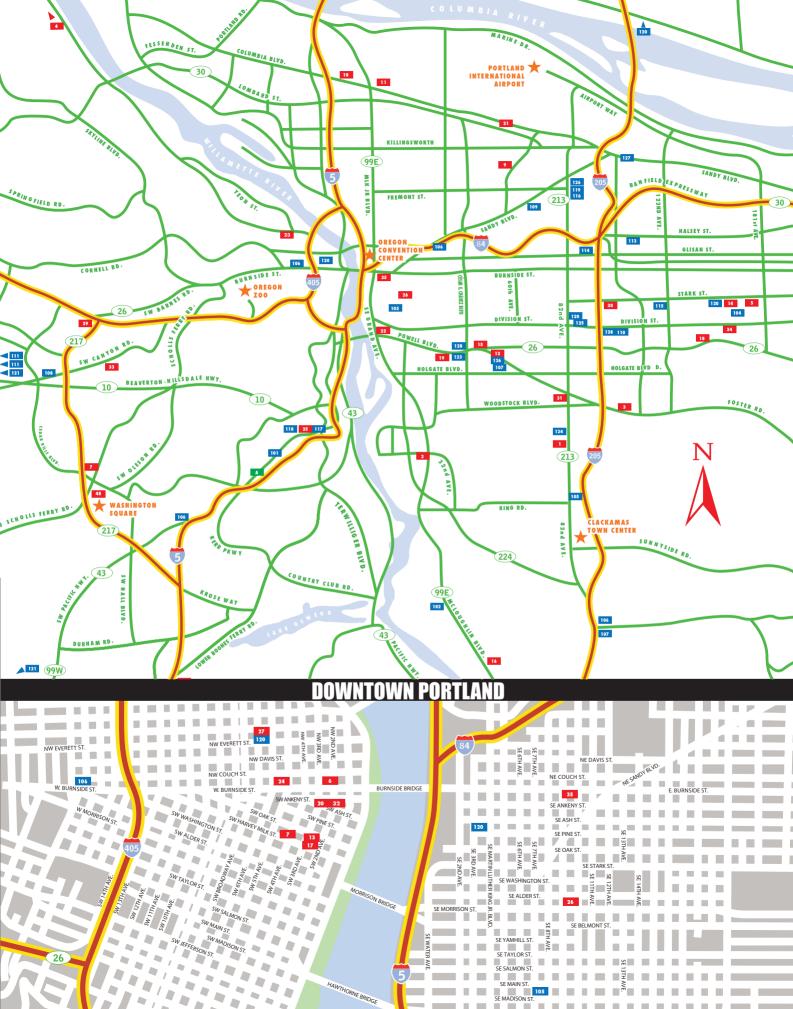


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# THE CASE OF THE AWFUL AUDITION By Nate Hazen

I knew the dame was trouble the moment I laid eyes on her. In my experience, most dames are trouble, but this one was in a league of her own—a femme fatale if ever I met one. She struck me as the type who would wait to poke holes in the condom until some poor bastard was wearing it.

The door to the club swung open, and in she stepped. A bolt of lightning lit up the sky outside, illuminating a silhouette of her slight but somehow still imposing frame. "Odd," I thought, "not a lot of lightning in Oregon. It's as though someone put it there on purpose to inject dramatic tension." Damn. I hate dramatic tension. I felt an ache creeping up from the pit of my stomach—the kind of ache you wind up with on the back end of a Taco Bell shame bender. I had a hunch I'd really be earning my paycheck tonight.



As the door closed behind her, her perfume all at once saturated the club with the sicklysweet stench of gardenias, in clear violation of the Geneva Conventions. I finally got a good look at her face; her eyes were wider than I figured her eyelids had any business allowing. I couldn't help but wonder if she'd ever blinked once in her life. "Christ," I mused, "she smells like a grandma and looks like a mugshot."

Her sultry voice dripped like honey from pouty lips plump with entirely too much injected collagen: "I'm here to audition." Maybe it was the electricity in the air from the lightning or intuition sounding desperate alarm bells in my mind, but the hair on the back of my neck stood on end.

As I checked her ID, I prayed a silent prayer to the universe for a lifeline of some sort. Ex-

pired ID, under 21, something...anything to give me a reason not to go forward with the audition. To my dismay, everything checked out. "Damn the universe, anyhow," I spat under my breath as I fetched an audition form and a pen. I hesitated momentarily before handing her the pen; the wisdom of placing a pointy object in her hand felt tenuous at best.



I breathed a sigh of relief when she completed the form and returned the pen without incident. I showed her to the dressing room and excused myself. I took a seat at the bar, and the bartender sauntered over. "That gal weirds me out," she said.

"You and me both, dollface," I responded, "something stinks here, and I don't mean the gardenias."

"Don't call me dollface," she demanded, "and stop trying to talk like Bogart. You'll never be as cool as Sam Spade, so give it a rest."

"Sheesh, broads these days," I muttered.

The bartender arched an eyebrow as her pretty little lips drew back into a snarl. "What was that?" This particular broad was clearly hard of hearing. I repeated myself, loud and slow, so I knew she'd get it on the second go 'round.

My cheek burned red with the bartender's handprint as I made my way back to the front door. A few minutes later, a young man wandered in off the streets. Small, illegible scribbles covered half his face, no doubt put there by a tattoo artist willing to barter his

services for whatever pills a person might offer in trade. I sighed and asked him for some identification. The picture came together crystal clear when the goon handed me his prison ID. I glanced at the name. "Chuck," I said, "sorry to tell you this, but I can't let you in on a prison card."

"What say you let it slide," he replied, "just this once? I can't get my driver's license back until I get off probation next week. I just want to watch my girlfriend audition."

His girlfriend. Why was I not surprised? Birds of a feather and all that, "No can do, friend," I said, "the liquor control boys would tap dance on my balls like Gene Kelly for that, and I don't much care to be singing soprano in the rain." He made a halfhearted attempt to bribe me with a variety of drugs, then made his exit after I politely declined. My grade school D.A.R.E. officer would have been proud—this time, at least.

The dame made her way out of the dressing room and over to the DJ booth to pick her songs, her outfit leaving a trail of marabou and glitter in her wake. The DJ vetoed the first half a dozen songs she requested, a list of real stinkers that would have cleared the place out, had they been played. They finally settled on some dreadful mumble rap number, followed by a depressing Lana Del Rey

Her set started off okay enough, and she made it through the first song without a hitch. By the time Ms. Del Rey's husky voice crawled seductively from the speakers, the dame was dressed only in her shoes. She climbed up the pole and executed a pretty impressive series of pole tricks. "This gal might be alright after all," I thought. At that moment, things went bad quick, fast, and in

She dismounted the pole, and as her feet hit the stage, the straps on one of her shoes busted, throwing her off balance. In the process of trying to catch herself, she took a step forward, but her shoe stayed behind. The height difference between one foot, which

stood on an eight-inch heel, and the other as bare as the rest of her sent her tumbling off the front of the stage. The centrifugal force generated from somersaulting ass over elbows ejected her tampon from her body, launching it across the room and into a customer's drink.

Against my better judgment, I turned to the dancer next to me and cracked wise. "A bit late in the day for a Bloody Mary," I quipped. The dancer, who had just taken a sip of her drink, did the mother of all spit takes and erupted in laughter.

The dame, who had by now collected herself off the floor, didn't take kindly to that. Her cheeks flushed red as she screamed, "You think that's funny, bitch? I'll kill you!" She snatched a drink from a customer's hand and hurled it at the dancer. The dancer ducked, and the red brick wall behind her exploded in a glimmering shower of ice and broken glass.

The twenty minutes or so that followed were a blur, but I finally got everyone separated and calmed down. The dame got dressed, and when she emerged from the dressing room carrying her bags, her demeanor betrayed no hint that anything had happened—probably courtesy of one of the several different drugs her boyfriend had offered me earlier. "So," she asked cheerfully, "did I get the job?"

"We'll call you," I answered.

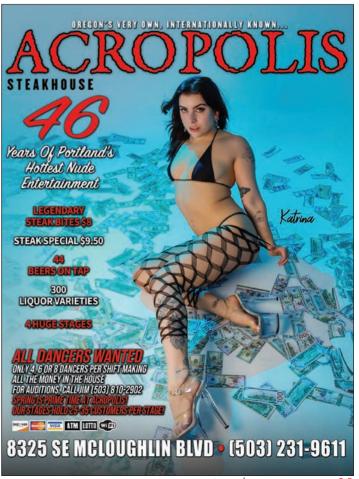


As she disappeared at long last out of the club and into the night, I took several deep breaths, gulped down a fistful of ibuprofen, and fetched her audition form. I thought a moment, picked up a pen, and began writing in the comments section: "I knew the dame was trouble the moment I laid eyes on her..."



Nate Hazen is a writer, bouncer, and tragically not a 1940s film noirstyle hard-boiled private eye. He hates dramatic tension and the smell of gardenias and works at X Exotic Lounge, where auditions take place Tuesday through Sunday between 8:00 and 9:00 p.m.





### THE MONTHLY

# COLUMN

BY WOMBSTRETCHA THE MAGNIFICENT

### A HISTORY OF APRIL FOOLS' DAY PRANKS

April Fools' Day...it's a storied tradition wherein anyone, from friends, lovers, roommates, or even giant corporations, all want to have a little fun and make a jest or pull a prank. Oddly enough, many people still get fooled by large-scale media reports of silly things, and take them as truth. Always check the date on those articles.

Where did April Fools' Day originate, and why? It has been speculated that it originated in older times, after the switch to the Gregorian calendar by order of Pope Gregory XIII in 1582, and those still using the old calendar were referred to as April Fools, as they did not know it had changed. However, in Geoff Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales, from 1392, he references, "Since March began thirty days and two," making it April 1st, a fox played a trick on a rooster.

Further, the French poet Eloy d'Amerval wrote of a similar kind of day for pranks in 1508, preceding the Pope's calendar. It has been speculated that April Fools' originated because, during the Middle Ages, New Year's Day was celebrated on the 25th of March in most European towns as a holiday week that ended on April 1st. Those people who celebrated New Year's Day on January 1st (as was done in cities, though not villages or towns) caused townsfolk to jest and jape at those who did so.

In Iran, formerly Persia, the tradition of pranking and making jokes dates back to quite literally 536 BC, during the Achaemenid Empire. It was called the "lie of thirteen," as it was 13 days after Persian New Year...which is close enough. Despite being thought of as a little strict and buttoned-up, Iranians still pull pranks on one another to this day.

Most of Europe, Scandinavia, and even Russia, Ukraine, and other Slavic countries practice some form of foolishness on April 1st. Even in some Asian countries, it is a thing.

In Japan, they will make jokes, and in China, due to the influence of foreign teachers joking and pranking their students, a generation of Chinese kids grew up to know the deal with April 1st. That said, the Chinese government insists that people not play pranks, but for the last 34 years, they have continued to do so.

Now, we are going to see some of the best historical pranks

(listed in no particular order).



### The Washing of the Lions

The Brits kind of owned this whole pranking thing, going up to the royalty. In 1856, a prominent journalistic publication distributed a series of cards, which invited the common public to come to the Tower of London and watch the guard wash the Imperial Lions. Naturally, no such thing happened, as they do not keep lions, and they do not have the Palace Guard wash them. Throngs of hundreds turned up to see this alleged spectacle, only to be disappointed, as they'd been clowned. That said, I can think of no reason why the amazingly wealthy British royalty could not buy some lions and wash them, making truth out of a centuries-old prank. This would—in essence—be a reverse prank, thus making it even better.

### **The Jovian-Plutonian Effect**

Back when Pluto was still considered a planet and not our solar system's red-headed



stepchild, famed astronomer Patrick Moore laid the seeds for a delightful prank. He had a broadcast, and told listeners that the alignment of Jupiter and Pluto would affect the gravity of our Earth. He was on-air for his show, and at 9:47 a.m., he said, "Jump now!" to experience this gravitic effect. Many did, and many were quite disappointed when they did not vault into the air.



The Spaghetti Harvest

Once again, the Brits are pulling it out. In 1957, the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation, their national news service) aired a 3-minute segment on how an early spring affected the Swiss spaghetti crop. They hung limp noodles from the trees and showed peasant people harvesting them into baskets. This led many Brits to think that spaghetti was grown on trees, as there was no internet or fact-checking or anything, so people were just saying to themselves, "Oh, that's where they get spaghetti." It was truly a masterwork in the pranking arts.

### **Danish Dog Painting**

In 1965, a Copenhagen news journal report-



ed that, according to a new law in Denmark, all dogs were to be painted white to avoid being run over should they tread into traffic. People believed this, and many a poor pooch was spray-painted white.



**Taiwan Panda Scandal** 

Speaking of painting animals, the Taipei Times of Taiwan issued a statement in which they decried China (with whom they are *not* very good friends) for having their famous pandas, which were donated by China to the Taipei Zoo, to just be brown bears painted black-and-white. Naturally, they were indeed real pandas. China did not like this.



**Canadian Airline Sleeper Prank** 

The Canucks can joke, too. In 2008, WestJet Airlines advertised their overhead compartments, typically used for baggage, as not only the biggest in the business, but offered them as "sleeper cabins" for an additional \$12. Points to Canada. I didn't think you had it in you.



**Swedish Color TV Prank** 

Swedes have their sense of humor. If you've ever hung out with any Swedes, you know they like their jokes. In 1962, before color TV was rolled out to the populace at large, the station Sveriges Television advised people that they could make their black-and-white TV into a color TV by putting a nylon stocking over the screen. A so-called "technical expert" said the mesh would "bend the wavelength" and let the color come through. It did not, but many Swedes were duped by what was the only Swedish television station, and the "expert" spoke with an authoritative voice. Thousands tried, but naturally, it did not work.



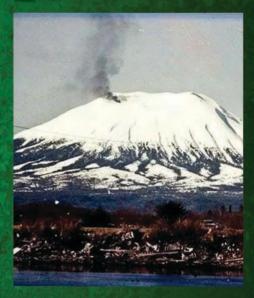
# **Chinese Baby Allowance**

In 1993, The China Youth Daily publication jested that PhDs would be exempt from the state's one-child-per-family policy, citing that they needed to provide more intelligent babies. The Chinese government did not like this joke and decried April Fools' Day as Western decadence, not in keeping with the spirit of communism. In conclusion, China just can't take a joke.

# **The Alaskan Volcano Prank**

Say you're a bored Alaskan. Then, say you have an absolute shitload of used tires. Then, say you charter a helicopter to drop them in the caldera of a long-dormant volcano, Mount Edgecumbe. Then, let's say you set them the fuck on fire and watch the surrounding town go absolutely nuts. When

the Coast Guard sent a helicopter to inspect this, it was just a pile of flaming tires, with big white letters spray-painted on the side of the mountain reading "APRIL FOOLS." This was done in 1974 by a logger whose nickname was "Porky." Simulating a volcanic eruption for laughs is next-level if you ask me.



If you're planning or thinking of pranks, then take a lesson here: go big or go home. By the time you read this, it will likely be past April 1st, but in reality, pranking is a year-round activity. Make life more ridiculous, in a delightful way, because the more outlandish it is, the more enjoyable it is. Life should be fun, and we often let this get away from us when we toil and struggle. But trust me, bringing a spark of silliness to an otherwise brutal existence is how you make people have fun. As I always say, the meaning of life is to enjoy it.

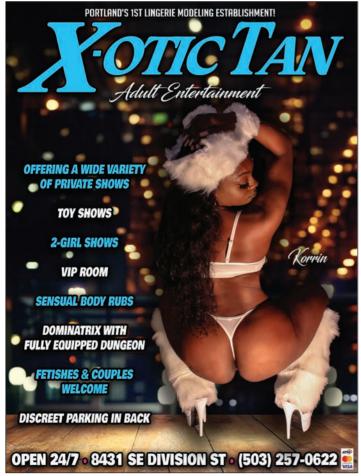
-Wombstretcha

Wombstretcha the Magnificent is a serial prankster, tire fire enthusiast, writer, and retired rapper from Portland, OR. He can be found at his website, wombstretcha.com, on X (formerly Twitter) as @wombstretcha503, and on MeWe and (begrudgingly) Facebook as "Wombstretcha the Magnificent."











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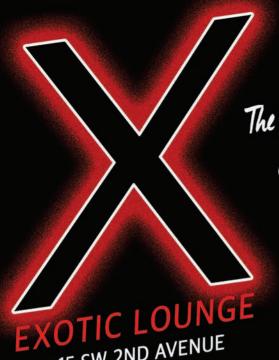
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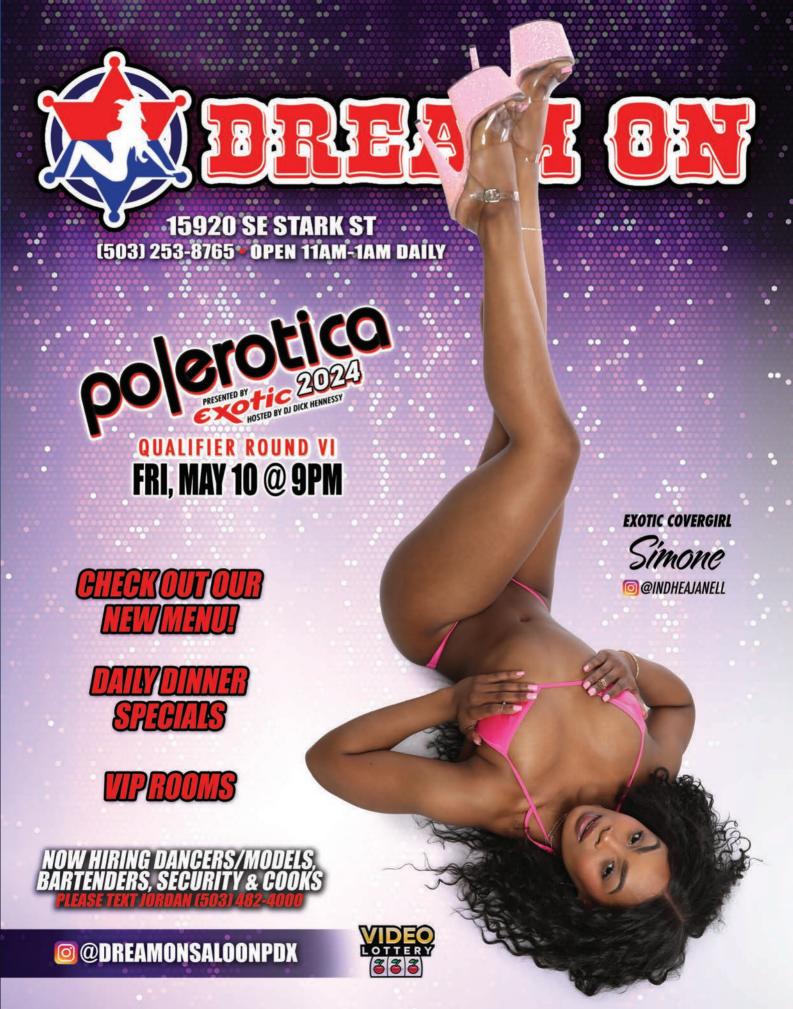
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