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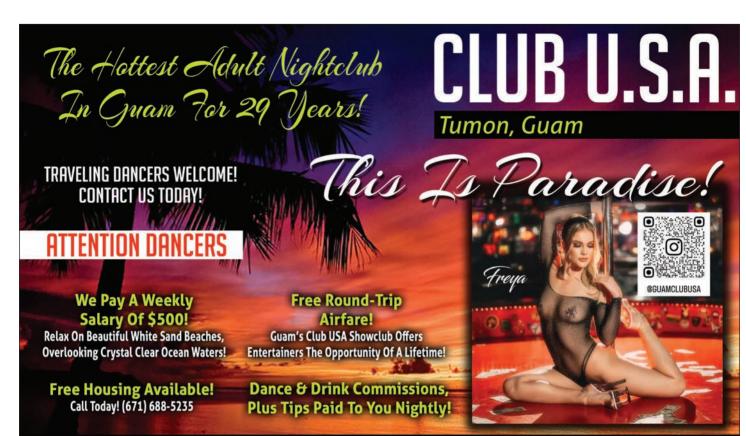
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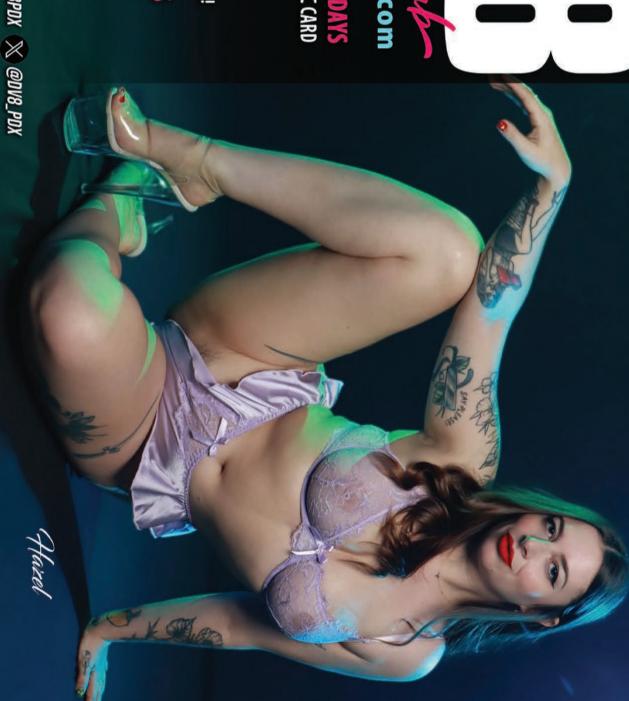
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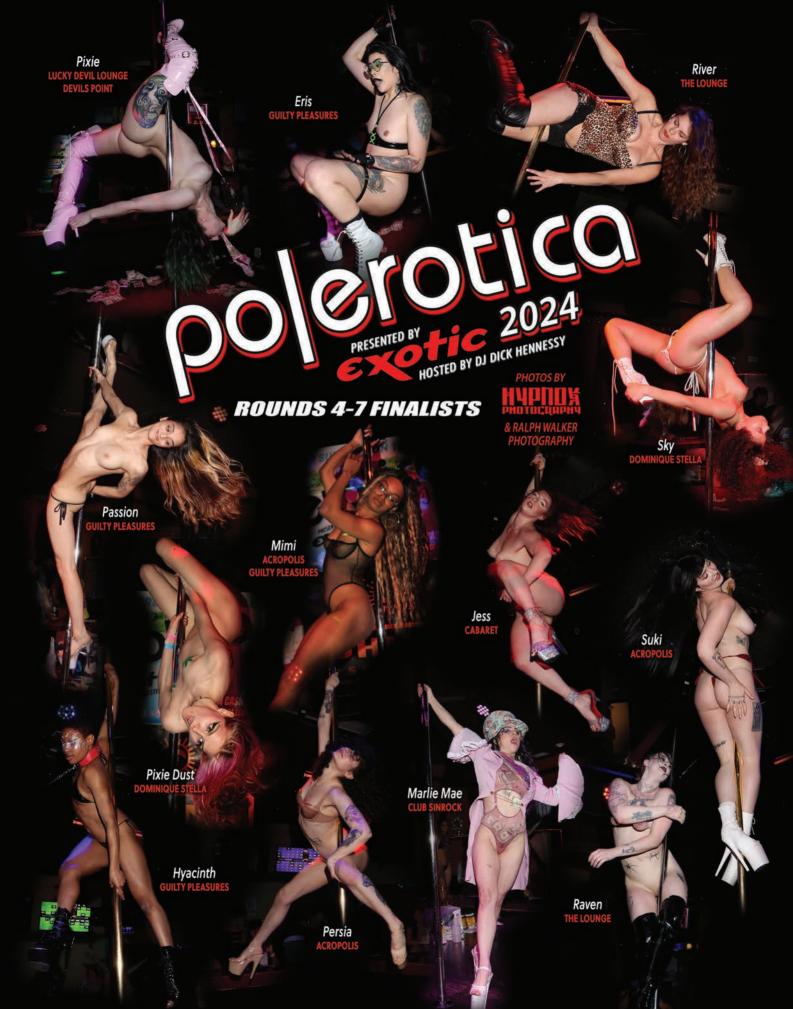


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We're on the cusp of the industry's favorite weather—at least while it stays a few clicks under smoldering hell-level, anyway... And that comes with a plethora of industry events and parties! There's absolutely no excuse to stay at home. I expect perfect attendance all month long!

Let's stick with tradition and cover all the industry birthdays first. No better birthday to start with than Holly's Birthday Party at Guilty Pleasures on Saturday, June 1! Later in the month on Friday, June 21, Valentina's Birthday Vampire Ball will be at Devils Point. Keep those plastic fangs in your mouth because you'll have to head to Hawthorne Strip on the same night for Daphne's Vampire Rave Birthday Party. Let's keep those birthday vibes flowing into the following evening and head down to Cheetah's in Salem for Valerie's Birthday Party on Saturday, June 22! A very Happy Birthday, Jadies, from all of us at Exotic!

We got more parties, too! Head to Lucky Devil on Thursday, June 20, for their Summer Kick-Off Party! Fuck it—let's celebrate summer's arrival all weekend long with another Summer Kick-Off Party at Stars Cabaret in Salem on Saturday, June 22. Then, you'll want to hit Stars Cabaret's other location at Bridgeport for their Wild West Party on Saturday, June 29.

We'd also like to congratulate Taboo (video) in Vancouver on their 20th Anniversary! They're bringing the festivities to you with an entire weekend of celebration, from Friday, June 21 through Sunday, June 23, complete with prizes, giveaways, and in-store specials. Get all the deets at TabooVideo.com or @TabooVideoPDX on the socials!

Wrapping up events for June, we have DJ Dick Hennessy's 6th Annual Motorbooty Twerking Competition! It needs no explanation—it's an industry event staple. Check all the round dates on the right, as well as the promotional spread on page 24!

POLEROTICA 2024

Well, well, well... We made it through nearly two months and seven rounds, and by the time you read this, a new pole champion will have been declared! Of course, at the time we sent this issue to press, *Polerotica* finals hadn't even happened yet, but as I'm writing this, I can't wait! I've witnessed some amazing performances throughout the qualifying rounds, and it's going to make for one helluva major pole showdown at the finals!

There will be full coverage in our 31st Anniversary Issue—next month! Until then, we'd like to congratulate all of the qualifying finalists from rounds four through seven:

<u>Round 4</u>: Marlie Mae from Club SinRock, Sky from Dominique Stella, and Passion from Guilty Pleasures

<u>Round 5</u>: Pixie Dust from Dominique Stella, Mimi from Acropolis & Guilty Pleasures, and River from The Lounge

Round 6: Eris from Guilty Pleasures & Lucky Devil, Pixie from Devils Point & Lucky Devil, and Raven from The Lounge

<u>Round 7</u>: Shayla from Guilty Pleasures (*), Persia from Acropolis, Suki from Acropolis, Jess from Cabaret, and Gemini from Guilty Pleasures (**)

- * Re-competed for improved ranking
- ** Pending finalist who advanced after a cancelation

Check out the left-hand page to see photos of all the abovementioned finalists in action during their qualifying set.

Let's goooooo! 🌢 🌢 🌢

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Zeroliccity spotlight

SAT 01 – GUILTY PLEASURES – HOLLY'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

FRI 07 – X EXOTIC LOUNGE – MOTORBOOTY ROUND 1

SAT 08 – THE VENUE – MOTORBOOTY ROUND 2

SAT 15 – STARS CABARET (SALEM) MOTORBOOTY ROUND 3

THU 20 – CLUB DETOUR – MOTORBOOTY ROUND 4

THU 20 – LUCKY DEVIL – SUMMER KICK-OFF PARTY

FRI 21 — DEVILS POINT VALENTINA'S BIRTHDAY VAMPIRE BALL

FRI 21 – HAWTHORNE STRIP
DAPHNE'S VAMPIRE RAVE BIRTHDAY PARTY

FRI 21 – TABOO (VANCOUVER) 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SAT 22 — CHEETAHS (SALEM) VALERIE'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

SAT 22 – STARS CABARET (SALEM) SUMMER KICK-OFF PARTY

SAT 22 – TABOO (VANCOUVER) 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SUN 23 – TABOO (VANCOUVER) 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SAT 29 – GUILTY PLEASURES MOTORBOOTY FINALS

SAT 29 – STARS CABARET (BRIDGEPORT)
WILD WEST PARTY

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CLUB 205 – 10:30AM-6:30PM
DEVILS POINT – 3PM-6PM
DESIRE – 6PM-9PM
DV8 – NOON-3PM

THE LOUNGE – 11AM-4PM LUCKY DEVIL – 3PM-6PM

UNION JACKS – 6PM-8PM

Editor's note: Blazer Sparrow was supposed to submit his column, but he's not returning calls. and his mother phoned us yesterday asking where he was. We assume he's dead. May he rest in piss.

Unrelated, we did receive this barely legible letter written on partially burned gas station toilet paper. It seems somewhat tourrelated, so we just decided to run it as filler—hopefully you like it. Forbye, who cares...you still have pages of titties to look at.

By Blazer Sparrow

Dear Tour Diary,

It's been six days without non-gas station food or an actual bed to sleep on. Pretty sure I have jaundice and am missing most of my teeth. I've learned that cocaine has very little food value. Beer has some food value, but definitely not enough. It turns out that even though vodka looks like water, it's much less hydrating.



When I set out on this west coast excursion, I was expecting a luxurious paid-for vacation. So far, it definitely has not been the case. It's anything but luxurious, and so far, I'm in the hole a few hundred. Not sure why I did this again. Something about living the dream? I'm not even sure anymore. It's possibly about fulfilling childhood fantasies, but it clearly isn't even as cool as they make it seem in the early Brand New music videos.



Now, don't get me wrong, there are some perks. Sleeping between a loveseat, a footrest, and an Ottoman, with a towel as a blanket. Some hosts hook it up. There was another night where I scored a van bench with a roll of paper towels as a pillow—livin' large! Another night, I ended up in a bucket car seat (which seems to be a thing in the places we stay), but I woke up on the floor. The car seat was nowhere to be found.

I did not listen to the sage-like advice of bringing more socks than I thought I needed. You'd think one pair per tour date would do it, but you'd be dead wrong, especially if you're playing somewhere hot. It got to 97°

in Chico. You'll sweat through one pair by lunch beers, and then, by the time you're on stage, that second pair is done...might as well play barefoot. But then you're one of those obnoxious bands that play barefoot, and at that point, just give up. Maybe I sweat more profusely than others. Definitely has nothing to do with the whiskey and pills.

The drives are nice, especially since I don't have to do any of it. Gather fround kids for this most sage-like advice I got as a wee touring musician! Always drink too much on tour so no one asks you to drive! Added bonus because then you'll also be too hungover to drive in the morning. It worked for Thom Yorke; it can work for you, too! Lunch beers are your friend.

I have no idea how bands get hotels. Do labels pay for them? They can't be paying for them with payouts from the show...or merch sales. I suppose it would help if we had merch to sell. Either way, it's definitely the kindness of strangers giving us places to stay. And when they aren't kind, or as they'll tell the police, "we" weren't kind, we simply improvise. It's important to know that not all the benches in the parks in San Jose have those dumb anti-homeless people dividers. Or if they do, I was too drunk to notice. A good night's sleep is just a brown bag 40 oz away!

I do recommend playing small towns. Not just cause you're likely to be the only thing going on for miles but also because it's a logistical benefit! Naturally, after the small town show, everyone is gonna take off in different directions to plow a townie. It can be a little stressful trying to track everyone down in the morning, but the smaller the town, the easier it will be to scoop everyone up and head to the next stop. You can literally drive around in the band van, screaming every band member's name till they come runnin' like kids after the ice cream truck. It's their fault if they don't catch the bus while it's leavin'.



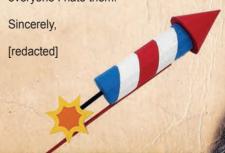
I suppose if you're still reading this and wondering why we embarked on this folly excursion, I'm not even sure anymore. Go to LA, they said. Follow your dreams, they said. I think by now, we all know that the only people who should follow their dreams are the ones whose parents are already in the industry. There's no money in this anymore unless you have the Disney Channel on your résumé.

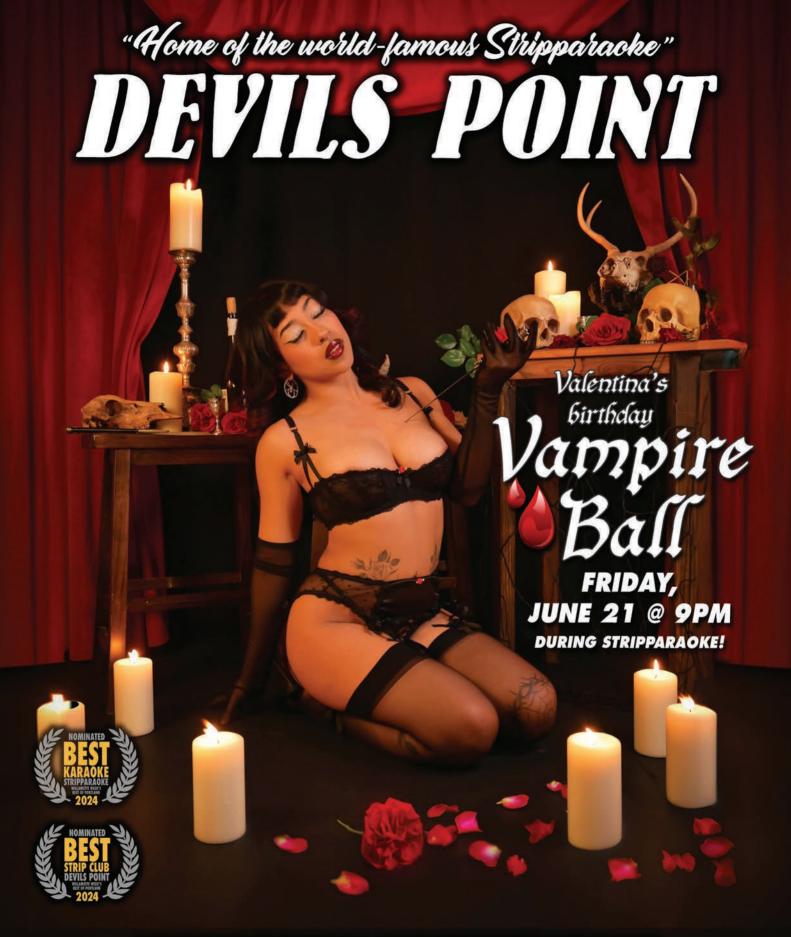


If you do go to The City of Angels, be prepared to be treated like absolute dogshit. The thing about being an unsigned band going to Los Angeles to get noticed is that literally every other unsigned band has that idea. The market is beyond saturated, and they know it and are sick of it. Everyone thinks this is some mecca. And yet, every musician I talked to down here said the same thing. "Don't move down here. This ain't no mecca, man. This place is fucked."

Well, I might as well make the most of it while I'm here, since the ice cream truck left without me. That's the problem with the bigger cities. You can't hear them call your name. Oh well. I'll live above a donut shop and work at a 7-Eleven or some shit. Being in a band is overrated anyway. You save a ton of money and time not being in one.

I lost my phone and all my contacts, so no idea how to get ahold of anyone. I attached this handwritten letter to a bottle rocket, aimed it north, and just hoped for the best. If you're reading this, I'm more than likely dead, so bury me with my records and tell everyone I hate them.





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If there was anything in this world that I would say I loved more than living itself, it's cheese. I consider cheese to be a magical substance, straight from the gods of the underworld, given to us mortals at the same time as sundried tomatoes. At that point, you were either on board or wrong and eating Satan's sundried tomatoes—nothing against sundried tomatoes, other than they're awful. But I have been Team Cheese my entire life and never plan on changing that. If you don't like cheese, you're either vegan (you're wrong), 12 months old or younger (I'm sorry?), or lactose intolerant (they make pills for this, so no excuse.)

At one point, a best friend wrote an entire paper titled "An Ode to Cheese" about her love for our lord and savior, Cheesus. This was of course, complete with hand-drawn pictures and showcased herself eating much cheese. Cheese brings cultures and people together. It's uses are endless, and so with that, I thought I would write about some fun facts we might not actively know about this mysterious substance.

Dubious Origins

No one really knows for sure where cheese comes from. After researching this thoroughly, from sites ranging from CheeseOrigin. com, the National Historic Cheesemaking Center, and even Wikipedia, it's agreed upon that no one really knows any concrete facts about where cheese came from. Some say that it was most likely due to an accidental curdling of milk that occurred when an Arab shepherd carrying sheep's milk got home to the realization that his milk had curdled in the hot sun, and there was born the cheese curd. There are even ancient murals on Egyptian walls depicting cheese, dating to roughly 4,000 years ago.

I like to think that, once again, cheese was produced by our underworld lords long before this, and they had been perfecting it for ages until the ultimate "first cheese" was created. They chose curds for some reason and not their "aged 50,000 years" sharp white cheddar (which surely would have killed us with tastes unknown and incomprehensible to humans). Some underworld lord, calling himself "Cheeslebub," happened to be in Egypt and Greece simultaneously and said, "Brosef, you must try this substance. You would sell your house and your soul for just one bite."

Cheese Is Addictive

Cheese is actually considered "mildly" addictive (I'm not sure of the sliding scale from mild to severe) due to its protein casein, which can cause cravings for foods similar to it. I'm not upset about it, and I'll actively admit I am addicted to cheese. In fact, it might be the one substance that is causing me to not have an addiction to anything more severe (other than booze).



We Eat a Lot of Cheese

America eats *a lot* of cheese. Like... a toddler-size amount of cheese every year. And that's the "average American consumer." 42 pounds of cheese to be exact. Yearly, per a 2022 study. What's funny is that we don't even make the top 10 of the listed countries and their cheese intake. Number 1 goes to France, of course. Who somehow balances their wine, bread, and constant cheese breaks with long walks and longer lifespans. France eats a whopping 58 pounds of cheese per average consumer.

4 Out of 5 Dentists Agree

Cheese is good for your teeth. It assists in stopping decay by increasing saliva production. Are you really surprised by this one?



Cheese From Space!

In 2010, cheese was sent to space on a rocket (the Dragon by SpaceX, co-founded by that great guy we all love to hate—Elon). It was meant to be a trial of NASA's Commercial Orbital Transportation Services (COTS) program, which aims to provide supplies to the International Space Station. Elon did jokingly say once, that it was actually a tribute to Monty Python's sketch "The Cheese Shop." Who knows why that guy does things?

National Cheese Week

It just so happens to be the last week of June, so you can all stock up ahead of time for all those people you're going to pretend to invite over, while you eat your 12 pounds of brie and blue all to yourself. You can get some bread if you want, or just do what I do and eat it straight out of the fridge, as our underlords intended.

Dangerous Cheese

There is...a most dangerous cheese. It's called Casu Marzu, is made with live maggots, and has an aftertaste that lasts for hours. I might...not want to try this cheese, quite frankly. I'd be interested to see it, smell it, but if it's going to possibly kill me, I would save this for my last meal. Death by cheese wouldn't be the worst way to go.

The "Favorite" Cheese

Out of over 2,000 varieties of cheese, mozzarella appears to be the crowd favorite. Why? I can only assume it's because it goes on so many other delicious foods—mainly pasta, pizza, and other carb-filled favorites.



Donkeys!

The most expensive cheese in the world comes from donkey milk and costs roughly 600 bucks a pound. It's called Pule, if you are curious about procuring this yourself. If you do, let me in on this so we can see what this expensive-ass-cheese is all about.

So, that's just a short list of some interesting facts about our favorite dairy product. There are numerous other facts out there on this topic, but I wanted to keep this short, sweet, and cheesy to read. I dedicate this article to my dear friend, whose love of cheese may have just barely surpassed my own. I hope to one day try all 2,000 types of cheese out there, making Casu Marzu my going-away present to myself and dedicating that to them, as well.

Hannah One Cup can be found scouring the discount cheese sections of various supermarkets and staring at donkeys, wondering how they get that much milk out of a creature that constantly makes horrible, guttural noises, and has a tendency to bite. Her fridge has a permanent cheese shelf. You can also find her on Facebook by her name and TikTok @thursdaynight_depression.





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









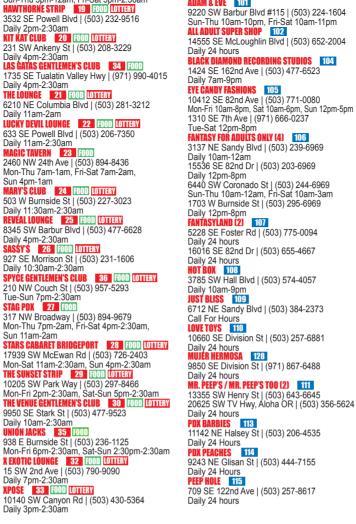


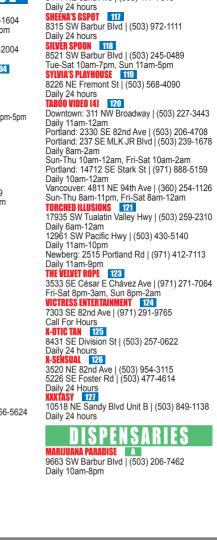






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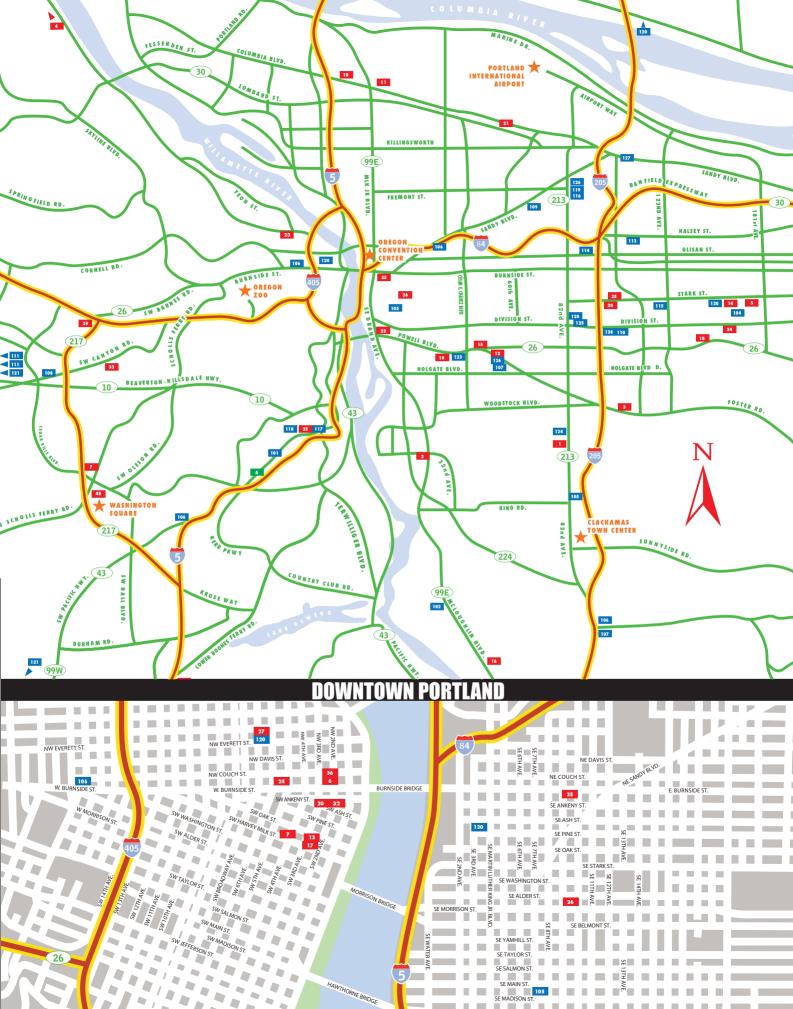


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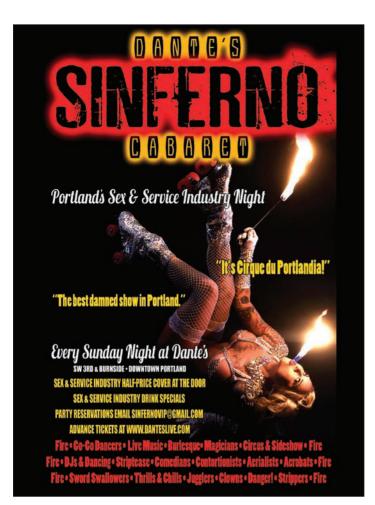
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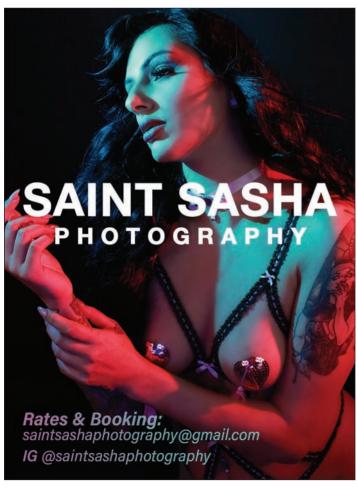
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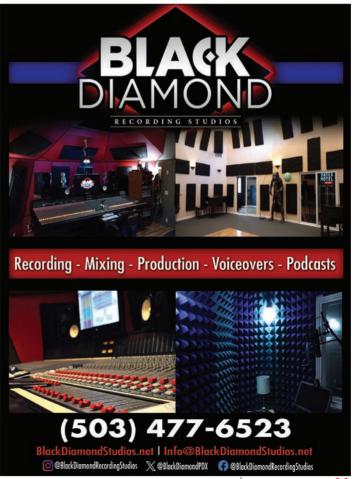
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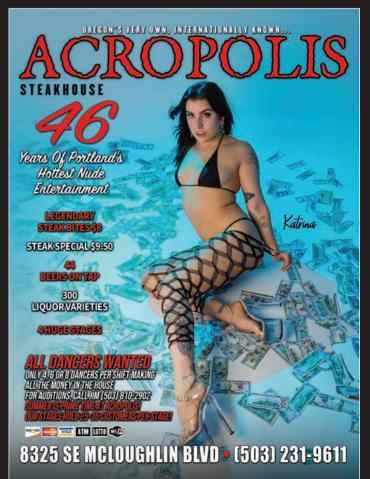














A SHAMELESS BIT OF SELF-PROMOTION

Well, shit, everyone. It's June. That means I've been writing for Exotic for a whole year now. This month, I'm going to celebrate the occasion by treating myself, as the title suggests, to a little shameless selfpromotion. You see, I am, as are countless of my friends and colleagues within the strip club industry, a creative type who is slugging it out-working in nightlife as a means to an end while I seek to bring my creative vision to life. In seven years of bouncer work, I've become friends with a dizzying assortment of creative people. Musicians, painters, writers, filmmakers, authors, comedians, clothing designers... it blows me away to think about the kind of talent that resides within my sphere of existence.

I don't do this job out of necessity. I could be living a much more comfortable life right now if I were making use of the mechanical engineering degree I earned, at this point, seemingly for no reason. I could be making an excellent salary and awesome benefits. Hell, I probably could have bought a house by now. I've chosen to stick with bouncer work for the moment, largely because of that abundance of creativity around me. I lost touch with my inner artist for a bit while I was serving in the Marines, and I'm convinced that I'd lose touch again if I tried the nine-to-five cubicle grind. Nightlife is right where I'm supposed to be while I madly chase my white whale of a creative dream.

The seed of that dream was first planted in October of 2016 when I still worked as a gun salesman at Northwest Armory. Portlandia needed a gun shop set for an episode they were filming, and they decided on my place of employment. I ended up getting to be an extra in the scene they shot there, and I even got to do a one-onone bit with Fred Armisen. Not to brag, by which I mean totally to brag, at the end of the first take we filmed of Fred and me, Steve Buscemi, who was directing, called cut, burst out in a huge belly laugh, and had to stop and catch his breath before we continued. He later told me, at the end of filming, that I play the comedic straight man really well. I can't possibly express in words the kind of high that gave me—it's a high I'm still riding to this day. That experience lit up a little fire in me—I wanted to do something like that again! I wanted to feel like that again! The problem was that I had no idea how to go about it. Portlandia was just a matter of being in the right place at the right time, and I didn't suppose lightning would strike like that twice. So, I just set that thought aside and went on with my life.



The following summer, I got laid off from Northwest Armory and found myself needing a job. I contacted a friend of mine who was a manager at Dixie Tavern, who had offered me a security job any time I wanted, and in July 2017, I kicked off my bouncer career. I loved it immediately. It felt right. It was fun and exciting, and the work hours meshed well with my lifelong night owl tendencies. Working at Dixie, I became really good friends with J.E., one of the other bouncers at Dixie, who had started just after I did. When I first met J.E. at a different bar, he immediately picked me out as a fellow Marine vet. It turns out we were both preachers' kids and had an aptitude for writing. It was no time before we started brainstorming ideas for writing projects and working together to develop and focus those ideas. Then, one day in 2018, he emailed me a script he had been working on and asked me to



collaborate with him. The script was for a TV sitcom set in a Portland strip club titled Strip City. After overwhelmingly positive feedback from the people we asked to read our work, we started to seriously consider seeking out a TV deal, reviving that long-dormant spark that had first been kindled on the set of Portlandia. Since we were looking to write about strip clubs, we both branched out from Dixie and picked up some strip club shifts. If we wanted to write about that world, we figured we should get to know it well.

As it turns out, my reason for getting into strip club work has proven to be an asset on the job. Any given moment of any given night is potential material for an episode, so I tend to take in as much of my work environment as I possibly can. That kind of situational awareness comes in pretty handy as a bouncer. Getting into this world has also led to some cool opportunities that I wasn't even seeking out, like being interviewed for Elle Stanger's podcast, They Talk Sex, as well as for a soon-to-be-released documentary about Portland's strip club scene and acting as a judge for Dick Hennessy's stripper competitions. Hell, even this column is something that fell into my lap because Bryan,

Exotic's esteemed general manager and Erotic City author, overheard me talking to someone else about our script and, upon learning that I have a bit of writing ability, informed me that he'd long wanted to start a bouncer column in the magazine and encouraged me to submit something. In fact, the piece I sent him that became my first Exotic article, Stages of Grief (June 2023), was an adaptation of a scene I'd previously written for future use in Strip City, based on a realization I had one night working with J.E. at the front door of Dixie.

The reason I'm writing about all this is because J.E. and I are still seeking the connections and/or money we need to make our show a reality. I'm hoping someone reading this might just happen to know someone who knows someone, who knows some TV producer or studio executive, who might take a look at our stuff and give us a shot. Short of that, I'm making an appeal for resources. It'll cost us some money to film this pilot professionally. To that end, I have a Kickstarter set to launch the same day this issue of Exotic is released, and I've got some fun perks available, so scan the OR code I've included, consider contributing, and share it with all your friends. Pretty please? We're also looking for some of that creative talent within the industry that I mentioned earlier to help us get it done. We need actors. We need crew and equipment. If you have one or more of those things to offer, please hit me up to get involved!

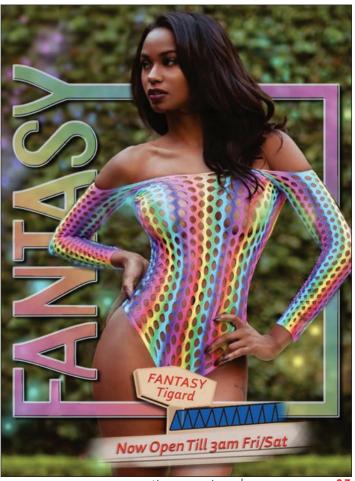
Through the course of my strip club work, I've fallen in love with our unique little microcosm, and I'm hoping to share that love with a wider audience. Strip City is a solid concept deserving of a chance to exist. It would serve well as a cultural counterpoint to Portlandia, shedding our city's quirky hipster image in favor of examining a grittier side of Portland.



Nate Hazen is a bouncer at X Exotic Lounge who is rolling the dice on doing something cool in life. Follow his TV show's Instagram @stripcityty and maybe chip in some money to his Kickstarter to help make it happen. And if this article made its way to some big TV networks or streaming services, that would be pretty cool, too! (Shameless.) He can't do it without you!









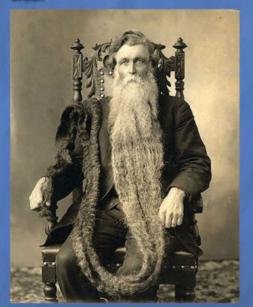
BY WOMBSTRETCHA THE MAGNIFICENT

RIDICULOUS WAYS TO D

Death. We all must deal with it. On a long enough timeline, none of us are going to make it out alive. It is an inevitability. Nothing to be despaired, nothing to be celebrated, just a fact of life, such as it is. However, sometimes we can appreciate the ways in which people depart this Earth. People can meet their end for any number of reasons, and most of the time, those circumstances are rather grim, sad, and unfortunate. In certain circumstances, though, some individuals shuffle off this mortal coil in ways that baffle or amuse others. The best final gift you could possibly give the world is to pass into the netherworld in a fantastically ridiculous way, sad though it might be.

In this article, we're going to look into some of the most silly ways people have joined the choir eternal.

As usual, they are ranked in no particular order.



Beard Death

A man named Hans Steininger was famous for his very long beard, which was nearly five feet long by most reckonings. He was around long ago, but this story lives in the historical record. In 1567, there was a great fire in Hans' town. He was frightened and thought not to tuck the thing in his shirt or toss it over his shoulder. While running for his life, he stepped on his own beard, tripped, and broke his neck. He died instantly, though I thaink that is better than being burned to death if you ask me.



Gotta Pee

Famed Danish astrologer, astronomer, and alchemist Tycho Brahe had the most unusual demise. He was invited to a feast in Prague with colleagues in the field of astronomy. He refused to get up during the dinner to take a leak, as it was against the etiquette of the age and held it in for hours and hours. However, fol-

lowing that, he found he could not pee, save in short, painful spurts. He had contracted some manner of kidney or bladder problem. He died about two weeks later. Always take that whiz, etiquette be damned, or it could kill you.



Falling Cow Syndrome

In 2013, a Brazilian man named Joao Maria de Souza had a cow fall through his roof, falling on him and busting him up. I am not sure why his roof was cowaccessible. However, the one-ton animal fell through while he was sleeping and smashed his ass. I wonder what the cow thought about all this? The local news outlet said that this was the third such incident in the last year, but none of the other cow/roof incidents did any harm to anything but the house. Sadly, Mr. Souza died the next day from internal bleeding because he had to wait too long to be seen by a doctor, despite seeming in pretty good spirits for a man who had a large animal fall on him while he slept. I just wonder what they did with that cow. Did they just open the front door and get a goodbye moo when it swaggered back out after smashing some guy

Fake but Real Heart Attack

The term "heart attack" always seemed



weird to me. The term "cardiac arrest" seemed a bit more apt. "Heart attack" makes it sound like you were attacked by a heart, when no, it's just when your heart gives out. Anyhow, British actor Gareth Jones was on a live show called Armchair Theater, and his character was supposed to have a heart attack. However, when the scene came down, he did a very realistic performance because he actually had a heart attack and died. As far as my research reveals, his co-workers were like, "Damn, good job with that, mate," before they realized he was actually dead.

SELF-OPERATING NAPKIN



The Rube Goldberg Death

Rube Goldberg was a comic artist who designed funny and complex devices to do commonplace things in the early 20th century if you didn't already know. Think of the game "Mouse Trap" to sort of describe it if you aren't familiar, but this is not about him in particular. You see, the story is one of a New York lamplighter, back in the days of gas streetlights, which needed people to light them. This lamplighter had devised a makeshift alarm involving a clock, a wire, and a very heavy rock that would drop to the floor and wake him. Okay...you do you, but one day, he threw a party and got hammered. Why's that a problem? Well,

he moved his bed for unknown reasons. and then his system crushed his head when his "alarm" went off.



Gifted to Death

Draco of Athens, the guy who revamped the system of law they had there and thus generated the modern term "Draconian"—describing harsh or unforgiving laws, was a politician in Athens of Ancient Greece. He was actually well-liked, as people appreciated the codification of policy in writing, which was universal, versus thes prior convention of oral law, which is just "yeah, if we say it, it goes." He had gone to an amphitheater to give a speech, and the citizenry was so pleased that they started to toss him hats and cloaks and tunics. They did this to such a prodigious degree that he was smothered to death by gifts from his fans.

Death by Baseball

In the fine year of 1970, a young man of 14 years went to Dodger Stadium to see the L.A. Dodgers play the San Francisco Giants. An enthusiastic lad by the name of Alan Fish was cheering during a moment of play wherein batter Manny Mota hit a foul into his area in the arena and smacked him right in the dome. He got knocked out for a minute or so. The young man seemed to be fine afterward, and he enjoyed the Giants winning the game, on account of he was a Giants fan. However, afterward, he was shaking and

crying on the ride back home. His parents took him for medical aid, and they tried many things to help, including neurosurgery, but a few days later, he had a seizure and died. Truly the foulest ball. I hope he at least had a Dodger Dog before he got hit in the head.



So, while sad, those are some of the most ridiculous deaths I could find from research. I wouldn't want a cow to fall on me or a baseball to hit me in the noodle. Stay safe out there, and don't let too many people throw coats at you.

Stay well,

Wombstretcha

This article is dedicated to the memory of (thankfully not due to baseballs or cows) Esmeralda Rupp-Spangle, formerly the exuberant nature and science writer for this publication.

> Wombstretcha the Magnificent is a baseball avoider, cow dodger, writer, and retired rapper from Portland, OR. He can be found at his website, wombstretcha. com, on Twitter/X/whatever as @ wombstretcha503, and on MeWe and (begrudgingly) Facebook as "Wombstretcha the Magnificent."



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