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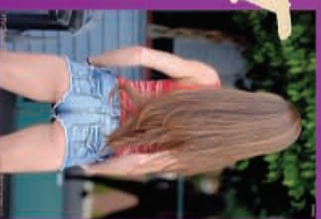
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COULD LISTENING TO THIS BAND HELP GET YOU LAID?

A NIGHT IN THE BASEMENT WITH ALABAMA BLACK SNAKE

BY SPOOKY X

Alabama Black Snake. It was a band I had never heard of, but somehow they ended up on the bill for *Exotic's* last anniversary party that we forgot to tell anyone we were having (myself included). In spite of the fact that we didn't advertise it, this band was eager (or desperate enough) to play our show. After a quick look on the net, I found myself on the band's ReverbNation page, where I was promised the following: What happens when you mix two parts low-tuned 70s-style scummy rock riffs with one part stoney vibe and leave it to brew in a basement? You get Alabama Black Snake.

After giving the three tracks on the page a quick listen, I discovered this band would deserve further investigation and filed it into my "things I'll probably never get around to following up on" folder. I never made it to that show, unfortunately, and being true to my procrastinating nature, it took me about five months before I finally got around to tearing back the layers of what would eventually turn into one of my favorite new discoveries in the Portland music scene.

Alabama Black Snake wouldn't go away. Their name just kept popping up until, eventually, one of the band members ended up sitting on our judges' table at the first preliminary round of Miss Exotic Oregon. Their lead guitarist, Shawn Baravetto, was already woven more into my own social circle than I realized. Besides creating music that literally grabs you by the balls and sinks its venomous fangs into your aural receptors, Shawn also moonlights at making babies with *Exotic's* covergirls. Now, I'm not saying that sleeping with one of our centerfolds will guarantee your band a review in *Exotic*, but when the all the necessary elements fall into place like a perfect storm, it just might happen.

Alabama Black Snake is that perfect storm. When we finally got together for the interview, I stood in the very basement that the band had been brewing in for the past year—surrounded by an armory of musical weaponry and four very diversified looking individuals who looked like they would probably never exchange a friendly nod on the street. The band then belted out several tracks, each of which was equally as diversified in style and sound as the one before it. While the band might not have looked like they were cut from the same cloth visually, when the music was flowing, this band came together with the musical thunder that pounded through your body so hard, you could feel its impact in each and every one of your organs (and some you probably never even felt before). By the time the band played their third song, an extended version of *Weird of the White Wolf* (featuring an all-new, mind-punishing intro) I was truly hooked. I guess that was the moment that I got "bitten by the snake." From one song to the next, I could sense the inspirational injections of classics such as early Black Sabbath fused with ball-breaking riffs reminiscent of Clutch, or the fuzzy garage-pop-stylings of The Black Keys, all the while maintaining Alabama Black Snake's own dirty, sleazy, organic sound (that seems to drip from the ceiling of their basement onto the classic 70s Playboy centerfolds plastered on their walls). Now that I had the venom in my system, we stepped out to "expand our minds" on the patio and discuss what had brought the Snake together. Surprisingly, the original lineup of Alabama Black Snake all had one thing in common—the appreciation of a certain stripper at the Lucky Devil Lounge, *Exotic's* very own Erotic Muse, Elle. Apparently our Muse is also the inspiration behind some of the heavy riffs that make this black snake moan.

The present lineup of the band is in its third generation of personnel changes. The foundation was laid by Baravetto on his '77 custom Les Paul and drummer Rock Adams. Frontman Greg T and bassist Isaiah Mark soon joined in and Alabama Black Snake began slithering through some sleazy rock 'n' roll sets. Adams left the band due to differences of opinion and was replaced by Johnny "Pops" Dryden (a veteran drummer the band discovered on Craigslist, who brings the snake their thunder in the style of Black Sabbath's Bill Ward) whose playing lends credence to the saying "age ain't nothin' but a number." Singer Greg T was later replaced by Brian Oblivion after leaving the band due to creative differences. Aside from being the easiest transition of a new member into the band, Brian also adds another guitar to the mix (as well as taking over on vocals).

Alabama Black Snake is on a mission to crank it up, have a great time, make some asses shake and remind every listener that heavy rock is here to stay. You can check them out live this month on January 6th at The Foggy Notion on Lombard in North Portland and they will also be invading Seattle with a show at the 2-Bit Saloon on January 14th.

Reverbnation.com/alabamablacksnake

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BY SPOOKY X

HOW NOT TO WIN AN EXOTIC CONTEST

Now that the curtain has fallen with the conclusion of our first run at Miss Exotic Oregon, I get to breathe a deep sigh of relief as we present you with the results of three long months from this grueling competition. People think this job is easy. Constantly, I am asked, “dude, how can I get a job like yours?” Well, you see, it’s not like there are any instructional schools or training programs that will show you how to put together events such as PoleroticA, Ink ‘N’ Pink or Miss Exotic Oregon. Any idiot can put up \$5,000 and say they’re having a contest, but it takes someone truly cursed to be able to get out of the whole thing with his or her soul (and self-respect) intact.

When I think about the psychological warfare these events can have on the participants, it truly blows my mind. Dancers are not always the “bad girls gone wild, hard-partying sex-kitten types” you’d expect them to be. The true “entertainers” have very driven and dynamic personalities and treat their profession (yes, I said profession) as a means of artistic expression. So, does that make me a certified art critic? Probably not. Interacting with hundreds of exotic entertainers throughout these competitions has taught me much about the varying degrees of their delicate, fragile psyches and self-esteem issues. You don’t have to wish daddy had hugged you more to feel like crap after you’ve just been told you didn’t make the final cut in one of our contests. I’ve watched girls who enter these things thinking their vagina is made of 24kt gold come to the grim realization that maybe they should have just stayed in the protective little bubble of the same strip club they’ve worked at for the past 5 years—where everyone tells them they are the best, prettiest and sexiest girl in the club every night. Because, when she comes out to play with the competition circuit, the odds are pretty goddamn good she’s eventually gonna run into my ass, telling her that she’s just been voted off the island.

When I’m standing on the stage at the end of a competition like Miss Exotic Oregon, staring at fifteen beautiful girls who have all given their heart and soul to try and prove that they have what it takes to reign supreme, I’m not feeling any sense of accomplishment at all—I’m feeling dread. It’s time, once again, to make one girl very happy, two oth-

ers just barely happy enough to where they don’t hate me and the other twelve, well, let’s just say I get deleted off a lot of friends lists in the course of these things.

Listen up girls, no matter how hot your ass looks in those go-go shorts, how bangin’ your rack looks in that custom bustier or how epic that theme set you choreographed goes off, you’re still gonna be facing the very likely possibility that you’re not going to win. As a matter of fact, you should almost expect it. Just as I expect that, no matter how professionally the contest is run, there are gonna be the naysayers at the conclusion crying “fixed!” or screaming “bullshit!” at me from the audience when I announce the winners on the stage at the end of the night. Look, I’m sorry your girlfriend didn’t win guys. Maybe you should tell her that she’s not going to be able to compete with that hot, young, single girl who hasn’t had kids, because that’s not my job or responsibility. These events are 70% beauty contests and maybe 20% talent contests. As for the other 10%, that’s controlled by the guys who came just to see your tits and ass.

I would like to thank all of the people who helped make Miss Exotic Oregon one of the most successful events we’ve ever encountered. After being led astray with the scandal and conflict enshrouding “that other pageant” we partnered up with last year, it was refreshing to run this thing straight up and legit and to see the strongest rise to the top, based off of their own strengths and obvious attributes. Every single one of the finalists earned their right to be a part of the finals. They should all consider themselves winners because they made it there on their own merits. No strings were pulled by any megalomaniacs hiding behind a curtain. Congratulations to Miss Exotic Oregon 2012, Lady Stockholm, who got there without labeling herself as the property or poster child of any one club (she works at several). Expect big things from this fiery redhead in the future. Additional congrats to first runner-up, Luka Bazooka of Lucky Devils Point and second runner up, Envy, of Mystic Gentlemen’s Club. It was just over one year ago that Lady Stockholm was second runner up in “that other pageant” and look at her now. So, perhaps victory could be just around the corner for another finalist next year!

Thank you to the primary spon-





sors of Miss Exotic Oregon; Dante's, Club Rouge, Heat, The Boom Boom Room, Stars Cabaret Beaverton and Mystic Gentlemen's Club. Now I'm not really allowed to play favorites and I don't give undo recognition to someone for some kind of payoff, so I would just like to personally thank the staff of Mystic as a whole. While the male staff might look a little like a casting call on the lot of Sons of Anarchy, these guys were freaking amazing to work with. Hats off to DJ Pugsley (who could pretty much run these things single-handedly with the experience he's had in the past year) and additional thanks to Dave and Nichole for doing what they do so well. And to the girls behind Mystic, we've come a long way since the days of the "boys club" haven't we? You ladies kick some serious ass.

Thanks to all the rest of the unsung heroes behind the scenes—like our judges Shawn Baravetto, Scott Underwood, Remington Reignz, Sheena G, Jedediah Aaker, Shawna and all the rest of the *Ex-*

otic event staff that made this event so special, including, Elle Lynn Stanger, AmbeRed, Hypnox, Paris, DJ Jason DeMain and Diego, plus our badass front-of-the-house team, Mariah and Bryan.

Exotic's promotional team will be taking a much-deserved rest over the next couple of months but will return this spring with the much-anticipated PoleroticA 2012. Beyond that, we've got two new surprises in store for you this summer with Freaks 'N' Geeks, (a showcase of the funniest and the nerdiest strippers from a galaxy far, far away) and *Exotic's* Girl-On-Girl tandem competition coinciding with Pride month. Until then, enjoy the wonderful sights that the New Year of *Exotic* will bring you.

JANUARY EVENTS

Thu 5 - Matador (W Burnside) - Statutory Ray's Birthday Bash w/ Public Drunken Sex and many more

Thu 12 - Wild Orchid - Countdown to Destruction Party hosted by Statutory Ray (AKA DJ Hazmatt)

Wed 18 - Club 205 - Covergirl Dance Contest

Thu 19 - Pallas Club - Big Anniversary Party with free raffle, giveaways & specials all night long

Wild Orchid - (Jan 19-21) Rock of Love Star Daisy De La Hoya

Fri 20 - Pallas Club - The Big Anniversary Party continues with XXX Grindhouse theme night starring Miss Exotic Oregon 2012 - Lady Stockholm plus free raffle, giveaways & specials all night long

DV8 - Pinnacle Vodka presents the Guilt Free Resolution Breaking Party with prizes for almost everyone

Skinn - Daisy Duke Contest - All ladies welcome - cash & prizes for best tits and best ass

Star Theater - The Rosehip Revue! 2nd Anniversary Show - SinnSavvy Productions presents one of Portland's most revered burlesque spectaculars

Sat 21 - Doc's - Wet T-Shirt & Booty Shorts Contest/Aquarius Party with drink specials for everyone under the sign

Thu 26 - Stars Cabaret (Beaverton) - White Party - wear white and get in for free plus special themed sets

Wild Orchid - Ladies' Appreciation Party hosted by Statutory Ray (AKA DJ Hazmatt)

Sat 28 - Stars Cabaret (Bridgeport) - Frozen Luau Party - wear a Hawaiian shirt for free admission with Hawaiian buffet & vacation giveaways, games & prizes

Mon 30 - Stars Cabaret (Beaverton) - Stars' Auto Party with auto vendor tables and auto games plus prizes specials and auto-themed sets - reserve your table today

WEEKLY EVENTS MONDAYS

Devils Point - Fire Stripper Night

Skinn - Porn Trivia (6-11pm)

Dante's - Karaoke From Hell - sing with a live band

TUESDAYS

Lucky Devil Lounge - Tiny Tuesdays with your host 3'6" Nik Sin

Club 205 - 2-for-Tuesdays with 2-girl shows

Skinn - Sex Toy Bingo Trivia

Heat - Authentic Mexican menu plus IPA draft specials

WEDNESDAYS

Heat - Wild Wednesdays - drop in from 8pm-10pm for wild beer specials

Jody's Bar & Grill - Kali's House of Pain from 9am-4pm

THURSDAYS

Heat - Double Trouble Thursdays with 2-girl shows & new Asian menu

King's Wild - Thirsty Thursdays with the best happy hour prices in town

Jody's Bar & Grill - Taco Thursdays with all-you-can-eat tacos for \$2

SUNDAYS

Dante's - Sinferno Cabaret

Club Rouge - Absolut Party with special prices on all Absolut flavors plus Absolut giveaways

Pallas Club - Free pool all day & night

Devils Point - World Famous Stripparaoke!

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miss
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THE ROAD TO THE FINALS

BY ELLE STANGER

After four qualifying rounds, the first of the Miss Exotic Oregon semi-finals took place on November 18th at Mystic Gentlemen's Club. As I took my usual seat from the judging stand, I noticed that the mood was pleasant and the couple dry-humping at their table behind me really helped solidify the ambience. I sipped my tea and scanned the list of the evening's slated competitors. After hearing the second Linkin Park song in fifteen minutes, I checked my ears for blood (none so far). The first round of competitors began.

The beautiful and athletically-built Lilly opened with a crowd pleasing ode to football—complete with a miniature jersey and balls being tossed to the audience. The statuesque Lady Stockholm entered her stage in a wedding dress and, minutes later, was executing balloons with a samurai sword. It was a night for Quentin Tarantino fans, especially when Mystic girl, Envy, brought the house down with her rendition of Uma Thurman's character from Pulp Fiction, complete with a faux overdose.

One of my fellow judges was less than enthralled.

"To me, it's like being on stage in a Nazi outfit. Yes, it's easily recognizable, but I've seen it before and it's not original."

I squealed in defiance, "That is NOT the same thing!"

Before the scores were tabulated, the girls turned in their beads, which also counted as a part of their score. I have a not-so-secret lady-boner for Envy and, when she approached me with beads draping her neck as thick as a body-cast, I'll admit, I took them, waited 'til she walked away and sniffed 'em. Being a pervert is essential to being an effective judge, really.

November 25th brought us the second round of semi-finals at Stars Cabaret in Beaverton. The Stars floor features four stages, various tables and booths, benches and music ranging from Nickelback covering a Bad Company song, more Linkin



Park and Fall Out Boy. I don't know. I admired my Shirley Temple in a martini glass, garnished with cherries. Spooky X peered at my drink and asked me, "What is that?" He suspected booze. He should know better.

The grinning, black dancer in the multi-striped mini smiled at the man with the Kansas City Chiefs windbreaker. He had been standing at her stage for about a minute, holding out a single dollar.

"Fucking A, put it downwwwn," I yelled at him from our table.

Nothing pisses me off more than cheap tip-pers. Ten minutes and two strippers earlier, this same KC man had placed a single dollar on the stage of a fully nude lady. Oddly enough, he then reached inside his jacket pocket, pulled out a napkin, rolled it into a tight ball and placed his trash, with great care, upon the "tip." Very carefully. As if the dollar was

a pyramid of Ming-Dynasty China and the trash a Fabergé egg. A cocktail waitress noticed him and immediately cleared the garbage off the dollar. Hopefully, the dancer didn't notice the insult. Now, this dancer made her way over to him and her mouth moved in words I couldn't hear. She was still smiling, wearing her work face. A true professional, I would have done the same. "Ugh." I sipped my water and looked away.

Stars Beaverton is an impressive club with lots of dancers making good use of the black lights with neon nails and attire. A competitor from Jiggles had even spattered her lean body with reflective paint. I eyed the brass ladders auspiciously set on two stages wondering how a girl could maneuver some cool tricks on them without feeling like a firewoman.

Mystic Gentlemen's Club hosted the penultimate round of competition, the Wildcard Round on December 2nd—a last chance for all previous competitors to make it into the five remaining spots in the finals.

Dante's Sinferno performer Blaze and former Ink 'N' Pink champion Veesha "the Heartbreaker" Hoffa performed a flawless, tandem pole set—one which actually gave me goose bumps (in addition to my lady boner). And, if you are a fan of tattooed ladies, you'll be pleased to learn (as I was) that Miss Rachael Reckless is back in town and has returned to the stage.

Years before I moved to Portland (or even considered stripping) I had already masturbated a handful of times to Rachael Reckless via SuicideGirls.

com. I do believe that was part of my daily routine for the first semester in college: come home, jerk off in front of the laptop, do homework, cook dinner and get drunk. So, I was beside myself to be able to meet her in the flesh.

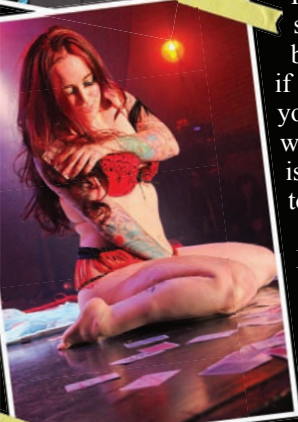
Even though these events are fun, there are always politics. For example, there are probably a small handful of strippers who are pissed at me. And, since I've already collected enough enemies for 2011, I'd like to state something very clearly: if you didn't place or win in this contest, it's not because I don't like you.

For one thing, I am only one of anywhere from four to six judges in a panel. For another, my boss coordinated this event, and I wouldn't jeopardize my job with cattiness or petty behavior. Since he tabulates the scores, I certainly wouldn't mark someone inappropriately, knowing that he will obviously see it. The three reasons why girls typically don't make the cut are: 1) Not having a strong theme in their set. 2) Treating their set like it was just another average night at their home club (last I heard, the average night at a home club doesn't offer \$5,000 in cash to the top three entertainers). 3) They didn't acquire a significant amount of votes/support from the audience. Really. Consider this: Girl 1 turns in 120 votes and has thirty people in the audience screaming her name, contributing to 30% of her score. Girl 2 turns in 2 beads and brought her boyfriend, also accounting for 30% of her score. Even if Girl 1 ranked third with the judges, (70% of her score) while Girl 2 scored higher with the judges, Girl 2 is still going to have to make up some points as a result of her lack of support. It doesn't take a mathematician to figure the results.

In sum, I had fun being a judge for the first ever Miss Exotic Oregon, and I thank all of the competitors for their effort, agility and grace*, as well as a stunning performance by this month's smiling covergirl, Lady Stockholm, the debut Miss Exotic Oregon.

**Ladies, for future reference: please spit your gum out before you perform your set. Whether it's a ballet recital or a stripper pageant, take the two seconds to dispose of it. Nothing broadcasts to a panel of judges "I don't take this contest seriously" better than a dancer gnawing her gum like an outfielder.*

Photography by Hypnox



PINUPCALENDAR2012

JANUARY



SUN 1 MON 2 TUE 3 WED 4 THU 5 FRI 6 SAT 7 SUN 8 MON 9 TUE 10 WED 11 THU 12 FRI 13 SAT 14 SUN 15 MON 16



Lady Stockholm
MISS EXOTIC OREGON 2012





miss
Exotic
oregon

THE FINAL SHOWDOWN

BY ROCKET

PHOTOS BY HYPNOX

It's Friday, December 16th, and I'm headed over the Burnside Bridge into Downtown Portland. Tonight, the first ever Miss Exotic Oregon will be crowned at Dante's. I park and check my recorder's batteries before I head inside.

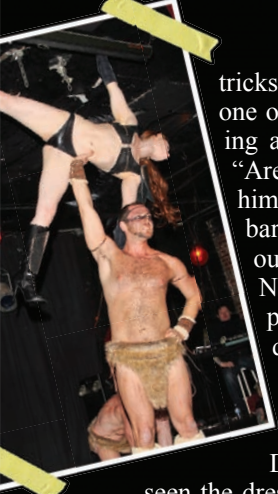
7:00PM

There are a few competitors here already, walking the stage and trying out the pole. I head downstairs to the dressing room, where more ladies are already prepping for the show (which is more than two hours away). I go back upstairs to the bar for a drink and spot a tan, leggy blonde in a hot pink minidress. Click, on went my recorder. "I'm Lisa, and I dance at Stars in Beaverton." Her smile is contagious. "Are you excited?" She cringes. "Dang, I'm SO nervous! But, I'm having a drink. It's called a Malibu Barbie." I laugh. "You look like Malibu Barbie!" As it turns out, that's her theme for the competition. Cute!

8:00

Back in the dressing room, I see more contestants appearing. As each arrival comes down the stairs, all heads turn nervously to check out the competition. The tension is palpable, but everyone is being polite. I spot a pale redhead in the far corner, talking to a group of backup dancers (both male and female) dressed as vikings. Her name is Lady Stockholm, and she tells me she's been preparing for this competition since August; choreographing and practicing with her crew, perfecting her pole





tricks and sewing the costumes. I turn to one of her Nordic warriors. He's wearing a loincloth and carrying a sword. "Are you ready to get up there?" I ask him. He snarls. "I feel angry. I feel barbaric. I feel like pillaging the shit out of this place." I turn to another Nordic warrior as he's being body painted. "What about you?" I inquire. He smiles. "I feel pretty!"

9:45

I've been performing at Dante's for years, and I've never seen the dressing room this packed. I'm tripping over beautiful half-naked women as I criss cross the space trying to get interviews. They are stretching, taking self-portraits with their cell phone cameras, listening to their set music, checking the list to see when they are up and taking shots to quell their nerves. I feel like I'm in a beehive. I spot a girl bent suggestively over a table as two female assistants glue rhinestones to her body. "What's going on over here?" I giggle. She looks up. "They are gluing on my rhinestone bikini," she replies. She says her name is Elektra and her bikini is made up of over a thousand gems. Wow. I hear the announcers call the first competitor to the stage as music blares. The show has begun! I turn to a petite brunette in a flowy white dress. She introduces herself as Orchid (Pallas Club) and says she's doing an *Alice In Wonderland* set. I silently ponder if there's going to be a backstage spat over this idea, because the posted stage directions note that there are no less than three competitors using this same theme. Yikes. Orchid, however, seems confident and cheery. "I want it to be performance art, but still sexy," she says hopefully. That sounds about right. I'm consistently impressed with PDX strippers' ability to go far beyond the "strut around naked" expectations of most club-goers. These girls are true entertainers. I catch Rachael Reckless (Mystic) as she comes off the stage, breathing hard and smiling after her set, which included blood, murder and zombies. "The crowd was great," she gasps.

10:45

To escape the mayhem, I go upstairs to interview some judges and the show's hosts. Ed Foreman and Elle are comparing notes. "The true performers have put a lot of thought into this and the judges will be able to see that," says Elle. When I ask Ed why he was pumped to host the show, he simply said "GIRLS." Good answer. No wonder Dante's was now packed to the gills. The crowd was here to see a lineup of naked babes dance. I give a quick hug to Paris, the official pole cleaner. "I clean it for each girl...with butter," she jokes. Judge Remington tells me he's scoring high for originality. "I'm looking for a show stealer. This is the first ever Miss Exotic Oregon and I'm taking it seriously." Judge Jedediah Aaker takes his duty more lightly. "I brought my



magnifying glass," he quips as he takes a puff off his cigarette. We turn to see a tiny babe jump out of a cab with a bunch of helium-filled balloons and two hula hoops. It was Soren High (Rose City Strip) and she was running a little late. I helped her get it all down to the dressing room then hurried back outside to interview another judge, David Cress, producer of *Portlandia*. "I'm looking for confidence and unconventional beauty," he says, adding, "Portland clubs are the best."

12:45 AM

The first half of the show is over and the second act competitors are getting nervous. They just saw Blaze and Veesha (Miss Ink 'N' Pink 2009) knock out a killer two-girl set that included breathtaking pole acrobatics and sexy wrestling. Lark (Sassy's) got a great crowd response by taking the comedic route, dancing to *Dick In A Box* while dressed in drag. Competitors are also combing the crowd collecting necklace bead votes. Some of them have beads piled so high you can't see their necks.

1:00

The second half of the show is in full swing and a lithe dancer named Annie (representing Jiggles) is on stage. She's gorgeous, and she dances with grace as she removes her top to reveal a perfect pair of breasts. Luka Bazooka (Lucky Devil Lounge) dances dressed as a raccoon inside a giant blow-up snowglobe. Envy (Mystic) says, "I'm just in awe of some of these other dancers. I haven't been dancing very long and I'm just happy I made it to the finals. I'm gonna go up there and do my best."

2:10

In the end, Envy's best wins her third place, and Luka's snowglobe dance wins her second. The first ever Miss Exotic Oregon is Lady Stockholm, who won the judges over with an epic performance as a Valkyrie, winging the slain warriors of a meticulously-choreographed Viking battle to the afterlife, accompanied with metal songs by Amon Amarth and Judas Priest. After a scene incorporating all of her backup dancers, Lady Stockholm crawled seductively across the judging table and then returned to the stage to end her set with a showcase of pole strength moves. "It gave me goose bumps," said one judge. She got an almost perfect score. I speak to the newly-crowned winner, beaming from her victory. "I'm surprised," she says, "but I *really* wanted to win this. I was really confident with this set—so much time and energy went into it. Planning for this consumed me. I don't think I wanna do anymore competitions. I don't know if I could go through it again!" I ask her how it feels to be the first Miss Exotic Oregon. She grins. "I'm stoked! Fuck yeah!"



DANCE CLUBS

ACROPOLIS 1 **FOOD LOTTERY**
8325 SE McLoughlin Blvd | (503) 231-9611
Mon-Sat 7am-2:30am, Sun 11am-2:30am

ARK ANGEL'S 59 **FOOD 18+**
818 SW 1st Ave | (503) 454-6752
Mon-Sat 7pm-4am, Sun 4pm-2am

BLUSH 3 **FOOD LOTTERY**
5145 SE McLoughlin Blvd | (503) 236-8559
Mon-Fri 11am-2:30am, Sat 12pm-2:30am,
Sun 4pm-2:30am

BOOM BOOM ROOM 4 **FOOD LOTTERY**
8345 SW Barbur Blvd | (503) 244-7630
Daily 2pm-2am

BOTTOMS UP! 5 **FOOD LOTTERY**
16900 NW St. Helens Rd | (503) 621-9844
Mon-Thu 11am-12am, Fri-Sat 11am-2am,
Sun 11am-10pm

CABARET 7 **FOOD LOTTERY**
17544 SE Stark St | (503) 252-3529
Daily 3pm-2:30am

CARNIVAL MALE REVUE 61 **18+**
330 SW 3rd Ave | (503) 227-1527
Wed-Sat 8pm-3am

CASA DIABLO GENTLEMEN'S CLUB 46 **FOOD**
2839 NW St. Helens Rd | (503) 222-6600
Daily 4pm-2:30am

CLUB 205 56 **FOOD LOTTERY**
9939 SE Stark St | (503) 256-0527
Daily 10:30am-2:30am

CLUB ROUGE 48 **FOOD LOTTERY**
403 SW Stark St | (503) 227-3936
Daily 6pm-2:30am

DANCIN' BARE 11 **FOOD LOTTERY**
8440 N Interstate Ave | (503) 285-9073
Daily 11:30am-2:30am

DEVILS POINT 12 **FOOD LOTTERY**
5305 SE Foster Rd | (503) 774-4513
Daily 11am-2:30am

DOC'S 9 **FOOD LOTTERY**
4229 SE 82nd Ave | (503) 788-1500
Daily 11am-2:30am

DREAM ON SALOON 16 **FOOD LOTTERY**
15920 SE Stark St | (503) 253-8765
Mon-Sat 11am-2am, Sun 1pm-2am

DVB 17 **FOOD LOTTERY**
5021 SE Powell Blvd | (503) 788-7178
Daily 2pm-2:15am

EXOTICA INTERNATIONAL 18 **FOOD LOTTERY**
240 NE Columbia Blvd | (503) 285-0281
Daily 11am-2:30am

FOXY GIRLS 63 **FOOD**
18935 E Burnside St | (503) 665-3773
Daily 2pm-2:30am

FULL MOON BAR AND GRILL 51 **FOOD**
28014 SE Wally Rd | (503) 663-0581
Sun-Thurs 11am-12am, Fri-Sat 11am-2:30am

GOLDEN DRAGON 62 **18+**
324 SW 3rd Ave | (503) 274-1900
Daily 6pm-Sunrise

GLIMMERS GENTLEMEN'S CLUB 38 **FOOD LOTTERY**
3532 SE Powell Blvd | (503) 234-6033
Daily 11am-2:30am

HAWTHORNE STRIP 19 **FOOD LOTTERY**
1008 SE Hawthorne Blvd | (503) 232-9516
Daily 2pm-2:30am

HEAT GENTLEMEN'S CLUB 57 **FOOD LOTTERY**
12131 SE Holgate Blvd | (503) 762-2857
Daily 10:30am-2:30am

HOTTIES 20 **FOOD**
10140 SW Canyon Rd | (503) 643-7377
Mon-Fri 1pm-2:30am, Sat-Sun 4pm-2:30am

JIGGLES 22 **FOOD 18+**
7455 SW Nyberg St | (503) 692-3655
Mon-Thu 3pm-2am, Fri-Sat 3pm-3am,
Sun 6pm-2am

JODY'S BAR & GRILL 23 **FOOD LOTTERY**
12035 NE Glisan St | (503) 255-5039
Daily 7am-2:30am

KING'S WILD 15 **FOOD LOTTERY**
13550 SE Powell Blvd | (503) 889-6490
Daily 11am-2:30am

THE LANDING STRIP 30 **FOOD LOTTERY**
6210 NE Columbia Blvd | (503) 281-3212
Daily 10am-2:30am

LUCKY DEVIL LOUNGE 47 **FOOD LOTTERY**
633 SE Powell Blvd | (503) 206-7350
Daily 7am-2:30am

LURE EXOTIC LOUNGE 2 **FOOD LOTTERY**
11051 SW Barbur Blvd | (503) 244-3320
Daily 11:30am-2:30am

MAGIC GARDENS 24 **FOOD LOTTERY**
217 NW 4th Ave | (503) 224-8472
Mon-Sat 12pm-2:30am Sun 6pm-2:30am

MARY'S CLUB 25 **FOOD LOTTERY**
129 SW Broadway | (503) 227-3023
Daily 11:30am-2:30am

MYSTIC GENTLEMEN'S CLUB 52 **FOOD LOTTERY**
9950 SE Stark St | (503) 477-9523
Mon-Fri 9am-2:30am Sat-Sun 7am-2:30am

NICOLAI ST. CLUBHOUSE 27 **FOOD**
2460 NW 24th Ave | (503) 227-5384
Mon-Fri 9am-2:30am Sat 11am-2:30am

THE PALLAS 28 **FOOD LOTTERY**
13639 SE Powell Blvd | (503) 760-8128
Mon-Sat 11:30am-2:30am Sun 1pm-2:30am

PIRATE'S COVE 29 **FOOD LOTTERY**
7417 NE Sandy Blvd | (503) 287-8900
Daily 11am-2:30am

PITIFUL PRINCESS 60 **FOOD**
12646 SE Division St | (503) 954-1019
Daily 11am-2:30am

RIVERSIDE CORRAL 31 **FOOD**
545 SE Tacoma St | (503) 232-6813
Mon-Sat 10am-2:30am Sun 1pm-1am

ROOSTER'S 32 **FOOD**
605 N Columbia Blvd | (503) 289-1351
Mon-Sat 11am-2am Sun 12pm-12am

ROSE CITY STRIP 10 **FOOD**
3620 SE 35th Pl | (503) 239-1004
Daily 3pm-2:30am

SAFARI SHOWCLUB 33 **FOOD LOTTERY**
3000 SE Powell Blvd | (503) 231-9199
Daily 11am-2:30am

SASSY'S BAR & GRILL 34 **FOOD LOTTERY**
927 SE Morrison St | (503) 231-1606
Daily 10:30am-2:30am

SHIMMERS GENTLEMEN'S CLUB 40 **FOOD LOTTERY**
8000 SE Foster Rd | (971) 230-0047
Mon-Sat 9:30am-2:30am Sun 10am-2:30am

SKINN GENTLEMEN'S CLUB 21 **FOOD LOTTERY**
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STARS CABARET BRIDGEPORT 50 **FOOD**
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10518-B NE Sandy Blvd | (503) 252-5559
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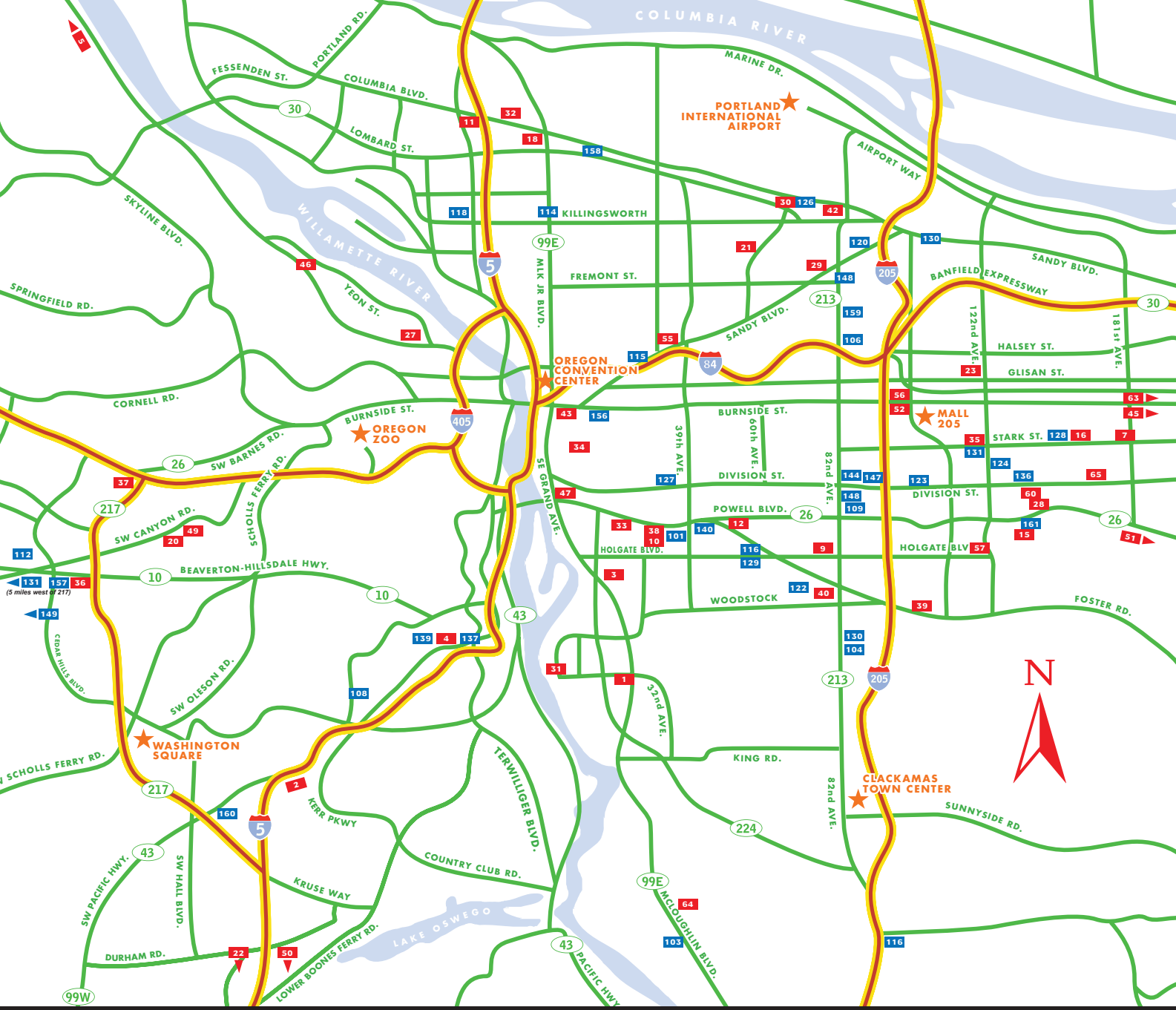
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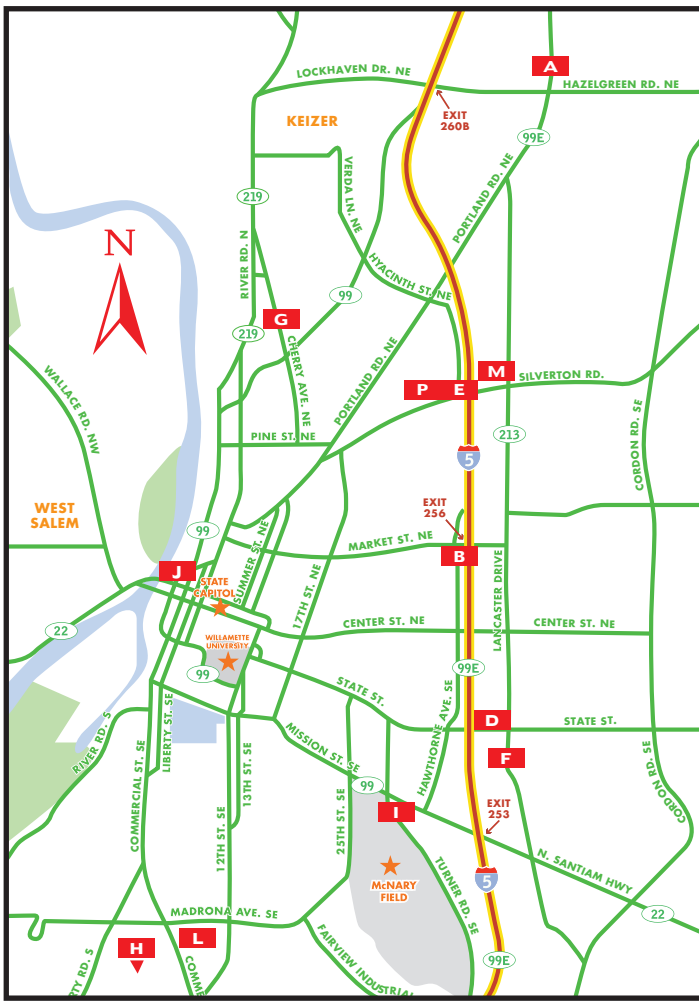


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SHAKERS BAR AND GRILL

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FREAKED OUT

BY: MARIAH

Here in Portland, we do our best to keep it weird in many ways—our style, our hairdos and even our doughnuts. If we can let our freak flags fly so freely in public, imagine what's going on at home, in the privacy of our own bedrooms. Do you have someone in your life that is, simply put, a full-fledged freak? Perhaps your significant other has been trying to persuade you into doing something you're just not quite ready to do with them. Or you, yourself, have a fucked-up fetish you can't get someone to share, or are too embarrassed to discuss. Don't let a simple peculiarity come between you. Revitalize your sex life and take things to a whole new level with some strange toys.

There is probably the perfect sex toy out there for any kink. If there is a term for it, then I bet there is a toy for it. In fact, with a little research (and our good friends at Taboo Video), I learned of some really odd things out there that would be perfect for any pervert in your life, even if that weirdo may be you. I also learned that some things are not for me, or you, to question. Some people are just born that way!

PARAPHILIA: A CONDITION WHEREIN A PERSON'S SEXUAL AROUSAL AND GRATIFICATION DEPEND UPON FANTASIZING ABOUT, AND ENGAGING IN, SEXUAL BEHAVIOR THAT IS ATYPICAL AND AT TIMES, CONTROVERSIAL. PEOPLE WHOSE SEXUAL FANTASIES BORDER ON THE UNUSUAL AND BIZARRE.

Are you, or is someone in your life, obsessed with Vampires or shows and movies like True Blood and Twilight? Perhaps you know someone who is a blood enthusiast or who has a red wing fantasy. In fact, Menophilia is the sexual arousal acquired from the sight and smell of menstruation. For Menophiliacs, I found the **Bleeding Pussy Stroker** made by Topco in a special line called Fucked, which boasts, "it's beyond fetish, it's FUCKED." This particular toy comes complete with tampon string and blood lubricant.

For those of you obsessed with virgins, needing to lie about being one or wanting to re-live losing their maidenly flower over and over, sex toy company Gigimodo created the **Artificial Hymen** so you can make every time feel like the first!

Do you know someone who is ass-captivated? For those of you who feel that the normal asshole just isn't cutting it for you anymore, you can stretch your pleasure to new limits with the **Gaping Asshole Stroker**. This toy is for people with a gape fantasy. That means they get off on abnormally loose anal sphincter muscles, often caused by repeated insertion of large objects.

Do you have a large object you want to insert somewhere? I'm not sure how you cause this next condition, but the **Rosebud Ass Stroker** is to emulate rectal prolapse. This is a medical condition wherein the walls of the rectum protrude through the anus and hence become visible outside the body. Some call it a Pink Sock Fantasy. Who says men don't like getting roses too?

Are you or anyone you know into Roman Showers? Then that means you are into Emetophilia—a sexual fetish in which an individual is aroused by vomiting, or observing others vomit. If so, the **Vomiting Mouth Stroker** (with scented lube) was made for you. Do I really want to know what fake vomit smells like?

The Fucked line really has the bases covered on bodily fluid with the fake blood, vomit and now the **Shitting Ass Stroker**. Also with scented lube, this toy is intended for people who are into Coprophilia or Scatophilia—paraphilias involving sexual pleasure associated with feces. So, I guess you shouldn't be surprised when the lube smells like shit!

Also in the Fucked line is the **Acrotomophilia Love Doll with Cyberskin Pussy and Ass**, for people with sexual attraction toward someone with an amputated a limb. Live out your amputee fantasy with this legless, handless babe who has a digital face. The best part about her: she has a detachable vagina for easy cleaning. She's got me beat, I don't have a detachable vagina!

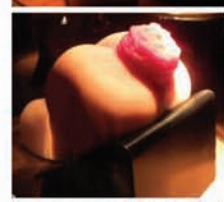
Sometimes, you feel like a nut and sometimes you don't. Some people are unsure what they want and some things just can't be put into a category. Topco knows this, which is why they made the **Hermaphrodite Cock, Pussy and Ass**; so that you can live out your Hermaphrodite fantasy. It's two sex toys in one and, for the right individual, this gift could be the best of both worlds!

Do you know a true animal lover? Perhaps you have a beastly urge? Do you sometimes get to the point where the standard human dong just doesn't do it for you? For such people, the thoughtful deviants in the fake dong industry put their skills to work. I was able to locate dildos on the internet in the form of dog, whale, horse, fox and wolf penises. Who knows what other options you might find out there? This could be the start of a cool, new collection!

"This is one of the most realistic animal penis dildos ever made. It expands after insertion. Just like the real thing... If you ever had a canine fantasy, this toy will make it come true!"

Speaking of dogs... do you think you're the only one who gets to be a freak? Dogs have needs too. Your dog sees you in all your dirty shame. They say that dogs are man's best friend, so don't forget about them. Keep them off your legs and furniture with **The Hotdoll**. Yes, it's a sex doll for dogs. It's shaped like a dog and it'll allow your tension-filled pet to go to town as much as his little heart desires. My pussy is going to be jealous!

"The Hotdoll is best used in a quiet place in the presence of a small number of people. Indeed, certain dogs will be inhibited by the presence of the owner while others will be stimulated by their presence."



TAKIN' OUT THE GARBAGE: A LIST OF THINGS NOT INVITED BACK TO 2011

POLI-TAINMENT

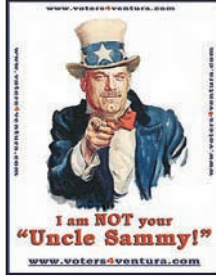
Politics have always been entertaining and entertainment has a tendency to exhibit political undertones—leading to a slight overlap between the two in more than a few cases. However, that which occurs between these institutions (politics being a step up from entertainment in cases illustrated by folks such as Al Franken or Jesse Ventura) should be considered as a one-way street with the former (politics) serving as the end of, not a means toward, one's career as a comedic buffoon or professional threat-maker. Recent months have provided us with illustrations of what appear to be stubborn attempts at doing the exact opposite, with political front-runners resembling pre-packaged SNL skits. Instead of denying blatantly illegal campaign sponsorship like the last fifty or so presidential candidates did, Herman Cain, for instance, jokes about being the Koch brother's "brother from another mother," and when, like, a dozen women came out of the 90s to make allegations of rape against the guy, he put together a Women for Herman Cain website (predictable enough) that features an image header of the exact same women who appear when one conducts a Google search for "stock images of women" (I'm not exaggerating here). There is a one-in-ten chance that this guy could end up running the largest nation in the free world.

I'm not going to waste anyone's time getting into the endless debate that is Ray's View of the World vs Everyone Who is Wrong when it comes to choosing a political party, but if any other serious institution comprised of the people with access to nukes and billions of dollars (say, the Catholic church) were to pride itself in being a circus-like spectacle (scratch that last example), the public would get a tad upset. Imagine being pulled over and having your ass beaten by a cop who insists on quoting lines from Robocop or getting a prostate exam from a doctor whose "schtick" is making bets with the nurse about how many gang signs he can make while feeling around your colon. The point I'm making is, if you have a career that classifies as public service (basically anything a five year-old wants to be when they grow up) you should not be using it as a stepping stone for your career as a slapstick comedian or trash-genre author; these are things you do after you fail, not activities you engage in to help you win (at least when it comes to serving time in political office).

Solution: Running for political office requires a mandatory (and unsuccessful) three-year career as an SNL cast member, ten years of work in a rural post office and one year working as the head of an unsuccessful small business. This will dissolve any desire for humor or public spotlight and will only attract candidates who actually desire the boring, private life that encompasses 99% of an effective politician's actual work day.

THE OCCUPY MOVEMENT

The Tea Party was formed years prior to any popular media exposure and was originally loosely organized around Libertarian political beliefs regarding gun ownership and drug use. In a nutshell, these are the guys who checked out copies of the Anarchist Cookbook from the public library and photocopied it for their friends in high school, friends who are currently being sent weekly Infowars-based mass emails from "Paul who used to wear a trenchcoat and



smoke in the cafeteria." Once the "movement" gained enough media attention, however, it was adopted and bastardized by a group of self-oriented, mostly Caucasian, finger-pointing geriatrics who want nothing more than to see the head of the first Black president on a red, white and blue pitchfork. Sadly, even the most prominent and rational-thinking figureheads (i.e. Ron Paul) withdrew from the movement that they helped start, mostly out of embarrassment and complete dissatisfaction with the way it was co-opted by the same people it wished to oppose. The remaining lot is nothing more than a loony bin with a voting bloc.

Like a Tea Party of the left by analogous comparison, the Occupy Movement was started by a small group of free-thinking and goal-oriented protesters who sat outside of Wall Street offices with informative signs that drew attention to the otherwise ignored problem debt inequality (fact: rich people make shitloads more than poor people, and this is not okay). Aside from being co-opted by a literal handful of smaller factions who encouraged reasonable steps and attainable goals toward solving said problem (such as "bank transfer day" in which consumers were encouraged to close their bank accounts in favor of credit unions with lower fees and more locally-driven economic sustainability), the Occupiers were mirrored nationally mostly by the same people who have been actively seeking an excuse to sleep outside and smoke pot for days on end (but can't afford a ticket to Fire in the Canyon or Burning Man); college graduates who can't find triple-income work in whatever bullshit field they majored in. As it stands, there is no visible difference between the modern shanty town and whatever particular Occupy location is currently farming foot fungus and commuter resentment. I decided to visit a few of the major Occupy Wherevers in search of some good interview fodder, but all I seemed to find were really, really good deals on pot (seriously, Occupy Olympia is like a fucking farmer's market). The only literate pro-Occupy arguments I can find are on Facebook and they typically read as follows:

"I SPENT SIX YEARS STUDYING A POTENTIAL CAREER FIELD THAT I STILL HAVE NO REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE IN. ALTHOUGH MY TUITION EXPENSES WERE MUCH LOWER THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY I BORROWED FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT MY ON-CAMPUS LOFT AND HOURLY WEED HABIT, I OBVIOUSLY DIDN'T SPEND ENOUGH TIME IN MATH 95 TO FIGURE OUT THAT EVEN THE PROFESSOR ASSIGNING MY GRADES WOULD HAVE TO WORK FIVE LIFETIMES OVER TO PAY OFF ONE YEAR OF MY LOANS ON HER DOCTORAL-LEVEL SALARY. I CANNOT FIND ANY WORK IN MY FIELD BECAUSE EVERYONE ELSE THAT MAJORED IN IT IS ASIAN AND DIDN'T SPEND EVERY NIGHT TAKING JELL-O SHOTS AND PLAYING XBOX. THUS, I BLAME WALL STREET. I AM THE 99%."

If you try to argue with any of these people, perhaps suggesting that anyone can suck enough dick to make it to the top, they will accuse you of being mentally clouded by the guise of evil corporate greed. This is known as the Chewbacca Defense. A good response to the "quit nay-saying the Occupy Movement... What, are you in favor of corporate theft?" line might be "quit nay-saying the Jewish lawyers defending giant companies... What, are you in favor of the Nazis?" Both phrases require the same logical leap from "total sense" to "you're fucking kidding me." Somewhere between shitting money into gold toilets and living in public ones, exists what I call "the 98%," the majority of the statistical 99% that cannot afford to take time off of their career path (emphasis on the word "path") to lounge around in a park with cardboard signs.

Further, if you do opt to sleep outside in tents while holding cardboard signs as traffic slows to a halt, you may as well write "will work for food" on it instead of "we stand with Egypt" (this is

a real sign in Occupy Eugene, one that ignores the fact that to stand with Egypt would be to ask some made-up Canadian military to sneak into our president's house and murder him). If the thirty-five year-old Vietnam veteran sitting on the Ross Island off-ramp can support a visible meth habit and a body mass of 200lbs, anyone can pay off some of their "crippling" student debt by sucking it up and panhandling. On a side note, I currently went into repayment status on a sixty-grand tab with Sallie Mae. According to the "income-contingent payment schedule" I asked to be placed on, not only is my credit score in good (aka "repayment") standing, but my minimum monthly payment is fifteen dollars.

Solution: Mandatory work-study. In fact, anything occurring in a classroom should be required to at least remotely resemble real-life work—even if directed by David Lynch and interpreted by a deaf female comic from Pakistan... just something that doesn't lead students on a career path that extends ten feet forward and faces the opposite direction.

DIABETIC MARKETING AND RECKLESS DEREGULATION

It's forgivable for the fast food industry to let the stoner mentality to dominate menu items to a reasonable extent. Generous exceptions in such cases include pizza delivery chains (the "let's see how much shit we can stuff into our crust" campaigns cater to people who are already too lazy to leave the house, so the Triple-Pepperoni Cheesesterfuck is really just the makings of dorm-room leftovers) and dessert items (only so much sugar can fit on top of a donut), but the idea of passing heart-shattering monstrosities off as single-serving items in already-unhealthy locations (like KFC does with their Double Down, which is pretty much a half-chicken sautéed in Twinkee lard and served on a baby calf) is a perfect example of why Jamba Juice needs a cartoon mascot. Put it this way: I have smoked a gram of weed in the time it took me to put this article together thus far, am holding a box of Reese's Puffs Cereal and even I, think this shit has gone too far.



One argument against the Double-Value Triple-Bypass Sandwich would support the theory that weed smokers and creative eaters already know how to turn dollar-menu items into delicious balls of artery-clogging art (otherwise, you wouldn't be able to get a side of nacho cheese at McDonald's). A more rational argument would bring attention to the massive flop of the numerous "healthy" menu campaigns throughout the years, and how companies unapologetically respond to demands for McWheatgrass with items like the Six-Pound Sour Creaminator; Jack In The Box may appear to give two shits about how many raisins your kids get in their sundae for a week or so, but only until they introduce the Full-Release Jack (two-inch swiss cheese "buns" filled with pieces of bacon on an 18-year-old patty, covered in cocaine and whiskey). Fast food is bad for you, and like anything else that's bad for you, the market will never dry up. However, once these companies start bragging about how much they can get away with, it's a slap in the face to the average consumer that already sells enough of their lungs, liver, heart and brain to vendors offering cheap fixes. On the other hand, I'd love to see Newport get away with advertising Extra-Tar Non-Filter Menthol Wides. Bonus points if they can work Lil' Wayne into the jingle.

Fast food is not the only area in need of regulation. Take, for instance, everything slated to disappear if another soccer mom from Alaska enters the political arena. Sure, there will always be debate between unemployed hippies and laid-off Walmart greeters regarding how many taxes, fees and limitations should be imposed on the average citizen or ginormous corporation, but the fact remains: the roads, schools and hospitals you rely on to get you to

your Tea Party rallies and Occupy festivals require a quantifiable amount of government-enforced legislation in order to prevent extreme catastrophe. If regulation was placed directly into the hands of the marketplace, and everything was privatized, things like the McSpeedlimit (200mph w/ purchase of a collector's glass) and the Double-Down home loan (second mortgage gets a second slot pull) would prove to be a lot more mentally stressful than the thought of knowing a few of your tax dollars went toward aborting gay whales or whatnot.

Solution: Vote Democrat. They're pussies, so their lack of on-camera influence is dwarfed by their virtual invisibility when not in office. Republicans will always have a hand in the evil empire, it's just best to keep it invisible and where it belongs, on a stock ticker.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Those Stupid Fuzzy Animal-Ear Hats

I'm sure there's a name for these things (in fact, I know there is, my assistant Haley told me and I forgot... take that, irony!), but exposure facilitates endorsement and I want nothing less. If I had a dollar for every time a sweaty, drooling post-raver ex-hipster bumped into my DJ booth and accidentally lit his retarded grizzly-bear hoodie on fire, I would have zero dollars.

Solution: Allow smoking in bars.

ENTER-MERCIALS PRESENTED AS MOVIES

There is nothing more insulting than being sold a seven-dollar soda, unless one considers the possibility of being sold that same goddamn soda several times over for the following eighty minutes. Product placement is one thing, but the majority of mainstream "cinema" has become shamefully rapist-like in their delivery of such commercial sponsorship. Apple, T-Moblie, Fox News and Mountain Dew are apparently the only four companies to exist in fictional worlds. Sure, one can travel thousands of light years into Michael Bay's universe without ever seeing a single character purchase ammunition, water, gasoline or birth control (staples of any action-hero-inhabited reality, according to logic), but God be teabagged if audiences aren't exposed to iPhone-wielding teenagers and Pepsi-drinking secret agents along the way.



Solution: Regal Cinemas presents Free Movie Fridays (suggested tagline: "we already raped you out of the twenty-dollar bag of snacks you'll need to sit through an hour and a half of commercials, so there's really no need to ask for a backrub").

TOUCHSCREEN EVERYTHING

I already have a coke nail and a booger nail. I don't want another reason to piss off my girlfriend when we run out of condoms.

Solution: The new iPhone Push-Button. Kids already forgot about the ones Nokia sold in the 90's, go ahead and slap a four-hundred dollar price tag on it and call it "interactive plastic command cues." See what happens.

Talesfromthedjbooth.com



AURAL STIMULATION

BY STATUTORY RAY

HIP TO BE SQUARE: THE THREE MOST IMPRESSIVE MUSICAL ACTS OF 2011 AND WHY I WANT TO KILL THEM

ELEVATED

Both of the regular readers of this column are familiar with the basic formula used to determine how much I hate your band:

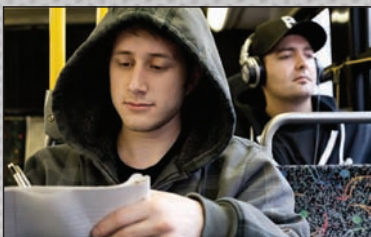
(Predictability of Sound Based Strictly Off of Visual Presentation) x (Dredlocks, Iron Crosses, Backpacks or Glasses) / (Blue Velvet Samples) – (Members of Pigface) = X

...where “X” equals how many venue owners I will tell to blacklist you from ever getting booked in Portland if I get the chance. Although Elevated has neither sampled Blue Velvet (to the best of my knowledge) nor featured any member of an industrial band, they still score an “X equals zero” rating on my “number of people to talk shit about them to behind their backs.” This is a hard score to get—one that usually requires a strategy guide and at least a few beers (and I’m all out of beers).

My strategy guide led me to Fire In The Canyon (see last bazillion issues) where I met dozens of “unique” (read: forgettable) opening-hour acts ranging from “screaching chick stripping out of Halloween costume” to “no, I’m the other white kid from Compton.” Elevated, a hip hop duo consisting of DJ Weather on turntables (with actual fucking needles) and Dust on the microphone (spelled appropriately and without abbreviation), came out looking like two dudes you’d see teaching audio engineering courses at a community college, or perhaps starring in an instructional video on Linux. Yes, they’re also white. It wasn’t long into Elevated’s set that most of the crowd, myself included, let go of the “I’m trying to act interested” pose and relaxed into a “whoa, these dudes are actual entertainers” stance, enjoying Dust’s steadily-rapid-but-intelligent-and-cohesive verbal delivery over DJ Weather’s scratches and loops—produced using AN ACTUAL FUCKING MIXER and the tried-and-tested format of sampling shit that hasn’t been looped out on stage more often than Amy Winehouse (too late, if anything). The shittiest thing about Elevated is how they remind audiences how rare it is to see a decent rap duo that doesn’t resort to gimmicks, stereotypes, repetition or misspelled monikers. Easily the best local hip hop group to operate off of the basics and shatter expectations, Elevated makes me want to punch a kitten for not thinking of this idea first. Then again, I’m a much better kitten-puncher than I am rapper and I can’t fit a vinyl mixer into my booth at the club.

DITCH DIGGER

Like Elevated in terms of no-frills entertainment, Ditch Digger consists of a bunch of dudes who most people know in one form or another: average, working-class whiskey drinkers who put together a band and cite influences ranging from Mainstream Rock Band Everyone Knows to Super Underground Metal Guys You’ve Never Heard Of, practicing when they can and all maintaining average-white-guy lifestyles involving short-term relationships with strippers and blue-collar substance abuse problems. One may even have a Confederate Flag with a skull on it hung above his bed, but he’ll be the first to tell you he’s not racist, he just really likes skulls and Southern shit. The other probably works on cars.



However, when your friends gave up their gig after being ignored by college radio or pissing away open-mic nights in bars on the outskirts of town, my friends, Ditch Digger, continued to rack up wins left and right. Whether opening for legitimate, industry-recognized rock bands, swirling through rotation on FM radio stations that still allow local (but heavily unattainable) play or tearing a hole in the local rock club stage’s taint area, Ditch Digger is straight-up, well-executed Southern rock reminiscent of many bands that I’d list but don’t want to for fear of emails from metal fans who don’t appreciate my “loose” comparison to whatever band my ears can’t tell apart from the other that should have been listed instead. The lead singer, Ian, is also a strip club DJ (and not the super-flashy wannabe coke-dealer type, either). For this reason and this reason alone, I fucking hate Ditch Digger for pulling an Elevated and proving that I could be getting my dick sucked for drink tickets right now if I had the motivation and patience.

JOHNNY BLAZE



You know the chick who says she hates country but then turns around and listens to Bob Dylan, Eric Clapton and Tom Petty without realizing that two more ounces of irony and she may as well be dancing to the latest White Stripes single? If I were that girl, I’d tell you that I hate pop music, meaning instead, that I hate the watered-down pre-packaged blah blah that anyone with an ounce of teen angst and a CD player claims to be the antithesis of, but will not hesitate to admit fault where appropriate. Justin Timberlake’s first album after discovering cocaine and Black culture, *SomethingFutureSexyTitleOneWord*, is still in my CD jacket and I also confess to really digging T-Pain (I wasn’t a fan until I saw his hat collection over the years and realized that it is possible to Auto-Tune something that already has flavor).

When local R-and-B’r Johnny Blaze told me he was putting together an album that featured songs about strip clubs and the like, I was honored to jump on a feature spot and promote the disc without any prior knowledge of its content. When I put it in my CD player and heard pop-ready (read: clean, slightly auto-tuned, super-catchy and techno-bass-heavy) music, I was about to start unnecessary beef with mister Blaze (or at least slow it down below 120 BPM and remix it). This proved to be a difficult task, however, as my head was already nodding and my lips were somehow mumbling a chorus I had heard only once. Skip to the next track, repeat. Witnessing Johnny Blaze incorporate live instruments into his last gig proved that the dude can actually sing his ass off too, even without the help of backing tracks and vocal effects.

I’m gonna just cut the journalist shit right here and state the facts: Johnny, if you’re reading this, I hate you more than Elevated and the guys in Ditch Digger. It’s one thing for me to purchase Caucasian hip hop and Southern rock, but I’ll be goddamned if radio-ready love raps are stuck in my head for weeks on end. This is war.

Elevatedhiphop.com

Reverbnation.com/ditchdigger2008

Johnnyblazemusic.com

Talesfromthedjbooth.com

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EROTICMUSE

BY ELLE LYNN STANGER



The biggest issue of the last half-decade has been the economy. Occupy protests began in October and have continued, thus far, into the new year, presidential candidates are focusing their campaigns on employment ideals and the stock market seems to take a massive shit every other week.

Obviously, money is on everybody's mind.

Many in the sex industry formerly considered themselves recession-proof—now realizing that they are merely recession-resistant. Long gone are the glory days of girls prancing around the stage easily leaving with triple digit tips. When I began stripping in the summer of 2009, a handful of seasoned professionals told me “this is the worst time to begin dancing.” Knowing nothing otherwise, I can't compare.

I was initially jealous of the girls who began stripping in the Clinton era, and would bring home in one shift what they now make in a month. Some of those ladies are still around, and after listening to them reminiscing over “the good ole' days” my envy turns to empathy.

With the rising cost of living, inflation and unemployment, even established strip clubs have less business than ever before. In order to cover their losses, many clubs have increased their stage fees for entertainers, or are scheduling more girls per shift, thus making up the losses in stage fees.

It's not unusual to see a dozen dancers in a deserted club on a weekday night. It's also quite common for dancers to pay stage fees equaling half, or even more, of their earnings for the shift before tip-out to the staff (to anyone who claims we get an easy ride with tax-free income, bite my ass).

It's not just the strip-industry that is suffering. Streaming websites and downloading have hit the porn industry hard. Potential buyers of movies now have the option of acquiring the same content for free, right from the comfort of home. And really, who is going to buy a DVD for \$35.99 or even \$5.99, when the ratio of computers-to-adults in most American households is 2:1? Resulting in this, the adult production companies earn less, they pay their performers less, the distribution companies buy and earn less, the porn shops make less and sales employees earn squat. Most porn shop clerks begin at minimum wage, with zero benefits and less-than-full-time hours.

But, that's also due to the evolution of technology and isn't only significant to the sex-trade.

Evolving technology has affected the mainstream as well. Websites such as Amazon and eBay have deeply affected many mom and pop shops. Netflix led to the demise of Blockbuster on a massive scale. And, with gargantuan retailers like Walmart selling televisions for such low prices, why bother seeking out a TV repairman? Even our beloved iPods have arguably put an axe in the heart of retail CD sales.

The times are changing and we all have to work smarter and evolve. With unemployment straddling 9-10% for the last year (with no sign of dropping), it's decidedly easier to attempt to control our “output” rather than our income.

January is often the time during when we find ourselves making resolutions for the coming twelve months, and usually, some are in regards to improving our finances. Since a dancer in Portland

can make anywhere from 0-\$1,000 in a shift, everyone's situation is different. Besides being able to have money prepared for unforeseen expenses, such as medical emergencies, it seems crucial to know what you really earn.

My suggestion: Get a notebook and write down your shift earnings. I called mine my “fiscal week,” beginning Tuesday night and ending Monday morning. Since weeks can vary in hundreds of dollars, some of you ladies might be surprised to see what you really take home. Once you've figured this out, it's time to figure out where the money goes—also known as expenses. The night that my standard poodle ate a tray of pot brownies made me thankful for the \$900 I had set aside, allowing me to get his stomach pumped at Dove Lewis. See what I mean about unforeseen expenses?

Other more predictable expenses to account for include items such as work supplies. Every time I cracked a pallet of MAC makeup, I subtracted \$26 from my mental bank, because that's what those mofos cost. Do you drink at work? Do your customers purchase drinks for you, or does every shift end with a \$35 tab? That could be hundreds of dollars a month, depending on your number of shifts.

Most strippers are no strangers to giving our dancewear longevity by using nail polish or Sharpies to cover over worn-down heels or boots, or using clear nail polish to minimize additional tearing in those perfectly tatty fishnets.

One of the best tips I ever received was from fellow dancer, Rocket Ship, when she purchased a toolbox from Home Depot and used it as her work case. This sturdy, hard plastic container is locking and non-porous, making it a traveling safe for your items. Buying a combination lock makes your items and cash safe from sketchy bitches. The cost? All together, approximately \$40, a truly genius idea.

The 10% rule is a must for potential success in this business. Deposit, or, if you have an aversion to banks and credit unions, set aside 10% of your nightly or weekly earnings. I stuck by this rule for two years, and it is the only way that I paid for PSU completely out-of-pocket, student loans and financial aid be damned.

I suggested my 10% rule to a young dancer who was complaining of “being broke.” Completely serious, she stared at me; “I made thirty dollars tonight.”

I thought about this and responded, “Set three dollars aside. Even if you only do that each time you dance, at the end of the month, after working five shifts a week, you'll have \$60 saved. At the end of a year, that's \$720.” She snorted, but I could see the wheels turning.

Out of curiosity, I typed “stripper finances” in Google; the top result was the webpage stripper-faq.org/yourhtm. Hmm, seems like I'm on to something...

Ladies and dudes, if you complain that you can't make your rent, but then proudly show off your new \$450 cowboy boots, the writing is on the wall. Good luck and Happy 2012.

Elle is a former dancer at Lucky Devil Lounge and a contributor to TitsAndSass.com

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the Rocket Report

photo by
travis geny

As I sit down to write *The Rocket Report* for the first month of a new year, I'm still riding a wave of elation from co-producing the second annual PDX Strippies (Portland's Strip Club Industry Awards). I'm also anxiously anticipating the epic finale of *Exotic's* Miss Exotic Oregon competition. By the time this edition hits the press, the very first Miss Exotic Oregon will have been crowned. As I reflect back on 2011, I can't help but take a hard look at the strip club industry in this town and contemplate the changes it's undergone. Portland has more clubs now than we ever have; it seems like a new one opens every month. Yet, the economy is still not in fantastic shape and, as a result, the Rose City's naked entertainers are not making as much money as we used to. It's now harder to make a decent living as a stripper in Stumptown.

At the same time, our fair city is becoming more popular. Portland's population has reached 583,776, making it the 29th most populous city in the U.S. We're on the national radar for being a hip new liberal West Coast city. This is thanks in part to our farmers' markets, microbreweries, arts communities, city parks, love of bicycling, recycling and (love it or hate it) the TV show *Portlandia*. It's also due to the prevalence of strip clubs that welcome an unlikely mixed crowd of older men, young hipsters and hetero couples. Don't believe me? Do a Google search for "Portland Oregon strip clubs" and you'll find articles from CNN, *The Seattle Times*, *Time Magazine*, *Travel* and *The Huffington Post*, just to name a few. The popularity of PDX's strip clubs is even referenced on our city's Wikipedia page:

"Because of strong free speech protections of the Oregon Constitution upheld by the Oregon Supreme Court *Henry vs. Oregon Constitution* 1987, which specifically found that full nudity and lap dances in strip clubs are protected speech, Portland is widely considered to have more strip clubs per capita than Las Vegas or San Francisco."

Many Portland strippers have used their careers as a springboard to greater success: Viva Las Vegas has earned acclaim as an author. Malice McMunn has taken her Portland brand of punk rock swagger to make a name for herself in LA. 2010 PoleroticA winner, Cricket, has performed for an audience of thousands at the world-famous sex industry show *Turkkusex* in Finland. The Porcelain Twinz, fire dancer Ivizia and others have toured worldwide with their acts, and they all got a start in Portland strip clubs.

All of this makes me prouder than ever to say that I'm a stripper in Portland, but there are some things about this business that make me downright embarrassed. I've heard reports from strippers citywide who say that increased competition for money and attention has led to an upswing in cattiness between dancers. It's true that you'll always encounter a few tiffs and small scuffles in any biz, but it seems like I've heard more of this negativity over the past year in the form of dancers lashing out against each other via vicious gossip, rude comments or less-than-professional behavior



at work. The latest incident came from a dancer who told me about a rude message she received from another stripper after being nominated for multiple awards at the Strippies. The message suggested that she didn't deserve to be nominated, because she hadn't been dancing for very long. The author of the message suggested that the dancer ask to be "dropped" from some of her nominations.

Here was a new dancer, so excited to be part of this now-famous industry (while working extremely hard to promote herself, which is a huge part of being successful in this business) and make industry friends, and she was getting blasted for her efforts. I thought it totally sucked, for lack of a better word. When I first started stripping here in Portland, the veteran dancers I looked up to welcomed me with open arms, gave me friendly tips, advice and encouraged me to make a name for myself. This industry is a

daunting environment to enter and a dangerous one to navigate. Being respectful and courteous to one another is crucial.

Yet, despite the industry negativity I've witnessed over the past year, I've already seen a change happening that gives me hope. It started in December with Miss Exotic Oregon and the Strippies. I saw groups of dancers cheering each other on and being supportive of each other at these events. Instead of passive-aggressive shit-talking and inflated egos, I saw strippers offering each other advice on costuming and teaching one another pole tricks.

And what happened with that dancer who received the disconcerting message from a fellow stripper? She came to the show. The dancer who sent the email was also there (with a scowl on her face), but scores of other dancers came up to congratulate her, encourage her and cheer her on when she was called to the stage. This is the kind of comradery that makes me proud to be a nude entertainer in this great city. The Miss Exotic Oregon competition has also brought some really incredible talent into the spotlight. I've seen competitors put on shows unlike any I've ever seen before. It's encouraging to see dancers be respectful to one another behind the scenes.

Professionalism and showmanship are inherent to being perceived as talented. A dancer can be beautiful, dance with grace and agility and look smokin' hot naked, but if she has a bad attitude and the personality of the Grinch, then she won't be well-liked or admired by her peers.

We are a talented lot here in Portland, and it's time to start acting like it! Talent is more than pole tricks, flexibility and dance skills. It's more than a pretty face and a sexy physique. Talent implies professionalism, politeness and comradery. More than ever, Portland's strip clubs are getting positive attention for being venues featuring nude entertainers who do more than just strut around naked. We *dance*. We *entertain*. We put on one hell of a show! Let's work cohesively to get Portland strip clubs the fame they deserve.

Until next time, over and out.

You can read more from Rocket on her blog, RocketIsRad.com.

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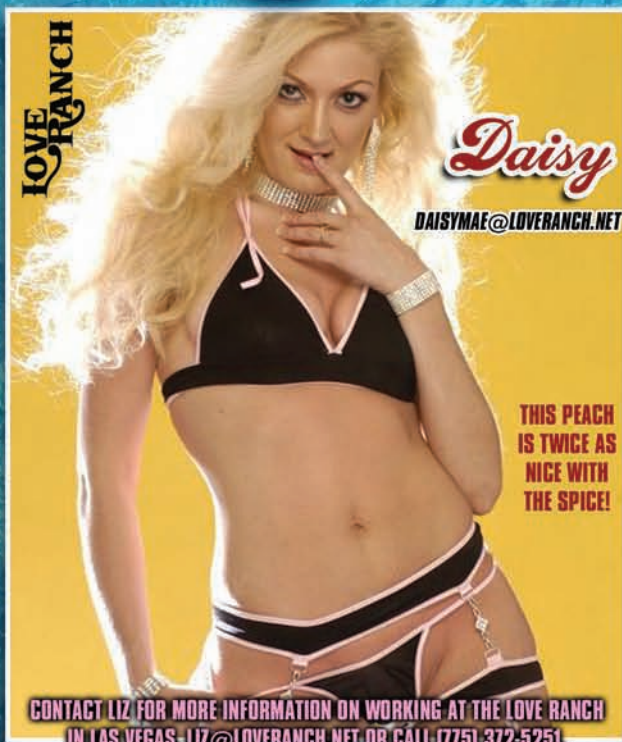
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January 2012

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of the month

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Kailani

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JANUARY 18TH

2-FOR-TUESDAYS
2-GIRL SHOWS

HAPPY HOUR
BLOWOUT

10:30AM - 5PM DAILY

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THURSDAYS

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