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FEATURES



BLAZER'S ADDENDUMS

steadfastly reviewing his past articles and
keeping it honest
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looking at the differences in our besties
across time
page 22 | by hannah one cup



PROACTIVE SECURITY

an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure
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WORLD'S WACKIEST WEAPONS

some absolutely ridiculous & offensive inventions
page 36 | by wombstretcha the magnificent

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Once again, your beloved column has been cut to a meager half page this month to make room for "more crucial content," as worded by the brass. Before you picket, boycott, loot, or pillage, I'd like to disclose that I may have had a hand in such a decision, but I assure you it was not due to a lazy pen-hand—take my pretentiously witty treatise very seriously. Truth be told, there's a lot going on in the industry this month, so without further claptrap and balderdash...let's get to it!

Birthdays are always a great place to start, and we have three such offerings this month! Let's start with Ruby's "Angels Only" Birthday Party on Friday, March 2, at Lucky Devil Lounge. Next is Tristen's Stripparaoke Saltburn Birthday at Devils Point on Saturday, March 8. Finally, fast forward to Saturday, March 23, for Dahlia's Birthday Party at Guilty Pleasures. Happy Birthday, ladies!

Strip clubs can have birthdays, too! We'd like to congratulate The Lounge Gentlemen's Club on their third anniversary! Make sure to stop by and celebrate with them on Saturday, March 16, for their Customer Appreciation Dinner—a very special night where they give thanks to you, the loyal aficionados of the flesh, for helping them keep their doors open. Happy Anniversary!

Wanna get shamrocked? Come on clover to Stars Cabaret at Bridgeport for their St. Patrick's Celebration, complete with green beer and a full menu of goodies all weekend long, starting March 15. Saturday, March 16, Dominique Stella goes green with their St. Patrick's Day Party, featuring \$5 Shamrock Shots and BOGO lap dances! Save a little in the tank to wrap up the weekend with Guilty Pleasure's St. Patrick's Day Party the very next night—Sunday, March 17.

And now...something for the ladies! HUNKS, the #1 Male Dance Revue, will visit Stars Cabaret in Salem on Sunday, March 24. Ladies, grab your besties for the perfect girls' night out!

DJ Dick Hennessy's 10th Annual Pirates of the Caribooty wrapped up last month, and we'd like to congratulate Benzi from Stars Cabaret in Salem for taking 1st place! We'd also like to recognize the fantastic performances by Cleo from Firehouse Cabaret, who placed 2nd, and Banshee for placing 3rd! You can check out some highlights from the event on page 38!

What's next? Well, Dick Hennessy is at it again with his 9th Annual Miss T&A Contest. Make sure to check out all the dates and locations on page 40! Also, stay tuned for *Pole-rotica 2024*, coming next month! Get all the essential details on page 14!

Until then...Irish kisses & shamrock wishes!

Support your local businesses, including every industry business within these pages.



**SAT 02 – LUCKY DEVIL LOUNGE
RUBY'S ANGELS ONLY BIRTHDAY PARTY**

**FRI 08 – DEVILS POINT
TRISTEN'S STRIPPARAOKE SALT BURN BIRTHDAY**

SAT 09 – THE VENUE – MISS T&A CONTEST (ROUND 1)

FRI 15 – DREAM ON – MISS T&A CONTEST (ROUND 2)

**FRI 15 – STARS CABARET (BRIDGEPORT)
ST. PATRICK'S CELEBRATION**

SAT 16 – DOMINIQUE STELLA – ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

**SAT 16 – STARS CABARET (BRIDGEPORT)
ST. PATRICK'S CELEBRATION**

**SAT 16 – THE LOUNGE – 3-YEAR ANNIVERSARY
CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DINNER**

SAT 16 – TROPHY'S – MISS T&A CONTEST (ROUND 3)

SUN 17 – GUILTY PLEASURES – ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

**SUN 17 – STARS CABARET (BRIDGEPORT)
ST. PATRICK'S CELEBRATION**

THU 21 – CLUB DETOUR – MISS T&A CONTEST (ROUND 4)

FRI 22 – THE LOUNGE – MISS T&A CONTEST (ROUND 5)

SAT 23 – DESIRE – MISS T&A CONTEST (ROUND 6)

**SAT 23 – GUILTY PLEASURES
DAHLIA'S BIRTHDAY PARTY**

**SUN 24 – STARS CABARET (SALEM)
HUNKS (THE SHOW)**

**SAT 30 – GUILTY PLEASURES
MISS T&A CONTEST (FINALS)**

HAPPY HOURS

CABARET – 2PM-6PM

DEVILS POINT – 3PM-6PM

DESIRE – 6PM-9PM

DV8 – NOON-3PM

THE LOUNGE - 11AM-5PM

LUCKY DEVIL – 3PM-6PM

BLAZER'S ADDENDUMS

By Blazer Sparrow

For literally no other reason than sheer lack of ideas, I'm using this page space to revisit two pieces from this smut rag for some important updates concerning my Pulitzer-worthy journalism. See, we can't consider *Exotic* to be the shining beacon of quality letters it is if we don't also hold ourselves to the highest standards. Sometimes, things change. New information comes to light. Sure-fire investment ideas leave you bankrupt. Elections don't turn out the way you want. Whatever the case, it's up to us to maintain the integrity of our content by keeping you, Dear Reader, updated when necessary. I've been writing for this fine publication since January 2018, and due to my diligent fact-checking and sheer laziness, I've never felt compelled to write any updates or addendums to my flawless pieces. But hey, there's a first time for everything.

So, in light of recent news, I felt it necessary to do some follow-ups to pieces past for your entertainment and my financial well-being.



Update to January 2024

Okay, I'm not gonna say that my written words have magical powers, but it appears they actually do. I recommend to all my would-be writers out there to be as brash, demanding, and ungrateful with your words as well, and you, too, can get what you want! Now, to be fair, most of the entries in my January

piece, along with 99 percent of what I write for this magazine, are jokes. But as you probably picked up, I can't help but let a little sincerity slip through here and there. The only reason I mentioned Portishead is literally out of raw, unadulterated desire for another Portishead album. And lo...if you've been keeping up with the musical papers, you'll surely know Beth Gibbons is releasing her very first solo album this year. Okay, okay, it's not a proper Portishead album, but Jesus Christ, I guess this bullshit visionboarding kinda works! Maybe Beak will come out with something this year, and I can just listen to whatever album Adrian Utley happens to play guitar on and call it good. JK, I still want a goddamn fourth Portishead record. Hop to it, you aging Bristolians!

Please don't misconstrue this addendum as some wholesome fluff piece about thinking positively and being grateful for the results. Quite the opposite! Manifest shit you want by making demands and shouting them into the winds. If they don't materialize, then shout louder. Rather than be grateful, I now realize the power of printed words in this tiddy rag. Drunk on that power, I shall now make more demands of artists who don't know me in the next issue!

Update to August 2023

I was almost going to do a whole part two to this piece from the summer of last year, but honestly, I think I nailed it the first time and couldn't come up with enough bullet points. I stand by my last bullet point of *don't* do it. Honestly, DIY touring is an expensive and exhausting endeavor that, in the long run, really won't yield any material gains for your musical career. You are literally cosplaying being a rockstar at the expense of your finances, your relationships, and your family's opinion of you. Actually, fuck that, you're cosplaying as a DIY punk

band from the '80s up to the early '90s at the very latest. I think I mentioned this in the previous piece, but Jawbreaker was *complaining* about making \$200 a show in Hit Parader in a 1990 issue. (No, I won't source it, this is a fucking free strip club mag, just believe it and move on.) Again, if you do the little inflation calculator, that's about \$470 today. Can you imagine making that much at each one of your dumb little West Coast shows? Fuck that, can you imagine making \$200? To put this in an even grimmer perspective and cite another example that I can source...Stu Copland was recently on Bob Lefsetz's podcast and mentioned making around \$200 a show when The Police toured America in 1978. Again, on the little inflation calculator, that's about \$800 today. So even if we can somehow manage DIY bands getting a payout of \$200 'til the end of time, with the way inflation is going, that'll basically get the poor, starry-eyed bastards one gallon of gas. The situation is hopeless. Quit now before it gets worse.



Now if you're still reading and still insist on chasing this pipe dream, I do have one more *don't/do* to consider.

Don't reach out to the venues first while trying to land gigs in other cities. **Do** reach out to other local bands in that city first.

It seems counter-intuitive, I know. Why bother asking bands to join a bill that

doesn't even have a venue to play? Take it from someone who has been failing at this for twenty years. First off, you shouldn't even be going on tour because no one knows who you are. It doesn't matter if you reach out to a big concert hall or a dingy bar. All the venue wants to know is, "What is your draw?" See, if you did it the right way and sucked enough dicks in Los Angeles or had some viral hit on TikTok and secured some management or label support, you would *have* a draw and a *reason* to go on tour. But you don't. You're going on an expensive vacation.



But, a little life hack to subvert this hiccup is to come at the venue with a bill already built. You see, if a venue is nice enough to grace you with a response, the *very* first thing they will ask you if they don't care about your zero draw is what other bands are going to be on the bill. After all, this endeavor is going to do nothing but cost them money, so it's up to you to save them as much labor as possible. You'll also save yourself the emotional torture of corresponding with someone who would rather do *anything* else than talk to you. Local bands, however (aim for folks that seem to have a similar following as you), are going to be *excited* that an out-of-town band is reaching out to them. Because, you see, they are artists and are starved for attention and validation. You will make them feel special for reaching out to *them* specifically. (They don't need to know you reached out to ten other bands that day.)

When you get two or three locals signed on for a date, you can then pitch a three- or four-band bill to the venue. Guaranteed you'll get a "yes," since it's just another date on the calendar for them, and you saved them the chore of having to fill it!

You're welcome, poor struggling musicians who still haven't given up. You can mail cash and cocaine to the magazine's maildrop, and the editor will route those to me.



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UNDERSTANDING & PREVENTING OVERDOSES

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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

Best Friends

BY HANNAH ONE CUP

Those special people who are lucky enough to consider you a friend and who you should also feel just so lucky to know. Individuals who each add their own unique blend of spices or shelf-stable powdered juice substance, meat, or milk product to your life. They've seen you at your best and have certainly seen you at your worst. They fight with you, but always in just the right way to where you both start talking to each other again... after a suitable amount of time apart, to sit and call each other names like "judgmental asshole" to yourselves.

After all is said and done, they are still there—like unmoving rocks. Sisters from other misters and brothers from other mothers are there like a beacon of warm light. Sometimes, this beacon is annoying and constantly shining in your eyes, but it's consistent and there at the end of the day. Best friends do not always last a lifetime, but during their time with you on this earth, they will leave a lasting souvenir (or tattoo) that you will use to recall or reminisce about later and for the rest of your life.

As someone who has had only a handful of people whom I've rightfully considered best friends throughout my life, I can say that the best friends I had in grade school were the same as they were in high school (I had a graduating class of 30 kids, what do you expect?), but are not the same as my current best friend(s) (you know who you are), because we've all changed. Anyway, I thought it would be fun to consider the differences in our reasoning behind what makes someone a best friend when we are in grade school versus what we want out of a friend when we're an adult. Let's start with...

Kindergarten Best Friend(s)

When I was in kindergarten, I was certain I was going to marry this one boy in my class because he was so funny. He thought I was the most annoying thing since soggy toast, but I wouldn't stop saying, "he's my boyfriend!" Anyway, my first best friend was in kindergarten. She was a tough cookie who was very blunt for a 5-year-old. She walked up to me and said, "He's not your boyfriend.

He can't tie his shoes." I remember thinking later on—as an adult—how profound those words were for a kindergartener and how glad I was to have this truthful, booger-eating girl as my friend. She unknowingly set the tone for my life and made me aware of something called "standards." After her, all my other friends were judged by this standard she had set for me, and I wish to thank you, too.



Grade School Best Friend(s)

The rest of grade school, I feel like kids are attempting to gather as many other kids as possible into their dirty little hands so that they can retain popularity for a specific length of time. Usually, this time span is until the end of high school. But sometimes, something unfortunate happens, like weight gain, braces, an embarrassing event, etc., which will cause those children to leave your pig pen high and dry. Those aren't best friends. Your best friend is still there in the mud with you, and teaching you how to play the most popular trading card game of the time, so you can try to get "cool" again.

Middle School Best Friend(s)

In middle school, some of us still have a fair amount of children as "best friends" from elementary school. We throw that word around pretty fast and easily, like hotdogs, but that's just so we can have big birthday parties, get presents, be invited to other kids' houses, and remain popular. In reality, middle school kids have one or two really tight friends who know everything about them. Everything from your current crush, your REAL favorite band (I never really liked Disturbed...), shows you watch, and where you were during 4th

period (you weren't pooping. No one poops in middle school, and you have a hickey on your cheek...?).

High School Best Friend(s)

Once you get into high school, you've pretty much retained the popularity you had in middle school (or were gifted full headgear and SAW-style braces late in middle school, so that changed the status quo a bit). You've also continued on with the real best friend you've had all these years, and you guys have plans for what you'll do after high school together. Other kids are still around, but they each have their own best friends at that point, so everyone is just a little less close than you were making them out to be earlier on. Your high school BFF has been there for all your heartbreaks, all your firsts: cigarettes, trying weed, sex (and knows why you don't know if you like it yet), and other memorable milestones. You both plan on living together or close by. Maybe you'll go to college, but you're on the fence since you've been grinding that same wheel for over 12 years. Either way, you'll both be in each other's lives—that is the plan.

how I spoke to my best friend when we first met vs how I speak to her now



Adulthood Best Friend(s)

After high school, you and your best friend, whom you had kept close for over 12 years, may start to drift apart. Maybe you both moved or got into relationships, jobs, or things of the sort...or maybe they're also remaining your adult best friend, which is rad, and I congratulate you. Your adult best friend(s) may have expiration dates that don't

seem to last as long as your childhood best friends. You become a bit more choosy about who you allow into your close circle, which is the bullshit storm of your life. If they can't handle the storm, you tell them to politely get the fuck out of the kitchen and stop telling you what to do. Sometimes, that conversation or argument ends the relationship. Other times, it strengthens it. But your adult best friend will be with you through thick and thin (as thin as their adult lives can handle, anyway).

I am lucky to have a couple of best friends currently. They've been long-standing members of the "Real Intense Big Fans of Hannah Club" or RIBFOHC (rib fuck) for a few years now and it's going great.

At the end of this article, I had planned on discerning what it was that made us choose who we had as best friends. But honestly, I've realized I never did choose my best friends. I believe all best friends are weasels who force or find their way into our chicken coop, eat our food, and then start having heart-to-heart conversations with us about how we could better ourselves (and protect our house from home invaders like those pesky chickens). They take us out to strip clubs and eat steak with us while simultaneously preaching that we needed to get in shape.

In my humble opinion, I believe our adult friends are worth fighting with and for. Hold those dipshits close before they realize what a shitshow your life is becoming and that they should probably leave you. Buy them flowers and say that some sleazy article you read in a mag at a strip club told you to.

If they ask which strip club and if they have steak, tell them "yes," put a ring on it, and call it a day because you've found a keeper.



Hannah One Cup can be found at various strip clubs eating steak and burgers with her best friend. She very much enjoyed her burger at Lucky Devil and recommends visiting for the talented dancers, food, and bartender Jessica (you were so rad for finding merch that fit, thanks much!). Thanks to DJ Jack and the great doorman who allowed her to take this photo (you do a great job, Adam). She also learned an ancient secret passed down by an interesting woman—that you can find out if pants or shorts fit or not if the width can reach around your neck... You can also find her on Facebook by her name and on TikTok (@thursdaynight_depression).

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PROACTIVE SECURITY

Let's play a little game really quick. Close your eyes and picture in your mind what a bouncer does on the job, and when you're done, make sure you remember to open your eyes again so you can keep reading. Ready, go! Okay, got your eyes back open? Good work! I'd be willing to wager you pictured stuff like breaking up brawls and forcefully removing unruly customers. You likely envisioned instances of *reactive* security. And to be fair, you'll never completely eliminate the necessity of reactive action. Every person in the bar or club is an additional variable in a complex equation, and you can't always perfectly predict the behavior of those variables. You *can*, however, reduce the reactive portion of the job by being *proactive*. By doing the following, those of us working in club security can not only reduce the likelihood of serious incidents but also mitigate the severity of incidents that do come about. Work smarter, not harder.

Front Door

The front door sets the tone for a customer's entire visit. A positive front door encounter helps to put or keep your customers in a positive headspace. If you're at the door being friendly and having fun, you're nudging the people coming in into a friendly and fun vibe as well. Conversely, if you're being rude, brusque, maybe a bit dickish? You're nudging them towards dickishness as well. Then, if you, the person who was mean to them at the door, have to approach that person later in the night, say, for instance, to remind them to tip the dancers or not to take selfies, they're going to take on a defensive posture before you even speak. However, if they had an enjoyable interaction with you, they'll be more relaxed and welcoming and more receptive to being corrected.

Being friendly doesn't eliminate the need to turn people away when necessary. Be selective about who you allow entry. That person who is both walking and speaking in cursive is already too intoxicated to be served, and

chances are they'll cause more problems than it's worth. It's easier to turn them away before they ever enter than it is to kick them out. If someone gives you bad vibes, that's your gut instinct telling you something's off, so listen to that. Every time I've ever second-guessed a bad feeling I had about someone, they have all become a problem later on. Someone who is acting aggressive or disrespectful outside the door isn't going to magically transform into sunshine and unicorn farts once they're in the door. Let them cause trouble at someone else's establishment.



Once you've checked their IDs and confirmed that they're of age and the ID isn't expired or otherwise invalid (you're doing that, right? Don't put yourself at risk of getting your peepee slapped by OLCC!), perform pat downs and bag checks. Check for weapons, obviously, because shit will be way worse if you have to deal with a fight in which one or more people involved are armed. Also, check for outside alcohol getting smuggled in. Outside booze means your bartender sells fewer drinks and makes less money while having less control over customer intoxication levels. Catch it at the door. They can keep the booze, or they can come into your club—but not both.

The door is also where you should set expectations with your customers. That customer coming in might have never been to a strip club before, or maybe they're from a different state with different rules, or maybe they know the rules and have every intention of disregarding them anyway. Whatever the case, having a quick spiel to recite

to everyone walking into your club deprives everyone of the excuse, "Oh, I didn't know." My current iteration of the spiel I give goes something like this: "Tip the dancers, no touching, no photos or any other use of your phone's camera, limit cell phone use to flat on the table, and there's a one-drink minimum."

One last consideration at the door: it's a good idea to charge a cover. There's room for exceptions, like good regulars you know will spend money, veterans or military, or birthday boys or girls, but charging an entry fee should be the norm. It gives the customer skin in the game; they may as well get their money's worth and stay for two or three drinks instead of heading to the next spot after just one and doing something to get kicked out, meaning they just wasted money. Whenever I'm on the fence about charging, either because it's still really early or we just don't have very many people inside, I circle back to a favorite quote of mine. In *The American Crisis Papers*, Thomas Paine wrote, "What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly." When cheapskates get in for free, they've obtained their entry too cheaply. Don't be surprised when they esteem it too lightly and end up watching the stage without tipping, only drinking water from the water station, and generally taking up space without bringing any value. Someone who walks away from a five-dollar cover charge is probably too cheap or too broke to be in your club anyway, and someone dead set on coming in to make it rain won't mind the cost of entry.

Inside

Now it's time to get proactive inside the club. It may not seem like much, but keeping the room neat and orderly is in security's best interest. Pushing in chairs, bussing empty glassware, picking trash up off the floor, wiping down tables, and keeping walkways clear should be continuous throughout the night. Physical disorder contributes chaos to the atmosphere in the club, whereas

physical order will nurture a broader sense of order. Removing an empty glass from the floor is especially important because in the event that a fight does break out, broken glass becomes a cut hazard, and either cups or bottles can become improvised weapons (I've seen it happen). Eliminate those hazards before they even become hazards. You'll be glad you did. By keeping on top of these types of minor maintenance tasks, you're sending a subtle—maybe even subliminal—message to everyone in the room: you're paying attention to the little things, so there's a good chance you're also paying attention to big things. People's conscious thoughts may not pick up on that message, but it'll still register subconsciously and give them pause before trying whatever stupid shit their invasive thoughts are telling them to try to get away with.



Another good practice inside the club is to establish and maintain your presence. Conduct regular walkthroughs of the entire club. Let your customers and coworkers see you keeping a watchful eye over your domain. Make spot corrections of behaviors that aren't allowed so others know you're on the ball. I try to frame it as a team effort: "Hey, can you do me a *huge* favor? I know you're not taking photos because I can see your screen, but it would help me out a lot if you keep your phone flat on the table while you're using it so my dancers and I don't mistake you for the kind of asshole who takes photos in a strip club. That way, we can all have a good time tonight." Take notice of small problems and address them before they have a chance to become big problems—de-escalate any issue that can be de-escalated. When a conversation starts getting a little heated, calmly make your way over to the people involved and ask if everything is alright. Involve yourself in the minor disagreements so they don't have a chance to progress into a violent confrontation. When someone is clearly getting faded, cut them off from alcohol service before they get too sloppy, so you don't find yourself scrubbing barf out of the carpet—or worse.

As the old saying goes: "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Being proactive might seem like extra work that isn't that important, but it's super easy and low effort compared to the energy you'll have to expend bringing equilibrium to a situation that's already gone sideways. Do this stuff to make your life easier on the job. You deserve it!

When not breaking up fights and scrubbing barf out of the carpet, Nate Hazen can be found bussing cups and pushing in chairs at X Exotic Lounge. Stop by and have a friendly interaction with him at the front door.

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COLUMN

BY WOMBSTRETCH THE MAGNIFICENT

WORLD'S WACKIEST WEAPONS

In the course of human affairs, much has been decided by war. Naturally, everyone at war tries to get one over on their enemies. This typically results in offensive developments, as the progression of technology is often driven by conflict. However, this has also led to some absolutely ridiculous things that were, at their time, considered Very Good Ideas™, but as the tide of history moves on, we realize they were, in fact, not good ideas. I will take you through some of the most silly or impractical weapons people have made.

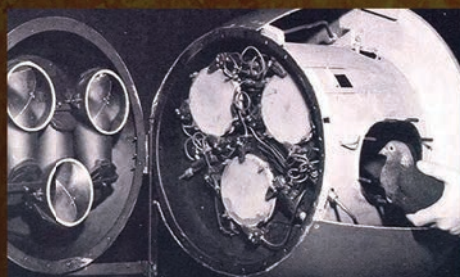
Listed in no particular order.



The Man Catcher

Ah, the noble “man catcher”—and before everyone starts hearing the words

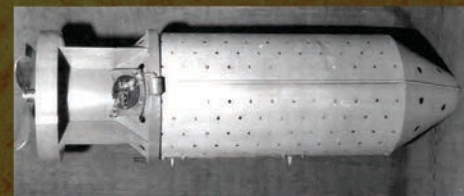
of the popular club song “Headhunter” by Front 242, this was considered a benign implement to literally, well, catch men, as it is basically a giant spring-pincer with spikes on the inside, to nab someone from horseback, or on horseback, depending on your situation. Its efficacy at catching said men has a poor record in the annals of history and fell out of favor, as it seems just catching people with a rope had a better track record...but it’s a silly device worthy of mention. The spikes don’t seem that benign, but this was the middle ages we’re talking about. Apparently, people could be caught in a giant spring horseshoe with spikes in it, and this was considered a humane way of restraining them.



Project Pigeon

Now, this just might be one of the weirdest things ever devised, in war or not. Famed behaviorist B.F. Skinner decided that one could save time and money by building a guided bomb to launch at Axis powers during the Second World War. However, he decided that this bomb should be guided by pigeons. How, you ask? Well, there was an image displayed on a screen, which, if they pecked at it, would be

given birdseed. So when the birds are stuffed into a glider full of explosives, once they see the picture, which, of course, was the target, they would maneuver toward it. Skinner complained to the War Department that nobody was “taking this seriously.” Ya think?



Bat Bomb

Speaking of animal-based weaponry, at one point during WWII, “enterprising” people with connections in high places, namely a dentist, decided that if we drop canisters of sleeping bats with fire-starting devices on a timer, those bats would roost under the eaves of Japanese homes, which incorporated a lot of flammable parts at the time. Then, the bats would catch fire and spread the flames to raise a ruckus. This man did *not* like bats at all, and all the bats involved were stuffed in various sacks out of Carlsbad Caverns. Damn.

Japanese Balloon Strike

With last year’s fuss over the weird Chinese surveillance balloon the USA shot down, we might think balloons a tool for observation, be it weather balloons or spy balloons, but not always. After the bat fracas we inflicted on Tokyo, which was not really all that effective, they decided that they would



do something equally ridiculous. What is that? Well, they sent hundreds of 35-foot-diameter balloons that, when they landed, would *catch fire*! They launched them from Japan and were just like, “If it works, it works.” It didn’t work all that well, but the balloons were found as far east as Michigan. There was a special fire brigade here in the Pacific Northwest in case one caught stuff on fire. They did not see a lot of work. Not sure if the Canadians got any, but if they did, they were probably saying, “Oh good, it’s really cold out, eh.”



The Lantern Shield

Imagine when you were a kid, and you would design ridiculous things and draw them. I don’t know if all of you did this, but I sure did. Renaissance Italians (before Italy was even really a thing, just warring city-states), I am fairly sure they put a kid in charge of armor design because a lantern shield is a spike-lined shield with a glove

built-in—or gauntlet, really—as well as a sword, and a hook to hold a lantern! Ostensibly, so you could duel at night. We think life is boring now, but holy hell, they most certainly found ways to overcome that back then. No TV, so I guess it’s nighttime duels with a metal glove with a shield, sword, and lantern attached to it! *Let’s go!*



Hunga-Munga

It’s not a terrible thing. It’s an African throwing or...hacking weapon. It’s basically a very odd axe with one purpose: war. However, it did not really work correctly. It was this bizarre jumble of edges and curves. Don’t get me wrong, I would not want to be hit by one, but they were just thinking, “What if we made an axe to hit people with?” “Okay, okay, we’re on board.” But then they say, “Wait...what if we could also throw it at those fuckers?” “Tell me more...” and so, the Hunga-Munga was born. It is, ostensibly, a dual-purpose throwing and hitting axe, but its utility as both of those things is dubious, considering that it is a crazy tumult of random edges and lines.



Urumi

Imagine a sword, which is also a whip. That is what the urumi is. It’s a sword,

but the blade is not straight. It’s essentially a flexible metal strip that is sharp on the sides, but one wields like a whip. It takes some time to learn its practice, and it originates in the ancient days of India, though some still practice it today. Not sure which Indian person was like, “What if we had a sword which was a whip?” but it seems people were onboard, and these things are absolutely nuts. Go look up videos of people using these, and you will instantly wonder how they do not fuck themselves up.

There are far more, of course, as the nature of humans to fight themselves has not and will not abate. Perhaps there will be a part 2, but we shall see. Avoid pigeon bombs and flaming bats—and especially that urumi. Be well, and live well.

-Wombstretcha



Wombstretcha the Magnificent is a pigeon enthusiast, semi-professional Dollar Tree shopper, writer, and retired rapper from Portland, OR. He can be found at his website, wombstretcha.com, on X as @wombstretcha503, and on MeWe and (begrudgingly) Facebook as “Wombstretcha the Magnificent.”



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