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ANGEL
FROM CLUB 205



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From Club 205

FEATURING



TALES FROM THE DJ BOOTH

part ten of the 12 rules of stripping series
page 20 | by dj hazmatt



VAMPIRE HOURS

industry jobs can really change you
page 34 | by nate hazen



CREEPY HALLOWEEN HISTORY

unfamiliar facts about our favorite secular holiday
page 36 | by hannah one cup



JAPAN-O-MANIA

from foe to friend and the many things we share
page 38 | by wombstretcha the magnificent

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INSIDE STUFF

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STARS
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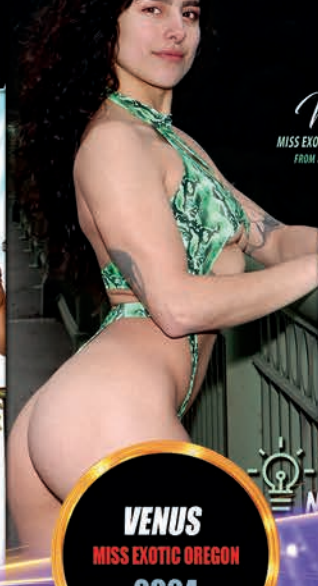




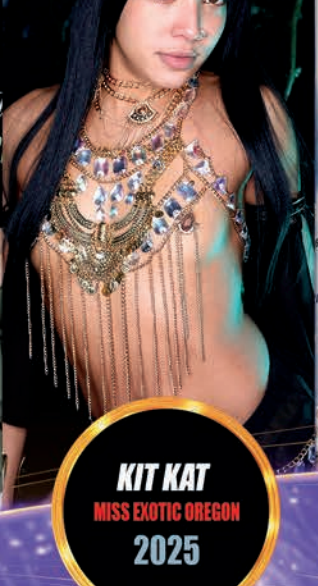
PHOENIX
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2022



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FRIDAY, NOV 6
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BY BRYAN A. BYBEE

MISS EXOTIC OREGON 2027

With summer in the rearview, it's time to focus on fall—the most exciting season for our industry, with the biggest celebration of talent and creativity in the Pacific Northwest. A pageant that showcases the adult industry in a way that no others can—top elite entertainers on the biggest stage, with the largest audience. It all starts at Kit Kat Club on Friday, October 2, and continues through November! All the dates are on the right, in red, or flip back to page 16 for the official promotional spread!

THE P-TOWN HAPS

Sticking with tradition, we'll cover October birthdays first...of which we have two. On Friday, October 23, it's Vanna's Rocky Horror Stripper Show Birthday Party at Hawthorne Strip. Then, on Sunday, October 25, it's Lux's Unholy Birthday Party at Devils Point. Happy Birthday, ladies, from all of us at Exotic!

As for other industry events this month, we have a very important one on Thursday, October 15, at The Sunset Strip VIP: VIP Pink Party Charity Auction Poker Tournament! All proceeds will benefit Breast Friends, a local resource for patients, their families, and friends affected by breast cancer. Check out all the assistance they offer at breastfriends.org.

On Saturday, October 15, it's Iceman's Stripper Warz Duelz at Las Gatas in Portland, with a \$1,500 cash prize. Then, on Thursday, October 22, it's the 17th Annual *Toxic Algae Zombie Strippers of Ross Island* (now say it super fast three times...). This revenant stripper offering promises double zombie sets and a pumpkin carving contest with prizes and brains! Then, on Friday, October 23, and Saturday, October 24, it's the Black Kat Halloween Party at Kit Kat Club.

Moving on to the following weekend, we have Halloween parties just about everywhere! On Friday, October 30, and Saturday, October 31, it's the Rocky Horror Picture Show Time-Warp Party at Kit Kat Club. On the same Friday and Saturday, The Sunset Strip VIP will have a "Haunted Helloween" party (yes, we spelled it right!). The rest of the Halloween parties are all on Saturday, October 31, some featuring costume contests and some without—check their respective ads for full details. Here we go: AJ's Gentlemen's Club, Cabaret, Desire, DV8, Stars Cabaret (Bridgeport and Salem), and Stilettos! Anyone who makes all those parties and takes timestamped, dated selfies in front of each club gets a free ticket to all *Miss Exotic Oregon 2027* qualifying rounds...are you up for the challenge?

And with that...witch better have my candy! Creep it real, folks!

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

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eroticcity spotlight

FRI 02 – KIT KAT CLUB – MISS EXOTIC OREGON 2027 QUALIFIER ROUND I

SAT 10 – AJ'S – MISS EXOTIC OREGON 2027 QUALIFIER ROUND II

THU 15 – SUNSET STRIP VIP

VIP PINK PARTY CHARITY AUCTION POKER TOURNAMENT

FRI 16 – STARS CABARET (SALEM) – MISS EXOTIC OREGON 2027 QUALIFIER ROUND III

SAT 17 – LAS GATAS (PDX) – STRIPPER WARZ DUELZ

THU 22 – LUCKY DEVIL – TOXIC ALGAE ZOMBIE STRIPPERS OF ROSS ISLAND

FRI 23 – HAWTHORNE STRIP

VANNA'S ROCKY HORROR STRIPPER SHOW BIRTHDAY PARTY

FRI 23 – KIT KAT CLUB – BLACK KAT HALLOWEEN PARTY

FRI 23 – THE LOUNGE – MISS EXOTIC OREGON 2027 QUALIFIER ROUND IV

SAT 24 – KIT KAT CLUB – BLACK KAT HALLOWEEN PARTY

SUN 25 – DEVILS POINT – LUX'S UNHOLY BIRTHDAY PARTY

FRI 30 – KIT KAT CLUB – ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW TIME-WARP PARTY

FRI 30 – LAS GATAS (HILLSBORO)

MISS EXOTIC OREGON 2027 QUALIFIER ROUND V

FRI 30 – SUNSET STRIP VIP – HAUNTED HELLOWEEN

SAT 31 – AJ'S – HALLOWEEN PARTY

SAT 31 – CABARET – HALLOWEEN PARTY & COSTUME CONTEST

SAT 31 – DESIRE – HALLOWEEN PARTY & COSTUME CONTEST

SAT 31 – DV8 – HALLOWEEN PARTY

SAT 31 – KIT KAT CLUB

ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW TIME-WARP PARTY

SAT 31 – STARS CABARET (SALEM)

MIDNIGHT MAGIC WITCHES & BREWS COSTUME CONTEST

SAT 31 – STARS CABARET (BRIDGEPORT) – HALLOWEEN PARTY & COSTUME CONTEST

SAT 31 – STILETTOS – HALLOWEEN PARTY & COSTUME CONTEST

SAT 31 – SUNSET STRIP VIP – HAUNTED HELLOWEEN

NOVEMBER

FRI 06 – LAS GATAS (PDX) – MISS EXOTIC OREGON 2027 QUALIFIER ROUND VI

FRI 13 – STILETTOS – MISS EXOTIC OREGON 2027 QUALIFIER ROUND VII

FRI 20 – ACROPOLIS – MISS EXOTIC OREGON 2027 QUALIFIER ROUND VIII

HAPPY HOURS

AJ'S – 10AM-5PM • CABARET – 2PM-6PM

CASA DIABLO – 2:30PM-7PM | (WED-FRI) 1PM-7PM (SAT-SUN)

CLUB 205 – 10:30AM-8PM • DEVILS POINT – 3PM-6PM • DESIRE – 6PM-9PM

DV8 – 12PM-3PM • LAS CARIÑOSAS – 4PM-7PM (MON-THU)

THE LOUNGE – 11AM-4PM • LUCKY DEVIL – 3PM-6PM • STILETTOS – 11AM-8PM

SUNSET STRIP VIP – 12AM-2:30AM (MON-SAT) | 5PM-2:30AM (SUN)



Rule 10: Anonymity Is a Myth

Anonymity is dead. If you're under the age of thirty, you have not lived a single day without the internet—a living, breathing record of everything to ever happen, that somehow gets a huge portion of the record wrong, up to and including claiming that this column (written with bacon grease on my fingers and two days after deadline) is the product of non-human, artificial intelligence.

You Cannot Control the Narrative About You

Not only is your information out there, but the information is probably inaccurate to an extent. According to A.I. search results, I am a black man from the Cleveland area with a YouTube sports channel, while he is a Northwest-based goth-industrial DJ who writes a column for *Exotica*. While this likely makes dating hard for both of us (in addition to surprising venue owners and crowds everywhere), both myself and "other Hazmatt" have set up websites, built up social media pages, and have otherwise done all the required steps to inform the machine that we are two different people...but Google doesn't give a fuck. Here I am, avoiding "alt-0151" on my keyboard, so as not to be accused of being A.I. (hence the ellipses in the prior sentence); meanwhile, Google is confidently reminding you that this issue of *Exotic Week* is brought to you by our local soccer team, the Portland Donuts.

With this in mind, understand that you will never be able to completely control the search results about you. Yes, I encourage you to buy a domain name, set up a website, and at least attempt to piss into the wind by doing the very basics. But, depending on

the day and Google's current mood, the A.I. search results will tell you that I'm everything from a homeless drug dealer to a loving father, simply because I hand out Ivermectin on Halloween from a rented apartment, and I might have kids that I don't know about. In the last five years, I have done a single comedy show, once, one time, on one date, and Google A.I. search results called it a "west coast tour." Again, I'd like to be an optimist and assume Google is just comparing me to The Smiths, but vegans and racists are usually disappointed after getting to know me, so these lazy search results are benign at best, and harmful to one's reputation at worst.

What does any of this have to do with being a stripper?

Stage Names No Longer Work

Back in the 1900s, the concept of "stage names" served more than one purpose. Beyond a character or alternate identity, when going by "Destiny" (when she knew damn well that "Choice" or "Circumstance" would be a better fit), Amber Amberson kept herself from being "doxxed," as the kids say. Amber didn't want customers knowing who she was, nor did she want anyone from her day job (besides the janitors and I.T. guy) to know where she worked at night (and these guys kept her secret quiet, because they didn't want to get fired). No one in real life knew about "Destiny," and no one at the club (besides management and security) knew that "Destiny" was really Amber. This is why there are no photographs allowed in the club, no cell phones at the stage, and very few strippers who go by "Ruth." Anonymity inside the club is assumed, and customers expect exotic, fake stage names (they know that "Jagerzae Crystale" isn't on a legal document). Unless a dancer in the 1900s opted to pose for *Playboy* or partake in studio-produced, hard-to-obtain porn, she was basically free to live two separate lives, both of which assumed a great deal of privacy.

Flash forward a few years, two fallen towers and a beloved dead gorilla, and the timeline has shifted to where Flock cameras are being installed inside of toilets, Starlink knows what you think about during sex, and there are A.I. summaries of what your unborn child's favorite food will be, based on your search history and a few dozen Reddit posts by the most confidently misinformed providers of the data upon which our entire civilization rests. And, to top it all off, none of the data being provided to or from mass surveillance

is being filtered through any sort of fact-checkers or gatekeepers. We went from "That looks Photoshopped, better check *Snopes*" to "Your grandfather just loaned Taylor Swift \$5,000 on Instagram" quicker than it takes for a Boomer to pull up their bootstraps.

So, in order to dox "Destiny," all someone has to do is ask A.I., "What does the secretary from my work, Amber, do at night?" or "Where does Destiny from Sticky Kitten II work at during the week?" and they will get an entire Wikipedia page's worth of information. *Some* real information will out Amber/Destiny accurately (if Amber didn't want her church knowing she's a stripper, well...too late). However, the A.I. will also add whatever is out there, up to and including gossip, rumors, social media slander, photos of mom on a boat with shirtless old millionaires, and a suggestion to review results about "Amber Amberson's schedule at Sticky Kitten II." Then, A.I. will suggest that some users have also seen Amber dancing at Dirty Octopus and Forgotten Daughter (but it will confuse Portland, ME with Portland, OR, and end up falsely doxxing some other Amber on the other side of the country, likely costing her a day job as well).

Embrace Your Future Past

Rumors are true to those who believe them, and no amount of content warnings or community notes can convince a sizable amount of the population that the earth is neither hollow nor inhabited by Nazi dinosaurs (I am not making this made-up thing up; go down that rabbit hole on a lazy Sunday). Even if the A.I. is wrong, your potential employer, husband, or creditor doesn't know better (and they really don't care, because there's a million other yous available at the drop of a click).

There is one (and only one) way to actually win the battle against your privacy and the unlimited, mostly inaccurate information being spread about you: embrace it. Treat your profession as a dancer like any other adult activity—hide it from kids and old people, but be unapologetic about it where other adults are concerned. Everyone shits. Everyone has vices. Everyone, especially in this economy, does what they have to do to make ends meet. Hypocrisy is human nature, especially where the moral authoritarians are concerned. Every right-wing pastor has a Grindr account. Every left-wing rainbow cat lady is scared of Muslims. Everyone is cancel-worthy in one way or another. The fact that you get naked for money is only an insult if you al-

low it to be. Unless we can roll back the timeline, we will never live in an anonymous society again, so you may as well embrace everything about your past (i.e., your current situation, when it comes up again years from now).

If our elected officials can get away with banging secretaries and porn stars, you, the current (or former) stripper, should be able to be honest about fleecing drunk dudes out of money. Yes, there will be the occasional romantic partner or employer who will decide against pursuing a relationship with you due to your vocation, but that's just how the world works. What you don't want is to end up sleeping with or working for someone who doesn't know your story, only for them to end up finding out the night before a wedding or promotion. People are judgmental. I broke up with a girl because I found out she listened to Coldplay (as in, really listened to it and felt whatever it is their music is trying to convey). I've been dumped over a Hatchetman tattoo (I also wouldn't hire a Juggalo stripper, because I don't want to be distracted at work). Find a way to embrace your reality. Stormy Daniels fucked a New York Democrat thirty years ago, and she's living off of book sales and "comedy" tours, attended by normies of all ages, who support girl power or whatever. Joe Biden's son gives interviews about how crack cocaine is cleaner and healthier than regular cocaine, and he might be our next president. Children's author Shel Silverstein wrote for *Playboy*. The Hawk Tuah girl has her own blockchain. There might not be any more anonymity, but gatekeepers are dying off as well. "Destiny" is a fake name for a reason. You actually have plenty of options and agency.

Explain Your Old Name Without Shame

I've never had to explain my past as a stripper, but I have had to explain "going by" a pun about sexual assault on minors. Take notes.

In the early 2000s, my buddy Dan Stone and I co-hosted a radio show at Portland State. As part of this, we had many audio-only skits and characters that we would make up, ranging from failed comedians to insufferable emo kids (on brand for Portland). Most of these never made it past a few clips or appearances. However, one of these characters was the ultra-misogynistic rapper "Wombstretcha the Magnificent," played by Dan (a nerdy I.T. dude who listens to Bauhaus and Kraftwerk), and his hype man, "Statutory Ray," aka myself (an equally nerdy white dude who leans more into KMFDM and Laibach). We wore fake

mustaches, "molester glasses," and jokingly rapped about kidnapping children using a soundproof white van. The entire shtick was a parody and send-up of the mainstream rapper bravado, if seen through sketchy piece-of-shit white guy stereotypes (as opposed to mainstream rap's black or Latino thug/gangster stereotypes). Imagine if GWAR and Weird Al had talentless baby twins who rapped, and were loved by edgy teenagers who hung out at the bus mall. That was our band. It was a joke. Even people who didn't appreciate us knew it was just edgy boy Millennial slop.

The academic answer to the "Why are you guys doing this?" question was simple: we were lampooning the music industry and how it promotes artists who brag about being total scumbags. On the other hand, the actual answer was that we had a ton of fun and people understood the joke. The project blew up about as big as it could have, at least locally. We made albums, pressed merch, and put on shows, and over the course of four years, not a single solitary incident or concern arose regarding us (or anyone we associated with) being "problematic," let alone actual kidnappers or statutory rapists. *Willamette Week* even interviewed our girlfriends in an attempted hit piece that ended up backfiring and being a massive promotion (look up the phrase "Courting the Wombstretched" to find the article).



Of course, this was also around 2004-2008, when it took longer than a few seconds to upload a video, and the only real social media was MySpace or Facebook. Because both MySpace and Facebook (as well as this lovely magazine) let people use fake names, like "Wombstretcha" and "Statutory Ray," those of us who didn't want our family, career, and

personal lives made public opted for anonymity. Hence, I've been "going by" Statutory Ray for quite some time in this column (and Wombstretcha is just embracing it; go read his column this and every month). We made the mistake of assuming permanent semi-anonymity, at least where our shitlord "date rap" songs (and dope-ass monthly columns in a porn rag) were concerned.

Then, "Wombstretcha" and I decided to call the curtains on the band. Music disappeared from the store shelves. Store shelves disappeared entirely. MySpace was dragged behind a data center and shot in the head. Facebook became Orwellian. Dan and I both used Photoshop to submit our "real" names to Facebook. This only worked for a while. Data did what data does; context around our joke rap group disappeared, and our family-unfriendly names became semi-permanent records.

Wham, bam, thank you background checks, "...your applicant 'Ray McMillin' has a former alias that is of concern to our organization." Nightclub owners wondering why the actual fuck their new forty-something-year-old hire just responded to a hip-hop DJ calling him "Statch." I.T. departments shocked to find out they're dependent on "Wombstretcha the Magnificent" to fix broken servers on the other side of the world. First dates asking why "Shake It (Like A Baby)" came up on their Spotify. Former joke rappers explaining to first dates that making a joke song is different than defending a literal child murderer because she was having a bad day. First dates accusing former joke rappers of being misogynists. Former joke rappers mansplaining to their first dates that misogyny is when men treat women the same way that women treat each other. The cycle continued for both Dan and me, and to this day, people still hit us up asking when we're putting out a new album. Our most recent album just turned 18, so I'm clearly not interested in it anymore. Dan, on the other hand, still sends me random lyrics to this day. The last tight 16 (as in, bars) was about eating out a mermaid or something. Ya know, things we really do and endorse.

The best advice I can give to anyone looking to explain their naked past is to explain the situation, but never defend your choices (unless it's within the pages of an adult magazine that people skip past in order to look at the ads). Johnny Cash never shot a man in Reno. I have never slept with anyone under the age of consent (even in high school—although the same cannot be said for my then-girlfriends from the community college). "Des

tiny" (Amber) is not every random drunk stranger's "wildest fantasy willing to make (his) dreams come true." Even if you did full-on, caught-on-tape, hair-and-sweat pornography of the most degenerate variety, if your conservative uncle brings this up at Christmas, just tell him that there was an Israeli flag tattooed on one of the dicks you sucked, and he will suddenly support you (and maybe even vote for you three times). Besides, people rarely put their actual flaws and red flags on blast. You were "Destiny the Stripper," not "Amber With Bad Credit And A Shitty Taste In Men." I have never, even in a comedic context, gone by "Unregistered Firearm In The Trunk After Too Many Pints Of Guinness Ray" because smart people don't actually tell on themselves.

Take Some Ownership for Our Dystopian Hellscape



If you, like me, are also over thirty, you gotta understand that we are partially to blame. Anonymity didn't go away by force. It's important to recognize that we, as lazy, fat, anti-intellectuals, have welcomed our loss of privacy through a series of conveniences and trade-offs. Why drive all the way to a restaurant when you can get a lukewarm meal delivered to your home at midnight by somebody so desperate for money that they put extra miles on their car for six bucks an hour?

Why bother talking to strangers at a singles event in real life, when you can put your face, name, location, semi-blurred photos of Aiden, recent vacation history, and job information into a slot machine for horny strangers to browse? Why bother with a stage name and security, when you can just show your buttocks (and bedroom window, neighbor's address, and piles of cash) on the internet?

If you want to know how we went from "No phones at the stage, please" to "Check out this stripper fight video #worldstar #latinas #versus #beckies," just look at the glowing tracking device you carry with you at all times (and consider your own need to exchange privacy for dopamine, perhaps logging off the apps for an hour or two every month). Our country is run by "people"—on both sides of any aisle—who *actually* sleep with kids, sell drugs, and rob rich guys with promises of sex with drugged-out children. If your employer has an issue with your history as a stripper (or joke rapper), and they are actually concerned about fighting degeneracy, tell them to stop paying taxes.



TalesFromTheDJBooth.com
DjHazMatt.com for gig listings
@RainmanMcMillin on IG
I don't check Facebook.

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ANGEL

FROM CLUB 205

EXOTIC
PICKUP 2026
OCTOBER





ANGEL
FROM CLUB 205



STRIP CLUBS

82ND STRIP **1** **FOOD LOTTERY**
7737 SE 82nd Ave | (503) 771-0096
Daily 12pm-1:30am

ACROPOLIS **2** **FOOD LOTTERY**
8325 SE McLoughlin Blvd | (503) 231-9611
Mon-Thu 2pm-2:30am, Fri-Sun 11am-2:30am

AJ'S GENTLEMEN'S CLUB **3** **FOOD LOTTERY**
15920 SE Stark St | (971) 420-2421
Daily 10am-2:30am

ANGELS **4** **FOOD LOTTERY**
10335 SE Foster Rd | (503) 889-0916
Daily 1pm-2:30am

BOTTOMS UP! **5** **FOOD LOTTERY**
16900 NW St Helens Rd | (503) 621-9844
Tue-Sun 12pm-12am

CABARET **6** **FOOD**
17544 SE Stark St | (503) 252-3529
Daily 2pm-2:30am

CASA DIABLO **27** **FOOD LOTTERY**
2839 NW St Helens Rd | (503) 222-6600
Tue 8pm-2:30am, Wed-Fri 2:30pm-2:30am, Sat-Sun 1pm-2:30am

CLUB 205 **7** **FOOD LOTTERY**
9939 SE Stark St | (503) 256-0527
Daily 10:30am-2:30am

CLUB ROUGE **9** **FOOD LOTTERY**
Portland: 403 SW Harvey Milk St | (503) 227-3936
Daily 5pm-2am
Beaverton: 8687 SW Hall Blvd | (971) 266-8340
Daily 5pm-2:30am

COLUMBIA STRIP **10** **FOOD LOTTERY**
605 N Columbia Blvd | (503) 289-1351
Sun-Thu 12pm-1:30am, Fri-Sat 12pm-2:30am

DESIRE **11** **FOOD LOTTERY**
535 NE Columbia Blvd | (971) 339-2198
Daily 3pm-2:30am

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

DOMINIQUE STELLA **14** **FOOD**
15826 SE Division St | (503) 319-0318
Daily 2pm-2:30am

DV8 **15** **FOOD LOTTERY**
5021 SE Powell Blvd | (503) 788-7178
Daily 2pm-2:30am

FLESH AND BONES LOUNGE **25** **FOOD LOTTERY**
8345 SW Barbur Blvd | (971) 346-2071
Tue-Fri 4pm-2:30am, Sat-Sun 8pm-2:30am

HAWTHORNE STRIP **18** **FOOD LOTTERY**
3532 SE Powell Blvd | (503) 232-9516
Daily 2pm-2:30am

KIT KAT CLUB **19** **FOOD LOTTERY**
231 SW Ankeny St | (503) 208-3229
Daily 4pm-2:30am

LAS CARINOSAS CABARET **33** **FOOD LOTTERY**
10140 SW Canyon Rd | (503) 430-5364
Daily 4pm-2:30am

LAS GATAS GENTLEMEN'S CLUB **20** **FOOD LOTTERY**
Portland: 12035 NE Glisan St | (971) 420-8097
Daily 3pm-2:30am
Hillsboro: 1735 SE TV Hwy | (971) 990-4015
Daily 4pm-2:30am

LAVENDER LOTUS **8** **FOOD**
215 W Burnside St | (971) 431-8710
Wed-Sat 9pm-2:30am

THE LOUNGE **21** **FOOD LOTTERY**
6210 NE Columbia Blvd | (503) 281-3212
Daily 11am-2am

LUCKY DEVIL LOUNGE **22** **FOOD LOTTERY**
633 SE Powell Blvd | (503) 206-7350
Daily 11am-2:30am

MARY'S CLUB **23** **FOOD LOTTERY**
503 W Burnside St | (503) 227-3023
Daily 11:30am-2:30am

THE OLD DOLPHIN **24** **FOOD LOTTERY**
17180 SE McLoughlin Blvd | (503) 908-1177
Daily 12pm-Late

SASSY'S **26** **FOOD LOTTERY**
927 SE Morrison St | (503) 231-1606
Daily 10:30am-2:30am

SHADY LADY TAVERN **30** **FOOD**
2460 NW 24th Ave | (503) 894-8436
Daily 11am-12am

STAG PDX **29** **FOOD**
317 NW Broadway | (503) 894-9679
Mon-Thu 7pm-2am, Fri-Sat 4pm-2:30am, Sun 11am-2am

STARS CABARET BRIDGEPORT **30** **FOOD LOTTERY**
17939 SW McEwan Rd | (503) 726-2403
Mon-Sat 11am-2:30am, Sun 4pm-2:30am

STILETTOS GENTLEMEN'S CLUB **17** **FOOD LOTTERY**
13639 SE Powell Blvd | (503) 760-8128
Daily 11am-2:30am

THE SUNSET STRIP VIP **35** **FOOD LOTTERY**
10860 SW Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy | (503) 627-0666
Mon-Sat 2pm-2:30am, Sun 5pm-2:30am

UNION JACKS **31** **FOOD**
938 E Burnside St | (503) 236-1125
Tue-Fri 6pm-2:30am, Sat-Sun 4:30pm-2:30am

X EXOTIC LOUNGE **32** **FOOD LOTTERY**
15 SW 2nd Ave | (503) 790-9090
Tue-Sun 8pm-2:30am

EVERYTHING ELSE

ADAM & EVE **101**
9220 SW Barbur Blvd #115 | (503) 224-1604
Sun-Thu 10am-10pm, Fri-Sat 10am-11pm

ALL ADULT SUPER SHOP **102**
14555 SE McLoughlin Blvd | (503) 652-2004
Daily 24 hours

BLACK DIAMOND RECORDING STUDIOS **104**
1424 SE 162nd Ave | (503) 477-6523
Daily 7am-9pm

DANTE'S **103**
350 W Burnside St | (866) 777-8932
Daily 11am-2:30am

EYE CANDY FASHIONS **105**
10412 SE 82nd Ave | (503) 771-0080
Mon-Fri 10am-7pm, Thu-Sat 10am-8pm

FANTASY FOR ADULTS ONLY (4) **106**
3137 NE Sandy Blvd | (503) 239-6969
Daily 10am-12am

15536 SE 82nd Dr | (503) 203-6969
Daily 12pm-8pm

6440 SW Coronado St | (503) 244-6969
Daily 10am-12am

1703 W Burnside St | (503) 295-6969
Daily 12pm-8pm

FANTASYLAND (2) **107**
5228 SE Foster Rd | (503) 775-0094
Daily 24 hours

16016 SE 82nd Dr | (503) 655-4667
Daily 24 hours

HOT BOX **108**
3785 SW Hall Blvd | (503) 574-4057
Daily 10am-9pm

JUST BLISS **109**
12643 SE Division St | (971) 300-8852
Daily 24 hours

LOVE TOYS **110**
10660 SE Division St | (503) 257-6881
Daily 24 hours

MR. PEEPS / MR. PEEPS TOO (2) **111**
13355 SW Henry St | (503) 643-6645
20625 SW TV Hwy, Aloha OR | (503) 356-5624
Daily 24 hours

OBSESSION X **116**
3414 NE 82nd Ave | (503) 206-5552
Daily 24 hours

PARADISE **129**
14712 SE Stark St | (503) 914-3904
Daily 24 hours

PDX BARRIES **113**
11142 NE Halsey St | (503) 206-4535
Daily 24 hours

PEEP HOLE **115**
709 SE 122nd Ave | (503) 257-8617
Daily 24 hours

SHEENA'S GSPOT **117**
8315 SW Barbur Blvd | (503) 972-1111
Daily 24 hours

SILVER SPOON **118**
8521 SW Barbur Blvd | (503) 245-0489
Tue-Sat 10am-7pm, Sun 11am-5pm

STAR THEATER **128**
13 NW 6th Ave | (503) 248-4700
Daily 11am-2:30am

SYLVIA'S PLAYHOUSE **119**
8226 NE Fremont St | (503) 568-4090
Daily 24 hours

TABOO VIDEO (4) **120**
Downtown: 311 NW Broadway | (503) 227-3443
Sun-Mun 11am-12am, Tue-Sat 11am-2am
Portland: 2330 SE 82nd Ave | (503) 206-4708
Daily 24 hours

Portland: 237 SE MLK JR Blvd | (503) 239-1678
Sun-Thu 10am-12am, Fri-Sat 10am-2am
Vancouver: 4811 NE 94th Ave | (360) 254-1126
Daily 24 hours

TORCHED ILLUSIONS **121**
17935 SW Tualatin Valley Hwy | (503) 259-2310
Daily 6am-12am
Newberg: 2515 Portland Rd | (971) 412-7113
Daily 11am-9pm

THE VELVET ROPE **123**
3533 SE César E Chávez Ave | (971) 271-7064
Fri-Sat 8pm-3am, Sun 8pm-2am

VICTRESS ENTERTAINMENT **124**
3131 SE 122nd Ave | (971) 291-9765
Daily 24 hours

X-OTIC TAN **125**
8431 SE Division St | (503) 257-0622
Daily 24 hours

K-SENSUAL **126**
3520 NE 82nd Ave | (503) 954-3115
5226 SE Foster Rd | (503) 477-4614
Daily 24 hours

KXKTASY **127**
10518 NE Sandy Blvd Unit B | (503) 849-1138
Daily 24 hours

DISPENSARIES

MARIJUANA PARADISE **A**
9663 SW Barbur Blvd | (503) 206-7462
Daily 10am-8pm

2
ACROPOLIS
8325 SE McLOUGHLIN BLVD
(503) 231-9611

3
AJ's Gentlemen's Club
15920 SE STARK ST
(971) 420-2421

4
ANGELS
10335 SE FOSTER RD
(503) 889-0916

6
Cabaret
17544 SE STARK ST
(503) 252-3529

27
CASA DIABLO
2839 NW ST HELENS RD
(503) 222-6600

7
CLUB 205
9939 SE STARK ST
(503) 256-0527

11
DESIRE
535 NE COLUMBIA BLVD
(971) 339-2198

12
DEVILS POINT
5305 SE FOSTER RD
(503) 774-4513

15
DV8
5021 SE POWELL BLVD
(503) 788-7178

117
G SPOT
8315 SW BARBUR BLVD
(503) 972-1111

18
Hawthorne Strip
3532 SE POWELL BLVD
(503) 232-9516

19
Kit Kat Club
231 SW ANKENY ST
(503) 208-3229

20
Las Gatas
12035 NE GLISAN ST
(971) 420-8097

22
LUCKY DEVIL Lounge
633 SE POWELL BLVD
(503) 206-7350

30
STARS Cabaret
17939 SW MCEWAN RD
(503) 726-2403

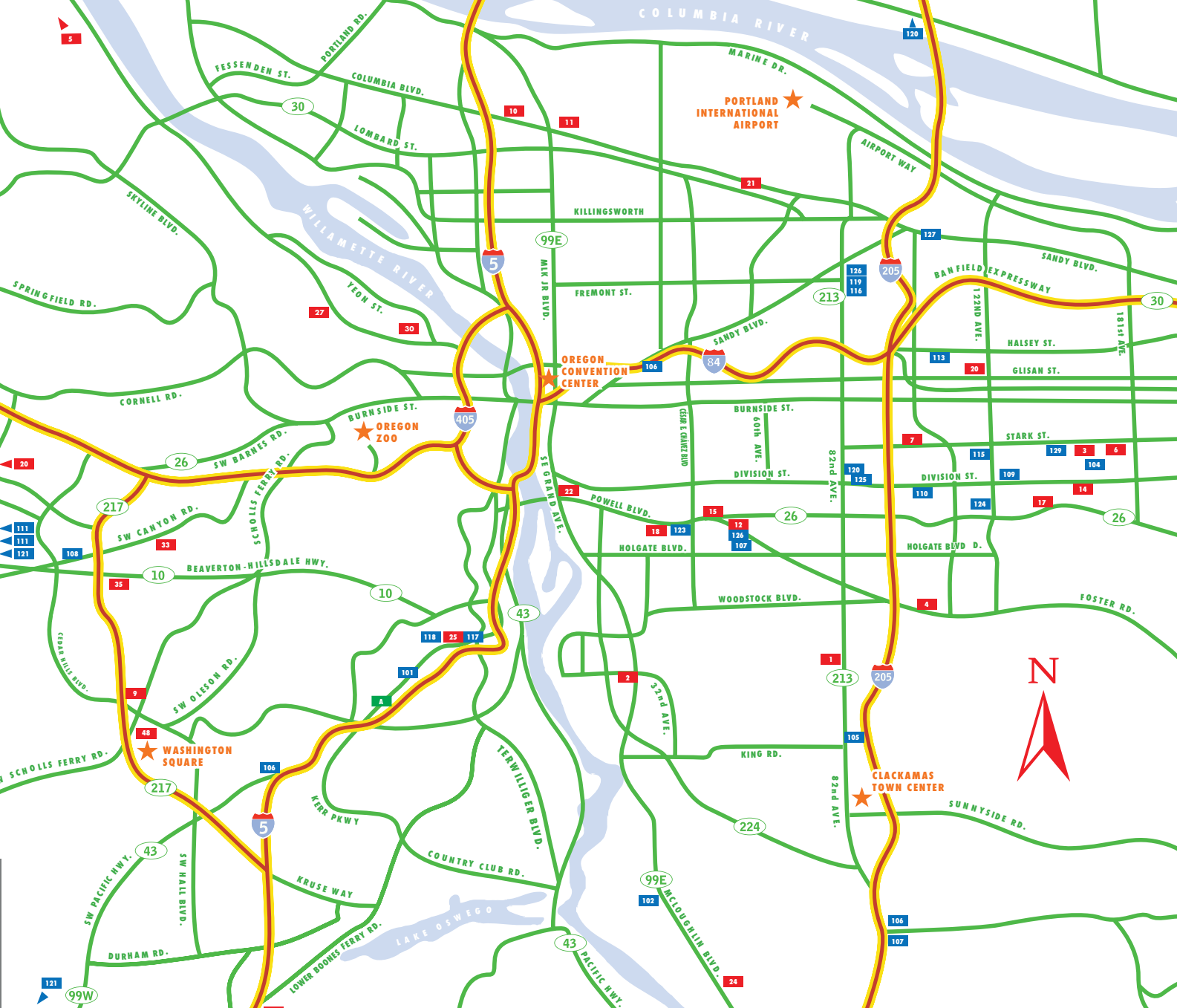
17
Stilletos Gentlemen's Club
13639 SE POWELL BLVD
(503) 760-8128

119
Sylvia's PLAYHOUSE
8226 NE FREMONT ST
(503) 568-4090

21
The Lounge GENTLEMEN'S CLUB
6210 NE COLUMBIA BLVD
(503) 281-3212

35
THE SUNSET STRIP VIP GENTLEMEN'S CLUB
10860 SW BEAVERTON HILLSDALE HWY
(503) 627-0666

126
X Sensual
5226 SE FOSTER RD
(503) 477-4614



DOWNTOWN PORTLAND & INNER EASTSIDE PORTLAND



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ADULT SHOP

3404 Spicer Dr SE / (541) 812-2522
Videos, Magazines, Books, Novelties, Arcade,
Lingerie
Sun-Thu 10am-12am, Fri-Sat 10am-2am

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ANNIE'S SALOON

2897 Marine Dr / (503) 325-2746
Full Bar, 1 Stage
Tue-Sat 5pm-2:30am

BEND

IMAGINE THAT

197 NE Third St / (541) 312-8100
Videos, Mags, Toys, Body Jewelry, Novelty Gifts
24 Hours / 7 Days

STARS CABARET

197 NE 3rd St / (541) 388-4081
Full Bar, Full Menu, Beautiful Dancers
6pm-2:30am / 7 Days

COOS BAY

BACHELOR'S INN

63721 Edward Rd / (541) 266-8827
Strip Club, Fine Food, Fancy Ladies, Cocktails
& Lottery
Mon-Sat 4pm-2:30am, Sun 6pm-2:30am

CORVALLIS

EVA'S BOUTIQUE

2315 NW 9th St / (541) 754-7039
Huge Selection Of Lingerie, Shoes,
Dancewear, Novelties, Gift Cards & More
Sun-Thu 10am-10pm, Fri & Sat 10am-12am

EUGENE

ADULT SHOP

90 Holeman Ave / (541) 688-5411
Videos, Magazines, Books, Novelties, Arcade,
Lingerie
Sun-Thu 10am-10pm, Fri-Sat 10am-12am

ADULT SHOP

86784 Franklin Blvd / (541) 636-3203
Videos, Magazines, Books, Novelties, Lingerie
Sun-Thu 10am-10pm, Fri-Sat 10am-12am

B&B DISTRIBUTORS

710 W 6th Ave / (541) 683-8999
Videos, Arcade, Clothing, Novelties, Viewing Room
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720 Garfield St / (541) 345-2873
Huge Selection Of Lingerie, Shoes,
Dancewear, Novelties, Gift Cards & More
Sun-Thu 10am-10pm, Fri-Sat 10am-12am

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1030 Highway 99 N / (541) 688-1869
Full Bar, Full Menu, Dancers
Mon-Sat 12pm-2am, Sun 3pm-12am

SILVER DOLLAR CLUB

2620 W 10th Pl / (541) 485-2303
Full Bar, Food, 3 Stages
Mon-Sat 11:30am-2:30am, Sun 6pm-2:30am

GERVAIS

LAST CHANCE SALOON

7650 Checkerboard Ct / (503) 792-5100
Full Bar, Lottery, 1 Stage
Sun-Thu 12pm-12am, Fri-Sat 12pm-2am

KLAMATH FALLS

THE ALIBI

5711 S 6th St / (541) 882-0145
1Stage, Private Dances, Full Bar, Lottery
3pm-2:30am / 7 Days

LINCOLN CITY

IMAGINE THAT

2159 NW Highway 101, Ste C / (541) 996-6600
(Downstairs When Entering From Highway 101)
Videos, Magazines, Toys, Body Jewelry, Novelty Gifts
Sun-Thu 9am-11pm, Fri-Sat 24 Hours

MEDFORD

ADULT SHOP

261 Barnett Rd / (541) 772-5220
Videos, Magazines, Books, Novelties, Arcade,
Lingerie
Sun-Thu 10am-10pm, Fri-Sat 10am-12am

THE OFFICE GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

1 S Riverside Ave / (541) 566-6100
Full Bar, Full Menu, Lottery, 2 Stages
Mon-Sat 6pm-2am

NEWPORT

SPICE ADULT EMPORIUM

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BARNEY vs. HOOKY

A CONSUMER'S GUIDE

BY BLAZER SPARROW

As much as I'd like to make you laugh this month, dear reader, I feel like I did my fair share for the community last month by offering some actual journalism for actual things happening in the actual city you and I live in. This month, Imma use these pages to write stuff I want to write about! Namely, twenty-year feuds between the creative antipodes of two of my all-time favorite bands: Joy Division & New Order.

Also, in my defense, I feel like there hasn't been much journalism dedicated to this split and the differences between Bernard Sumner and Peter Hook's respective touring acts. I've seen a few Reddit posts, but that's basically one step above AI slop. I figured I could use my platform to put something concrete and "well-researched" into the algorithm meat grinder (inevitably to be spat back out as AI slop...).

I mean, fuck, if DJ Hazmatt can take up space in this magazine with his "12 Rules for Strip-ping" as a 46-year-old, straight, white man who has not made *one dollar* on the pole, I can provide a hefty breakdown of whose side to choose in this messy divorce...for those who care at least. There have to be at least three of you.

While this article is intended for an extremely niche audience, imma provide the briefest of lore dumps for folks who just read me for the "lolz," may have heard "Love Will Tear Us Apart," and would like to see it live [deep breath]. Joy Division was a highly influential band that formed in Manchester in 1976 and consisted of Ian Curtis, Bernard Sumner, Peter Hook, and Stephen Morris. They disbanded in

1980 following Curtis's suicide and reformed as New Order, with Gillian Gilbert joining the band to round out the lineup. New Order went on to find global success, before taking a hiatus in 1993 due to burnout. They reformed five years later and released their last album with the original lineup in 2001, but Gilbert stepped down from touring to care for her children. In 2006, Hook left, citing creative differences. Gilbert rejoined, and New Order continued performing and recording without Hook. Hook formed his own band, Peter Hook and The Light, which performs Joy Division and New Order albums in full, while also playing selected hits. As of 2026, Gilbert and Morris stepped down from touring with New Order. Essentially, there are now *two* bands performing these songs live: one fronted by Sumner (Barney) and the other fronted by Hook (Hooky).

That took a while, but I'm proud I got it down to 170 words [pats self on back].

Before Gilbert and Morris stepped down, you could argue that New Order would be the proper way to see these songs live. It is, after all, three-fourths of the original band, plus the original guy singing. Also, (post-1998) New Order *did* start playing Joy Division songs live. They often close the encore with "Love Will Tear Us Apart," and the most recent performances opened with "Transmission."

Why would anyone even bother seeing Peter Hook and the Light? I inquire because I'm often asked why I would go see "the bass player's solo project?" By the time this piece comes out, I will have actually seen Hooky *twice* at Crystal Ballroom.

This is not Hooky's *third* failed solo project. Anyone who's listened to Revenge or Monaco could be forgiven for skipping this project. No offense, Hooky. The Light is basically Hooky's way to play Joy Division and New Order songs live. And he plays *a lot* of them, and he plays frequently—on the cheap.

It's pretty difficult to see New Order in anything smaller than an arena. The last time they came anywhere NEAR the Pacific Northwest was in 2022 in Seattle. I was there. Hooky tours *constantly* and often in venues no bigger than the Crystal Ballroom. Your average New Order setlist is about 15 songs, with one or two Joy Division songs as an encore. Hooky often plays one or two albums in full, along with several other selected hits.

So...yes, Hooky is basically a licensed tribute act. But if this band is as important to you as it is to me, that's no small thing. Especially if you don't want to have to go to an arena every ten years to see your favorite band.

Hooky has been to Portland twice in the last two years, both times at Crystal Ballroom. These songs aren't hard to play. Any decent musician can pull it off. But Hooky's not the original voice. Barney's guitar parts aren't exactly show-stopping, but there's something to be said for seeing him up there actually playing them.

Hooky's got some talented cats playing with him, but it's not the cats that started it. You are missing that living history element of it, knowing the four people you're seeing on stage have been playing together since the '70s, and collectively dealt with their friend killing himself. It's not the same.

Alternatively, although New Order (before Gilbert and Morris left) you got *most* of the original four and got to feel that history, Hooky was definitely missed. Phil and Tom, although full-fledged members and great players in their own right, were not there from the beginning, and also did not have that shared trauma of dealing with Ian's death. Also, Hooky is quite the presence live. He is the fire to Barney's ice.

Ultimately, neither will be as good as seeing all four of them together. I'd say go with Hooky since...you've got more opportunities to do so. The only thing on the books for New Order (which is just Barney now) are festival shows in South America.



Joy Division and New Order are getting a joint induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame on November 14th. They are slated to perform. Who are they? Maybe by the time this comes out, this induction will bring Barney and Hooky together, get them to make up, and the Joy Division/New Order performance will actually be the original four on stage. Manifesting it right here, right now.

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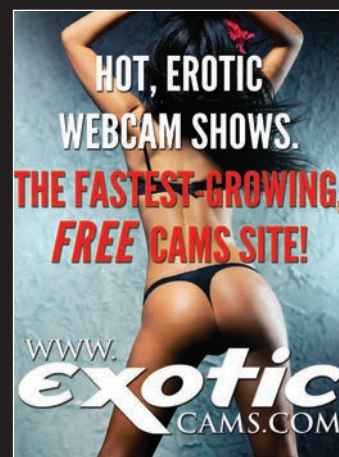


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VAMPIRE HOURS

By Nate Hazen



I've worked as a bouncer for over 9 years now, and it has proven to be my favorite job I've ever worked. The other day, the TV in my club was playing Scooby-Doo, and it struck me how blessed I am to earn a living by watching cartoons and hanging out with strippers all night. Teenage me would be pretty stoked to hear what right now me is up to. That said, the job does come with some danger attached; I always tell people it would be a boring job if it didn't get interesting once in a while. Obviously, that's a lie—remember what I said? Strippers and cartoons!



I've encountered some pretty memorable dangers over the years. I've had guns pointed at me, stepped up to a knife fight (which didn't happen when the other guy saw that mine was bigger), and been threatened with axes, hammers, and vari-

ous other forms of weaponry. Every time I think I've seen it all, something new comes out of left field to throw me for the proverbial loop, like the time I saw a homeless guy shoot himself in the dick. How could I have ever predicted that I'd witness a real-life Cheddar Bob? A self-Robo Cop?

One such novel danger recently revealed itself to me while working the front door of Dixie Tavern on a Friday night. I observed a homeless man walking down the street carrying a large wooden stick that had been whittled down to a sharp point. Even after everything I've experienced on the job, I'll admit, I found that sight rather unsettling. When you've been a bouncer as long as I have, you learn that when the streets talk, you'd be wise to listen, and that night the streets were warning me of a new danger in town: vampires.

One look at Scruffy the vampire slayer strutting through Chinatown, ready to stand on motherfuckin' business, and I made up my mind on the spot to follow his lead. Hell, because of the hours I work, I live the overwhelming majority of my life at night; I keep the same schedule as the filthy bloodsuckers that now posed a threat. Complicating matters, I had a hunch that any vampires roaming Old Town Portland might be a bit more difficult to spot than most; I didn't suspect they'd be roaming the neighborhood

serving cunt like Louis and Lestat.

The next shift I worked, I set out implementing a series of anti-vampire security protocols, much to the annoyance of everyone around me. For starters, I began patrolling the block with a Super Soaker 50 filled with holy water, Lost Boys-style. From then on, while checking IDs at the front door, I took caution to never say "welcome in," or any other phrase that could be construed as an invitation to enter.



The priest I snuck down to the basement to bless the ice machine didn't seem to understand my scheme to introduce holy water into every drink we served, by way of melting holy ice, and while he ultimately acquiesced, I could have done without the patronizing inflection of his blessing. I then began sneaking into the kitchen any time Devin, the cook, stepped out for a smoke, sneaking garlic into pretty much everything. It was an improvement for some menu items, but eventually people stopped ordering dessert altogether—small price to pay for fending off the undead.

I almost found myself in a spot of trouble while setting up crucifixes and wooden stake stations around the neighborhood. A couple of police officers from the entertainment detail approached me while I loaded stakes onto the shelves of the 3rd & Burnside stake station I'd set up, and informed me that I couldn't just go around handing out free weapons to the entire neighborhood. My eyes narrowed with suspicion as they spoke, and I raised my trusty Super Soaker, giving each of them a spritz of holy water to the face.

Once the officers removed the handcuffs, I began rubbing the circulation back into my hands, while they lectured me about the stupidity of my plans and told me that vampires aren't real. "Your funeral!" I muttered as they walked away, dumping the holy water from the tank of their new Super Soaker. Eventually, though, I began to suspect they were right. After a couple of months without even a single vampire attack, I gradually relaxed my undead security posture.

Eventually, vampires were replaced by another one of those new and unpredictable dangers I mentioned before; a different homeless guy snuck up behind me and bit my neck! Shit, man, I should have heeded Wu-Tang's advice! At least I think he was homeless; he was gone by the time I turned around, but he was obviously missing some teeth, judging by the bite wound, which produced just two round puncture holes.



Luckily, my injuries were minor, and I was back on my feet in no time. Vampires were out, and hungry meth heads were in. I decided I wouldn't be needing my leftover stash of holy water, so I poured it all down the drain. Pro tip: holy water apparently expires at some point and converts into a strong acid—a lesson I learned when some of it splashed back onto my skin and burned the shit out of me.

I will admit, I haven't been feeling quite like myself since that dude bit me. For starters, I can't stomach Italian food anymore, which is a bummer, because I used to eat a lot of pizza. I'd hate to be holding stock in Little Caesar's next quarter! But seriously, it's so bad that I've started looking into adult-onset garlic allergies. I've also noticed my eyes developing an increased sensitivity to sunlight. My eyes are blue, so they've always been sensitive to the sun, but at this point, I can't even sleep without blackout curtains.

Perhaps the most noticeable change has been a rise in my level of irritability. When I'm around large groups of people, it's like I can hear their heartbeats pounding in my ears, like thunder, drowning out even the loud music playing in the club. And don't get me started on the assholes that like to linger inside after closing. Those people have always irked me, but now it's way worse. I mean, cut me some slack, people! Some of us have closing tasks to get done, so we can get home and into our coffins before the sun comes up! I think I'm going to start biting them.

Nate Hazen is a bouncer, writer, and stand-up comedian. You can find him at either Dixie Tavern or X Exotic Lounge six nights a week, so come feed him some of your delicious, delicious blood!

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SOME CREEPY HALLOWEEN HISTORY

By Hannah One Cup



Every fall, I like to get into the swing of things extremely early. Too early, and you lose the special feeling you get when seasons change, and everything just starts melding together. No, I'm not like those people who put Christmas trees up in October. I go the other direction with that sort of thing. Keep that tree down as long as possible, and let the ghouls and girls dressed like ghouls out to play for longer periods of time. Jesus and his merry band of misfit followers will have their time to shine, eventually, or something.

Speaking of Jesus, half the traditions we have related to Halloween are all thanks to some metamorphosized, church-up, bastardizations of traditions that were performed for over two thousand years. So, I thought I'd go into some of these traditions, how they started, and give you a bit of history on this time of year that many now seem to consider a time for evil-doing. What some consider evil-doing, I'd consider tricks...but, potato potato, as they say.

Trick or Treating

Most of you probably know the general history behind this fun sport, but in case you also grew up in a church, here's a history lesson: the term "trick or treat" appears to have first been used in a Canadian newspaper in the 1920s. Before that, documentation is scarce, and you'll mostly see articles about "All Souls' Day," when kids went door to door to wealthy people, asking for soul cakes in exchange for praying for the homeowner's dead relatives. This eventually morphed into kids asking for money, food, or ale. In Scotland and Ireland, they did something similar, going door to door in disguise and putting on a little show in exchange for treats. So, we can all thank Canada for naming the candy-giving, all-night marathon. I would also like to let everyone know there was a point in time when "tricking" got so dangerous that

some cities nearly banned Halloween. It only takes one twit throwing a dummy on railroad tracks to scare the conductor into stopping the train immediately, ruining it for the rest of us.



Jack O' The Lantern

Before people started mass-producing pumpkins just to carve out for contests and crunchy, delicious seeds, there were neeps. Neeps, or turnips, were originally what people carved...terrifyingly carved, little root vegetables with a candle stuck inside. All of this gained popularity largely thanks to ol' Stingy Jack. Stingy Jack was a drunk who lived in Ireland and loved deceiving others, including the devil himself, more than once. At some point in this story, Jack made a deal with the devil not to ever steal his soul away to hell, which the devil agreed to (out of duress, because Jack had somehow managed to get the devil to climb up a tree to get an apple for him, but then trapped the devil up there by placing crucifixes at the base of the apple tree). Eventually, though, the alcohol got to ol' Jack, and he eventually died. But the devil, ever true to his word (unlike Jack), could not take Jack's soul, which would have absolutely been doomed to hell. So, instead, the devil gave Jack an ember to light his way. Jack now spends his days in the dark, roaming between the planes of good and evil. Honestly, the devil doesn't sound like such a bad guy in this story, and it's him we have to thank for giving us the beginning of Jack O' Lanterns, with the horrible, nightmare-fuel

carved turnip heads lighting Jack's way.

Dennison's Bogie Book

You can thank the Dennison Manufacturing company for your creepy clowns, scratchy, feral-looking black cats, tissue ghosts, and other crepe-y decorations during the Halloween season. Thanks to this thoughtfully curated horror book, started in 1909, we now have the proper "Halloween season" versus "Autumn celebration season." This book, which was really just an advertising agent for the company's crepe paper and other decorative items, came complete with wonderful



artwork of carved pumpkins with hunchback witches living inside, ghost costumes that make you wish you were anywhere else, outlines and stencils of creepy masks, a whole page of ghost stories, and various games to be played during the party. Such as fortune-telling games...a game called "Family Ghosts," where you have all your guests bring a family ghost (someone dead) to the party, while everyone sits around in a circle and has another person play a dirge on a piano; you all slowly pass the "family ghosts" around until the music stops...revealing your "ghost." Also, this ghost story is about a bunch of murders taking place, and everyone has to play a part in it. Oh, and Dennison's Bogie Book really emphasized the importance of everyone in the family being involved in the

holiday, including children. And we all wonder why our parents are the way they are...

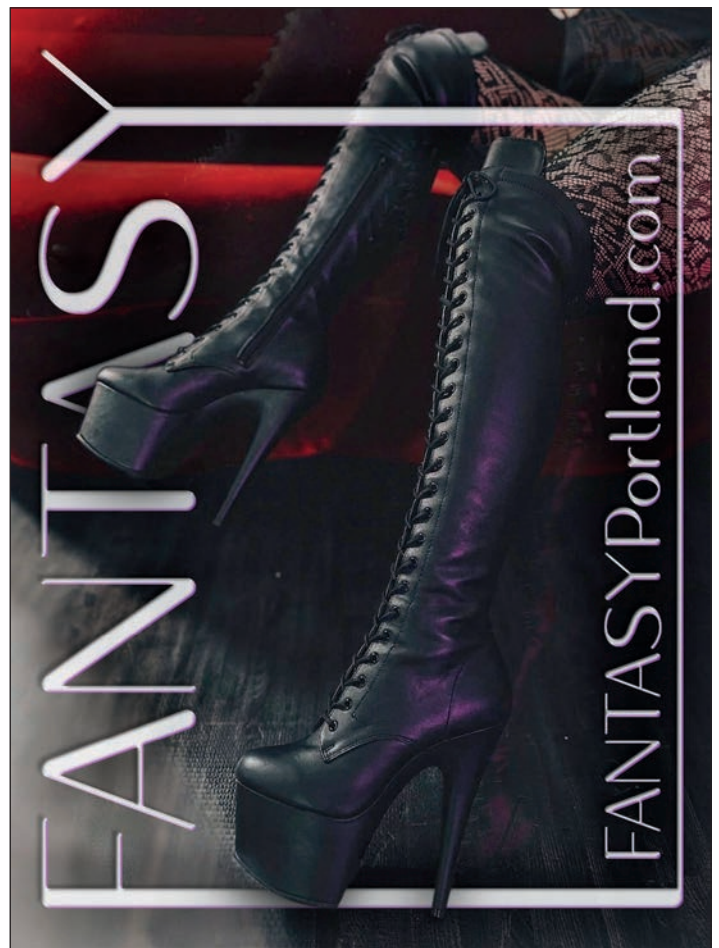
Horror Movies

The first-ever movie to be considered a horror film has been said to be *The House of the Devil*, or *Le Manoir du Diable*, produced in 1896. The film was French and dealt with a bit of a confusing plot, where in the span of the movie (all 3 minutes of it), the devil appeared to summon a little minion from a large stock pot; a couple of oblivious Frenchmen come through the castle and are harassed by the minion, some ghost-lady demons, and the devil, who was first a bat, then a skeleton, then the devil as a man. The devil is then "defeated" by one of the obviously trespassing Frenchmen, by shoving a crucifix in his face. There we go with that crucifix again. Honestly, if I were reading these stories to someone who didn't know a thing about religion, they'd think that the devil was just a misunderstood underdog you should feel sorry for, like Scar in *The Lion King*, or Spike in *Gremlins*. Sometimes the devil just wants to live their life in a castle with some ghoulish girls and a huge pot of soup, and not have to deal with trespassing Frenchmen throwing crosses in their face.



So there you go. Some brief, interesting, and possibly new facts to add to your Halloween knowledge book. If you have Dennison's Bogie Book, you really didn't need anything from my articles, but I appreciate you flipping my pages anyway. I think this year I'm going to bring back "tricks," and start throwing flour at people like our great-grandparents apparently did...for fun. If you don't like it, don't invite me to your shindig. But if you do, be prepared for me to bring my "Family Ghosts." Be glad that at least I'm not doing anything like putting your farmer wagons or cattle on top of your roof.

Hannah One Cup can be found gathering her Family Ghosts, readying herself for the parties she probably won't be invited to. She hopes you'll invite her, though, because she'd love to show off. Bringing Family Ghosts can be a brag, right? You can contact her by carrier pigeon, crow, or email hannahbird6@gmail.com.



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BY WOMBSTRETCH THE MAGNIFICENT

We, as Americans, fairly universally like Japan. We are so similar, but so different at the same time. They tend to be almost compulsorily polite, whereas we tend to be more blunt, and so forth. So, I am going to describe the traits and culture we have shared with them since the '40s, because, ya know, the Great Squabble and Nuking Affair. We are friends now, and share with one another. What did we share? Let us explore.



Baseball

We gave that one to them. Our pastoral game of outdoor fun got the rules translated and sent to Japan. They got it, started playing it, and if you think the crowds at our Major League games get nuts, watch a Japanese ball game. The crowd disregards their typical politeness for absolute ball-madness. They are such fans of baseball that we not only pick up some of their players now and then, but *our* crowds go wild for them, too. They are such fans that they have made a lot of video games about baseball, including the notorious beat-em-up Ninja Baseball Bat Man. The fans of the Tokyo Giants are said to be the most animated of them all.

Sushi

They gave this one to us. Back when I was a kid, I figured it was gross...because if the Ninja Turtles said it was gross, I figured it



was. I was wrong. My parents took me to sushi when I was ten. "I don't want to eat this." "You'll never know if you don't like something if you don't try it first." I ate a sushi roll, and my life was changed. It was delicious. Now, it's pretty standard food in the USA. Ya go on a date... "Sushi?" "Yes!" You go to the fancy place. Your author personally likes the ones that are casual and have the little conveyor that moves them around. That thing might as well have a chute that goes right into my mouth. Also, sushi date beats coffee date any day of the week.



Ninjas

They gave us this, along with the Chinese chop-socky movies which were similar, but we are talking Japan. If you lived through the '80s or '90s, you know what a thing this was. Ninja this, ninja that; there were so many flavors of ninja movies it was like going to Baskin-Robbins and not knowing what to pick. Since we in the West have been introduced to the concept, we could not get enough. I wrote a prior article about the ninja craze, so I'm speaking more on the cultural impact than the history.

Cowboys

Now, we gave them this, and much like ninjas, they started doing their own cowboy stuff. In the West, we call lonely guys obsessed with Japanese culture "weeaboos," but in Japan, they have the opposite. They dress up like cowboys and do cowboy stuff, or try to. Ever see a slim Japanese man try to rope a cow? Well, you certainly can. Loneliness factor is unknown.



Military

Japan is not, by treaty, allowed to raise an army. They have a defense force, but it is not a force in readiness. Purely defensive, in case, say, North Korea starts rattling sabers.



Last time I was in Tokyo, North Korea was threatening to nuke Japan. Why? No idea. My friends were very concerned. I said to them, "By the rules set by our treaty, you don't get an army." "Yes." "But by the terms of that same treaty, if someone attacks you, they will be utterly destroyed by the US military." "They said that?" "Look it up. If we have purpose and cause, we can obliterate your enemies with ANY MEANS NECESSARY." "You don't mean..." "Oh yes we do. You fuck with Japan, you will feel the wrath of the world's mightiest military! Which I guess we are." They kind of paused. "We got your back, brothers." That

is one of the few times I talked politics. Mostly we all got drunk after work.



Work Etiquette

We have different work ethics between nations. The Japanese will work hard as fuck until the day is done. Americans, well, we will take breaks when we get them and fuck around if there are no clients. Nerf gun wars, stress ball fights. The Japanese do none of that. However, when work is done, we are off to the bar. We take the stops on the train, two over, "best bar in Tokyo!" Okay, what am I in for? Well, apparently a whole pile of tiny squids, roasted soybeans, and a brick—and I mean a brick—of tofu with some sauce on it, and giant mugs—not glasses—of beer; I am talking .75 liters, or in freedom units, a shitload. Don't these people have families? Don't care, drinking time. So we all eat up, and we all get full, and return tomorrow to the office in suit and tie. Japan, I have questions about you, but I will still drink your beer. Also, this is where I was introduced to Shochu. What is that, you may ask? It is a weird wine-sorta drink, made from wheat, barley, sweet potatoes, and sugar. Tastes kinda like sweet potato vodka. You can get it in the US, but it commands a pretty penny.

Growing Up

It is common in Japan for many to live at their childhood home for many years after coming of age. It is one of their customs. You get grandma and grandpa, son and wife, and little kids all in the same house. In the USA, it's basically "you're 18, you're out the door," as I was. They value family so much it is like "It's okay, Hiro, thank you for helping us." So, it is not a stigma to be 30 and living with your parents, well... so long as you are helping and not mooching.



Hikikomori

Okay, this is a weird one. Hikikomori (he-kee-ko-more-ee, for the curious) is a lifestyle where you stay inside as much as you can and get all your food and products for living from delivery services, usually in a small apartment or dwelling, and basically watch anime and play video games all day. Yes, we do that in the USA too, but this is a whole deal over there. Not sure if they gave this one to us, or us to them, as I know a lot of Americans who lead a similar lifestyle; we just do not really have a specific word for it. Shut-in?



MMA

Japan did not invent MMA, per se. It has roots dating back to ancient Greece's sport of Pankration, which basically meant "okay, two naked men beat the shit out of one another until one can't move." "Hit him in the nuts, Demetrios!" Then, Brazil, in the 1920s, introduced Vale Tudo, which primarily focused on their crazy dancing jiu-jitsu, but it was not internationally popular. In the '70s and '80s,



Japan popularized what they called "shoot fighting," and they did make it popular because it was wild, and wild was what the audience wanted. It was quite literally no-holds-barred. People around the world caught on and started trying to do the same thing. This laid the foundation for the UFC and modern MMA contests. So, I'll give Japan this one, just for making the world love watching people beating each other, freestyle.



Sumo

Sumo did not catch on internationally, but they love it. Sumo wrestlers are regarded as top athletes. Here, if we wanna watch two fat dudes slam into one another, we just go to Waffle House after midnight.

In conclusion, with our Japanese friends, it's give and get—we got stuff, they got stuff, and we both love it all. If you ever get a chance, head over there; if not, eat some sushi and watch a Japanese baseball game on YouTube.

Enjoy international relations,

-Wombstretcha

Wombstretcha the Magnificent is not a weeaboo, hikikomori, or Japanese cowboy (I am pretty sure), but is a mustard enthusiast, writer, and semi-retired rapper from Portland, OR. He can be found at his website, wombstretcha.com, on X as @wombstretcha503, and on MeWe (yay!) and Facebook (boo!) as "Wombstretcha the Magnificent."



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