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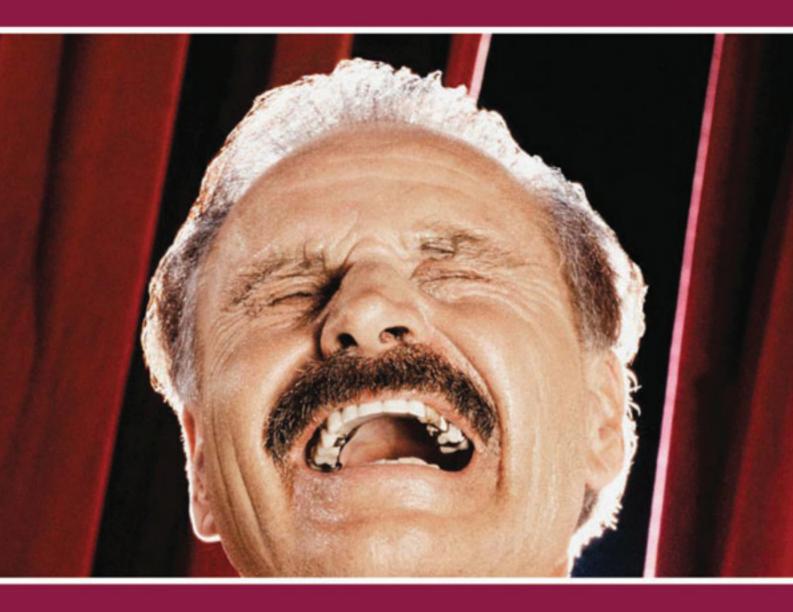
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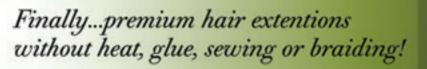
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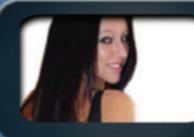
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THE TERM "ROCK STAR" has become synonymous with those who have celebrity status and take on more of a rebel attitude—especially those who really like to party! Ever heard the saying, "Party like a rock star?" It's not just a slogan for an energy drink.

The two biggest rock stars in Hollywood today are Quentin Tarantino and Robert Rodriguez. These two friends and co-collaborators have revolutionized modern cinema in ways that Spielberg and Coppola did in decades past. They have collectively flipped the finger at all the traditionalists out there and helped jump-start and revive the careers of more stars than anyone else today. Seriously, do you think John Travolta would be a name today after those Look Who's Talking movies if it weren't for Pulp Fiction? Don't get me started with Sam Jackson and his A-List career. The love that Tarantino and Rodriguez have for film of the 60's and 70's has developed into careers that have spawned great flicks and huge fan followings.

Which brings us to Grindhouse.

Grindhouse cinema came about in the 60's, starting primarily in answer to the studio system collapsing due to their monopolization of the industry. Grindhouses started popping up in major cities across the country; cheap theaters showing low-budget, exploitation-style cinema. Where there were no grindhouses available, there were drive-ins. Grindhouse cinema was cheap—exceptionally cheap—there were no stars, the scripts were not what you'd call high-quality, and the films would usually use the same cast and shoot several flicks simultaneously to garner as much as they could from their limited budgets. Few copies would be cut for these films, which meant short life spans and lots of damage from the poor quality of the places they were shown. Even the few surviving today and transferred to DVD show the wear and tear of years of overuse, and they sometimes need to be re-edited due to missing reels. But the value of these flicks was in the amount of exploitation that an unrated flick was able to include. Not so much skin flicks, these movies were filled with gratuitous amounts of nudity, sex, extreme violence, and gore! The whole point was an hourand-a-half thrill ride!

So who better than the two rock stars of modern cinema, lovers of movies of a bygone generation and time, to bring us the masterpiece called *Grindhouse*? This movie, weighing in at around three-and-a-half hours, is a double feature, complete with fake commercials and trailers.

Grindhouse opens with a trailer filmed by Rodriguez called Machete where Danny Trejo plays the title role of a Mexican hitman who has been backstabbed by the guy who hired him, and I think this should

be made into an actual full-length film! This leads into the first feature of the double-feature extravaganza, Planet

Terror! In this feature, people get infected by horrible diseases that turn them into zombie-esque

creatures spilling ooze and pus everywhere they go. It's a disgusting charnel house where the infected people swarm and tear people apart. There is even a scene where Quentin Tarantino portrays an infected soldier, and his junk melts and drops off as he's about to attempt to rape poor Cherry (played by Rose McGowan, who even as an amputee is smokin'-hot!). No amount of visual imagery is spared to disgust the audience and make them writhe in their seats. *Planet Terror* is full of schlock-movie dialogue and corniness and is the gorefest piece of this double feature.

In between the two features we get commercials for fine dining establishments and a few trailers directed by some of horror cinema's finest. Eli Roth directs a trailer for fictitious film Thanksgiving, where a serial killer runs amok in Plymouth on Thanksgiving Day. I don't think I'll ever eat turkey again. There is a piece done by Rob Zombie, twisting a classic grindhouse piece I once saw called She-Devils of the SS into a trailer for She Werewolves of the SS. Nicolas Cage as Fu Manchu was a genius stroke! Edgar Wright, the co-writer/director of Shaun of the Dead, does his turn on a film trailer called Don't. Which then leads us into the second feature, called *Deathproof*, in which Kurt Russell plays a stalker/serial killer named Stuntman Mike who likes to target groups of hot chicks, track them, stalk them, and kill them with his awesome stunt cars. This one feels a bit slower, but it has all of QT's classic dialogue style and I'm sure will add to current slang terms the same way his past flicks have, as well as one of the best auto-related death scenes ever filmed! You like car chases? Just about a third of this one is a car chase between two classic muscle cars, with a woman on the hood of one for over half of it! Deathproof also sports an awesome soundtrack much like his other films, receding back to easier times with some really groovy and sensual rock numbers the chicks can lap-dance to.

Every turn was taken to make this one an experience. The cameras zoom in and catch every spatter of gore, every sensuous curve of the femme fatales, every explosion, and every stunt is captured in all their glory! The stories are ludicrous and the dialogue camped-up to the extreme. It's almost more of a parody than an homage of grindhouse films, unless you've seen these flicks and have the same love for them that these guys do.

The best way to see this movie, now that it's spring and the driveins are open again, is to pile as many friends into a car or van as possible, hide as many as you can under blankets and coolers, bring a keg if you can, and make a party of it. Chances are if you're reading this you were conceived in the back of a car at a drive-in where your parents were ignoring a movie just like these to make out and fuck like AE ATH PROOF rock stars. Thumbs Up!



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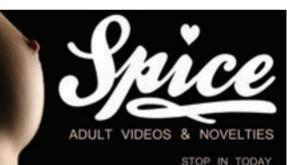
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May 2007 **EXOTIC MAGAZINE WANTS YOU!**

That's right; I just might be talking to you, so pay attention. I'm currently looking for an editorial contributor or two to write for *Exotic*. Now, I don't know if you guys are paying attention or not, but our editorial staff is a bit geographically challenged as of late. I'm out here in Seattle, and "Top Gun Goad" is randomly wandering the US on his eternal quest in researching all things decadent. We do some good shit, but one of the things that makes a local publication such as this a little more fun is LOCAL coverage. We are now accepting submissions for a monthly music columnist to feature up-and-coming PDX acts to be featured in *Exotic*. In addition, we are looking for writers to cover other local Oregon event assignments. Note, we are absolutely NOT looking for erotic-fiction writers; save the *Penthouse Forum* fantasies for *Penthouse Forum*. We're looking for cynical, witty, edgy, and sexy attitudes. Think that's you? Then hit us up! Email all inquiries to xmag@

qwest.net, attn: John Voge, and you just might make the big time, baby. I'll be honest: Hot chicks with naughty attitudes would definitely be a plus; we're *Exotic* magazine, after all. Training contributors will be paid in warm P.B.R. and back issues, but once you pass the trial period, we just might throw you a few bucks! So for now, on with the show....

IN THE CLUBS:

PDX has Fiesta Fever this month with more Cinco De Mayo celebrations than immigrants have green cards. First on the list is **Cabaret I** and **II**'s Cinco De Mayo Party. (I'm only gonna tell you this once: Cinco De Mayo is on May 5th.) Both clubs will also be hosting Memorial Day weekend parties all weekend long Saturday, May 26th through Monday, May 28th. Feature shows every weekend at Cabaret II and daily specials 12pm-8pm at Cabaret II and 3pm-8pm at Cabaret I.

Club 82 is doing the Cinco De Mayo thing, plus an 80s Flashback Party on Saturday, May 19th with a big hair and mullet contest. Come test your 80s karaoke skills. Club 82 presents live music every other

weekend with live music from Grynch and Sub*Vert on Saturday, May 12th... Lucabrazzi, The Altar Boys, and 3 Inch Max on Saturday, May 26th @ 9pm.

Aside for a Cinco De Mayo bash, **DV8** will be raising the roof for Sally and Tom's Fabulous Fifties Birthday Party on Saturday, May 19th @ 9pm. **Jody's Bar and Grill**'s Cinco De Mayo celebration always promises to be one to remember, and be sure to watch for Wendy and Rachel's NASCAR Sunday schedule with a free brunch buffet and giveaways, including NASCAR jackets.

Soobie's is gonna double up on the Cinco De Mayo action with parties on Friday, May 4th and Saturday, May 5th. For more Cinco De Mayo action, stop by **The Last Chance Saloon** in Gervais, or you can spend your fiesta with the foxy kitties at **Wildcats** in Beaverton.

Stars Salem has got the babes, the booze, and the booty with their "Pirates of the Cabaret" on Saturday, May 19th—an evening of debauchery, pirate-style. Wear your pirate garb for FREE admission plus prizes for best costume, best treasure chest, and best booty. Featuring island party music by Bad Fish Band and guest performances by adult film star Devon from the movie "Pirates" on Friday, May 18th and Saturday, May 19th.

Safari Showclub will be celebrating their 4-Year Anniversary Party Saturday, May 26th with free V.I.P. Dinner for all cardholders from 9-10pm, V.I.P. cabanas, bubble shows, and guest performances by local porn stars all night with free porn and vibrators provided by **Cathie's**.

Club Cabos—NOW OPEN! Newly remodeled, new ownership, and new management...now hiring dancers. Call Lee Baxter at the club for details, or check out Rockstar Promotions to book.

IT'S BAAAAAACK....The Dolphin Clubs present The Miss Nude Oregon 2007 Pageant, featuring \$4,000 in cash and prizes. Preliminaries begin on Thursday, May 10th @ Dolphin II, Semifinals Thursday, May 17th @ Dolphin I, and the Finals on Thursday, June 7th @ Dolphin II. All entries sign up at either Dolphin I or II.

Dream On Saloon will be hosting a contest of their own to become Dream On's ad girl and win \$100 cash. Guys might wanna stop by for Free Panty Wednesdays...one table dance, and you will own your favorite dancer's

panties! Plus \$2 all-you-can-eat buffet daily. All you can eat and panties for dessert—what more could you ask for? Now with in-house booking; call Rick today!

The events you've been waiting for are upon us at **Presley's Playhouse**. First up is The Porcelain Twinz Erotic Sex Show on Saturday, May 5th. This is followed by the big Grand Opening party with free sirloin or jumbo shrimp dinner and a chance to meet the 3 Olives Vodka Girls on Friday, May 11th. No cover charge until 8pm daily, with awesome new food specials.

Pallas Club is busting out with their Pimps and Hos Party on Saturday, May 19th with \$50 each for the best dressed Pimp and Ho. The Pallas is also hiring cooks, servers, and security as well. Other employment opportunities include **The Showboat** (Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska), which is now hiring dancers...a great opportunity to get away from the same old thing! Or for more local work, stop by **The Hawthorne Strip**, where daily auditions are available. And when you have the night off, over at **The Boom Boom Room**, Monday is Industry Night, offering entertainers and staff of the adult-entertainment unspeakable specials. (Did I say that out loud?)



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Jardin is now spotlighting two-girl specials plus discounted house fees on Sundays for only \$30. **Romeo's V.I.P. Club** is Salem's newest (and only) lingerie-modeling experience, with new huge private rooms, discreet parking, and incredible two-girl specials.

Fascinations is featuring a special all month long: Buy 2, get 1 free on DVDs priced \$24.99 or less. And our friends at **Taboo Video** are searching for their next ad model (must be 18 and over with photo-ID proof of age).

Thinking about a new look for the spring? **Hair Extensions** by Kim Wardle is offering \$200 off first-time hair-extension clients with a coupon from their ad. **MediaOriginals.com** is seeking adult entertainers and offering \$400 cash minimum for a one-hour shoot, oral only with a female producer on set.

That's all for now, Portland; we'll see ya at the rack.

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Girls. Girls. Girls! Are you fed-up with being mistreated by rock stars? Did that drunken blowiob in the bathroom make vou feel inadequate? Was he making love to your organs and not you? Does your ass hurt? Have chafing problems? Are you sick of being called a bawdy basket or bobtail? Through with thinking, "Why not me? I'm the hot-

test rump in this stinky club." Yes, you are—and you've had enough. Luckily. Elektra has had some time to sit and ponder the great groupiedom conundrum. So before you get all bugged, remember there are answers to your pickle. Answers! The very reason this concoction of aroupiedom improvements was created. So don't fret, my pets, I'm here to cheer your drear. Geez. get on with it:

1. At least pretend you're not stupid, you know? You're earthly, you're classy, and you can read, sometimes. So read up on the greats. Nothing makes a musician's dick hard like a dame that can chat it up about their favorite strummers. If you don't know, pretend. Laugh a lot, curb the subject. Give him some doe eyes. Even better? Get all frosted, like you can't even believe he doubts you.

2. Dye your hair. No rock stars screw dames who tote original hair color. Original hair color? Sick, disgusting, ewww, it's just...unnatural.

3. ALWAYS carry accoutrements for touch-ups. No one is flawless, but you sure can *appear* perfect with the right instruments. Bars and clubs are dark; use this to your advantage. If you need some pantyhose to hold it in, then strap it down; it can be our secret. Red lipstick floors it and fucks it always.

4. Never screw less than two band members. At a minimum, the drummer and the bassist should be checked off your list. A friend of mine, the great groupie Greta Grape, she won't even leave a band's fandom without a 75 percent head count. You know what they call her now? The Triple G. What a dame!

5. Show up late to shows. Walk in with a hunk not associated with the band. You are in demand; you need to appear in demand. When you walk in, heads turn and they cast their eyeballs all over you. The vocalist trips on his words. The bassist misses a note. You're a classy jaw-dropping machine.

6. Get tattoos of the hand's logo. No, don't really, I'm just teasing. Sheesh, if you have to, only on your rump, no bigger than the size of your palm.

7. Eat your green beans. Some gush is good, but few cats like 'em too big. I mean, we all know the story about the not so plump-delicious "Big Rosie," but that kind of action is once in a pop bottom and you're already pulling straws with the "only rock stars" thing. Vegetables aren't just for sex, they're for your diet, too. That's not to say you shouldn't mix food and sex; I mean, who doesn't get off while sitting on a warm plate of garlic mashed potatoes?

8. Get loose and lose your reputation. You must have no inhibitions about your reputation. You will never be a precious tart again. Reputations are total deadsville, anyway. Everyone's been clutched, and with your gorgeously dirty slate, it'll never matter again.

maiden name. You never know when this information will come in handy. Stalk them-they love that.

> 10. Screw a married rock star. Better yet, become a road wife. Not just any kind of road wife—vou're in charge of his guitar. Get circled to him, too: the other dame never has to know. You'll always have the dibs right when he is swinging.

> **11. Know the song is about you.** Don't just wonder if that song is about you the song is about you. Even when it's not, it is. You're radioactive. The song is fucking about you. There's a song about me. It says something like: "I want to slit your throat and fuck the wound."

> 12. Reconstruct your hymen with surgery. That's right, hymen reconstruction surgery. Born-again virgins are in, and you will be, too. Now, you must be careful in choosing the cat that gets to pop it; you don't want all that moolah to go to waste on a total dweeb.

13. Never befriend other groupies. Those groupies, they're only there for drunken rides home, when you're totally off your hopscotch. They're there to laugh at your jokes or to make out with when you're trying to catch some cat's eye.

14. Never get involved with rock-star threesomes or orgies. This just isn't a good idea, and it's not like you have need of a reputation, but you're putting all your biscuits in one basket with that kind of fun.

15. Give some compliments. Only after you're reeled in, of course; not too early—you are not a desperate dame. There's nothing harder than a rock star's ego, but boy does that ego love some womanly stroking. He'll be putty

in your hands. If you time these compliments right, you'll be drowning in gold nuggets, too. What time is it now? It's time to go shop for some cute garbs.

16. Wear vampire teeth. Seriously, vampire teeth, so chic, like Gold Bond. They add sex where he'd never guess sex would be.

17. Eat 'em and leave 'em. Not all rock stars are super hunky, you know? So if you need to brush them off like a flake, do it. There are more rockstar fish in the band sea.

So girls, feel better now? My job is done. right? If you follow these baby steps, I promise you supergroupiedom. In fact. I'll buzz you a super groupie. Now. I know you're saying—wait, what about the cats? Well, there's not much to that. If you're a dude, make sure you have some junk in your front trunk, a duck-butt hairdo, and a clean face. Unfair. right? Totally. But then again, they don't have all the fun.



GOT SEX ON THE BRAIN?







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DIN

s I try to shake this hangover from last night. I still feel it's my respon-**Sibility to let my loval readers know** that you are all appreciated! I will always keep it real with y'all no matter what the topic may be. In this column. I'll be puttin' everyone up on some upcoming events as well as some functions that were on and crackin' last month. You will also be able to peep the winner of my first "Hot Mama" contest which took place at Safari Showclub, Plus the DJ Spotlight shines again! On top of that, I'm still presenting you with another sexy "Honey of the Month." She's absolutely beautiful, and she's 'bout it! Then there's an issue that I gotz to address in regards to the stereotypical blind folks that are still

leaving people in the dark. Let's get it goin'!

First Up... "Communication Gaps"

As we all know, hip-hop music has now become the new pop music due to the fact that the majority of radio stations and nightclubs have no other choice but to give it love. Even though it is now the most popular music in the world, there are still ridiculous stereotypes that go with it. Why is it that anytime there's a fight or a shooting at a club or a concert, it gets blamed on the music that was being played instead of the intoxicants that might have been in those individuals' systems? Before the hip-hop culture and any rap album was ever produced, there were count-

less brawls and incidents at country & western bars and rock concerts that were never blamed on the music. As a promoter and an artist myself, I continuously see and feel the pressure that many local club owners are under because of the music they play. The OLCC makes tons of loot off of hip-hop-oriented clubs and concerts, yet they continue to try and dictate the rules for these establishments. They are so quick to pass judgment on a culture

that they will never be able to dispose of. I think that in general, communication between

whatz crack

by j.mack

Next Up..."J.Mack's Hot Mama Contest"

It goes down every 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month at The Safari Showclub. I'm on a mission to find the "Hottest" female entertainer in the town! The contest is open to all dancers and all clubs. The first one was on and "Crackin" 4REAL! The contestants were judged on stage performance, sex appeal, and the crowd response. In between each round of the competition, I had some of the area's hottest artists perform live on the main stage: Lil' B, (a.k.a. China Red) rocked the mic with a couple new joints off her upcoming album. When

she performed her second song, all the contestants joined her on stage and popped it, if you know what I mean! Then the catz of WET Coast Entertainment, not to be mistaken with West Coast Entertainment, hit the packed house with one of their hot new singles. These fellas are true to their music, and I look forward to having them perform again at the club. My judges that scored the first event also had a blast that night! Big ups to Joel of Exotica International and Fox. Much love to Mocha, Tye Tye, Juicy, and Brian of 503girls.com for also helping judge the contest. I couldn't have done it without y'all.

The winner of each contest advances on to the finals DJ GARETH & J.MACK taking place in September. To all "Hot Mamas" out there, the next contests will be Sunday, May 6th

and Sunday, May 20th at the Safari. To sign up for the contest, you must bring your ID and get there by 9pm. The first 10 ladies to sign up will be in it for sure. Congratulations to Siyonna, who was the winner of the first week of competition. See you in the final round, baby! The Safari

NAOMI Showclub is located at 3000 SE Powell. Spread the word and come kick it!

DJ Spotlight

This month it shines on **DJ Gareth**, who has been in the game for years and is still holdin' it down! Me and this cat have had the pleasure of joining forces on numerous occasions and locations to get it crackin'! DJ Gareth is well-known to the industry yet remains quite humble. He loves what he does. and he does it well! Big Ups, man, and I'll see you at the next function...

Honev of the Month

This month's Honey is the sweet & sexy **Naomi**. Not only is she fly, but she also is one of the best female promoters in Portland! Her and her man Steve

keep it crackin' all around the town with their company "Flawless Productions." They are the ones that bring you "The Ladies of the Industry Party" at the Vintage. Make sure to come out and support her functions. She does it real BIG! The last ones I've attended have been on and poppin'! Much love, sweetheart, and congratulations for being the May 2007 Honey of the Month!

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503girls.com-just log on and you will see why it remains Portland's #1 adult-entertainment website! This spot has it all, from the hot chicks to the hottest clubs and businesses. Keep up the good work, "B." Make sure to also check out xmaq.com and whatzcrackin.com.

Until next month, ya'll keep it crackin'!



One Love, J.Mack

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the hip-hop community, city officials, and the OLCC

recurring ordeals that we all have seen. They can't

honestly say that hip-hop draws the wrong crowd of people

when every nationality loves it! Let's bridge these gaps!

has been absent. I would love to meet with them and share my views and possible solutions for these



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SUN

MON

TUE

				1	Concrete Blonde, Johnette Napolitano & Noah Stone @ Berbati's Victor Wooten @ Aladdin Theater Box of Chocolates @ Kennedy School
6	The Alternate Route @ Dante's System & Station + Drats! @ Doug Fir Ozma @ Hawthorne Theater	7	Anathallo, Caves & Antlerand @ Hawthorne Theater	8	Yard Dogs Road Show @ Wonder Ballroom The Maybe Happening + Invisible Rockets @ Doug Fir Angelique Kidjo @ Aladdin Theater
13	The Greg Wilson Pottymouth Tour @ Dante's Lori Line & Her Pop @ Aladdin Theater	14	Peter Bjorn & John, Fujiya & Miyagi @ Doug Fir Aqualung @ Wonder Ballroom	15	The Bravery @ Wonder Ballroom The View @ Doug Fir Kristen Hersh @ Aladdin Theater
20	Deacon X's Fetish Night @ Berbati's Giant Bear @ Dante's Jackie Greene @ Aladdin Theater	21	Lavender Diamond @ Doug Fir	22	Amon Tobin @ Doug Fir The Bad Plus @ Berbati's My Chemical Romance @ Rose Quarter
27	Memorial Day Weekend Party @ Cabaret I & II La Grande Q Revue @ Dante's The Clientele + Beach House @ Doug Fir Moscow Cat Theatre @ Aladdin Theater	28	Memorial Day Weekend Party @ Cabaret 1 & 11 The Hold Steady @ Crystal Ballroom Marianne Faithfull @ Wonder Ballroom Electrelane + The Blow + Tender Forever @ Doug Fir Secret Chiefs 3 @ Aladdin Theater	29	

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From Club 205

	WED		THUR		se FRI		SAT
2	Exotic Presents: Xotica-Go-Go @ Dante's Artic Monkeys @ Roseland Theater Hawk Nelson, The Classic Crime, The Fold Sullivan @ Wonder Ballroom Bright Eyes @ Crystal Ballroom Fields @ Berbati's	3	Pretty Ricky, Meat N Bones, Buttercream & 2XL @ Roseland Theater Kings of Leon @ Crystal Ballroom Mando Diao @ Dante's The Reverend Horton Heat @ Doug Fir Coco Rosie @ Wonder Ballroom	4	Pre-Cinco de Mayo Party @ Soobie's Andrew Bird @ Crystal Ballroom Explosion in the Sky @ Wonder Ballroom LadyHawk & Harlem Shakes @ Dante's Mastodon, Against Me & Cursive @ Roseland Theater Joseph Arthur + Stars of Track & Field @ Doug Fir	5	Porcelain Twinz @ Presley's Playhouse Cinco de Mayo Parties: Cabaret, Cabaret II, Club 82, DV8, Jody's, Soobie's & Wildcats Sport Fight @ Rose Quarter Sleep, DJ ATM @ Berbatt's Bootstrap Record Launch Party @ Dante's
9	Exotic Presents: Xotica-Go-Go @ Dante's Insane Clown Posse, Twiztid & X-Clan @ Roseland Theater Melissa Ferrick & Erin Mckeown @ Doug Fir Brian Odell Band @ Berbati's Electric Melanoma @ Hawthorne Theater Porcupine Tree @ Aladdin Theater	10	Miss Nude Oregon 2007 Prelims @ Dolphin II Diesto @ Berbati's Melissa Ferrick & Erin Mckeown @ Doug Fir Hello Lobster @ Hawthorne Theater Steven Wright @ Aladdin Theater	11	Grand Opening Party @ Presley's Playhouse Taylor Hicks @ Crystal Ballroom The Damnwells & Ari Hest @ Berbati's Black Rebel & Fratellis @ Roseland Theater That 1 Guy & Rock-N-Roll Soldiers @ Dante's Acid Mothers Temple + Mammatus @ Doug Fir	12	Grynch & Sub"Vert @ Club 82 Smoochknob @ Dante's Gypsy Caravan + Krebsic Orchestra @ Doug Fir Devin Phillips Band @ Crystal Ballroom Casey Neill & The Norway Rats @ Mission Theater Girl 4 Girl @ Wonder Ballroom
16	Exotic Presents: Xotica-Go-Go @ Dante's El-P, Hangar 18, Yak Ballz & Slow Suicide Stimulus @ Wonder Ballroom Alan Singley & The Pants Machine @ Doug Fir Blue Scholars @ Berbati's Le Serpent Rouge @ Aladdin Theater	17	Miss Nude Oregon 2007 Semis @ Dolphin I Rid2 @ Wonder Ballroom Cunnin' Lynguists + Illmaculate @ Berbati's Laura Gibson + Shelley Short @ Doug Fir Dinosaur Jr. @ Crystal Ballroom Bury Your Dead @ Hawthorne Theater	18	Pornstar Devon from "Pirates" @ Stars Salem Joss Stone @ Crystal Ballroom Fishbone @ Dante's Meat Puppets @ Wonder Ballroom Mother Hips @ Doug Fir Clifford The Big Red Dog @ Rose Quarter	19	Pirates of the Cabaret @ Stars Salem Pornstar Devon from "Pirates" @ Stars Salem Pinnps & Hos Party @ Pallas Club Tom's Fabulous Fifties B-Day Party @ DV8 80s Flashback Party @ Club 82 Intervision, Amadan @ Berbati's
23	Exotic Presents: Xotica-Go-Go @ Dante's Dahlia + Sophe Lux @ Doug Fir The Audition @ Hawthorne Theater	24	The Black Angels @ Doug Fir P.U. Local Review with Sleep @ Berbati's Pan	25	John Legend @ Keller Auditorium Zolar X @ Dante's Bad Brains @ Berbaht's The High Violets + Cellar Door @ Doug Fir Sleepytime Gorilla Museum @ Aladdin Theater The Unified Theory @ Mississippi Pizza	26	4 Year Anniversary Party @ Safari Showdub Lucabrazzi, The Altar Boys & 3 Inch Max @ Club 82 Memorial Day Weekend Party @ Cabaret I & II The Dimes @ Berbati's The Rocketz @ Dante's Spoon + The Shaky Hands @ Doug Fir
30	Exotic Presents: Xotica-Go-Go @ Dante's Southerly (Record Release) @ Doug Fir	31	Nicky Click @ Berbati's The High Strung + The Nice Boys @ Dante's Within Temptation @ Aladdin Theater				

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blares the pumping tones of Christian rock, which sounds as if someone distilled everything bad about early '90s music and filtered it through the Virgin Mary's vagina.

As five hulkasaurii—one of them female—stomp through the rubble onstage, the audience shrieks for them to break more shit.

"Somebody say, 'POWER!" screams a three-hundred-pound white gorilla named John Jacobs into the microphone.

"POWER!" howls the audience of three hundred or so rural Christians—one for each pound on Jacobs's Samsonlike physique.

In his mid-forties with ruddy skin and suspiciously blond hair, John Jacobs has helmed several incarnations of his musclemen-for-Christ freak show "Power Team" performance troupe since the late 1970s.

Over the course of a bombastically peppy ninety minutes, Jacobs and his current crew of buffedout God Huns—these 'uns are called the "Next Generation Power Team"—will smash through high stacks of concrete bricks, bend jail-grade steel bars, rip telephone books in half, bite through license plates with their teeth, snap a series of baseball bats like toothpicks, roll a frying pan into a steel burrito, squeeze soda cans until they burst, break through police handcuffs, crack a wrench in half, and—always the crowd favorite—blow up a hotwater bottle until it bursts.

A seasoned showman, Jacobs reminds his audience that it's a "Pennsylvania hot-water bottle."

"Somebody say, POWER!" snarls Jacobs as he introduces tonight's executrix of the hot-water-bottle trick, an uncomfortably muscular woman in a doo-rag named Kathy.

They all scream "POWER!" again.

"This lady stands almost six feet tall," Jacobs pants, "she weighs 175 pounds and [has] six percent body fat. She was Miss Fitness USA. Ladies and gentlemen, she specialized in making bombs, weapons, and missiles. This lady can bench-press over 300 pounds. She loves Jesus with all of her heart."

On Sunday, the opening night of a four-day Power Team crusade out here near Amish country, Kathy did ten "military-style" push-ups while the Sasquatch-sized Jacobs stood on her back.

Tonight, Kathy's having a smidgen more trouble exploding the Pennsylvania hot-water bottle using only the force of her frighteningly butch lungs. As her Mighty-Mouse-shaped compadres begin taunting the audience to scream louder, cupping their hands to their ears as if to say, I CAN'T HEAR YOU!, she finally pops the giant pink rubber baboon ass, and the crowd goes bonkers! On Sunday when Kathy gave her testimony, she told us how she found Jesus while confined at an Okinawa mental hospital after gobbling some pills and slashing her wrists. She told us that as a little girl, she felt "murdered" by her father's incessant meanness. He'd call her a stupid, ugly, fat failure who would never amount to anything. Kathy turned to drugs, alcohol, bulimia, and "secret

> cutting" to blunt the pain, but it wasn't until she hit bottom that she "surrendered" to Christ and began basking in his groovy eternal love. After telling us all this, Kathy bent a steel bar and broke a baseball bat.

Tonight when the hot-water bottle finally exploded, part of the rubber stung her face, causing a huge welt to raise above her right eye almost instantly. When Jacobs asks her if she's all right, she smiles and says, "With Jesus, it's all good."

It's my personal belief that Kathy has merely swapped a dysfunctional relationship with her father for an abusive relationship with Jesus, and she needs to stop apologizing for the Lord's inexcusable behavior.

Same goes for the other Power Team muscleplug who took the mic and explained the difference between knowing about Jesus and knowing him *personally*—like he does.

Hey, Kool-Aid Man, the problem is that you DON'T know Jesus personally. You could snap a *car* in half with your teeth, and you still wouldn't convince me that you've ever met or conversed with Jesus.

Same, too, applies for leader Jacobs and his long sermon about God being a shepherd who goes out of his way to rescue even one stinky sheep from hell's clutches. "How many know there's a desperation in God's heart if you're lost?" Jacobs pleads, stalking the stage. "How many think he doesn't want you to spend eternity in hell?"

Look, Squanto, if God's so fucking WORRIED about it, I think it'd be pretty easy for him to avert the situation, Him being God and all. Otherwise, what sort of weird S&M head games is he playing not only with us, but with Himself?

"I STARTED THIS WHOLE 'FEATS MINISTRY' CONCEPT IN 1978 OR 1979," an earnest and more

soft-spoken John Jacobs tells me via telephone from his hurricane-battered Florida home a week after his Pennsylvania crusade ended. Jacobs says that before the late 1970s there were isolated cases of traveling preachers who engaged in feats of derring-do for the Lord—"One was a karate guy who chopped watermelons

the **POWER TEAM** smashes things to pieces...for **JESUS**!

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off people with a sword"—but it wasn't until he devised the Musclebound Xtian Strike Force he labeled the Power Team that crushing bricks for God became a multi-million-dollar enterprise with international exposure. ripping phonebooks in half, bending steel bars, squeezing soda cans until they explode, and lifts with heavy weights (one of my team members can bench press 600lbs!)....At the end of the pro-

At its peak, Jacobs and his original Power Team toured the world and starred in a weekly TV program called *Power Connection* on the Trinity Broadcasting Network. It was not unusual for John and the boys to pack ten-thousand-seat stadiums. As the millennium rolled around, they were forty-five performers strong, and the Power Team organization was banking an estimated four million bucks yearly.

But then the Lord tested Jacobs with a slew of misfortunes which at one point had him declaring bankruptcy while living in an apartment and driving a decidedly déclassé Ford Taurus. After divorcing his wife in 2000, his Power Team fell apart amid allegations of "sin issues," a hasty remarriage (and hastier annulment) to a new woman, and an assault charge (later dropped) against Jacobs by one Power Team member. Nearly all of the Power Team defected into new copycat groups calling themselves things such as "Omega Force"

and "Team Impact." After Jacobs declared bankruptcy in 2002, a stateappointed trustee took over stewardship of the Power Team. The trustee now heads yet another group of brick-smashing Christian musclemen, these ones confusingly calling themselves...The Power Team.

Even more bizarre than the Power Team concept

itself is the degree to which it has successfully mutated and replicated.

Down in Mississippi, a team called "Break-Force" describes their shtick as a "PRESENTATION OF DIFFERENT MARTIAL ARTS TECHNIQUES AND SKILLS, TUMBLING, ACROBATICS, MUSICAL FORMS, WEAPONS DEMONSTRATIONS, AND FEATS OF STRENGTH SUCH AS BOARD BRAKING, [sic] SMASHING OF 2' - 3' OF CONCRETE BLOCKS, BENDING STEEL BARS, TEARING OF METRO PHONE BOOKS, EXPLODING CANS OF 7-UP, BLOWING UP HOT WATER BOTTLES UNTIL THEY EXPLODE, BREAKING OF BATS AND DRIVING 16 PENNY NAILS WITH OUR BARE HANDS.... PROGRAM IS PRESENTED WITH FAST PACED UP-BEAT CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN MUSIC." According to one writer, a "highlight" of any Break-Force show "is the team member who breaks his way out from behind a wall of concrete blocks doused in gasoline and set afire."

In Alabama, the "Truth Force" brags that "We put on a demonstration of strength that includes crushing walls of concrete blocks with our arms, hands and heads, snapping baseball bats,



gram, I bring a challenging message and end with an altar call."

Virginia's "Power Source" puts on a show that highlights "Feats Of Strength... Breaking Boards...Bending STEEL Bars... Smashing Blocks...Crushing Soda Cans... Snapping Baseball Bats...Showing... GOD'S...Power!"

"It's foolish trying to put your head through concrete," Marc Wilkes of Florida's Omega Force once claimed, "but it's a way to spread the gospel."

In 2003, granddaddy of 'em all John Jacobs announced his retirement, issuing a statement that he wanted to "focus on identifying, clarifying, and letting the Lord refresh and purify him in several key areas." After an apparently brief spiritual bidet, Jacobs is now back with what for legal reasons is called the Next Generation Power Team—a smaller group playing smaller crowds for smaller donations, yet still big in bulk and on fire with the conviction that bending steel bars as if they were paper clips is an effective way to save souls from hell.

Personally, I'm still having trouble with such gladiatorial stunts in the name of a meek-shall-inherit-the-earth creed whose



original zealots were easily fed to the lions. On the final night in Pennsylvania, Jacobs summoned the local church's spindly pastor to come onstage and attempt to drive his forearm through nine concrete bricks. Immediately after successfully crushing through the blocks and the crowd erupted like Thunderdome, the pastor's face assumed a triumphantly violent scowl that would have

been more at home at a pagan blood sacrifice than in a wooden makeshift church.

As much as they all tried to get me closer to Jesus, I wound up feeling as if Odin was breathing down my neck.

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