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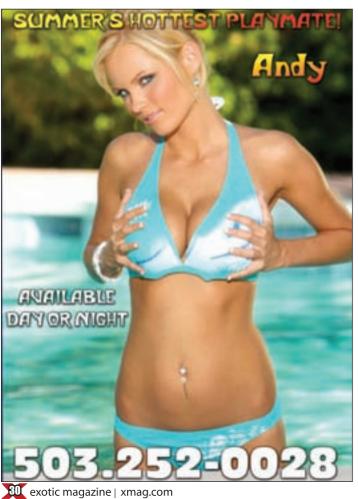
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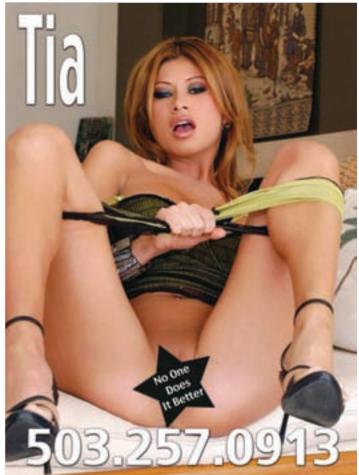


















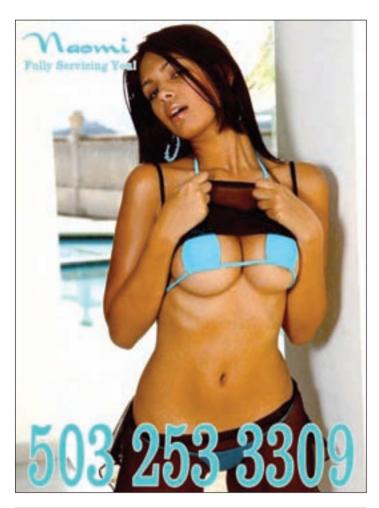


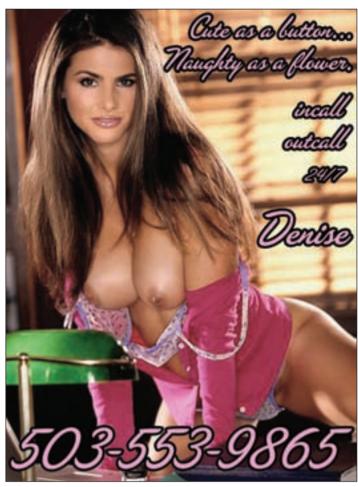






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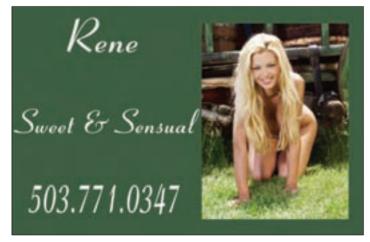






















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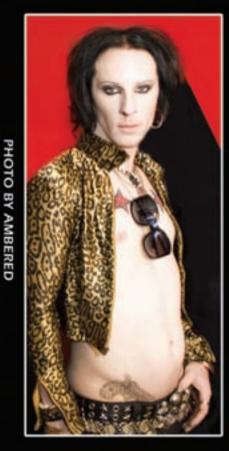
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# THE BRAG QUEENS OF BOCK

by Elektra Luxx



Two sides of the rock star known as Tre from Evil Twin



Since the onslaught of glam rock and gender-bending pioneers such as David . Bowie, drag and rock have been best of friends, with benefits. Meshing sensually, both rock and drag shove identity, sexuality, and gen-der out of orbit from other forces in the solar system. They rebel against similar, mainstream ideals of the norm by slapping sauciness into the faces of their audiences. Two of Seattle's sexiest drag rockers have some interesting cross stories to share with Underground's audience. First we have our drag-queen-turned-rockstar, Tre of Evil Twin; the other, a rock-star-turneddrag-queen named Anita Goodmann.

Elektra: What's your drag/rock story?

Tre: Well, it all started as a young teenager playing in a glam-rock band in Tacoma in the early 90s. I found that it was impossibly hard to find not only stylish clothes, but clothes that fit me in the men's section. So I started to look at women's clothing, and damn, not only was there some cool-ass stuff to be had, but also it fit well. Then of course makeupcan't be glam rock without makeup, right? Right. I hadn't quite realized until then just how much girls like boys in makeup. It made being slightly shy and withdrawn easier to deal with. A girl will go up to a guy with amazing makeup and talk to him about it. Whereas, that same guy just looking like Billy-Joe Bob off the street has to figure out something witty or clever to do or say to get said girl's attention. Back in those days, I was just a boy in makeup and

girl's clothes trying to figure out where to go with it. It wasn't until I moved to Seattle that I really got into doing full drag, which eventually led to my performing at Phobang for a few years. I eventually found my love of rock music and got in a band again. At one point, I worked at trying to combine the two but just couldn't seem to fit it together.

When I started writing songs for Evil Twin, I was still doing a great deal of drag performing. After I had the first two or three tracks written and recorded, I started pretty much performing them karaokestyle for the drag shows that I would do. This was a wonderful chance for me to not only get over the severe fear of singing in front of people, but also to test out the music I was working on with an actual audience. After the band formed, I was doing the occasional show in drag, but over time the music got a little more cock rock, and, well, the drag image just didn't seem to fit too much anymore.

Anita: I was a record reviewer in college and after a while I decided I'd rather play music myself, so I hooked up with three other amateurs and started writing simple songs using easy open chords. We recorded a couple demos at Egg Studios back in the day and had some critical acclaim and a few mean-spirited reviews in the music papers. Pandemonium, a rag out of Tacoma, hated our guts but they wrote about us a lot, so whatever. I had decided to make my image more glam and started wearing makeup on stage. We did one full-length Dreaming

I Am CD, produced with Martin Feveyear which was reviewed in Guitar World. That was sort of the high point for the group. My second, more successful band was named Popstar Assassins, We did a seven-inch and two critically acclaimed indie-rock albums. The second Popstar Assassins record, Moderne, was released nationwide in the fall of 2005 and aot great press in major magazines such as MetroPOP. Songs from that album were played on college radio and in shopping malls all over the country—we started to get royalty checks and other opportunities. I'd had two bands and worked with five different drummers, seven bass players, and two guitarists over the course of 15 years.

I knew I looked good as a glam rocker, but my wife at the time was against me making any kind of public appearances in full drag. Ten years later, it became apparent I was going to have to divorce my wife. In early May 2006, I went to the Vogue as Anita to check out The Nasty Habits. I was asked if I had a song to lip-sync to. I sang live instead. No one was else was doing live singing—it was a completely different thing. I did that a few weeks then somehow I got outed at my straight job in Bellevue with a consulting company. I'm confidently heterosexual and I was feeling the lifestyle pressures of being in the Vogue scene. I created a MySpace page for Anita Goodmann. Cleo Petra from Burning Hearts Burlesque found me and invited me to audition for the "rebooted" Bedroom Club. At my day job they were getting tired of finding glitter stuck to my face and

it was obvious my passion was with the burlesque scene and not the Microsoft Gold Certified Partner scene. It took until February before I was shown the door. Meanwhile, with Cleo's help, I was doing up to three drag appearances a week-showing up all over town to sing and promote The Bedroom Club.

Elektra: Why do you think there is a prevalent drag/rockstar relationship?

Tre: I'm not really sure on that, other than for the whole over-the-top performance thing, which a lot of frontmen and performers seem to have forgotten about lately. I mean, you're there to entertain people, right, so you better actually entertain them while you've got your time onstage. The more you keep them captured in that moment, the more they'll come back, and the more you can continue to be onstage. It's a total symbiotic-type thing.

Anita: Women are way into it and being that confident in public is a way of really impressing the ladies. Both identities are ways of stepping outside of the constraints of society. I think my desire to rebel against conventional thought and to be a person who "perpetrates an illusion to dispel illusion" could be fulfilled through either outlet. Both are ways of being a performance artist. In my nightclubbing life there is only a slight difference between how I might dress as a "rock star" vs. "drag queen." I have learned people don't like a mixed presentation, though. It either appears entirely "female" or go "male with eyeliner" like Keith Richards. I remember seeing a promo photo of the band Blur, and Damon Albarn (the lead singer) was dressed as Debbie Harry in a parody of the cover of Parallel Lines and thinking,

hmmm, and we all know that Mick Jagger, I think the idea is to turn off "dudes" while attracting the ladies. I think even Little Richard was in on that action, and why not?

Elektra: Do you have a queen you look up to?

Tre: For along time I was a pretty big fan of Pete Burns, Boy George, and Klaus Nomi. They were these amazing characters who just seemed to be perfect and bigger than life. A few years back, a friend of mine who was quite young was on the path to making the change, which is no easy task no matter how you look at it. For him it was especially bad. He had been surrounded by people who saw only one possible route for a gay boy that wears women's clothes to go, and that was a complete sex change. But after the first vear or two of hormones and therapy, he was starting to doubt that this was truly his path. We talked quite often about this, and I did my best to explain to him that you can just be a boy in makeup, if that's what you choose to be. So, umm, to shorten my rambling, I guess you could say my hero would be someone that has the balls to listen to themselves, be themselves, and not have other people or people's labels rule their world and identity.

Anita: Not especially. I am not into heroes, per se. I think that Grae Phillips was a major influence on my decision to go into this enterprise of being Anita Goodmann. I also had a couple of friends I met online—one, Serena Stone, is a hypnotist who started doing a drag hypnosis show in Milwaukee, and the other, Brooklyn Mattingly, is a novelist for Penguin (she used me as the basis for a character). Brooklyn lives full-time, and

I helped her learn how to have a feminine voice.

Elektra: If you could open the eyes of someone who is offended by genderbending, how would you

Tre: You can only open the eyes of someone who wants them to be opened; you can't force something on anyone that doesn't want it. Well, unless it's rules, warning labels, or taxes. But really, if someone's offended by gender bending, chances are you're not going to open their eyes unless they are at least receptive to the idea. How would I go about it? I don't really know; I guess it would depend on the person needing the eye-opening.

Anita: I do it by having many personas that have different degrees of masculinity and femininity. Once people meet me as Tim then as Anita and maybe get to know me a bit, they begin to understand that all gender expression is just acting—we are just not conscious of it because it is like riding a bike or something. I think everything we do is acting in one way or another. I am just speaking a language-body language. We subconsciously understand it and our minds accept it if it makes sense. I choose what I say with my body language, and it reinforces the visual.

I have changed people's minds sometimes by just being natural. One auy said he was fine with me because I wasn't "trying to trick him"—which I guess means he didn't have to find out I had a penis by surprise after I took him to bed or something (as if).



Anita Goodmann crossing the lines from rock star to drag queen



A dame like me can't really say it better than Anita: "I think the lesson here is to live bravely and fear nothing. You really don't know where following your heart and intuition can lead you. I was so hell-bent on 'fitting in' that I was turning my back on one of my greatest assets. Seriously, my life has never been better, even if my house is strewn with makeup, jewelry, dresses and heels instead of guitar parts, effects pedals, and amps." The great lessons of both rock and drag are to question the norm and stick your bird in the peepers of mainstream American society.

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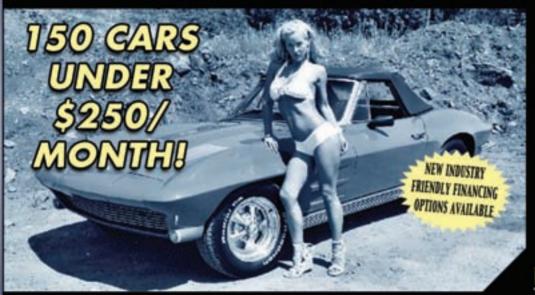
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# COUNTRY SINGER! by Jim Goad



I AM NOT A MUSICIAN, and I never claimed to be a musician, although I like to think I'm a better musician than most musicians. Not only am I way too old to be a rock star-more importantly, I'm way too old to WANT to be a rock star. That shit's for the kids. Music makes people stupid. By and large, I think that music appeals to people on a preliterate level, which might explain why musicians tend to be so appallingly inarticulate. Regardless, for a magically exhausting five weeks this summer, I would "become" a country and western singer.

Ten years ago, I recorded a CD where I covered fourteen old country and western tunes, nearly all of them trucker-themed. I called myself "Big Red Goad" and claimed that I did the album to confuse people, but in truth, my own motivations were unclear even to me. My approach wasn't campy, and I had a sincere love of the genre. But if you asked me to justify what I was doing, I couldn't do it. Basically, the CD featured a person who considers himself highly uncommon singing music of the common clay forty years too late. I've never lived "in the country," and I've never even taken a ride in a semi

> truck as a passenger, much less driven one. It was almost like being an Elvis impersonator. I was dusting off the giant, hairy testicles of long-forgotten artists such as Dave Dudley and Red Simpson, attempting to channel some of their cartoonishly macho energy. I don't think the CD even sold a thousand copies, and I largely forgot about it.

Last year I reprinted a book anthology of a magazine I used to publish called ANSWER Me! I tacked on some

new material, including a nakedly honest interview I conducted with Hank Williams III. When I emailed Hank asking where to send his copy of the book, he mentioned that he'd heard I sing country music. So I dropped in a copy of my old trucker CD along with the book. Two months later, Hank asked me to tour with him as his opening act.

It was a daunting prospect—I had almost zero livemusic experience, and I'd be required to sing forty minutes for nearly thirty shows in front of crowds ranging up to two thousand. But if one likes to think one has any balls at all, one just can't say "no" to such a challenge. Even if you blow it, at least you gave it a shot. Like Ben Affleck tells the retarded kid he kidnapped in Gigli, "you gotta step up."

For my backup band, I recruited Power of County, a Portland-based fivepiece with whom I'd previously appeared live a grand total of one time—the night before I left Portland over two years ago. Most of the songs I selected for the tour dealt with, of course, "the road." The ones which weren't about trucking were about killing women and being white. For nearly two months of preparation, I sang

old trucker songs karaoke-style in the mirror at my tiny Atlanta apartment while they rehearsed to MP3s in Portland without a singer. It seemed as if at least half of the promoters misspelled their name as "CountRy." It became a running joke throughout the tour.

We were scheduled to play twenty-eight shows in thirty-five days. In a maroon Dodge Ram van they dubbed "Ron Burgundy," the Power of County boys motored two thousand-plus miles eastward to Memphis from Portland. Me and my girlfriend, who would serve as merch girl and guardian of my sanity throughout the tour, drove westward from Atlanta to Memphis. We practiced for two days and then took it all the way live. What follows are my hastily scribbled, oddly bitter reminiscences of each date:

En route from our home base in Atlanta, we blow a tire in Mississippi. The car's spare tire turns out to be the wrong size. I begin sweating frantically about our borrowed car, rural Mississippi cops, my two felony convictions, and the coupla joints we had in the car. Being the relentlessly bitter and negative person I am, I immediately see all this as an omen for the tour. Luckily, a Good Samaritan gives us a lift and helps us get a new tire. It turns out that the lady's brother is also a country musician. We arrive in wiltingly humid, beat-to-shit Memphis and meet up with the band. Rehearsals go well. Our first solo performance rocks the socks off the two and a half dozen or so people who attend—and that's about fifty socks in all!

All seven of us pile into the Dodge Ram and tool westward through a cloud of humidity and thunderstorms. We meet up with Hank III during the sound check at the club, a pizza parlor with a performance space in back the size of a large garage. "There's gonna be a lotta HIGHS and a lotta LOWS," he cautions us in his gravelly, twangin' voice. The crowd receives us well. A drunk man offers me,



#### **ROLLIN' WITH THE POSSE IN OKLAHOMA CITY...**

Standing, left to right: My girlfriend Shannon, steel guitarist Erik Clampitt, acoustic guitarist Matt Stark, Bloody Ol' Mule (an OK City musician not in our band), bassist Jay Johnson, guitarist D. Rives Curtright. Seated: Yours Truly. Kneeling: Drummer Andy Bacon.

my girl, and my mostly drunken band the floors of a local alternative weekly's office on which to sleep. Ten minutes after we settle into sleepy-bye time, a REAL office worker arrives and tells us all to scram. After some frantic late-night searching, we finally snag one hotel room for the eight members of our party. We clock about three hours of sleep before it's time to break camp.

# TULSA

We play the massive, ancient, historic Cain's Ballroom–host to countless old C&W stars as well as where the Sex Pistols got beaten up during their first American tour–to a hootin', hollerin', ruffneck crowd of Ozark spillovers. We accept an offer from the owner of a local tattoo parlor to use his shop as a crash pad. Ten minutes after we settle in there, the shop's quantifiably retarded co-owner (his name is Jamie, and he apparently also goes by the super-gay graffiti handle "Jaspyr") arrives completely shitfaced and starts barking at me incoherently. He then disappears and grabs a skateboard with which to batter my precious head. The Georgia Peach and I escape under cover of night.

OK City is a faceless stretch of plains that seems to have been constructed entirely of squares and rectangles. We plow through a thankless, Hankless solo gig at a tiny shithole called The Conservatory, rumored to have had their bathrooms singled out as the nation's worst in Entertainment Weekly. I reunite with my unofficial legal counsel, an Oklahoma lawyer named G. Lynn. Weirdo artist Adam Word offers us his floors, mattresses, and

a highly tasty home-cooked meatloaf. A rocker-looking guy makes a homosexual pass at our drummer, upsetting him.

# **AUSTIN**

If you think a city's worth is solely determined by how many bars it can cram into a single downtown area, then you'd think Austin's great. If you're like me and are endlessly appalled and repelled by drunks, their drinking, and their drunkenness, then you'd hate this pierced, tattooed, and goateed oven-baked alternative quesadilla as much as I did. Coming back through town on the way to Fort Worth a few days later, an Austin city cop gave me a speeding ticket. FUCK Austin.

# HOUSTON

Take away everything that's interesting about LA, then add a sky-scraper-sized wall of humidity, and you're left with Houston. We play our third solo gig in a row, and the boys are starting to hurt for cash. An apparently well-off reader of mine provides us with a lavish crash pad and so much cocaine, you could have made a sandwich with it.

# **CORPUS CHRISTI**

We wake up late, make a wrong turn, and barrel down swampy Texas rural roads for six hours, nearly missing our gig. The air is so moist and thick, you can slice solid cubes of it with a butter knife. And in the morning, there are crickets. Millions of crickets. Crawling on everything. We flee from the Gulf of Mexico as if it threatened to swallow us whole.

# **FORT WORTH**

It's over 400 miles through pissed-off Texas heat to our next gig. The theater seems huge and the crowd loves us. Then it takes a LONG time for us to get paid. Then we spend a hair-raising hour-and-a-half ride as the shiner-bearing woman who's offering her home as a crash pad careens through the dull flatlands between Dallas and Fort Worth. As I finally lay down to sleep, I'm informed that our guitarist has been complaining about me. I bound of out bed and head outside to confront him IN MY UNDERWEAR. We eventually talk through our difficulties. The next day is spent in whip-sharp heat as we change the van's oil and front brakes, swatting greasily at Texas mosquitoes.

# **ALBUQUERQUE**

A long time ago, God ate some tainted nachos and had diarrhea, resulting in the City of Albuquerque. Halfway through our third song in a small downtown club, I have the distinct feeling that I may pass out from shortness of breath, not realizing the mountain air would make it much harder to sing. I cut our set short a couple of songs and barely survive. The crowd is rough and ugly, leaving a battlefield of broken glass on the floor after the show. I accidentally drop my new Motorola Razr cell phone on the sidewalk outside the club, breaking it beyond repair. I was calling the person–Bill Nevins—who'd offered his place as a crash pad in exchange for a couple spots on the guest list. Minutes before the phone broke, I had called Bill and heard him pick up inside the club (I could hear Hank's band Assjack playing in the background) before he hung up on me. Mr. Bill Nevins, you got to see a free show and we had to waste money on another flea-bit hotel room. I fucking HATE Albuquerque, and I hate you too, Bill Nevins.

# TEMPE, AZ

Ridiculous screaming desert hell-heat, but a huge crowd which gobbled up a lot of our merchandise made for one of the more pleasant shows so far. The magic mushrooms some of us ate before motoring through the blowtorch-windy Mojave Desert all night also seemed to lift the mood. During one mystical moment, a band member mistakenly thought we had called him a wolf. For the record, we did not call him a wolf.

(continued on next page)

A WRITER TAKES A WILD, WOOLLY, CROSS-COUNTRY HAYRIDE AS THE OPENING ACT FOR HANK WILLIAMS

# **COUNTRY SINGER**

(continued from previous page)

If you took a Saltine cracker and removed all the salt, then placed it amid perfect weather, that cracker would still have more personality than the city of San Diego. We play a sold-out gig at the House of Blues. The crowd makes whooping and hollering noises during our set, but the naturally blond contingent

of passive-aggressive, scone-eating liberals only snaps up \$32 worth of merchandise from us all night. San Diego sucks not only sucks dick, it does a sloppy job sucking a small, boring dick.

Over the past couple weeks I have become more confident in using my innate pelvic charisma to work a crowd, and the sweaty faux-billy minions at the Roxy in West Hollywood graciously lap up our 40-minute heapin' helpin' of musical biscuits 'n' gravy. The next morning, our van blows a tire as we ascend the notoriously treacherous "Grapevine" highway north of LA. During the three or four hours it took to resolve this crisis, the Peach and I frolic blissfully under the barely warm California sun. I develop a severe, skin-molting sunburn as a result.

It never, ever, ever gets hot in this foggy, fag-friendly fiefdom, and the blustery mid-50s winds chill my sunburned Caucasian hide. It feels as if a summer cold is sprouting in my chest. Several invited friends show up for the show-everyone except the one who only hours before had promised his home as a crash pad. We wound up paying way too much for a hotel room in Berkeley. Otherwise, you know, it was San Francisco-a nice lesbian lady gave me the club's wireless password. Stuff like that.

Easily the weirdest gig of the tour so far-we play an outdoor concert on an open farm in the middle of forest-shrouded Humboldt County, CA, home of the best weed in the world. Pregnant white women with dreadlocks. Children wrestling. People playing the hacky-sack and doing their tribal white dances. Satan's Grandson gives us what seems like a hundred pills. Local farmers shove felonious amounts of local herbs in our hands. We take a break from the merch table to plow through the crowd and get close to the stage during Hank III's country set. As he and the band slither through "The Legend of D. Ray White," he seems like the greatest performer alive. I was really high, but that's what it seemed like.

This was the most highly anticipated date of the tour-a homecoming for Power of County and a triumphantly arrogant fuck-you-I'm-still-alive-anddoing-better-than-you gesture on my part toward the rainy li'l town that went out of its way to make me miserable for nearly a dozen years. I expected some sort of trouble, but my numerous apprehensions about this show were all for naught-the crowd cheered us as if we were The Beatles, none of my psycho exes showed up to torment me, and I allegedly traded books for drugs with a member of a rival scooter club.

By the time we roll into the city of the Space Needle and Free Needle Exchanges, my lobsterlike sunburn and the chilly West Coast temperatures have combined to give me a chest cold and a sore throat that reduced my voice to a series of rusty squeaks and wheezes. I am freaking out by late afternoon, and

during sound check I throw my pipin'-hot cup of Throat Coat herbal tea against a club wall in frustration. I inform Hank that I don't think I'll be able to sing. He takes me into a small room, plies me with a series of throat and cold medications, and delivers a country-singer pep talk: "Man, there were times I went out there with nothin', but I had to sing. There were times Johnny Cash went out there with nothin', but he did it, man." Inspired, I take his advice. I go out there with nothin'. Through fourteen songs, my voice sounds like screeching train brakes. The tiny club seems severely oversold and overheated. A moist chunk of drunken chubby white flesh extends from one wall of the venue to the other.

I'm soaked in sweat as if I just dove in a pool. I look down, and my fucking forearms are sweating. Sweat rolls down the back of my legs. I've never felt hotter and sicker in my life. I fear I might die. I don't. As a booby prize, the tour continues.

The band lineup changes for the tour's remainder: After Seattle, Matt (acoustic guitar) and Erik (steel guitar) drop off and are replaced by a journeyman guitarist named Justin. He seems a little too wholesome to be real, but we now have more space in the van. Justin's first taste of this particular tour involves a 500-mile trek from Seattle, only to have the club's fire alarm go off during our first song. The entire club, including us, is forced to evacuate. Our set is cut short by about eight songs, which is OK with me since my voice still sounds like shit. A fat, hairy person calling himself Josh Bradley offers us a place to sleep, only to renege when he realizes we actually want to sleep instead of accompanying his lumpy ass to more

bars in order to augment his already substantial alcoholic intoxication.

To get to Denver from Boise, you cross through eight hundred and thirty miles of Mormons. Lots of flies, too, at least in summertime. Asshole flies, too-the kind that don't leave you alone. After popping half of a Xanax bar, I am finally able to sleep in the van-on the dirty floor close to the warm engine as we crawl over cold Utah mountains in the middle of the night. I am still comatose as we stop at a Colorado gas station, and when the drummer grabs my ankle to force my leg back into the van so he can close the side doors, I believe I threaten to kick him in the head. I am now profoundly sorry for this indiscretion. But don't go wrenchin' a sleeping man's ankle. You risk getting kicked in the head.

Nebraska seems to exist only to make the other 49 states feel better about themselves. After only three hours of sleep on a hardwood Denver floor, we shoveled through another five hundred blazing miles of burnt wheat and corn to play a joint called Knickerbockers, second only to El Corazon in Seattle for its overheated/suffocation factor. Tornado-like weather conditions brew outside the club. We blessedly find two cheap hotel rooms near the Lincoln airport—one for the band, one for me and the Peach. I fuck the shit out of her. Our moods improve.

We eat breakfast in Nebraska. Nowhere in this great nation-not in the Deep South, nor Texas, nor the craggy Northwestern badlands—did we get as many suspicious looks as we did from the highly unpleasant denizens of the Cornhusker State. It's the only place on the entire tour where people stopped in their tracks and stared at me disapprovingly when I'd use the word "fuck." We drive another three-hundred-plus miles through yet more corn heading toward Springfield, MO, a small urban shitstain smeared amid the beautiful Ozarks. As we plunge southward into Missouri, I smell and feel and taste the sweet,

beautiful humidity that tells me I'm getting closer to home.

OK, yeah, I like the humidity, but it's still so fucking hot, I feel like throwing up. The sun seems as if it's aimed at me through a magnifying glass. KC is OK by me, though—it's much as I remember it from twenty years ago—big, surprisingly sophisticated, and filled with fountains. It's one of the few places we've been on



tour where I'd actually consider living. For once, I'm going to take a deep breath and not bitch about a place. A rabid reader of mine from across the river in Kansas City, KS, offers us his home as a crash pad, infuriating his fiancee. Without their knowledge and without asking them, I use some of their toothpaste.

It's so dismally hot and muggy, I feel as if I'm walking around inside a Jacuzzi fully clothed. The setup is nearly as weird as in Garberville-we do a late-afternoon show outdoors in the parking-lot area of a saloon near a landfill, surrounded by quiet Midwestern houses. This town, quite obviously, has been forgotten. The crowd, apparently composed mostly of bikers, meth heads, and meth-head bikers, may be the roughest of the entire tour. Yet in personal comments at the show, as well as in subsequent weblog entries, lowa concertgoers both male and female referred to me as "scary." One die hard stage-diver apparently snapped his neck during Hank III's show, then allegedly pleaded with attending paramedics to at least turn him around so he could continue watching the set. So who's scary?

Well, bless my soul and deep-fry my sweet-potato chips in lard, but we be playin' at the club where Prince played in Purple Rain! I happen to think Prince is an overrated interracial woodland elf and that Minneapolis is an annoyingly "progressive" whitebread town-a frozen Portland-but our show was well-received by the city's snooty Nordic types and our stay was made more pleasant at a friend's upscale, castle-like digs. He even gave us a big bag of free homemade soap to take along with us! I believe I chose a bar of "Lavender Rain."

We barrel over 420 miles through searing-hot, boring-as-fuck Illinois to arrive at a large club tucked into a shopping center a good hour outside of downtown

Chicago. We eat dinner at a White Castle across the parking lot. Illicit substances are insufflated with some friends. My legs get wobbly and I feel like throwing up. It doesn't help that the friend's crash pad is perched atop six rickety flights of stairs. I retain my stomach's contents, even after we eat more White Castles after midnight...and for breakfast.

We play a solo gig for maybe thirty people at a tiny roadhouse tucked deep in the woods on this gorgeous, remote Wisconsin peninsula, yet we take in our biggest

one-night cash haul of the entire tour, as well as free hotel rooms and full breakfast (with repeat helpings of cherry juice) in the morning. The fine, upscale white folks of this rural fishing community seem to dig what we're doing, even if we're not even sure exactly what that is. My finely toned abdomen bursts with excitement at the knowledge that there are only three shows left. There is light at the end of this long, dirty tunnel. There is light, my friends-there is light.

Madison is the Austin of the North-a self-congratulatory "progressive" oasis amid a reputedly backward, cow-chip-tossing state. It is also as overpriced and boring as Austin. We were going to crash at the clubhouse of some local bikers until we saw them run a move on somebody in the crowd accused of harassing one of their friends.

The club-Pop's—is actually situated in Sauget, IL, across the Mississippi River from St. Louis but within view of the Gateway Arch. Pop's serves liquor 24 hours a day. It's directly south of East St. Louis, IL, long thought to be the worst ghetto in the U<mark>SA. For 360 degrees around the club, you see nothing but smokestacks and</mark> strip joints and high-tension wires. To my discriminating mind, it's the most beautiful panorama of the whole trip. Merely standing outside this club may give me cancer, but this tour of duty is nearly over.

I smile like a gay chipmunk the whole way from St. Louis to Indy. We have the crowd eating from our hands—we're pros at this point. I thank Hank, and he thanks us. We climb aboard the van one last time and joyfully retire to our pair of blood-splattered motel rooms. The next afternoon the band drops us off at the Greyhound station. We pick up our car in Memphis, take a one-day Jacuzzi-room vacation in Nashville, and then head back home to Atlanta.

MY FRIENDS ALL SAID WE WERE GOOD, but what do you expect them to say? Other reviews were mixed. Still, we never got booed once throughout the tour, which is something of a miracle for an opening band. Either we were

really good, or the crowds were really fucking polite. We plowed through the hottest

parts of the country during the hottest part of the year with scant money and no air conditioning, and we pulled it off without killing each other. That's close to a miracle, my friend.

Days seemed to blow by without a minute's worth of rest. A typical day seemed to involve two hours of sleep on a stranger's floor, five hundred miles of driving, a three-hour sound check, forty minutes of performing, four hours of selling merch, and then three hours of scrambling to find a place to crash before it all started again in the morning. We crammed together in that van as if we were illegal immigrants, and I believe I sweated away ten pounds of salt during the tour. I grew weary of eating food from gasoline stations and after a while was constipated to the point where I felt like I was walking around with

a car battery inside me.

I love to travel, but "the road" kinda blows. It tests a man's last nerve. There are great, flat stretches of this grand, expansive nation which are entirely unremarkable and interchangeable. You don't see much beyond the Interstates and the three blocks surrounding each club.

The tour ended only days ago, but I still feel road-lagged and scrambled. Two nights ago, I fell asleep in bed while chewing on a piece of bread. I'm still so tired, I feel as if someone has sucked away most of my spinal fluid with a straw.

But even though I'm a whiny wannabe Heeb

who'd find a way to complain while walking on a rainbow leading to heaven, I'm not complaining. We had a better financial deal than most opening bands at a similar level, and Hank III gave me a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Besides, the drugs were mostly free and the applause was nice, too.

Unlike Hank Williams III, music is not in my blood, but I will always enjoy confusing people. I am no longer a country singer, but for a time...for a brief time that seemed like an eternity...I was. And with one foot on the monitor, pointing at people in the crowd, for one fleeting moment in a very important way—even though it was all in my head—I WAS driving a semi truck. I felt it, I swear.



#### **DANCE CLUBS**

#### ACES HIGH GENTLEMEN'S CLUB 2

722 E. Burnside (503) 233-7855

722 E. Burnside (503) 233.7855

LeeFlhu, Sun 7pm, Fils. Atheon, 5pm—1 stage, full bar, full menu, cigars

ACROPOLIS

8325 SE McLoughlin (503) 23 1-9611

Daily 11am-2am—1 stage, full bar, full menu, cigars

THE BIG BANG

56

11051 SW Barbur Blvd. (503) 244.3320

Daily 2pm-2:30am—full bar, full menu

BLUSH 4

5145 SE McLoughlin Blvd (503) 236-1131 Mon-Fri 11am-2:30am, Sat Noon-2:30am, Sun 7pm-2:30am 2 stages, full bar, full menu, lottery

BOOM BOOM ROOM 29

8345 SW Barbur Blvd. (503) 244-7630 Daily 2pm-2am—1 stage, full bar, wine, food, lottery BOTTOMS UP! 6

16900 NW St. Helens (503) 621-9844 M-Thu 12pm-12am Fri-Sat noon-2am Sun 12n-10pm 1 stage, full bar, food

CABARET 3

CABARET 55
503 W Burnside (503) 525.4900
Daily 3pm-2:30am—3 stages, full bar, food, lottery
CABARET II 8
17544 SE Stark (503) 252.3529
Mon-Sat Noon-2:30am, Sun 3pm-2:30am
3 stages, full bar, food, lottery

CARNAVAL 59

Tues-Fri 4pm-4am, Sat-Sun 6pm-4am—18+ juice bar, nude dancers, private shows

4229 SE 82nd Ave (503) 774-2907 Daily 10:30am-2:30am—full bar, food

COCKTAILS AND DREAMS 52

3620 SE 35th (503) 238-7787 Mon-Sat 11-2:30 Sunday 3pm-2:30am—4 stages, full

bar, food DANCIN' BARE 14
8440 N Interstate (503) 285-9073
Daily 11:30am-2:30am —3 stages, full bar, food, lottery

DEVILS POINT 11

5305 SE Foster (503) 774-4513
Daily 11am-2:30am—topless dancing, burlesque, bands, full bar lottery

THE DOLPHIN I 17180 SE McLoughlin (503) 654-9366 Daily 11:30am-2am—3 stages, full bar, food THE DOLPHIN II 54

10360 SW Beaverton Hills. Hwy. (503) 627-0666 Daily 11:30am-2am—4 stages, full bar, food, lotter DOUBLE DRIBBLE TAVERN 21

13550 SE Powell (503) 760-7096 Daily 11am-2:30am—1 stage, beer & win

DREAM ON SALOON 25 15920 SE Stark (503) 253-8765 Mon-Sat 11am-2am, Sun 1pm-2am-2 stages, full bar, food

5021 SE Powell Blvd. (503) 788-7178 Daily 11:30am-2:30am—2 stages, full bar, food EXOTICA INTERNATIONAL 5

240 NE Columbia (503) 285-0281
Daily 11am-2:30am—5 stages, full bar, full menu, VIP room HAWTHORNE STRIP 16

HAWTHORNE STRIP

1008 SE Hawhorne (503) 2329-516

Daily 11am:2:30am—1 stages, full bar, full menu, lottery

HOTTIES

10140 SW Canyon Rd. (503) 643-7377

Sun-Wed 6pm:2am, Thurs-Sat 6pm-6am

2 stages, juice bar, after hours, di, dancing

JDS BAR 'N' GRILL

24

4523 NE 60th (503) 288-9771 Daily 11:30am-2:30am—2 stages, beer & wine, food

JIGGLES 7
7455 SW. Nyberg Rd. (503) 692-3655
Mon-Thu 3pm-3am, Fri-Sat 3pm-4am, Sun ópm-3am
18+ juice bar, beautiful women

JODY'S BAR & GRILL 26

12035 NE Glisan (503) 255-5039 Daily 7am-2:30am—2 stages, full bar, food

MAGIC GARDENS 28

217 NW 4th (503) 224-8472 M-Sat 12n-2:30am Sun 6pm-2:30am 1 stage, full bar, food

MARY'S CLUB 30 129 SW Broadway (503) 227-3023
Daily 11:30am-2:30am—1 stage, full bar, snacks, lottery

MONTEGO 5 31
18826 SE Division (503) 761-7293
1pm-2am, 7 Days—2 stages, full bar, food

NICOLAI ST. CLUBHOUSE 32

2460 NW 24th (503) 227-5384 Mon-Fri 9am-2:30am Sat 11am-2:30am 1 stage, full bar, food

1 stage, full bar, food
THE PALLAS 10
13639 SE Powell [503] 760-8128
Mon-Sa 11:30cm-2:30cm Sun 3pm-2:30cm
3 stages, full bar, food
PIRATE'S COVE 40
7117 NE STAGES

7417 NE Sandy (503) 287-8900 Daily 11am-2:30am—1 stage, full bar, food

POP-A-TOP PUB 35
6210 NE Columbia (503) 281-3212
Mon-Sa 10am-2:30am, Sun 3pm-7:30am—3 stages, beer & wine, food

RIVERSIDE CORRAL 38 545 SE Tacoma (503) 232-6813 Mon-Sa 10am-2:30am Su 1pm-1am—2 stages, full bar, food

ROOSTER'S 42 605 N Columbia (503)289-1351 Mon-Sa 11am-2am Su 12pm-12am-beer & wine, snacks

SAFARI SHOWCLUB 17 3000 SE Powell (503) 231-9199 Daily 10am-2:30am—3 stages, full bar, food, lottery

SASSY'S BAR & GRILL 41

927 SE Morrison (503) 231-1606 Daily 10:30am-2:30am-2 stages, full bar, food, lottery, pool

SOOBIE'S 12 333 SE 122nd (503) 253-8892 Daily 11:30am-2:30am 2 stages full har hento & terivaki cuisine

2 stages, full bar, benio & terryoxi cusine
STARS CABARET
19
4570 SW Lombard Ave. [503] 3500868
Mon-Sat 11 am-2:00am, Sun 4pm-2am—4 stages, full bar, food
THE SUNSET STRIP
50

TOMMY'S 23

3332 SE Powell Blvd. (503) 2346033

Daily 11am-2:30am-2 stages, full bar, food

TOMMY'S TOO 43 10335 SE Foster (503) 771-3544 Daily 11am-2am—2 stages, full bar, full menu, lottery

TOMMY'S III 57 8000 SE Foster (971) 230-0047 Mon-Sat 9:30am-2:30am Sun 10am-2:30am 2 stages, full bar, wine, full menu, lottery

TOP HATS AND TAILS 9 4579 NE Cully Blvd. (503) 493-9169 Mon-Sat 11am-2:30am, Sun 3pm-2:30am 1 stage, full bar, full menu, lottery, pool

THE VIEWPOINT 55
82nd & NE Killngsworth (503) 254-0191
Mon-Sat 11am-2:30am, Sun 4pm-2:30am 3 stages Full Bar Food

UNION JACKS 45 938 E. Burnside (503) 236-1125 Daily 2pm-2:30am—2 stages, Full Bar, Fo 92ND STREET CLUB 33

5933 SE 92nd St. (503) 771-6966 Daily 11am-2:30am-3 stages, Full Bar, Food, Lottery

505 CLUB 34
505 NW Burnside, Gresham (503) 666-2286
Daily 11am-2:30am—3 stages, Full Bar, Food, Lottery

#### BUSINESSES

ACE OF HEARTS 123

3533 SE 39th (503) 727-3580 Fri & Sat 8pm-4am—couples, single ADULT VIDEO ONLY STORES 136

Vancouver: 10620 NE 4th Plain Rd. (360) 253-2806 Mon-Thu 8am-midnight Fri-Sat 8am-1 am Sun 8am-1 1pm

ALL ADULT VIDEO 101 14555 SE McLoughlin Blvd (503) 652-2004 Daily 24 hours—videos, mags, arcade, toys

AREA 69 121 7720 SE 82nd Ave (503) 774-5544 Daily 10am-2am—videos, magazin

BLUE SPOT VIDEO 102 3232 NE 82nd (503) 251-8944 Daily 24 hours—videos, mags, toys, arcade

BUTTERFLY'S 105 5040 SE Milwaukie Ave #139 (503) 239-8028

Wed-Sat 11am-6pm—dancewear and custom clothing CASTLE MEGASTORE 115

9815 SW Capitol Hwy (503) 768-9305 Daily 24 hours—videos, mags, novelties, , mags, novelties, toys

CATHIE'S 103
8201 SE Powell #H (503) 771-9979
Daily 9am-12am—videos, mags, toys, lingerie
CENTERFOLD SUITES 208

314 W Burnside, Suite 300 (503) 222-9823 Mon-Thu 10am-4am Fri-Sat 24 hours Sun noon-4am-

linaerie modelina CINDY'S BOOKSTORE 104

NW 4th and W Burnside (503) 222-1554 Mon-Fri 8am-1am Sat-Sun 9am-1am—videos, mags, toys, arcade

D.K. WILDS 106
13355 SW Henry (503) 643-645
Daily 24 hours—videos, mags, toys, arcade, leather DUKE'S ADULT BOOKSTORE 129 13560 SE Powell Blvd (503) 774-4566

EXOTIC NIGHTS BOOKS 207

5620 NE MLK Blvd. (503) 493-3944
Daily 4pm-Midnight—adult novelties, videos, mags FANTASY ADULT VIDEO (6) 169

3137 NE Sandy - (503) 239-6969 - 24 Hours 6440 SW Coronado - (503) 244-6969 - 24 Hours 8445 SE McLoughlin - (503) 238-6969 - 24 Hours 1512 W Burnside - (503) 295-6969 - 24 Hours 10720 SW Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy - (503) 235-6969 15336 SE 82nd Dr. (503) 203-6969 Videos, arcade, mags, novelties, large s

FANTASYLAND (2) 100 5228 SE Foster Rd. (503) 775-0094 16014 SE 82nd Dr. (503) 655-4667 Daily 24 hours—ideos, mags, arcade

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5940 N Interstate (503) 247-DICK (3425) 5501 NW St. Helens Rd. (503) 222-0180 Daily 10am-4am—videos, magazines, toys, now FOXXY'S 133

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1232 SW 12th (503) 223-1846 Daily 24 hours—adult feature-len

LIBERATED WORLD 10660 SE Division (503) 257-6881 Daily 24 hours—videos, mags, nove

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1720 SE 122nd [503] 252-2017 M-Th 10:30am-7:30pm Fri 10:30am-9pm Sat 10:30am-8pm—lingerie, novelties, lotions, cards, gifts **LOVE POTIONS 125** 

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8521 SW Barbur Blvd (503) 245-0489 Mon-Sat 10am-7pm Sun 12n-5pm—adult novelties & gags, tobacco products & incense

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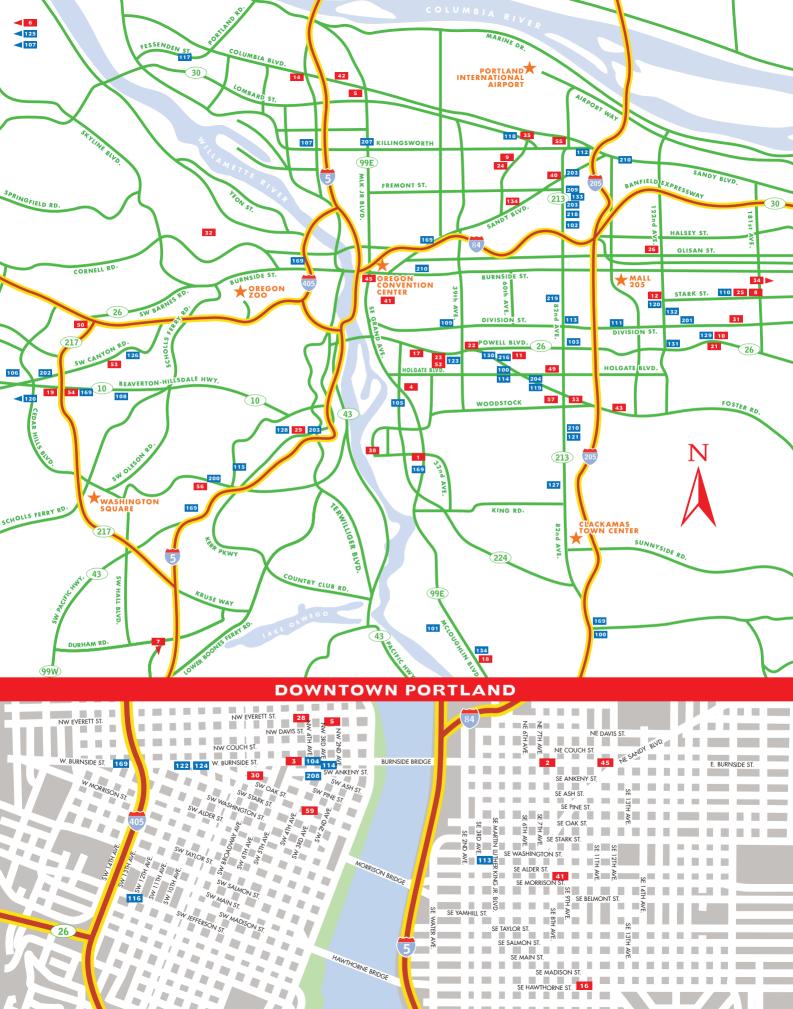


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3113 River Road (503) 390-4371 Videos, Magazines, Multi Ch. Arcade 10am - Midnight / 7 Days

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5530 Commercial St Se (503) 763-6754 Videos, Magazines, Multi Ch. Arcade 24 Hours / 7 Days

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2410 Mission St. S (503) 763-3556 Videos, Magazines, Multi Ch. Arcade 24 Hours / 7 Days

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3815 State Street (503) 363-3846 Adult Books, Videos, 63 Ch Arcade, And Mini-theatre 9am - 2am / 7 Days

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3453 Silverton Road (971) 327-8777 Juice Bar, Special Shows 6pm - Close / 7 Days

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#### KLAMATH FALLS

#### THE ALIBI

5711 S 6th St. / (541) 882-0145 1 Stage, Beer and Wine, Lottery Sun - Mon 3pm - Midnight, Tues - Sat 3pm - 2:30am

#### LINCOLN CITY

#### IMAGINE THAT II

2159 Nw Hwy 101, Suite C / (541) 996-6600 Videos, Magazines, Toys, Body Jewelry, Novelty Gifts

Sun - Thu 10am - 10pm, Fri - Sat 10am-mid

#### MEDFORD

#### ADULT LAND

2755 South Pacific Highway / (541) 770-5493 Videos, Magazines, Toys, Novelties, Arcade Mon - Thu 9am - 10pm, Fri & Sat 10am - Mid. Sundays 10am - 9pm

#### ADULT SHOP

261 Barnett Road / (541) 772-5220 Videos, Magazines, Books, Novelties, Arcade 24 Hours / 7 Days

#### ADULT SHOP

3340 North Pacific Highway / (541) 776-9964 Videos, Magazines, Toys, Novelties, Clothes Mon - Thu 10am - 9pm, Fri & Sat 10am - 10pm Closed On Sundays

#### **CASTLE MEGASTORE**

1113 Progress Drive / (541) 608-9540 Videos, Magazines, Toys, Novelties, Clothes 9am - 1am / 7 Days

#### THE OFFICE

3 South Riverside / (541) 772-4079 Full Bar, Full Menu Mon - Fri Noon - 2am, Sat & Sun 2pm - 2am

#### **NEWPORT**

#### SPICE VIDEO

611 SW Coast Hwy. / (541) 574-6969 Videos, Magazines, Multi-Channel Arcade 24 Hours / 7 Days

#### **PRINEVILLE**

#### DOMESTIC DESIRES

123 NE 4th St. / (541) 233-2518 Lingerie, DVD's, Toys, and much more! Tues - Thurs 12pm - 7pm, Fri - Sat 12pm - 11pm

#### REDMOND

#### THE FAN

413 SW Glacier Ave. / (541) 548-4441 2 Stages, Full Bar, Full Menu, Lottery, Pool Sun - Mon 3pm - Midnight, Tues - Sat 3pm - 2am

#### RICE HILL

#### **ADULT SHOP**

45 Miles South Of Eugene (Rice Hill Exit #148 Off Of I-5) 726 John Long Road / (541) 849-3344 Videos, Magazines, Books, Novellies, Arcade 24 Hours / 7 Days

#### **ROSEBURG**

#### **FILLED WITH FUN**

2498 Old Highway 99E South (541) 957-3741 Novelties, Videos/Rentals, Arcade, Toys, Magazines Mon - Sat 9am - Midnight, Sun Noon - Midnight

#### **SPRINGFIELD**

#### **B&BADULT VIDEO**

2289 Olympic Street / (541) 726-7317 Videos, Arcade, Clothing, Novelties, Viewing Room 24 Hours / 7 Days

#### **BRICK HOUSE**

136 4th Street / (541) 988-1612 Full Bar, Full Menu, Dancers, 1 Stage & 2 Cages! Mon - Sat 3pm - 2:30am

#### CASTLE MEGASTORE

3270 Gateway / (541) 988-9226 Videos, Magazines, Toys, Novelties, Clothes Sun - Thu 8am - 2am, Fri & Sat 8am - 3am

#### **CLUB 1444**

1444 Main Street / (541) 726-7299 Full Bar, Full Menu, Dancers And 1 Stage Mon - Sat Noon - 2:30am, Sun 3pm - 2:30am

#### **EXCLUSIVELY ADULT**

1166 South A. Street / (541) 726-6969 Videos, Mags, Clothes, Novelties, Arcade 24 Hours / 7 Days

#### **SHAKERS BAR AND GRILL**

1195 Main Street / (541) 736-5177 Full Bar, Full Menu, Dancers Noon - 2:30am Daily

#### SUNNY VALLEY

#### CLUB 71

102 Old Stage Rd. / (541) 761-5813 2 Stages, Full Bar, Full Menu Mon - Thu 6pm - Mid, Fri - Sat 6pm-2am

#### THE DALLES

#### ADULT SHOP

3506 W 6th / (541) 298-1874 Videos, Magazines, Books, Novelties, Arcade 8am - 2am / 7 Days

#### **UMATILLA**

#### MISS SALLY'S

521 6th St. / (541) 922-2952 2 Stages, Juice Bar Tues - Sun 7pm - 3am

#### THE RIVERSIDE

1501 6th St. / (541) 922-4112 2 Stages, Beer and Wine Tues - Sun 6pm - 1:30am

> DID WE MISS A LOCATION? LET US KNOW! PHONE503.241.4317 FAX503.914.0439 EMALX Mag@qwest.net

