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Issue #355 • Volume 31 • Number 03 September 2023

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Published monthly by XMAG LLC.
Circulation: 75,000 per month at 200+ sites
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the essential guide for recording at a grownup studio

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when goats, rats, and oxen don't cut the mustard page 34 | by hannah one cup



# **BEHAVE YOURSELF**

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the oddest afflictions you've never heard of page 38 | by wombstretcha the magnificent

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# INSIDE STUFF

EROTIC CITY & EVENTS SPOTLIGHT LATEX, BUTT PLUGS & DIAPERS EXOTIC PINUP PAGES EXOTIC MAPS (PDX/OR/WA) VAGINA BEAUTY PAGEANT RECAP CLASSIFIEDS

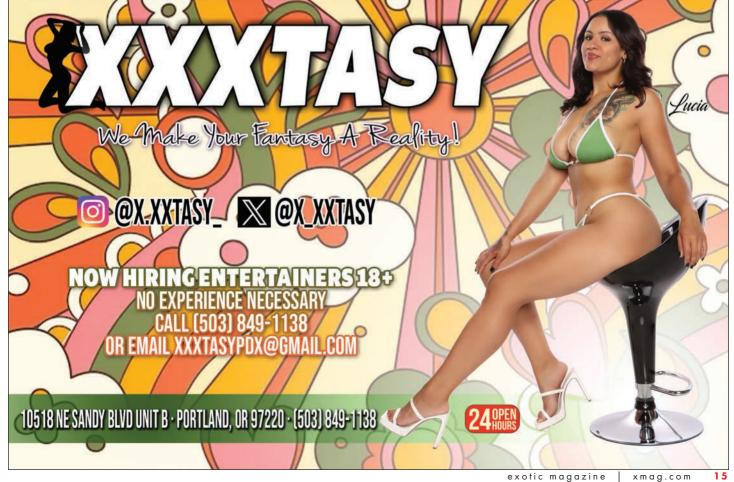
PG. 19 PG. 22 PG. 24 PG. 28

PG. 31 PG. 32











Kit Kat Club

FRI, OCT 6 @ 9PM



FRI, OCT 13 @ 9PM

STAIS Cabaret SALEM QUALIFIER ROUND III FRI, OCT 20 @ 9PM

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SAT. OCT 28 @ 9PM

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QUALIFIER ROUND V FRI, NOV 3 @ 9PM 6210 NE COLUMBIA BLVD



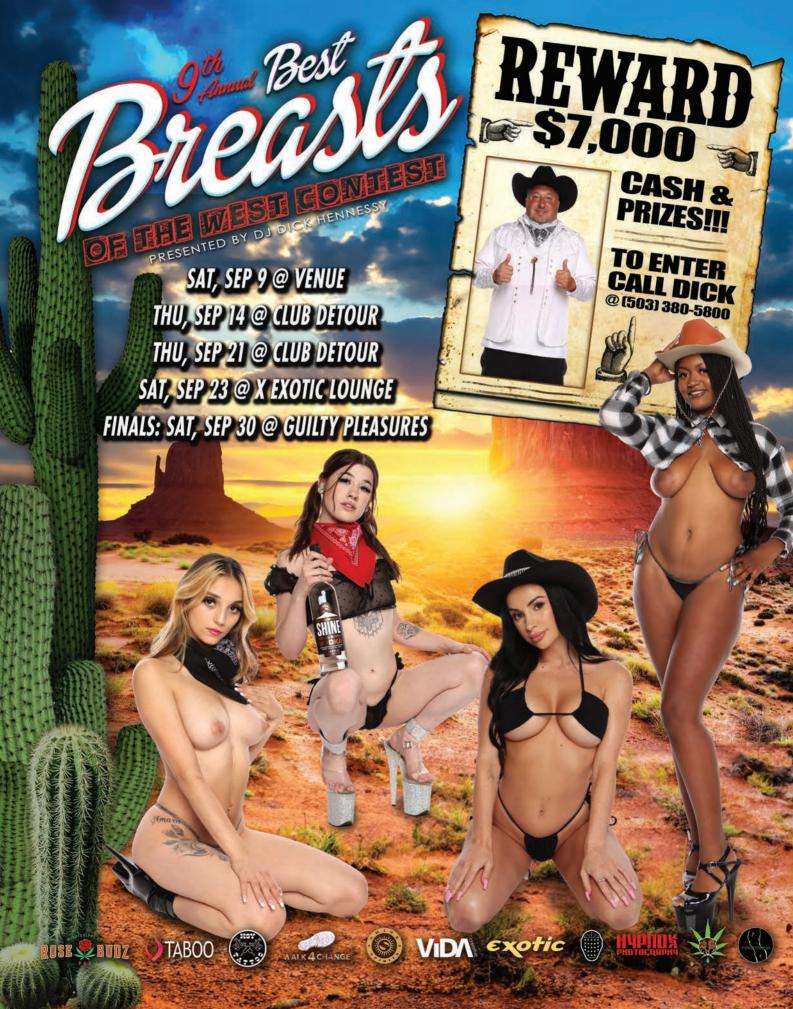
FRI, NOV 10 @ 9PM



THU, NOV 16 @ 9PM



FINALS RI, NOV 24 @ 9PN





Fall is nearly here...the autumn equinox will be upon us in just three short weeks. You can finally get your inner Yin back in sync with your Yang (or vice versa), as the entire universe will be in planetary equilibrium. So take a moment to recognize your gateway to tranquility and balance on Friday, September 22, at precisely 11:49 p.m. We know you'll go right back to pounding Gorilla Puke shots by 11:50, but at least you experienced a few ticks of ataraxia.

What better place to celebrate planetary equilibrium than at Ivizia Dakini's Birthday Party? That's right. Friday, September 22, at Kit Kat Club, with an encore on Saturday, September 23, at Devils Point, featuring the Honky-Tonk Variety Show. Save some steam because we have a second birthday! Nellie will celebrate her 21st birthday on September 23 at Guilty Pleasures. Happy Birthday, Ivizia & Nellie!

In other events, Stars Cabaret (Bridgeport) welcomes fall with their annual Oktoberfest celebration on Saturday, September 16, with beer, babes, and more beer—as they so eloquently described it. That checks off everything on our list, so see you there! And then, Stars Cabaret in Salem is throwing a '90s Party the very next weekend, on Saturday, September 23, with '90s music, outfits, drinks, and prizes!

Kit Kat Club will celebrate Rose City Comic Con with their annual Superheroes vs. Supervillian lineups. That's right, all weekend long from Friday, September 22 through Sunday, September 24. You won't want to miss this!

In other industry news, Lucky Devil Lounge was voted Best Small Club in the West at the 2023 ED Awards Show in Las Vegas. Their official celebration party will be on Saturday, September 16! Congratulations, Lucky Devil Lounge ownership, staff, and performers! Way to represent our local industry and bring the trophy home!

First, we'd like to congratulate Kiwi from Kit Kat Club and Acropolis for taking first place in the Vagina Beauty Pageant last month! We'd also like to congratulate Nellie from Guilty Pleasures and Kendra from The Venue for placing second and third, respectively!

What's next, you ask? Why none other than Dick Hennessy's Best Breasts of the West, kicking off on Saturday, September 9 at The Venue. Check out the rest of the dates on the left page!

And while you're checking out dates, the industry's premier pageant is coming next month! We're announcing the official dates in this very issue. Flip to page 16 for all the essential info!

Om, Namah Shivaya Gurave 🙏

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# **Zeroliccity** spotlight

RI 01 - X FXOTIC LOUNGE - XOTICA-GO-GO

FRI 08 - X EXOTIC LOUNGE - XOTICA-GO-GO

SAT 09 – THE VENUE – BEST BREASTS OF THE WEST (ROUND 1)

THU 14 – CLUB DETOUR – BEST BREASTS OF THE WEST (ROUND 2)

FRI 15 – X EXOTIC LOUNGE – XOTICA-GO-GO

SAT 16 – LUCKY DEVIL LOUNGE – ED AWARD CELEBRATION PARTY

SAT 16 – STARS CABARET (BRIDGEPORT) – OKTOBERFEST

THU 21 - CLUB DETOUR **BEST BREASTS OF THE WEST (ROUND 3)** 

FRI 22 - KIT KAT CLUB IVIZIA'S BIRTHDAY & SUPERHEROES VS. SUPERVILLAINS

FRI 22 – X EXOTIC LOUNGE – XOTICA-GO-GO

SAT 23 - DEVILS POINT IVIZIA'S BIRTHDAY – HONKY-TONK VARIETY SHOW

SAT 23 – KIT KAT CLUB – SUPERHEROES VS. SUPERVILLAINS

SAT 23 – GUILTY PLEASURES **NELLIE'S 21ST BIRTHDAY BASH** 

SAT 23 – STARS CABARET (SALEM) – '90S PARTY

SAT 23 – X EXOTIC LOUNGE **BEST BREASTS OF THE WEST (ROUND 4)** 

SUN 24 – KIT KAT CLUB SUPERHEROES VS. SUPERVILLAINS

FRI 29 – X EXOTIC LOUNGE – XOTICA-GO-GO

SAT 30 – GUILTY PLEASURES **BEST BREASTS OF THE WEST (FINALS)** 

# **HAPPY HOURS**

CABARET - 2PM-6PM **DEVILS POINT – 3PM-6PM** DV8 - NOON-3PM **LUCKY DEVIL LOUNGE – 3PM-6PM** 

# THE DOS AND DON'TS OF RECORDING AT A GROWNUP STUDIO

By Blazer Sparrow

A little seguel of sorts to last month's entry, I figured I'd continue this thread for any poor, young, stupid musicians looking to the local titty mag for career advice. I did not title this one "The Dos and Don'ts of DIY Recording" since, ultimately, my advice would be no one cares. Do it. Don't do it. Everyone has a laptop and an XLR/quarter-inch-to-USB adapter. To say the market is saturated is the understatement of the millennium. As a staunch leftist, I am happy as a sandy clam that the means of music production are so widely available that any idiot who went through a breakup can put their feelings to digital tape, accompanied by some canned synth sounds and a shitty 808 port. Truly. But on the real, it is good that home recording is massively accessible, so you can do the demo part of recording free of charge. It's crazy hearing about bands as late as the early 2000s having to go into a studio and pay to cut a simple demo to shop around to record labels, who would then ignore them. What's more, they usually paid quite a bit for something we can all now do on GarageBand. There's no sage-like advice to offer on this end of your musical journey other than just to do it since it'll cost you nothing. I assume most software these days can be pirated, and I know you don't have a job. I guess do record every idea you have and don't show it to anyone.

This self-help article is for when you get the money together and go into like an actual studio with soundproofed vocal booths, a giant ole board with faders and cocaine residue, and one of those windows where you can see the engineer ignoring your pleas for more mix in the headphones.

DO it. I know you think you're the next Tame Impala or Billie Eilish—cough— Finneas, and you've spent years acquiring expensive microphones and placing them in certain corners of your bedroom for the perfect sound—but seriously, at a certain point, you do have to leave the nest...at least for the experience. Even if your schtick is gonna be bedroom pop homegrown aesthetic, I can't stress enough how important it is to just see the professionals in action. Do you think you're the first person to come up with wonky mic placements? Learn the rules before you break 'em. It's cheaper than going to school for a useless degree in music production.



ON'T be late. Good God, if ever you finally understood the phrase "time is money," it's in a professional studio. Never will you see that clock move so fast. I wouldn't just recommend being early, but honestly, see if you can finagle the studio into letting you bring your stuff in the night before. This is honestly a big ask, and most of the more legit spaces aren't gonna just let you have free time, but if you can convince them to get in there the night before, you will save so much time just literally moving the cymbal stands around. You will not believe how much time you eat up with seemingly simple stuff like tuning a snare.

DO practice. I feel like such a boomer saying this, but when you're paying for studio time, definitely go in knowing your parts like the back of your hand. Again, this relates to time-saving. Each take is just eating up more and more time, and honestly, you'll start burning yourself out and make more mistakes the more takes you go. You start second-guessing yourself and fumbling in the endzone. Obviously, there's studio magic to help airbrush this out or combine two shit takes to make a decent take, but do yourself and the engineer a

favor and come in prepared. This advice only applies when you're young and poor and starting off on a budget. Obviously, the ideal studio environment is where vou can waste all the time vou want chasing butterflies on acid late into the night or sweating through hours-long jams while doing line after line. This is where the good stuff gets laid to tape, but you don't have the clout or money yet.

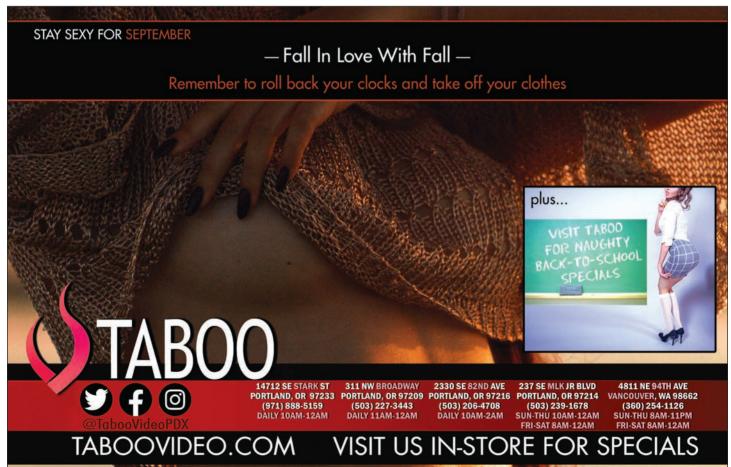
**DON'T** expect this to boost your career in any way, shape, or form. I haven't confirmed it yet, but I heard a few rumors that Lorde was discovered through some home demos she put on Reddit. Justin Bieber being discovered through You-Tube accidentally is a well-documented story. I do know Lady Gaga's dad paid her rent in New York for a year while she was trying to "make it," and that making it involved someone overhearing her singing in the hallway or some other such madeup nonsense. The truth is, thanks to the democratization of recording technology, you don't have to spend an arm and a leg to put your songs to tape so someone can hear them. As for what makes music marketable, I haven't a clue. If I did, I would be giving you bad advice in a local nudie rag. That's not why you go into a bonafide, real-deal studio. You do it to take notes, get ideas, and see how it's done. They're expensive as all hell, but they're cool. And if you do fancy yourself the next Sufjan Stevens, it wouldn't hurt to see how the pros do it. See a space dedicated to it. The bedroom isn't going anywhere. It'll always be there for you.











# THE PORN CLERK CHRONICLES:

# LATEX, BUTT PLUGS & DIAPERS

By Atticus Rexx

Just like any other business, we have a store phone. You can imagine the amount of prank phone calls we get. Generally, there are two most common types of unwanted phone calls we encounter. The first one is the typical juvenile thinking it's just so damn funny and original to call and ask us basic questions such as "How big is your biggest dildo?" or "Do you have porn stuff?" in between giggles. Usually, I don't even engage in it and just hang up. And more often than not, these pranksters fail to remember the magical concept of caller ID. This enables us to block most prank numbers or the occasional harassing call we might get. We all remember the \*69 days.



The second type of call that is most common among adult stores is the perverts. They're typically men who call just to get their rocks off over the phone. The worst part about these types of calls is that sometimes you can't even tell that someone is masturbating to you over the phone until you've already held a conversation with them. Some callers use the same line over and over again with different employees, while other callers can get pretty creative with it. Regardless of creativity, it's gross, and we all hate it. We're all just trying to do the best job we can here, and while I understand there are certain kinks that people are into (and I support that), don't push your kink onto a non-consenting person. Luckily for us, there is a feature on our phone that blocks all unknown or private numbers, which has aided in decreasing these phone calls.

One phone call I had about a year ago, which I still think about on occasion, was from an inmate who called me from a semi-local penitentiary. If you don't know, when someone calls you from prison, you have to accept the phone call before any conversation starts. There is an automatic recording that states where the call is



from and gives you the option to accept or deny the call. Since I'm never one to turn down a weird experience, I accepted the call. On the other line, I was greeted by a voice that belonged to a man who told me that he was being released from prison in 28 days and was looking for "an outfit to walk out in." He told me that he wanted to dress like a woman and was looking for something made out of latex. Since this wasn't an uncommon request, I didn't really think anything of it. Many of my customers are cross-dressers, and it's a lot more common than you think. He went on to tell me that he wears adult diapers, and the outfit he's looking for would have to accommodate that. I told him that, unfortunately, I didn't have anything like that at my store but to try the other stores in the area. He told me he tried calling another store with the company I work for, but they would not accept the call. He then asked if I could call ahead and ask them to accept the call. Sure, of course I will.

The store I called, I used to work at, so the store manager is actually a very good friend of mine. She picked up the phone, and I explained the call I had just received, and as I promised, asked her to accept the phone call from prison. We had a good chuckle over the situation, said our goodbyes, and that was the end to what I thought was one of the weirdest phone calls I'd ever received.

A little bit later that very same day, I got another phone call from the same prison. I accepted the call, and the same guy was on the other line. This time, he introduced himself to me as Jacob. Jacob told me he didn't have a lot of luck with the other store, but he has another question for me. I asked him to go ahead.

He asks me, "How big is the biggest butt plug that you have in stock?"



I tell him about the famed "Brutalizer," which is 15 inches long, almost 4 inches wide, and declared as "7 lbs. of meat," on its aggressive and intimidating box. Unimpressed, he asks what other sizes I carry and if I have any inflatable ones in a similar size. I told him that, sadly, I didn't. His next question is whether or not it would fit up his butt and in his diaper. I tell him that's a judgment call that only he can make.

Jacob has one last question for me. I heave an internal sigh and tell him that I'm listening. Jacob goes on to say to me that he's looking for a woman to take care of his sexual needs, as well as be a caretaker to do things such as change his diaper, feed him, etc., and that he has a substantial inheritance that he would give her access to. Do I know of anyone who would be interested? Or where he could find someone who would be interested... I give Jacob a pretty curt "no."

"Sorry, Jacob, I really don't."

Jacob thanks me for my time and hangs up.



The next day, Jacob calls back. Against better judgment, I answer the phone, accept the call, and hear the familiar voice on the other end. He has one last question for me.

"Do you know where I can find any realistic fake breasts?" he asked.

Again, not an unusual question, but I put a little less effort into my answer this time and told him no. I didn't have the energy for another lengthy conversation about latex, butt plugs, and diapers today.

"Do you have any suggestions for what I can stuff a bra with that would make it feel and look natural?"

I tell him again, "No." My patience is wearing thin at this point. I have actual customers on the sales floor that I need to assist. He seemed to note the abrupt change of tone in my voice, thanked me for my time, and hung up.

Later on that day, the phone rings. It's...you guessed it...Jacob again! However, at this point, I was so depleted and far too busy to get invested in another conversation over the phone that I just let it ring and go to voicemail. He didn't (or couldn't) leave a voicemail and has since not tried to call again.

That was one of the more different phone calls I've had. An experience that definitely left me with some unanswered questions, but somehow I feel like I haven't heard the last from Jacob.

And folks, *please* don't prank call your friendly adult store clerk!

(Taco holder butt plug and many other fabulously freaky items available at GlowFuckYourself.com)

















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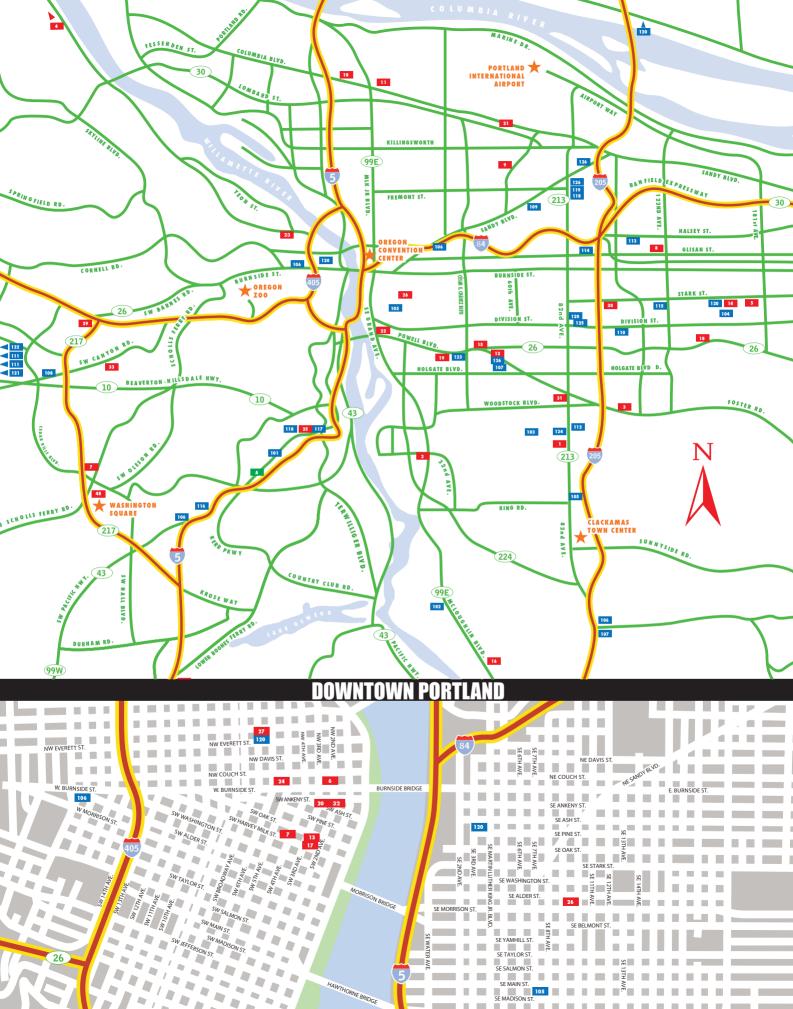


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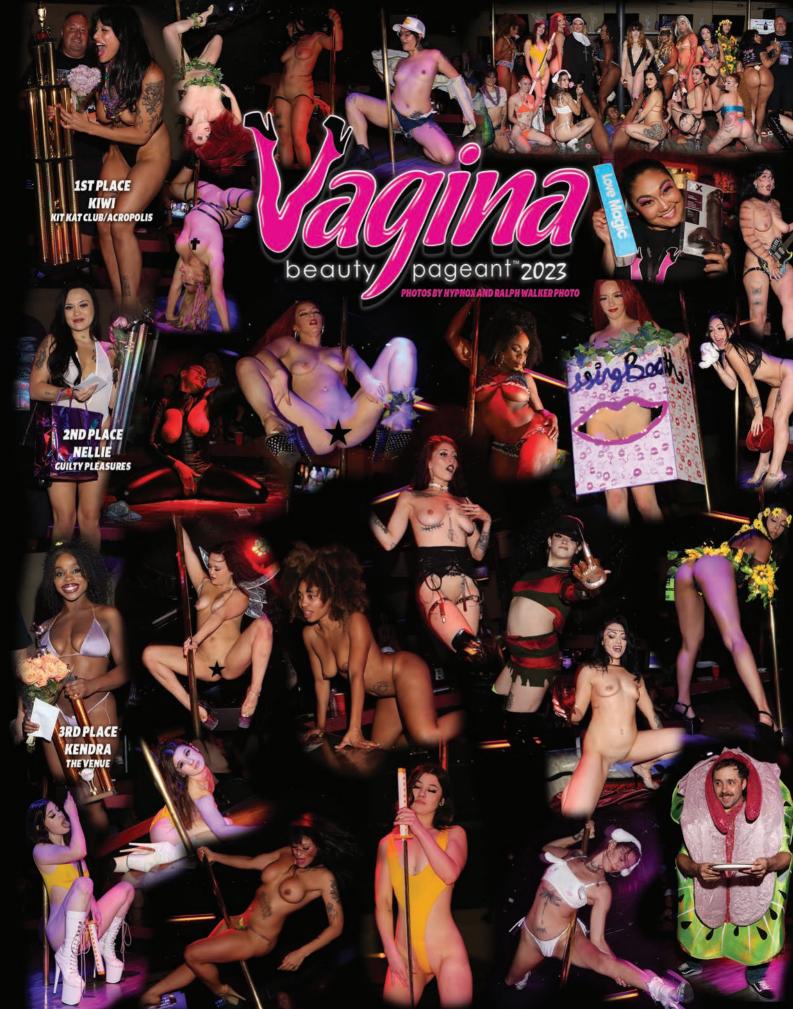
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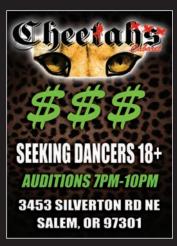
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Classifieds







# WHAT ANIMAL ACTUALLY SUITS YOUR ZODIAC SIGN - PART 1

Zodiac signs are one of those things that half of the humans know nothing about and don't care to, because to them, it's a pointless shit show of online psychics trying to tell you who to date and who to stay away from—all because of how some stars were aligned eons ago.

Then there is the half of the other half of humans that are the source of the said shit show. You most assuredly have met these people in real life. They're the ones that go saying things like, "Oh, you're a Taurus...that explains everything!" And they write off your entire life story as a sign from the universe that you were destined to be this way, and nothing you can do will ever change that. So go crawl in a hole and die now because nothing you do will ever matter.

Then there is that last half of the other half of humans, who, probably like me, know next to nothing about anyone's zodiac signs or dates of when these people's destinies start and end but are keenly aware of their own sign and do their best not to blame all of their earthly problems on the stars above. They might also go online and research their love interest's sign "just for fun" to see if there are any red flags they should be aware of.

What I'm sure that most are aware of, though, is that these signs also have some sort of creature tied to them. Sometimes a mythical beast, sometimes a sheep, sometimes some dude with a bow and arrow, or something. But at the end of the day, I'm never fully satisfied with these usually bizarre personifications. I feel like something is missing from them, and one of those things that are missing is a good way to describe someone's personality using a creature that everyone can relate to or have at least heard of before. So, let's get this started so that I can get back to not caring about everyone else's zodiac signs, and the last half of the other half of you can scroll down to your sign (or wait until next month's article since this is

a two-parter), read it, and then go to the next page.



Aries

The first sign of the zodiac, for some reason I don't care to get into, Aries is personified as a horned sheep or ram. Their personality is described as being ambitious and eager to reach goals. Apparently, to the point where they don't really think their plans through (if they had a plan at all) and go head first into whatever it is they are doing. Impatient and not liking to lie around the house all day, yet these people like sweatpants for some reason. They have a "child-like wonder" but are similar to those kids on road trips that are like, "Are we there yet? I'm just gonna get out of the car and walk there. It's faster than traffic!" The descriptors I had read reminded me immediately of a chimpanzee. Chimpanzees are intelligent, quick on their toes, and constantly wearing human clothes. Monkeys are always curious and are just waiting for a chance to rip your face off if they are in one of those face-ripping moods. There you go, Aries. Just don't bite my head off if any of these true facts angered you at all.



Taurus [April 20 - May 20]

Taurus is represented by the Pokémon character that looks like a bull and is a bull and is named Taurus. A bull, Taurus people sound like they know how to make money, long-term goals are their jam, and they like gardening, I guess—and fancy clothes. They also hate synthetic fabrics. They get pissy when they're bothered by whatever it is that strikes their match that day and are best left to just do their own thing without any interference whatsoever. When I read up on these guys, it sounded a lot like this chinchilla I used to own, Nibbler. Nibbler was a snotty bitch who only wanted to be touched for 30 seconds and then go fuck off and run around in a dust bath for 20 minutes. Chinchillas enjoy fancy treats and enclosures because you paid at least 200 dollars for the thing, so you might as well spend the money on a giant rat enclosure (they're called Chinchilla Mansions, by the way). If you know a chinchilla, er... Taurus, the easiest way to be close to them is to fuck off and give them treats once in a while. Just nothing polyester.



Gemini [May 21

Gemini doesn't actually have an animal representation of its sign. Instead, it simply means "Twins." This is because of their ability to flip from one end of the spectrum to the other and maybe even change personalities altogether in the blink of an eye. I've seen some describe them as dolphins, but honestly, Gemini, being as timid as they are crazy, reminds me of that two-headed deer that lived a while back in time. Yes, the poor two-headed deer. Deer are already sporadic with their movements. You never know if one will jump in front of the car as a Hail Mary to try to kill itself or if it'll do the smart thing and stay put. Unpredictable as all hell. Now imagine having another head talking at you, making you even more indecisive and skittery. That's what I picture it being like as a Gemini person. Geez, I'm sorry, I think? I wonder how many Geminis are on antipsychotics when really all they need to do is look up at the stars and blame the night sky for all their problems. Don't yell at the sky, though; people might actually think you're crazy. The two-headed deer is actually guite sad to look at, so here you are as a normal, crazy deer.



Cancer

Cancer is a crab. You know those bumper stickers that say, "Cancer is a bitch," well...it's also a crab. They like being a homebody and eating a home-cooked meal with friends, maybe doing some sort of art, and just generally being their best hermit crab self. They are leery of strangers and dislike "yo mama" jokes. I'd say a meerkat is a good representation of this sign. Meerkats—although curious—like to snuggle in holes in the ground and are constantly aware of anything that might even think of saying something unsavory about their mom. They're likely to be a loyal friend but don't expect them to go out dancing with you. You'll probably be invited to a movie night "in" with spaghetti.

Alright, folks, this was what I was able to fit into this month's article...all about you and the animal I think most closely represents you in real life. Next month is Halloween, so I'm sure I'll have some haunting themes for your animal counterparts. Stay tuned. And stay sexy.

Hannah One Cup can be found reading tarot cards incorrectly and trying to figure out how the stars in the sky really looked like anything to people in 1000 BC, let alone how they got a "crab" out of one of them. You can find her on TikTok (rarely) @thursdaynight\_depression or Facebook under her name.





# YOURSELF! PART 2

Last month, I gave you some pointers for how to properly conduct yourselves when you go to a strip club. One article wasn't nearly enough space to point out the creative ways people find to fuck up and act a fool...so this month, I've provided a few more ways a lot of y'all need to clean up your act.



**Phones & Photos** 

Ahh, cell phones. The double-edged sword of modern convenience and technological enslavement. We have the sum total of human knowledge at our fingertips (I can't watch a movie or TV show anymore without picking up my phone and opening up IMDB to figure out where I've seen that actor before, who wrote, directed, and produced it, and as much interesting trivia as I can learn), and we can reach our friends at any time of day or night (well...not me. I hate talking on the phone, and I have a bad habit of ignoring text messages until it's a better time to answer, then forgetting all about it, but I digress.). On the other hand, our phones have become a Pavlovian nightmare of never-ending notifications that draw us in at all times and keep our eyes glued to that little screen. We take photos of everything we do, even though most of us never look at those photos ever again. Please work with me on this. Have some awareness when bringing your phone to the club. Do not take photos or videos inside a strip club. Just don't do it. And while we're on the subject, that includes selfies, FaceTime calls, and live streaming. If you're depositing a check with mobile banking, you're using your phone's camera, so do that shit outside.

Why are you in a strip club if you're going to spend the whole time with your eyes glued to your handheld idiot box? What do you see on that screen that could possibly be more interesting than a room full of beautiful, naked women? Nothing. That's what. Keep your phone in your pocket. If you really need to use it, step outside, or keep your phone flat on the table or bar top in front of you. Don't leave room for any misunderstanding between me and you. If you're not pointing your phone at the stage, I won't have to worry about you taking photos or videos of my dancers without their consent. But really, if you're just going to spend the whole evening staring at your phone, stay home and spare yourself the cover charge, bar tab, and dancer tips that you're going to spend at the strip club. If you're going to the club, do yourself a favor and take the red pill; exit the Matrix for the night. Your notifications, social media, and games will still be waiting for you tomorrow. I promise.



**Government Names** 

Stage names exist for a very good reason, namely, for the safety and privacy of the dancers. When I was in the Marines, we called this OPSEC. or operational security. You might be surprised to learn that strip clubs can sometimes attract some real creeps; abusers, stalkers, sex offenders, jealous significant others or exes, and the like. Stage names allow dancers to insulate their private lives from such people since they don't have the luxury of keeping bouncers like me present to protect them 'round the clock. I've seen too many customers press my dancers to reveal their government names, and I imagine most of those customers are simply ignorant of the security utility of keeping those government names a closely guarded secret. Please don't be that customer. The message you're sending a dancer when you try to play the Rumpelstiltskin game—intended or not—is that her safety means nothing to you. l, myself, try as hard as possible to learn as few dancers' real names as I can. When I do learn them—even when

we're friends outside of work—I still call that dancer by their stage name, lest I accidentally let their real name slip at the club. It's that important. On that note, another specific problem I repeatedly see is when a dancer's friends come to see her at work. They all know that dancer by her real name, and that's the name they use when they tell me who they're there to see. If you're friends with a dancer, it's fine to go see her at work, but if you really are her friend, please remember to call her by her stage name at the club. You'd feel terrible if something happened to your friend because a stalker overheard you utter her name and used that information to figure out where she lives.



Stay Off of the Fucking Pole

Ladies. If you're at a strip club and you just HAVE to get on one of the poles, find out when you can come in to audition. That's it. That's the only way you should be on the pole at a club where you don't work. Other than that, knock it the fuck off with your little attention-seeking ass. "But I don't want to audition; I don't really want to be a stripper." Cool, then stop trying to do stripper things. First of all, it's a liability. Fall off that pole and hurt yourself, and suddenly the club gets hit with a lawsuit. Clubs don't really want to pay you money for be-

ing a dumbass. Second of all, when you get up on that pole, you distract customers from the dancers who are there to make money. At that point, you're fucking with the dancers' money, which means you're fucking with my money, and I have zero patience for either. At my club, I'll usually give you one warning, and after that, I'll just kick you the fuck out.



#### Soliciting Extras

The strip club is not a place to go in hopes of getting your dick wet. You're not getting a handjob there. Nor are you getting a blowjob, and you're certainly not gonna fuck. ORS 167.002 -167.027 spell out the laws concerning prostitution, and the activities I just listed would cause you, the dancer, and the club to all run afoul of those laws, endangering the livelihoods of everyone working there. Now, there are some fantastic sex workers here in Oregon who are pushing for decriminalization—some of whom I count among my friends, and I fully support their efforts. Hopefully, their efforts will clear a path for the things you're trying to do, but the strip club isn't the appropriate setting for it. Come buy a lap dance; just don't go getting it fucked up. It's a lap dance, nothing more, and if you try for more, you'll be leaving without finishing the dance or receiving a refund.

#### Haggling

If I tell you at the door that the cover charge is five dollars or ten dollars



or whatever we happen to be charging at the moment, then that's what you're going to pay to get in. I hear a lot of "but I'm going to come in and spend money," or "I'm just going to have a drink," or "I'm just going to gamble." Yeah, the people inside are doing those things too, and guess what? They paid cover. If you think you shouldn't have to pay cover or pay less, you're welcome to stroll through the neighborhood and find a bar or club that isn't charging to get in. Later, when you realize you're going to pay to get in anywhere, come back and see me. I'll be charging you five bucks more than what I quoted you earlier, simply because it's super annoying that you tried to haggle with me on the cover charge. Chances are, if you can't afford to pay cover, you definitely can't afford to buy drinks or tip my dancers, so why do I want you as a customer? The same goes for haggling with the dancers over lap dance pricing and with the bartender over the cost of your drinks. Stop being a cheapskate.

Okay, I've spoken my piece. It's up to you what you do with the advice I've given on these pages. Take it, and we'll all have a good night. Ignore it, and I'll make sure your trip to the club fucking sucks. The choice is yours!

Nate Hazen is a writer, bouncer, and an eight-year veteran of the United States Marine Corps. His approach to bouncer work takes inspiration from USMC General Jim Mattis: "No better friend, no worse enemy."

## THE MONTHLY BY WOMBSTRETCHA THE MAGNIFICENT

## **DOWN WITH THE SICKNESS: SOME OF THE STRANGEST ILLNESSES OUT THERE**

We've all gotten sick at least once in our lives. If you haven't, you're probably some kind of mutant and should be studied. From tiny colds to horrible cancers, there's a galaxy of illnesses out there, and truth be told (no matter what they say about colds and flu building up your immune system), we don't want anything to do with them—no matter how insignificant. That said, there's something fascinating about disease and its nature. The most compelling, however, are the utterly strange diseases—the ones that turn people into zombies or make your dick explode, things like that. I've done a little research to find some of the most-oddyet-captivating conditions which can be visited upon the human body.

Listed in no particular order.



**Persistent Genital Arousal Syndrome** 

This condition, known as PGAS for short. is a condition wherein the afflicted person is always at the brink of orgasm. Talk about edging. Yes, they can actually have an orgasm, but the "persistent" part means it comes back only an hour or so later.

Therefore, either you go about your business and try to hide that you are literally about to cum at any time or sneak off for quick masturbation sessions with some frequency. That last one seems like it would lead to very chafed genitals and possibly lead to losing your job at the daycare.



**Black Pee Disease** 

Known formally as alkaptonuria, this is a genetic disorder where the body cannot effectively break down certain amino acids. This results in a buildup of what is called homogentisic acid. So what? Well, this buildup eventually results in black urine, as well as turning other body parts into a dark hue in the skin. Fingertips, elbows, toes, ears, nails, you name it. They can all be affected, though typically, it is not every single one of those areas; it averages one or two. Suffice it to say, it is a very rare condition, and must be inherited. Sorry goths, you're gonna have to have normal pee instead of the black stuff. Interestingly, it doesn't affect the lifespan of those who have the condition, nor cause any problems, save for being the person with black fingers and dark

stains in their toilet bowl.



Harlequin Ichthyosis

This one is also a genetic disorder. It is a condition in which the body is covered in thick "plates" made of keratin, which are separated by cracks in the skin, so essentially a giant suit of fingernail armor. They also sometimes have inverted eyelids. Damn. It is called ichthyosis because "ichthy" means "fish" in Greek, and the plates look somewhat like fish scales. The harlequin part is because the "scales" are frequently found in a diamond pattern, similar to that sported by the famous jester stock character. People born with this condition typically do not live more than a few years, if they even survive the first month, though the oldest person to ever have the condition is still alive at 38. One of the treatments or remedies is to keep the skin moist, but no data is available as to whether they end up craving fish pellets.



#### Auto-Brewery Syndrome

Known also as Gut Fermentation Syndrome, Auto-Brewery Syndrome is a condition wherein your body essentially brews its own beer in your intestines. Yes, you get drunk. No, you cannot either help or predict it. Nor can you somehow profit off this, apart from saving money on beer. It is caused by an overgrowth of certain fungi in your gut or by a condition like Crohn's Disease, where you cannot digest yeast, so it builds up and, voila! Butt beer. It is unknown at this time as to whether or not others can become intoxicated by your "special brew" because, well, you try finding people willing to suck farts out of a hairy butthole in order to maaaaybe get hammered.



Stoneman Syndrome

Known in the medical books as fibrodysplasia ossificans progressiva (FOP, and yeah, that's a mouthful), it is a very rare disease, afflicting only one person out of 2,000,000. The condition turns your tendons, muscles, and ligaments into bone. Not actual stone, but it is most definitely reminiscent of some kind of wizard's curse. It starts with the neck and shoulders and slowly works its way down the body, creating a second skeleton on top of the first. Then, it gets even better! You see, any trauma sustained by the body stimulates further bone growth. So, if you try to remove some of the bone, it grows more bone. If you try to biopsy the bone, it grows more bone. If you stub your toe, well...you get the idea. In the end, you wind up looking like some kind of skeleton monster, albeit an incredibly frail one.

There is no known treatment. Ouch.



**Walking Corpse Syndrome** 

Known scientifically as Cotard's Syndrome, which really lacks the punch of "Walking Corpse Syndrome," it is a condition where the sufferer believes that they are, in fact, dead. Or if not dead, then missing vital organs, blood, or even their immortal soul.

Walking Corpse Syndrome is a psychological disorder rather than a physical ailment, and studies have been done linking it to depression. Great. Depressed and dead. Symptoms can include such things as not eating, self-harm, delusions of immortality, refusal to speak, insensitivity to pain, and belief that they don't even exist. Thankfully, it does not cause these troubled individuals to seek out and consume human flesh. Typically, this disorder is treated with a dump truck of drugs and an Olympic swimming pool full of theraру.

#### **Alice In Wonderland Syndrome**

Alice in Wonderland Syndrome is a neurological condition where the brain tells the body all the wrong things. It comes with severe migraines, and those who suffer from it report seeing their hands or feet appearing huge or tiny—or that they feel very tall or like they've shrank, thus the Alice in Wonderland title. It's technically called Todd's Syndrome. That's not nearly

as dramatic. Those with this illness also perceive objects as various sizes and proportions, as well as bizarre senses of dilated time and distances being off. Across the street seeming a mile away, but a mile away seeming like across the living room. Sounds pretty Alice-like to me, so fuck Todd.



There are dozens and dozens more bizarre illnesses out there, but these ones stuck out as especially bizarre during my research. Most of them are exceedingly rare or require a genetic predisposition, so I wouldn't worry too much about somehow contracting one. That said, if you DO get any of these, I hope you have good insurance.

Stay healthy,

-Wombstretcha

Wombstretcha the Magnificent is a beer farter, walking corpse, Wonderland tourist, writer, and retired rapper from Portland, OR. He can be found at his website, wombstretcha.com, on Twitter as @wombstretcha503, and on MeWe.com (yay!) and Facebook. com (boo!) as "Wombstretcha the Magnificent."

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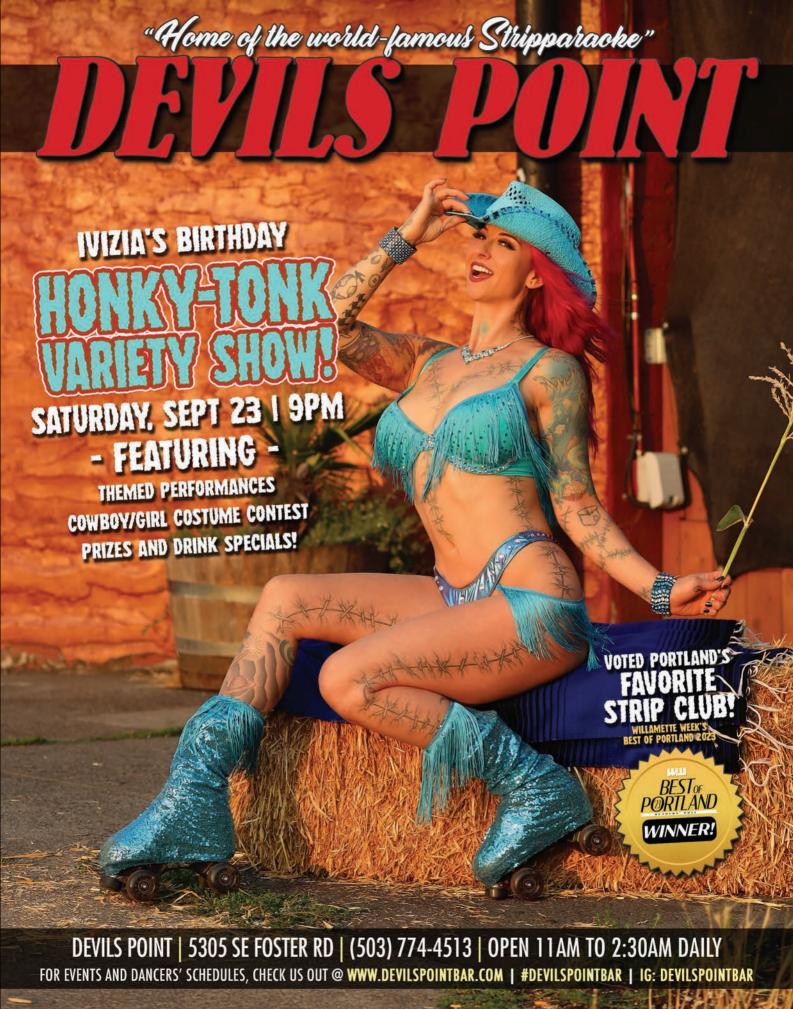
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