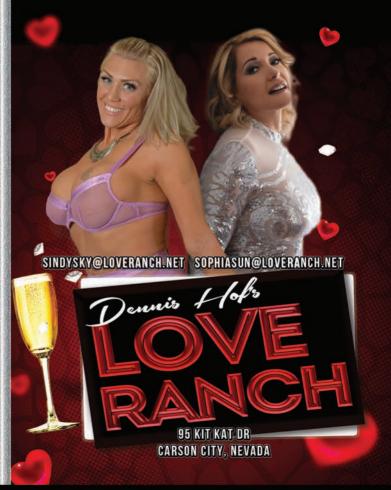


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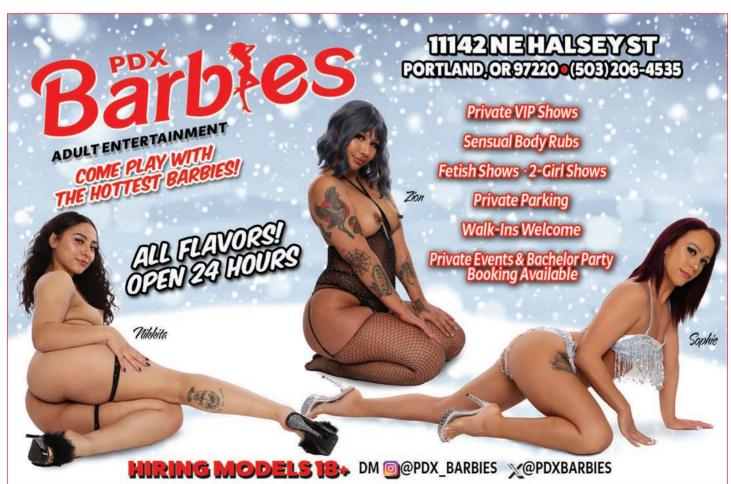












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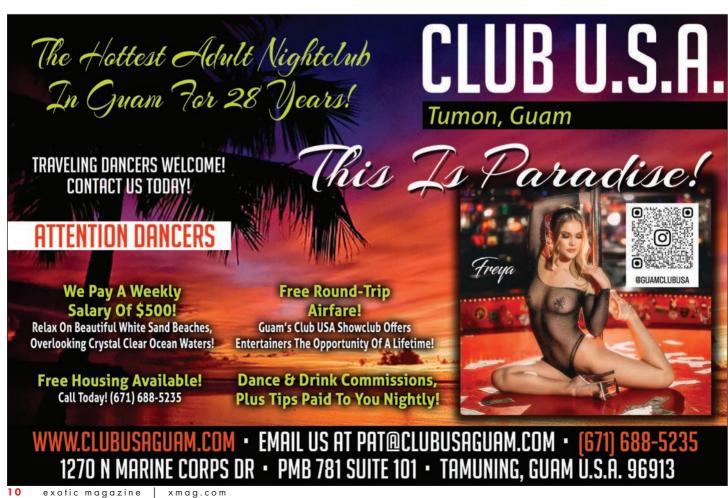


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- Happy New Year

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FEATURES



OFFICIAL 2024 ALBUM DEMAND LIST

six albums that better come out this year page 20 | by blazer sparrow



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it didn't happen if you never got caught page 22 | by nate hazen



WORLD'S NUTTIEST INVENTIONS

a look at some of humanity's more peculiar creations

page 36 | by wombstretcha the magnificent



INTERVIEW WITH THE CROWN

up close with miss exotic oregon 2024 page 38 | by bryan a. bybee

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INSIDE STUFE

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New year, new column! With everyone trying to become their best selves through resolutions, I, too, should carry that vibe to the beloved Erotic City. If we're not all constantly improving, then we're just treading water or sinking, right? But then again, how many of you will actually stick to those vows of self-betterment by the end of this month? The truth is, we are a species content with doing the bare minimum to maintain and not a bit more. So, in that same spirit of mediocrity. I proudly present to you...basically the same column as last month! You know you love it...

What else is to love? Birthday parties and we have a lot of 'em this month—like every week! It all starts with Meadow's "Sopranos" Birthday Party on Saturday, January 13, at Hawthorne Strip. Just a week later, on Saturday, January 20, Pixie and Cherry Midnight will celebrate their birthdays at Lucky Devil Lounge. Lastly, we have a two-for-one on Saturday, January 27, with Axel's Birthday Bash at Devils Point and Joy's Birthday Bash at Stars Cabaret (Bridgeport). Happy Birthday, ladies—much love!

Moving on to events, don't miss Stars Cabaret in Salem's Game Night, where you can team up with your favorite entertainers and try to win it all! Then we have the first large event of 2024: DJ Dick Hennessy's Pirates of the Caribooty. Grab your eye patches and hooks and head to The Venue on January 6 for the first round. You can check out the dates for all six rounds and the finals on page 16. See you there!

As expected, our industry's biggest night of the year was an incredibly memorable one. The Finals of Miss Exotic Oregon 2024 was filled with amazing and unique performances, and the bar was raised yet again!

A special congratulations goes to Miss Exotic Oregon 2024, Venus, representing Devils Point. Yes, the same Venus that was Polerotica 2022 Champion. Talk about kicking ass...she's the first performer to ever win both Polerotica and Miss Exotic Oregon!

Be sure to check out the exclusive interview with Venus on page 38 and full coverage of The Finals on page 40.

Here's to a marvelous 2024!

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Zeroliccity spotlight

SAT 06 – THE VENUE – PIRATES OF THE CARIBOOTY (ROUND 1) SUN 07 – DANTE'S – SINFERNO CABARET

FRI 12 – DREAM ON – PIRATES OF THE CARIBOOTY (ROUND 2) SAT 13 - HAWTHORNE STRIP — MEADOW'S SOPRANOS **BIRTHDAY PARTY**

> SAT 13 – STARS CABARET (SALEM) PIRATES OF THE CARIBOOTY (ROUND 3)

SUN 14 – DANTE'S – SINFERNO CABARET

THU 18 - CLUB DETOUR PIRATES OF THE CARIBOOTY (ROUND 4)

FRI 19 – THE LOUNGE – PIRATES OF THE CARIBOOTY (ROUND 5)

SAT 20 – DESIRE – PIRATES OF THE CARIBOOTY (ROUND 6)

SAT 20 – LUCKY DEVIL LOUNGE – PIXIE & CHERRY MIDNIGHT'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

SUN 21 – DANTE'S – SINFERNO CABARET

SAT 27 – DEVILS POINT – AXEL'S BIRTHDAY BASH

SAT 27 – GUILTY PLEASURES PIRATES OF THE CARIBOOTY (FINALS)

SAT 27 – STARS CABARET (BRIDGEPORT) JOY'S BIRTHDAY BASH

SAT 27 – STARS CABARET (SALEM) – GAME NIGHT SUN 28 – DANTE'S – SINFERNO CABARET

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SIX ALBUMS THAT BETTER COME OUT IN 2024

By Blazer Sparrow

This may sound like an entitled rant, as though these artists owe me or their fans anything. Well, it is. And they do. I am tired of waiting around for these long-anticipated follow-ups to drop. If ever there was an appropriate use of this platform, it is doing just this—using the non-titty space on these pages to demand content from artists who will probably never even know I exist.

Rest assured, it's not just me. This is certainly the will of the people! I am merely their voice. There is documented evidence that all of these albums are either complete or—at some stage—close to completion. Yet we, the people, are given nothing...not even a promo single or an advance appearance on a racing game. This is an outrage! We have waited long enough. If someone knows these artists or someone who knows them. please shove this article in their face and demand answers!

It's safe to say that we, as world citizens, have practically nothing to look forward to in 2024. There is a tragically high likelihood that we will be watching a debate between an 82-year-old Biden and a 78-year-old Trump. My guess is, that the price of rent and groceries isn't going to plummet magically. Although ticket sales are indicating a light at the end of the tunnel, I'm gonna assume we'll have several more Marvel "cinema" shoved down our throats next year. If we're lucky in the Pacific Northwest, the big earthquake will hit, and at least we won't have to go to work. All said, there simply isn't anything 2024 has in store for "we the people" besides even more existential dread. These six album-hoarding artists can change that! They can give us something to look forward to!

Please, for the love of all that is holy, give these albums a goddamn 2024 release date! Turn this year around from the shit sandwich it's shaping up to be!



My Bloody Valentine - One Or Both Albums Kevin Shields Has Teased

Last year would've marked a ten-year gap between 2013's m b v and My Bloody Valentine's promised fourth record. A long stretch but much briefer than the twentytwo-year gap between the third record and 1991's Loveless. But alas, no record. We know they're working on it. Kevin Shields even mentioned that there are two possible records. One more straightforward album of melodic songs and another weirder experimental one. Well, where the hell are they, Kevin?! In a separate interview, he even said he doesn't want to be in his 60s when the record comes out. Kevin Shields turned 60 last year. Time is up. Less attending Nobel Peace Prize ceremonies, more releasing the fourth goddamn record!

Portishead - Fourth

I have no evidence that production on this record has even started or that there's a plan to make it, so blind leap of faith here. I'm going full-on cringe spiritual vision board manifest The Secret-ing here. The band, although inactive, is not broken up, and they're all still making music in some form or another. Geoff Barrow has hinted at the existence of new material. Also, it's been sixteen fucking years since their landmark third album, titled... Third. Since then, we've been graced with literally two songs: 2009's surprisingly upbeat "Chase The Tear" and the second greatest cover of ABBA's "SOS." For the greatest, catch your local boys Slam Piece, and you might be lucky enough to hear it. Unless Portishead is trying to beat My Bloody Valentine for the longest gap between records, I think Portishead would do well to give us their next release in 2024, thus reversing inflation and climate change by fixing this timeline.

Beastie Boys - Hot Sauce Committee Part I

In classic Mike, Adam, and Adam fashion, either there does actually exist an album's worth of songs slated to be released as Hot Sauce Committee Part I, that was the original batch of songs for Hot Sauce Committee Part II, but then, for some reason, they decided to swap the songs on both albums and release Part II first—or they were just fucking with us. Although the latter is much more likely the real story, part of me wants to believe



that there really is a Hot Sauce Committee Part I (which was originally the material for Part II) and Mike and not-dead Adam are just sitting on it, waiting for the right time to finally release it. Now is the time. Make 2024 not suck—please! If ever there was a way to honor Adam Yauch's memory, it would be to give us the final Beastie Boys album. I realize this might be difficult if the album was never quite finished, especially with Yauch's not-aliveness. However, in this day and age, that's no excuse. For fuck's sake, we got a Beatles song last year. I saw Tupac at Coachella in 2012. Nothing is real anymore.



Dr. Dre - Detox

I don't care if Mr. Young is insecure and doesn't think the album is good enough to be released. I also don't believe that all the songs that were supposed to be on Detox were repurposed as 2015's Compton. Maybe some, but that's not Detox. Detox exists, and Dre is keeping it hidden. The people need it, Andre. Where is the album with "Kush." "I Need A Doctor." and "Under Pressure," even though Dre said that the last song wouldn't be on the record after it leaked and no one liked it? I liked it. A Kraftwerk sample!? More please! What direction was this album going to go before Dre got cold feet? Compton is fine, but I feel like we didn't get the third and final closing statement from one of hip-hop's most revered elder statesmen.

The Exploited – Album Number Nine

The last Exploited album, and honestly, my favorite of theirs, Fuck The System, came out in 2003. 2013 came and went with no heroic comeback after a decade. Then 2023 came and went with no even more heroic comeback after two decades. If a child was born when their last album came out, that child can now legally buy booze. Come on, Wattie, what's the hold-up? I know this album exists. They've mentioned it in interviews. They've posted about it. I've even seen some wordage stating that it's "almost done" for...well, Jesus, two decades now. It's either going to be their greatest album ever, or it's going to be the biggest letdown in punk rock history. I can't imagine what the obstacle is. Do they have the songs, but Wattie just can't find lyrical inspiration? Or the other way around? Either way, Wattie is on his seventh or eighth heart attack. Eventually, one of them is gonna kill him, so they might as well drop this fucker before he drops. If ever there was a time for loud, angry, anti-establishment, anti-war, anti-authoritarianism, anti-racism, anti-sexism, anti-fascist punk rock, the time is now. The system has been fucked for some time now. What's next, lads?



The Cure - Songs Of A Lost World

Sorry, no jokes here. Just an earnest plea. I just saw them in June, and a good portion of the setlist was dedicated to this unreleased new album. These new songs are fucking bangers. Sad bangers, but bangers nonetheless. Clearly, this record is either finished, or they're just not happy with the mixes, or the master isn't right, or they're roadtesting the material like Radiohead did with In Rainbows, or fuck, I dunno, they're waiting on clearance for a sample. Whatever the case—please, Robert, Simon, and the rest—give us this album. We are indeed a lost world, and we need these songs.







BE ON YOUR BEST

Last year, I dedicated a few issues of my column to outlining out how you should behave in a strip club. This month, I'm going to take it in a slightly different direction. Look, I know full well that people are doing cocaine in the club, and as a bouncer, I'm going to tell you don't do it. If I catch you, I have to do something about it, and neither of us wants that, right? Well, never fear, Dear Readers, because if you follow this handy dandy guide that I've composed for you, I'll be none the wiser to your participation in the "Winter Olympics," if you know what I mean—and that's better for both of us! Think of it like Schrödinger's dumbass cat, who can't decide whether it's alive or dead until you open the box to look at it; if I don't catch you doing coke, did you even do it?

Take It to the Bathroom

Want to venture a guess as to the one place in a club that isn't going to have security cameras? Doing blow out in the open is just a dumb idea. Take it to the goddamn bathroom. I've got more important things to do on the job than to barge in on people in the bathroom every few minutes to make sure none of them are snorting the devil's dandruff. Out of sight, out of mind, people.

Avoid Large Groups

Okay, so you're getting wise and heading to the bathroom to powder your nose. Smart move. Problem is, you've got five of your besties in tow, and six people mobbing it to a bathroom that only has two toilets is every bit as inconspicuous as a cattle stampede. The bathroom isn't that big, dumb dumb. Onesies and twosies, no more. Three's a crowd if you're trying not to get caught.

Perfect Your Sneaky Handoff

Now that you're on the buddy system and you and your buddy have had the chance to perk up, it's time to hand off the bag so your other friends have a chance to do some, too. Don't just hand them the bag. Be stealthy about it. Conceal the bag; fold it up inside

a dollar bill, put it inside a cigarette pack or an Altoids tin (as a bonus, the Altoids tin will infuse your drugs with a Curiously Strong Mint smell that'll keep your sinuses nice and clear!)—or anything else that doesn't look out of place when you hand it off to your friends. Or you can use a little sleight of hand to distract from the handoff. Whatever you do, make it unlikely that anyone else sees the exchange.

Crush It Up Ahead of Time

The South American nose tango should be a very short dance. The longer you're in the bathroom, the more you increase your likelihood of getting caught. I do have to use the bathroom once in a while, too, you know?! One way you can prepare, in order to save some time, is to crush up your coke ahead of time, if you can. Most of you are going to buy once you're out, but if you already have it before you leave home for the night, crush it up at home so you're not taking up a bunch of time doing it in the bathroom.



Bumps > Lines

Speaking of saving time, consider doing bumps rather than lines. It's faster and reduces the possibility of dropping your phone on a dirty bathroom floor and spilling your shit everywhere. True, a key bump is much

smaller than the line you would prefer to do, but there are other options. You can easily find purpose-made bump spoons online that can scoop out a line's worth to enable a linesized bump.

Pace Yourself

If you're all jittery and grinding your teeth while you're talking to someone, there's a good chance that person knows what you're up to. Slow down. You have all night to finish that bag; you don't need to polish off an eight ball inside an hour. Shit, you probably don't need to polish off an eight ball in one night. You're not only showing your hand when you go too hard too fast, you're also risking an overdose (more on that in a bit). Slow and steady wins the race, bud. Come to think of it, maybe you should just use your keys after all.



Check Your Nose

Once you've completed your top-secret snow commando mission, it's best to make sure it stays top-secret, a prospect that calls for mop-up operations to eliminate evidence. Perhaps the most commonly overlooked evidence I see is the nose. It's simple; you're hoovering drugs up your schnoz, so it follows that you'll need to make sure you don't leave any of said drugs visible in, on, or around said schnoz. Before you leave the bathroom, ask your buddy (if you're using the buddy system), look in the mirror, or use your phone's front-facing camera. A quick wipe-down with a wet paper towel should take care of any residue that would otherwise betray your illicit activities.

Harm Reduction

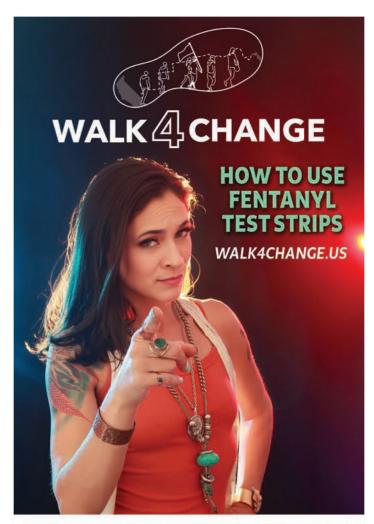
If you ignore everything else I've said here, at least pay attention to this section. Please? It's important. We've lost entirely too many among our ranks to overdose. Portland, especially, is in the midst of an insidious epidemic; fentanyl has its grimy little claws dug in deep, and just because you're not a foil smoker doesn't mean you're not at risk. If you're doing blow, you are. So, what can you do to reduce that risk? For starters, buy your nose beers from a trusted source. It's better to spend a little more from someone you know for sure isn't cutting their product with fentanyl. That cheaper gram may be enticing, but if it's from some sketchy dude you don't know, the money you've saved might end up very much not worth it. Either way, you'd do well to test your drugs with fentanyl test strips so you know for sure the stuff you have is clean. Finally, it's never a bad idea to carry some Narcan with you if you're doing the booger sugar as a last resort. If there is fentanyl mixed in and you start to overdose, Narcan might just save your life.

If you don't know where to obtain testing supplies or Narcan, never fear. Some amazing dancers I've worked with have provided me with some likewise amazing resources for me to share with you now. Check out DanceSafe.org for testing supplies and Next-Distro.org for Narcan. ProjectredInitiative.org and @naloxonesfavoriteth0t on Instagram are some other great places to check for education and resources. My club has several Narcan doses in our first aid kit, so if you or a friend find yourselves in the unenviable position of experiencing symptoms of overdose, you should absolutely ask. Better you survive and probably get kicked out for the night afterward (a temporary problem) than to keep your mouth shut and wind up taking a dirt nap (a permanent one).



A few parting thoughts: First, if you decide to do lines rather than bumps, don't do them through bills smaller than a twenty—especially singles. In a strip club, the smaller the bill, the more likely it is to have been in contact with someone's butthole, and you just don't want to risk that kind of sinus infection. Second, and this is maybe the most important tip to avoid getting caught, be a good customer. If you're doing that, if you're coming into my club and tipping my dancers and bartenders, if you're being respectful and otherwise acting in a way that makes me, my bartenders, and my dancers want you to stick around, I'm going to be far less likely to catch you in the act, than if you're being a creepy, disrespectful cheapskate.

Nate Hazen is a bouncer, war vet, and lover of people who has consumed his fair share of the ol' Peruvian gunpowder in his day and just wants you to be both safe and sneaky.





UNDERSTANDING & PREVENTING OVERDOSES

Except for suicides, overdose deaths are always accidental. The word "overdose" has sometimes carried a moral judgment that the individual was "pushing their limits" in order to get as high as possible, as if it were their own fault.

This is not true. "Overdose" simply means taking too much of a drug and it is always accidental. Even daily opioid users who know that fentanyl is in their product have no way of knowing the amount.

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Model: Gi Mary Jane Photographer: @saintsashaphotography



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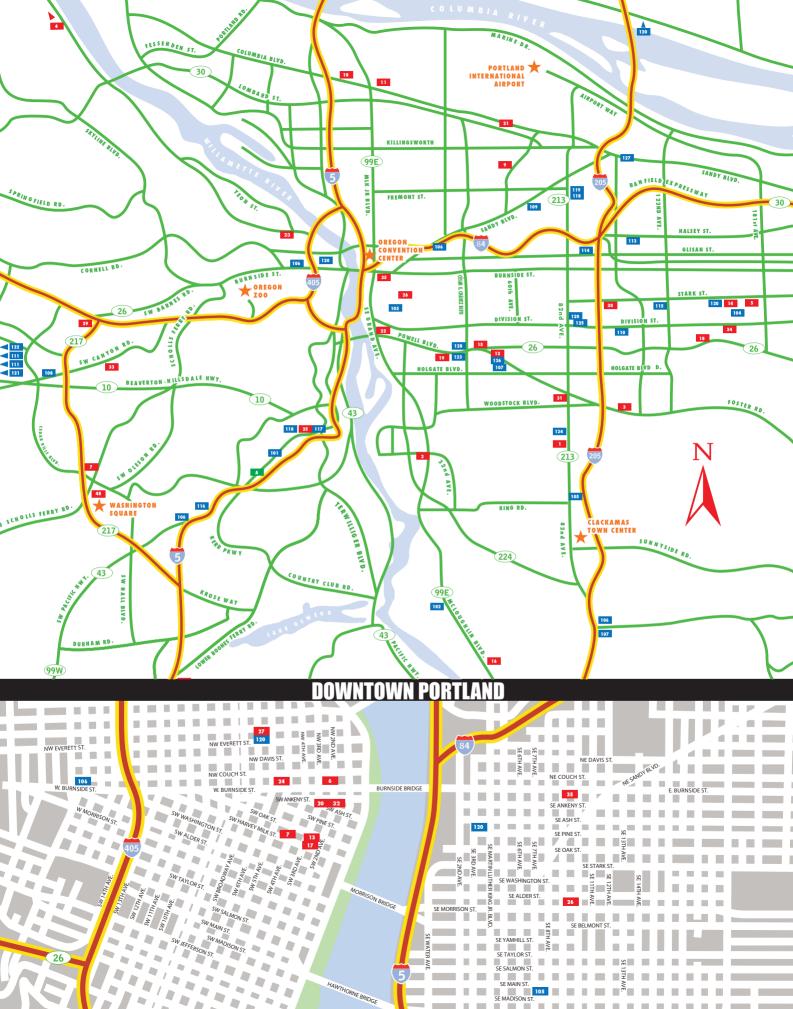








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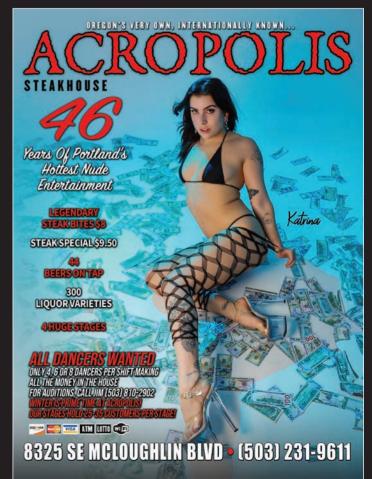












2023 YEAR IN review (BASED ON MY CELLPHONE'S NOTES APP)

BY HANNAH ONE CUP

It has been said by many memes and various social media postings that going into someone's notes on their cellphone is a surefire way to determine that you know a lunatic or that you know next to nothing about how this person is alive every day.

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From my own personal experience of doing this to myself, it's a bit of an eye-opener for sure. Since, like most of you, I'm sure I do not simply delete my old notes from February of this year. Or notes from when I first opened my phone up. They all remain as tiny fragments of memories not otherwise caught on

There are so many notes in my cellphone with a blank title (meaning I never typed anything in there but forgot that I already had a blank note I could have typed in, so I made a whole new note) that I started correlating that with possible lapses of time where I was honestly left with a loss of words for reasons now unknown, most likely alcohol-induced or ADHDrelated symptoms.

So what I would like to do now is try to reminisce about times now only kept in memory of my cellphone's note application. Just over the last year, though. We won't be going into any weird college stuff here.

Hyssop (Feb 3) - I purchased some hyssop from a neat apothecary here in Portland to give myself a spiritually cleansing bath because just two months earlier, I had broken my ankle, and my house was broken into. So I was pretty positive someone was cursing me and doing all these bad things. I refuse to take responsibility for my knees and ankles not doing what they were supposed to. Enter: Hyssop.

Box of matches (Feb 11) - I was doing some tests to see how cursed my partner and I were. It turns out we weren't cursed, and it was my ankle and knee's fault all along. I still don't like **7433, 7** (Feb 18) – I have no idea what these numbers mean, which scares me.

(2/26/2023) (Feb 26) - So yeah, I made a title be the day I wrote the note as if I'd forget what day it was. Click on that, and apparently, I went to Fred Meyers to buy the fixings for Thai green curry. I'm sure it was delicious.

(3/16/2023) (Mar 16) - Again, afraid I would forget what day it was, I apparently made a note to purchase pears, mayo, and mustard. I don't know if I did this or what these were used for if I did.

Dad's head circumference 23" (Mar 23) - Yes, I know my father's head circumference. I also know he wants a "newsboy" style hat. It won't look great on him. He should want another style, but I'm a good daughter, so I'm getting him this hat. Nine months later.



Hair dye and color oops (Jun 1) - Like I was preparing for mistakes being made that day. I bought both, and just as I predicted, I used both in that order.

I be keepin' the hydrated poster (Jul 16) - I don't know if this was an idea for a poster I had or why I wrote this. This is another enigma that will go unanswered in my life. Maybe I'll make a poster...

Cooked shrimp (Aug 16) - I have a healthy obsession with seafood. The easiest way for me to ingest this source of protein is in those plastic containers filled with delicious pink shrimp

at the grocery store. You can bet your ass I did not need this note and, indeed, did purchase

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I looked forward to cooking with you so... (Aug 22) - This is actually a very long draft of a text message I had sent to a friend in regards to missing the times we had eons ago, before life, relationships, alcohol, and unspoken emotions created a significant rift between us. I still try to whistle at them on top of the mountain, like they do in that mountainous region of Mexico, just to see if they can hear me. I hope so. I do miss them.

I just heard someone say I hate being lied to (Sep 10) - And inside, the note also reads: "I am eclecticly popular, and my sense of humor is prehistoric." How are you feeling about yourself today? Good? Good. Me too...

If you changed the font in movies, how would it...(Oct 28) -...change the feel? Like, think "PULP FICTION" instead of "Pulp Fiction." I don't know. I just kind of picture a more Driving Miss Daisy sort of feel to that movie title.



When you have ADHD and people ask why... (Dec 1) - This opened up a thought I remembered to type in my notes and do nothing with. A musing about how having ADHD provides me the ability to have a vast amount of knowledge of many things, but only half the facts. This is typically due to having a lot of varying interests in unrelated topics and then

opening up new tabs on those topics in both my phone and computer browser(s). In total, I have approximately 115 tabs open, with a lot of articles I had planned on fully reading at one point.

Buttons for Bob (*Dec 3*) — We recently received these buttons that allow you to record words on them and allow your dog to talk to you, initiating whatever behavior it is that is to come after pressing a button. You will no longer have to worry about whether your dog likes you or not or any other silly thoughts you think your dog cares about. Now you can have a button for that! What will get pressed more? The "Mommy" button? Or "Daddy?" "Skritches?" "Murder?" (for a lot of crows, obviously). Our dog Bob now knows six buttons and learned them in less than two days. It's scary. My dog's thoughts are probably more profound than mine. I need to get more buttons to find out. It's like having an Ouija board, but instead of having a demon haunt you, you will fall asleep hearing the sound of "play," "play," and "play" going through your mind all night. You've now Pavlov'ed yourself. This was the dogs' plan all along.

Shoes (*Dec 3*) – A lot was purchased on the 3rd. I went to the mall and bought a pair of shoes from what I think is the 21st-century Payless since Payless doesn't really exist here anymore. The shoes were 20 dollars and worth every penny, and not a penny more. At the end of the night of wearing these, my feet knew true agony and wished to be chopped off. My partner purchased himself a felt top hat, and after reviewing his fancy Italian suit, tie, shoes, and hat, I declared him to be the most expensive object in our house. My shoes were 20 dollars, their brand unknown to me, and I made my own headdress for 12 dollars, thanks to the dollar store. We then attended the Vespertine Ball, where we saw some fancy aerial stunts and belly dancing. My head skewers were only used for cheese, not meat.



Based on my notes in my phone, my year hasn't been the most eventful, and if you were to just look at the titles to the notes, you'd just see a lot of lists of random items and my dad's head circumference, which leaves a lot to be desired. But isn't that a bit like everyone's year? Let's try to make this year a bit more memorable. Remember to add your notes and make sure you forget to delete them. Get more than your dad's head circumference in there. Get your friend's baby weight, eye width, tooth size...

Hannah One Cup can be found measuring her friends' and family's teeth with a pediatric measuring tape and placing that measurement in her notes for future use. Her dog now knows the button for "Idiot," so do what you will with that.







BY WOMBSTRETCHA THE MAGNIFICENT

ESTITIVELLOUS

Mankind's entire history is predicated on our ability to learn and use tools, make discoveries, and use our comparatively powerful intellects to solve problems.

Many times, a new device is invented to make our lives easier, from the simple stone axe, which meant not having to beat your lunch to death with your fists before eating it, to the modern mobile phone, which looks up anything we can think of, tells us how to get places, and lets you redeem those really weird gifts from T-Mobile on Tuesdays. Sometimes, though, we as humans go a bit astray when we put our brains to the task of creating problem-solving devices and end up with some very strange things. I'll look through history and pull out some of the most unique items we have ever invented.

Listed in no particular ranked order.



The Dynasphere

Neither a dyna nor a sphere. Think about a tire, a very large tire, something on the order of twelve feet tall, which you sit inside of and drive. Yes, just one big one. Now, this isn't that foolish of a concept for the time it came from, the 1930s, as roads and cars and all that were still in their infancy. The seat you sit in, inside the giant tire, was gyro-stabilized, much like those Segway scooters, so you're not simply getting flipped around every time you stop while a motor drives the big tire around you. But how do you see? Well, it had a cage-like outer wheel, which allowed you a way to observe where you were going...sorta. It was not popular and did not catch on at all. Gosh, I wonder why. That said, I kinda wish it had because driving one of those beasts seems like it would be incredibly fun.



The Face Glove

This one dates back to the early 20th century and was basically a rubber face mask for ladies. The thing was also known as the "toilet mask" for some reason, perhaps because it was applied in the restroom? Research is inconclusive on this, but if I saw a product for ladies called a "toilet mask," I'd assume it was to make sure they could adequately use the

can without trauma after someone like me had been in it following Taco Tuesday. It was supposed to be used for the purpose of keeping your skin free of wrinkles and so forth. It looked like if the "Halloween" murderer, Michael Myers, was a lady, and he wore a mask that looked like a lady's face. Quite creepy. These were a trend for some time, but the materials of their construction, namely asbestos and lead, weren't exactly so beneficial to the health of the wearer. They fell out of favor after far more time than they should have.



Selfie Toaster

Okay, I get it. It's a ridiculous thing, but deliberately so. It will put a selfie (or any photo, really) and burn it onto your toast. The caveat being that you have to send the selfie to the Vermont Novelty Toaster Company (I like company names that describe exactly what they do; fuck you, Unilever, you do not make a single lever), and it is not interchangeable. One photo. One. That said, once the good people there make the custom toast plate with your face on it, you will have perfect face

toast every time. Let's hope you don't get into some kind of disfiguring accident, or you'll need a new toaster.



Gun Mousetrap

As they say, everyone is always trying to build a better mousetrap, that the world might beat a path to their door. Well, in 1888, a fellow by the name of J. A. Williams of Texas decided to do things Texas-style and invented a mousetrap, which quite literally involved strapping in a Colt revolver and setting it to be triggered by a pressure plate. Mouse, rat, mole, mailman, or whatever, you step on that and get smoked. Blam! Problem solved. It seems largely impractical (apart from the safety concerns) by the fact that leaving an expensive gun (guns were very expensive then and still are now) out in the elements would ruin it in no time. Then, the rats win.



New Coke

Now, there's a lot of talk about this one. It's widely regarded as either the worst decision the company could have made or the most significantly devious marketing strategy ever. Think about it: they took out a hundred-year-old gold standard product when sales were slouching in the early '80s and replaced it with some-

thing universally hated. Being a fellow of a certain age, I have had New Coke, and I didn't think it was that bad, but it wasn't The Real Thing™—I can see why it was hated. That said, when they later brought back Regular Coke, they had voluminous sales. Insanity or genius? You decide.



The Mass Shaving Machine

This sounds like something you'd use to trim the body hair of a fat guy, but this is not the case. In fact, it was a device invented in the late 1800s by an unknown British printmaker for the purpose of shaving a dozen men at once. No, not entirely shaved. It's not shaving them head-to-toe or anything, but it shaved beards and mustaches, apparently 12 at once. Can you imagine, fellas, being strapped in (yes, they strap you in) and being shaved by a machine next to a line of 11 other guys? This was a product of a time when beards and mustaches were out of fashion, and obviously, home trimmers weren't available, so people went to the barber for a shave. "Hey, Mr. Barber, I could use a shave." "Buckle in with the other 11 guys. You're goin' for a ride!""Wait, what?"

Window Baby Cage

Alright, just given the heading, you might be thinking I'm exaggerating for effect, but I am not. This was a literal cage, which you hang out the window of your apartment and stick that baby in there. This was invented in the early 1900s by one Mrs. Lafferty, citing that babies need fresh air and sunshine, even if their parents live in

tenements or apartments. Not a terrible idea, but the solution was to just build a box that fits in the window of your apartment building, which resembles an oversized hamster cage, and toss your little one in there. It's good for them. No word on whether there was a little feeder bottle in there with water for them to drink. Also, yes, this was a real thing, but was not well-regarded, as most mothers wouldn't quite be okay with hanging their babies out of a window in a thin metal-arid enclosure.



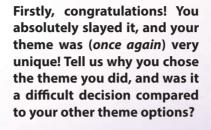
Enjoy your New Year, and please, don't stick your babies in cages out the window of your apartment.

-Wombstretcha

Wombstretcha the Magnificent is a one-wheel driver, face glover, baby cager, writer, and retired rapper from Portland, OR. He can be found at his website, wombstretcha.com, on Twitter as @wombstretcha503, and on MeWe.com and Facebook.com as "Wombstretcha the Magnificent."

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE CROWN Miss Exotic Oregon 2024 - Venus

INTERVIEW BY BRYAN A. BYBEE PHOTOS BY HYPNOX



Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory was such a fun theme to play with! It was a great way to bring a whimsical and fun set to the stage. Once I started brainstorming this concept, the creativity and ideas kept growing. I knew I had to do it!

Thinking of the time during your actual performance, what do you remember thinking about or feeling while on stage?

I remember feeling focused and nervous when I first started, thinking that I wanted everything to go smoothly. As I moved through the motions, I felt so happy to be up on that stage, having a blast and perwhole time—it was incredible.

This issue marks your third Exotic cover! The list of performers that have been featured on three Exotic covers is very short, and even more exclusively, you have now won both of our contests-Polerotica and Miss Exotic Oregon. We know from past experience that you're beyond humble, but let all of that truly sink in for a moment...and then tell us how you feel (hint: we demand some self-congratulations and mild gloating).

I am PUMPED! I am so high off of these experiences and the support and love I have from my friends. The encouragement I get from them is out of this world. I know I can accomplish so much with them by my side, now I am ready for the next challenge!

Describe your other experiences competing in our events











shaped your preparations for *Miss Exotic Oregon 2024*.

My first time competing in an Exotic contest was for Miss Exotic 2022. I did a Kill Bill set for my prelims but did not make it into the finals. This experience showed me that I needed to step up my crowd entertainment and keep them on their toes!

When I went for *Polerotica 2023* next, I made sure to have multiple surprises to keep the audience from being able to look away! Winning Polerotica was unreal, and I knew I had to try to go even bigger for *Miss Exotic*!

We always like to ask these next two questions! What advice would you offer to other performers who are looking to win it all at an Exotic event?

My advice would be to bring everything you've got! This opportunity allows you to put on your own show however *you* want, so have fun with it! Be creative and play to your best skills!

If you could travel back in time and talk to baby stripper Venus, what advice would you offer?

I'd tell her to enjoy the journey and keep doing the things that make her happy; good things will follow.

What if our readers are interested in seeing you perform? Where can they catch you on shift? Drop your socials, too!

You can find me at Devils Point most Friday nights! I also go-go dance at Dante's for the Wasted Yuth once a month!

You can find me posting schedule info on Instagram @agoddessonamountaintop.

Switching gears for a moment, tell us all about some of your future aspirations, industry-related or otherwise...

This last year, I was able to perform multiple aerial acrobatic performances! I train at least once a week with the amazing Rebecca Palmer. She teaches me intense contortion and aerial lessons. I hope to continue to grow in the circus world, become a professional aerial acrobat, and share my weird talents with the world!

Lastly, what consumes your time when you're not killing it on the pole or otherwise kicking ass in the industry?

Half of my year is primarily consumed with women's tackle football. I play as a wide receiver for the Oregon Ravens in a national league called the WNFC. I am entering my third year of playing football, and I love it so much! We travel and play other teams out of state but have local home games, too! Our home games are at Milwaukie High School and will start in April! You can follow my team on Instagram at @oregonravens.











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