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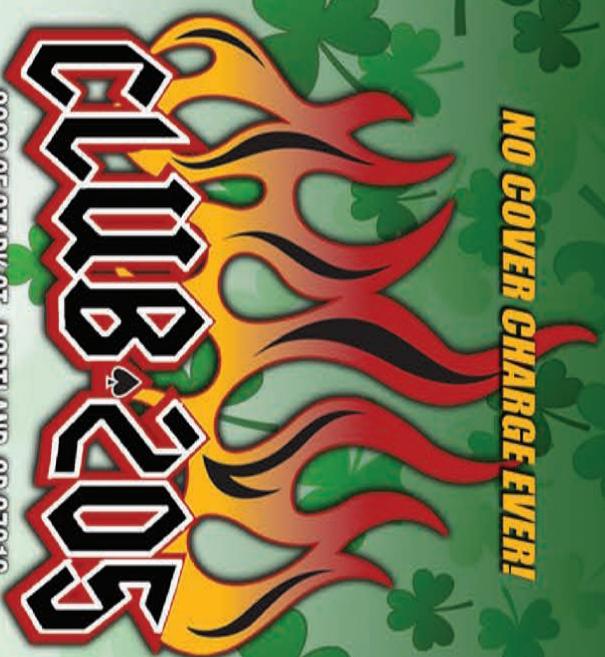
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Birthday Party



Viviane
FROM DV8

FEATURES

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SHAKESPEARE'S DISSES, EXPLAINED

your masterclass in dissecting shakespearean
insults
page 20 | by wombstretcha the magnificent



COMPLETELY UNDERRATED FOOD

exploring local food offerings often overlooked
page 34 | by hannah one cup



YOU WANT RENAISSANCE? PAY FOR IT!

genius and artistic ability only go so far
page 36 | by blazer sparrow



A BOUNCER'S CRASH COURSE IN PHILOSOPHY

spotlighting aristotle in volume three of this series
page 40 | by nate hazen

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FRI, MARCH 14

The Lounge
GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

SAT, MARCH 15



THU, MARCH 20



FRI, MARCH 21



SAT, MARCH 22

**GUILTY
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FINALS

SAT, MARCH 29



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QUALIFIER ROUND 1
FRI, APR 4 @ 9PM

No time for fancy, elaborate introductions this month—there's a plethora of industry events to cover, so you'll have to wait until next month for the snarky, satirical lead-ins that you've grown accustomed to!

Last month's first strip club stand-up comedy night at X Exotic Lounge was a success, and it will be back again this month, hosted by Japan the Punk Rock Comic. So, if you missed the show last month, make sure to head to X Exotic Lounge on Wednesday, March 5, and experience one of the most unique events our industry has to offer!

Next, it's birthday time! The celebrations start with Kandii's Country Western Birthday Party on Saturday, March 8, at Guilty Pleasures. Then, on Friday, March 14, we have two birthdays! There's Maxine's Girls Gone Wild Birthday Bash at Desire and Tristen's Devilish Delights Birthday Party at Devils Point. The very next night, Saturday, March 15, it's Ruby's Spring Breakers Birthday Party at Lucky Devil Lounge. Happy Birthday to all of you beautiful ladies—we hope all your birthday wishes come true!

We've also got a strip club birthday this month! Drop by The Lounge on Saturday, March 22, for their 4th Anniversary & Customer Appreciation Party—a very special night where they give thanks to you, the loyal aficionados of the flesh, for helping them reach their fourth year of fabulousness. Happy Anniversary!

Anyone who has spent any time at Guilty Pleasures will know who DJ Patrick is. With over 25 years of service in our industry, there's no question that he's paid his dues. All good runs must eventually come to an end, so make sure to not miss his retirement party on Saturday, March 15. It's a definite must that we not send him away sober, so make sure to drop in and buy him a farewell shot! Good luck on your next journey in life. We certainly hope it involves lots of boobs.

Now, it just wouldn't be March without at least one proper Irish celebration, and Stars Cabaret has you covered! Both their Bridgeport and Salem locations will throw a St. Patrick's Day Party featuring themed specials and even a scavenger hunt at their Salem location. It's certain to be an amazing night, filled with plenty of decadence and debauchery. Remember, St. Patrick was a saint, but you ain't...enjoy!

Wrapping up events for March...how about a '90s party? Booyah! Dig those baggy, acid-washed jeans and graphic tees out of storage, and head to Union Jacks on Wednesday, March 19, for their Totally Fresh '90s Party with DJ Old Brian. Guaranteed to be both fly and da bomb!

And for out-of-town events, Bunnyranch, Sagebrush Ranch, and Loveranch have announced their Saint Patricks Ranch Crawl on Saturday, March 15, with games, raffles, prizes, and even a karaoke contest! They even have a wine and cheese meet-and-greet event the day before and mimosas at each ranch the following day! What a weekend, right?!

Finally, it's time to announce industry contests! This month brings DJ Dick Hennessy's 10th Annual Miss T&A contest. The fun kicks off on Saturday, March 8, at AJ's Gentlemen's Club. Check out all the dates and contest info on page 14!

We'd also like to officially announce the dates for *Polerotica 2025*! It all starts next month, and we can't wait! See page 16 for all the important dates and contest details.

Let's get shamrocked, me feeks!

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

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XeroticCity spotlight

WED 05 – X EXOTIC LOUNGE – STRIP CITY COMEDY NIGHT

SAT 08 – GUILTY PLEASURES
KANDII'S COUNTRY WESTERN BIRTHDAY PARTY

SAT 09 – AJ'S GENTLEMEN'S CLUB – MISS T&A CONTEST (ROUND 1)

FRI 14 – DESIRE – MAXINE'S GIRLS GONE WILD BIRTHDAY BASH

FRI 14 – DEVILS POINT
TRISTEN'S DEVILISH DELIGHTS BIRTHDAY PARTY

FRI 14 – GUILTY PLEASURES – MISS T&A CONTEST (ROUND 2)

SAT 15 – GUILTY PLEASURES
DJ PATRICK'S RETIREMENT PARTY

SAT 15 – LUCKY DEVIL LOUNGE
RUBY'S SPRING BREAKERS BIRTHDAY PARTY

SAT 15 – STARS CABARET (BRIDGEPORT & SALEM)
ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

SAT 15 – THE LOUNGE – MISS T&A CONTEST (ROUND 3)

WED 19 – UNION JACKS
TOTALLY FRESH '90S PARTY WITH DJ OLD BRIAN

THU 20 – CLUB DETOUR – MISS T&A CONTEST (ROUND 4)

FRI 21 – X EXOTIC LOUNGE – MISS T&A CONTEST (ROUND 5)

SAT 22 – DOMINIQUE STELLA – MISS T&A CONTEST (ROUND 6)

SAT 22 – THE LOUNGE – 4TH ANNIVERSARY &
CUSTOMER APPRECIATION PARTY

SAT 29 – GUILTY PLEASURES – MISS T&A CONTEST (FINALS)

HAPPY HOURS

CABARET – 2PM-6PM

CLUB 205 – 10:30AM-6:30PM

DEVILS POINT – 3PM-6PM

DESIRE – 6PM-9PM

DV8 – NOON-3PM

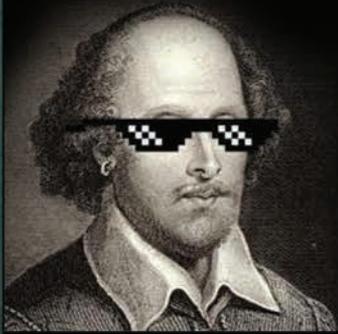
GUILTY PLEASURES – NOON-5PM

THE LOUNGE – 11AM-4PM

LUCKY DEVIL – 3PM-6PM

SKIN & GAMES – 5PM-6PM

UNION JACKS – 6PM-8PM



THE MONTHLY

COLUMN

BY WOMBSTRETCHA THE MAGNIFICENT

SHAKESPEARE'S DISSES, EXPLAINED

William Shakespeare. The legend. The immortal bard. Writer of those plays you had to read in high school. His works endured from the 16th century and linger well into the modern age, with Shakespearean actors being vaunted as the best that you can be as an actor or actress, with such notable people among them as Sir Patrick Stewart of Star Trek fame, Sir Lawrence Olivier of, well, Hamlet fame, Dame Judi Dench of the fame of "M" in the Pierce Brosnan James Bond films, Ian McDiarmid of being the fucking Emperor in Star Wars, Sir Ian McKellen of Gandalf fame, and Sir Christopher Lee of...doing a bunch of shit for like 7 decades fame, also being in Star Wars as Count Dooku and playing Dracula for like 50 years, then starting a metal band at age 90.

It is prestigious! Shakespeare was known for his ability to write plays for both the learned aristocrats, who were well-spoken and educated, as well as the "cheap seats" peasants, who just wanted to have fun on their one day off a week. Those folks were known as "groundlings" because they had to stand on the ground right in front of the stage and not be afforded seats like the rich people. To think, what we pay for pit tickets at modern shows when that was the cheap stuff hundreds of years ago. Anyhow, Ol' Shakey, as he was likely not ever known, always threw in ribald and, for the time, dirty jokes to relate with the groundlings, who did indeed pay for tickets and wanted to be entertained.

He was a master of coarse insults that would catch the ear and make laugh the tongue of those up front and even get a suppressed giggle out of the rich folks, who were thinking themselves above crude humor. Given the time between

now and then, his insults and jests have become less impactful. We do not speak in the way they did then and might let what would have been a seriously grave barb of the tongue become a "Huh? What does that mean?" I, however, have done my research and will show you what Shakespeare meant by his insults and translate it into the modern language we speak in the good ol' US of A, so you can translate them should you watch a play or movie of one of his works. Let's go!

Insults

• "A most notable coward, an infinite and endless liar, an hourly promise breaker, the owner of no one good quality."
From *All's Well That Ends Well*



Translation: "This guy is a fucking pussy; he lies all the time, he's never good to his word, even if he just gave it to you, and there's not a single good thing about his ass or the rest of him."

• "Away, you three-inch fool!"
From *The Taming of the Shrew*

You might think this is about the size of his dick, but that's not what was meant. He meant that the guy is so unworthy of consideration that he might as well be three inches tall. It also might be about his dick just for good measure (bad measure?), but this is not explicit.

• "Go, prick thy face, and over-red thy fear, Thou lily-liver'd boy!"
From *Macbeth*



"Go fucking stab yourself in the face, and that'll get you some color because you're all pale with fear, you coward."

• "His wit's as thick as a Tewkesbury mustard."
From *Henry IV, Part 2*

Tewkesbury is a town in England. They

do indeed make mustard there, and have since Shakespeare's day; it is blended with horseradish for some tang and is very thick. When this is said of a person, if we were to say it in our modern terms, "he's as dumb as a pillowcase full of Jell-O."

• "I am sick when I do look on thee."

From *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Well, that one doesn't take much interpretation. "You make me wanna puke when I look at you."

• "For I must tell you friendly in your ear, sell when you can; you are not for all markets."

From *As You Like It*

"Look, dude, I'm trying to be nice here, but you are not a prize; just take what you can get."

• "I'll beat thee, but I would infect my hands."

From *Timon of Athens*

"Motherfucker, I'd hit you, but if I did, I'd get AIDS."

• "More of your conversation would infect my brain."

From *Coriolanus*

"Keep talking, and you're gonna make me sick."—not a tough one.

• "Peace, ye fat guts!"

From *Henry IV*

"Shut the fuck up, you fat piece of shit."



• "I will bite my thumb at them, which is a disgrace to them if they bear it."

From *Romeo and Juliet*

"I'm gonna give them the finger (biting your thumb at someone was the Middle Ages version of the finger), and they either fucking deal or fucking fight me."

• "The tartness of his face sours ripe grapes."

From *The Comedy of Errors*

"This guy's fuckin' face is so ugly, it turns fruit rotten."

• "That trunk of humours, that bolting-hutch of beastliness, that swollen parcel of dropsies, that huge bombard of sack, that stuffed cloak-bag of guts, that roasted Manningtree ox with pudding in his belly, that reverend vice, that grey Iniquity, that father ruffian, that vanity in years?"

From *Henry IV* (In which apparently many disses were handed out.)

"You fat fuck, you are disease, you look like George "the Animal" Steele, you probably have the fucking plague, and again, your clothes can barely contain how fat of a fuck you are. You're like a big, fat cow full of sixty pounds of Jell-O, and you can't even hide it. Also, you're a fucking wasteoid who has no charm, and you don't know right from wrong; you're the spawner of criminals, and the son of them as well, but you think that's somehow a flex."

• "Thou clay-brained guts, thou knotty-pated fool, thou whoreson obscene greasy tallow-catch!"

From *Henry IV*

"You are a dumb fuck, you're stupid as shit, you're the son of a whore, and are a beastly, fat fuck, at that."

• "What, you egg! Young fry of treachery!"

From *Macbeth*

"You're really young and very stupid. Also, you're not just a dumbshit kid, but you're trying to plot against me, asshole."

• "Thou sodden-witted lord! Thou hast no more brain than I have in mine elbows."

From *Troilus and Cressida*

"You think with your dick, which is smarter than your head, and I've more brains in my elbows than you have in your skull."

• "Your brain is as dry as the remainder biscuit after voyage."

From *As You Like It*

"You are so boring. If there was an award for being boring, you wouldn't even win it because you'd have bored the judges all to death."

• "You are as a candle, the better burnt out."

From *Henry IV*



"Man, you'd look better dead."

• "Villain, I have done thy mother."

From *Titus Andronicus*

"Lol, I fucked your mom."

• "You are not worth another word, else I'd call you knave."

From *All's Well That Ends Well*

"Stop fucking talking to me, or I'm just gonna keep calling you an asshole."

• "This kiss is as comfortless as frozen water to a starved snake."

From *Titus Andronicus*

"I dunno what you tryin' to kiss, but that felt like kissing a Sumo wrestler's asshole after he'd been out sitting in the snow for a week."



• "What an ass!"
From *Hamlet*

Translation: "What an ass!"

And so, we could merely adjust some of the words to be more in line with how we speak today; perhaps Shakespearean tone might resonate more with us all if we did. They've tried it a few times in movies and TV shows, but for some reason, they never really updated the language. I suppose *West Side Story* was a pretty good take, but even now, that's half a century old and doesn't relate to people who were raised on Soulja Boy. As Shakespeare speaks to the ages, there's no reason why he couldn't be adapted to a more modern version. I just hope if that happens, whoever writes it needs to use the phrase "bitch tits." Not sure how or why, but this needs to happen to make ol' Will proud.



Thou cream-faced loons! Do take care.

-Wombstretcha

Wombstretcha the Magnificent is a remained biscuit, elbow brain, sometimes whoreson, writer, and retired rapper from Portland, OR. He can be found at his website, wombstretcha.com, on Twitter/X/whatever as @wombstretcha503, and on MeWe and (begrudgingly) Facebook as "Wombstretcha the Magnificent."



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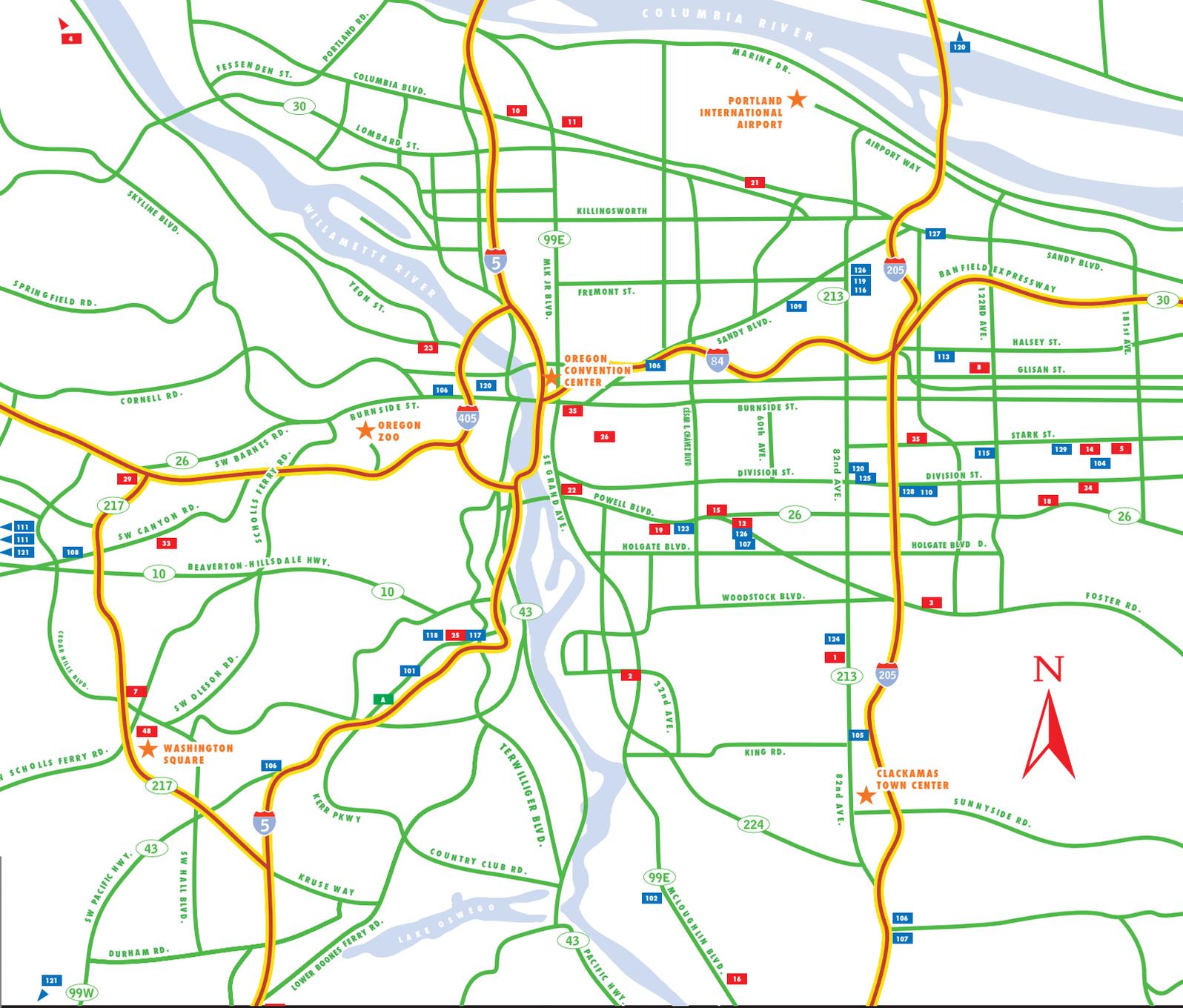
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PLUMBER'S CRACK—REDEFINED

By Atticus Rexx

I'm going on six years of working in a porn store. That first eye-opening interview that unveiled the truth about what goes on behind the closed doors of adult stores has become a distant memory. I even laugh at my own naivety when I think back to my initial reaction to walking into a porn theater for the first time. A reaction I now witness when I uncover the secrets of gloryholes and arcades to an unsuspecting, albeit curious, customer in my store. A reaction that, I won't lie, I get some pleasure from.

Working in this unconventional environment for a certain amount of time will render you numb from shocks and surprises. It takes a lot to catch me off guard—or so I thought.

It's the seemingly normal days that are the ones to always take an unexpected turn. Below is a recount of just such a day.



It was a predictable, steady weekday afternoon. Sales had been steady, half my arcade was full, and I was keeping busy with customers and various side tasks. I had a small lull between customers when a man walked in and parked himself at the counter. I greeted him as I always do and welcomed him in. He patiently waited until I was finished helping my customer. I asked if I could help him find anything or if he had any questions. The man sheepishly swayed side to side, slightly, while admitting that

he had a very awkward question to ask. I internally scoffed; there was no such thing as awkwardness for me. Nothing surprises me anymore; I've heard it all, I told myself. I waved away the awkwardness and asked what his question was.

"Well," he began, "I have something stuck."

"Stuck?" I asked.

"Yes, stuck. I have something stuck in my rectum."

I paused and contemplated where this could be heading, but I encouraged him to continue.

"Okay," I tried, "You have something stuck. Have you gone to the hospital?"

"Oh, yes," he replied, "I've been to three different ERs, and they all told me that I need to have surgery to remove it. But I didn't want to be put under, so I left, and I'm looking for other options. Do you have any advice?"

Another pause from me. The last thing I ever want to bring down upon the company that I work for is some kind of liability lawsuit that involves me advising a customer on how to get something dislodged from his rectum, and it goes very, very wrong. So, I proceeded carefully.

"Well, I'm not really sure what I can do to help you."



He then proceeded to go into detail about the various things that he and his girlfriend have tried to get the thing out, including, but not limited to, needle-nose pliers, scissors, and enemas. He admitted that the

object is, in fact, not something meant to go up a butt and that it was a plumbing pipe attachment.



"My phone is dead, but perhaps I can use yours to do a quick Google search and show you the item?"

"That is not going to happen," I quickly replied.

He seemed a little hurt by the rejection of including my poor phone in his dilemma, but there was no way I was going to cross that line.

I tried again, "Sir, I really don't think there is anything I can do here except to encourage you to listen to your doctor and go back to the hospital."

His whole persona looked defeated. He slumped his shoulders forward slightly and exhaled a sad sigh.

"Yeah, okay," he said, "Thank you, anyway. I think I'll try another store."

With those parting words, he exited my store, never to be seen again. But I will always wonder what happened to him.

Did he actually have surgery? Is it still stuck up there? I will never know. And to my future porn store worker comrades, I salute you.

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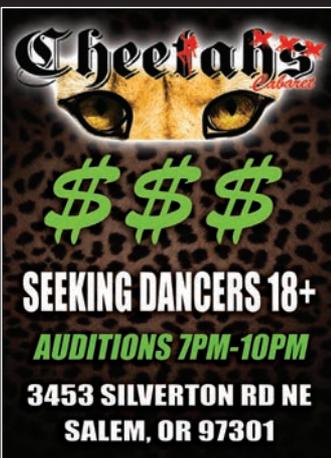
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COMPLETELY UNDERRATED FOOD YOU PROBABLY HAVEN'T HAD

(OR DON'T VISIT ENOUGH) BY HANNAH ONE CUP

Portland is the city of food. Sure, it has numerous other nicknames I don't really need to repeat to those of you who have lived here long enough, but "City of Food" should really be one of them. Out of all the cities in the Pacific Northwest, Portland really takes the cake with the food we offer. We were once listed on a top 50 list for best places to get pizza, and I believe we came close to New York. I've had pizza from NY, and I can say I just didn't get the hype. Probably because a lot of people from NY live in Portland and give me the same product. It's awesome. The level of selection we have here is insane.

This is why I feel it's always a good idea to look around and see about places you may not have gone to yet...or maybe places you've stopped going to for whatever reason. I thought I'd go through some of the places I've been bragging about to people for a while now but never put them to paper. I don't usually advertise for places unless they have a product not offered elsewhere or there is something that really sticks out. So, with that in mind, let's take a visit...



Chen's Dynasty II – On northeast Broadway, there is a huge building with a wrap-around sign that says "Chen's Dynasty" in yellow letters. Step foot in here, and you're greeted by the most polite, smiling human you've ever come across. She seats you at your booth, and if you take a while to decide what you want on the menu, she will come over and delicately point out what she thinks is the best deal that day. I recommend eating the orange chicken and egg rolls since they're one of the only places in Portland that knows what an eggroll is (it's literally just a deep-fried Chinese version of a burrito, filled with delicious green veggies or sometimes meat).

Taste Tickler – I'm assuming some of you have had what this place offers. Either way, I'm talking about it. You probably don't go there enough. Also, in northeast Portland. The sandwiches here are amazing, stuffed

to the brim, and a way better deal than any of those "Subway inside Wally World" sandwiches. I recommend just getting the Taste Tickler to start. And I mean...Taste Tickler, doesn't that name just tickle your fancy?



Hong Phat's Deli – So yeah, Hong Phat. The local Asian grocer just opened a new spot last year where that gross Walmart used to be on Southeast 82nd. There's a hot deli where the Subway spot used to be in the store. They offer this pork belly sandwich and fruit drink for less than 8 bucks. I think last I checked a few weeks ago, it was like \$6. Anyway, delicious. They also have pretty decent pork buns there. Go check it out, the line is usually not that bad.

Hungry Tiger – Okay, so a few weeks back, it was "Wiener Week," a new food week invented by a local weekly (that's oddly not published weekly anymore). Some restaurants love it; most industry folks hate it; anyway, I went to the Hungry Tiger at around midnight because I was drinking and wanted another wiener. Knowing they were vegan, I was still intrigued. I'm picky about my veggie dogs. They were corndogs and damn delicious. The corn batter was sweet and crunchy, and their sauces were tasty AF. You get two corndogs for 11 bucks on a normal day. *Worth it.* You don't have to be vegan to appreciate these tasty treats. The bartenders here are also super awesome, and it's worth going just for the "atmosphere" because of its inclusivity and "homey" feeling. No one's gonna judge you for getting corndog sauce on your face. They understand.

Devilishly Delicious Delights – This guy, Rhett, makes the one and only chimney cake here in Portland and, I think, in Oregon. A chimney cake is pretty much a broiled, flaky



croissant cone that can be either sweet or savory and is filled with whatever your dreams can imagine. Horchata? Berries? Ice cream? Fried chicken? Hot dogs? Nutella? What do you want? What can you imagine filling this cone with? Tell Rhett, look at his menu, and let your dreams become reality. A product so unique that it must be seen and enjoyed in person to be appreciated. Hurry, though; this guy's location is possibly going to change due to circumstances out of his and the other food cart vendors' control. You can find the big, silver food trailer just across the street from the Sandy Jug. Yeah, that Sandy Jug.

Chicken Little – Another Northeast Portland thing (if you haven't noticed, I kind of stick to the Eastside as the beast side). Want fried chicken? Want a no-nonsense bartender who's pretty great, makes sure your order is heard by the kitchen and gets you a decent drink at a reasonable price? Go here. This building is nothing to brag about. The inside might remind you of the inside of a 1996 Denny's, but the product—the chicken—is what you're here for. And also their jojos. Damn right, they have perfectly crisped jojos. Get you some of those and a couple of pieces of crunchy chicken, and you'll never question the looks of a place again.

Pinky's – Pinky's is a whiskey bar with pizza. Not vice versa. However, both products are equal in quality. Pinky's also has a bartender who knows everything you would never need and not need to know about whiskey—where it came from, what inspired them to make specific whiskey drinks, and maybe give you a story or two about their days as a clown. The owner is funny as hell, and the relationship they have with their

bartender is something worth hanging out for. It's kind of like watching a "fairly-odd-couple-but-not-actually-a-couple" hang out, make drinks and pizza, and shit-talk each other sometimes. Go for the whiskey, and eat a piece of (or the whole) pizza while you're there.

All right, so I have given you guys a good start to some very underrated food places here in Portland. Pinky's isn't really underrated, but it's also the only pizza place I felt like mentioning because it offers a whole experience. Dinner, whiskey, and sometimes a show behind the bar...or trivia, one of those nights I always forget about. They could all use your business and are worth the bus ride or drive over. Especially that chimney cake place. Seriously, I can't get enough of it. Make note that you may be waiting around for the products here to be made, but quality should never be rushed.



Some honorable mentions that no longer exist but would have if things had turned out differently: Big-Ass Sandwiches, Reo's Ribs, Jim & Patty's, Foster Burger, and American Dream Pizza. Listing more would just be sad. Either way, visit the places I've listed above so that they don't become "dead memories." (sigh...social media, old folks...)

Side note: if you just type in "Taste Tickler" without also adding "Portland" to a search, you will get a completely different set of search results...

Hannah One Cup can be found eating...like...two chimney cakes, or at least ordering two, and lying to herself about probably only eating one. That's just after she finished wiping the hot dog sauce from her face and slurping down her whiskey. You can find her at one of these places at least once a week. So come visit, get an autograph, and eat some food that you aren't getting enough of. Bon appétit Portland foodie twerps. Go get some good food, and stop acting like the building needs to be in a hip neighborhood to visit. The best gems are always hidden.



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Instead of blaming others, let's work together to end accidental overdoses.

Model: Gi Mary Jane Photographer: @saintsashaphotography

YOU WANT A RENAISSANCE? PAY FOR IT!

By Blazer Sparrow

After brushing up on my *My Bloody Valentine* trivia last month and watching *Becoming Led Zeppelin* and *Midas Man*, I had an epiphany—if you want good art, you have to pay for it. Not you, the consumer (although, ideally, you're paying for it in a way that's not Spotify). The people with money need to pay for it—the Patron Class.

For a little context on the title, we gotta go back a few hundred years—the Renaissance. Often lauded as the explosion of art and culture that lifted Europe out of the dark ages and started the domino fall toward modernity. Usually, historians and annoying people focus on the art itself and spiral into boring and inaccurate “great men of history” discussions about the quality of the art and skill of the artist. While—yes—there were definitive technical improvements over the low bar set by medieval art (personally, I love the giant killer snails and weird-looking horses, but yes, fine, technically not super accurate to real life), the Renaissance as a movement is almost entirely the result of rich assholes shoveling metric fuck-tons of money into projects to diss their economic and political rivals.

Again, this isn't to say these works of art (and architecture, poetry, etc.) aren't jaw-dropping. That's not what I'm arguing. What I'm arguing is how this shit came into being on such a grand scale. Money. Michaelangelo, Leonardo, and the other Ninja Turtles are not precious little geniuses who garnered a grass-roots following that they monetized through shrewd business savvy and merchandise sales into a living. No, they were handed a check for a bazillion old-timey dollars from Frederico Ferdifucktard to build a statue that insinuates that their business rival, Giovanni de Ballsack, is a sodomite. Please don't look any of these names up and @ me. I did no research for this piece and am behind the submission deadline. This is based on vibes and fuzzy memories from college alone.

What I'm *also* arguing is that the concept of grand, trendsetting art in general, as the result of some isolated inspiration from some genius, is also complete bullshit. There are little geniuses everywhere making great art, but if there's no one to financially support or promote them, they'll often die in obscurity or, worse, waste away in some farm, battle-

field, factory, or office building.

I'm *mainly* arguing that any of our favorite musicians are even on our record shelf because some patron (for whatever reason) believed in them and footed the bill until the money started rolling in.

Now, the counterargument to this is that it leads to predatory relationships between artists and management. The ones everyone knows about are Elvis and Colonel Tom. David Bowie was famously trapped in a very lopsided contract with Tony Defries. Fair. If you let someone pay your way early on, you'll owe them later. But again, so what? We don't know who Elvis is without Colonel Tom. I am an unabashed David Bowie fan and will talk at ends about how he is unique and essential as an artist, but I seriously doubt that I'd have any idea who he was if Tony Defries didn't invest in the product early on (the product being Bowie himself).



Some folks were luckier. Peter Grant, awful human that he was, made sure Led Zeppelin kept all the wealth their labor created. The Beatles *do not exist* without Brian Epstein. These would still be fantastic groups with great songs and great performances, but you'd only know about either of them if you happened to catch a show at the Cavern Club in Liverpool. I remember reading about how even before the Beatles met Epstein, they were getting £100 a week in Hamburg, worth nearly 3-fucking-grand today. Where are the clubs paying artists 3k a week for residencies now? That's where you'll find the next

Beatles.

One of my *favorite* anecdotes about some true Renaissance patronage is David Gilmour's introduction to Pink Floyd in 1967. Apparently, the band's manager set David up in a spare room at his own fucking house and gave him a salary of £30 a week. Adjusted for inflation, that's £700 a week today. That's more than I make. Probably more than you make, too. Imagine all the hits you could write if you were given a place to live and a monthly salary of nearly \$3K.

I've told the Lady Gaga story in these pages several times. Free rent in Manhattan for a year while hustling in the music business. *My Bloody Valentine* is just bleeding Creation Records dry to pay rent. Billie Eilish definitely owns a house or two now, but when she first broke in 2019, she was still living rent-free with her parents. She was also 17, which is a normal age to be doing that, but still.

“Real” punk rockers like to complain about Sex Pistols being a boy band, but without Malcolm McLaren's patronage, the Sex Pistols don't exist, and thus, the shitty bands said “real” punk rockers pretend to like, don't exist either. Also, a fun fact: while McLaren definitely gets credit for creating and branding the band, Nora Forster footed the bill. If you don't know who she is, look her up...a fascinating figure in the London rock scene from the '60s onward. She started dating Johnny Rotten early in the band's career and financed the whole thing. That's right, Sex Pistols stayed afloat because of a Sugar Mama...and McLaren's clothing shop called “Sex.” Hot.

The Velvet Underground's game-changing 1967 album (the one with the banana) is the experimental masterpiece that it is because Andy Warhol basically gave the band a blank check on condition that they let Nico join the band. You don't take those stylistic chances when you're scraping together tips you saved for studio time and hope to get a return on investments with a hit song.

Greatness is not data-driven, it is vibe-driven. Get at it, rich people. In the worst-case scenario, you threw away a bunch of money on a failed pet project. But what else are you doing with your money? Investing in the stock market? Boring.



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THE By Ian Sellwood

COMPANION BRUTALIST

This review was supposed to be for *Companion*. I had the Word doc set up. I made sure I had a fresh tube of lube and a new box of unscented tissues on my way to the theater. After being rudely *cock teased* by the Megan Fox caper on Netflix, I was beyond excited to see a proper robot sex slave flick in theaters. Even more so, to finally see Sophie Thatcher's fat titties flop around. Spoiler alert, *all you get is some side boob!* I was furious. Dick in hand for an hour and a half. Just a bunch of blood and guts and, like, social commentary or some such horseshit. I never walked out of a theater so fast...as soon as the credits rolled. I started writing a piece about how dumb and disappointing this film was and how there *needs* to be some maverick in Hollywood who's willing to do a proper robot sex slave movie, ideally, with some young actress we haven't seen naked yet. But I couldn't make it to a thousand words and scrapped the idea and went to bed...blue-balled and grumpy.

The next day, I was scrolling through the celebrity section of Pornhub, trying to console myself, and got bored. It's just not the same when it's not in the theater...with other people. I went on my usual forums and noticed a lot of noise being made about this new, long movie that was supposed to be reminiscent of big, bloated, auteur movies from the '70s. I figured I'd see it so I could pwn all the feminazis bemoaning a return to straight white men manspreading their genius in theaters. I live off disability, so I had 4 hours to kill. Then, wouldn't you know it? I had some material for my *Exotic* piece! Thank you, straight white male filmmaker with delusions of grandeur! You know what we want to see on the big screen. Tits and ass and bush and fucking!

SPOILERS AHEAD

I don't know anything about World War II, Brutalism, architecture in general, Hungary, or postwar European immigration in the States. This movie was long as all hell and seemed to be mostly about those things. For a second, I thought I was watching the wrong movie since I swear to God I saw Adrian Brody in some other movie about WWII, where he had a funny European accent. I didn't bring

my lube or tissues, but this time, I brought a notebook to take down any points I could use to show how this film was far better than any trash Greta Gerwig has made. But then the camera looms on some juicy mid-century whore leaning in front of a cathouse for a spell longer than I was expecting. There's no way, I thought. I figured this movie was going to be lots of talking and long shots of buildings or some shit. And then, next thing I know, Adrian Brody's flaccid wang (or wang prosthetic, most likely) is getting jerked off by said juicy mid-century whore! Sadly, it looked like some naked fun time was happening in the background, but it was all blurred out. Points off, but it was the thought that counts. I was so taken aback and felt woefully unprepared since I didn't bring my lube or tissues. I decided to start taking notes for this piece and turn on my phone to film whatever I could to upload to Mr. Skin later.

The handjob was graphic, without being graphic. I think you get a glimpse of head (or prosthetic head), but the whore's hands are covering most of it. Still, it's the setting that's hot. I can't stress enough how much better it would be if we could see what the hell was going on in the background. We see the fuzzy outline of what looks like some great, big tits, but sadly, that's it. Maybe there'll be a 6-hour director's cut where this whorehouse scene is fleshed out more.

What follows is a whole bunch of talking and buildings. I nearly got bored and left until our main character went to an old-school porno theater, and we got an eyeful of silent film smut! *Finally*, some in-focus titties. Nice ones, too. And bush. And somewhat graphic fucking. It didn't last quite long enough to get a good nut, but so far, about a hundred percent more jerk material than *both* robot sex slave movies I wasted my time with.

There's another off-screen handjob and a fairly graphic fuck scene. We get to see Felicity Jones's bush (or merkin), and there's some choking stuff.

All to say, I was pleasantly surprised by this movie that's pissing a lot of people off, be-



cause it's long. Unfortunately, I gotta give it a pretty low score since the ratio of nudity to talking and buildings is abysmally low. *But* the good bits are good. And it made me appreciate what this young whippersnapper, Brady Corbet, is doing. See, another thing about those '70s straight white male genius movies is they had a lot of tits and fucking in 'em. 'Cause that's what straight white dudes like to see. Can't have an obnoxiously long historical epic without a gratuitous fuck scene or two! It wasn't perfect, but it's a start. And it definitely made up for all the time I wasted watching these robot sex slave movies without any sex.



2/5 eggplants

Ian Sellwood is a voice actor, comedian and certified Sigma Male from Lake Oswego. He frequently contributes content to Mr. Skin and is highly active on 4chan. He can be reached at iancel@xmag.com

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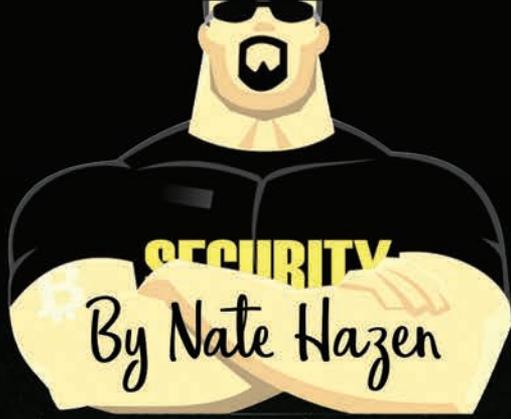
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A BOUNCER'S CRASH COURSE IN PHILOSOPHY VOL. 3: ARISTOTLE

You may recall that I started a series on philosophy for bouncers several months back. You may also recall that I left that series hanging, never having gotten around to part 3, in which I intended to cover the philosophy of Aristotle. Well, that loose end has left me with an itch in my brain, in desperate need of scratching...like an unresolved melody or those cell phone game ads where the person playing fails miserably at a game, that you'd clearly have beaten. Which reminds me, I need to go through my phone and delete a bunch of games I've never played. Okay, lest I allow myself to get further off track, let's dive into some Aristotle.

"Men acquire a particular quality by constantly acting in a particular way." Also: "Quality is not an act; it is a habit." As the old joke goes, how do you get to Carnegie Hall? Practice, practice, practice! Go ahead and take a moment to hear the imaginary rimshot for that absolute groaner of a joke. Want a little consistency in your customers' behavior? Then, you need to show some consistency in enforcing rules to give them a clear picture of what behaviors are acceptable and which are not. Want to catch some fake IDs and keep the underage kids out of your club? Be consistent about checking IDs and paying attention to the details. Want to keep weapons out of the club? Be consistent with pat downs. I could keep going, but you get the point: consistently run things the way you want them to run.

"All human actions have one or more of these seven causes: chance, nature, compulsion, habit, reason, passion, desire." If you read volume two of this series several months back, you might recall that Plato had a similar but much shorter list: desire, emotion, and knowledge. Aristotle more than doubled Plato's list with the addition of chance, nature, compulsion, and habit.



Whichever list you choose to follow, the point is the same. The ability to figure out the causes behind a person's actions is a serious asset when working security. Getting to the bottom of a behavior can help formulate a more effective approach to address those actions.

"A friend to all is a friend to none." Everybody is your best friend, and nobody is your best friend. That's my approach to the job. The idea is simple. Treat everyone like they're your best friend; that's called customer service. Treat no one like they're your best friend; that's called accountability. Aristotle is speaking here about the latter. It's not humanly possible to be friendly with everyone all the time. Sometimes, it becomes impossible not to take sides. I mean, is anybody out there still a fan of both Kendrick *and* Drake at this point? Hell, is anyone out there still a fan of Drake at this point? Sadly, people do wrong by others. Sadder still, some either can't or won't bring themselves to right



their wrongs or correct unacceptable behaviors. Overinflated ego, underdeveloped sense of humility, hell, and feelings of shame are all things that can cause a person to stick to their guns, even when they're in the wrong. On the job, you have to deal with that, even if the one in the wrong is one of your friends.

While we're on the subject of friends...

"My best friend is the man who, in wishing me well, wishes it for my sake." The bouncer gig can be a lot of fun, and I've made some really good friends along the way, but it also tends to put you face-to-face with a lot of phony-ass people with ulterior motives. If you like expanding your vocabulary like I do, the word for these people is "sycophants." They'll suck up to you for various reasons; maybe they're hoping you'll get them in for free, or maybe they're hoping they can get away with shitty behavior if they're friends with security. Take care to recognize these people for the parasites they are and deal with them accordingly.

"Dignity does not consist in possessing honors, but in deserving them." Remember the scene in *Road House*, where Dalton explains to the staff of the Double Deuce that being called a cocksucker isn't personal but rather a verbal attempt to get under their skin? People will lash out in an attempt to—as Dalton put it—"elicit a prescribed response." They'll talk whatever shit their puny little minds can muster to try to punish you for enforcing

the rules. People love to talk about money in this context. They seem to think bouncers are making minimum wage for some reason. My age seems to come up a lot more lately as well. 40-year-old bouncer, they love to say, as though security work is only a valid profession through your thirties. People like that fail to understand something both Dalton and Aristotle clearly understood. There's no point in letting a petulant toddler of a customer bait you with words.



"Character may also be called the most effective means of persuasion." Not everything needs to escalate to the point of physical altercation. Anyone who knows me well knows I'm a big proponent of de-escalation. What is de-escalation, really, but an exercise in persuasion? Rather than letting someone goad you into conflict, try putting that winning personality of yours to good use and de-escalate!

"The ideal man bears the accidents of life with dignity and grace, making the best of circumstances." I've certainly made my share of mistakes along the way. Haven't you? Don't lie. Mistakes are how we learn and grow. Own your mistakes, do what you can to make things right, look for the lessons to be learned, and earnestly try to do it better next time. That's not just how to become a better bouncer, it's how to become a better person.

Well, that's a wrap on Aristotle, so consider that pesky brain itch of mine scratched! If you're enjoying this philosophy series and you're just not ready for it to end, take heart, my friend. I think I'm going to keep it going every now and again, moving into the realm of more modern philosophers like Locke, Hobbes, Bentham, Kant, Nietzsche, and Camus. Until then, keep on using that brain of yours. Lord knows we need it now more than ever!

Nate Hazen is a bouncer, writer, and occasional student of philosophy. Come to X Exotic Lounge and Dixie Tavern to talk to him about your favorite philosopher. Also, check out his strip club stand-up comedy night at X Exotic Lounge on the first Wednesday of every month.

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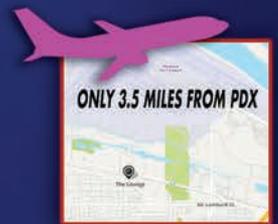
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