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**A TALE OF TWO STRIPPERS**

**8:30 PM**

Sandria arrives at the club early enough to get prepared for her nine o’clock shift, making sure to check in with the DJ and bartender, informing them that she will be ready to take stage/shots within a few minutes. Making sure to communicate with arriving dancers with whom she may or may not be paired in rotation, Sandria gets her makeup and outfit on before approaching the floor and introducing herself to the few regulars who she has not already shared lapdance time with.

Becky texts the booking agent with a two-page story of raised bridges, missed bus lines and improper perforations, informing him that she will be a “few minutes late” to her shift and to tell the DJ to put her in rotation.

**9:45 PM**

Sandria has not made a dime on stage yet, but her persistently good attitude and pole performances are noticed by the dude at the video poker machine, who smiles at her from across the room. Sandria smiles back, but after she steps off stage, she politely asks the DJ to make an announcement regarding tips.

Becky comes walking into the club in a hurry, showcasing an unzipped gym bag attached to an arm that is currently trying to finish an angry text to her boyfriend, while hair irons and baby wipes fight to stay inside a pile of mismatched outfits and one dollar bills that should have been cashed in the night before. As she runs by the DJ, Becky shouts “put me up whenever and make sure I’m not paired with any of the hotter girls,” thus alienating her (and the DJ) from co-workers for the remainder of the shift. Becky bombards into an over-capacity dressing room and shoves a pile of the new girl’s clothes to the side to make room for her oversized backpurse.

**10:30 PM**

The guy at the video poker machine just hit the bonus round on the Flush Fever game, and after cashing out a few hundred dollars at the bar, he immediately approaches Sandria for a private dance. After finding similar interests through casual conversation mixed with subtle, flirtatious body language, Sandria and Poker Guy hit it off quite well and they spend the remainder of the hour in the VIP lounge. Sandria makes a few hundred bucks before she takes stage once again to perform her rehearsed, professional exotic dance routine.

“Why the fuck are you at my stage if you aren’t gonna tip?!” Becky yells at a deaf customer who has never been to a strip club before. Poker Guy notices this and decides to wait until Sandria takes the stage again before dropping any money on the rack. Angry at the general lack of rainmakers, as well as the fact that the DJ played the wrong mislabeled Linkin Park remix, Becky waits until the exact second her set is over before angrily stomping off stage and heading to the bar for a can of beer and a whiskey shot, each of which she consumes in a matter of seconds. Turning to the closest customer, a newly-divorced entrepreneur who came to the bar with intentions of spending his ex-wife’s alimony at the speed of a Kenyan athlete, Becky proclaims loudly “there aren’t any customers in here, this sucks!”

**11:34 PM**

A bachelor party is let into the club, but is cut off at the door due to visible intoxication. The small group of douchey college-aged white boys decides to sit at Sandria’s stage, waving dollar bills in front of her (but not handing them over) yelling things like “Show us your asshole!” and “Hey DJ, play some dubstep!” Sandria smiles politely at the bouncer, signals with a two-fingers-rubbing-on-a-thumb motion to the DJ and waits for him to make an announcement regarding tip etiquette and proper behavior at the rack. At which point…

Becky rushes the stage and demands that the small group of Jersey Shore outcasts get the fuck out of her club if they’re gonna make a scene. This escalates into a full-on shouting match between the overly-intoxicated dancer and her now-86’d opponents—causing Entrepreneur Guy to close out his tab and head to a quieter, classier club (located two blocks in any direction, as he lives in Portland). After the fratboys are hauled out of the club, Becky returns to the Megatouch machine at the bar, bitching once again, about the lack of patrons in the establishment.

**12:45 AM**

Jason, the booking agent, receives a text from Sandria that reads “what is the mandatory tip-out for security? I don’t want to short the staff on accident.”

Jason receives a text from Becky that says “SANDRIA IS TAKING ALL MY FUKCING CUSTOMERRRSS AND UR BARTTENDR IS A CUNT IM GOING HOM!!”

Sandria realizes that she has not made her anticipated amount of income for the night and politely asks the DJ if he’s okay with a smaller tip in exchange for a larger one the next time they work. The DJ responds “sure, but let me know what I can do to help you make money for the remainder of the shift.” Sandria asks a small group of dudes at a table what they like to listen to. Surprised that the DJ and dancer are both fans of GG Allin, the group decides to head to the rack to witness Sandria’s punk-rock routine. Sandria makes seventy dollars during the set and ends up tipping the DJ and security more than usual.

**2:24 AM**

Becky finishes an hour-long phone argument with her driver while doing cheap coke in the dressing room. After several attempts at locating an alternative ride home, Becky hastily packs piles of ones into her giant stripper bag and heads to the bar, where she and the staff will remain until the cab called for Becky arrives. During this time, the DJ and bouncer are short-tipped and Becky complains that she is never given enough night shifts because the booking agent is an asshole.

**3:00 AM**

Becky’s cab driver arrives, but he’s that one asshole from her old club and she doesn’t feel comfortable getting in with him. Becky gets a ride home from the tweakers.

Don’t be a Becky.

Statutory Ray is a deadbeat uncle and local D-list celebrity, currently serving time for aggravated jaywalking.
A tale of two strippers

Becky comes walking into the club in a hurry, showcasing an angry text to her boyfriend, while hair irons and baby wipes stick out of an unzipped gym bag attached to an arm that is currently trying to find a ride home. Becky bombards the DJ to make an announcement regarding tips. Becky yells at a deaf customer who has never been to a strip club before. Why the fuck are you at my stage if you aren’t gonna tip?!

DJ played the wrong mislabeled Linkin Park remix, Becky waits until the exact second her set is over before angrily stomping off stage and heading to the bar for a can of beer and a whiskey shot. Poker Guy notices this and decides to wait until Sandria takes the stage again before dropping any money on the rack. An- other customer at the bar, informing them that she will be ready to take stage/shots any customers in here, this sucks!"

Sandria gets her makeup and outfit on before approaching the floor. Sandria is walked out to her car by security. Two tweaker-look- ing dudes at a table what they like to listen to. Surprised that the DJ played the wrong song, Sandria and Poker Guy hit it off quite well and they spend the remainder of the hour in the VIP lounge. Sandria makes a few hundred bucks before she takes stage once again to perform her rehearsed, professional exotic dance routine. Poker Guy looks over at the DJ and looks back at Sandria. The DJ responds "sure, but let me know what I can do to help you make money for the remainder of the shift." Sandria asks a small group of Jersey Shore outcasts get the fuck out of her club if they’re gonna make a scene. This escalates into a full-on shouting match between the overly-intoxicated dancer and her now-86’d opponents—causing Entrepreneur Guy to close out his tab and head to a quieter, classier establishment with his newly acquired cohort. Entrepreneur Guy currently serves time for aggravated jaywalking.Entrepreneur Guy reads "what is the mandatory tip-out for security? I don’t want to short the staff on accident." Becky texts the booking agent with a two-page story of raised voices and a plea to ‘"TAKING ALL MY FUKCING CUSTOMERS AND UR 3:00 AM tips Steve an extra ten dollars."

Becky’s cab driver arrives, but he’s that one asshole from her co-workers for the remainder of the shift. Becky bombards the DJ to make an announcement regarding tips. Becky gets a ride home from the tweakers. Jason receives a text from Becky that says "SANDRIA IS CURRENTLY SERVING TIME FOR AGGRAVATED JAYWALKING."

Jason, the booking agent, receives a text from Sandria that reads "what is the mandatory tip-out for security? I don’t want to short the staff on accident." Sandria has not made a dime on stage yet, but her persistently good attitude and pole performances are noticed by the dude at the Megatouch machine at the bar, bitching once again, about the lack of patrons in the establishment. The guy at the video poker machine just hit the bonus round on a smaller tip in exchange for a larger one the next time they work. Becky gets a ride home from the tweakers.

A tALe Of twO StRIPPeRS

Sandria makes seventy dollars during the set and ends up tipping the DJ for the remainder of the shift. Becky rushes the stage and demands that the DJ stay inside a pile of mismatched outfits and one dollar bills and introducing herself to the few regulars who she has not already made a name for herself. Becky texts the booking agent with a two-page story of raised voices and a plea to ‘"TAKING ALL MY FUKCING CUSTOMERS AND UR 3:00 AM tips Steve an extra ten dollars." Becky’s cab driver arrives, but he’s that one asshole from her co-workers for the remainder of the shift. Becky bombards the DJ to make an announcement regarding tips. Becky gets a ride home from the tweakers. Jason receives a text from Becky that says "SANDRIA IS CURRENTLY SERVING TIME FOR AGGRAVATED JAYWALKING." Jason, the booking agent, receives a text from Sandria that reads "what is the mandatory tip-out for security? I don’t want to short the staff on accident." Sandria has not made a dime on stage yet, but her persistently good attitude and pole performances are noticed by the dude at the Megatouch machine at the bar, bitching once again, about the lack of patrons in the establishment. The guy at the video poker machine just hit the bonus round on a smaller tip in exchange for a larger one the next time they work. Becky gets a ride home from the tweakers.
When bands like The Grateful Dead, Jimi Hendrix, Joni Mitchell and The Phish were all freely roaming this country, we gained 52 new STDs, FACT! Our daughters are being molested by Mick Jagger, our sons raped by Justine Bieber. There is only one reason for this nastiness, it is known as “The Hippies.”

Just like their hero Adolf Hitler, this group preys on young, ignorant children. These children love the sounds of drums, causing their heartbeats to rise and making their once-flaccid lives worthwhile. These evil bands are causing fornication rape at every concert and not providing Pastors to tell them why dipping your twiddle rompus in a Sinning Sally’s fish cave is wrong. America needs to throw Santorum at these bands and teach them what Godly is. Unfortunately, we have sluts like Sandra Fluke attempting to get “free” birth control because it keeps their separator flap from touching pregnancy zones or whatever the medical terms are. It means she is a whore who wants lots of men to enter her special garden before marrying them and that makes her a slut.

What, though, could have caused this epidemic of “free love” and birth control in God’s Country? How do sluts and prostitutes end up testifying in front of Congress without a man standing behind them? This is the problem with Women’s Suffrage, they think they matter. I think I got distracted from my main point a little, but women are just ridiculous in thinking that they know how to drive or vote. I mean, they drove the fake American named Obama into the White House. What else can they screw up with their votes?

Wait…we were discussing the hippie movement and their love of Adolf Hitler, right? Many of you are wondering how I can possibly have gotten from calling for an end to Women’s Suffrage, to Hippies and back to Hitler, but it is simple. Hitler was insane and so are women. Please do not call me a sexist though, I love my wife. I could not live without women. Without them, my laundry would be dirty, my meals never cooked and my mistress would be a man (which is a horrible thought). The problem is that women love irrational things like romantic comedies, not having anal sex, torturing men with conversations and Celine Dion. Hitler loved those things, and so did the hippies! We only need to look back to Hitler’s rise in Germany to find where the hippie movement (and also feminazis) began.

I will give you some history lessons about both the hippies and Hitler first, then I will allow you to draw your own conclusion about the fact that hippies worship Adolf Hitler. If you disagree with my scientific findings, you are wrong and should be placed in a mental hospital.

Adolf Hitler was born on April 20th, 1889 and was murdered by Communists on April 30th, 1945. Adolf created the film industry in America when he was seven years old and made Charlie Chaplin into a worldwide hero. When he became a teen, Hitler went through a rebellious stage, but what teen hasn’t? He “allegedly” raped a German pornstar named “Ina Brown,” which meant she only took it in the “Mahogany Balloon Knot.” Adolf and this porn-rape star would eventually get married and die together.

Eventually, Hitler became friends with Ferdinand Anton Ernst Porsche. It was a coupling of two gay men who had an idea for the future of automobiles. Ever since these two met, Volkswagen and Porsche vehicles were only driven by gay men or lesbian females. Try to argue the fact that Porsche said “173% of our latest vehicles are owned by men who suck on ‘weed sticks’ and rape other men with their brains while masturbating.” Even a car company knows that hippies are evil.

Volkswagen created a van in the early 1950s that hippies have chosen as their bed of choice. Some of the hardcore, racist hippies only enjoy earlier versions of this van, while many others will buy “camper” versions. Everybody reading this knows that in these “racist” vans, White girls are given up to Blacks, Mexicans or monkeys for sex, but since all hippies believe in evolution, they might be the girl’s relatives proving that hippies approve of incest. These vans are used for covert drug deals, terrorist bombings, rape and drum circles. At the end of a rape festival in these vans, women will leave smelling like patchouli, semen and shame. It is sad.

Adolf Hitler also loved Socialism, just like hippies. His political party was the Nationalist Socialist party. The hippies leave out the “Nationalist” part because they hate everywhere. Socialism seems “cool” to these types, though. Socialism is a system of everybody being equal. Sounds good, right? WRONG!!! Socialism will steal everything you have earned, throw it in a giant pot and then hand it out to other people. Why would anybody want to lose what they have earned? If this is what you want, go to Uganda and join up with Joseph Kony, because he will take all your stuff and make you equal to everybody—including the two year olds with machine guns (I can’t believe you Liberals are siding with Kony now).

As I stated earlier, April 20th is the birthday of Adolf Hitler. 4/20 is the worldwide symbol for getting on the pot. Why must hippies always use Hitler as a reason to get on the pot? Is it because of bad bands like The Phish, Grateful Dead, Yoko Ono and more, or is it due to a class struggle between us all? When you Liberals in the Northwest cry out for the “right to gay marry each other,” I may get sick and vomit, but I believe in the choice of the voters. I am still up-chucking oat bran when I see two men holding hands in Washington, but thankfully we, in Oregon, don’t have that fairy foolishness. I’m sure when The Phish comes here in May, we will be told by the hippies to let the gays act like humans too.

Hitler=Gay Marriage! I have proved it with infallible facts. If anybody wants to argue these facts, contact me on my Facedspaces page or my Twatter feeds—both are Bruce Danus because I don’t hide from the truth!
edly” raped a German pornstar named “Ina Brown,” which meant went through a rebellious stage, but what teen hasn’t? He “alleged” Chaplin into a worldwide hero. When he became a teen, Hitler entered the industry in America when he was seven years old and made Charlie the next Hitler first, then I will allow you to draw your own conclusion. I disagree with my scientific findings, you are wrong and should sufferage, to Hippies and back to Hitler, but it is simple. Hitler was born on April 20th, 1889 and was murdered by Communists on April 30th, 1945. Adolf created the film in-ustry in America when he was seven years old and made Charlie a man (which is a horrible thought). The problem is that women love irrational things like romantic comedies, not having children or washing clothes. I think I got distracted from my main point a little, but women are just ridiculous in thinking that they know medical terms are. It means she is a whore who wants lots of men separator flap from touching pregnancy zones or whatever the V olkswagen created a van in the early 1950s that hippies used for covert drug deals, women will leave smelling like patchouli, festival in these vans, women will leave smelling like patchouli, avoiding the”Nationalist” part because they hate everywhere. Socialism is a system of stealing everything you have earned, throw it in a giant pot and Hitler=Gay Marriage! I have proved it with infallible facts. As I stated earlier, April 20th is the birthday of Adolf Hitler. What, though, could have caused this epidemic of “free love” for this nastiness, it is known as “The Hippies.” Just like their hero Adolf Hitler, this group preys on young, ignorant children. These children love the sounds of drums, causing fornication rape at every concert and not providing Pastors to tell them why dip-pong your twiddle rompus in a Sinning Sally’s fish cave is wrong. These evil bands are causing fornication rape at their heartbeats to rise and making their once-flaccid lives worthwhile. These evil bands are causing fornication rape at Uganda and join up with Joseph Kony, because he will take all their semen and shame. It is sad. It is known as “The Hippies.” Just like their hero Adolf Hitler, this group preys on young, ignorant children. These children love the sounds of drums, causing fornication rape at every concert and not providing Pastors to tell them why dip-pong your twiddle rompus in a Sinning Sally’s fish cave is wrong. These evil bands are causing fornication rape at their heartbeats to rise and making their once-flaccid lives worthwhile. These evil bands are causing fornication rape at Uganda and join up with Joseph Kony, because he will take all their semen and shame. It is sad.
Welcome to our next segment in our ongoing adventures of the unsung heroes of the strip club. After spending two months addressing the highs and lows of the strip club DJ, we’ll be moving on to our next target—the strip club bouncer. Also known as the doorman or security, this proud beast is a character that has only been put in print here in *Exotic* at the helm of our ladies’ self-defense column. You see there’s a reason for this—most of them are not hired for their literary skills, until now. When I had asked several bouncers to share their wisdom and experiences on the titty bars’ frontline with our readers, one piece stood out so strongly, I decided to go ahead and print it in its entirety. As a matter of fact, this contributor will be launching a new monthly manly man’s column in next month’s issue. Enjoy.

**RAMBLINGS OF A STRIP CLUB BOUNCER**

**BY COOPER**

When DJ Spooky X asked me to write an article on bouncers for this month’s *Exotic*, I was both flattered and terrified. While I love to write, it has been quite a while since I have written anything other than reports. So, hopefully the creative juices will revert from their current dormant stage and provide you with an entertaining article.

First, let me tell you what I think my job is, to keep the peace. Think Gary Cooper in *High Noon*, or John T. Chance in *Rio Bravo*. I am not here to pick fights with customers, sleep with the staff or to tell everyone what a tough guy I am. I just keep the peace within the club. When I first started bouncing in strip clubs, I overheard a conversation between a DJ and a dancer that has stayed with me. The dancer was complaining about having to tip out the doorman. “He never fights anyone, so why should I tip him out for not doing anything?” The DJ answered “when nothing happens, it means he is doing his job the right way.”

That is the point, you want it to appear as if nothing happened on your shift. But while I was doing nothing, I was keeping track of six to twelve dancers, a bartender, DJ, the coming and goings of our patrons (all of whom are consuming alcohol), private dances, checking IDs and trying to watch everything that is going on. The overall purpose of this vigilance is to prevent nothing from becoming something. Because once it is something, the options start narrowing.

So what might attract the bouncer’s attention? Let’s look at two scenarios. In the first one, a guy and his mates come to the door. They don’t complain about having their IDs checked or getting wanded for weapons. They exchange greetings with me, head to the bar and order their drinks. Then they shoot some pool or play video crack for a while, end up at the rack and tip the girls a buck or two (per song). They may even buy the dancers a drink, chat for a while and even end up getting a dance or two. The second one goes a little different. You come through the door and bitch about being carded or wanded (or just stand there like a mute). You head straight to the smoking patio, on your cell phone, then come back through the bar and sit at the rack. The first song ends (you are not tipping) and you are pulling out your cell phone while asking the dancer if you can get a blowjob in the private dance area (but you don’t have any money, so you ask if paying in drugs is OK). Which group do you think is going to have my attention?

Once you have my attention, the follow-up could be anything from a polite reminder to tip (or sit somewhere else), to stepping away from the rack to use your phone. Or if you become a threat to the peace of the club, you are going to be asked to leave. How you leave is entirely up to you. You had one drink too many and made a poor decision? I will more than likely give you an out to walk with your pride intact. You become physical or decide to make this your last stand? Then it’s going to go different, and probably not in your favor. It’s never personal, it’s just about not letting something become something bigger.

Remember, the purpose of a strip bar is the club and dancers are there to provide the customer with a friendly, enjoyable experience (or a temporary escape from reality). The fuel for this exchange is money. What the club is not, is a bordello or the mall. My dancers are not prostitutes, so don’t ask. The mall syndrome, as I call it, is the guy who walks in, gets a glass of water, sits and stares. He never orders anything from the bar or tips the dancers. This kind of goes against the stated purpose of what a club is. So don’t be surprised when the bouncer reminds you there is a minimum purchase requirement to stay.

As with all things in life, there are good and bad. There are good bouncers and bad ones. I have seen and worked with both. Yeah, you were an MMA fighter, you’re a tough guy, I get it. But, by provoking a fight instead of just getting the problem out of the club, are you serving the best interest of the club or your clients? I have witnessed other bouncers who just sit on their ass at the front door, staring at the wall, oblivious to everything going on in their club, but expecting a tip at the end of the night. The other
sures-fire way to fail at this job is to violate the trust your fellow staff has placed in you. It is your job to be the “designated driver” for everyone else.

I am going to close this out with a quote from the quintessential cheesy bouncer movie, Roadhouse. “Be nice, until it’s not time to be nice.”

Thanks to Cooper and to all other contributors that have shared their inspirations in this ongoing series thus far. Erotic City will return next month, when we let loose the gods of libations and let the strip club bartenders have their say about their customers, strippers taking over their jobs and exactly what they put in your drinks. Until next month, enjoy the dawn of spring in Portland. Time to get naked.

April EVENTS

**Wed 11** - Stars Cabaret (Beaverton) - Masters Golf Party featuring our very own indoor Masters Course with prizes

**Wed 18** - Stars Cabaret (Beaverton) - Feature Act Dylan Rider Club 205 - Covergirl Dance Contest

**Thu 19** - Stars Cabaret (Bridgeport) - Feature Act Dylan Rider

**Fri 20** - Hawthorne Strip - Impala’s Moving Away Party

**Stars Cabaret (Beaverton)** - Feature Act Dylan Rider

**Doc’s** - Freya’s 70s-style Birthday Bash

**Sat 21** - Stars Cabaret (Bridgeport) - Aristocrats, Diplomats & Pussycats Party - wear your finest formal wear while surrounded by a room full of sexy felines

**Stars Cabaret (Bend)** - Feature Act Dylan Rider

**Sun 22** - Stars Cabaret (Salem) - Rockabilly Ruckus featuring live music with The Back Alley Barbies & Three Bad Jacks

**Thu 26** - Wild Orchid - XXX Pornstar Lexi Belle (through April 21)

**Heat** - VIP Party Round 2 - Another Appreciation Party for our VIP patrons with free food, prizes and drink specials

**Sat 28** - Stars Cabaret (Beaverton) - Booty Contest

**King’s Wild** - PDX Legends starring Exotic covergirls Jackie & Athena, Fireotic with Germany & fetish dungeon shows with Indica Torture

**Sun 29** - Club Rouge - $1,000 Amateur Contest - bring a cheering section, as crowd response is a huge part of your score

**Mon 30** - Stars Cabaret (Beaverton) - Dunk-A-Manager Contest - buy some balls and dunk the manager of your choice in the freezing cold dunk tank

Weekly Events

**MONDAYS** - Rose City Strip - Metal Mondays with DJ Krista spinning only the truest of metal

**Devils Point** - Fire & Burlesque Night

**Dante’s** - Karaoke From Hell - sing with a live band

**TUESDAYS** - Rose City Strip - Free lap dance given away every hour starting at 7pm

**Lucky Devil Lounge** - Tiny Tuesdays with your host 3’6” Nik Sin Club 205 - 2-for-Tuesdays with 2-girl shows

**Habebi Hookah** - Ladies’ nights

**Heat** - Authentic Mexican Menu plus IPA draft specials

**Jody’s Bar & Grill** - Ladies’ Night 7pm - midnight

**WEDNESDAYS** - Pallas Club - DJ Spooky X presents White-Trash Wednesdays featuring Buttrock Bingo with wild 2-girl stage dance prizes plus white-trash whiskey & beer specials, $1 taxi dances & air guitar combat

**Heat** - Wild Wednesdays - drop in from 8pm - 10pm for wild beer specials

**Doc’s** - Topless Wednesdays with Europa

**Carnaval (Male Dancers)** - Couples’ night - male patrons allowed when accompanied with a female

**THURSDAYS** - Heat - Double Trouble Thursdays with 2-girl shows & new Asian menu

**Jody’s Bar & Grill** - Taco Thursdays - all-you-can-eat for $2

**Carnaval (Male Dancers)** - Amateur Night

**SUNDAYS** - Dante’s - Sinferno Cabaret Club Rouge - Absolut Industry Party with special prices on all Absolut flavors plus Absolut giveaways

**Pallas Club** - Free pool all day & night

**Jody’s Bar & Grill** - NASCAR Sundays with domestic pitcher & pint specials during the race & an all-you-can-eat spaghetti buffet for $3

**Devils Point** - World Famous Strippa-raoke!

**Carnaval (Male Dancers)** - Stripper Sundays - free admission to all exotic dancers
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Where Your Fantasy Becomes Reality!
Have you ever been fired and disagreed with the reason behind it? There is no such thing as job security, regardless of your occupation. Recently, CNN featured a follow-up segment on a story regarding a lawsuit filed last year by a former cocktail waitress against a Hustler strip club in New York. The beautiful plaintiff, Josie Muriel, sued the chain alleging that she was fired from her regular waitressing shifts after it became visibly apparent that she was pregnant nearly a year ago, in May 2011. For this, she claimed gender discrimination.

In a statement made by the defense, the owners claimed that her “condition,” (i.e. pregnancy), made her a liability to the club. That kind of defense is laughable because, truly, what is a bigger liability than combining stiletto shoes, waxed stages and alcohol? And yet, that is nightly normalcy in strip clubs. However, I do support their decision to remove the woman from her shifts. In the case of Josie Muriel, I would argue that her attempt to claim sexism is a simply desperate grab at undeserved monies.

Do I believe that business owners have the right to maintain and enforce the aesthetic that they desire for their clubs? I do. Undoubtedly, there are lots of silly reasons why girls in adult entertainment business are terminated, and most of them are subjective. Typically, I hear of girls complaining about losing shifts for not being tan enough, being told that they are “overweight” (or “underweight”) and even for cutting their hair. It’s certainly frustrating, but when we knowingly enter into a type of work that is unprotected and offers no union-type rights, there’s not much to be said or done.

But in the case against Josie Muriel, she knew where she was working. For the same reasons that Hot Topic will always prefer to hire young adults with gauged ears and copious amounts of tattoos, or the reason tanning salons keep saleswomen who look like they are two treatments away from melanoma stage 3, swanky adult businesses (such as this Hustler Club in Manhattan) will always strive to display a select aesthetic. And it does not involve babies.

My interest in this story was initially piqued since I am a former stripper who took a leave of absence during my own pregnancy. I quit dancing at 17 weeks (before I was visibly showing). It was my own choice and decision. While I admit that being a stripper required different functions than being a strip club waitress, I wasn’t comfortable with strangers being able to discern that there was a tiny tadpole person growing inside me. Despite the fact that many people find gestation sexy (I’m finding out now that this it’s definitely more than one might assume), I always associated pregnancy with the inevitable baby: shitty, piss-soaked diapers, crying and snotty faces, and I didn’t want my potential money to feel the same.

My bosses and superiors never doubted for a second that I would stop scheduling shifts much before I was wearing maternity pants. I have no misgivings that they would have wanted me there and I can’t say that I blame them. Don’t get me wrong, some women bask in all things maternal and they carry it very well. Since I left my club, I’ve visited other places with dancers who are obviously in their second trimester, and if their bosses don’t have a problem with it, I surely don’t.

Some sex workers have more leeway and may even incorporate their pregnancy into their appeal (and marketability).

During her first pregnancy in 2005, famed pornstar and director Belladonna filmed several scenes. The films Do Not Disturb and Belladonna Fucking Girls Again both featured a very expectant Bella engaging in a variety of girl-girl fetish scenes. In the first of her Fetish Fanatic series, post-partum Belladonna filmed a BDSM scene with Nina Hartley, fully utilizing her relaxed pussy by stuffing it full of enormous dildos and fists, while pumping milk from her lactating breasts.

In 2011, weeks after pornographer Madison Young had her baby, she created an art exhibit titled “Becoming MILF.” According to jezebel.com, the concept was to explore how Young now embodies the dichotomy to end all dichotomies—that of the Madonna and the whore. At the show’s opening, she served up self-made breast-milk-shakes and displayed a baby quilt made of burp cloths and pornstar panties.” I’ve been told by many in the biz that it would have been financially clever to consider being a peep show girl during my own pregnancy (since everyone who knows someone who did said that they made more money than usual).

Businesses that advocate a wide variety of women might consider having a pregnant woman on shift as an asset. According to recent government statistics, about 4% of the female population in the U.S is ‘expecting’ at any given time. This is not a huge number, but a fairly consistent one and some adult businesses know it. In most porn shops, there are options for varying fetishes; menstruation videos, hairy ladies, curvy and cute to Walmart-obese. The age of performers in these videos runs the gamut from “barely legal” to geriatric. And yes, there’s often a pregnant section of videos.

But, in the case of Muriel vs Hustler, it’s stating the obvious to remind ourselves that the iconic brand does not typically promote diversity in its female employees and performers. I have small tits, fair skin and am moderately tattooed. Because of this, I know that Larry Flynt’s Manhattan minions likely wouldn’t hire me to strip or cocktail and I’m okay with that.

Josie Muriel’s fate will likely be determined by any kind of contract she signed upon her hiring. New York’s civil legal system will figure if she’s ‘owed’ anything by Hustler. In my opinion, she had options in this order: birth control, shma-smortion, a waitressing day job or a financially secure and willing sperm donor/partner to rely on. If a woman in an aesthetics-based industry gets pregnant, it should not be seen as the responsibility of her employer…unless he happens to be the father.

Elle will be returning to the Lucky Devil Lounge stage soon.
Despite the fact that many people are comfortable with strangers being able to discern that there was a tiny tadpole person growing inside me. I wasn’t required different functions than being a strip club waitress, I wasn’t dancing at 17 weeks (before I was visibly showing). It was a stripper who took a leave of absence during my own pregnancy. Josie Muriel, sued the chain alleging that she was fired from her regular waitressing shifts after it became visibly apparent that she was pregnant nearly a year ago, in May 2011. For this, she claimed that they made more money than usual).

There is no such thing as job security, regardless of your occupation. Recently, CNN featured a follow-up segment on a story regarding a lawsuit filed last year by a former cocktail waitress. Some sex workers have more marketability. Businesses that advocate a wide variety of women might consider having a pregnant woman on shift as an asset. According to CNN, there may be other places with dancers who are obviously in the second trimester, and they are financially clever to consider being a peep show girl during their own pregnancy (since everyone who knows someone who did it said that they will figure if she’s ‘owed’ anything by Hustler. In my opinion, she shouldn’t be seen as the responsibility of her employer…unless he relies on. If a woman in an aesthetics-based industry gets pregnant, it is nightly normalcy in strip clubs. However, I do support their association pregnancy with the in-geriatric. And yes, there’s often a pregnant section of videos. Most porn shops, there are options for varying fetishes; menstruation videos, hairy ladies, curvy and cute to Walmart-obese. The age of performers in these videos runs the gamut from “barely legal” to performers with more experience. The age of the performers is often misrepresented or not advertised at all. In a statement made by the defense, the owners claimed that her pregnancy was a desperate grab at undeserved monies. Do I believe that business owners have the right to maintain and enforce the aesthetic that they desire for their clubs? I do. Muriel, I would argue that her attempt to claim sexism is a simply desperate grab at undeserved monies.

Undoubtedly, there are lots of silly reasons why girls in adult business hire young adults with gauged ears and copious amounts of tattoos, working. For the same reasons that Hot Topic will always prefer to hire young adults with gauged ears and copious amounts of tattoos, there’s not much to be said or done. When we knowingly enter into a type of work that is unprotected weight”) and even for cutting their hair. It’s certainly frustrating, but it’s also a part of the gig. Do I believe that business owners have the right to maintain and enforce the aesthetic that they desire for their clubs? I do. Muriel, I would argue that her attempt to claim sexism is a simply desperate grab at undeserved monies.

Have you ever been fired and disagreed with the reason behind it? I was. I was wearing maternity pants. I didn’t want my potential diapers, crying and snotty faces, associated pregnancy with the in-geriatric. And yes, there’s often a pregnant section of videos. Most porn shops, there are options for varying fetishes; menstruation videos, hairy ladies, curvy and cute to Walmart-obese. The age of performers in these videos runs the gamut from “barely legal” to performers with more experience. The age of the performers is often misrepresented or not advertised at all. In a statement made by the defense, the owners claimed that her pregnancy was a desperate grab at undeserved monies. Do I believe that business owners have the right to maintain and enforce the aesthetic that they desire for their clubs? I do. Muriel, I would argue that her attempt to claim sexism is a simply desperate grab at undeserved monies.

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Pantera
FROM
JODY’S BAR & GRILL
But of course, in any industry, there are those who thrive and advantage of. For example, if a lady needs diapers for her baby, we shop, a coffee shop and a couple of churches.

How do you determine who qualifies for these services?

appreciation by giving us monetary support. For instance, one lady funding for all of this?

For these women, we make available no-cost medical services—

The Cupcake Girls are a support and resource system for women in the industry. We exist to bring faith, hope and love to those in and love to the industry.” Ever the skeptic, I spoke with Joy, the founder 2009, the purpose of the Cupcake Girls is “to bring faith, hope and love to the industry.”

The Cupcake Girls are a support and resource system for women those who suffer. You understand that there are plenty...
The Cupcake Girls is a resource group for strippers and prostitutes operating in Las Vegas and Portland. Based in Las Vegas since 2009, the purpose of the Cupcake Girls is “to bring faith, hope and love to the industry.” Ever the skeptic, I spoke with Joy, the founder and director of the Cupcake Girls.

The Cupcake Girls are a support and resource system for women in the industry. We exist to bring faith, hope and love to those in and around the sex industry. We are headquartered in Las Vegas and have been delivering our signature pink cupcakes to the amazing girls in the Las Vegas strip clubs and Nevada brothels since 2009. In November, we launched The Cupcake Girls Portland, our cupcakes, complimentary hair styling, makeup and eyelash services have been very well received by the girls, management and owners. Who can resist a cupcake?

Are any of the founders former sex workers?
At this time, no.
Are you religiously affiliated?
We are an official 501C3 charitable organization. We are not registered as a faith-based outreach. We aren’t looking to shove faith down anyone’s throat or pull girls out of the industry. Instead, we like to be the ones who offer support to the ladies that need it. For these women, we make available no-cost medical services—such as dentist and doctor visits, or help in the form of lawyers, therapists, counselors and support groups. We help girls get their GEDs and help with childcare and babysitting. We’ve thrown baby showers for ladies too.

That’s certainly a broad range of services. How do you acquire funding for all of this?
We throw fundraisers, host events and have been fortunate finding personal supporters who are willing to back us. Often, it’s the family members of the sex workers we assist who reciprocate their appreciation by giving us monetary support. For instance, one lady was in jail and during that time we were managing some things for her that she was unable to attend to. Her parents were so thankful that they decided to support our organization. We also work with organizations such as “Operation Hope” (a group of dentists and doctors in Las Vegas who donate their services) as well as a floral shop, a coffee shop and a couple of churches.

How do you determine who qualifies for these services?
There’s nothing specific needed by anyone—no formal qualifications. It’s really that if a girl reaches out to us, we usually meet up for coffee and talk, get to know her and discuss how she could use some support. We are a nonprofit and work hard to not be taken advantage of. For example, if a lady needs diapers for her baby, we aren’t going to buy her diapers for six months straight, but we can assist a bit and give her guidance in how to fulfill her needs. It’s like that saying about how giving a man a fish feeds him for a day. Teach him to fish and you feed him for life. It’s about empowerment.

But of course, in any industry, there are those who thrive and those who suffer. You understand that there are plenty of girls who love their jobs and aren’t being coerced or trafficked, right? Absolutely. And for the women who are happy with their work, we really exist to be a social group. We go out for drinks, listen to the ladies and just have fun. It’s honestly changed my life—seeing how strong some of you girls are and what you can deal with on the job. I’ve honestly learned a lot and I’ve been so impressed.

Thank you! Personally, I know plenty of strippers (myself included) who positively relish at the assumption that all sex workers are victims of unfortunate circumstance.

We don’t believe that at all. I’m a hairdresser and I know that sometimes I just have a really crappy day at work and would love it if someone came to me with kind words, a box of cupcakes and a hug. It doesn’t matter what you do for a living. From time to time, we all need someone to vent to. It’s not that all of you girls need charity or help. We aren’t saying that we are better than you. We are all just women who like to hang out, have fun and be good to each other. It’s great to be able to visit a club with a box of pink, sparkly cupcakes in hand and treat the ladies to having their lashes or hair done. It doesn’t matter if the woman on shift is a celebrity dancer who is headlining some big Vegas club or if managers have called us in to cheer up a girl who is having trouble with her pimp.

I imagine it can be difficult to connect with some girls on shift because we are so regularly approached for bogus projects by strangers. Have you been met with any resistance?
When girls ask, “Why are you doing this for us?” we just reply that it’s because we love them. The agenda is: there’s no agenda. In Las Vegas, you can’t even get a photo with a person in a Hello Kitty costume without being expected to tip and we know that. We don’t make any money and we aren’t trying to remove women from the industry. Our purpose is to love the girls. There’s nothing hidden.

...and you’re hoping to expand.
Yes, we are very protective of what we do. My husband and I started and it was a serious undertaking. All of our staff undergo an eight-hour training course, as this isn’t just some kid project. In the next decade, we dream of connecting with all the Las Vegas and Portland strip clubs and all of the brothels in Nevada. Beyond that, we would like to establish Cupcake Girls in a hundred US cities.

Any future Portland events?
For Easter this year, we’ll be hand-delivering roses and lip gloss at the clubs we visit monthly: Wild Orchid, Pallas Club and Cabaret! We put on an incredible Breakfast at Tiffany’s-themed spa day in Las Vegas for our girls in December and are working on doing the same event here in Portland! We would also love to do holiday events or birthday celebrations in your club! If you’re interested in having The Cupcake Girls visit your club with our signature pink cupcakes, complimentary hair and makeup services, or for a special event, email us (info@thecupcakegirls.org) or call us at (702) 879-8195.

To donate or learn more, visit thecupcakegirls.org
Bruce Danus: Why did we need to meet in this strange “hookah” bar? It looks more like a Chinese heroin den to me. You aren’t planning on drugging me in order to attempt “packing my mud musket with your twiddle stick,” are you? If you are, be forewarned that I am wearing a double-strength chastity belt.

Ray: Well, seeing how most of the all-male prison orgies that I partake in tend to occur in bathhouses and disco clubs, I would assume that no, you will not be receiving a side of assrape with your interview. As far as the location, this isn’t a hookah bar…its Stumptown Coffee. Why we met here is beyond me, this bird-shaped foam makes my mocha taste like shit.

Bruce Danus: Why do you believe that THC was invented by the Dutch? I think it was an underhanded sneak attack at the lesser intelligent people on the planet. I believe the Dutch knew they could never become a great country, isn’t a hookah bar…its Stumptown Coffee. Why we met here is beyond me, this bird-shaped foam makes my mocha taste like shit.

Bruce Danus: Why do you believe that THC was invented by the Dutch? I think it was an underhanded sneak attack at the lesser intelligent people on the planet. I believe the Dutch knew they could never become a great country, so they decided to make a synthetic drug to cause humans to drop to their intelligence level, but that is just my opinion (backed by Christian Scientists worldwide).

Ray: THC was not invented by the Dutch. Hell, if you read that bible any closer, you’d notice the part where Jesus was “stoned in front of a crowd.” Sounds pretty rockstar to me, if you’re asking. But you’re not, so let me answer your question; there is a middle ground between ineffective faith healing and corporate-backed prescription drug addiction. After injuring my back (read: busting my scapula) at a Ministry (read: guitars and heroin, not bibles and boys) show, I was prescribed a series of knock-you-on-your-ass narcotics. None of them let me function
at a regular level, so I finally broke down and tried the shit that all the dreadlocked folks at the park were promoting. And to be honest, it works for me.

As far as the origination of THC, we have receptor cells in our brains, so I’d ask your god if you want to know the answer. The only reason it’s even illegal is because Herscht and DuPont (paper and oil industries) couldn’t compete with the Mexican hemp factories that were paying workers with the “bud” part of the plant and keeping the non-drug output (hemp) on the market in the early part of the century. It doesn’t help that it was also advertised as part of the “ negro threat” package sold to the public in the early 1940s—back when “hipsters” wore loose clothes and cut their hair.

Bruce Danus: Since marijuana is a well-known gateway drug, what other drugs are you currently on, or what other drugs are you planning on trying? I hear the kids really enjoy a new drug called “X,” crystal meth droplets dipped in LSD and then rolled in heroin. Have you tried that?

Ray: I don’t do street drugs and I’ve never even tried them. I only stick to the natural, god-made chemicals like marijuana, tobacco, LSD, psychedelic mushrooms, hash, molly, Four Loko and Facebook. Don’t bring your junkie shit round these parts, unless they’re altered by one chemical via Reed College Science Dept. to make a socially acceptable substance, like opium.

Bruce Danus: Based on my research, medical marijuana is said, by the liberal hippies, to have healing effects on cancer patients and people who have caught the gay bowel disease known as AIDS. What awful disease caused you to seek out this “therapy”? From the looks of you, I would guess it was something caused by being a hipster-sexual.

Ray: Although I like to think “kicked in the back by a skinhead at a rock show” seems legit, the doctors call what I have Degenerative Osteoarthritis with muscle spasms. The back pain went away years ago, though. I continue to smoke pot because we live in a world where a six-year-dead “crisis” in Africa causes mass protest, but a new season of Jersey Shore goes unchecked. I’d actually swap the back pain for a Snookie-free world, but then I’d have those irritating Christians to deal with still, so no twelve steps for me.

As far as “hipster-sexual,” I’m not sure what you mean by that. If you are implying that I am possibly a HOMO-sexual, then I can understand your ignorance and will pass it off as commonplace. If, however, you are insinuating that I’m a HIPSTER, then I have a dulled-down razor for your taint. I grew up white trash and have since aspired to make more out of myself. Hipsters grow up rich and aspire to be white trash. Dig?

Bruce Danus: Have you tried the new strain of THC known as “Net Pot”? I understand that more than two puffs of this particular strain has caused people’s eyes to bleed and even caused 72 deaths in America.

Ray: No, but it sounds fantastic! Do they carry it at Cannabliss? If so, I’m gonna have to try some!

Bruce Danus: I have recently been forced to smell the after-effects of marijuana, every time I passed the #Occupy camps. Why does the marijuana THC force people to wear patchouli and skip showers? The marijuana you smell is being used by the single, solitary activist who showed up to Occupy Wherever in hopes of joining a relevant, structured social movement and was instead met by apathetic, stinky, trust-fund hippies and Rasta-tutes who will fuck for Phish tickets. He’s medicating his headache.

Bruce Danus: How many times have you or a friend overdosed on THC? I have read that this number is higher than meth and heroin combined and total numbers of reported deaths was over the one million mark. Do you personally know anyone who has died from being on the pot?

Ray: Although statistics say that no one has ever, in the history of time, overdosed from THC, I’ve tried. Trust me, I’ve tried. At my worst, I find myself going through the Muchas Gracias drive-thru two, maybe three times in one night—each time making up Spanish words just to see what they’d give me. Sadly, this usually results in an overdose of (enter poop joke here) but not death.

I’ve also heard that you can die from improper use of a needle, but I can’t figure out how to shoot up weed, nor do I know how to inject drugs. Perhaps I could attend one of your Big Brothers, Little Sisters youth groups and you could teach me?

Bruce Danus: I would love for you to come to one of our prayer meetings. Drugs are strictly prohibited though. We have drug sniffing dogs placed behind the electric fence and before the sniper towers. I will give you the address and password when the interview is over. Anyway, have you thought about why you worship Hitler so much? 4/20 is Hitler’s birthday and you marijuana junkies celebrate it everyday, why is that?

Ray: I wouldn’t say we “celebrate” Hitler as much as we imitate him, well, at least in the whole rounding-up-of-things to toss under flames (and refusal to share showers out of fear related to health risks), but Nazis tend to represent everything us weedheads hate: formality, clean haircuts, groupthink and adhering to authority. The whole “killing of a ton of Jews” shit doesn’t help the cause either. Swastikas and reggae don’t mix, although the original overlap between Jamaican skinheads and modern neo-Nazis is another topic altogether...

Bruce Danus: Do you think something like a “Million Man March” like the blacks did might work for you hippies too? That march made civil rights, affirmative action, March Madness, the NBA and Black History Month. Is it possible to get a million people off the pot for one day to join this march?

Ray: Hell no. Well, not collectively at least. See, there are two types of marijuana users; productive members of society and “the 99%.” I may not own a yacht, but as far as statistics go, I’m the 1% according to the campers I flick cigarettes at on my way to work. The thing with the Million Man March is that black folks were genuinely persecuted. Whereas most marijuana users are just bitchy because they can’t catch a buzz in a public movie theater (although I distinctly remember my buddy Austin and I getting stoned in the front row of Phantom Menace).

Bruce Danus: Thank you for your time, I know it was hard to get off the couch to come do this interview, but I appreciate it. As requested, I brought your payment: a bag filled with “grape” Kool-Aid and shaving cream, a “Hungry Man” chicken dinner, two bags of Doritos and a “Star Wars Play-Doh” set. Can I leave this hippie hole now, please?
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DEATHS POINT

Brodie Grody
A person is looking at porn online, as he and many others around the world do. What sets this particular piece of porn apart is that the subject is not alive, nor is she dead (at least not yet). She’s not real…she’s a drawing, with her neck in a noose. Her feet are on a stool made of ice…it slowly melts. Panic on her face shows that she can count the time, minutes (perhaps seconds) until the tips of her toes, cold, nearly frostbitten and shivering, can no longer touch the gradually melting ice cube.

Fetishes have been around as long as sex. There are far more fetishes than can be counted, such as hand, poop and breast fetishes, etc. But, there is one fetish that is often overlooked—the fetish of gore.

Guro, sometimes called “ero guro” (short for “erotic grotesque”), is a fetish that has been steadily gaining ground for the past several years. Unlike most fetishes, ero guro is different in that it, effectively, sexualizes death, dismemberment and peril.

As far as fetishes go, this one is very far underground. Practitioners of it are often afraid of being stigmatized as being beyond salvation. Those who enjoy breath play, a type of fetish in which one of the partners nearly asphyxiates their self during the sex act, are common and this can be considered to be an offshoot of guro.

However, even those who enjoy this fetish have their limits. The few websites these fetishists gather to have one marked difference than their more mainstream fetish sites: the images shared between these fetishists are all drawn. No real human gore is allowed on the sites. All of the images are cartoons, hand drawn or found on a cartoon (usually a violent Japanese anime). On several of these sites, even extremely lifelike CG is banned.

Gore in art has existed since the first cave paintings were created, but the person credited with starting the modern guro art movement was Japanese woodblock artist Yoshitoshi, who, in the 1860s, started his Bloody Prints series. While these prints were only a small portion of his output, they had a major impact on other artists, writers and critics.

Guro would go on to feature prominently in Japanese literature of the 1920s and 30s, but was heavily censored and suppressed during WWII. After the war, guro found its way into Japanese comic books (manga) and cartoons (anime) that were starting to be imported into the United States. At this time, the most famous guro-type anime was the Urotsukidōji series, with its scenes of tentacle rape.

Today, the vast majority of guro comes from Japanese anime and fans who often commission artists to create images related to their favored form of guro. Guro, itself, is an umbrella word that encompasses several genres—including dismemberment, death, gore, peril, freakshow, vore, beheading, jissouseki and others.

That’s another thing that sets guro apart from other fetishes. Fans of this fetish avoid images of real-life death and gore and feel that it would be an affront to human dignity to get aroused by an image of someone’s mutilated son or daughter.

“As for why I like it, I like guro for being guro,” Alice, a fan of guro in her mid-30s, says, “It’s savage. It’s brutal. It acts as a marvelous compliment to any fetish.”

Many guro fetishists are iffy on the idea of acting out a guro fantasy with a partner. Alice went on to say, “To actually eat someone, or behead someone, for sexual pleasure? Almost certainly not.”

On the other side, there’s Hiromi, mid-20s, who says, “Yes, why not? But, anything that leaves scars or seriously threatens the life of my partner, no. That’s the magic of guro—it’s a fantasy fetish. You can be completely happy and feel sexually fulfilled with it staying that way. I suppose people who have a fetish for real gore could be more inclined to live out some bits of it, but even so, it’s very rare.”

The images themselves do not have to have sexually explicit content in order to be considered guro. Common are scenes showing peril, where death is an eventuality, but never explicitly shown. An example of one of these peril images is an image of a naked woman sitting on a white sheet, her hands and feet are tied and she cannot move. On her are various burning candles. A few feet away is an open container of gasoline. A rope protrudes from the top of the container onto the sheet. The sheet around the rope is wet with gasoline. Death by immolation is most likely how she will die. But, how will she be set on fire? Will gas fumes reach the lighted candles? Will a bit of hot wax cause her to panic and knock off the candles into the sheet (which will catch fire and eventually reach the gas)?

One of the more famous artists of guro is known only by the name XYZ. A Japanese native, his work features a distinctive style. The vast majority of XYZ’s work is in the “Ryona” subgenre of guro (a type of guro in which a woman is attacked or is somehow in pain or misery). Most of his works feature what is known as “belly punching,” which is exactly what it sounds like. However, some of his works venture into territory such as pulling intestines out, ripping the heart out of the ribcage with a bloody hook and driving nails into a person… enough to cause them pain and misery, but not enough to kill them (at least, not for a while).

Ryona itself is a form of Sadism whose name is short for Ryonani, a portmanteau of the Japanese words “ryōki” (bizarre) and “onani” (masturbation).

Why some people get off on gore and peril is a good question. It could be a response to the fight or flight reaction (that seeing peril or gore triggers a response and affects the release of serotonin, endorphins and adrenaline, causing these signals and hormones to produce gratification contingent on the death of a human being. To each their own.
When presented this way, it brings to mind the James Bond villainess, Xenia Onatopp from *GoldenEye*. Gore triggers a response and affects the release of serotonin, endorphins and adrenaline, causing these signals and hormones to produce "onani" (masturbation).

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Walmart is one of my favorite places to shop. I’m that girl. My other favorite place is Home Depot, which is becoming more and more a girl’s favorite place to shop, but that is completely beside the point—this story takes place at Walmart. Well, and a cave outside of Jerusalem, but who’s counting?

So I’m in Walmart looking at two-dollar picture frames and those little garden gnomes with light up hats, when I round the corner, and suddenly come face to face with the mecca of purple, pink and blue glitter. Row upon row of googly-eyed wonder and a football field’s worth of fake grass. It was official - I had reached the Easter section.

After instinctively crossing myself and uttering the Lord’s Prayer under my breath, I remembered that I haven’t been Catholic in twenty one years, so I angrily grabbed the first bunny I saw and stuffed it into a blue watering can with a pink flower on the end of its spout. Maybe I have some issues. The point here, is that Easter and religion go hand in hand for me, and they should for you too, because one begat the other, right? Jesus died, and to celebrate his resurrection, we prance around in pink party dresses, passing out candy and sparkle-laden Easter eggs to saucer-eyed children while mum makes a fluffy, white coconut cake in the shape of a bunny…Wait, what? Hallmark has as much of a hold on me as my religious past, evidently.

There are many different versions of the origin of Easter. After all, it was (of course) a Pagan holiday long before Christians adopted it to make their theology more acceptable and over time its origins got muddled. I’m not here to argue those points or to even present them in a concise, orderly fashion—I’m here to talk about the bunnies.

What do bunnies have to do with Easter? I would say bunnies don’t lay eggs and giant rabbits don’t hide candy in your yard while you’re sleeping, but we’re dealing with a group of people who believe in talking snakes and virgin births and you can never be too careful.

Alas, it was not the wacky Christians who hatched the idea of a bunny to escort their savior to his resurrected seat in heaven. Nay! It was the heathens—those nature-worshipping, ritual-dancing pagans of course! It appears I’m not going to avoid comparing and contrasting religious origins after all.

Alright then, here goes nothing.

Easter. The origin of the word itself is rife with controversy, but after several hours (seconds) at the library (Wikipedia), it is pretty clear that Easter is derived from the goddess Eostre of Anglo-Saxon Paganism. Eostre was the goddess of spring and fertility, and what animals are best known for non-stop sexual healing? Bunnies. The rabbit is Eostre’s symbol, as well as a symbol of the earth’s rising fertility at the Vernal Equinox. During the Spring Equinox it is believed that male and female energies are most perfectly aligned, so the pagans did what pagans do best—they had “fertility festivals.” Ah, let’s close our eyes for a moment and imagine a world untouched by Puritanism.

Eggs have been a symbol of fertility since the beginning of time (I love it when people use that phrase—I don’t think eggs were the first thing to come barreling out of the big bang), but it wasn’t until the introduction of Lent into Catholicism that eggs made their big debut on the Easter dinner table. Many things are forbidden during Lent, including meat and cheese, but since those things don’t store very well (and eggs do), that’s what they ended up saving up for the big day after Lent, which is, you guessed it…Easter.

From this, we somehow got stuck with the idea of an egg-laying bunny, and not surprisingly, we can blame the Germans. Long-standing German myths speak of the “Osterhas,” or Ostara (Easter) Hare (Bunny), where children waited for a magical rabbit to come and lay colored eggs in nests for them. The story made its way to America by way of the German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania in the 18th century. All of these myths derived from legends based on the Germanic goddess Ostara (yet another religious origin).

This posed a problem for the Christians. Their very first rule in the Ten Commandments is “thou shalt have no other gods before me.” In fact, fully realizing how deeply entrenched they were in pagan tradition, many churches have abandoned “Easter” for their newly coined and very convenient title of “Resurrection Sunday.” Doesn’t it sound like a monster truck rally? This is very beneficial for the Christians, however, because the most ironic aspect of the Easter-Christanity link is that the Easter Bunny is make-believe, and therefore can be construed as magical. Good Christians don’t dabble in magic, they spent far too many years burning witches at the stake for that. So, I’m hopeful that there aren’t any good Christians out there celebrating Easter, because that would be hypocritical (gasp!)

The rest of us, however, are in the clear. We can un-mockingly (and with no secret glee in our hearts) go to Walmart and buy up every last plastic egg and blade of opalescent grass, while we carve delicate pieces of coconut cake from the giant bunny mold of our childhood fantasies, knowing that as non-Christians, we are free to worship as many false idols as we like. We can prance naked around a symbolic fire or participate in as many Easter orgies as we want, armed with the knowledge that Easter has nothing to do with Christianity at all. Being a hedonist has its perks, after all. Happy Easter!
Perks, after all. Happy Easter!

As we want, armed with the knowledge that Easter has nothing to do with Christianity at all. Being a hedonist has its as many false idols as we like. We can prance naked around a symbolic fire or participate in as many Easter orgies cake from the giant bunny mold of our childhood fantasies, knowing that as non-Christians, we are free to worship Walmart and buy up every last plastic egg and blade of opalescent grass, while we carve delicate pieces of coconut stake for that. So, I'm hopeful that there aren't any good Christians out there celebrating Easter, because that would be hypocritical (gasp)!

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Alas, it was not the wacky Christians who hatched the idea of a bunny to escort their savior to his resurrected seat in heaven. Nay! It was the heathens—those nature-worshipping, ritual-dancing pagans of course! It appears I'm not going to avoid comparing and contrasting

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are best known for non-stop sexual healing? Bunnies. The rabbit is Eostre's symbol, as well as a symbol of the earth's rising fertility at the

DID YOU KNOW? Easter eggs are dyed by placing them in egg cartons lined with grass. The grass dye stains the eggs, and the egg carton makes them look like nests. This is a very pagan practice, and is evidence of the fact that Easter was not created by Christians. It was created by pagans, who were the ones who originally celebrated the spring equinox.

Easter eggs are a symbol of fertility, just like the Easter Bunny. The Easter Bunny is a symbol of the rising of the sun, which is a symbol of fertility. The Easter Bunny is also a symbol of the goddess Ostara, who is the goddess of fertility.

Easter was originally a pagan festival, and was later adopted by Christians. The Easter Bunny was originally a fertility symbol, and was later adopted by Christians. This is why Easter eggs and the Easter Bunny are so closely associated with fertility.

Easter is a Christian holiday that celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a time of joy and celebration, and is marked by eggs, which are a symbol of life and new beginnings. The Easter Bunny is a symbol of the rise of spring and the renewal of life. The story of the Easter Bunny and the Easter eggs is a way of celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the hope that comes with it. Easter is a time of joy and celebration, and a reminder of the hope that comes with the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
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Last month, Invisible Children co-founder and director of the Kony 2012 viral video, Jason Russell, was witnessed removing his speedo in public to expose himself on the side of a busy San Diego road, gyrating his hips, making sexual gestures and otherwise Paul Rubens’ing his way through the afternoon. After several onlookers called the authorities, Russell was taken into the hospital for medical attention and was not arrested (ironically, the same treatment would not be given to a Ugandan immigrant, but that’s another article). In the following weeks, Invisible Children (as a charity), promoters of the Kony 2012 video and slactivists in general got a slap in the beard as more and more negative publicity regarding Russell and his associates emerged, exposing the organization itself as a fraud (completely independent of the fact that a pro-child activist chose to crack under public pressure by showing his dick to kids). Although the glorious YouTube presentation by Invisible Children, “Kony 2012,” was a polished, heartfelt plea for activists to push for financial and military support in opposition of the Lord’s Resistance Army (an Ugandan resistance led by Joseph Kony—a man who is accused of recruiting children by kidnaping them, often with a side of rape and a cup of murder), it turned out that the effectiveness of supporting the message was equivalent to changing one’s profile picture in order to cure childhood cancer.

Let’s discuss those who stand to benefit from the spread of “Kony 2012” hype, the Invisible Children organization. Of the money raised by Invisible Children thus far, less than a third has gone to direct, charitable services. The remainder went directly into the pockets of the organization’s directors for “travel expenses and filmmaking costs,” among other things (Jason Russell’s drug budget must be through the roof, considering that his recent maniacal, naked rampage). Further, the organization’s rating on Charity Navigator (the equivalent of a Better Business Bureau or Yelp for shady public charities) is a measly fifty percent. In other words, panhandlers on freeway off-ramps are more likely to be telling the truth regarding their tragic situation than Invisible Children, yet gullible activists on both sides of the spectrum have been tossing money to Jason Russell’s film projects and lavish hotel rooms without a second thought.

Regarding the content of the ten minutes worth of YouTube education that most people considered ample (in terms of providing enough information to result in the URL spreading like herpes at a Ke$ha concert), let’s just say that more violence, rape and theft occurs in Gresham than Uganda. The Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) is currently only 250 soldiers deep and hasn’t had a presence in Uganda since 2006, and regardless of the fact that, logically, you would have to murder a shitload of kids just to get to their commander, it’s perceived threat is easily identified in one’s newsfeed as having “activist” undertones, even though most of the folks behind such movements lock their car doors to a cause (or problem) that is inaccessible via Tri-Met public transit. Sure, Portland cops might shoot a dozen or so black teens each year, and yes, your local city hall, chamber of commerce and mayor’s offices are all open for public discourse, but what’s the point in engaging locally when visible results take months, often years of hard, dedicated work to obtain? By addressing distanced, untouchable problems that are removed from one’s own environment by miles of land and years of misunderstood cultural and religious differences, slactivists can appear to be effective in their re-posting of whatever bullshit is currently trending without having to risk the “why aren’t you out there on Alberta fighting gentrification yourself?” question.

**INABILITY TO EXPRESS MORAL OPPOSITION**

Breast cancer, child kidnapping, rape and murder... who doesn’t support these things? I mean, don’t we all just want to watch kittens burn? Stated without sarcasm, it is logistically impossible to argue with the general principles and arguments presented by the Kony 2012 video or any other rainbows-versus-swastikas debate. In much the same fashion as political extremists often refer to “freedom” or “traditional values” when referring to sending kids to war or criminalizing women’s reproductive organs, the Invisible Children supporters present an impossible-to-oppose stance, forcing any dissenters or critics to side with murderous child rapists. This linguistic strategy is used by everyone from cult leaders to car salesmen, but by no means does emotional response validate blindly-led action.

**WHITE GUILT AND GOOD GUY POINT-BUILDING**

It appears as if the whole peace-on-Earth rhetoric of the seventies didn’t quite carry the weight it was supposed to, and in our modern, “post-racial” society, shit’s still really fucked up when it comes to black people. Whether locally, nationally or globally, white society continues to fuck black society and neither side seems to be headed toward another We Are the World concert. Does this mean that your lonely, white, college-dorm-bound buddies are solely responsible for Jim Crowe laws and segregated water fountains? Probably not, but it doesn’t seem to stop the impossible-to-grasp concept of “being black” from continuing to exist outside of white folk’s lives. Whether adopting a rainbow buffet of otherwise useless third-world babies in attempt to score Hollywood street cred, donating to whatever black-baby-saving fund Sally Struthers is pitching this week or, simply put, reposting a bunch of stupid shit about Uganda years after it has become relevant at the expense of thousands (and in support of, literally put, exhibitionist filmmakers), white guilt is able to be temporarily removed in front of however many thousand Facebook and Twitter associates one has. This occurs, however, in the safety of one’s home or Wi-Fi hotspot and is easily identified in one’s newsfeed as having “activist” undertones, even though most of the folks behind such movements lock their car doors Office Space-style at the sight of anyone darker than The Rock.

Simply put, the world is a really, really fucked up place. You aren’t changing anything by re-posting half-assed causes and adapting to flavor-of-the-minute activism trends. Hell, the case of Invisible Children, you might even be supporting a guy’s public-masturbation fund (whatever that may consist of) at the expense of the poor, minority children you were trying to help in the first place.

Real activism comes at a cost. Whether this involves lightweight on fire to protest Chinese takeover of Tibetan culture, refusing to move to the back of a public bus or simply showing up to a city hall meeting and making your voice heard to those in active, local positions of power, nothing significant has ever been accomplished solely with an internet petition or by sending money to a guy who shows his dick to traffic.
years, from the "change your profile picture to fight blah blah" to "sign by Kony 2012 and pretty much any activist trend popularized in recent internet (moreso than usual), I have noticed three distinct qualities shared networking sites as possible? After spending way too much time on the a fail-bound "social movement," or at least repost it on as many social those least likely to make a difference are always the first to spearhead political spectrum to join together in groupthink-driven, counter-productivity seem strategic if you were, say, a maniacal overlord with an army of accused of sexual assault and violence). Robbing Peter to rape Paul may Sudan People's Liberation Army (an organization that has itself been (nine years ago). To top it all off, the United States Africa Command than Chinese Democracy (capitalized or not), as it was filmed in 2003 into standing behind Invisible Children and the handful of men who shitload of kids just to get to their commander, it's perceived threat is only 250 soldiers deep and hasn't had a presence in Uganda since 2006, information to result in the URL spreading like herpes at a Ke$ha tivation that most people considered ample (in terms of providing enough those activists on both sides of the political spectrum have been tossing money to Jason panhandlers on freeway off-ramps are more likely to be telling the truth Yelling for shady public charities) is a measly fifty percent. In other words, that his recent maniacal, naked rampage). Further, the organization's rat- of changing one's profile picture in order to cure childhood cancer. resistance led by Joseph Kony—a man who is accused of recruiting chil- military support in opposition of the Lord's Resistance Army (a Ugandan that may consist of) at the expense of the poor, minority children you might even be supporting a guy's public-masturbation fund (whatever the expense of thousands (and in support of, literally put, exhibitionist that his recent maniacal, naked rampage). Further, the organization's rat- of changing one's profile picture in order to cure childhood cancer. What causes impressionable young activists on both sides of the polit- 

Let's discuss those who stand to benefit from the spread of "Kony petition or by sending money to a guy who shows his dick to traffic. and making your voice heard to those in active, local positions of power, to the back of a public bus or simply showing up to a city hall meeting about Russell and his associates emerged, exposing the organization misunderstanding cultural and religious differences, slactivists can appear to work to obtain? By addressing distanced, untouchable problems that doesn't seem to stop the impossible-to-grasp concept of "being black" toward another continent. While the media has been quick to latch onto the impossible-to-oppose stance, forcing any dissenters or critics to side reproductive organs, the Invisible Children supporters present an image of changing anything by re-posting half-assed causes and adapting to flavor-calculating public opinion. These movements often rely on the Backlash strategy, which is based on the idea of creating a reaction against a movement that is seen as threatening or offensive. The strategy involves identifying the movement's weaknesses and vulnerabilities and using them to gain momentum and popularity. The Backlash strategy is often used by movements that are trying to achieve their goals by challenging the status quo, and it can be effective in gaining support and attention for the movement. However, it is important to note that the Backlash strategy can also be counterproductive, as it can lead to increased polarization and division. Ultimately, the effectiveness of the Backlash strategy depends on the specific context and the goals of the movement.
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