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Arabella

FROM
UNION JACKS

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THE FRENCH FUCK WITH TIME

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PRETENDING 2024 DIDN'T HAPPEN LIKE THAT

make your own new reality when the current one blows
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and you thought taxonomy was just for animals
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MISS EXOTIC OREGON 2025

ROUNDS 4-8 FINALISTS

PHOTOS BY **HYPOX** & RALPH WALKER



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CASA DIABLO



Karmen
SCARLET LOUNGE



Jess
CABARET



Marlie Mae
SKIN & GAMES



Sky
REVEAL LOUNGE



Andy
LUCKY DEVIL LOUNGE

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FRI, JAN 17 @ TBA

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Happy 2025! How are those resolutions working out? Broke it already? Before you chastise yourself too much, let's review some interesting statistics on New Year's resolutions. The average New Year's resolution lasts less than four months. So basically, you were doomed for failure before you even started. To underline that, 80% of people who make resolutions feel confident they can stick to them, but only 20% of people who make them actively keep themselves accountable. So, feel better! Fuck it and order a "Set the New Year on Fire." [6 mint leaves, 3/4 ounce lime juice (freshly squeezed), 1/2 ounce simple syrup, 2 ounces Bowmore 12-year-old single malt scotch, 1/2 ounce Campari. Garnish with flaming lime shell (you better look that part up).]

Now that you're no longer feeling like a failure, we can move on to industry events! We've only got two birthdays to announce, and both are from Guilty Pleasures: Annie's Y2K Birthday Bash on December 7 and Rose's Birthday on NYE! Happy Birthday, ladies!

Felix & Margot's 4th Annual Slumber Party is on Saturday, December 15, at Lucky Devil. Then it's on to Devils Point on Sunday, December 16, for their 19th Annual Christmas Sweater & Mustache Party. Speaking of sweaters, Stars Cabaret at Bridgeport has their Ugly Sweater Party on Friday, December 20, and Guilty Pleasures' Christmas Party and Ugly Sweater Contest is on Saturday, December 21. Also on December 21 is Desire's XXXmas VIXXen Contest and Countdown to Christmas Giveaways at Stars Cabaret in Salem.

And then? You guessed it! New Year's Eve parties all over the industry: Cabaret, Guilty Pleasures, Kit Kat Club, Spyce, Stars Cabaret (all locations), and Union Jacks!

MISS EXOTIC 2025

This is where I tell you who won *Miss Exotic Oregon 2025*. So, without further ado, the first-place winner was...nobody. That's right, no one won, really! That's due to the fact that when we sent this issue to press, *The Finals* hadn't happened yet! But if you were seriously looking for that info, it means you missed the show... Boo! We got you, though. You can check our Instagram for photos of the winners, and we'll have full coverage of the finals in our January 2025 issue. Until then, let's reflect on some of the action that led us to the final showdown!

But first, let's congratulate all of our qualifying finalists from rounds four through eight:

Round 4: Benzi from Casa Diablo, River from The Lounge, and Andy from Lucky Devil

Round 5: Shimmer from Club Rouge (downtown), Suki from Acropolis, and Kit Kat from Kit Kat Club

Round 6: Karmen from Scarlet Lounge, Mimi from Acropolis, and Sky from Reveal Lounge

Round 7: Jess from Cabaret, Marlie Mae from Skin & Games, and Daphne from Hawthorne Strip

Round 8: Violet from Cheetahs (Salem), Sarafina from Casa Diablo, and Apple from Dream On

(Check out pages 16-17 to see photos of all the abovementioned finalists in action during their qualifying set.)

Happy New Year! 🎉

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eroticcity spotlight

SUN 01 – DANTE'S – SINFERNO CABARET

SAT 07 – GUILTY PLEASURES – ANNIE'S Y2K BIRTHDAY BASH

SUN 08 – DANTE'S – SINFERNO CABARET

**SAT 14 – LUCKY DEVIL
FELIX & MARGOT'S 4TH ANNUAL SLUMBER PARTY**

SUN 15 – DANTE'S – SINFERNO CABARET

**SUN 15 – DEVILS POINT – 19TH ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS SWEATER & MUSTACHE PARTY**

**FRI 20 – STARS CABARET (BRIDGEPORT)
UGLY SWEATER PARTY**

SAT 21 – DESIRE – XXXMAS VIXXEN CONTEST

**SAT 21 – GUILTY PLEASURES
CHRISTMAS PARTY & UGLY SWEATER CONTEST**

**SAT 21 – STARS CABARET (SALEM)
COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAYS**

SUN 22 – DANTE'S – SINFERNO CABARET

SUN 29 – DANTE'S – SINFERNO CABARET

**TUE 31 – GUILTY PLEASURES
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY & ROSE'S BIRTHDAY**

TUE 31 – KIT KAT CLUB – KIT-N-KABOODLE PARTY

TUE 31 – SPYCE – NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

**TUE 31 – STARS CABARET (ALL LOCATIONS)
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY**

TUE 31 – UNION JACKS – NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

HAPPY HOURS

CABARET – 2PM-6PM

CLUB 205 – 10:30AM-6:30PM

DEVILS POINT – 3PM-6PM

DESIRE – 6PM-9PM

DV8 – NOON-3PM

THE LOUNGE - 11AM-4PM

LUCKY DEVIL – 3PM-6PM

SKIN & GAMES – 11AM-6:30PM

SPYCE – 7PM-9PM

UNION JACKS – 6PM-8PM

COLUMN

BY WOMBSTRETCHA THE MAGNIFICENT

THE FRENCH FUCK WITH TIME

We all know the story (well, many of us do) about the French Revolution. The non-noble people of France decided they wanted their say in government, specifically by creating their own faction in the Estates-General (basically like the US Congress or Brit Parliament). The creation of that faction called the “Third Estate” (the first being of clergymen and the second of nobles) existed to demand reform for the benefit of the common people, specifically taxes, as what we would consider the working class was being taxed heavily. They challenged King Louis XVI's authority, and he was pretty fucking pissed off about it.



The Estates-General basically just told the Third Estate to fuck off. So, in typical French fashion, they said, “Fine, we’re gonna start our own assembly, with blackjack and hookers,” and hung out in a tennis court (this is not a joke, they did this) and vowed not to leave until a constitution could be agreed upon, calling themselves the National Assembly of France, and declared all taxes illegal. Then, just a week or so later, more-or-

less disenfranchised, a revolutionary fervor began spreading, and eventually, the people stormed the fortress prison called the Bastille. They freed all the unjustly imprisoned people kept within its dank walls in 1789, as it was both a symbol of the king’s authority and a horrible place to sock away your political enemies, which constituted most of its inhabitants. The French still party about that every July 14th—Bastille Day. Because fuck you, Louis. Louis did agree to some very limited reforms, but it was basically the equivalent of ordering egg rolls and just getting a greasy bag of those fried chow mein noodles instead. People were even more angry and started to get ready to go to Bastille Day in all of Paris.



Frightened, the king appointed none other than Marquis de Lafayette to head the guard forces in the city. You may remember the Marquis de Lafayette from such revolutions as the American Revolution, in which he fought with and served under George Fucking Washington, the pimp of the ages and the reason so many cities have a Lafayette Ave.

Following all that drama and a lot of hemming and hawing, three years later, the monarchy agreed to accept the Third Estate and draft a constitution. After disputes about voting and the role of the king in appointing members of the reformed Estates-General (it turns out he said he should be able to pick whoever he wanted, surprise), people were

still mad. Eventually, on September 1792, revolutionaries kick in doors and arrest the king. The king is brought forth to a tribunal of sorts, with absolutely no bias at all, I’m sure... and is found guilty of 21 charges, basically amounting to crimes against humanity.

Even if you know jack shit about the French Revolution, you know what happens next. Yeah, they cut his fucking head off...lots of heads were cut off. So began the First French Republic. Afterward, the so-called “Reign of Terror” (isn’t that a Slayer album?) ensues, and for about a year, people thought to be counter-revolutionary are slain in thousands. Way to start a new government, guys. Eventually, things calmed down, and they started to settle into a new, fairly reasonable society. But then they went too far.

You see, they decided to listen to the scholars of the “radical Enlightenment” for ideas on how to reform their society. To translate in modern terms, the radical Enlightenment were basically like today’s left-wing college professors, perched in their ivory towers and feeling they can solve the ills of the world, despite having been insulated from the workings of the real world and having no understanding of life outside academia. To post-revolutionary France, this seemed like a good idea. We, the French, had a successful revolution and created a brave new republic, so let’s bring in some people with bold, new ideas to help us shape it in an egalitarian fashion, right? Equality among all (except for the French colonies, which were still under the yoke of bullshit). Well, this is where it all goes sideways.

These enlightened scholars decided, “Well, fuck this calendar,” and decided to draft a new calendar, with the 12 months of the calendar containing three *décades*, instead of weeks, of 10 days each; at the end of the year, they lumped five (six in leap years) supplementary days. The months were ordered in such a way as to have one corresponding to the Grego-

rian months of September and October, and they were

Vendémiaire (meaning “vintage”)

Brumaire (“mist”)

Frimaire (“frost”)

Nivôse (“snow”)

Pluviôse (“rain”)

Ventôse (“wind”)

Germinal (“seedtime”)

Floréal (“blossom”)

Prairial (“meadow”)

Messidor (“harvest”)

Thermidor (“heat”)

And last, Fructidor (“fruits”).

The names were the invention of poet Philippe Fabre d’Églantine, who was a notorious asshole and did not tip strippers. Each of the 360 days in the year was named for a seed, tree, flower, fruit, animal, or tool, replacing the All Saints’ Day names and Christian festivals. This was deliberate, as they wished to divorce society from religion...because, fuck them fools. In the immortal words of Saint Ron Popeil, “But wait, there’s more!”



Changing the calendar was not enough, though, and this is where we get to my main thesis. They tried to change *TIME ITSELF*.

Citing the “practical and logical” change to the calendar, they needed to change the structure and form of the days as well.

How on Earth would one do that? Well, let me tell you the grandiose ideas put into place alongside this.

Time, you see, while immutable, is subject to re-evaluation on how to properly perceive it. They said to themselves, tongues firmly planted inside their own assholes, that time needed to change how it was observed by the citizens of post-revolutionary France.

This leads to the invention of Republican Time. Republican Time replaced the traditional 60 seconds per minute, 60 minutes per hour, 24 hours in a day model with something vastly different.



What they did was re-align time. One hundred seconds per minute, 100 minutes per hour, and 10 hours in a day. This “reasonable and egalitarian” form of time was supposed to be to the benefit of all French citizens. Pro tip: it wasn’t. It’s basically a study in political arrogance. The rationale was to make time:

- More “rational.”
- More egalitarian.
- Destroying religious consciousness in the new Republic.

The point, or one of the points, was to make churchgoers unaware of when then-Sunday was, so that they might be confused as to when the 7th day, the day of worship, actually happened, as it was just another weekday within a ten-day week. This was endorsed heavily by so-called experts of the time, notably one CG Romme, a professor of physics. Fuckers can physically get shot out of a cannon. Many mathematicians and astronomers chimed in and stated that, yes, this was indeed a *GOOD* idea. They cited that the new Republic was to divest itself from the old ways and bring France to the forefront of reason and progress.

The preliminary thing that made people go,



“Wait, what?” was the change in time of the New Year, which is typically January 1st, to September 22nd, which was the “founding of the new French Republic.” The French were very nonplussed by this and mostly still celebrated on the traditional date, but also on September 22nd. Two New Year’s in one year. Twice the wine. Vintners were making bank...I guarantee you this.



They also abolished holidays as which related to saints or other religious matters, leaving people even more confused. Furthermore, the average Frenchman absolutely HATED the new system. “What?! Henri, I gotta work for 9 days instead of just 6?! Le fuck?!” Special clocks were made which had a notation for the regular Gregorian time and the new Republican time. For those who could afford clocks anyhow, as they were quite expensive back then. Recall when we had to trade our VHS players for DVD players, and it cost a fuckpile of money? Yeah, it was basically like that. Someone made a change, and now we all have to pay to keep up, in the name of progress, of course.

For those curious, the French Republican week, or as they called it, *décade*, had the following days:

primidi (first day)

duodi (second day)

tridi (third day)

quartidi (fourth day)

quintidi (fifth day)

sextidi (sixth day)

septidi (seventh day)

octidi (eighth day)

nonidi (ninth day)

décadi (tenth day)

This continued for many years, alongside a number of other ridiculous ideas, which would take another entire article to cover.



The French First Republic continued to use this time system for 12 years until the coronation of Napoleon in 1804. Monsieur Napoleon had a lot to process, and two years later, in 1806, basically said, "This is the dumbest shit ever. We're going back to the time system that *THE ENTIRE REST OF THE FUCKING WORLD USES!*" and abolished this by decree. So ends the era of the French trying to re-invent time itself.

Live well, and count your hours as 24 in a day.

-Wombstretcha

Wombstretcha the Magnificent is a time skeptic, non-Frenchman, but avid croissant eater, 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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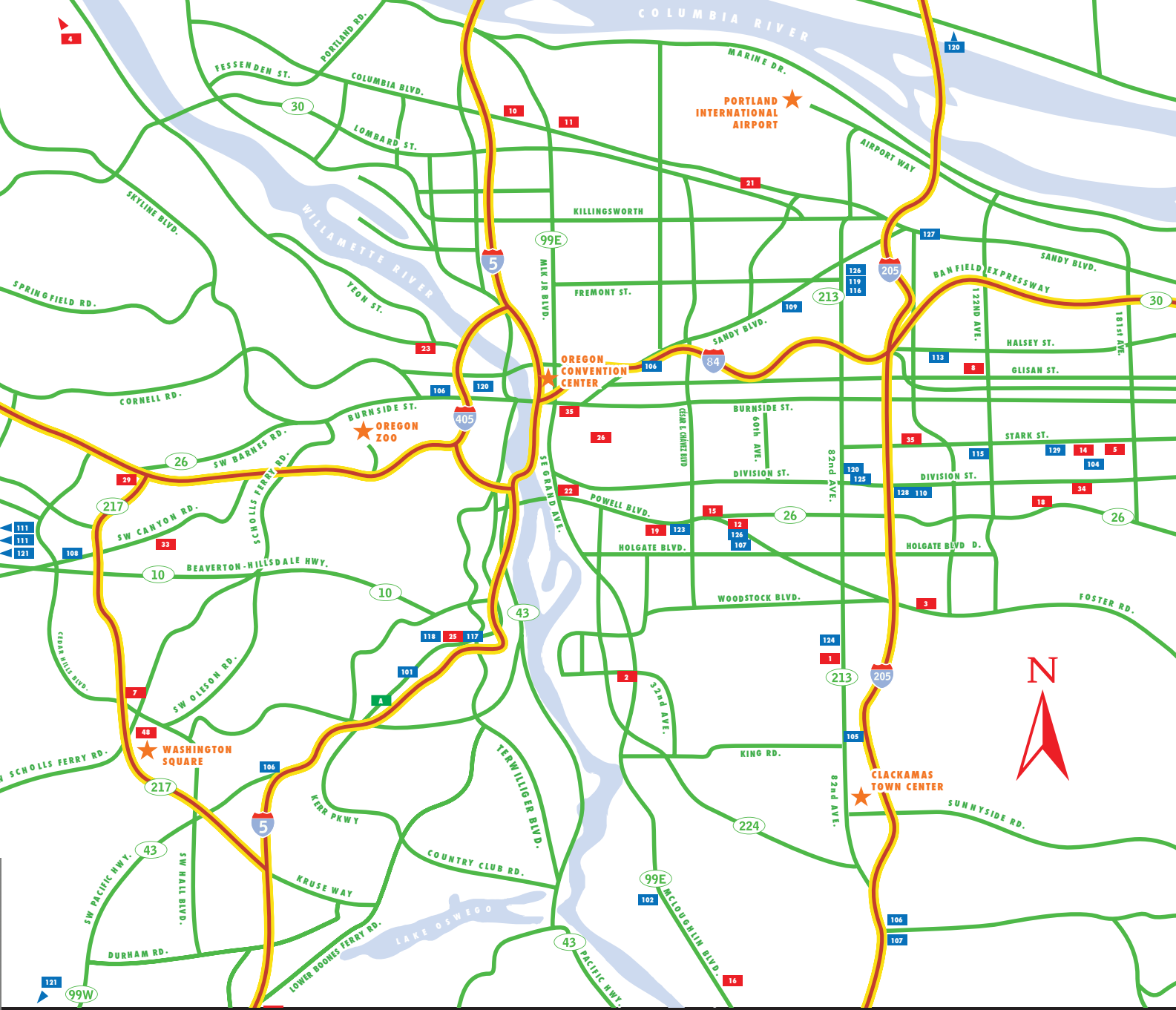
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By Ian Sellwood

Anora

Sean Baker strikes again with a fresh batch of content for Pornhub's "celebrity" section! Of course, it might take a while to upload 'cause movie studios are IP Nazis, but rest assured; we'll finally see a lot more entries for Mikey Madison in Mr. Skin. Sadly, we don't get any full-on erect-dick penetration glory of 2012's "Starlet." It seems like Mr. Baker is trying to clean it up for that normie appeal. It's such a shame for us old-school fans of his who enjoy some more-than-gratuitous nudity in our mainstream movies. However, even though there's less fappable screentime in this one than "Starlet" or "Red Rocket," it still delivers!

SPOILERS AHEAD

Almost in spiritual synch with the last film I covered for this nudie rag, this film begins with ASS. Opening shot right after the first few titles—ASS, ASS, ASS, and more ASS. If you're reading this in your favorite local dick-hardening establishment, you might recognize the setting immediately. We are in a House of Flesh, and it is Happy Hour! I was honestly caught off guard. More often than not, normie films don't start off with jerk material. I embarrassed myself in the theater a bit, dropping my popcorn and beer as I fumbled to undo my pants right out the gate. Apologies to those sitting next to me, who I clumsily elbowed as I tried to fish out my travel lube from my pants pockets. I simply wasn't expecting a buffet of stripper ass to roll by in the opening shot, offering up a variety of options: thong, fishnet, thong-and-fishnet, bare. You'd think a French woman was directing this one. From the first few minutes, I'm honestly surprised this was made by a straight, white dude, who has been described as an "ally" by several women who've worked with him.

I will say there was a disappointing lack of bush in the opening smorgasbord of skin. We did get a few good tit shots (some pierced, too!) and, of course, the aforementioned as-palooza, but due to not a lot of truly full-frontal, I'm unfortunately going to have to take some points off.

Also, another thing I'll have to ding this film on is realism. I read a lot of articles about this film, heaping praise on it for being an extremely

accurate depiction of sex work. A lived-in and empathetic portrayal of strippers and the work they do. Realistic *my ass!* This opening scene showed *multiple* instances of dudes in the private dance room *touching* the dancers! Hand-on-ass! As a frequent customer of many of our fine establishments, I am *well aware* of the rules, as I've tried to bend them several times and been kicked out.



I even interrupted my rushed wank session to grab my phone and quickly google the strip club etiquette in New York. I couldn't find anything conclusive and apologized profusely to my neighbors for breaking phone etiquette in the theater before putting my dick back in my hand. The opening tits and ass-fest goes on for a good, long while. Still, don't let this opening scene fool you with its artistic license. After seeing this, I went straight to my favorite adult entertainment establishment to see if maybe Oregon followed suit. Sadly, no, and once again, I was asked to leave for "being a creep." I even asked if she liked Sean Baker movies in the private dance room, and she lit right up! If that isn't an invitation to touch the dancer, I don't know what is. The bouncer and her disagreed.

Maybe now that Trump is headed back to the White House, that'll change in January. Surely, along with making groceries and gas cheaper, he'll also legalize touching the dancers at the club! Let's go, Mr. "grab 'em by the pu..."

Back to the movie, one brutally realistic part of that opening strip club scene was when our heroine takes a customer who says he doesn't

have any cash to the ATM. I myself have tried that line many times at the club, and those wily strippers always pull that move. I feel seen, Sean Baker.

Besides the club scenes, we do get a decent number of fuck scenes between Mikey Madison and whoever plays the Russian kid. I thought it was a little unfair that we get to see Russian kid's wang, but no bush shot from Mikey. For shame, Sean. Also, the fuck scenes are annoyingly brief. Hot, but brief, like they're only in there to punctuate the whirlwind romance at the beginning of the film, with some explicit shots of true intimacy. *Lame!* This is the dude that made "Starlet!" Where's my unstimulated sex scenes, Sean? I thought you were supposed to be edgy!

Although I was almost ready to seal this baby with an as-of-yet unawarded *five out of five* eggplants, the film did drag during the last half. The few quick bang scenes weren't abundant enough to get a nut off, and then the roars of laughter and cheers from the audience during the second half of the movie really killed my boner. I assumed they liked something dumb like the "story" or the "themes," but the nudity-less last hour of the film didn't do squat for me. Even the fuck scene at the end was fully clothed! I thought this was going to be our reward for going through such a masturbation drought. I thought he was gonna get straight pornographic. Nope. Clothes stay on. They don't even kiss. Then she like cries for some reason. Just like me when I have sex!



3/5 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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HOW TO PRETEND 2024 DIDN'T HAPPEN LIKE THAT

BY HANNAH ONE CUP

The year is 2024, and the current president is still the guy from *The Big Lebowski*, Jeff Bridges, and he forgives people like me for forgetting his name because he sometimes does, too. He and Vice President Aubrey Plaza are handling world affairs quite well. War hasn't broken out in any country for several years, all thanks to the new law passed, The Dolly Parton Act, with an astounding 95% of voter support, which required everyone in the world to pass a reading *and* comprehension test that proved they were indeed smarter than 5th graders. This took all countries several terms of office to accomplish due to many generations of families refusing to deal with change and believing book learning to be for "those hoity-toity bigwigs." These individuals also didn't vote, however.

Dolly Parton headed this mission as Lead World Educator (a new position invented by the current administration). This made older generations second guess their decision to be illiterate by choice...with a slight bit of grumbling. Dolly provided free books and VHS tapes to the entire world with the money provided by the Rothschilds, who started to donate over 90% of their profits and hoarded gold to arts and education after banks completely failed. Everyone now lives on a bartering system where money really isn't useful anymore, but everyone seems to really like burying gold.



Amazon and Tesla have both gone bankrupt and are defunct companies due to the Dolly Parton Act, and neither of the company's owners passed the assessment and are unable to be rehabilitated. They are both now in prison but performing

useful functions to the public, like cleaning up beaches and screwing in light-bulbs.

Calvin Cordozar Broadus Jr, aka Snoop Dogg, is the World Peace Bringer. (Another new position created by this current administration while they were all in a room together, not getting high, because Snoop Dogg doesn't do that anymore. That, however, doesn't mean gin wasn't involved during this meeting.) Snoop goes around to various countries that don't like the new laws being put into place in America and helps those countries' governments and citizens understand why reading is as important as peace and that following the new laws of their land would benefit their future offspring. His speeches are known to cause tears of new-found understanding at some gatherings.



The world's population starts to get younger, and babies start getting born again after Snoop and John Lithgow go around to the men of each country and explain why the female population doesn't want to procreate, let alone be touched by them. The males of the countries start implementing kindness and empathy in their approaches towards people they are attracted to, which then leads to entire countries of people being at peace and then wanting to have amazing, consensual sex.

They need these older gentlemen to explain this topic because the current generation of young men is still learning to comprehend what they are reading before attempting to get philosophical (they appear to still be reading the headlines of news articles and then posting long rants online about what they read when they hadn't read past the font size 24 of the article's headline). Dolly Parton is working

her darndest on this group...

John Lithgow doesn't really have a title currently, but he's simply known as the Beloved Grandpa of the People. He is adored and listened to by all he encounters because everyone remembers him from *3rd Rock from the Sun*, the most underrated show ever to exist. It's now a huge hit, especially in places where VHS tapes are still being used and TiVo is still in some households.



Aubrey Plaza does a lot of heavy lifting with the feminine population—both male and female. She has empowered this group of people with the knowledge that "no" is the most powerful word in the world and that they should act as powerful as that word. She has many public talks where she stands on a podium and just shouts "NO!" which gets everyone's attention and leads the crowd to also chant "NO!" It's a common occurrence after these public talks that everyone who attends goes out to find things to say "no" to, on purpose and with vigor. Sometimes, going as far as saying "no" when being offered free samples at Costco.

Jeff Bridges' common household nickname is "America's Dude," and it's never said with malice or disgust by other countries. On the contrary, most countries like the current administration in America so much that they attempt to create governments of similar style with individuals that have personalities very close to what the five "leaders" in America have. No one is really known as a "leader" anymore; in fact, Jeff really prefers just being called The Dude and is trying to change the actual position title of President of the United States to "The Dude." He likes the way it sounds, and he believes it makes voting seem more enjoyable if the posi-

tions of power sound more relatable and personable. He also doesn't like that he takes away any publicity from the band Presidents of the United States of America because he really likes that one song and respects them too much.

The Dude likes to have dinner parties in people's houses as he gets to know the common man because, like everyone else, he is not being paid money and instead works on the bartering system, which has been in place for a few years now and is going pretty well. This also allows him to get a free dinner once in a while as payment for something nice he's done. His latest nice thing was legalizing all drugs and prostitution. This made some people upset at first until he explained that everyone should have a right to do whatever they please, whether for money or enjoyment. Pimps, now out of a job since Aubrey Plaza's "NO!" talks, have started taking college classes on finance and are sometimes hired by their previous employees to be their bookkeepers. Drugs are now created and sold by private businesses that aren't governed by the government and, instead, have their own say on whether they limit their supply and who they can and won't supply to. Ingredients are listed on everything so that everything remains transparent, and a trusted group of scientists with no agenda one way or the other test the substances to make sure they aren't actively trying to kill people.



The Dude didn't want to have a hovering government over privatized businesses, so he decided to let the people have their own say on things. His motto is "Live, Laugh, or Leave"—as in, if you aren't happy with the current situation, find a way out.

Yes, 2024 is a year of continuing hope and ever-present freedom for all people. Equality is second only to empathy, and the only people in the three existing prisons are those who still refuse to agree with this view. Many politicians and celebrities did not meet the cut, as seen with Tesla, Amazon, and Diddy. But many were able to be rehabilitated with Dolly Parton's VHS tapes. With 2025 on the horizon, we can only hope that the next year is as good as the last.

Hannah One Cup can be seen in public, daydreaming about her perfect, hypothetical world but still attempting to remain unfortunately grounded in this one. It leaves her sleepy most days, and sometimes, she talks to herself in public because the two worlds collide. She likes Arizona Green Tea because it's still 99 cents, and brings that with her to her D&D sessions, where she plays a one-legged samurai named Samurai Lt. Dan.

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a black bikini, is posing with her hands behind her head. She is looking away from the camera. The background is a light blue, textured surface.

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PORTLAND MUSIC PROJECT 2025

By Blazer Sparrow

In light of last month's election results and in anticipation of this next administration, I've decided to do something a little different for my last entry of 2024. It appears that the people have spoken, and bombast, demagoguery, and empty rhetoric have won the day. So, rather than hem and haw and wring my hands or breakdown in debilitating depression, I came to the enlightened conclusion that the strong adapt and overcome. It appears that Project 2025 is not only gonna happen but basically signed off on by a majority of the population. Since democracy has once again failed, there is not much to do on that front. But I *can* take note and try to push through my own ridiculous, non-data-driven action plan to Make Portland's Music Scene Great Again. Website to follow, with several high-paying positions like California Immigration Officer and Spotify Release Cycle Tracker. The budget for these salaries is yet to be determined, but I assume I can just throw insanely high numbers out there, just like the Project 2025 website, and see what sticks. Money isn't real, and everyone be lying anyway, so...when in Rome.

NO MORE VENUES!

The biggest obstacle to the success of all these hard-working Portlandian musicians is that the market is saturated with too many bars pretending to be venues. On top of that, we got Live Nation and some local folks making plans to build their competing "mid-sized" venues in town. Portland doesn't need more venues. We have enough. Shitty Kinko's posters are stapled onto every telephone pole as far as the eye can see! The reason your friends don't come to see your shitty band is there are too many other shows happening that same night! We gotta trim the fat! Drain the swamp of venues without a proper PA system. And on that note...

NO MORE BANDS!



Portland has enough bands. I once read a stat that I may or may not have made up that says there are 10,000 bands in the Emerald City. There are around 500,000 people in this city. That leaves only 50 audience members per band. Unacceptable! No wonder nobody goes to see your band. There are literally not enough people! The math ain't mathin'. We will start issuing band permits. Our numbers are far too high. Only a thousand bands will be permitted to exist in the city limits. That leaves 500 audience members for each band. Much better numbers. Anyone caught performing without a band permit will be deported from the city limits. And speaking of deportations...

NO MORE TOURING ACTS! LOCALS ONLY!

One thing I noticed about the music scene in Portland is that we show the fuck up for live music...when it's not from here. Crystal Ballroom, Revolution Hall, Arlene Schnitzer, hell Moda Center, and even smaller spots like the old Doug Fir. We always come out for out-of-towners. Yet, where is this love and support for our shitty, local acts? I don't wanna hear anything about how the reason they're turning up to these touring acts is that they're "signed" and "have a following." It's immigrants taking our jobs! Going forward, we will implement *steep tariffs* for any musical act trying to perform here without one of the aforementioned band permits. These dirty foreigners will no longer be poisoning the blood of our vibrant music community.

STREAMING IS OUTLAWED!



Speaking of immigrants poisoning the blood of our vibrant music community, we need to build a wall to defend against the most dangerous immigrants of all. *The Swedes!* Specifically, Daniel Georg Ek, CEO of Spotify and digital Viking Marauder. The reason our red-blooded working-class Portland musi-

cians aren't making any money at their craft is because it's all available for (basically) free online. All the revenue that is getting generated from your hard work is going to some Baltic Coastal Liberal Elite! No more! With this action plan, we are going to block any and all access to this and all other streaming services. If you want to listen to your favorite softboi singer-songwriter, you're either going to have to pay to see him live (if he has one of our band permits), or buy one of his fucking albums like a goddamn adult! But only if it's one of three acceptable physical media: vinyl record, compact disc (otherwise known as CD), or non-fungible digital token. We're bringing it back, baby! There'll be no funging in our new Portlandia made great again.

CASSETTE TAPES ARE BANNED!



Notice that in one of the three acceptable media for which you can purchase music, I didn't mention cassette tapes. That's because they're dumb and stupid, and we are going to ban them from ever seeing the light of day in our great green city! Who the fuck thought cassette tapes were due for a comeback? What is appealing about the aesthetic? Muddy audio quality that diminishes over time? Having to stick a goddamn pencil in the little spool to wind it up so it'll work again? We'll have no more of this nonsense in this great land, where the Columbia and the Willamette Rivers meet. Nobody even has a fucking cassette player anymore. What is the point? Clearly, this is a psyop by the same devious meddlers who keep making '80s nights a thing. Those are also banned, by the way.

We're gonna Make Portland's Music Scene Great Again! Just you wait! You've never seen anything like this plan—or, rather, this concept of a plan. It's gonna be great! Trust me!

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BOUNCER SPECIES

Field Guide

I'm back, fuckers! I've taken a three-month hiatus from bringing you the quality bouncer-related content you've come to count on when picking up the new *Exotic* issue every month, but I assure you it's been time well spent. I've made a few changes in both my living and work environments, and now that I'm all situated, it's back to the grind. I had intended to continue my philosophy series with an article about Aristotle, but that dude can wait. I'll return to philosophy eventually, but for now, something a little different.

It occurred to me recently that not all bouncers are cut from the same cloth. I've crossed paths with all sorts of security professionals over the years. Some of those varieties deserve big, sarcastic air quotes around the word "professional," while others are truly deserving of the label. This month, I'll be listing several species of bouncer and some characteristics that can help you spot them in the wild, sort of like the Sibley Guide that bird nerds like my younger brother use, but for identifying bouncers instead of dumb-ass birds.



Mall Ninja

The Mall Ninja is a good species for beginners, as they are easily recognizable. This guy always regretted not joining the military and made up for it by going to work dressed

like a giant dork. He wears the bulkiest body armor money can buy and adorns it with a massive assortment of unnecessary accouterments that almost completely go unused but that he keeps around because he *might* need them someday. On any given mall ninja plate carrier, you can find some combination of the following: gun, backup gun, knife, backup knife, extra ammo for the guns, extra ammo for the knives, stun gun, handcuffs, extra ammo for the handcuffs, pepper spray, batons, flashlights, first aid kit, extra ammo for the first aid kit, tourniquet, body camera, extra ammo for the body camera, nunchucks, and morale patches bearing xenophobic slogans, micro-aggressions, and threats of violence. There's usually a punisher skull somewhere on the mall ninja, if not on his armor, perhaps on his hat, or among the more enthusiastic of the species, possibly in tattoo form. It has been theorized that the mall ninja's plate carrier is meant to serve the same purpose as a bird's brightly colored plumage, namely, to attract a mate, but that theory has never been proven and likely never will because, seriously, who the fuck is sleeping with this dingleberry?



Vet Bro

This species *definitely* takes full advantage of the free meals offered to veterans on No-

vember 11th every year. He buys his t-shirts from companies like Gruntstyle that put American flags on the sleeves. He served, and there's a zero percent chance that fact will have escaped your awareness; he won't allow that. Spend enough time around this guy, and you'll end up knowing the names of the dudes in his platoon in Iraq. He wears shorts made by cutting off the legs of his camo uniform. You can break off a conversation with him by thanking him for his service and wandering off. That's the validation he was seeking anyway. He likes being a bouncer because it reminds him of standing fire watch in boot camp.



Islander

If you go out with any degree of regularity, you'll wind up having your ID checked by a Pacific Islander. In his standup comedy, comedian Adam Pasi, who is of Samoan heritage, refers to nightclubs as "Samoan embassies" and calls Samoa "an island that produces 100 percent bouncers as its population." And he's really not exaggerating. There are a lot of Islanders in this city working security at bars and clubs. Think Maui from *Moana*, but dressed in all black. These are the nicest dudes on the face of the earth until you force them not to be. The only person I'd be more scared to fight than an Islander is the crazy fucker that would even think about messing with an Islander.

Brawler

This species wants to be Tyler Durden so badly. There's a Fight Club poster on his bedroom wall, and sometimes, he has confusing dreams about Brad Pitt. He goes to Brazilian jiu-jitsu classes 5 days a week and aspires to be a UFC superstar. He listens to Joe Rogan's podcast religiously and wears Tapout and Affliction shirts to work. Brawlers almost universally have terminal cases of cauliflower ear. De-escalation isn't a concept that has ever even crossed his mind; the opportunity to fight motherfuckers at work is the whole reason he became a bouncer in the first place. Employing this guy will eventually cause an establishment's insurance premiums to skyrocket.

Slacker

The Slacker is employed, and nobody around him really knows how or why. You could rip a fat line of schneef right in front of this species, and he'll be too distracted by cat videos on TikTok to ever notice your presence. Any time there's actual security work to be done, you may as well do it yourself because the Slacker can sense it coming and will instinctively go on a break. This species can only exist in symbiosis with another bouncer, specifically one who will work hard enough to pick up the Slacker's, well... slack. Some specimens may be more insidious than others and could be classified as parasites. Parasitic Slackers will drive their harder-working coworkers to quit out of the frustration that can only come from doing all the work but being forced to split tips.



Casanova

The Casanova could be considered a subspecies of Slacker. Where the Slacker fucks off merely for the sake of fucking off, the Casanova is on a mission: chasing tail. The only reliable quality of the Casanova is the certainty that he will ignore work in favor of spitting game at every woman within his sphere of awareness. While the other bouncers are busy getting their teeth knocked out busting up a kerfuffle likely started by the Brawler on the team, the Casanova is blissfully unaware of that fact because he took the earpiece from his radio out of his ear while convincing yet another cutie to save her number in his phone.

Well, that's all for this month. Armed with this guide, venture out and see how many of these bouncer species you can spot! Now, this list is by no means exhaustive. There's a shitload of different varieties of bouncers out there, and maybe I'll follow up down the road with another edition of the Bouncer Species Field Guide. But until then, happy hunting!

Nate Hazen is a bouncer, people watcher, and wholesome degenerate. You can find him working Sunday nights at X Exotic Lounge and several nights a week at Dixie Tavern, where he's made a hobby of terrorizing the 18-20 fake ID crowd.



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