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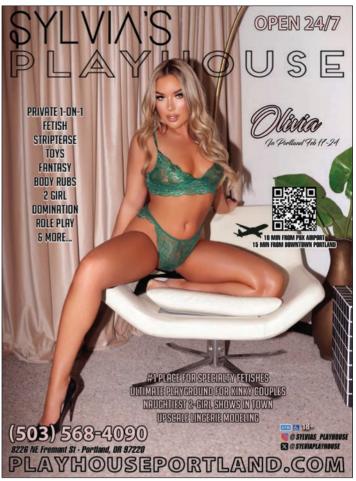
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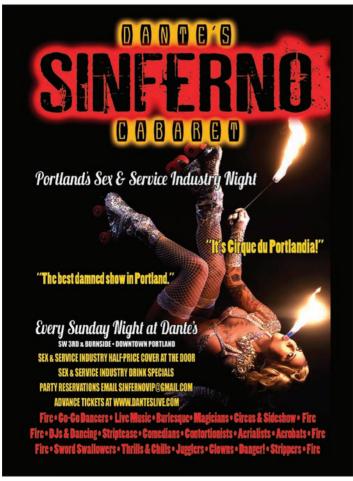
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Issue #372 • Volume 32 • Number 08 February 2025

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Published monthly by XMAG LLC.
Circulation: 75,000 per month at 200+ sites
Mailing Address:
Post Office Box 20273
Portland, Oregon 97294-0273
Telephone: (503) 241-4317
Fax: (503) 914-0439
Email: info@vmau.com

Publisher XMAG LLC.

Exotic Online: www.xmag.com

General Manager Bryan A. Bybee

Editor Barnaby Bandini

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Production Manager Shawna Stephens

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Contributing Photographers HYPNOX Saint Sasha

> Advertising Adam J. Burt (503) 804-4479

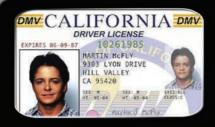
Distribution Enrico Carrisco • Adam J. Burt

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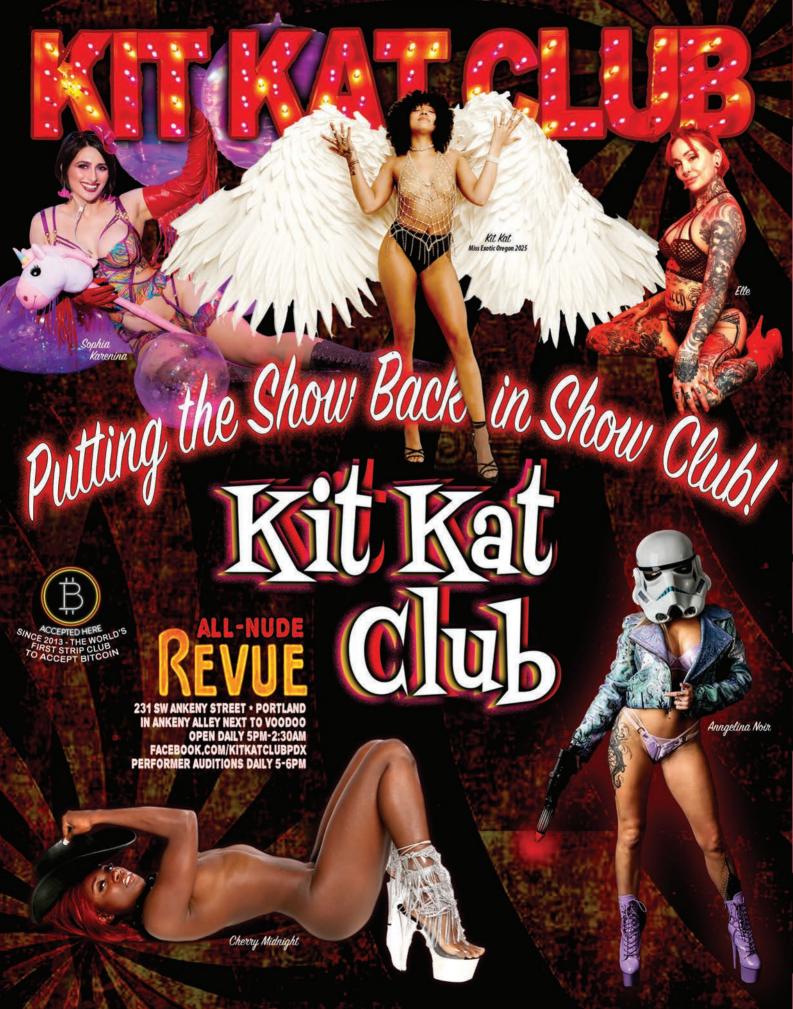
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## INSIDE STUFF

EROTIC CITY & EVENTS SPOTLIGHT EXOTIC PINUP PAGES EXOTIC MAPS (PDX/OR/WA) NOSFERATU REVIEWED CLASSIFIEDS

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# Hawthorne Strip

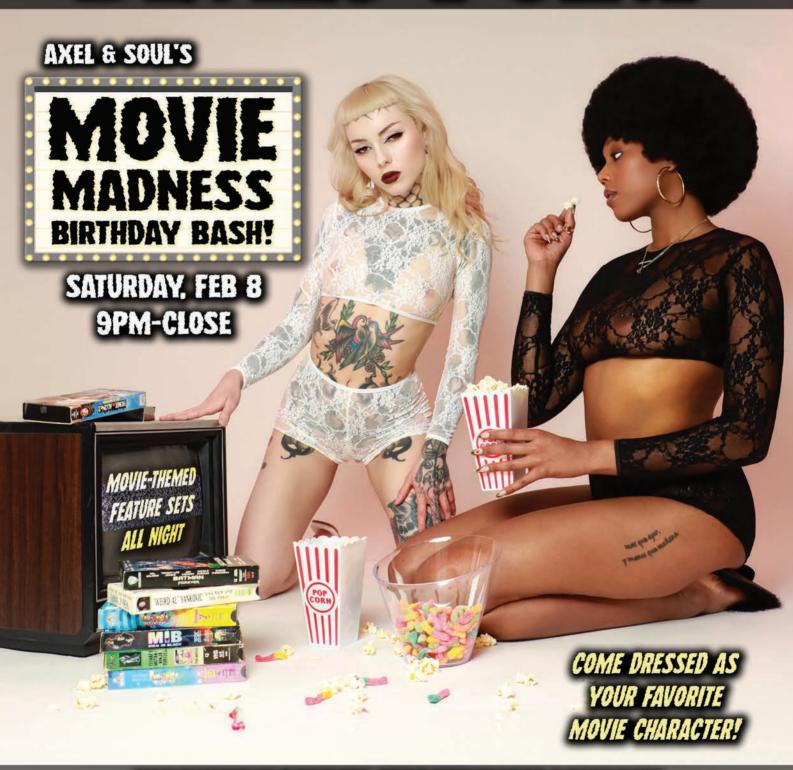


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## ETOLICCITY BY BRYAN A. BYBEE

Happy Heart Month! February is Heart Health Awareness Month, and it's something I take seriously after having friends and loved ones who have been affected by heart conditions. I know this column is usually packed with a lot of satire and tomfoolery, but this is real talk. If you happen to read this column before Friday, February 2, join me in wearing red on this day (National Wear Red Day\*) to bring awareness of the number one killer—cardiovascular disease.

#### **THE P-TOWN HAPS**

Starting with something unique, how about stand-up comedy at a strip club? Head to X Exotic Lounge on Wednesday, February 5, for the Strip City Comedy Show, reminiscent of the great Lenny Bruce. It's a fundraiser organized by Exotic writer and industry security extraordinaire Nate Hazen. Come show your support!

Time to announce industry birthdays for the month of February! We'll start on Saturday, February 8, at Devils Point for Axel & Soul's Movie Madness Birthday Bash. Also on February 8, it's Elaina Love's '80s-Themed Birthday Party at Guilty Pleasures. A few weeks later, make sure to stop by Hawthorne Strip for Ember's Sacrilegious Birthday Party on Friday, February 21. On the following night, Saturday, February 22, it's Risque's Birthday Party at Guilty Pleasures. A big Happy Birthday to all of you beautiful ladies!

And like I've always said, strip clubs can have birthdays too! Lucky Devil Lounge will turn 17 this month, and you won't want to miss the festivities. Make sure to stop in on Saturday, February 15, to celebrate. Full disclosure, however... Contrary to the picture below, no grab-ass will be tolerated—unless, of course, perpetrated by the lovely performers!



#### Congratulations to Lucky Devil Lounge for their 17-year anniversary!

Super Bowl Sunday is near, and watching at home is a lame choice. Head to Skin & Games or Stars Cabaret in Salem for their Super Bowl parties—truly a much better viewing experience, if you know what I mean.

Taboo's Valentine Ice Cream Social happens Thursday, February 13, from 6 to 8 p.m. at its Vancouver location. It's an event that never disappoints, featuring ice cream served by scantily clad beefcake and cheesecake servers. See you there!

Wrapping up events...on Thursday, February 13, Union Jacks has their Back to the '80s Party with DJ Fawn Michaels. Then, on Saturday, February 15, head to The Lounge for their "Better to be Single Soirée" and then Stars Cabaret in Salem for "A Vampire Valentine."

That's all for now, my little Cupids!

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## **Zeroliccity** spotlight

WED 05 - X EXOTIC LOUNGE STRIP CITY COMEDY NIGHT

SAT 08 – DEVILS POINT
AXEL & SOUL'S MOVIE MADNESS BIRTHDAY BASH

SAT 08 — GUILTY PLEASURES ELAINA LOVE'S '80S-THEMED BIRTHDAY PARTY

> SUN 09 – SKIN & GAMES SUPER BOWL SUNDAY PARTY

SUN 09 – STARS CABARET (SALEM)
MONEY MOVES SUPER BOWL PARTY

THU 13 – TABOO (VANCOUVER) VALENTINE ICE CREAM SOCIAL

THU 13 — UNION JACKS
BACK TO '80S WITH DJ FAWN MICHAELS

SAT 15 – THE LOUNGE BETTER TO BE SINGLE SOIRÉE

SAT 15 — LUCKY DEVIL LOUNGE 17-YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY

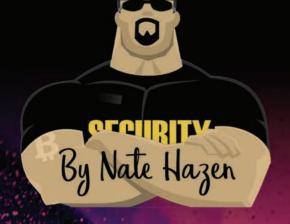
SAT 15 – STARS CABARET (SALEM) A VAMPIRE VALENTINE'S

FRI 21 — HAWTHORNE STRIP EMBER'S SACRILEGIOUS BIRTHDAY PARTY

SAT 22 – GUILTY PLEASURES RISQUE'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

#### **HAPPY HOURS**

CABARET – 2PM-6PM
CLUB 205 – 10:30AM-6:30PM
DEVILS POINT – 3PM-6PM
DESIRE – 6PM-9PM
DV8 – NOON-3PM
GUILTY PLEASURES – NOON-5PM
THE LOUNGE – 11AM-4PM
LUCKY DEVIL – 3PM-6PM
SKIN & GAMES – 11AM-6:30PM
UNION JACKS – 6PM-8PM



# HOW TO SPOT AFAKE ID

When I began working as a bouncer at Dixie Tavern in 2017, the guys who worked the front door were prodigiously deadly hunters of the fake ID. After closing, I would look through the stack they'd confiscated for the night, and I always wondered if I would have been able to call them out as fake. Catching fake IDs was woven heavily into the bouncer culture of that establishment, and it was a skill I was eager to develop.

I indeed managed to develop that skill, and over the years, I've snagged one here and there, but not with any regularity. I recently returned to Dixie Tavern after a couple of years away. On my first shift back, I was placed at the front door to check IDs (where I've remained since), and I suddenly found myself in what the military would call a "target-rich environment." I've caught at least one fake ID every single Friday and every Saturday except one since then. My collection resides in a binder filled with baseball card pages. I currently have 145 fake IDs from 30 different states, all but 11 of which I've caught since September. My record is 11 in one night.



If it sounds like I'm bragging right now, I suppose maybe I am. Maybe it's a lame thing to brag about, but fuck it; I'm proud of how good I've gotten at it. I'm proud of having a skill that not a lot of people seem to have. This brings us to the topic I'm writing about this month...I'm going to break down what to look for to catch fake IDs.

Just a few things before we dig in. First, don't expect to just start catching fakes right away. The more IDs you check, the more apparent it becomes when something doesn't look quite right. In Oregon, you aren't liable for failing to spot a fake anyway, so be patient and give it time. Second, exercise caution when it comes to confiscating. You could land yourself in hot water if you mistake someone's real ID for a fake and take it from them. I have a luxury that not everyone has...working at Dixie Tavern on Fridays and Saturdays, I have a police detail posted up 50 yards from where I'm standing, and they're always happy to run an ID for me if I'm in doubt. I technically don't confiscate fakes. If a kid demands I return their fake, I'm willing to return it, but handing a fake ID to a kid feels uncomfortably close to contributing to the delinquency of a minor. If they want it back that badly, I offer the solution of walking with them to the aforementioned police detail, and the cops can return their property to them. Oddly enough, the kids rarely take me up on my offer. But the ones who do wind up getting lectured about the legal ramifications of using a fake ID and told to go home. If you aren't fortunate enough to have a police detail at your immediate disposal like I do, err on the side of caution. If you aren't certain about an ID, deny entry and give the card back.

#### Resources

I have noticed lately that some bars and clubs have started using ID scanners. While scanners can be a helpful tool, I'm decidedly not a fan. I've seen scanners fail in both directions. I've watched definite fakes scan as legit, and I know of an instance in which a genuine ID was flagged as fake. In the case of the former, the websites that sell fakes even tout their product as "scannable." In the case of the latter, my theory is that the scanner got confused by an Arizona ID with a Seattle address. Arizona allows out-of-state addresses

on their IDs, provided the ID isn't the new Real ID-compliant type, but I'm willing to bet that's not a piece of information to which the scanner was privy. My advice is to skip the scanner.

How did I know Arizona's address rules, you may ask? I looked it up in The ID Checking Guide. This book isn't available for sale to individuals, only to bars and other relevant businesses or agencies. If your establishment doesn't have a copy, ask your manager to order one from DriversLicenseGuide.com. The ID Checking Guide provides photo examples and detailed descriptions of currently valid versions of IDs from all 50 states, as well as US territories. It may not always give you enough information to make the call, but it's a good reference to have on hand.

#### **Photo**

The photo on an ID is almost always the first thing that tips me off. Watch for photos that are too in-focus, like they were taken with an iPhone, instead of whatever shitty camera the DMV uses that makes you look blurry or grainy. Look at the photo as it relates to the background. Does the person look Photoshopped onto the background? Are the edges of their head too sharp, or are there no shadows behind them? Red flag.



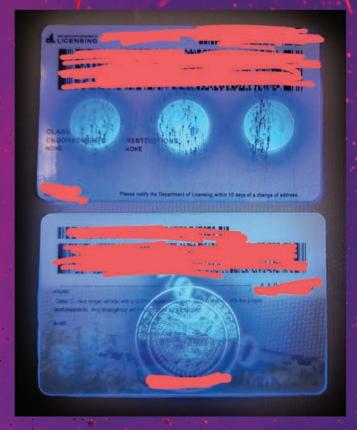
**Laminate/Card Stock** 

Next, it's time to focus on the card itself. The laminate is another early clue for me that an ID might not be legit. It's often either way too glossy or way too matte. Look for air bubbles

or creases. Bend the card to see whether the laminate forms a crease or a wrinkle that wasn't there before. Lalso see a lot of fakes that will completely peel apart with little to no effort, so check along the edge for a seam that doesn't belong. Another handy trick I've figured out is to hold a flashlight or a black light directly against the card and turn it on. If the edges light up as though the card is made of fiber optic material, there's a good bet it's a fake.

#### **Printing**

If you look closely, the printing on the card can betray a fake in a lot of different ways. The color can be too light or too dark. The font might be too bold or even the wrong font. Spelling errors are fun to spot as well; I once saw a Montana ID that said the girl was from "Bilings," which is not a suburb of Billings. Another Montana ID listed an address on a street that was definitely here in Portland, Oregon, but the city listed was Portland, Montana, complete with a Portland, Oregon ZIP code. Montana ZIP codes start with a 5, not a 9.



UV

I recommend carrying a good black light when checking IDs. Every state has a UV feature of some sort on their IDs, and fakes often fail to correctly replicate that UV feature. The images might appear fuzzy, or there might not be a UV image at all.

None of these tricks are completely foolproof, but they're way more useful than the ID scanners I mentioned before. Try these tips for yourself, and I'll bet you'll be catching fakes in no time.

Nate Hazen is a bouncer and writer and is more skilled at checking IDs than a scanner. Bring your fake ID to him at Dixie Tavern and X Exotic Lounge, and add it to his collection.



## TO CONSUME

#### **UNDERSTANDING & PREVENTING OVERDOSES**

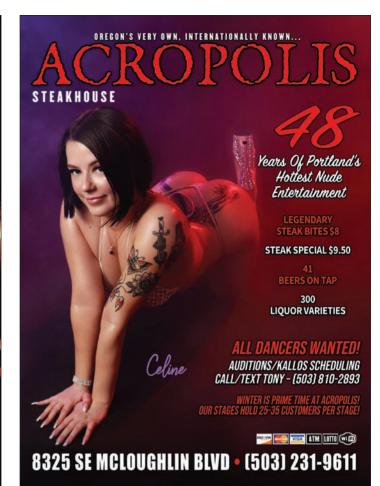
Except for suicides, overdose deaths are always accidental. The word "overdose" has sometimes carried a moral judgment that the individual was "pushing their limits" in order to get as high as possible, as if it were their own fault.

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

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

Model: Gi Mary Jane Photographer: @saintsashaphotography











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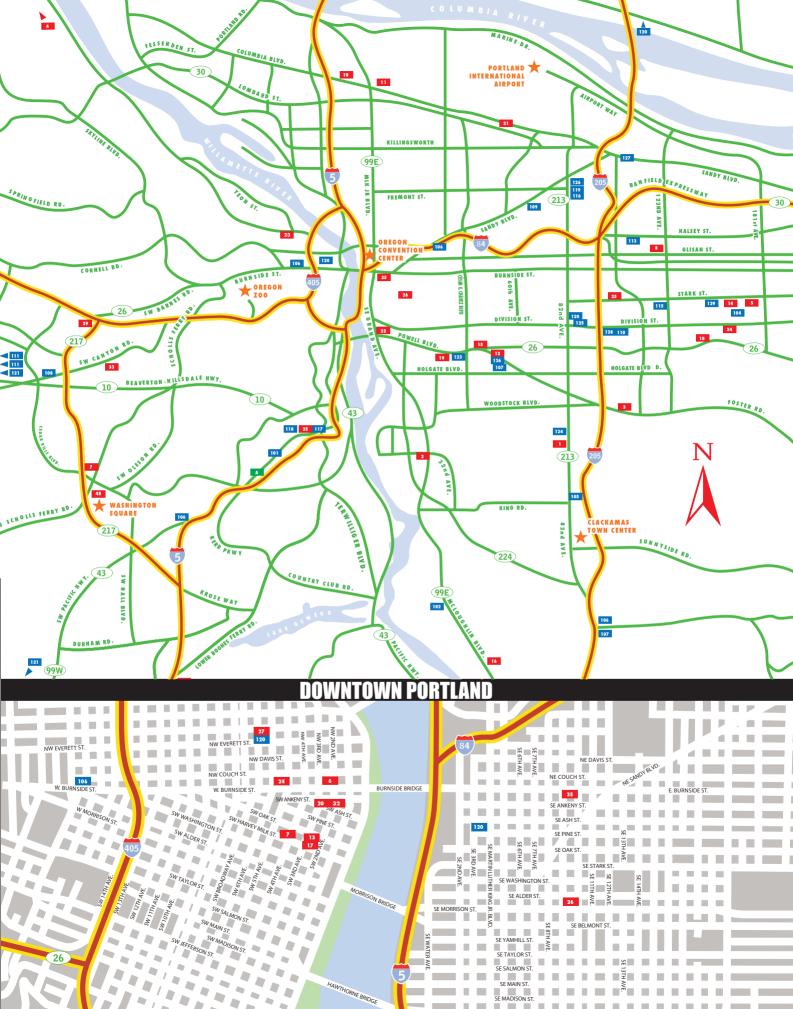


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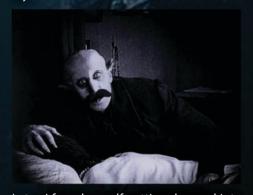
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As mentioned in last month's issue, I was almost going to skip reviewing this one since I simply didn't think there was enough nudity to justify a thousand words. But, after watching discourse on this movie explode online and in private, I decided that I wanted to throw my two cents in the dumpster fire. Plus, one of my Discord friends made the excellent point that I reviewed Alien: Romulus, and there's no goddamn nudity in that one, so I shouldn't let that stop me if I have things to say, and believe me, I do have things to say!



Later, I found myself getting dragged into arguments with these Discord friends about the movie and whether or not it was based on cringe. As I was arguing with these people and getting frustrated, I moved to Reddit to air out my grievances there, and then on 4chan, I realized that I was wasting my time! This isn't high school anymore! I have an actual print outlet where I can say whatever I want and be right! No more need to own my digital peers via petty comment wars. I can just send all my thoughts in a Word document and have it printed out and distributed amongst the Pacific Northwest's network of cathouses, smut stores, and jack shacks. Take that, former peers! You have hereby been relegated to readers!

And to be clear, I'm not arguing with these simpletons that this movie was good, but rather that it was bad for different reasons that these mouthbreathers simply weren't getting. And those are reasons in addition to the fact that there wasn't nearly enough nudity in this film, as I mentioned last month!

#### **SPOILERS AHEAD**

Once again, and with gusto, this movie did not have enough nudity! We did get a naked woman on a horse that definitely activated some Lady Godiva fantasies I've harbored since I was a wee wanker, but that scene was far too brief. Shame, too, 'cause the chick was hot. Nice tits, and you got some bush. Not enough, of course, but at least it was there. That's one nice thing about Eggers. We always get at least a little bit of bush in each movie as a treat. I will admit that The Lighthouse didn't technically have any bush, but we did get that giant prosthetic mermaid vagina. So that...kind of counts. It was hot in its own horny, Lovecraftian way, so I'll allow it.

I was hoping since we got some barebackhorseriding bush, we might get to see Johnny Depp's daughter's bush as well. At least a merkin. No luck. We do get some good shots of her big ol'nipples—which I'm always happy to see...but dang-it-all, I thought this was the movie where we finally got the full monty. We've already seen this half-French, halfforehead's darling little gumdrops in that shitty HBO show with The Weeknd and that weird, horny movie where she thinks she's a cat. Old news. We even got better fuck scenes in that Weeknd show. This fuck scene is fully clothed! Boo!

Weirdly enough, it's the very first scene in the film, which is honestly the hottest. We begin with her wanting attention from ghosts or something and then zoom in on her face, where she makes these quiet little gaspy moans that are clearly indicating the titular character is thrusting his 400-year-old decomposing cock inside her. It's just a shot of her face, but Jesus, if it doesn't do it for me. It reminds me of up-close POV VR porn. I think some nerd should be able to A.I.-ify this scene and upload it to a VR porn site. Unfortunately, my talents are limited to letters, so some fellow horndog who has the gift of gigabytes can get on this.

Speaking of that 400-year-old decomposing cock, you get to see it later in the film, so I found it pretty unfair we got to see this grey, decaying, flaccid wang but none of Lily-Rose Depp's vag. Even Anya Taylor-Joy showed her vag in The Northman. Or a really hairy merkin, but I'll allow it.

But none of this addresses the arguments I'm hearing online about how the film is regressive in its portrayal of women, playing on tropes of Victorian anxieties about hysteria and female desire. What movie are these idiots watching?! The film I saw was stuffed to the brim with modern feminazi crap! I mean, the whole point of the movie is that the only way to defeat evil is to cuck your husband. Get your modern Pornhub kinks out of my 19th-century horror movie!



Also, that shit where she's telling her husband how she doesn't care about material wealth and she just wants his company? The hell is that? Ain't no woman in that era would say that kinda horseshit—they can't even vote! The only reason they get married is for financial security! Woke-ass modern characters shoehorned into a story from the past. It was worse than that Marie Antionette movie where they just put a pair of Converse in her shoe collection! Does no one care about historical accuracy anymore? The West has fallen.

2/5 eggplants



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

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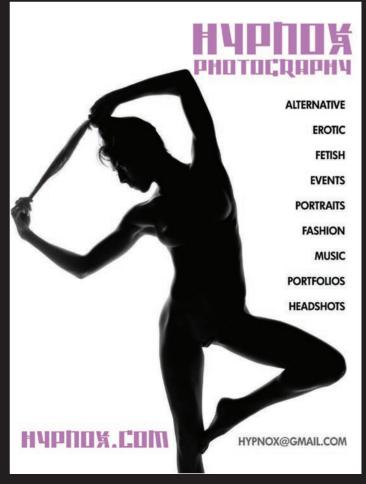


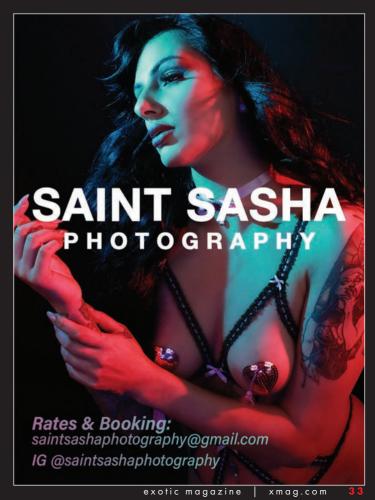
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## EVERYOUE COVER REBRAINS

#### BY HANNAH ONE CUP

For many, February is the month when all the labrador significant others clamor together to make a big to-do about one day. Unfortunately, this isn't Groundhog Day, which is February 2nd, by the way. Much like Christmas and a person's birthday, Valentine's Day is typically one of those holidays you feel the pressure to perform for some reason. It isn't enough to tell that special someone that you love them every day and perhaps shower them with affection and gifts of pancakes and whisky once in a while as you serenade them to sleep with your perfectly off-tune rendition of an Oasis song—no...you must outdo everything you've done thus far, and pull out all the stops. Go hog wild, so to speak.

But what do you do when you can't possibly come up with any unique ideas to outdo what you've already seen as "the most you can come up with?" Fear not, for I, the Magnificent Matchmaker in Hell, have come to help save this possibly ruinous occasion.



Naming a Roach After Your Ex

Now, this one is really more useful for all those single folk out there who could really care less about this stupid holiday and just want to do something worth snickering about later on. There are several zoos in the US (The Bronx Zoo, Chicago's Brookfield Zoo, and San Antonio Zoo, to name a few) that allow you to name a cockroach after your ex for a nominal donation, upon which you receive a certificate commemorating the naming of the cockroach. "Joe the Roach." It's probably something you called them before, anyway.

I feel that naming an animal after a person is a great tradition to get into. For instance, all of my dogs are named after family members, aside from one adopted four-legged beast who's named after Dolly Parton. My grandmother hates this, so I keep doing it. My family just happens to have great dog names; I can't help it. So, taking this to the other extreme and naming an ex after something that most think of as vile is just wonderful. Even though I think cockroaches were most likely more beneficial to your life than the individual you named it after. Joe lives on in the Bronx Zoo, somewhere in a cage being looked at by slimy children.



**Give Them a Pig and Some Cookies** 

A German tradition if I ever heard one. Pigs are considered good luck in several countries, Germany being the current subject. So why not go full-on Deutsch, and gift your significant other a pig? Whether you choose to gift them a real, living-alive pig or something with less of a commitment is up to you and how you think that will play out at the end of the day. You also can't forget the gingerbread. You can't possibly give your Valentine a pig without providing them with a gingerbread shaped into a heart as well. That's like gifting someone a picture of a hundred-dollar bill...just...why?

I like to picture a Valentine's delivery service pulling up to some lucky duck's house, knocking on the door of the recipient, and leaving before they answer. Just to have the

recipient open the door to a brand new pig named Herbert, who has a love letter tied with a bow around his neck, asking, "Will you be mine?" And had also been carrying a gingerbread heart-shaped cookie until he ate it in the 39 seconds it took for you to get to the door. "Sandra, oh Sandra, words cannot describe my love for thee, so I bought you this pig to do what I could not. Won't you be mine?"

I think the delivery service would be called "Ginger Pigs – gifting love pigs and ginger-bread to that special someone."



**Adopt an Opossum** 

No, don't go trying to get an opossum delivered to you from Florida or try finding one out in the wild. Instead, give that stupid money to a rescue sanctuary for damaged animals. WildlifeChicBoutique on Etsy will provide you with several hard-copy photographs of an opossum you are assisting with, giving enrichment toys and supplies with your donation. They also provide you with a painting done by that opossum. Apparently, opossums like painting. You also get a certificate stating you "adopted" this opossum. It's cute. I did it for a friend once, and no one was upset about it. The facility also has a myriad of other cute animals they've rescued, which you are more than welcome to adopt and get photos and certificates for, like raccoons and hedgehogs. I'm unclear if these two like displaying their artier side like the opossum, but they're cute nonetheless.

Just don't go trying to claim parental rights and wave your adoption certificate at the facility, thinking you now own a damaged, artistic opossum. I'll regret providing this information to you all if that happens, and you'll make me very disappointed in you as a person.

#### **Buy a Gift Certificate for Fancy Lingerie**

No. Not for your benefit. This is for all my fine readers out there who are already counting down the days until hell comes back to the surface of your home and makes the temperatures outside unbearable to be in. And if you are most people in the PNW, you do not have the luxury of central air being the default, so being inside can sometimes be just as bad. When it gets to that heat, you're probably like me—suffering to get comfortable in your skin with your underwear on and maybe a bathing suit top. Just in case a pool comes out of nowhere—you're ready to swim. Or maybe you turned your bath on and just have a tub of cold water you dip into throughout the day.

Having a selection of fancy lingerie to wear around the house while screaming expletives at the sun can make us feel a bit less spiteful about the whole thing. Kind of like you're upper class but not upper class enough to have central air or a second home in Iceland. Just upper class enough to have a silk robe and matching undergarments. Wearing a 90-dollar bra while eating soup you've microwaved without heating up the house at all sounds like the finest luxury I'll gladly afford.

#### DO NOT...

- Buy your significant other plants unless you plan on helping take care of said plant with them. Plants, much like live pigs, are a commitment, and on this day of our underlord, you're trying to make this person's life cute, easier, and maybe a bit sleazier. Plants are none of these.
- Do not buy a vacuum cleaner unless it's for you to use.
- Do not buy ingredients for dinner unless you're making the
- Do not make dinner unless you're doing the dishes afterward.
- Do not buy a dozen roses and leave them in the bag without trimming them and putting them in a vase. That's just lazy and annoying. Again, you want to give them less work, not a plastic bag to throw away and something to poke their delicate fingers

If you take just one of the previous ideas and follow the "DO NOT" section, your Valentine's Day should go swimmingly. Maybe you'll get lucky and never have to worry about getting a roach named after you. This is at least a step in that general direction. Good luck, and love big.

Hannah One Cup can be found trying on her fancy lingerie that she purchased with a gift certificate she was provided. She's very much looking forward to yelling at the sun in it, while angrily drinking tequila. For now, she's very happy that it's still cold outside and that there are still some who don't make a big deal on such a stupid day.







## FUN FACTS ABOUT MY BLOODY VALENTINE TO BORE YOUR VALENTINE WITH ON VALENTINE'S DAY

#### By Blazer Sparrow

Although I have been described as a "scene critic," my true passion is learning useless music history trivia and letting it live rent-free in my head for all eternity. Any chance I get to slip some deep lore and music nerd factoids about my favorite artists into this column, I pounce on it. And it usually gets through because the editor is desperate for content.

For the February issue, Valentine's Day is often on everyone's mind. Either because they're stressing about how to not fuck it up for their significant other, or they're dreading spending yet another one alone and horny. It's honestly a dumb Hallmark holiday that has all but forgotten its origins with the patron saint of epilepsy and beekeepers (look it up).

I've been writing for this magazine for over seven years now and pretty much ran out of romantic-related jokes concerning musicians. Despite what the abundance of love songs would have you believe, it's a pretty unsexy profession except for the top one percent or the smart ones, who decide to DJ instead.



As I was staring at this blank page well past our writing deadline, with only the word "Valentine's Day" written at the header, all I could think about was one of my favorite bands of all time, and I figured I'd just write about them instead. Sadly, they have not dropped their long-awaited fourth album, as I demanded in my January piece last year. I was hoping that manifesting power, which did work for The Cure's long-awaited follow-up and most of a Portishead album, would work with Kevin Shields & Co., but no dice. Maybe I should be more petulant.

But until then, I might as well waste some page space with some interesting tidbits about these shoegazing pioneers that have little to nothing to do with Valentine's Day, despite the name. For those of you stuck with going to an obscenely crowded restaurant with a three-hour wait, here are some fun facts to ruin the already sour mood of the date you didn't even want to go on.

#### **They Used to Sound Completely Different**

For those that associate the band with the vacuum cleaner quitar, whispered, buried vocals, and deep dance beats (or your poor date who couldn't care less), this group did not just emerge fully formed in 1988 as the standard against which all shoegaze is compared. It took several lineup changes and stylistic revamps to get to the classic lineup and sound that most folks associate them with. Their first EP, This is Your Bloody Valentine, from 1985, sounds like a high school band trying to sound like Siouxsie and the Banshees and The Cure, a few years too late. Some elements are still there, like the noisy guitar, but with the gothy croon of original singer Dave Conway, it's a whole different animal. Pretty cool unless you have no idea what the band sounds like now or care.

#### Kevin Shields Doesn't Use That Many Pedals (or Guitar Tracks)

If your date wasn't blown away by that fact, just wait till you wow her with this bombshell. One of the defining elements of shoegaze is the endless pedalboards and the assumption that the wall of abrasive guitar sound is achieved through basically having them all on. Not the case at all. In interviews, Kevin admits that most of the pedals he has on stage while playing live are different types of distortion. Most of that tone is just British amps cranked to oblivion, patience, and fucking with the whammy bar mid-strum (his famous glide guitar technique). On records, all that weird guitar shit isn't pedals but studio trickery. If you want to know what a hundred guitar tracks sound like, listen to Oasis's Be Here Now or Smashing Pumpkin's Siamese Dream. Kevin himself said that their 1991 album

Loveless had fewer guitar tracks than most new band's demo albums. What you're hearing is strategic mic placement around the amps and manually fucking with the speed of the guitar track to create that warble effect. This might be good news for your date since it might imply you'll finally sell some of those pedals collecting dust in your closet.



They Bankrupted Creation Records to Pay Rent

Most folks (although likely not your date) are well aware that the band's highly anticipated second record, Loveless, was stuck in production hell forever. They started recording in February of 1989 and didn't wrap until September 1991—less than two months before release. Now, numbers and dates are constantly disputed, but the figure given by Creation Records is £250,000 (about half a million today), and it's confirmed they went to nineteen different studios and utilizedand paid—countless engineers. We'll never have the real numbers since Sony bought Creation Records, and both parties argue over what the final bill really was. However, one of my favorite "excuses" for the insanely high budget for the album, which comes from Kevin himself, is that a lot of the budget was used for "living expenses" during the tortured, nearly three-year production of the record. Classic Irish. This would be an excellent time to ask your date if you can move into her place rent-free. After all, she wants to support your dream of being a successful bedroom pop star, right? Remind her that the only way you get a masterpiece like 1991's Loveless is by shelling out obscene amounts of money to some lazy musicians, who spend most of it on fast food and video games.

I should give more dating advice.



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## TRAPPED IN THE CRAZYHOUSE

The crazyhouse. The nuthouse. The mental institution. The insane asylum. Somewhere nobody wants to be. Trapped in a room, drugged, and kept by order of the court. In the name of justice. They decide if you belong there or not.

Do you believe in this practice? Well, guess what, motherfucker, it is not up to you. I, myself, have never been adjudicated mentally deficient, oddly. However, this sort of thing happens fairly often. The state has the ultimate authority, of course, and can decide to commit someone to a mental hospital, ostensibly for their own good and the good of society.

There are many reasons one can end up there. Most involve prior crimes or unstable behavior. Are they really helping? What good does this do? How does one end up in the nuthouse? How easy is it to leave? Is this some "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" shit? I decided to find out.

As stated, I've never been through such a proceeding. I've not been involuntarily committed—or voluntarily, for that matter. I had to consult someone who had been run through this particular ringer, and I found them willing to discuss it. A professional associate and dear friend, whom I have known for decades, was done dirty by the system which was put in place to help her and ended up in, well, the crazyhouse. That is to say, the State Hospital. I asked her opinions on the state of things and sent guestions to her. These are her answers.

#### 1. How did you end up there?

"I currently have a qualifying mental health diagnosis and charges against me, which allowed me to be an eligible candidate for ORS 161.370 to be applied to me in a court of law. A person who is sent to the Oregon State Hospital under ORS 161.370 must be in custody in order to be admitted to the Hospital. A psychiatric evaluation in jail deemed me unable to "aid and assist" in my court proceedings, and I was sent to the Oregon State Hospital for medical mental health treatment and a second evaluation."

So, she went to the crazyhouse because of pending charges, and I don't think they involved cell phone cables.

#### 2. Why did they keep you there?

"The reason I was ordered back to my respective county is a question of greater concern. I was ordered back early because I was heavily medicated on an antipsychotic that made it difficult to process and respond to normal conversations. I was unable to attend internet hearings with the mental health judge because of the high dose of antipsychotics I was prescribed.



The psychiatrist, before I was ordered discharged from the Oregon State Hospital to be sent back to the county jail, said that she put into my medical records that the dose of antipsychotic medication prescribed to me was "intolerable." Upon my discharge from the Hospital, the psychiatrist lowered my dose of the antipsychotic but did not remove it from my prescriptions (even though it was only prescribed to me as part of an OSH "safety plan")."

Okay, so she got locked up in the crazyhouse, drugged to the gills, and was sent back to jail anyhow. The fuck? Pick one, ya

#### 3. For how long?

"I was only kept at the OSH for about two months, which is just a month shy from the usual three months that a person is admitted to the OSH under the Mosman Order.\* This is a relatively new order. That makes me a "370 OG." How long does that last?

The first time I was sentenced to the OSH. I was brought back to the county jail after spending three months at the OSH and had completed the second psychiatric evaluation—in person—at the Oregon State Hospital. After spending a night in jail, I had my day in court. My charges were dismissed."

I'm glad the judge's order was adhered to, but why does his name make me think of the mothman from West Virginia? I hope he was, in fact, not a hideous creature for the night in disguise, but even if he was, good on him, I guess.

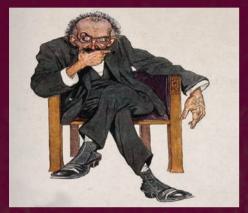
#### 4. What treatments were provided?



"Medication, access to a fitness room, and occupational therapy. An occupational therapist can assign you a weighted blanket, give you a Warmies™ doll that can be heated up in the microwave, and make you custom aromatherapy lotions and oils."

Aroma-fucking-therapy? In the crazyhouse?

It sounds like a fuckin' spa, where they also happen to drug you up because reasons of craziness. Dunno if that makes for a pleasant existence or not, but it would seem like it's not all that fun.



5. What were the criteria for your release (programs or evaluations or whatever)?

"Without consulting my court-appointed attorney or case manager for confirmation, I believe the criteria for my release from the county jail into the Mental Health Court's community restoration, "Aid and Assist," Forensic Diversion program, was considered on that the charge(s) against me are nonviolent, and that I am not a threat to myself or others. It is my understanding that the prosecution had to agree to my admittance into whatever county mental health program I'm in.

I had to be willing to actively participate in the Mental Health Court's community restoration program, and my case manager had to find an appropriate placement in the community for me. Which meant my case manager had to find housing for me. Waiting for placement, I sat in jail for about two weeks.

To actively participate in the county program, I have to continue to take my psychiatrist-prescribed medication, have regular meetings with my case manager, refrain from using drugs or alcohol, including marijuana, avoid getting new charges, and not violate the conditions of my release. I have to check in with the mental health court

once a month. For some participants, it's every couple of weeks. I was required to participate in "legal skills" classes. I have to check in, in person, every three days with the diversion program's supporting mental health services organization. I have to work with them to create a plan for a more permanent housing situation. I had to establish a primary care physician, find a counselor and psychiatrist in the community, and maintain regular appointments with them for treatment. Additionally, finding and maintaining employment is strongly encouraged."

What a barrel of bullshit. Why is this so difficult? Someone's adjudicated to be no threat to themselves or others. So why spend more money after that fact? We just piss it away for no real reason.



6. What diagnoses were you given, and did different doctors specify different things, some of which might contrast?

"I have had several different diagnoses. A couple of my diagnoses contradict each other in terms of treatment, but each of these respective diagnoses is similar in symptoms. One doctor will say it's this, the other doctor will say it's that.

The diagnosis that sent me to the OSH, I do not experience the symptoms of. The diagnosis is in my medical record, but I was never prescribed medication for this particular diagnosis. I was never prescribed an antipsychotic until I was sent to the Oregon State Hospital. However, I learned at the OSH that I had been treated at a lower-level mental hospital with an antipsychotic. The psychiatrist who was assigned to me at the OSH said, according to my self-reported symptoms, I may have a misdiagnosis."

Gosh, it's almost like people don't give half a fuck or something. These are real doctors who should have a genuine concern for their patients. Come to a distinct conclusion, or what good are you actually doing? Fucknuts. 7. What reasons might you be sent back, if any?

"In my recollection, according to my case manager, I cannot be sent back to the Oregon State Hospital on these charges. I already served my time at the Oregon State Hospital for these charges, so I will not be going back.

The OSH may keep patients who are under an "aid and assist" order for up to three years or a period of time equal to the maximum sentence the court could have imposed if the defendant had been convicted, whichever is shorter.



The ability to "aid and assist" is determined by psychiatric evaluation. Possible outcomes of a psychiatric evaluation are: "able," the patient or the defendant is competent and fit to proceed to trial; "not yet able," the patient or the defendant is not yet able, competent, or fit to proceed to trial, but may be in the foreseeable future; or the patient or the defendant is "never able". The "never able" finding, in a legal context, means that a person is deemed unlikely to ever regain the capacity to assist in their own defense, essentially signifying they will never be able to participate meaningfully in their legal proceedings due to their mental state, which could lead to the dismissal of charges and potentially a civil commitment if they are considered a danger to themselves or others.

Multnomah County's Forensic Diversion provides community restoration as an alternative to being placed in the OSH. This option is less restrictive and provides the defendant with continued stability and services while maintaining safety in their community as an alternative to extended time

in the Multnomah County Jail.

A Forensic Diversion program is considered a treatment-focused program that's designed to divert defendants with a serious mental illness away from the criminal justice system, and into community-based treatment programs instead of facing a full trial, essentially prioritizing treatment over a traditional trial process.

"Mental Health Court" provides time-limited, intensive monitoring services to persons involved in the criminal legal system post-adjudication. Defendants plea to the court and are supported by parole or probation, Mental Health Court monitors, and peer specialists. The focus is on connecting defendants to community treatment, housing, and financial and medical entitlements. Staff provides ongoing monitoring and support for individuals enrolled in the Mental Health Court. Successful participants can shorten their probationary period."

Okay, so if you're "able," then you can stand in court, but if you're not, then you can't. Which is better? This is like the court having Yogi Bear decide if someone goes up the river. "Okay, Boo-Boo, you're able to stand trial for stealing pic-a-nic baskets."



8. What was it like on a day-to-day basis?

"The Oregon State Hospital? Stressful. Worse than jail."

My only question is: was the food any better? Jail food sucks, as we all know (yes, I know my audience) there's no way it could be worse...I hope.

#### 9. How did you get out, and why?

"I got out of the OSH because Multnomah County's mental health court judge, the honorable Judge Nan Waller, sent an order to the OSH to discharge me back to the county jail because I was not attending my online court hearings to report about my treatment from inside the Hospital.

Author's note: Judge Nan Waller is the *only* mental health court judge in Multnomah County. What's more, there's only one judge who fills in for her; her name is Judge Brown. None of this sounds *any* fun.

10. Any thoughts on the operations, treatment, and general summation of the experience?

"About two weeks after I was admitted into the Hospital, a state police detective came to the unit to interview me about what I had heard from other patients about a mental health therapist, commonly called an "MHT," who had allegedly slapped a wheelchair-bound, guilty except for insanity (GEI) patient across the face.

The Hospital did not put the MHT in question on leave or assign her to a different unit, even while the state police detective was conducting an active investigation against her. This negligence left patients who were interviewed by the state police detective in a more vulnerable position than they already are, as patients in a hospital. I later found out that this MHT had searched my room in the OSH and stole my snacks."



No. Fuck that noise. I fucking love snacks. Don't fucking steal them.

"I went to the hub of the unit, put my hands flat down on a table, and calmly said, 'You are being investigated by the state for crimes against patients; stay the fuck out of my room.'"

"This interaction ultimately led to me being prescribed a high dose of an antipsychotic,"

This sounds to me like it could have been retaliation, but it may have been a matter of course. Fuck 'em anyhow.

"Even though I do not experience hallucinations, see things, or hear things that are not

there. This antipsychotic prescription was implemented as part of the OSH's "safety plan" in response to that MHT reporting she felt threatened."

Go figure. They cry out as they strike you.

Whoa, it seems crazy town apparently is crazier than I thought, but back to her comments.

"Another MHT, a male, chased me around my room, telling me, 'I can put my hands on you.' Saying, 'You don't want me to put my hands on you.' He said, 'I can take the Thermacare™1 patch from your body.' (From my underwear.) A nurse from Tijuana stood in the doorway and watched in silence as this happened. After this incident, I was no longer given Thermacare™ patches."

"A couple of patients told me about how they had casual hookups with other patients in the Hospital. This is risky. If you are male, when you are caught, the doctors will prescribe you medication that will prevent you from having an erection."



Shit, they'll steal your fuckin' boner? What a literal letdown.

"If you do not take the medication that is prescribed to you at the OSH, they will get a gang of employees to surround you, usually pin you to the ground, and stab you with a syringe filled with 'emergency medication.' Sometimes, they will put you in a 'seclusion room."

Er, that sounds to me like solitary confinement. I think the asylum is run by the lunatics

"The food at the OSH is much better than county jail food. Some of the food offered was elk stew, salmon, and country-fried steak. You always had the option of choosing a tuna fish, egg salad, or peanut butter and jelly sandwich on wheat or white bread



in lieu of the main entree. Sometimes, we would have unit pizza parties. The vegetarian pizza is the best kind of pizza offered at the OSH."

Well, that question got answered. Can't do much worse than jail food. Sounds far better than bologna and American so-called cheese on stale bread.

"I learned a little bit of Russian from a Ukrainian MHT. I learned how to say a few things, as well as write and read letters of the Russian alphabet and how to say a couple salutations. I made flashcards. We would have these Russian language lessons in the evening, about once a week."

This would be the Cyrillic alphabet. I only know the swears in Russian.

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She later used this skill to make friends with

some Russians at a sauna she visited with your humble column writer<sup>2</sup>.

"I often would pass the time in the unit aircourt singing. I would start every morning singing The Star-Spangled Banner acapella before breakfast. Later in the afternoon, I would listen and sing along to the music provided by the MP3 players given to patients on the unit. A few times, people would drive by, honking and hollering, encouraging me to continue singing. Other times, the geese would honk and fly by circling around."

"Every day, I would take 20 minutes to pray the 'Mysteries of the Rosary' on my fingers."



"Pray for me."

Apart from that, there were some fairly recent amendments to the mental health system.

There was a legal case, the Mink-Bowman case, specifically, which set limits on how long someone could be kept in the nuthouse. The plaintiffs in the case were Mr. Mink, director of the facility at the time, and Mr. Bowman, who was kept in the crazyhouse for some years, as he had slipped into the cracks of the system.

There are time limits, and one must undergo evaluations every so often to determine if one needs to be there. They forgot Mr. Bowman. He was there for years. Far beyond the prescribed time he was supposed to have been. He should have had evaluations or gone to court, but they just sorta...

forgot about him. He languished beyond his time and was basically, "Oh, it's that guy. Give him his food and drug him, and all is well." All was not well.

The prior-mentioned judge, Mosman, presided over the case and determined that this ought never happen again. Anyone in mental care in Oregon has rules about how long they should be there and what must happen when they ARE there. He was not necessarily mistreated, but he was certainly left there for far too long with no hearings, that he might get out if he were not a danger to himself or others and found "able." If he had been accused of committing a crime that warranted him being incarcerated, MAYBE he should have been. Not left in the limbo of the nuthouse, and thus, the court case that changed the law.

\*Judge Michael Mosman was a key figure in making sure that people are not committed indefinitely and functioned to make sure there was a time limit for your stay in the nuthouse.

<sup>1</sup> Thermacare<sup>™</sup> is a dermally-applied patch that provides relief from back pain, neck pain, joint pain, and menstrual pain.

<sup>2</sup> I was not expecting that to happen, but hey, life is an adventure.

My source was a nice person known in the industry as Miranda Rights and lives a quiet, if mildly troublesome, life dealing with The System™.

Enjoy life, and try to stay out of the crazyhouse. Doesn't sound like much fun.

-Wombstretcha

Wombstretcha the Magnificent is an obligated mental health enthusiast, non-violent offender, 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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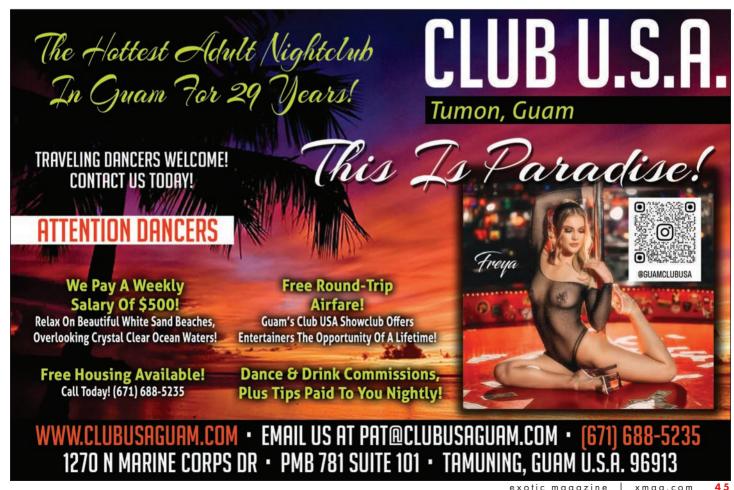


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