

FEBRUARY 2022

#336 • 29/08

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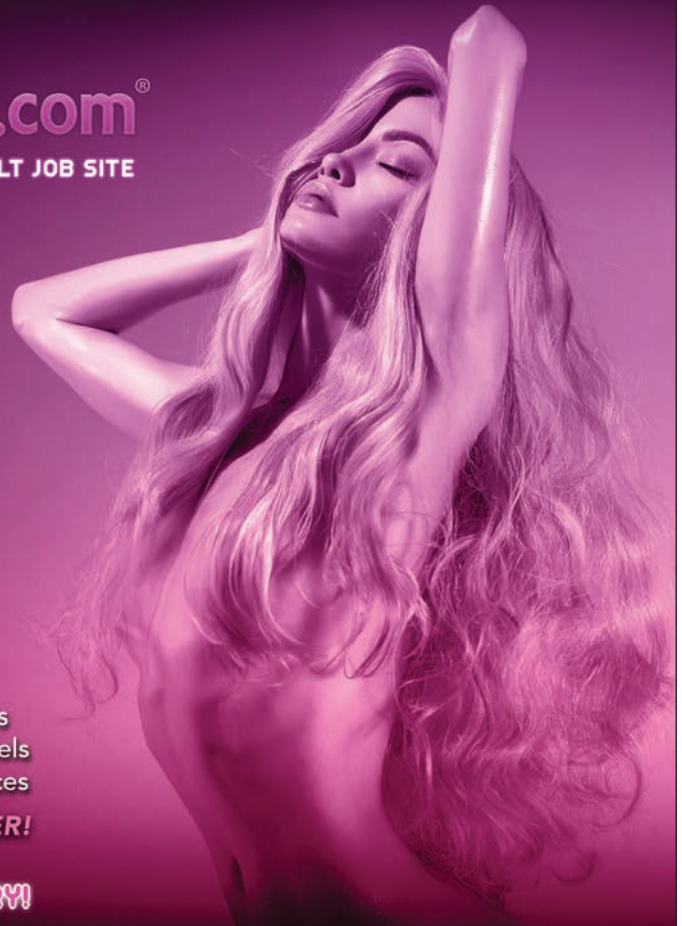
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*Brandi &  
Emery*

FROM  
**CLUB SINROCK**



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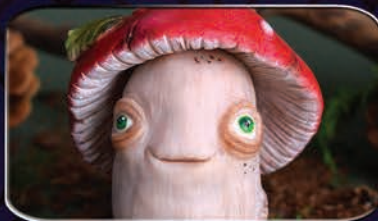
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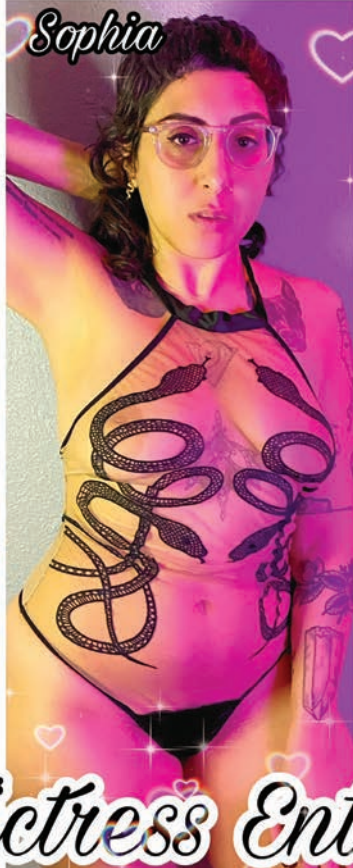
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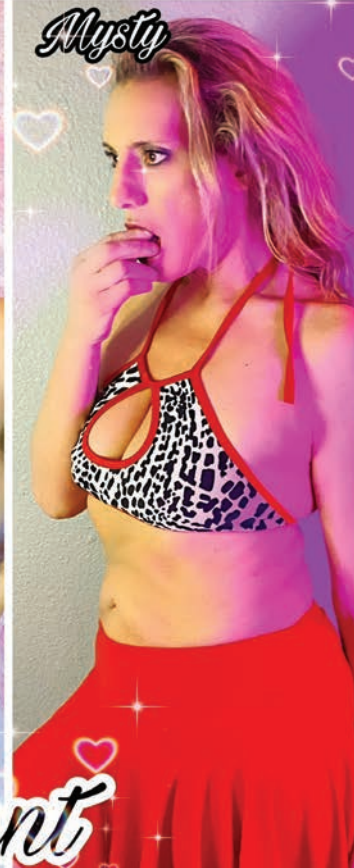
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# Polerotica

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HOSTED BY DJ DICK HENNESSY

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The Pole  
For 2022?



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BY BRYAN A. BYBEE

wanna know  
why they call  
me woody?

to:  
from:



love the 49ers, but for safety's sake, we'll add that we wrote this before January 30.]

Next, we'll skip right past VD and straight to Social Suicide's Anti-Valentine's Day Event at Dante's on Tuesday, February 15. Social Suicide only happens once a month, so don't miss this night! Scope the ad on page 37 for more info!

Wrapping up our February industry events is Destiny's 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday Party at Guilty Pleasures on Saturday, February 19, and then right back at Guilty Pleasure's for their Rio Carnival Party on Friday, February 25. Ready for another birthday party the very next night? Head over to Hawthorne Strip for their Fetish Birthday Party on Saturday, February 26.

And since you're already out, we suggest ending the night at Dante's and catching Mickey Avalon—he never disappoints! Always a crazy show!

### POLEROTICA IS ON THE HORIZON!

Exotic is excited to announce that *Polerotica* is coming this April! After a very exciting and successful *Miss Exotic 2022* last fall, we want to keep the energy flowing into 2022.

### ARE YOU PRO OR ANTI-VD?

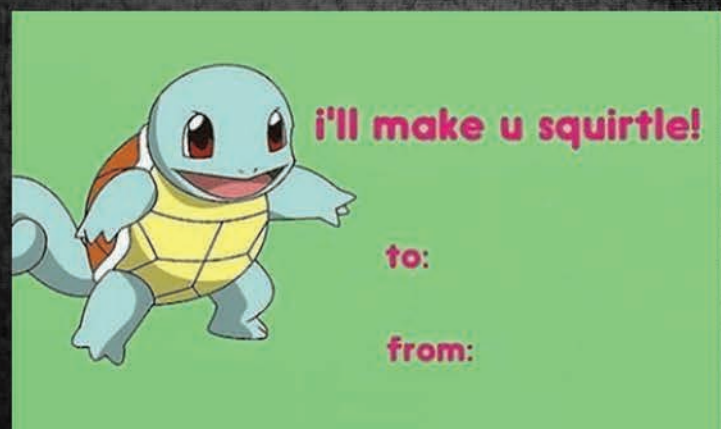
If VD has you thinking Levofloxacin more than love, this probably isn't your favorite month. And by the way, we were referring to Valentine's Day. Anyway, we get it. We're not fans of all the commercialization or materialization either—fuck being pressured into buying expensive gifts to validate your love for someone you don't even like that much. To hell with Cupid, we say. Save your money for tipping and drinking—and we'll get you pointed in the right direction!

That said, if you're bound and determined to find your special someone, we've included some Valentine's Day

card ideas to ensure your success. Remember, the direct approach is the best approach, so put it all out there and make Cupid your bitch.

If you're ultimately unsuccessful, you can still kick-start your month right with the good vibes and smooth sounds of HIROKI at Dante's on Sunday, February 6, followed by Sinferno—Portland's premier industry night, loaded with burlesque, fire dancing and a double dose of debauchery.

Just a week later, on Sunday, February 13, it's Super Bowl time, with your choice of three parties—both Stars Cabaret at Bridgeport and in Salem, as well as Guilty Pleasures. Go Niners! [We



Some facts about the event, *Polerotica* is the largest and most established pole performance and dance competition on the West Coast—and that was last fact-checked many (pre-pandemic) years ago, so it's very likely it now ranks high, even nationwide.

As with *Miss Exotic*, *Polerotica* is an opportunity for all entertainers working in the Pacific Northwest to show that exotic entertainment has been elevated to so much more than what it was once stereotyped to be. The finals for both events are attended by a very diverse demographic—not just industry folks. Be sure to check out this year's introduction to *Polerotica* on page 17, and we're excited to see you at the first qualifying round in April!

Until next month, keep dodgin' that Omicron, Daniel San.

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

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I'd shrek your buttohole.

To:

From:

## **xeroticcity** spotlight

**SUN 06 – DANTE'S  
HIROKI FOLLOWED BY SINFERNO CABARET**

**SUN 13 – STARS CABARET  
SUPER BOWL PARTY**

**SUN 13 – GUILTY PLEASURES  
SUPER BOWL PARTY**

**TUE 15 – DANTE'S – SOCIAL SUICIDE  
(ANTI-VALENTINE'S DAY EVENT)**

**SAT 19 – GUILTY PLEASURES  
DESTINY'S 21<sup>ST</sup> BIRTHDAY PARTY**

**FRI 25 – GUILTY PLEASURES  
RIO CARNAVAL PARTY**

**SAT 26 – HAWTHORNE STRIP  
FETISH BIRTHDAY PARTY**

**SAT 26 – DANTE'S – MICKEY AVALON**

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HAPPY HOUR NOON-3PM**

**THE LOUNGE  
HAPPY HOUR 2PM-4PM**



# MYSTERIOUS MYCELIUM

## Peculiar Facts About Our Fungal Friends

BY ESMERALDA RUPP-SPANGLE

We don't spend all that much time thinking about mycelium, but our planet wouldn't be able to support life without the humble mushroom. We here in the Pacific Northwest are especially fortunate in the variation and abundance of fungus that grows in our region and will often be met with large and resplendent examples of this if we take a walk on a drizzly spring or fall afternoon. Some are edible and delicious, some are repugnant, and some you only get to eat once before suffering from total organ failure. Let us now crouch down to the mossy forest floor and have a closer look at something that's not an animal, but not a plant either. Something both alien and familiar, bizarre, beautiful, mysterious, and magical. Whoa, dude—have you ever really looked at your hands? Like, really?



*Calm down, Prototaxites!*

### The Tale of Prototaxites

First collected in 1843, this bizarre fossil stumped paleontologists utterly. Cross-sections of the massive structure/trunk were up to 3 feet across, and the organism reached as tall as 28 feet. It even appeared to have growth rings like a tree, but there was one wee problem with this—the fossil dated to a time before trees. The fibrous material called lignin—which allows plants

to stand upright—hadn't evolved yet. Eventually, the scientists trying to make heads or tails of it just said, "Whatever, you weird fucking tree thing," and pretty much just shoved it up on a shelf to gather dust. I mean, really, who can blame them? It wasn't until the 2000s when a team of bored nerds with a scanning electron microscope decided to cram the thing in there and see wazzup. What they found was that these things were, in fact, you guessed it, fungus. Giant mushroom dicks that, long before dinosaurs were even a glitter in nature's eye, dominated the landscape. Sometimes, truth is, indeed, stranger than fiction.



*Larger than a whale & bigger than an elephant...*

### The Oregon Honey Mushroom

When I was a teenager, I recall going with my dad to the corner store. He got cigarettes, and I got Laffy Taffy and a copy of my favorite magazine, *The Weekly World News*. This week the cover showed what appeared to be a gigantic mushroom, as tall as a building, badly cut and pasted next to some anonymous cityscape or something. The headline screamed, "WORLD'S LARGEST MUSHROOM DISCOVERED IN OREGON!" I knew that the paper was hyperbolic at best, complete fab-

rication at worst, but my dad leaned over and said to me, quite sincerely, "You know, that's absolutely true." I think my eyes must have bugged out of my head as I nearly choked on my candy, but he went on to explain that it had indeed been discovered, that the largest organism on the entire planet was a mushroom—and it did, indeed, live right here in Oregon.

Most people think of a mushroom as a sort of stand-alone thing, but their "root systems," if you will (or more fancifully their mycelial networks), can stretch for miles. The mushrooms we see are just the "fruit" of this underground web of interconnected fibers, and this particular network covered almost 2,400 acres in Oregon's Blue Mountains. Perhaps not as dramatic as a Godzilla-sized 'shroom, but no less remarkable, IMHO.



*Yes, this seems like a mushroom I want to put in my tea...*

### Cordyceps, the Zombie Maker

Especially prolific in the humid jungles of Southeast Asia, this unassuming little fungus is easily overlooked. Cordyceps, being a genus, contains about 600 species, almost all of which are adapted to do one thing: be nightmare fuel.

Cordyceps fungus sporulate (give off spores) when they reach maturity. These spores (like all mushroom spores) are microscopic in size and go utterly unnoticed by animals, wafting along in the air and eventually landing. If they're lucky, they'll land on their intended target, insects. One variety of Cordyceps, for instance, specializes in a sort of jungle ant. The spores land on the ant and begin to spread—reaching into the ant's body and slowly but surely taking control of it, like a demon possessing a semi-truck. It forces the hapless insect up a blade of grass, then latches onto the plant in a death grip with its jaw. At this point, things get really grotesque, as the fungus sprouts one of its horror fruits right out of the head or body of the poor zombified bug. The mushroom matures and releases its spores onto the forest floor below, beginning the whole horrible cycle again. Each kind of Cordyceps specializes in a different insect, and a few even cannibalistically infect other mushrooms. As a fun little side note, Cordyceps *militaris* is popular in the naturopathic medicine crowd, which strikes me as just an all-around bad idea. Do you all want a zombie apocalypse? Because that is how you get a zombie apocalypse.

### The Grocery Store Is Lying to You

Look, I know we've had a rough couple of years, so I'll break the news to you as simply as I can. White button mushrooms, brown button mushrooms, and portobello mushrooms are *all the same thing*. I know, I know, you don't believe it, but bear with me. *Agaricus bisporus* is the species, the little brown ones are just immature portobellos, and the white ones are a mutation that's said to be more visually appealing (and blander, blech). I'm sure you feel as betrayed as I did when I learned this, so take the opportunity to write angry notes and tape them up all over the mushroom

section at the grocery store. The only way the truth will come out is if we all raise awareness about these filthy, filthy lies.



Whoa man, like, whoa...

### Hallucinogenic Honey

While the recorded use of psilocybin goes back at least 10,000 years, the radical mycologist (what a great title) Terrence McKenna has suggested something he calls the "Stoned Ape" theory, which states that the consumption of psychedelic mushrooms by our pre-human ancestors kick started our brains and drove them in to high gear (heh), prompting the evolution of the modern human brain. While not widely accepted by the scientific community, it's certainly trippy as hell, man. As the medical and psychiatric sciences begin to accept that maybe there is some significant therapeutic value to magic mushrooms, I'm just wondering how I wound up floating in this soap bubble in space, surrounded by weird mandalas of color and sound. Hello? Am I God? Where is everyone? Why does the air smell purple?

### Huitlacoche, AKA Corn Smut

Originating with the Aztecs, this parasitic fungus will infect the kernels on an ear of corn and cause them to bloat into bulbous deformities and turn a sickly color of grey, so of course, it's considered a delicacy. I've never had the pleasure, so I can't say if the fla-

vor is worthy of its status, but I would say it likely can't be any worse than it looks. I'm also not sure why they call it corn smut because it looks less smut-

ty and more infected with hellish pus to me, but hey, whatever.

While nowhere near an exhaustive list of the mycological weirdness that surrounds us, this at least can provide you with enough deeply unsettling knowledge to give you bad dreams for a week, and that's all I'm really aiming for here.



You first.

*Esmeralda M. Rupp-Spangle is lost in between universes and can't figure out how to untangle time to get back, but that's okay because she can smell the stars, and it's all good—no problem. If you're into it, drop her a psychic voice-mail, but you can also catch her on Facebook as Esmeralda Marina or Insta as @esmeraldasilentcitadel, man. Cool.*



by Blazer Sparrow

# Totally Unsexy Songs to Completely Kill the Mood on Valentine's Day

Ah, the second (or third?) Valentine's Day most likely spent alone due to the plague. You can still use that excuse for being alone and not your "winning" personality. Sometimes, a global pandemic has its upside—the perfect out for social situations you used to have to make up some absurd story for. Now, you can literally say, "I can't, I might die," with a straight face. The downside is that the same excuse can be used to not meet up for a second date after the dystopian zoom screening.

Let's assume this Valentine's Day you either already have a boo who hasn't dumped your ass since you've literally only seen each other's face for the last two years, or you found someone willing to swap some juicy Omicron fluids with you. It can't be that hard in Portland. This is Slut City. We don't mind getting our genitals dirty; we just sure as shit don't wanna work. Hell, keep the masks on during sex. Let's start a new kink.

And on not that note, I'm sure that should you manage to shack up with someone this Hallmark Holiday, one of the prime moodsetters besides roses and a bottle of Astroglide, is music. Let your friendly, local scene critic and music nerd stop you before you use

this as an opportunity to show off your vast knowledge of babymaking jams—don't. Honestly, your best bet for engorging your date's genitals is to let *them* choose the jams, 'cause we're all self-centered assholes who just want to listen to and watch our favorite shit.

Unless, of course, you realize you've made a horrible mistake and want to kill the mood faster than congress kills any meaningful climate legislation (or COVID legislation, for that matter!) Since romantic and sexual advice these days seems to fall under the prevue of a bunch of don'ts instead of dos, here's a handy list of don'ts that'll bring any sexytime vibes to a screeching halt.

## Your Music

Easily the best way to throw a wrench into any gears that had previously been starting to rev up. I promise you—it's a bad idea. It doesn't matter if you're in a hardcore punk band or making laptop R&B smooth jams. It's not as good as you think it is. Also, don't do that thing where you put it on and say nothing, hoping they'll chime in with an, "Ooh, who is this? I like it?" or ask if it's the artist you're trying to rip off. What'll actually happen is they'll make zero comments on your music choice while

you desperately wait for some sort of validation. Then you'll be in a pooppy mood and get snippy, thus eliminating any and all desire your date had to get naked with you.



## Temporary Secretary (or any Paul McCartney song, really)

Before you start foaming at the mouth and sending me your frothy hate mail, I'm not saying Paul's a bad songwriter; he's just not particularly sexy. Like... who gets that look in their eye when "Live And Let Die" comes on the radio. Does your giny tingle when you listen to "Maxwell's Silver Hammer?" It's just not babymaking music. And I think

if you really wanted to pull the rug out from any semblance of sexual tension in the room, put on this little gem from 1980; that's really just a midlife crisis disguised as a song.



**Kraftwerk's Autobahn (the 20-minute version)**

I mean, seriously. I dare you to try and fuck to this song. Length withstanding, these rhythms—as game-changing as they were—simply do not inspire procreation. Who knows, maybe they do in Germany. They're very forward there. And efficient. But for the sake of argument, let's say you're trying to get laid in America. Do not put on this song. Sex will not happen. Or if it does, it is sex you are not ready for.



**Literally Any Prog Rock**

If ever there was a genre that completely encapsulated that feeling of being a teenager alone on a Saturday night and then finding out later that all your friends went to a makeout party without you, it is prog. 'Tis the song of the unfucked. And should one want to be unfucked, put on practically any record by King Crimson, Rush, Genesis, or Gentle Giant, if you wanna not get laid, extra hard. The earlier, the better, although I'm positive a perfectly good Valentine's Day evening can be ruined by a Tool song. The Mars Volta might have a bit too much Latin flavor to completely unengorge genitals but should still get the job done. Seriously though, put on anything from the late '60s to early '70s era, and you will be transported to that time when even your D&D crew ditched you to go to the makeout party. And your date, of course, will be long gone.

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Brandi ♡♡



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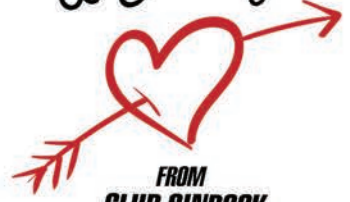


XOXO ♡





Brandi  
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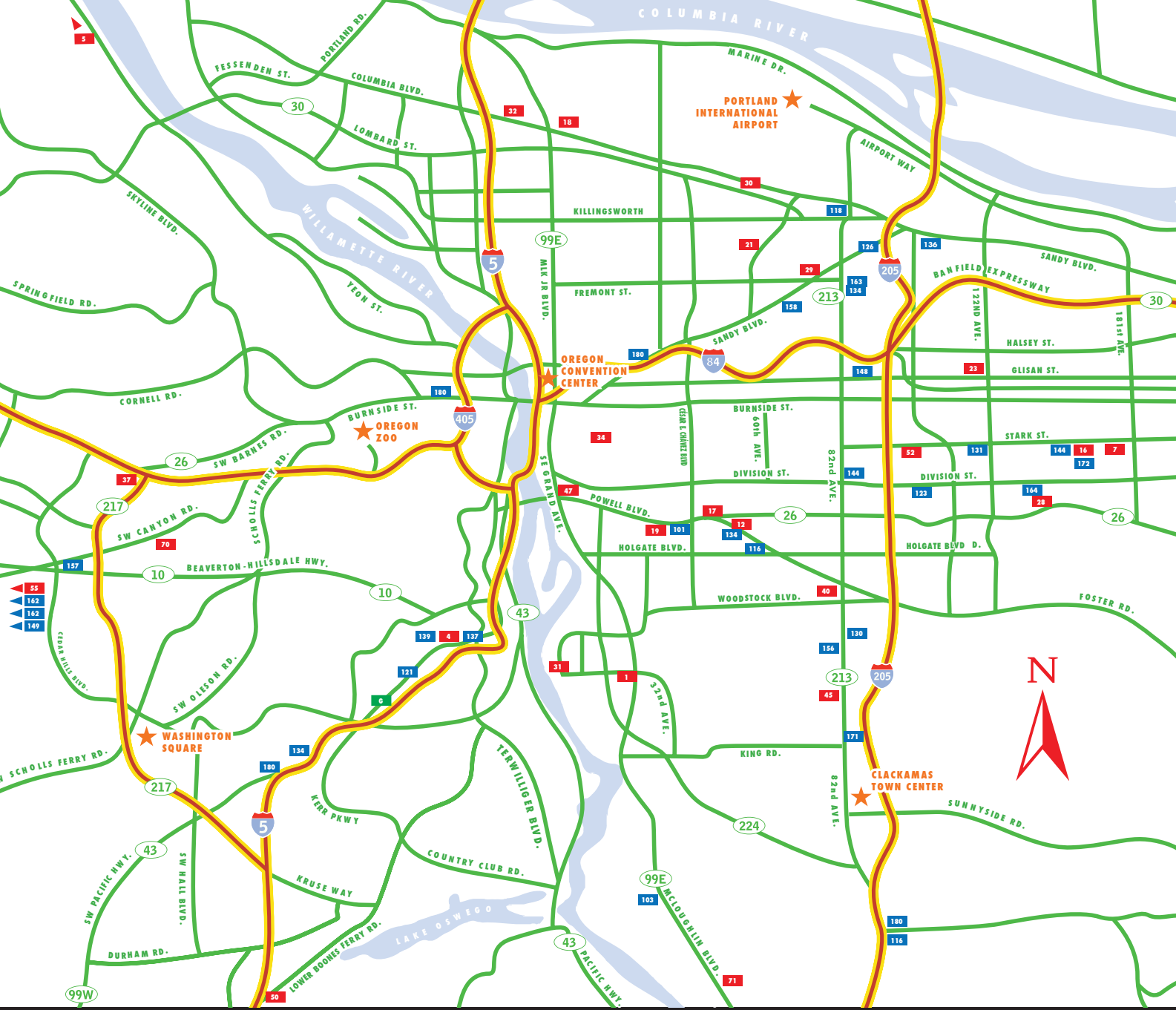
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# EXCUSES TO USE WHEN YOU WANT TO LEAVE A PARTY

(OR NOT SHOW UP IN THE FIRST PLACE)



BY HANNAH ONE CUP

The last year has been oddly disorienting. Not in the normal, “I’m day drunk because I work from home now—and my bars are all closed because of reasons” disorienting, but it has left me, personally, just as consumed with conflicting thoughts due to change in routine.



For instance, remember that brief time last year when we were able to safely take our masks off when walking into a grocery store? IT WAS INSANE! Who knew so many people had unshaven beards! Or the folks you kind of expected to have one, that didn’t. Either way, that moment in time was almost like a summer fling—fun, short-lived, and leaving you a bit wanting. We had all been able to feel “safer” in going

out to eat, visit/live in your favorite bar, get groceries with others, maskless, almost feeling naked. Like... “Ooooooo, I’m not wearing a mask! Scandalous!” We also felt okay going to friends’ houses or out to the theater with said friend(s) almost in fear of this never happening again. We lived life to the fullest—almost a full-on 1970s-style party (in our heads, at least).

But as with life, all things come to an end—for good or bad, the masks went back up. Life went back to what I hate to refer to now as “normal,” and safety precautions were back in effect. Friends went back to the wayside, and going to the grocery store became more of a race to see how fast you could get in and out by only visiting the same three isles you always do (beer, meat/cheese, discount price section).

And then, just a month or so (time is a motherfucker, so I don’t know exactly) after this all went back into place, friends started to want to hang

out again after receiving their “boosters,” and restaurants and theaters went back to almost normal capacity, so long as you gave proof that you weren’t Hitler, Stalin, or Anish Kapoor. This added another whole new box to mark off for what would probably be included in my already scrambled-up routine each day. So, in turn, due to my deep-rooted, introverted nature, which goes generations deep (my father lives on top of a mountain just to escape people), I decided to be very selective in who I was doing activities with and what those activities entailed. It did mean that I had to start coming up with some damn good excuses on why I didn’t want to do a thing. Believe me, saying “I’m not feeling very well” may very well end up with a friend attempting to rush you to the hospital in a bio-hazmat suit, completely negating your valiant efforts to just be left the fuck alone.

And so, to follow, I give you my favorite, most-used excuses to escape parties early or not show up in the first place. Enjoy!



**1.) "I have a dog, and he needs to go outside. Sorry!"**

You should really have a dog for this one. Saying "I have a dog" and not having a dog when your friend wants to meet said dog might lose you a couple of friends. Which... might be what you're going for? Either way, this is my olden-goldy and used by myself most frequently. Because I really do have a dog. He's 9. His name is George. And he has to pee. Goodbye.



**2.) "I was going to make dinner tonight."**

Don't invite your friend, or whoever is asking to interrupt your schedule, over for dinner. Just tell them you were going to make dinner, and that's why you can't go out tonight. Making dinner requires prep work, Googling what it is you're going to cook, giving up on Googling after scrolling through

too many recipes, then giving up altogether and ordering a pizza. But tell me that pizza won't be 10x more delicious eating it all on your own or with your pee dog, eh? Mmmmmmm. Lonely Pizza Friday. Count me in, for myself—in my own home.

**3.) "I have The Diarrhea."**

Okay, so honestly, I've never used this excuse. It's just a little...TMI for me, even if it's a lie. But I heard it from a good friend of mine that their kid just openly says this when they have the bubble guts, right out in front of everyone, as if it's nothing. "It's okay, mom; I just have *The Diarrhea*." So, I'm using them as my inspiration for this excuse. I mean, really, who wants to hang out or have you go out when you're suffering from such an ailment as "*The Diarrhea*"? Guaranteed to work every time, if you're bold enough to speak of such things.

**4.) "I just took two Tylenol that I'm pretty sure aren't Tylenol anymore."**

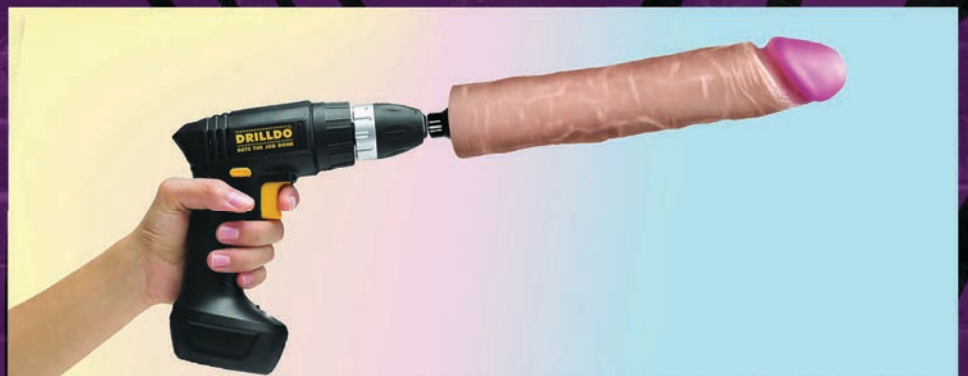
Even if this is true, you're still going to have to sell this person on why they should not immediately head over to make sure you have water and a "kind face" at hand. It might take some extra effort and might end up causing you more headaches than if you just ended up getting sloshed with this person at the bar, which is a reason this is #4 on the list. Yes, now you know these were rated from best to worst.

**5.) "I have plans to orgasm all day."**

I have said this once. I am almost certain I was drunk when I was denying a friend what was sure to be my "wonderous, drunken companionship," but either way, I think there was a shred of truth to this, and I'm pretty sure I did have sex that day. A few times? I don't know. I was drunk when I came up with this excuse. But this honestly is only #5 because it forces you to either sulk about the fact that you probably lied about this excuse and aren't going to be orgasming that day, find someone to make it happen cap'n, or do it your damn self. All three of which require some sort of effort, usually. I mean, I guess I've heard that slight breezes can get a person going, but, you know, a normal person requires a certain ambiance. This excuse does, however, stop your friend from asking questions and allows you the kindness of a short phone or text conversation, ending more than likely with, "Ah... okay well... you go do that! Call me later." Really, though?

And there you have it. My five favorite excuses—in order—to use when not wishing to do a thing or want to leave a thing early. Try using #5 when you're at the party. Have fun!

*Hannah One Cup can be found on Facebook by her name. She can usually also be found heating up hot dogs for dinner and doing #5. Only contact her if you don't actually plan on hanging out.*





# ORPHEUS: WHEN WE FIRST SEXTED

by *Elise Fontaine*

*Exotic readers, I hope you've enjoyed my Orpheus series so far. This series is the most intimate story I've ever written, and it's about to get even more intense.*

*It's noteworthy to say that Orpheus should probably be read from the beginning, or it may not make that much sense, although I'm writing each piece as strongly as possible to be standalone. Part I appeared in the September 2021 issue, if you want to hit the archives.*

*This month's piece is the heaviest so far, in terms of processing grief (this story is to honor my lover who died of fentanyl poisoning and asked me to write about our affair before his death). I'm slowly cutting up sections of the first three months of our online chat messages, which is over 500 pages and more than 130,000 words. This is being done using a version of the cut-up technique started by surrealist and dadaist Tristan Tzara, but some say author Lewis Carroll also used cut-up in the late 1800s<sup>1</sup>. Anyway, Bryon Gysin and William Burroughs took it to a new level in the 1950s<sup>2</sup>, and probably some women from the Beat Generation that I've not yet heard of because only amplifying the voices of men is pretty typical for that era<sup>3</sup>. I have a poet friend who actively uses cut-up currently, but I don't know of any other contemporary artists committed to this literary and psychospiritual method. I think maybe Genesis*

*Breyer P. Orridge of Throbbing Gristle and Psychic TV may have reprised it at some point, but nothing else comes to mind after mid-century. This source is from memory, so don't take my word for it: do your own research!*

*Having said that, these chat messages as cut-ups will be woven into the series starting now, which will make Orpheus the most experimental and conceptual literary effort of my life so far. I just hope that the soul of the subject finds his way to the pages.*



*It's been three years since Orpheus died.*

*In his presence, I'd still die, slowly, because our connection is whisper. Of course, I*

*keep trying to figure out today. The day I found our old messages.*

**Orpheus:** You really don't know, do you? In spite of your *say anything*. I'm glad to know we both still feel strongly for one another, and we just can't stop. Because, otherwise, your pussy is my whole world right now. That's the really strange thing: without distractions. I really shouldn't tell you any of this, but oh well. I just wish I could lavish body worship upon you. Fuck me in a frenzy and tell me you want my cum deep inside you. Does the time frame of fuck you're mine make you shake and quiver somehow? I want it to last while looking into your eyes. It's all I can sense or feel. Just fuck me, baby. Fuck me forever. I'm completely lost in you right now. I love you, baby. I think about driving there but the minute is distance. My balls positively ache for you. I can't fantasize hard enough. I know it would fuck me up if I tried. You gotta do what you gotta do, though. Dissolve into me as I keep stroking. Fuck. I'm dying 3 to 5 years from now. Your protests are turning all the way inside everything you've got, every day. I break down with desire. I've lost count of how many times I've jerked off to imaginings of you. What happens when you lose your shit?

**Me:** I've cried and masturbated so much

in the last week. I start focusing my attention on you in my promise and high heels. This isn't getting any easier. I really want to fuck you into a random: SMACK MY ASS! I hope a solution presents itself soon. I really miss you lately, not sure if that helps you feel better. I do feel very strongly. I inevitably break down. And I'm just sort of overcome. My soaked pussy aches for you, and you should take what's really yours. I love having my lips wrapped around your dick.

**“Does the time frame of fuck you're mine make you shake and quiver somehow?”**

I swear, I would do just about anything to kiss you again. And sometimes, it hits me very powerfully in a wave. And it's so good. I caress beyond fantasy. Can you just tease me?

**Orpheus:** Walk through the door. Just give me a night or two up in Canada before it becomes even more unbearable. We don't even say anything. We don't have to. I feel very much in love when I suck on your tits and grab your



ass. Please, baby. I'm dying in a while, so I slide right into *it's not enough*. Chasing the energy where we meet. I don't want to ever stop. It's driving me nuts. Pathetic, but true. The door is unlocked. My heart is too. Mean anything significant to you?

To be continued...

If you have any comments about this series or would like to stay updated on its incarnations after *Exotic* (perhaps as a book), please email [elise.fontaine.orpheus@gmail.com](mailto:elise.fontaine.orpheus@gmail.com).

<sup>1</sup><https://www.writing.upenn.edu/~afilreis/88v/burroughs-cutup.html>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.briongysin.com/cut-ups/>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.beatdom.com/women-of-the-beat-generation/>



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## COLUMN

BY WOMBSTRETCHA THE MAGNIFICENT

## WORLD'S BEST BANNED TOYS

Toys. We collected and used them as wee folks when being alive was a joy and not a tiresome slog through existence.

There has been many a curious toy, however, which for some reason—be it safety or public outcry—was removed from our lives, never to be seen again. Yes, when I say that, most people think, “ah yes, those lawn darts,” but there is a *world* of banned toys. Let’s look at some, shall we?

Not ranked in any particular order:



**The Kite-Tube**

What’s wrong with combining the concept of an inner tube and a kite for kids you’d drag behind a fast-moving boat? Well, nothing, fundamentally. I’m sure that as kids, many of us rode inner tubes down the river or even got towed on them across the lake, as your ass slid wildly with each turn of your uncle’s motorboat while he threw empty beer cans at life itself. It was fun. But imagine that... combined

with deliberate aerodynamics, which would gain the inner tube lift and turn it into an airfoil, and hoist your 6-year-old ass off the ground and twenty feet (6.09 meters) into the air? Now don’t get me wrong, this sounds amazing, but apparently, some two people died and 39 injured, and we don’t get to have boat-slung, ghetto parasailing inner tubes anymore. By the way, this wasn’t some abomination from the 1960s when people drank liquor for lunch; this came out in 2006 and was retired shortly after. Who says the 21st century has lost the ability to have fun? Also, to be honest, I’d ride one of ‘em, but I believe the weight requirement was like 50 pounds (or 22.6 kilos).



**Snacktime Cabbage Patch Kid**

Remember when the zeitgeist of the 1980s included a rather odd obsession with both the Smurfs and the odd-as-fuck Cabbage Patch Kids? Well, these dumpling-faced dolls sort of came and went over a span of

about a decade. Their cherubic faces no longer captivating America, the company decided to ask itself: what do kids want? Their answer: a doll that looks the same but which you can *feed*. This was no slouch, either. There was no requirement to have specific, pre-formed plastic food contoured to fit its specially shaped mouth, though this was provided. You could stick anything into its savage, mechanical, roller-based maw. Anything, provided it was about the size of a cigarette or smaller. This included leftovers, dog food, French fries, or, oops, even your own hair. Once it went in, it wasn’t coming out without a fight. It was withdrawn from the market as late as 1997, and the Cabbage Patch Kids sort of faded from our collective memories.



**Lawn Darts**

Yeah, yeah. Someone hucked one at their little brother and stuck a metal dart in his skull, and now we can’t have nice things. I mean, my little brother and I got into a fight with cro-

quet mallets back when everyone's aunt had a croquet set for reasons which utterly baffle me, but nobody banned those. They should have because actual games of croquet are weapons-grade boring.



### Gilbert Atomic Energy Lab

This one reaches back a bit to the glorious 1950s, where safety was an afterthought, and anything "atomic" was the vogue. So, what do you do? You give your kid a fuckin' atomic energy lab with real U-238 included so as to run your own little micro-scale nuclear science experiments. While the consequences of misuse here were... well, cancer and rad poisoning, but I'm sorry, this would have been the coolest shit ever. Ouch, though. It cost fifty 1951 dollars, which is nearly \$600 in hyper-inflated 2022 dollars, so damn, that's like reserved for that kid down the way with the wealthy parents.



### Aqua Dots

A less well-known entry here. These were tiny plastic beads which one would arrange into various patterns using a special, pen-like device,

vaguely similar to *Lite-Brite*. Once you have your pattern ready, you spray it with water, and they stay together. Easy peasy, right? Well, yes indeed... but the little beads were coated in GHB. Yeah, the frat boy date-rape drug. Damn. Research reveals that the Chinese manufacturer cut corners and used a plastic-making process contrary to the design, which has this problem. Color the world shocked. This was 2007, by the way, and, just to reiterate, there was a kid's toy that literally contained GHB. I am a master of making dumb shit up, and I could not make that up.



### Sky Dancers

One would think this innocuous enough. They're little dolls shaped like fairies or sprites, having dragonfly-like wings for arms, and you stick 'em on this little base unit with a pull-string on it, and yank that fucker like you're starting an old Toro lawnmower. Then they spin and subsequently take off like little helicopters. Apart

from a hilarious video of one leaving its perch and diving right into a fireplace (which I suggest you look up), they caused over 150 eye injuries and broken teeth. This was in the year 2000, even. They were recalled relatively swiftly.



### Easy-Bake Oven

When you're six years old and Tina from three houses over asks if you want a tiny cupcake... well, that's a damn fine tiny cupcake. Not sure why these were recalled a half-dozen times. Apparently, kids got wounded. Not sure how. It's an oven powered by a 60-watt light bulb. There are things about this world I will never understand. Also, thanks, Tina.

So then, these are *all* toys that sold publicly and went to ruin or recall. Perhaps, folks are too sensitive or not thick-skinned enough (both are true) for half these toys? There are questions about our nature, our character as humans, which we must address, but in the meantime, let's not feed the kids GHB—or isotopically pure uranium.

Regards,

Wombstretcha.

*Wombstretcha the Magnificent is a sky dancer, lawn darter, inner tube parasailer, Crocodile Mile enthusiast, writer, and retired rapper from Portland, Oregon. He can be found at his website, wombstretcha.com, on Twitter as @wombstretcha503, and on MeWe (yay!) and Facebook (boo!), as "Wombstretcha the Magnificent."*

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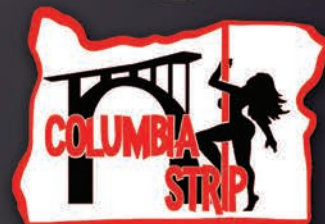
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NEW  
MANAGEMENT

 REVEAL LOUNGE

 REVEAL LOUNGE



*Celebrate Valentine's & Black History Month*

**8345 SW BARBUR BLVD PORTLAND, OR 97219**

Always Accepting New Auditions 21+



**BLACK**  
MANNEQUIN

# X

## EXOTIC LOUNGE

15 SW 2ND AVENUE

Open Daily 7pm-2:30am except closed Mondays  
Facebook.com/XUltraLounge • Instagram.com/XExoticLounge  
For VIP Reservations & Parties email XLoungeVIP@gmail.com

VIP TABLE SERVICE

VIP MEZZANINE RENTAL

HOTTEST PRIVATE DANCES

ALL-NUDE STAGE SHOWS

VIP BOOTHS

TWO FULL BARS

THREE STAGES

DANCER AUDITIONS DAILY FROM 7PM TO 8PM



Come Downtown...  
Portland's 5 Hottest Strip Clubs  
Within 5 blocks!

X Exotic Lounge  
Kit Kat Club • Mary's Club  
Spyce • Club Rouge



**SALEM'S HOTTEST AFTER HOURS  
& WILDEST 18+ Entertainment!**

**Fully Nude Every Set!**

**Shower Shows!**

**Bed Dances!**



*Aqua*

 [CHEETAHS.SALEM.OR](https://www.instagram.com/CHEETAHS.SALEM.OR)

**Seeking Dancers 18 & Up!**  **Auditions 7pm-10pm**

**TUE-THU 7PM-4AM, FRI-SAT 7PM-5AM & SUN 7PM-4AM  
3453 SILVERTON RD NE · SALEM, OR 97301 · (503) 316-6969**

# HALFTIME SHOW + AFTER PARTY!!!



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OUT ABOUT OUR  
OTHER EVENTS +  
ENTERTAINERS  
SPECIALS &  
MORE!



GAME DAY FOOD  
& DRINK SPECIALS

*Salem &  
Bridgeport*

# SUNDAY FEB 13

WEAR A TEAM JERSEY  
...GET IN FREE!



*Always Auditioning  
Entertainers!*



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ENTERTAINERS  
SPECIALS &  
MORE!



**BEND • BRIDGEPORT • SALEM**

VISIT [WWW.STARSCABARET.COM](http://WWW.STARSCABARET.COM) FOR ADDRESS INFO & MORE