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Rosie
FROM DV8

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XMAS SONGS FOR SABOTAGE

your music guide for ruining family gatherings
page 20 | by blazer sparrow



HOW TO AVOID ANYTHING

the ultimate holiday reference book for recluses
page 22 | by hannah one cup



OFFICIAL BOUNCER'S XMAS LIST

gift ideas for security professionals & outdoorsmen
page 36 | by nate hazen



THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

elucidation of the white elephant gift exchange
page 38 | by wombstretcha the magnificent

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MISS exotic OREGON 2024

ROUNDS 4-7 FINALISTS

PHOTOS BY RALPH WALKER

Billie

Jupiter Haze

Arabella
X EXOTIC LOUNGE

Ari
X EXOTIC LOUNGE

Raven Lynx
KIT KAT CLUB
X EXOTIC LOUNGE

Siren
LUCKY DEVIL

Jess
CABARET



You're officially holding the last issue of *Exotic* in those clammy little mitts of yours. That's right, we're officially throwin' in the towel, waving the flag, and screaming, "Uncle!" It's been a long run and a kick-ass ride, compadres, and we can't thank you enough for all your support! And before you get all choked up and teary-eyed, we're talking about...for 2023. Scared ya, didn't I? You almost had to go find a *real* periodical to read (you know, the boring-ass, less pictures/more words kind...). Uhhh, gross!

Now that we got your attention let's jump into all the cool shit that's happening this month! Starting with Saturday, December 16, when Lucky Devil will host Felix and Margot's 3rd Annual Birthday Slumber Party. Also, that same Saturday, there's a Christmas Movie Night Party at Stars Cabaret in Salem, where you come dressed as your favorite Christmas movie character (*we're totally thinking Krampus on this one!*)

Going hand-in-hand with this month's editorial, Club Rouge in Portland will throw a White Elephant Party and gift exchange on Thursday, December 21. Make sure to brush up on your white elephant gift skills by checking out page 38! More holiday parties, you ask? Saturday, December 23, Guilty Pleasures has their Holiday Party, and Stars Cabaret (Bridgeport) has their Ugly Christmas Sweater Party. Still want more? Fine. Sunday, December 24, hit Club Rouge (Beaverton) for their Sexy Mrs. Claus Contest and X Exotic Lounge for the *Official Adult Industry* Holiday Party.

What's left? Only, like, New Year's Eve parties everywhere! We've got them all listed for you on the right. We recommend hitting as many as you can, but a great place to end will be Dick's Rockin' New Year at X Exotic Lounge! See you there!

MISS EXOTIC 2024

If you're expecting the announcement of who won the pageant, you'll be gravely disappointed. At the time we sent this issue to press, *The Finals* hadn't happened yet! If you seriously missed the show, you can check our Instagram for photos of the winners, and we'll have full coverage of the finals in our January 2024 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 seven:

Round 4: Ari from X Exotic Lounge, Raven Lynx from X Exotic Lounge & Kit Kat Club, and Arabella from X Exotic Lounge

Round 5: Medusa from Club Detour, Rocket from The Lounge, and Jupiter Haze

Round 6: Angel from The Lounge, Missy May from Casa Diablo, and Billie

Round 7: Venus from Devils Point, Siren from Lucky Devil, Nyx from Sweet Illusions, and Jess from Cabaret

(Check out the left-hand page to see photos of all the abovementioned finalists in action during their qualifying set.)

Happy New Year, my truly beloveds—let's kick ass into 2024!

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eroticcity spotlight

SAT 16 – LUCKY DEVIL LOUNGE
FELIX & MARGOT'S 3RD ANNUAL SLUMBER PARTY

SAT 16 – STARS CABARET (SALEM)
CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT PARTY

THU 21 – CLUB ROUGE (PORTLAND)
WHITE ELEPHANT PARTY & GIFT EXCHANGE

SAT 23 – GUILTY PLEASURES – HOLIDAY PARTY

SAT 23 – STARS CABARET (BRIDGEPORT)
UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER PARTY

SUN 24 – CLUB ROUGE (BEAVERTON)
SEXY MRS. CLAUS CONTEST

SUN 24 – X EXOTIC LOUNGE
OFFICIAL ADULT INDUSTRY HOLIDAY PARTY

SUN 31 – CABARET – NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

SUN 31 – CHEETAHS – NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

SUN 31 – CLUB ROUGE (BEAVERTON)
NEW YEAR'S EVE MASQUERADE PARTY

SUN 31 – CLUB ROUGE (PORTLAND)
NEW YEAR'S EVE SEXY BUNNY CONTEST

SUN 31 – GUILTY PLEASURES – NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

SUN 31 – STARS CABARET (BRIDGEPORT)
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

SUN 31 – STARS CABARET (SALEM) – NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

SUN 31 – X EXOTIC LOUNGE – DICK'S ROCKIN' NEW YEAR

HAPPY HOURS

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FIVE CHRISTMAS SONGS TO RUIN FAMILY FUNCTIONS AND GET YOU UNINVITED TO FUTURE ONES

By Blazer Sparrow

Last month's issue made me revisit one of my favorite and timeless holiday classics, which I'll get to once we start this listicle in earnest. Still, it got me thinking of some of my favorite modern Yuletide melodies. By the time you're reading this tit rag, I'm sure you're dreading the upcoming family obligations, gift guilt, and overall malaise brought on by a capitalist-driven psyops campaign to get you to support a crumbling economy. It is an awful time of the year for literally most people, and not because they haven't found Jesus or don't want to be asked when they're gonna have kids for the umpteenth time. Literally, most people just can't afford Christmas anymore in its current form. That anxiety and depression you're feeling isn't because you're a lousy son, throwin' dollars at the dancers just hours after Thanksgiving Dinner (or a bad daughter for getting dollars thrown at you after said dinner). You're spending three-quarters of your paycheck on rent, and every time you go to the grocery store, it costs a hundred dollars. You can be forgiven for not spending an arm and a leg to fly to your shitty hometown on a flight that will most likely be delayed or canceled. It's okay not to buy meaningless presents that will eventually get thrown away. Still, if you're guilted into one of these get-togethers and are tired of having to explain why you haven't brought a nice romantic partner for them to badger about breeding...here's a handy-dandy list of modern holiday hits to play when it's your turn with the aux cable. Let these diddies do the talking.

Fuck Christmas – Fear

Clocking in at under a minute, this ex-mus classic will easily articulate your feelings about the reason for the season

with efficient minimalist finesse. I suppose you could interchange this one for "Happy Holidays You Bastard" by Blink-182 for the same effect, but you're an adult now and have grown out of your pop-punk phase. You wanna let your parents know your tastes have matured since the wallet chains.



Fairytale of New York – The Pogues

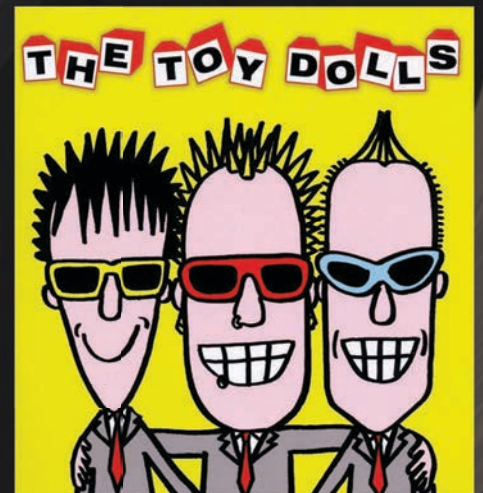
This one is a good trojan horse to sneak up on your family and twist the knife. As they sway and sing along to the truly beautiful song, hopefully, the lyrics will slowly needle their way into their eggnog-soaked brains, and they'll start to feel the crushing guilt of disowning the alcoholic black sheep of the family. If any unsaid things are still buried, they'll come flooding out a few verses into this gorgeous downer of a diddy. Fun fact: apparently, this tune is consistently ranked as the most-played Christmas song of the 20th century in the UK. You'd think it'd be Wham!'s "Last Christmas," but I guess drunken Celtic punk has a longer shelf life.

GG's Xmas Song – GG Allin

I'd wait 'til everyone's good and drunk to spring this one on the fam. It is teechnically a classic Christmas carol, just with... altered lyrics. Without even cheating by



Googling it, I know there are like six different versions of "The Twelve Days of Christmas," where the absurd amount of birds this psychopath gives to his beloved is swapped out for something to match a different vibe. Guaranteed, some obnoxious cousin will put on the Twisted Sister one, and then someone will throw on like a Sesame Street version. That's when it's your time to shine. Watch as all the blood drains from everyone's faces as they realize they're belting "fiiiive herpes seeds."



Credit Crunch Christmas – Toy Dolls

This is a perfect one to bust out when everyone looks at your broke, empty-handed ass to see what you got for your nieces and nephews you never see. They might not get it at first, as is usually the case with punk music. The olds and the unenlightened often complain that they "can't understand what they're saying." Personally, I think Olga

enunciates very well, but if needs be, just hand them a lyric sheet. I can't think of a song in recent memory that captures the true spirit of Christmas in this day and age—or the lack thereof. If, at this point in the booby magazine's word section, you're thinking I'm just using this page space to introduce you to my favorite Christmas songs by punk bands, you can eat my dick. I don't get paid enough to write quality content. Just enjoy the recs and throw more dollars.



Do They Know It's Christmas – Band Aid

This one is a bit of a toss-up. There might be some older folks that still genuinely believe this is a good-natured, non-cringe, heart-warming Christmas classic. You might accidentally cause some insufferable boomer kin to corner you and tell you how much they cried when they first watched this air in the '80s. Man, what a wild time. Western Capitalism really was drunk with power and thought they could do no wrong before the Gen X apathy of the '90s vibe checked it, and then it collapsed in the new millennium. While this song may not ruin the family get-together, can you think of anything more tone-deaf than a country extracting every usable resource and destabilizing the shit out of a region only to—several generations later—put out a mid-ass single to throw some measly charity dollars at the mess it created. Not to mention the gall of asking a majority Christian nation if they're aware of said religion's most popular holiday. This is basically a less self-aware version of Mr. Garrison's "Merry Fucking Christmas" from South Park. If this song doesn't put a damper on the evening, show them the cover of the single. Seriously, look at this travesty—the '80s really were a wild time.



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

Model: Gi Mary Jane Photographer: @saintsashaphotography

How to Avoid Anything (Yes, Even That!)

BY HANNAH ONE CUP

It's December, which for many people means being forced into uncomfortable situations brought on by generations of family just following the status quo because "grandma would have wanted it that way." When no one knows what grandma would have really wanted...she's now dead, so how do you really know what that woman would have wanted 30 years later?

My guess is, she'd probably like to avoid having to cook everyone dinner...sometimes for your granddaughter's new boyfriend that she just nabbed three months ago, who she decided to have tag along to a very intimate family get-together. Maybe "grandma" would have liked to have gone off to Greece or somewhere warm, away from it all. Who knows. But families all have this habit of assuming they're all supposed to get together and pretend to like each other "for the family" or some bullshit. I call this a forced kidnapping of sorts since I'm always threatened in some way if I don't show up to these things.

That said, I always have ideas on ways of getting out of it "this year." Then "this year" comes, and it doesn't happen because I chicken out or forget what my idea was. But now, this year is here...and I'm going to go through all the ways you can possibly get out of anything. Please feel free to snap a pic of this page for future use (after you leave the club, of course!). I've done lists like this before, but I'm throwing it all out there for you. That way, no one is left hanging without a way out. Don't worry, my introverted house nymphs, I've got you. Mama One Cup is here you...

You're invited out with a friend, but you start getting really comfortable on your couch watching repeats of your favorite show.

Depending on how this request was made, it will either leave you with a lot of options or very few. If your friend texts you, simply respond, "Not feeling it tonight. Ate cheese and forgot I was lactose intolerant." Or, "My dog has diarrhea and is pooping everywhere." Anything uncomfortable like that will force your friend to leave you alone since everything sounds stinky. Second, just

don't respond and leave the text unread. Then respond the next day, saying, "Sorry, migraine. You okay?" Asking your friend if they're okay at least lets them know you care and are actually wanting to make sure you're both "cool."

If they *call*...this is where things get hairy, and you have to think on your toes. The simpler, the better. No need to lie. Just say, "I'm already in my pajamas; I just wanna' have a lazy day." If they ask to join, that's on you. Your friend won't be pissed for long if you just want to be alone. So be honest and blunt. But also don't treat your friend like a plague and avoid them for long. It won't kill you to have a good time with them (well, usually...).



Grandma invites you to a family "thing."

It will never be easy with family. The "blood is thicker than water" thing does not count in this situation since everyone will look down on you more than Sally bringing her 3-month-old relationship to the party if you don't show up. So, tread lightly. The same applies as in the first situation, but make the excuses relevant to that family member's personality. If they're religious, just say you were going to help with a church function (You might go to hell after lying like this, but I'm no priest, so don't quote me. I'm also anti-religion, so...). Usually, you can say something like, "I'm sick," or "I just don't have

money to get there right now." This usually works, and I'm assuming some of this is at least a partial truth because who really has extra money to travel right now? And who has never had a stomachache thinking about the future ulcer you're about to get visiting your family?

Work invites you to a holiday party.

Unless there is free booze, bonuses, and brisket...and it's not far away, most people don't like going to these things. Use the same excuses you've been using on your grandma or friend, and you'll be fine. Maybe someone will bring you some leftover brisket at work on Monday.



Hair or nail appointment you can't afford anymore.

Okay, so you spent a little more than you thought at the bar the other night or four, and now you're out of "fun money." It's better to take care of this sooner than later, so the nail or hair person (or whatever professional for the service you're receiving) doesn't hate you and feel you've cost them 100 bucks worth of time. Call as soon as you can; just explain you'll have to reschedule and don't know your availability yet. Tell them "something came up," or if you have a good relationship with them, tell them the truth, "I'm a lush and drank half my paycheck. I'm sorry, it was meant to go to you." Self-loathing is usually appreciated in *all* of these situations. Use it here.

You're hungover and don't want to go to work (at least for a couple of hours).

This happens so often in every company that I feel HR/managers/etc. are now at the mercy of their employees and in the "OK" boat. Apathy has taken over these individuals, and they now have nothing else to say

but "Okay." Just say you have a migraine. Or if you're a female, tell your boss your cramps feel like crabs are clawing out your uterus. This always works—especially so for older males who feel awkward hearing this. It's sorta like Hank Hill mentioning "lady parts" in a whisper.

You usually do the house cleaning and laundry, and you don't want to anymore.

So long as it's not just you, and you are able to push this off onto someone else for a change, do it. If it *is* just you, do *not* follow these instructions. It'll just end up giving you a mountain of unfinished laundry and moldy fridge containers and leave you upset at all that led to this moment.

If you live with someone, just stop doing laundry. And stop cleaning. The laundry is really where they'll start noticing it since work shirts now have to be worn for a second time or dug out of the hamper. Similar to someone digging out a fork from the dishwasher. This person will only be able to do this for so long before they get the hint. Just make sure you have enough spare underwear and clothes for an extra week or so of no laundry being done.



I thoroughly believe in sharing house chores and not feeling forced into situations you don't want to be in, and if it takes an excuse or explanation to get your way, do it. This December, start putting yourself first as a personal holiday gift.

Especially with shared chores—sometimes you just have to think like Pavlov and his bell to get what you want.

Hannah One Cup can be found at her family's house in Salem or in West Linn for her job's holiday "bowling party" because her grandma still terrifies her, and the bowling party offered free booze and a chance at a \$100 Visa gift card, which will be used on brisket. She probably won't invite you to brisket but hopes you all stay beautiful and full of reasons why you should always be number one. Happy end of the year, you wonderful, bipedal trash monkeys!

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THE PORN CLERK CHRONICLES:

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE VERY DRUNK

By Atticus REXX

It was a relatively slow Friday afternoon at the store. I had three people in the arcade and had just finished a transaction on some cock rings and lube. One of my arcade regulars came up to the front to let me know that there was a guy in the back acting “weird,” so I had the arcade camera enlarged, and I periodically glanced over and made sure everything looked okay. “Weird” is a suggestive term, but I’ll be going back there in a bit anyway to ensure people are paying and behaving themselves. Chances are, someone did too many drugs in the booth, and they might be a little too high. In those cases, I will usually gently maneuver them out of the store and tell them to go home and come back tomorrow. Because I have had some people leave and appear again later (they literally went home and came back—doing precisely what I said, in a one or two-hour period, and then come back), I have to make it very clear that they are done for the day, and I communicate this with my night shift through the store’s email, so we all are on the same page. Sometimes, all someone needs is a shower, something to eat, and some sleep. I try to make sure peoples’ behavior doesn’t escalate into something I might have to ban them for permanently. A temporary mood should not make a permanent decision.

The potentially problematic guy in the arcade leaves on his own accord. That’s always my preference. I’d rather avoid making a scene in the arcade when someone refuses to go, which is always a possibility—especially for

those on various substances that can impede the decision-making part of the brain. However, I’m not always that lucky. In extreme cases, I’ve had to call the police to remove someone who refused to leave. Some of the longest minutes of my life have been when I was waiting for help to show up in a dangerous situation. I recall one time when I had a seemingly normal customer go into the arcade and, less than 30 minutes later, go into a drug-induced psychosis and start screaming and hitting the walls. I called 911 and was put on hold for the next available dispatcher. What felt like hours was really only about five minutes, but before I was even connected to a person, he had screamed his way out of the store without any casualties and continued to run down the street. This guy still tries to come in and doesn’t understand why I keep telling him no.



Each booth in the arcade has a light above it. The light turns on when someone pays the machine located inside each booth. The light will remain off until cash or a card is fed into

it. It’s a good day when the arcade is busy, and each occupied booth has its light on. If I do catch a non-payer, I try to give them the benefit of the doubt, walk away for a few minutes, and check back later. If they still haven’t paid, I gently knock on the door, and in my overly friendly and slightly higher-pitched customer service voice, I remind them to pay the machine. If they continue to not pay after the third warning, it’s time for them to loiter somewhere else. It takes some finesse to discreetly kick someone out without disrupting everything else, but it can be done. Then, there are those very unfortunate times when there is no response to my payment reminders. The best-case scenario is they just fell asleep. The worst case is they are unresponsive and require medical attention. This has also happened with customer bathrooms. In fact, this became so common and problematic that some stores ended up closing the customer bathrooms entirely due to safety concerns. There are only so many times a person can clean up human waste and blood. Sometimes, in a vindictive attempt to protest the store’s bathroom decision, spiteful arcade customers will use the trash can to do their business and leave it for us to clean up.

My day is coming to an end. There were good sales and decent arcade traffic that could be better, but I expected the night shift to be busier. My night shifter arrives on time, as always. As she gets settled and clocks in, we catch up on things; I make sure I communicate any problematic people

or any new or reoccurring “problem children.” I finish up some last-minute tasks, and I’m ready to call it a day.

As I was finishing a few things up, a man who had come in much earlier on my shift and had been using the arcade all day stumbled out onto the sales floor. I could tell from his swagger that he was a little drunk. He was being unnecessarily loud and obnoxious, and then I realized he was more than a little drunk; he was wasted. He had been in and out of the arcade all day—now I knew where he had been going. Since we don’t allow booze in the arcade, it’s likely he was making frequent trips to one of the neighboring bars and then back into the arcade. This is not an isolated incident, and it’s usually at the end of the day or night that they start to cause problems because of too many drinks catching up with them all at once.

The guy hastily grabs a masturbator off the shelf, comes up to the counter, and throws it down, declaring that he

wants to buy it. He pays for the item, proceeds to hang around the counter, and tears open the box to get to the toy, causing a mess. Since he is so far gone, he can’t figure out how to get the thing to work. I’m completely done with him at this point, but my night person very graciously helps him out and shows him how to activate and recharge the toy. Without so much as a thank you, he stumbles a little, but steadies himself by holding onto the counter. At this point, I tell him that it’s time for him to go home. When someone is this intoxicated, they become a liability to the company.

“Why?” he snarls.

“You are way too drunk to be here, and it’s time for you to leave,” I tell him.

He pushes himself off the counter and yells, “I’m not drunk!” and in perfect timing, he staggers back, tripping over himself, and falls to the floor, taking two bowls of single condoms that

were sitting on the counter with him.

“Yeah, it’s really time for you to go,” I say again.



When someone feels that they lost a battle, compromising their integrity with it, they tend to get vicious at the embarrassment. It’s a pride issue, and it frequently happens among men, especially to people they feel superior to, like women. Undoubtedly, the realization of this humiliating defeat was sinking in at that moment because he let out a string of insults at me as I stood over the drunkard who took vulgarity to a whole other level. He spat out every insulting thing that came to mind to try to get under my skin. Standing behind the counter, my comrade and I exchanged humorous glances at the failed attempt to make us mad. When he was finally able to collect himself off the floor while still hurling insults, he managed to stumble off into the night to become someone else’s problem. I ran to lock the door, stood there, and then looked over at my associate...we held the glance for a moment and then burst into laughter.

When dealing with incidents like this nearly every day—above all—it’s important to have a good laugh over it. A sense of humor is what will make you survive in this business.





THE OFFICIAL BOUNCER'S XMAS LIST

Well, it seems impossible that we're here already, but it's—once again—that time of year. Santa is busy gearing up to deliver presents to all the good boys and girls around the world. Just kidding, Santa isn't real, you naive idiot! But for those of you trying to come up with great holiday gift ideas for that bouncer in your life, never fear! I've assembled a few recommendations for you, field-tested by yours truly.



5.11 Tactical 3-in-1 Parka 2.0

Working my very first bouncer gig at Dixie Tavern, it wasn't long at all before I found myself working the front door, which meant staying outside for the duration of the night. During the winter, NW Couch Street (pronounced like cooch, not couch, for all you out-of-towners) is a wind tunnel, with icy winds blowing off the Willamette River and straight into the faces of the security door crew at Dixie. At the recommendation of my fellow front doorman—a good friend and a fellow Marine Corps vet—I purchased one of these jackets and was not disappointed. The most bitter cold nights that left my fingers numb and frost in my beard were no match. What, you may ask, makes this bad boy 3-in-1? It consists of a waterproof outer shell and zipped into it is a thick fleece lining, each of which can be used separately or together. The sleeves of the fleece also zip off, providing a vest option on top of ev-

erything else. Both breast pockets conceal a panel that can be hung outside the pocket to display identifiers like security patches, badges, company insignia, morale patches, etc., with a similar panel on the back. The jacket has a hood that can be rolled up and stowed in the back of the collar, pockets everywhere to hold whatever gear you carry on the job (handcuffs, pepper spray, notebooks, flashlights, etc.), zippers on the sides to allow quick access to firearms for those of you with your armed security DPSST, and mic loops for mounting your comms mic. 5.11 lists this jacket on their website at \$270, and in my experience, the juice has absolutely been worth the squeeze.



Ka-Bar USMC Straight Edge Knife

I served eight years in the United States Marine Corps, including seven months in Fallujah and seven months in Ramadi. I own countless knives in all manner of styles: switchblades, butterfly knives, hunting knives, karambits, and ad nauseam. But when I decided to carry a knife with me at work, there was only one choice for me: the official combat knife of the Marine Corps, the Ka-Bar. Ka-Bar's unusual name dates back to 1923 when a very illiterate mountain man wrote a letter to Union Cutlery Co., describing a harrowing encounter he had with a bear, which he killed using one of their knives. From the words "killed a bear," only the letters ka-bar were legible, and the moniker stuck. The Marines adopted the knife for use in combat during WWII, and the two have been inextricably intertwined since. With a 7-inch long, 1.188-inch-wide blade, wearing this bad boy on your hip makes a statement, namely, "Don't fuck with

me." I've affectionately nicknamed mine the "people opener." I've never actually opened any people with it, and I hope I never do, but I've stared down angry people wielding knives, hammers, and throwing axes, and having a blade like this one at my disposal was comforting, to say the least. I carry the official USMC version with a brown stacked leather handle, which Ka-Bar lists on their website at \$134.96, but they offer a wide variety of knife styles that will satisfy any and all tastes and budgets.



Gambler 500 Rings

I've been fascinated by rings ever since I was a little kid watching Captain Planet and admiring the dope ass rings the Planeteers wore to summon the titular Captain. As an adult, I wear rings on every finger—big chunky ones. Now, I should make it clear that I wear them decoratively, but working as a bouncer, they come in handy; people see my hands and think twice about starting some shit that might lead to me punching them in the face. An unlucky few have fucked around and found out. Of the rings I wear, my favorites are my Gambler 500 rings. If you've never heard of Gambler 500, do yourself a favor and check it out. What started off as a small group of friends wondering how much abuse a \$500 Craigslist car could survive has grown into a massive annual off-roading event in central Oregon. It feels like a cross between Mad Max and Burning Man, along with numerous smaller events nationwide and spinoffs that include a mini bike enduro and a rallycross event for shit box cars called HootieX. The campsite at the event is a showcase of automotive

creativity, where you'll see limousines and hearses on heavy suspensions and mud tires, chopped Crown Vics, and even an old segmented city bus with a hot tub onboard. Environmental stewardship of public lands is a central tenet of the entire Gambler culture, with literal tons of trash pulled in off the trails by participants at every event; which makes Gamblers a sort of real-life group of Planetears, deserving dope ass rings of their own. Since 2017, Harlan Whitmann of Ooak Forge has provided those rings, always delivering a distinctive, eye-catching annual design. You can find the current year's ring at Gambler500.com for fifty bucks, or head over to OoakForge.com, where Whitman offers his previous years' designs in sterling silver for \$120.



Vans Sk8-Hi MTE-2 Shoes

I bought my first pair of MTE-2s early on in the pandemic, and I've never looked back (I'm on my third pair now). These shoes offer the comfort and style of a skate shoe with the support and ruggedness of a hiking boot, making them ideal for security work. The HydroGuard waterproofing and Primaloft insulation have kept my feet warm and dry through every cold, rainy night Portland has thrown at me. The UltraCush and OrthoLite cushioning keeps me comfortable and pain-free when I'm on my feet all night. Vans offers these shoes in a variety of colors, including all black and a black camo design, both of which really fit that "man in black" bouncer aesthetic, and at \$150, they won't break the bank.

Nate Hazen is getting into the holiday spirit by adding eggnog to his bourbon and planning a series of elaborate booby traps around his house to severely harm potential intruders.

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COLUMN

BY WOMBSTRETCHA THE MAGNIFICENT

THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

Of holiday traditions, the White Elephant gift exchange has always baffled me a bit. Why are we foisting all this crap on people we know, and why is it called that? Until recently, I didn't give enough of a shit to look it up and simply wondered occasionally. However, now that I'm writing about this cultural phenomenon, I had to do the research. First, I started with the good ol' dictionary. Webster defines a white elephant (you know you have a winner when you have two words as one entry in the dictionary) as "a possession that is useless or troublesome, especially one that is expensive to maintain or difficult to dispose of." So, when you give a random co-worker that unopened olive pitter you got as a free gift with an Amazon purchase, after asking yourself, "The hell am I gonna do with this?" you're actually abiding by the core principles of the white elephant concept.

The origin of the term ostensibly dates back to when Thailand was still called Siam. As the tale is told, if visiting dignitaries displeased the king during their visits to his court, he would gift them a white elephant or two. The king would say that such creatures were extremely rare and must be cared for, knowing full well that the cost of transporting the elephant, then feeding and caring for it, would be an annoyance at best and an overwhelming hassle at worst. I'm presuming the king of Siam had a whole warehouse full of depigmented spite pachyderms. I can imagine those rude visiting dignitaries leaving the royal palace muttering, "The fuck am I gonna do with an elephant?" while the king wore a wry smile on his face. There you have it. It's not a gift to make people happy—it's a gift to *piss them off* with the burden of its ownership and/or otherwise be useless or maybe even slightly harmful.

With the concept and its background adequately explained, let's review some gift ideas for things that nobody would want

but that you're happy to give.

Listed in no particular order.



Live Animals

Much like the king of Siam, this is the original old-school white elephant gift. While *actual* white elephants are in short supply these days and are prohibitively expensive unless you rule a Southeast Asian nation, there are plenty of other substitutes on hand.

From rodents like rats, hamsters, and gerbils to reptiles and obnoxious birds that squawk and screech, there's something alive for everyone. Not only does this burden the person with the responsibility of the creature's care (assuming you're not gifting a creature to an absolute psychopath), but you also get to periodically inquire as to its status. Bonus points to you if you assign it an obnoxious name first. "How's little Mister Poopypants? He's such a scamp! I just knew you'd love him!" The king knew what he was doing. Extra bonus points for a tarantula with a silly name.

Personalized Gifts

The white elephant gift is typically *supposed* to be something novel that the person in question might appreciate, but we're going to stretch that rule and enter the Zone of



Obnoxiousness™. Think about gifting someone a framed photo of them. Not a good photo, mind you, but a bad or embarrassing photo. See if you can snap a picture of them walking out of the bathroom. Perhaps a photo collage might work, too (Facebook has its uses after all, it seems), or, if you're bored and have paint, a portrait of them. Even if you're at one of those events where people have the option to trade gifts, nobody's taking that. The bigger, the better, by the way, and the collage has the added benefit of making that person wonder if you're stalking them.



Haribo Sugar-Free Gummi Bears

If you know, you know. If you don't, here's the deal: Haribo, international confectioner and, dare I say, absolute masters of the gummi arts, manufacture a version of their

famous gummi bears, which are sugar-free. I am certain you're thinking, "What's the big deal about that?" Well, you see, these sugar-free gummi bears come with a warning on them not to eat too many, though they do not explain why. The reason is that even modest overconsumption causes your bowels to belch forth an abominable cascade of unpleasant excrement in a matter of a half-hour's time.

One of the reviews on Amazon describes these candies as follows: "What came out of me felt like someone tried to funnel Niagara Falls through a coffee straw. I swear my sphincters were screaming. It felt like my delicate starfish was a gaping maw projectile, vomiting a torrential flood of toxic waste. 100% liquid. Flammable liquid. NAPALM." For more, which are quite amusing themselves, search "Amazon sugar-free gummi bear reviews." Suffice it to say, even if your intended target trades them away, someone's gonna have a rough time unless they read the packaging very carefully and actually take it seriously. Talk about burdensome.



Ridiculous Single-Use Kitchen Gadgets

As seen on TV! Or something! Yes, the utter misery that is the landscape of single-use kitchen gadgets. I'm not entirely shitting on all single-use kitchen things, as some can expedite a tedious or annoying task, like those apple corers or egg poaching cups. However, given the nature of our premise, I'm focusing on the ones that are absolutely useless, even within the boundaries of their singular task, and preferably which take up space needlessly. Asparagus peelers, toasters that only cook hotdogs and buns, pizza scissors, and egg crackers are only a few of the examples I can think of, but there are millions of them out there. Also, even if it was a deliberately bad gift, if I see someone cutting a pizza with oversized scissors that read "PIZZA!" on the side, I'll be looking

at them just *slightly* less disgusted than if I caught them sniffing their own mother's dirty underwear.



Truly Awful Adult Toys

You might think that sex toys in and of them-

selves are inappropriate white elephant gifts, but I suppose it depends on the kind of crowd you're in. Just giving someone a pocket pussy, inflatable sheep, or some kind of veiny penis dildo will likely result in "Oh, haha, that's hilarious." It's the 21st century, and only the most uptight people wouldn't appreciate the humor in such a gift. That's why you have to make it *weird*. There are some sex toys out there which stare into your very soul. Such as what? Why, there's the "Fuck Me Silly Bubble Butt," which is a disembodied, full-sized, outrageously-proportioned rubber booty and poon, boasting "over 32 pounds of pussy and ass!" on the package itself. Additionally, there's a disembodied silicone foot with a pussy in the ankle. There also exists a dildo* shaped like some kind of alien phallus which will lay "sexy eggs" in the orifice of your choice, and of course, Mr. Jack, the vibrating pocket pussy with a sleazy, '70s disco mustache, for no other reason than "just because." Check the clearance section of your favorite adult toy retailer for more surprises, and be prepared to make some very interesting memories.

That's about all I have room for this year, but I wish you the best of luck in pursuing the true spirit of the white elephant tradition.

Merry whatever,

-Wombstretcha

*There is apparently a whole pile of these things on the market.



Wombstretcha the Magnificent is an elephant enthusiast, gummi-bear connoisseur, surprisingly good gift-giver, writer, and retired rapper from Portland, OR. Should anyone care, he can be found on his website, wombstretcha.com, on X (Twitter) as @wombstretcha503, as well as on MeWe.com and Facebook.com as "Wombstretcha the Magnificent."

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FRI, JAN 19 @ THE LOUNGE

SAT, JAN 20 @ DESIRE

FINALS

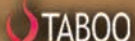
SAT, JAN 27

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