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## MISS exotic OREGON 2022

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**ROUNDS 4-7  
COVERAGE!**

**HISTORY  
FOR  
HOES  
TIMELESS  
PERVOS**

FEATURING  
*Cherry  
Midnight*  
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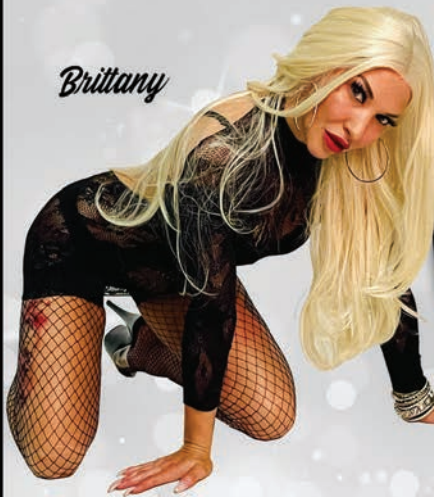
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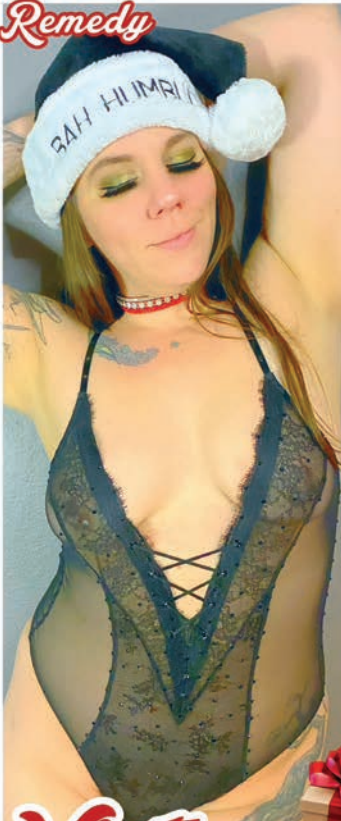
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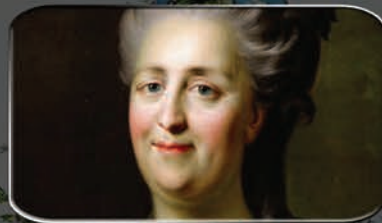
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# FEATURES



## HISTORY FOR HOES: SEXUALITY OVER TIME

freak nasty extraordinaires that make uncle  
touchy look like a prude  
page 16 | by esmeralda rupp-spangle



## THREE MISSING CHRISTMAS ALBUMS

when mariah carey and wham! have officially  
driven you berserk  
page 22 | by blazer sparrow



## SHOULD-BE HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

these globally unrecognized season rituals are  
sure to catch on soon  
page 34 | by hannah one cup



## 2021 KIDS TOY ROUNDUP

an honest journalistic effort to cover this  
season's most ridiculous & crappy toys  
page 38 | by wombstretcha the magnificent

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PHOENIX RISING  
ACROPOLIS & DEVILS POINT

STEVIE  
CABARET



# MISS EXOTIC OREGON 2022

ROUNDS 4-7 FINALISTS

PHOTOS BY **HYPOX**  
PHOTOGRAPHY



MARIA KNOX  
UNION JACKS



LARA LYNX  
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MERCEDES  
GUILTY PLEASURES



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MAMAZ**

**WINNIE  
STARS CABARET  
(SALEM)**



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# HISTORY FOR HOES:

## A Glimpse at Human Sexuality in History

BY ESMERALDA RUPP-SPANGLE

When we in Western civilization tend to think about the history of sexuality, often what comes to mind is the button-up, missionary-only, religiously domineering Victorian prudishness of Europe and England. The world is a big place, though, and recorded history has some truly notable occurrences of sexy deviance. Let us now take a moment to enjoy some of the more memorable erotic practices from some of the dustier tomes of yore... or casual Google searching, if you prefer. Humans are, after all, a successful species largely because of our habit of either fighting it, eating it, or fucking it.

### Egyptian Masturbation

Ancient Egypt was a culture that was rather notorious for its embrace of public masturbation. Since the tides and life-giving forces of the Nile were so integral to their civilization, it's only a little surprising to learn that they believed their holy waterway was created by godly ejaculate and would masturbate into the river to assure healthy and strong crops on the reg, and would often whack it in public during the celebration of the god Min, who was a representative of their pharaoh's sexual prowess. Interestingly, the worship of Min also employed a very unique aphrodisiac—lettuce. There are a number of theories as to why this is the case, but nevertheless, it remains a curious and notable factoid. Next time, maybe don't poo-poo that salad, I guess.



Figure 1: Whoa, settle down there, Min.

### Tentacle Porn Isn't Anything New

In 1814, the Japanese artist Hokusai painted what would probably become the most well-known Hentai in history. Known more famously for his family-friendly painting "The Great Wave off Kanagawa," Hokusai apparently had quite the imagination for erotic art and gifted the world with a 3-volume collection of "Shunga," or erotic art, including the iconic image "Dream of the Fisherman's Wife," of a shell diver sharing what could loosely be described as an erotic embrace with a couple of cephalopods. We can only hope that interspecies STDs aren't a thing because daaaaaaaamn, they don't make an antiviral for octopus AIDS.



Figure 2: A delightful orgy with octopuses, featuring cunnilingus and various fondling.

### Those Wacky Greeks

While it's fairly common knowledge today that ancient Greek gentlemen took (creepily) young men as lovers to "train" them in the ways of physical pleasure, a less known (and more dubious) habit was of using a device known as an Olisbo-Kollix, or translated literally, "bread dildo." While there is some dispute about the literalness of this—ah—multi-functional baked good—it was apparently greased well with olive oil before use, and I will assume, consumed after with a bit of salt, before a rather uncomfortable, badly chafed walk of shame.



Figure 3: No amount of olive oil lube in the world would make this fun.



## Babylonian Vengeance

In an interesting, if oddly specific (and it feels like maybe a little personal?) legal text dating back to ancient Babylon, a law is laid out that if a man is the father of a virginal young lady who is then taken advantage of by another man, the father of the girl then is permitted to “ravage” the wife of the dude who done the nefarious deed. While this probably felt fair (or at least justified) to the man who wrote the thing, it seems like (as so often is the case in the history of sex) chicks are 100% on the losing side here.

## Prescribed Orgasms

While this one has become reasonably well known by now, I absolutely can't write an article about the history of sex without giving it an honorable mention. In the cloistered, deeply sex-phobic Victorian era, women were considered “hysterical” if they showed any sexual desire (or independent thought) whatsoever. Drugged with opium or laudanum, occasionally committed to asylums, and accused of all manner of wickedness merely for wanting summa that good D, ladies during this time did not have the easiest time when it came to cumming. One remedy that gained some level of popularity during this era was shuttling your hysterical woman off to a medical professional (hard air quotes here) who would manually stimulate her genitals to the point of “hysterical paroxysm” (orgasm). The doctors of the day found this rather grueling, which may have paved the way for the invention of the vibrator. So, thanks, lazy doctors. Unfortunately, not all treatments for female hysteria have been so pleasant and also classically included banging loud

noises near the groin, exposure to perfumed/fetid smelling oils to scare a “wandering uterus” back in place, or even hysterectomy.

religious zealot, and that sometimes our ancestors really knew how to unleash the kraken (or octopus, loaf of bread, etc.) and have a good time.



Figure 4: Better than being committed to an asylum, I guess?

## Royal Russian Foot Fetishism

For centuries, the Russian aristocracy employed professional foot ticklers, practiced exclusively by women or eunuchs, as the tickling was meant to stimulate the passions of noblewomen. These ticklers were also expected to sing dirty songs and tell filthy stories—as well as (I'm gonna assume here) provide any passion-inflaming service required of them—you don't say “no” to a czarina, after all. Anna Leopoldovna, regent of Russia from 1740-1741, was said to have at least six professional ticklers on staff. Catherine the Great was equally so inclined and would eventually become known for her elaborate and lurid collection of sexual novelties. Unfortunately, most were destroyed over time, but some notable examples and photographs still exist.

While by no means an exhaustive list of codified deviances (not even close), it certainly is a fun diversion to glimpse into the past and realize not everyone was a stodgy, prudish,



Figure 5: A few of Catherine the Great's fabulous furnishings.

Esmeralda Rupp-Spangle is a writer, artist, and a big fan of both octopus and bread... just not in that way. She can be found on Facebook as Esmeralda Marina, the gram @esmeraldasilencitadel, or MeWe by name.



## WINTER IN PORNLAND

Howy shit—the holidays are nearly upon us! And you know what that means, folks: Ugly Christmas Sweater time! Aww yeah... I know you've been waiting all year for this and I've got some absolutely bonzer news for you: there are three such parties this year! That's right, unlike years past, you'll have multiple opportunities to show off those hideous threads of yours. It all starts on Sunday, December 12, at Devils Point, but make sure to sport that awesome 'stache of yours, as well. Nearly a week later, on Saturday, December 18, you'll be able to rock that unlovely, sweat-filled sweater again at your choice of Guilty Pleasures or Stars Cabaret in Salem. Ugly Christmas Sweater Parties galore!



Okay, time to ditch the smelly sweater and head over to Dante's for one of the most unique new industry nights called Social Suicide. Described as a "stripper pop-up emo club takeover," it boasts the industry's top entertainers mixed with some radass tunes. Yessir! Your favorite angsty 2000s throwback jams, brought to you by Phoenix Rising, with DJ Axel on the 1s and 2s. It's monthly, and this month it's on Tuesday, December 21, and dubbed "Xmas for Misfits." Seriously, though, you gotta check this out!

Now that you're full of Christmas Spirit, you gotta preserve and carry it through the holidays... What better way than showing some love and giving back? Tatas for Toys is back at Dante's this year! Join us on Wednesday, December 22, and help provide toys and other essentials to the wonderful kids at Doernbecher Children's Hospital, all while having fun and watching some of the most beautiful and talented entertainers in the industry perform. Be there!

The parties don't stop at Christmas, so don't overdose on grandma's dry ham and keep those peppermint schnapps hangovers to a minimum because the mayhem is back on, just a day after Christmas. Sinferno Cabaret on Sunday, December 26 at Dante's. It's seriously all you need to know. The show is always slammin' after the holidays because everyone is damn sick of family, in-laws, and being at home!

That said, save a little steam for the final

parties of the year—New Year's Eve Parties at Cabaret, Cheetahs XXX Cabaret (Salem), Club SinRock, and Guilty Pleasures. Yay! You made it through 2021! I bet you forgot to make your resolution, though... Fear not, as that shit never comes to fruition anyway. Research shows that less than 8% of people keep their New Year's resolutions for the entire year. FAIL!

## MISS EXOTIC OREGON UPDATE

At the time we went to press with this very issue, we were days away from *The Finals of Miss Exotic Oregon 2022*. Spoiler alert: *Siiiiike!* I legitimately have no idea who the winner is yet... But let's take a moment to congratulate the finalists from rounds 4 through 7:

**Round 4:** Kit Kat | Representing Self, Mercedes | Guilty Pleasures, Maria Knox | Union Jacks

**Round 5:** Winnie | Stars Cabaret (Salem), Unique | Bachelor's Inn, Domino | Casa Diablo, Moko Mamaz | Representing Self

**Round 6:** Armani | X Exotic Lounge, Lara Lynx | Club Rouge, Damina | Golden Dragon

**Round 7:** Phoenix Rising | Acropolis & Devils Point, Lulu | Cabaret, Stevie | Cabaret

(Check out page 14 to see photos of all the abovementioned finalists in action during their qualifying set.)

Stay tuned next month for full coverage of *The Finals*, and don't forget, *Miss Exotic*



# eroticcity spotlight

**SUN 05 – DANTE'S – SINFERNO CABARET**

**TUE 07 – KIT KAT CLUB – KIT-N-KABOODLE  
(ALL GENDERS, ALL BODIES, ALL GOOD)**

**SUN 12 – DEVILS POINT  
BAD CHRISTMAS SWEATER & MUSTACHE PARTY**

**THI 16 – DANTE'S TOXIC BIRTHDAY PARTY**

**FRI 17 – STARS CABARET (BRIDGEPORT)  
IT'S A PRIME RIB CHRISTMAS**

**TUE 21 – DANTE'S – SOCIAL SUICIDE  
(STRIPPER POP-UP EMO CLUB TAKEOVER)**

**WED 22 – DANTE'S – TATAS FOR TOYS**

**SAT 18 – GUILTY PLEASURES  
UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER PARTY**

**SAT 18 – STARS CABARET (SALEM)  
UGLY SWEATER CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**SUN 26 – DANTE'S – SINFERNO CABARET**

**TUE 28 – KIT KAT CLUB  
KIT-N-KABOODLE  
(ALL GENDERS, ALL BODIES, ALL GOOD)**

## **NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTIES**

**CABARET  
CHEETAHS XXX CABARET (SALEM)  
CLUB SINROCK (PDX)  
GUILTY PLEASURES**



*DJ Dick Hennessy & Moka Mamaz*

Oregon 2022 will be plastered all over our January 2022 issue—cover, centerfold, and plenty of other pages!

By the way... Season's greetings! All satire aside, we all made it through nearly two years of this life-changing bullshit. If you're still here reading this, you're a fucking rockstar. We love you!

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across America? Die mad about it! My stereo plays nothing but Wham's "Last Christmas" from November 1<sup>st</sup> onward. Don't like it? Don't come over.



That brings me to this list. As I go through my favorite pop stars' gaudy attempts at cashing in on an already established listenership, I fawn over all the wonderful, cheesy, unnecessary attempts at a December bonus check that we were unjustly robbed of. Grab a tisue if you wish to read on.



### GG All The Way: A GG Allin Christmas

Why. Why? Why does this not exist? Damn you, heroin! Or cocaine... or a combination of both? You took our sweet prince away before he killed himself on stage, as he and God intended. He was too beautiful for this world anyway. But I know that had he not gone out like some hair metal poser, this album would've happened, and it's an absolute tragedy that it didn't. This album would be blasting in punk squats across America on repeat, every December, with hits like "GG's Balls," "Rudolph The Red-Nosed Alcoholic," "White Christmas," "I Saw Mommy Getting Railed By Santa Clause While He Was Doing Lines Off Her Back," and of course, ending with "GG's Xmas Song," his acoustic cover of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" that actually exists. What a goddamn shame he couldn't have put off his overdose until he released this imaginary yuletide masterpiece.

### Biggie and Tupac's Christmas Reunion

I will out myself as a white boy who got into hip hop way too late by admitting that I found out very recently that Mr. The Notorious and Ole Shakur were friends before Suge Knight's Source Awards bullshit and Tupac's

## The Three Christmas Albums That We Sadly Never Got...

by Blazer Sparrow

Personally, I'm not a fan of Christmas. Sure, I have fond memories as a kid, 'cause of presents and drunken adults. Actually, for a hot second—as a kid—I was even miffed by all the finger shaking at WASPs and their pet companies wishing Jews and Muslims "Merry Christmas."

But then I grew up, and after seeing the overwhelmingly militant response to this dangerous threat known as the "War On Christmas," I, like many other folks, I'm sure, got some whiffs of that super-effective "War On Drugs."

Christians are fucking pros at materializing dangerous threats out of thin air. They act like we're still feeding them to the lions or some shit. You know what? The Romans should've nipped that shit in the bud while they still had the chance: way to drop the ball, Nero.

Long story short, fuck Christmas. And, I'm not just gonna rehash the Gen X complaints of consumerism. Nay. Because I grew up during the slow burn of old people being mad about this War On Christmas, using words like "tradition," but then get mad at me when I jubilantly shout, "Io Saturnalia!" at them. If we're going back to the roots, let's go all the way back, you hypocrites.

That being said, the one aesthetic aspect of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-century interpretation of said holiday that I still get all misty-eyed for is... duh, the music.

Fight me.

Christmas music has become a genre all its own, and while it's fun to bitch and moan about it, I honestly can't wait for the onslaught of that overplayed consumer-hypnotizing propaganda.

What I love even more than the classic Bing Crosby diddies and older religious hymns is when modern pop stars have the audacity to compose their own original, timeless holiday hits.



Are you dreading the tsunami of Mariah Carey's "All I Want For Christmas Is You" washing over you from every speaker in every mall



first non-fatal shooting. The whole '90s gangsta rap feud bullshit disinterested me then and is embarrassing now since we can rightfully assume a lot of it was posturing for publicity. But, that makes Biggie and Tupac's deaths all the more heartbreaking, as they were murdered before both of them could've gotten out from under the façade and kissed and made up. Imagine an alternate timeline where Suge is murdered in some botched mob hit or some horseshit. In this non-garbage timeline, Biggie and Tupac enter their 30s and realize they both made it, they're both talented, and they single-handedly crush the East/West Coast feud with a commercial AF Christmas sellout record. Someone would buy it. I would.

*"My stereo plays nothing but Wham!'  
"Last Christmas" from November 1st onward.  
Don't like it? Don't come over."*



**The Smiths' Sarcastic Christmas Slog**

So, I know no one in this band is deceased, but the chances of any of them even speaking to each other again is up there with hell freezing over and pigs flying. Had Morrissey and Marr not been so greedy with their share of the paltry royalties pie, I feel these iconic alt-English hitmakers would've veered into Christmas sellout territory around '89 or '90. They definitely would've jumped on the bandwagon after Wham!'s success with what I consider the greatest Christmas song of all time. Fight me again. Morrissey wouldn't even need to fuck with the lyrics to adhere to his sardonic wit. Just give me a bunch of holiday classics with that bubbly, poppin' bass, jangly guitars, and Morrissey's pretentious croon. Give me, dammit!

We truly are in the darkest timeline, where these holiday classics never got a chance to exist. Some asshole dinosaur stepped on a butterfly millions of years ago, and now we're in the timeline where we instead get Weezer and Bob Dylan's Christmas albums. I feel cheated.

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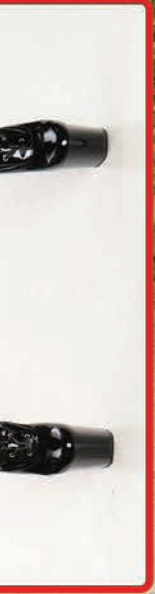
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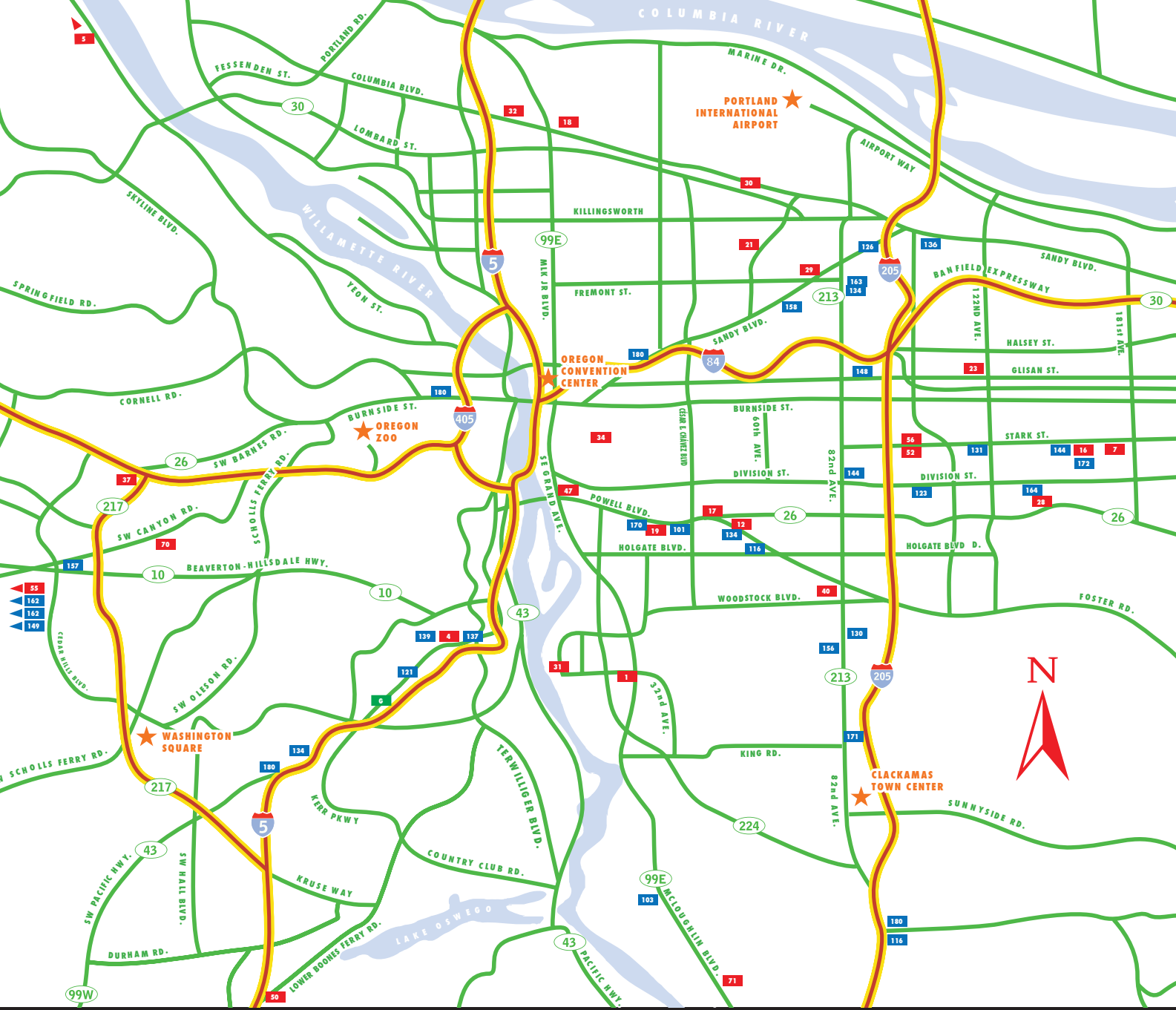
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# THREE HOLIDAY TRADITIONS THAT AREN'T GLOBALLY RECOGNIZED YET



BY HANNAH ONE CUP

Every year, immediately after Halloween or during trick-or-treating (when ever the pumpkins and pink hair dye run out first), grocery stores all around the U.S. start the festive tradition of making you even more aware of how little money you have. Whether it's charging you \$7.99 for a 16 oz. bag of Christmas colored chocolate, \$109.98 for a tree you buy too early and it starts shedding all over your living room, \$119.98 for the "forever" plastic version, some new version of Mariah Carey's holiday album which we all hate, or affording a rib roast (\$70 for meat you have to slave over for a few hours just to have to share it with family members you don't even know, or like enough to talk to before this point of the year? Please, no.)

Either way, it gets us. We consume. We fall for it every year. "Festive, traditional, holiday drinks," soups made by the tens of pounds, cookies, and sweet treats made that you forgot were a thing until it started getting cold. Gifts you must buy for people. Like your cousin, Dave, who just had

a baby (again), so don't forget to buy it some...shoes? Even pumpkin spice is still around for all those basic white girls out there to faun over. (*Queue basic white girl voice*): "You know, this tequila would be *so much better* with some pumpkin spice and maybe like...some cream in it? To like, make it more festive! Ya know?!" Yes, Becky. We all know. We always know. Lay off the tequila before you go home with that old man you think is really Santa.

But really, what I think department and grocery stores really show us, is that anything can be made a tradition if you really push it on people hard enough. And for me, these are traditions that have made my list that haven't yet been globally recognized. Folks, the key word here is *yet*. Being that I am like an extremely greasy car salesman with pitching things to people, I have "faith" that these will kick off in a big way in the next couple of years—assuming we aren't all dead. So, happy holidays, and let's get started.



## Eating Chinese Food on Christmas

Yeah, I know. More people than not have been doing this ever since the hit 'A Christmas Story' came out in 1983. But for me, the main difference here is to find the oiliest, most deep-fried, sign-chipping restaurant. Usually located just off SE 82<sup>nd</sup> or NE Sandy in Portland. Or, for me here in Seattle, a place just near Shoreline by the Goodwill and just past the smoke shop, with a parking lot and creepy neon lime-green open sign. These places always have egg rolls. Egg rolls and egg foo young. That's



all I want. People would be surprised to find that very few places are willing to make you a deep-fried Asian-style burrito anymore. *Spring rolls are not the same!* It's like getting the 'healthy' alternative, with a bunch of green stuff inside. Why? Anyway, you get this delicious food, and you take it home, sit in front of your TV, cuddle up with your new Christmas socks you got, and watch *The Star Wars Holiday Special*. Hopefully, with someone special to endure the 2.5 hours of extra footage with. If not, more Chinese food leftovers for you, and you get to laugh at the funny parts of the Chewy scene, where mom is cooking people food, without feeling judged.



### **Watching Star Wars Holiday Special**

It takes a special kind of person to actually watch this and enjoy the cinematic masterpiece that it is. Now, I know Harrison Ford flat out denied ever being in this film (did all the ac-

tors get roofed before going on set?), and Carrie Fisher played the film to motivate party guests to get going, but really...the movie is great. Now, what's more, finding someone to endure—I mean enjoy—this with you is just about the biggest holiday miracle you could ask for, and I don't believe in miracles. Make sure to pause the movie if they have to go to the bathroom. Even if they say, "don't worry, you don't have to pause it... I can hear it from the bathroom." Pause it. Don't listen. You don't want them missing a single second of what is possibly the best holiday tradition ever.



### **Getting Beer at the Grocery Store and Judging Everyone Else in the Store**

This is quite truly something that should be observed more as a tradition. Each day I go to my local grocery store to grab some beer, sometimes eggs, sometimes meat if it's discounted, and sometimes a discount pie. (Who doesn't want discount pie?) Sometimes, I'll even grab some soup if it's on sale. But I mean, I never do full-on grocery sprints during the last week of the year. Please, if you don't have that rib roast from the last week of October sitting in your freezer, don't bother getting it. Or do, and become one of the dozens of people I like to scoff at in grocery stores, saying things like, "of course you would wait until the last minute to buy a ham, Kevin. That's why you had to buy canned," or, "I didn't know you could shove that much shit in a grocery cart, Stacey, who the hell are you feeding *right now* that requires all those boxes of Stove Top?"



This is possibly one of my favorite traditions. It's fun, light-hearted, and generally speaking, no one gets hurt. Unless you glare-stare, roll your eyes, and scoff poorly under your breath at a volume loud enough for the woman with 523 items in her cart to hear, who may then cock her head to the side and feel the need to say, "Excuse me?" with her hand on hip, ready to dispense some Karen-speak and a possible slap.

And this, my fellow readers, was a list of my three most favorite holiday traditions I hope to make more globally recognized. So, go now! Find the egg foo! Scoff at a Karen with a beer in your hand...opened! Force a stranger to watch *Star Wars Holiday Special* with you, and maybe get lucky. Happy whatever to you all.

*Hannah One Cup also likes the following traditions: Stoop drinking hot buttered rums, dressing dogs up as evil Santas frothing at the mouth, stealing hams in general, and storing snowballs in the freezer for later purposes—sometimes for alcohol ICEEs, sometimes something more violent. Find her on Facebook or in the meat department.*

# I MOVED TO NEW ORLEANS AND GOT COVID A WEEK LATER

*by Elise Fontaine*

AN ESSAY ABOUT BEING SICK WITH THE DELTA VARIANT AND SICK OF HYGIENE THEATRE

Dude. I have fucking COVID.

That's what I've been telling my closest friends in Portland. Which is super embarrassing because I just moved to New Orleans. Not sure if y'all know this, but Louisiana had the most cases per capita in the world at one point during the pandemic. Kinda like Portland with strip clubs. Similarly, me having COVID is likely not as surprising to my family in Florida, not because they are callous—they've been really sweet while I've been ill—but because four relatives in the Sunshine State have already had it. One died.

I can't think of a single friend of mine in Portland who has had COVID yet, and I think it's because the culture is a little more self-centered. Sure, people there care about the greater good; that's why social justice activism thrives there so strongly. At the same time, the overall vibe is self-focused. Like, when I ask my good-natured, kombucha-loving, anti-vivisection comrades to hang out, it's more often than not based on their schedule, their needs, their venue preferences. I mean, think of the self-absorbed hipsters at every cof-

fee shop, record store, or show, just dying to be seen. Don't pretend you haven't done it, too. I know I have, luckily, long ago.

I caught Rona a week after moving to New Orleans. Not the warm welcome I anticipated. I was hanging out with a very self-absorbed person from the Pacific Northwest, who kept doing dumb shit like smoking weed with strangers and folks who were house-



less. Nothing wrong with being houseless, I've lived on the streets myself, but it's utterly asinine and totally irresponsible to suck on pipes and joints with the same population that is at the highest risk for COVID. Needless to say, I did not partake, but I observed from afar. Despite my Portland-influenced elitist disapproval, I said and did nothing. Maybe

the lackadaisical vibe of NOLA got to me. Or, perhaps I didn't want to argue with the selfish and completely oblivious. I made an assumption that this person was a super spreader, but they ended up COVID-free. I cannot believe that all I did differently was pay respects at the Día de los Muertos altar. I even stayed outside at the last venue we attended together, with our other friends who also got infected.

I was a fool among fools. Perhaps the biggest fool of them all. Not only for not keeping up my Portland social standards during COVID while in the Big Easy, but because I went out maskless. Like when I mourned with the parade at the Day of the Dead, which ironically had a memorial to COVID victims on one side. Or, at dance nights, some places checked vaccine cards, but most did not. And, I kept forgetting my mask. Sometimes, I just went with the crowd and didn't wear it. So, trust me, I know that ultimately, I am to blame for lowering my own standards of caution and mindfulness.

Anyway, today is day four of me agonizing in bed with a throbbing

headache, congestion, fever, and culminating fear of losing my ability to breathe. It's a fun game of: is my chest tightening, or is that anxiety? At least I could take out the trash today. Feeling better than yesterday, but still mostly in bed with an unrelenting headache. Ordered



I'm not in the hospital right now and am instead writing this essay on my phone.

I'll leave you with this: I wish businesses would actually check COVID vaccine cards and tests in the U.S. like they do in Canada. So many say they will/do, and so far, I've only seen two places in New Orleans actually do it and a few more in Portland. More often than not, in both cities, it's a don't ask/don't tell situation, despite signage and hype. I get that people are concerned about their livelihoods, but is spreading this awful disease really worth a good time and some money? I'll be making a map for



***"I was a fool among fools. Perhaps the biggest fool of them all. Not only for not keeping up my Portland social standards during COVID while in the Big Easy, but because I went out maskless. Like when I mourned with the parade at the Day of the Dead, which ironically had a memorial to COVID victims on one side."***

wellness-type groceries (immunity boosting juices and shots) to be delivered from Whole Foods. There's no New Seasons out here, and the regular stores have some healthwise stuff, but not like we're used to in the City of Roses. I'm not unrealistic and will never blame people's struggle with a healthy lifestyle or their lack of knowledge in terms of herbalism and holistic medicine for getting COVID, going to the hospital, and maybe even dying. Yes, this faulty narrative exists. No, I want nothing to do with it. On the other hand, I think my kitchen witch ways—which I learned before it was cool, before social media, and from books and oral traditions—has helped minimize my symptoms. That, and, you know, **the vaccine**. I was lucky enough to get access to the most effective vaccine on the market: Moderna. I'm sure that is the number one reason

New Orleans of venues, and I'll share whether they checked my card/test status. I urge someone in Portland to do the same. Trust me; nobody wants a breakthrough case. It's super painful and debilitating.

Having spewed all that like the thick

slug that projected from my lungs this morning, I'm going to be sick of my bedroom when this week of COVID hell is over. So, I guess I better get out there and bring some of that PNW advocacy with me to the sugary heart of the South.





THE MONTHLY

# COLUMN

BY WOMBSTRETCHA THE MAGNIFICENT

# 2021 KIDS TOY ROUNDUP

It begins. The rush to push Xmas into the forefront of the collective consciousness starts as soon as they can get away with it; the onslaught stemmed only by the stalwart fall holiday of Halloween. Were it not for pumpkins and spooks, Xmas would likely commence in August, instead of merely being the worst three months of the year. Compulsory consumerism, feigned affection, insipid movies, and the wanton indulgence of already-spoiled children are the orders of the day. You should have been on it already, at this point, but never fear, I've got a kids toy roundup for anyone desperately in need of some intel on the Xmas toy scene. I specify "kids" toy roundup, as I believe someone else in the *Exotic* office drew "adult toy roundup" from the topic hat.

That's right; your author actually went to a number of physical stores in order to catalog the most ridiculous hunks of child-oriented crap for sale this year. No foolin'. I actually went to places to get the lay of the land. Not having kids myself, I don't really know what they're into these days. I saw some shit that made me wish they'd had it when I was wee, some old standbys, and the stuff I came for: the bad and/or odd. Here we go. Products are not ordered according to any kind of ranking.



**Fisher-Price "Work From Home" Office Playset**

The last two years have been weird. Half the world's workforce has realized that they don't actually have to go to an office to do their jobs, much to the chagrin of middle management who want to seem important. Kids' playsets have historically included all manner of workplaces, from restaurants to retail and, of course, construction, because the kids are keen to emulate the exciting world of working adults. That said, does this really do it for them? The humble playset includes a fake mobile phone (with a picture of dogs in a Zoom-conference like setting), microphone headset, plastic laptop with calendar and spreadsheet icons (as well as cat pictures) which Velcro to the "screen," and a tiny version of a knock-off Starbucks cup. The smiling child on the box attempts to conceal the overwhelmingly grim and fundamentally depressing nature of this sit-on-your-ass-and-stare-at-screens playset. \$25



**Game of Thrones - Iron Throne Construction Kit**

We all remember a very different time, where the gritty fantasy show "Game of Thrones" was captivating viewers for years until they utterly blew it with the last seasons. Well, I'm not sure why they slept on getting this one

to the market, but it seems a little late to me. Anyhow, if little Billy or Suzie ever wanted to bring the excitement of the show to their own lives, there's this "Mega Construx" kit that lets you build your very own Iron Throne. It comes complete with tiny Cersei, Jon Snow, Daenerys Targaryen, and Night King figures, which could be used to revisit any number of the memorable murder or sex scenes from the show's run. \$30.



**Chest Nut - The Electric Ride-On Horse**

It is what it sounds like. It's a large stuffed horse, about two and a half feet high and about three feet long, which kids are supposed to ride. Calling it a "stuffed horse" does it something of a disservice, as it only roughly approximates the appearance of a horse. It basically looks like they took a plush horse head, then stitched that head onto a footstool, with a brown bath towel glued to it. It boasts an impressive list of features, such as "removable bandana" and "realistic horse

noise." So, once you plunk a car battery into the bowels of the beast, your kids can tool around at a modest 2.5 mph, on smooth surfaces only, while removing the bandana and activating the realistic horse noise—what a way to spend 250 US dollars.



### LEGO Harry Potter Advent Calendar

This is like an anti-gift. Sure, Lego is fun and all, but this is a *Harry Potter Advent Calendar*, the latter part meaning that getting it as a Xmas gift is pointless unless you want to wait a year to play with it. Also, I was under the impression that Christians, at whom Advent calendars are typically directed, do not approve of Harry, either for religious reasons or perhaps in an uncharacteristic display of good taste. Though Harry Potter is possibly one of the most widespread fandoms in the English-speaking world, even the biggest fan of Silly British Wizard Shit would probably pass this one by. \$35.



### Melissa & Doug's Dust! Sweep! Mop!

I have to divert a bit from the rest of the list, which tends to be bad or unusual toys, in order to point out this *actually rather good idea*. It's a set of child-sized domestic cleaning gear, such as brooms, dustpans, and

mops. Rather than merely being simulacra, these are legitimate tools. If you can get your kids to clean your house as part of playtime, then you are truly a genius parent. The kit only costs \$20, too, so even if they don't think house cleaning is the sweetest tits, then you're not out much and can always put out a Craigslist ad for a dwarf roommate if you really want to make good on your investment.



### Fur Real Poopalots

It's a fake dog. A fake dog you take for fake walks. A fake dog you take for fake walks and hit a button to make it fake poop. A fake dog you take for fake walks, hit a button to make it fake poop, and then fake clean up after it using the provided fake shit shovel. Thanks to the box, though, I know how to say "I poop" in French, German, Spanish, and Portuguese. I guess they're hoping this pooper trooper is going to take Europe by storm. Shit storm. \$40.



### Farmland Hickory Smoked Ham & Water Product

Nestled between some board games (and above the Poopalot) in the toy section was this curious addition. Claiming to be both gluten-free and lean, this 2.5 lb slab of pork and water is as festive as it is durable. Requir-

ing only the barest level of refrigeration to remain usable, it is sure to provide hours of entertainment for anyone aged three and up. Price not marked, but similar toys retail for about \$2.95 a pound.



### The Breast Milk Baby

Okay, while I mentioned that these were not sorted by ranking, I saved the *breast* for last. The Breast Milk Baby is a baby doll, which I'm sure you might have guessed, and it involves feeding that doll breast milk. Now, how does one breastfeed a baby doll? Why, with a breast, of course! The Breast Milk Baby (or BMB) comes with a special "bib" of sorts, which has breasts (or at least *lumps*) and dainty, flower-shaped nipples, which you can cram into the rapacious BMB's hungry maw, as it makes hollow sucking noises. So, you strap on the tits, clamp on the baby, and as the packaging says, "enjoy the magic of motherhood." If you want your own BMB, be prepared to shell out 90 goddamn dollars for the pleasure.

Those are the outstanding items for 2021. I have visions of a haggard 6-year-old who got the Breast Milk Baby, the Work-From-Home Playset, and the broom and mop kit, all making for a fairly realistic parenting simulator. There's your magic of motherhood, asshole. Anyhow, all of these items are 100% real and available for purchase, wherever they sell stupid shit. Merry Xmas and such. May you not scald the baby by accidentally spilling your Hot Nog™ on it and subsequently never be invited back for the holidays at Cousin Sylvia's place again.

-WStM

*Wombstretcha the Magnificent is a writer, hipopotamus hunger evaluator, long-distance shopping cart return expert, S.T.A.L.K.E.R., and retired rapper from Portland, OR.*

*He can be found at wombstretcha.com, on Twitter as @wombstretcha503, and on Facebook & MeWe (the best Facebook alternative) as "Wombstretcha the Magnificent."*

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