

IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT FOR A BURN : Mourning at the Man



MRS. LUCKY

Zack misses Molly. Zena honors Ethan. Corvis marks twenty years since the passing of his best friend. Three friends build a phoenix in memory of a fellow they never met. Burning Man is a good-time destination. It's also a fine place to say good-bye.

Ethan and Zena almost came to Burning Man in 2010. An intoxicated driver killed Ethan in October of that year. Iron Man, a Center Camp art piece, is dedicated to his memory. Quiet time there and talks with other mourners have helped her sort things out says Zena.

In 1992 Corvis' friend Jon electrocuted himself in an accident involving a broken arm, an epileptic episode, and a tub-side radio. Twenty years later a cigarette box he decorated will be left for the flames.

Last year, Norm, Kathleen, and Daniel were scavenging for jewelry materials in the ashes of the Trojan Horse when they learned about the very recent death of Harlan Payne. Harley died of a heart attack while working with the Trojan Horse crew. As the 16 foot sculpture (located at 7:30 and the Plaza) was taking shape they grew to know Harley, a man they never met.

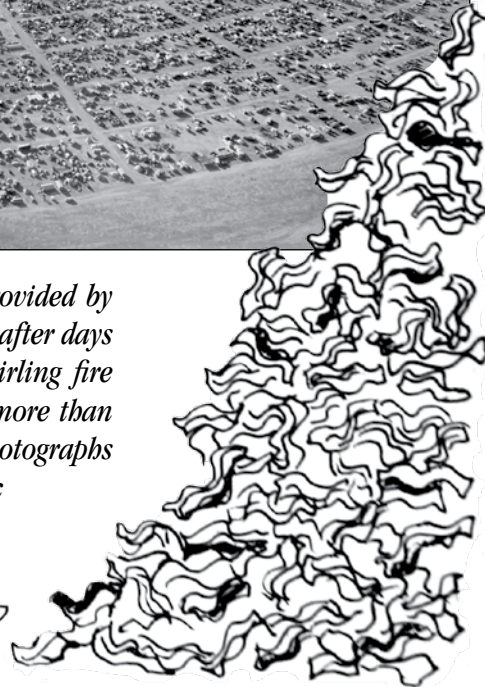
Zack and Molly came to Burning Man together in 2009, 2010 and 2011. In March Molly committed suicide. Zack left a lock of her blond hair at the Temple but didn't linger. "It's like a second funeral," Zack says.

"The center of the Temple is set aside for those who have taken their own lives," says designer David Best. He never wanted it to be "some morbid, gothic, bull-shit thing. Beauty is the humor of the Temple. In the midst of talking with a woman about her son's death by overdose a giant chicken drove-by and we both laughed."

We live vividly for this week, burn it down, pack it up, let it go. When our time is up on the playa of life, may we exit with beauty and love, remembered by community and embraced by common ritual, one of which may involve being remembered at Burning Man. 🐘



A full moon and a benign breeze were finally provided by the weather gods for last night's Burn of the Man, after days of dust storms and white-outs. Preceded by whirling fire conclaveists, the Man blazed and fell in front of more than 40,000 joyful Burners, as shown in Taymar's photographs on this page. And, above right, Weegee's dramatic aerial shot of Black Rock City shows it nearly at its peak of population on Saturday afternoon.



TODAY'S WEATHER:
Still hot and dusty.

BLACK ROCK BACON

TO MAKE A PROPER BRITISH BACON SANDWICH
Grill or fry 3 slices of back bacon, smoked or unsmoked. Take 4 slices of white bread, preferably from a supermarket packet, and spread them liberally with butter. Lay the grilled slices on the bread and add either Heinz tomato ketchup or HP sauce. Serve within 20 minutes.

Looking after the Temple...

NRDYGR1

Her first year at Burning Man, Cricket signed up to be a Temple Guardian but didn't make her shift: Black Rock City fried her circuits. It was all too much. But the next year she came and fulfilled her spiritual quest, as many do who seek the Temple. As Guardian and solace-seeker, she finds the Temple intensely grounding and calming in the midst of riot: The Temple is yin to Burning Man's yang.

Cricket arrived for her shift, wearing no identifying uniform other than the optional bandana (designed anew each year), reported to the Voice, and asked where she could be the most help.

And then she sat. And watched. Quietly intervened when necessary. People sat on an opening lotus blossom because it looked like a bench. Cricket knew how to fix it if it broke.

Sometimes it's necessary to protect the Temple from well-meaning Burners lighting ritual sage or ceremonial candles. Or if someone lights up a smoke in the middle of a structure made of 100% raw fuel, designed for rapid conflagration. Only one thing may be lit, and that's the Temple itself on Sunday night.

You will never notice the Guardians. But they are always there.

You never know what someone's trip-

ping on, says Cricket. Or an adventurous Burner might attempt to climb something unclimbable. The Guardians' mantra is: "Gentle nudges from afar." Intervene only when absolutely necessary to assist or protect, err on the side of discretion.

The Temple is the largest structure on the Playa and the farthest from emergency services. Not only does the Temple need protection, sometimes visitors do, too, or some form of assistance. Many Burners come to process things, often loss, and are at any of the stages of grief. Cricket has a secret stash of sharpies. She might offer one.

Sometimes an art car needs reminding to lower the volume as it enters the Temple's sacred space (and as Mutants are to do around most art gatherings, anyway), but mostly the Temple is designed to take any emotion people throw at it.

The Guardians see the Temple almost as a living, breathing being, a creature. Cricket said, "I set myself and my own beliefs aside and try to get a sense of what the Temple needs from me."

"Last year I had a lot of shit to unload, personally," said Cricket, but her first possible visit to the Temple was as Guardian. "I put myself aside to be available to other people. In that act of compassion, [I was

surprised to find] my own needs were met."

Dhammaseeker says, "When we do interact with participants, we do so with love, carrying the sacred space of the Temple with us into every interaction."

One Guardian could not diffuse a group that was so brash and obnoxious it unsettled others, and told her to FO when she requested their cooperation. Unable to control them or the situation, she felt like a failure, went into a dark corner and meditated, trying to put positive energy back into the space. By the time she had calmed herself down, the situation had resolved itself.

Every three-hour shift has two Voices: these are advanced Guardians with walkie-talkies tucked away in case they need to dial into Emergency Services' grid.

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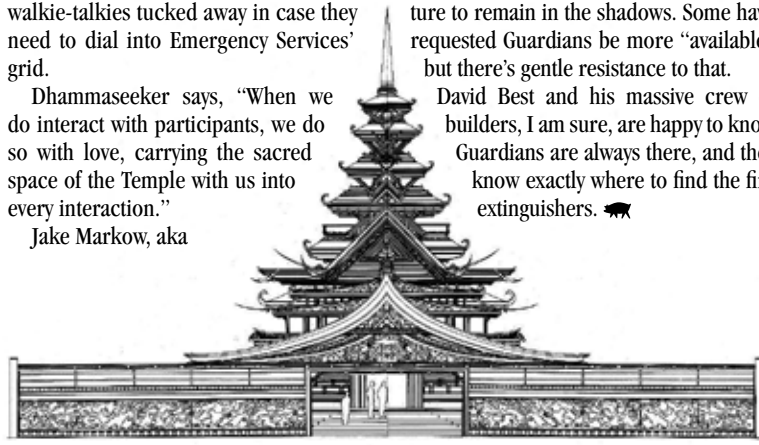
Jake Markow, aka

Carousel, trains and gently mentors Guardians, as does Dhammaseeker. Skirblah doubles as Ranger and Guardian.

Guardians are also trained as "Offering Carriers," delivering items for Burners who arrive too late to the Temple Sunday afternoon, not realizing it closes early in preparation for the Temple Burn. It is a shock for Burners who incorporate time in the Temple as part of their grieving. Guardians hold the perimeter, but also mindfully and respectfully help the Burners with their offerings, including items from Burners who can't make this year's Burn.

Even if someone is really despairing, "It's not up to the Guardians to make things better," she says. It's Guardian culture to remain in the shadows. Some have requested Guardians be more "available" but there's gentle resistance to that.

David Best and his massive crew of builders, I am sure, are happy to know Guardians are always there, and they know exactly where to find the fire extinguishers. 🔥



Get your learnin' on the Playa

ROD ALLEN

Living on the Playa is, like it or not, a learning experience. Survival skills, economic analysis for bartering, social skills, geographical planning, and orienteering are a few of the skills that you have to learn quickly in order to get the best out of your burning experience.

But there are many more formal learning opportunities available at Black Rock City. Academic burners hold conferences, like the Funconference on Re-Imagining Learning, which ran throughout the week; the Black Rock Educators' two-day workshops on school learning and teaching, or Area 51's extensive program featuring visionary artists Alex and Alysion Grey.

If, though, you're searching for education about drugs, whether for recreation, therapy or spiritual growth, it's unlikely that you'll find it listed in official publications like What Where When; although a few events made it through the process, the organizers of Burning Man are very anxious not to be identified with the drug-using culture, and do little to support it on the Playa.

Wider attempts at coordinating educational effort in Black Rock City have on the whole been met with discouragement from the organizers. But the Bmorg has been working for some time to figure out what to do with the property it is buying in Gerlach, and if enough people interested in spreading Burner values through learning and teaching engage with the Bmorg in dialog there might yet be a pleasing outcome. 🔥

Atonement offered at 3:45 and Geranium

HYDRO

At the corner of 3:45 and Geranium, below one of the biggest pinup girls you've ever seen, you will find a Post of Lies. An unknown Burner has created a simple installation that draws passersby in to let go of the lies in their life. With the comfort of anonymity, which is often afforded at this event, you can express your deepest or most flippant thoughts on the lies you love, the lies you've left, or the lies you are currently living.

While this basic piece of participation may not elicit the degree of emotion as that seen within the Temple, it does provide an emotional outlet. It helps remind us that, here at Burning Man, we are really free to be our true selves. Whether you choose to see it or not, the Playa is littered with examples of people really, truly pouring their hearts out. From the scrap-metal phoenix created to celebrate a lost life to the tear running down a stranger's cheek, we all are experiencing an amazing opportunity to feel those emotions that define us at all levels.

When the Man burns, what will you re-

ally be feeling? Are you willing to look past the party and see that which really matters? Some may read this and scoff at the touchy-feely nature of these musings. But, in an effort to promote radical inclusion, I would challenge the reader to stop and try to understand what their neighbors might be going through. To let yourself become open to the emotions of others can open the flood gates holding back your own demons. Don't believe me? Take another trip to the Temple. Look at the walls and find the scrawlings of those who have been or are truly hurting. Look around at the faces of those who fully appreciate the gift of being able to be free and open. Ask yourself what you've been hiding from. If you find something that really makes you feel, embrace that emotion and look for a way to express it. Remember that you may never return to a place of so much acceptance and support. If it turns out that you've been harboring a lie, make a journey to 3:45 and G and display your skeletons with a Sharpie and a note pad. 🔥

Riding with the Firemen

REECY PONTIFF

When a fire broke out in Black Rock City years ago, a volunteer EMS happened to be walking past in his underpants. He sent two girls over to the fire station to alert them, and minutes later, radio in hand, Fire Branch Assistant Chief Ron Martinez became Incident Command in nothing but his boxer shorts.

This is not a typical day in the life of a first responder — unless you work for the Black Rock City Volunteer Fire Department. "Our art is to bring our professionalism here and create a canvas that others can express themselves on," says Deputy Chief Ben T.

Every year emergency workers from all over the world volunteer their time and talent to help keep BRC safe by monitoring all scheduled burns and responding to other emergency situations.

"There's a lot of intensity," says Plans Section Chief David Barr, "everything is compressed at Burning Man."

"It's the dichotomy of being a health care professional" here in BRC says Barr of observing an artist climbing his towering art piece as it swayed unsteadily in the wind. 🔥

"As an emergency worker, that scares the shit out of me," he told the artist, "but as a Burner — fuck yeah!" 🔥

ENDANGERED SPECIES SPOTTED

REECY PONTIFF

The Shirtcocker has become an endangered species here in Black Rock City, pushed out of its natural habitat by the Unabashedly Naked Man and pants cannons.

The BLM is attempting to capture this elusive beast for posterity — If you should happen to encounter one, please do not attempt to apprehend it. 🔥



SUNDAY, SEPT 1

The first-ever Exodus edition described the Burn: 37.5 feet of Man on a 40.5-foot lighthouse base plus 300 pounds of pyrotechnics with a smoke detector in the crotch.

"Thank You For Sharing" enumerated five economic systems co-existing in Black Rock City: gift, barter, fiat-money, black-market, and sharing.

Population: 28,979 🔥

ALMANAC

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
Sunset 7:28 P.M. | Twilight ends 7:56 P.M.
Moonrise 8:16 P.M.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3
The moon will be in the sky at dawn.
First light 5:58 A.M. | Sunrise 6:26 A.M.
Sunset 7:26 P.M. | Twilight ends 7:54 P.M.
Moonrise 8:46 P.M.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
The moon will be in the sky at dawn.
First light 5:59 A.M. | Sunrise 6:26 P.M.
Courtesy www.SunriseSunset.com

An Exodus meditation

JADENE MAYLA

Burners and first-timers alike know the feeling. An intense desire to bring the sensory mix, energy, quality of relating, and general experience home with you after the event. In some ways, Burning Man is a seedbed, containing many of the right ingredients for rooting a culture alternative to the dysfunctional mainstream commercial reality encouraged and offered by transnational corporations and their allies.

Regional events like Decompressions held in cities around the world help with the transition back into "normal" reality.

From the eager participation at these local-level events, it's clear that more Burning Man would be a good thing.

Anna, from Camp To Be Expected, dreamt of a river running through BRC. She lounged and waded on its banks with her friends. In this dream, Burning Man was and was not Burning Man, if you know the kind of dream she's talking about. A place or person may be masked in a different body or landscape, but you know who or where it is underneath.

After analysis, we discovered that this

dreamer's subconscious mind was communicating to her the deep need she has to bring Burning Man into her everyday life and to share it with her friends who have not been. Whether this comes in the form of bringing more people to the event or simply sharing what it has given her with others in the default world, the flow of light pouring forth from the heart chakra of Burning Man can route into other places, times, and minds. 🔥

PERPETRATORS OF THE BLACK ROCK BEACON: Mitchell Martin, president. Mike Durgavich, doer of stuff. Angie Zmijewski, production goddess. Rod Allen, editor. Susan Williamson, pre-pressure. Larry Breed, co-pay editor. Taymar, webmeister. Ron Garmon, camp manager. WeeGee, minister of photography. Ali Baba, Francis Wenderlich, camp managers emeriti. Suzanne Zalev, Carry Tveit, Deb Prothero, Brian Train, Canadians in absentia. Little Jack, circulation. Design Goddess: Lena Kartzov. Educational Advisor: Nod Miller. Writers: Andie Grace, Mitch, Space Hooker, Hydro, Rod Allen, Zaius, Jadene Mayla, Durgy, Frogbird, WeeGee, Mary Jane LaVigne, Nrdygrl, Genie Gratto, Golddigger, Azalea, Susan, Lexi Feinberg, Rhino, Reecy Pontiff, Ringo Firefly, Smash, Indy. Copy Editors: Ember, Smash, Carole. Photographers: Meghan Rutigliano, Ken Duffy, Taymar, WeeGee, Todd Gardiner, Nrdygrl, Ali Baba. Illustrators: Diana Acosta, Poptart, Lena. Monkeyshines: Zaius. Ink: Sunami, Naughty Zed, Jenna... and the rest.

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