EMBRACING AN ELEMENT OF DANGER

BY RYAN

You’ll have to get up early or party past sunrise if you want to see “Embrace” burn this year.

Amid safety concerns, the huge sculpture is set to ignite 7 a.m. Friday, making it among the rare early morning burns in Burning Man’s history.

The sculpture is set to go up in flames at 7 a.m. Friday, creating a cloud of larger-than-quarter-sized embers. It’s a part of the “Embrace” theme, which is a sculpture of two figures, Alpha and Omega, embracing.

The sculpture is designed to be amodicum of danger here, there should always be a chance of death somewhere.”

“Very simply” he said, “the sun always comes up again.”

BY INDIE

TRAGEDY has struck Black Rock City with the death of 29-year-old Alicia Louise Cipciho. The Jackson, Wyoming woman was fatally injured after she fell under a mutant vehicle early Thursday morning.

Unconfirmed reports suggest she was getting off the art car between midnight and 1 a.m. when she fell and was hit by the vehicle’s back tires.

She died at the scene. The Pershing County Sheriff’s Office notified Ms Cipciho’s family early on Thursday.

Goodell. “Our thoughts and prayers are with her family, friends and campmates.”

Burning Man officials posted this statement on their Facebook page. “Event officials, including representatives of Black Rock City, the Bureau of Land Management and Pershing County Sheriff’s Office express their condolences and sympathies to the family, friends and campmates of the victim. Support is being provided to those affected by the tragedy.”

Organisers are working with investigators from the Pershing County Sheriff’s Office to determine how the accident occurred. Anyone with information that may assist in the investigations is asked to contact (775) 273-2841.

BY INDIE

I may be able to spot arrowheads on the desert but a refrigerator is a jungle in which I am easily lost.

- Edward T. Hall

Lucky Strike

BY INDIE

He had drawn down his hakkaone, and he was shakin’ all over, when lighting struck Darby, a DPW Special Works crew member at about 9 A.M. Monday.

“I woke up, it was raining and I was kind of bummed out, so I went juggling in the rain,” he told the Beacon.

He was standing next to the shade structure at his camp, between DPW Power and the bike shop, when lighting hit a pole less than two feet away. It arced toward him and his vision went electric blue. His body stiffened and jumped. “But the weirdest thing was my vision just going blue. I was frozen in place. I looked over to my crew mates. They were so shocked, their jaws were on the floor.”

Far from being scared or injured, a phlegmatic Darby said the experience was “kind of awesome.” He’s been shocked before. This was worse. “Like you stuck a fork in an outlet.”

As news spread that a man had been struck by a bolt from the blue, Darby found his legend preceding him – although rumors his hair had turned grey were sadly (or fortunately) just that.

“People have been asking me, how was your day – well, I got struck by lightning! I was hoping a Playa name would come out of it.”

The Beacon suggests Lucky Strike – and hopes it doesn’t strike twice.

The Black Rock Gazette

10 Years Ago

Thursday, Sept. 2, Stars Edition

Improving on Ptolemy, Brad Templeton and Kathryn Neyeruk drew new constellations to adorn the Vault of Heaven as seen from Black Rock City. The Dusty Way replaced the Milky Way. Vega became the anchor of Lamp-lightings. Cassiopeia was repurposed as the Evil President.

- Steven Wright
I’M LIKE THE MAN’S TAILOR

BY CURIOUS

“I cut him a suit of nice glass.” Smoke Daddy (aka Nick Pardell), who does The Man’s neon each year, has been coming to Burning Man since 1997 and has never paid for a ticket. Smoke Daddy is center-pole gauzy and gangly, has a salty scruff of hair, and sports a pictorial black eye—not for affection—a nail hit into his eye years ago and his iris patch—not for affectation—a nail hit into his hair, and sports a piratical black eye

“Gigsville, his Playa home.

smoking on the Playa put white-outs into his eye years ago and his iris patch—not for affectation—a nail hit into his hair, and sports a piratical black eye

“gall and gaunt, has a salty scruff of hair, and sports a pictorial black eye— not for affection—a nail hit”—Smoke Daddy told us. “Larry [Harvey, founder in chief of Burning Man] likes blue. After three years I’d had enough. There are colors other than blue. Or red.” In 2005, what Smoke calls the “Pan House” year, his friend Bill Murray (now at the Artrey) designed some cool wood curves to splice onto the Man. Smoke Daddy jazled the curves with five different flamelike colors. “Oh, it was beautiful. The only thing we didn’t do was tell the front office.”

“Larry was always cautious about mixing colors,” Smoke went on. “In 1998, the Man was yellow and red. He looked like Ronald McDonald. It was very unfortunate.

“This is Larry’s toy. I’ll offer good advice, good design, the best installation I can.” Sometimes Smoke will go ahead and do something else. “I’ve come close to being fired…. I changed the color on The Man because I didn’t like what they wanted.”

“As a general rule,” Smoke said, “the best designs I’ve done are the ones I didn’t ask permission for. Or completely misrepresented what I was going to do. If they were gonna fire me they would have done it by now.”

“Walking Man,” or “Ants on Man,” as Smoke calls him, was his favorite, but also one of the most painful examples of his repertoire style (Rites of Passage 2010). “I didn’t tell them I was going to put quite so many colors in. When I was done, it looked beautiful. I didn’t mean it to mislead them. It was simply that the design progressed. Everybody loved it, the gay-feminist community loved it. The only people who didn’t like it were Larry and Crimson [Rowe]. They thought it was too bright, too vibrant. I got a severe talking to over ‘Walking Man.’”

Smoke made amends the next year by designing a Man devoid of color: two shades of white, with alpha and omega symbols honoring the life of esteemed Black Rock City performer Rod Garrett.

The design team starts talking about the next Man design during the burn. “Right now,” Smoke said. “Next time I run into Larry: Smoke Daddy credits his ‘magnificent’ base crew for doing all the work: Captain Shady, Kevin Woodford, Lena “Shacks” Kartzov, design diva.

PHOTO BY CARLOS VAQUERO

Twelve substitute one letter for another letter to form a theme related phrase.

WJQ DPGVPQHH GY HBTQCBQ TH HWPLLQ, OTM QQCTCQ CFHQPQ WPWPTO, LTJW WJQ ZOQBQF

HMQOWWCG GY FTBHNPFQQ WJQGPTQQ LITBJB GCGB HQQAQF WG DGHQQH QWPCNO OTYQ.

-CYPHER PUZZLE By: Durgy

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WEATHER SUPER FREAKIN’ HOT

“Since the time of St. Jerome, it was mandatory for any kind of scholar or thinker to spend time out in the desert in solitude. It’s no coincidence that the desert has been a major part of the visionary or mystical experience from the beginning of time.” - Bill Viola