

Mostly Greek to Us

BY THE BLACK ROCK BEACON

This year’s street names pretty much lead directly to stories from Ovid’s Metamorphoses. We hit the books to scope them out. Most of the characters appear under their Roman names rather than the Greek cognates.

ANDROMEDA — Daughter of King Cepheus and Cassiopeia. Her mother foolishly said she and her kid was better looking than 50 sea goddesses that hung out with Poseidon. Next thing you know, daughter was chained up to a seaside rock as a sacrifice to stop Cetus, Poseidon’s killer whale, from ravaging their kingdom, because there’s nothing like 50 angry sea goddesses harping at a guy to make him want to let loose the kracken. Fortunately for Andri, the hero Perseus happened to by flying by with Medusa’s head in a bag, so before you could say “turned to stone” Cetus was metamorphosed into a statue and A&P lived happily enough ever after that good keep Medusa’s head mostly in the bag.



BACCHUS — This guy should be the patron saint of Burning Man. He’s the god of grapes, wine, and fertility, which if you put them all together explains the origin of the word Bacchanalia. Ovid tells of him, appearing as an androgynous boy, being captured by pirates, who think him a princeling they can hold to ransom. Bacchus magically wrests control of the boat and as the pirates realize that he is a god and try to abandon ship, they metamorphose into dolphins.

CUPID — You know him as the chubby little cherub who gets busy with his bow in February, but Ovid pits him against sibling archers Diana and Apollo. Diana, the snooty huntress, doesn’t have time for his lovely dovey darts, and Apollo is outright at war with the little guy, who shot him with a fleche d’amour and shot Daphne, the object of his affections, with a with an “I’m washing my hair every night for the next 10 centuries” arrow. To keep Apollo’s mitts off her, Daph’s father, a river god, metamorphosed his girl into a laurel tree.

DIANA — Ovid tells of Di taking a bath in the woods, surrounded by her nymph posse, when Actaeon, an actual work-

ing hunter, stumbles onto the scene. So the nymphs go all “ooo-oooh” and Diana, who’s like a 40,000-year-old virgin, gets royally pissed at the guy copping an ogle and metamorphoses him into a deer, which would have been bad enough but he was hunting with his hounds, and, well, let’s just say the end of the tale was a dog’s dinner.

ECHO — A particularly sad story. Jupiter occasionally (like every few hours) took the funicular down from Olympus to exchange meaningful conversation with comely nymphs. This annoyed the beejeebers out of Juno, a.k.a. Mrs. Jove, whose main job in mythology seems to have been to be jealous of Old Thunderbolts. Jupiter hired Echo to run interference for him, which she did by hanging out with Mrs. J and talking her ear off. Eventually, Juno figured out the game and shut Echo up by taking away her power of speech, leaving her just able to repeat the last thing somebody else said. So out of a job, Echo was wandering around one day when she came upon the original narcissist, Narcissus, and fell madly in love. At first he didn’t notice her, because he was too busy noticing himself and she could only speak when spoken to, and when he finally figured out that she was stalking him, he said “Yuck, a pretty nymph following me around, gross” (she said “around, gross”), and he told her to get lost. Narc eventually died from looking at himself all day long and not getting any vitamins or food or clean clothes, and poor Echo, who was still following him around, metamorphosed into nothing but a coda.

FORTUNA — Fortuna was the goddess of fortune, who appears only in passing in Metamorphoses. But we suspect a sly reference to Ovid’s own fortune. In a later book, the Tristia (Lamentations), the poet writes from exile, bemoaning his ejection from Rome for reasons yet to be determined. He refers to the narcissistic prediction of his own eternal fortune that he made at the end of Metamorphoses: “Wherever Rome’s influence extends, over the lands it has civilized, I will be spoken, on people’s lips: and, famous through all the ages, if there is truth in poet’s prophecies, I shall live.” In the Tristia, he says: “Tell them the face of my own fortunes can be reckoned among those Metamorphoses. Now that face is suddenly altered from before, a cause of weeping now, though, once, of joy.”

GANYMEDE — A comely boy from Troy, he catches the attention of Jupiter, who metamorphoses his apparently bisexual self into an eagle, snatches the lad, and brings him to Olympus to be cupbearer to the gods. Note: Juno was pissed.

HYACINTH — Boyfriend of Apollo, died in a tragic frisbee accident. Apollo metamorphosed him into a flower.



ICARUS — This one is a little tough; you probably know the story, Icarus’s inventor father, conveniently named Daedalus, wants to ditch Crete, so he makes two sets of wings out of wax and feathers, and father and son fly to flee. Daeddy warned Icky not to get too close to the sun because melting wax, but did Ick listen? No, they never listen. Wax melts, wings go, kid plunges to briny doom. The thing is, there’s no real metamorphosis in this story, at least one that you don’t have to go through a maze of tortured logic to find, and no gods or magic. Some academics say Daedalus metamorphosed himself into a godlike creature because he gave flight to humans, and you can go with that, or that son and former father metamorphosed into birds, but that seems far-fetched, they were just wearing bird costumes that worked. Of course, the kid did turn himself into flash-fried fish food.

JOVE — What non-Greek people call Jupiter when they’re in a hurry. He does a lot of metamorphosing, himself and others, mostly in connection with his little godhead.

KRONOS — The Greek name for Saturn, father (and attempted eater) of Jove. Typical Bmorg, this is the one major god whose Roman and Greek aspects are significantly different. Zeus, the Greek version of Junior, consigned his father to Tartarus, a sort of Great Pit of Car-koon but not on Tatooine. The Romans treated them more like predecessor/successor, in the way of the Adams family (John, not Gomez). Possibly they were just looking for a name that could begin with K. Either way, he metamorphosizes from Big Kahuna to not Big Kahuna.

LABYRINTH — Before his flight from Crete, Daedalus built this uber-maze to contain the Minotaur, a human-bovine chimera borne by the wife of King Minos. Ovid makes a pretty big deal about the Labyrinth, which is based on the river Maeander in modern-day Turkey (it meanders, thus the word). The Labyrinth is a kind of metaphor for the construction of Metamorphoses. The maze appears in the eighth of the poem’s 15 books, which is to say smack in the middle. 🐝

MAN DIES IN HIGHWAY 34 CRASH

BY ALEXXX

Someone died in a traffic accident a few miles from the Playa on County Road 34 near State Route 447 on Sunday midday. The Washoe County Sheriff tweeted that traffic was impacted and advised people to remain in Reno on Sunday at 12:50 p.m. An RV was passing on a section of two-lane road and struck the car of a greeter heading away from the Burn, according to a person in a Sheriff’s vehicle. The Reno Gazette-Journal reported that the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office confirmed one adult man died and one other person was injured. No further information was available at press time. Volunteers from the Gate Department worked a special shift Sunday night to process all the delayed entrants to Black Rock City. Remember, it’s better to lose a few minutes than your life.

Bee or Not to Bee

BY KITCHEN WITCH

From Penny the Goose (2013 and 2015), to the penny bears Ursa Major and Ursa Mater (2016 and 2017), and then again to the copper eagle of Let Us Prey (2018), Robert and Lisa Ferguson are back at their visual deception tricks again. This year, sitting perched upon a flower base made of cat’s eye marbles and extending eight feet in height, this overemphasized bee challenges the participant to look past its minacious reputation and explore its softer sides. Provoked by this year’s theme of Metamorphoses, the Fergusons and their crew decided to not only choose a creature who is the epitome of metamorphosis, but also decided it was time to swap out their standard medium of money bits to those of more delicate nature. Soft woven nylon bris-

ttles were used to cover the piece almost in its entirety as a way to entice the viewer to come in closer and interact a little deeper. With touch being a sense mainly overlooked in a world full of auditory and visual stimulation, the participant is encouraged to run their fingers through the long soft hair of the insect and gaze within its multilayered glossy buggy eyes. The goal is create a friendlier connection between bees and humans. “One out of every three bites of food starts with the pollination process” Mrs. Ferguson wants to remind the viewer. Come take a look at this honey bee and while, yes the piece is large, so is the contribution bees make on our own well-being. For more information on the Fergusons and their many art installations, check out: www.mr-and-mrs-ferguson.com. 🐝

Bee or Not to Bee is at 6:05 and 945 feet from the Man.



"Everything has been said before, but since nobody listens we have to keep going back and beginning all over again."
~ Andre Gide

BLACK ROCK BACon

Change is inevitable, except for vending machines. (Unknown)



Remembering Bobo Do

BY BETH VANDERWERKEN

Perhaps some of the crusty Burners have happened upon the side smiling, break dancing clown of the Red Nose District in years past, or shared boxed wine with the long haired “CrAsian” of the outer ring’s Dopium Den. But if by chance your playa experiences didn’t hold for you that pleasantry, “Bobo” Do’s name will soon become one of familiarity. For me, Bobo was the Godfather to my Burning Man career, taking me under his dusty wing at the ripe age of twenty-three and welcoming me into a camp of complete strangers that now are my chosen family. Unfortunately, early morning on Thanksgiving Day, 2018 while en route to the airport, my friend and the love of his life ended up in a car accident that would change not only their lives, their families’ world, but would deeply affect many within the Burner community. Born January 10, 1979 under the name Dang Cheiu Dai Do, meaning the “Bringer of Light,” yet known by his closest as “Bobo”, never made it through the tragic event and was pronounced dead shortly after arriving at the hospital. Yet, the strong character that he was continues to live on. “His work and interactions with people challenged us to widen our perspectives to see a more diverse, colorful, gentler vision of humanity. Bobo always believed

in the potential of people to change and be more than how they see themselves,” brother Gino Do, and campmate Laura Fournier recall. For that reason, the other two sides of the Do Bro trifecta, as well as a band of counsel members, including his fiance and friends, formed a plan to make his legacy live on by establishing an Art Grant Foundation in his memory. www.bobodo.org aims to fund future playa art projects, just as this 15-year Burner veteran, 3D animator and chuckle master would have wanted. The money will be raised through private donations as well as through profits from events held at the newest burners retreat P.U.R.R. (Prancing Unicorn Resort and Recreation) in Shelton, Washington. The revenue from this year’s campaign went to fund a memorial project for “Our Man.” Look out for the mobile, futuristic riff on a Tibetan prayer wheel. Etched with images of this “late and great” and glowing just as brightly as he did, give this psychedelic love project a spin, offering up blessings to the ones you have loved and lost, and give thanksgiving to another source of artist funding.

RIP our friend, brother, son, camp master and so much more, Bobo. 🐼

BRAINTEASERS BY DURGY

1B	2Y	3S	4I	5D	6G		7M	8C	9K	10O	11N	12Z		13H	14cc	15D	16T	17dd	18aa	19V	20U	21L	22ff	23W	24G	25P	
26R	27F	28cc	29D	30F	31A	32J	33H	34ee	35L		36R	37T		38V	39P	40C	41K	42bb	43F		44Q	45N	46aa	47W	48G	49dd	50ff
51Y	52R	53Z		54L	55dd	56U	57V		58S	59X		60B		61ff	62N	63gg	64Q	65Z		66T	67G	68F	69U	70J		71ff	72X
73I		74cc	75E	76Q	77D		78G	79M	80H	81J	82aa	83A	84R	85V		86Z	87B	88K		89J	90F	91aa	92S	93A	94P		95bb
	96W	97U	98B	99K		100T	101ee	102G	103X		104L		105cc	106dd	107ee	108L	109Q	110C	111ff		112B	113U	114I	115dd	116ff	117aa	118N
	119M	120E	121X		122P		123H	124gg	125ff		126G	127S	128V		129L	130J	131R	132ff	133D	134O	135gg		136U	137bb	138aa		139Q
140B	141J		142A	143V	144T	145ff	146C	147U	148V	149Z	150F	151G	152U		153N	154O	155E	156R	157P		158Q	159H	160M	161ff		162gg	163K
164X		165Q	166ff	167dd	168W		169gg	170V	171Z	172J		173aa	174N	175P	176E		177cc	178ff	179dd	180ee		181H	182U		183S	184T	185L
186I	187X	188W	189E		190I	191ff	192cc		193F	194ee	195G	196ff	197P	198R		199Y	200ee	201R	202N	203K	204D	205ff	206M		207E	208U	209gg
	210ee	211W	212Q	213ff	214A	215O	216cc	217E		218gg	219bb	220F	221V		222ff	223H	224A	225W		226N		227L	228J		229B	230R	231Y

A. _____

214 31 83 142 224 93

Deceitful or requiring skill

B. _____

140 60 112 98 1 87 229

Pertaining to the capital of Cuba

C. _____

110 40 8 146

Pitcher

D. _____

133 29 5 204 15 77

Eccentric

E. _____

120 207 75 189 155 176 217

Constantly harassing, like to do a thing

F. _____

90 27 193 68 150 30 220 43

Lacking animus

G. _____

195 48 102 126 24 67 78 151 6

2 days before tomorrow

H. _____

80 33 223 13 123 159 181

One who scales

I. _____

4 186 73 114 190

The fat lady sings here

J. _____

172 89 228 32 70 130 81 141

One with the same handle as another

K. _____

88 163 9 203 41 99

A healer who may use magic

L. _____

129 227 54 185 104 21 35 108

Grand mausoleum in Agra (2 words)

M. _____

119 79 206 160 7

Boring tool

N. _____

118 62 174 226 11 45 153 202

Belief that life is meaningless

O. _____

154 215 134 10

Register

P. _____

122 39 157 197 175 94 25

Malady

Q. _____

165 212 158 139 44 64 76 109

Tainted Love synthpop band (2wds)

R. _____

26 230 156 52 36 131 201 84 198

Hitting something else forcefully

S. _____

127 58 183 92 3

Traditional Muslim head covering

T. _____

16 66 100 184 37 144

Alter a bit to get the desired fit

U. _____

208 113 97 69 20 136 147 182 152 56

Black Rock Beacon, The NY Times, etc.

V. _____

85 19 143 170 148 57 38 221 128

Move toward something or someone

W. _____

225 188 47 211 168 96 23

Without bounds

X. _____

72 187 59 103 164 121

Alluded

Y. _____

2 231 51 199

Nighttime birds of prey

Z. _____

149 53 86 12 171 65

Advocate

aa. _____

82 18 91 138 117 173 46

True facts

bb. _____

42 219 95 137

Currency of China

cc. _____

105 177 74 28 216 14 192

Dumbfounded

dd. _____

106 55 17 167 179 49 115

Masked actors, with a parade in Philly

ee. _____

107 200 210 101 34 194 180

Extremely or poorly

ff. _____

161 196 71 125 222 50 22 111 132

178 166 61 213 191 205 116 145

Waif whose sun'll come out tomorrow (3 wds)

gg. _____

135 218 169 63 162 124 209

Thrown out suddenly

ALMANAC

You get two planets over the Playa this year, Jupiter and Saturn. You'll see them as soon as the sun goes down low in the southern sky. The brighter one on the right is Jupe, and that's his dad (who tried to eat him) following along as they move westward. Jupiter will disappear from view around 11:30 and Saturn two hours later. If you bump into somebody with a modest telescope, you should be able to see the rings.

Tuesday, August 27

Sunset: 7:39 p.m./Dusk ends: 8:07 p.m

Wednesday, August 28

Moonrise: 3:57 a.m.
Dawn: 5:51 a.m./Sunrise: 6:19 a.m.
Sunset: 7:37 p.m./Dusk ends: 8:06 p.m.

Thursday August, 29

Moonrise: 5:12 a.m.
Dawn: 5:52 a.m./Sunrise: 6:20 a.m

Sun/Moon data courtesy
www.SunriseSunset.com
Planetary information courtesy Dominic Ford's in-the-sky.org



The Black Rock Beacon 10 Years After

Tuesday, Sept. 1

The fairly predictable outcome of denying 130 theme camps early entry was an epic traffic jam on Monday, which back in 2009 was when Black Rock City officially opened.

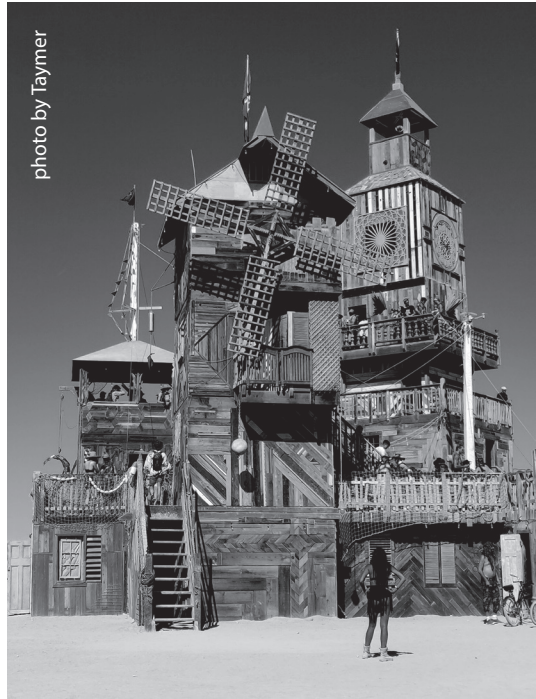
Wednesday, Sept. 2

The 2010 theme, Metropolis, was announced. Larry Harvey reiterated an idea from the previous year that there would be a permanent research entity to study Burning Man culture, indicating it would come into being faster than many thought. 🐼

HELP WANTED

In a dark time for newspapers, one publication holds forth the promise of light, truth, and bacon. Yes, that's us, the Black Rock Beacon. Help us keep tabs on Playa and consume really insane quantities of pork-belly products. If you write, edit, draw, do computer layout (InDesign), take photos, like schwag, or want to deliver our rag around town, come visit us. We have a daily meeting at 10 a.m., where we chew the fat. Come by then or whenever the mood strikes (we're around most of the time). You'll find us on Diana Street at 6:15, mountain side. Look for our banners, to the right of Infinite Love.

photo by Taymer



The Folly, by Dave Keane and Folly Builders, is located at 12:38 and 5000 feet from the Man. This miniature town based on demolished San Francisco architecture is scheduled to burn Thursday night, last we heard. At press time, neither the Artery nor Playa Info had the time or date listed.

BLACK ROCK BEACON UNINDICTED CO-CONSPIRATORS: Ali Baba, president and managing editor; Lancelot Smith, vice president; Mitchell Martin, editor emeritus; Suzanne Zalev, editor; Francis Wenderlich, masthead co-creator; Ali & Francis, camp managers; Larry Breeding is Fundamental Editor; WeeGee, long-lens photographer; Taymar, photographer; Mrs. Lucky, deep thinker; Ron Garmon, extraordinaire; Gayle Early, curiouser and curiouser, also nrdy; Smash, editor and website wrangler; Durgy, doer of stuff; Angie Zmijewski, treasure and production goddess. Lena Kartzov, secret design weapon. Queen Marcia, volunteer coordinator. Staff this issue: Suzanne, day editor; Beth Vanderwerken, Alexxx, writers; Kristin Eddington, design goddess illustrator.

LEGAL MUMBO JUMBO: Copyright © 2019 The Black Rock Beacon, a not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of the state of Washington and located at 32657 9th PL S, Federal Way, WA, 98003, some rights reserved. You are free to to copy, distribute, display, and perform the information and images contained herein, to make derivative works, and to make commercial use of this work under the following conditions: You must attribute the work to the Black Rock Beacon and, if you alter, transform, or build upon our material, you may distribute the resulting work only under a license identical to this one. These conditions may be waived if you obtain permission from The Black Rock Beacon. Visit us at www.blackrockbeacon.org or follow us at twitter.com/BlackRockBeacon.
Hestina Font by Keithgo