

Burning Man  
2014  
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Friday edition

# THE DAILY PLAYA

Infinity  
Fucks  
Given

ALL THE NEWS WE FELT LIKE PRINTING

## Rose's Fire *by Rachel D. and Alpaca*

Tradition two decades old spawned by spontaneous ritual



CRIMSON ROSE DOES HER DANCE BEFORE LIGHTING EL DIABLA. PHOTO BY MOTOR NEURON

Crimson Rose's long white hair floats around her as she dances around El Diabla, summoning the goddess of fire by night. El Diabla is a cauldron that holds the fire that will be maintained by the entire Burning Man community (including you) throughout the week and ultimately start the fire that will burn the Man at 9 p.m. Playa time on Saturday.

It is 6:00 p.m. on Monday. Finishing her slow, flowing dance, Crimson Rose uses a magnifying lens to focus sunlight on a bouquet of matches inside the cauldron. The small crowd of Burning Man veterans that gathered grows as it waits in suspense. A man cries out to a passerby: "This is it! This is the fire that will burn the Man!" More and more Burners passing by on bikes or on foot stop.

The crowd whoops out their joy as the first wisps of smoke trails from the wood pile before the fire bursts forth. Crimson Rose starts to dance, faster and more joyous this time, in a circle of people around the fire, calling out for the crowd to join her: "Come on, this isn't just for me, you know!"

Spectators join the dance, and musicians standing in the crowd begin to drum and sing.

For us two, both virgin Burners, participation in this old ritual felt at once magical and somehow primitive, a return to our human roots. It brought a sense of ownership and belonging to our first Burning Man experience almost before it had even begun.

The lighting of the cauldron began in 1992 as the founders were creating many of the rituals that are still a part of Burning Man today. That year, Crimson Rose, a dancer and fine art model, first climbed the 40-foot man in a pair of 16-foot silk wings, embodying the protectress of the Man. This spontaneous ritual eventually developed into the current cauldron lighting ceremony.

The original cauldron now stands in First Camp. The second cauldron, a gift from the Blacksmith Shop in Seattle, was stolen from the Burning Man Ranch in 2007. The current cauldron, designed and built by the same group in 2008, is a work of art and stands in front of Center Camp.

The story of the lighting of the cauldron turns out to be as much about Crimson Rose as it is about the burning of the man. The ceremony is the only time she takes for herself, leaving behind her radio and removing her organizer hat to focus and fully engage in it. There have been years with clouds, years with rain and years when a Bic lighter came to rescue.

Drastic measures are sometimes required to start the fire. Let's just say the importance of bacon to Burning Man can never be overestimated.

who were close to Alicia as well. Event officials said they were providing support to those affected by her death.

As of Thursday afternoon, organizers continued working with investigators from county sheriff's office to piece together the series of events that lead to the accident.

Anyone who has information that can help the investigators is asked to call (775) 273-2641.

## EMS IS NOT YOUR MOM

ALPHA 1: MOST BM MEDICAL EMERGENCY CALLS NOT EMERGENCIES *By: Zhenya S*



KATE GONELLA IS ALPHA 1 ON EMS RADIO. PHOTO BY ZHENYA S

That the most common medical emergencies on the Playa are dehydration and drug-related issues is an easy assumption to make, but it's one that couldn't be farther from reality.

Most issues medical staff of the Emergency Services Department at Burning Man deal with are very minor. They are predominantly soft-tissue injuries, such as cuts and bruises, many of which could be easily resolved by burners themselves, had they simply paid just a little bit more attention to official preparation instructions.

Yes, the event is nearly three decades old, and there are still people who don't bring things like band aids, Tylenol and vinegar for their feet.

Kate Gonella, administrative chief of EMS (Alpha 1 on the radio), said about 85 percent of all calls they get are for basic things of that nature. "It's a radical self-reliance event, but there are people not embracing the ethos of radical self-reliance," she said. "We'd be able to be more effective in our role in delivering care if we weren't spending a lot of time taking care of people who

should not be coming to us for things like band aids and tampons."

Problems with dehydration, drugs and alcohol make up a very small percentage of the whole, which has been the case this and previous years. "I suspect it's probably about the same rate you'd see ... anywhere else," Gonella said.

## WYOMING WOMAN KILLED IN MUTANT VEHICLE ACCIDENT

SERIES OF EVENTS LEADING TO 29-YEAR-OLD ALICIA'S DEATH BEING INVESTIGATED

A woman fell under a large vehicle carrying burners early Thursday morning and died from injuries, Black Rock City officials said Thursday, citing law enforcement representatives.

Officials identified her as 29-year-old Alicia Louise Cipicchio, who came from Jackson, Wyoming.

"This was a terrible accident," Burning Man co-founder Marian Goodell said in a statement issued Thursday. "Our thoughts and prayers are with her family, friends and campmates."

"Black Rock Rangers and Emergency Services Department staff are providing support to those affected."

Black Rock City representatives, the Bureau of Land Management and Pershing County Sheriff's Office expressed their condolences and sympathies to those



# DARKWADS

Playa's Wandering Speed Bumps

by 13

For those who have not heard the term before, "darkwad" is Playa slang for someone with inadequate night lighting. They're a natural hazard of Burning Man, especially for those of us driving art cars, and there seems to have been quite a few more darkwads the last few years than before.

Curious, I questioned a few of my more veteran campmates. "Absolutely," my former camp leader Jeff replied. "I've seen head-on collisions."

Another veteran burner, now on her fifth burn, told me a story from 2013, when she had spent a few nights sitting in her camp throwing glowsticks at darkwads passing by. "We must have thrown 200 of them," she said.

One art car driver I interviewed even told me that they had seen a woman pulling a baby wagon with a toddler inside, the woman wearing a single light, the toddler and the wagon wearing none.

One thing many of the people I interviewed noted was that many of the darkwads they had encountered were virgin burners. One person I talked to suggested that many recent first-year burners were less conscientious of the ten principles, saying they had seen more trash than in previous years and of course a lot more darkwads.

Another source, who preferred anonymity, also told me there were more all-virgin theme camps and theorized that since there were no veteran burners to tell them to put lights on and what to bring, they didn't think to do so on their own.

So, this is a public service announcement. Read the little packet you get with your ticket. Bring lights. Shine like the weird, lovely burner you are. Make sure you don't get run over, because you make for a shitty speed bump.

## Red Carpet Treatment



PHOTO BY REVEREND PANDA

Man goes to toilet around 6:30 and C; man comes out of toilet to be greeted by a red carpet and a crowd of Barbie Death Campers; man requested to give a speech; man gives a speech; man walks down the red carpet and disappears below the horizon.

## Daily Playa Creative Team

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- Photogs: Motor Neuron, Reverend Panda
- VP of creating, identifying and resolving problems: Steph Smthz
- Director of getting shit done: Matt W
- Life/party support: Daily Playa camp team

## LOST CONNECTIONS

You: Wearing a spiked collar and gold shorts. You rode a motorized fetus board, passed our camp and I instantly knew I had to see you again. You can find me at the Hour of Power at Spank of America at E and 4:45 at 4 p.m.

Me: Tied down and ready to be used.



You: Were rolling balls deep. I was riding on Dust Fish past your camp. You pulled me off and took me to your tent. It was so sudden that I forgot to ask your name. Find me at the Octopus during the Burn.

Me: Horny and possibly pregnant.



You: A sparkle pony in a white tube dress and fuzzy leg warmers. BM circa 2006 you took shots of absinth at the absinth bar at 7:30 and G. The night ended on a tank art car and you had dirt on your face. You ran away screaming after I tried to offer you some water. We finally got you back to your camp and you yelled at us that we need to find your drugs. You can find us to the left of a giant purple cock at 7:30. I hope you're OK, and we found your drugs.

> Pony Huntress



You: Cute and wearing blue. We danced swing to beautiful music on the Playa and didn't say a word, and when the dance ended you walked away. Find me in the same place for breakfast at 7:45 and A at 10 a.m.

> Dancing stranger



You: Well endowed

Me: Hung like a horse

Meet me at the trash fence after the Burn at 3:00



You: Cute little thing from Sri Lanka. You were with a guy names Phil and you stopped by my camp. Phil was pretty fucked up and you needed a break from him. Find me at the Burn by the Space Ambulance.

> Handsome, tall with blue eyes, from West Palm Beach.



Looking for a beautiful Israeli girl named Nadia. You can find me at 3 o'clock and A at the Dust Circus.

> Sasha Gelf



I saw you at the white party during the Infected Mushroom set. You had a white skirt on and white fluffy boots. You danced with me and you had some killer moves. Lets meet at Robot Heart after the Burn.

> Your breakdancing unicorn



Looking for Paul Karpenko. You can find me at 5:30 and E behind the big black bus.

> Laura White - <3 !!! See you in the Dust.



You forgot to lock the door to the toilet next to the Temple and I swung it open ready to pee. But there you were. You had that sexy deer-in-the-headlights look and even though giant eyes told me to get out, I can't stop thinking about you. You had purple hair, pink leg warmers and white granny underwear. Let's meet there again after the burn at midnight. Wear the same underwear.

> Your future Golden Shower

## Daily Playa Lost and Found

**Lost:** Fish-shaped art car, last seen by the bathrooms.



**Found:** Giant wooden man in the middle of the Playa. If not claimed by Saturday, we'll burn the fucker.



**Found:** A baby trouser snake. Answers to the name "Pencil." Can be picked up at Camp Solnyshko (7:45 and F).



**Found:** Half-empty can of Tecate in the urinal. The item and the ass whooping can be claimed at DPW.



**Missing:** Half of your camp on breakdown day. If found, return to your camp immediately.



**Lost:** All dignity and self-control. If found, keep both.



**Found:** Matter Out of Place. Can and should be picked up everywhere.



**Found:** Piles of shit on the Playa. If one of them is yours, go pick it up you fucking turd.



**Lost:** Wednesday.



**Missing:** Hard-working and crazy-dancing campmate. Used to answer to Aaron. Please return to Daily Playa (8 and B). We are seriously missing him.



**Lost:** Virginity.



**Found:** Happiness Herpes.

