

the intergalactic
observer

"Don't look now, but Issue Four is out..."

FEBRUARY ISSUE 04

PRINCIPLE OF THE MONTH:
RADICAL SELF-RELIANCE

**NEWS!
ADS!
STUFF!
THINGS!**

still no sports though...

**ANDY
MACDONALD**
JOINS THE EDITORIAL STAFF

**CRYSTAL
GRID**

Interview with J.Handel





LETTER FROM THE GRAPHIC DESIGNER

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Cover by Tom Ward (edited)

Photo by [instagr.com/fleshandcolor](https://www.instagram.com/fleshandcolor) (subject: [instagr.com/lana_chromium](https://www.instagram.com/lana_chromium))

Three O'Clock Plaza & The Esplanade

Katie Swalm

Hello, my beautiful, mysterious Sasquatches. Here's stuff to do if you're bored.

For a full calendar of regional events, visit: regionals.burningman.org/events/2020-02

Burner Mondays

What: A time to connect with other Vegas burners.

When: February 3, 10, 17, and 24 at 6.00 p.m.

Where: Phoenix Bar & Lounge: 4213 W Sahara Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89102.

More Information

Game Nights at the Manor

What: Ever wanted to see ~300 board games in one place? Now you can, every Thursday! Play board games and hang out with a few moderate weirdos and one cool dog. BYOB welcomed, but not required.

When: February 6, 13, 20, and 27 at 7.00 p.m.

Where: Downtown Las Vegas (email katieeswalm@gmail.com for the address)

Burning Man Releases the Designs for Multiverse Man Base

Originally reported in the [Burning Man Journal](#)

Burning Man Organization has carefully selected a design for the 2020 Man Pavilion from at least nine submissions, called "Multiverse Man Base."

It was created by Kathryn Greenberg, a California artist and architect who has been the design lead on several Burning Man honorarium pieces, including the installations "Trace" and "Chronosydra."

In her words, "A multiverse may be the coexistence of multiple universes separated by space, time, or dimension. We may exist in one, some, or all of these simultaneously; however, we continue to find ourselves at the center of that which we call our general reality. When we look beyond what we know about this reality, perhaps to find something larger than ourselves, we can't help but also seek to find humanity in the vastness of this expanding all."

"As a concept for the 2020 Man Pavilion, this wood structure represents five bubble universes held in suspended animation at the center of the Burning Man Multiverse. Four entry portals form connections like cosmic wormholes, and reveal the interstitial space that is holding all possible futures and realities in quantum constellation."

"The fifth cardinal direction connects to the Man. Through this portal, a mirrored man reaches down. Looking up, you are mirrored back."

"In this Multiverse, YOU are the Man. The Man is YOU."

"You are the true centrifuge for your experience, and your energy has the power to expand this universe as you know it."

FOR SALE: Baby turntables. Never scratched.

LOST: Catheter bag. Last seen on livestream of Flume drinking out of it. Please help; it cost \$3,000 and naming rights to my firstborn. Yeah, I know it's a steep price. It's a double-insulated, bear-proof Yeti catheter. Enjoy getting your piss stolen by bears, peasant. YOU KNOW WHAT? I DON'T NEED TO EXPLAIN MYSELF. I'M LATE TO MY ONEWHEEL MEETUP.

WANTED: Help needed to replace the 'K' in DISTRIKT with a 'C'. Will pay in cetamine.

WANTED: Hi there! Moonraven Thistleblossom here. I'm MySpace's #1 yoga personality with over 20 followers, one of whom is Tom, the founder of the website! WHAAAT! Anyway, looking for 10 sherpas to do everything for me. Must have experience cooking vegan sushi. To contact, whisper a positive affirmation into an amethyst.

FOR SALE: Gently used light-up pacifier. Don't ask where it's been. I accept PayPal, Venmo, and eggplant emoji pressies. Contact me on WhatsApp at @Bruxism69.

BRC CLASSIFIEDS
Curated by Andy MacDonald

LOST: Greetings! European Burner here. I losted my cellphone. It important to me because on it is recipe for famous receipe of asparagus-filled boiled goose. I see it last at C & 17:30. Phone is generation 2 LG with the Cristian Ronaldo case. If found please for contact at 23-45-8351-88-7333333-85-19. Your burn, fuck!

WANTED: Partner/partners for orgy dome. Must bring own protection (chainmail and broadsword recommended) and be prepared to answer three riddles asked by the troll guarding the casks of lube.

MISSED CONNECTION: We met at Slut Garden's salad-tossing workshop. You changed my life. I was just there to nibble on some sweet, crunchy butts before heading out to rage to some sick beat drops with my bros Chad, Chad, and Chad. You were there to bless my butthole with the tip of your palo santo-kissed dreadlock. My crown chakra has never been the same and I want to spend the rest of my days raging to sick Phish drops with you. Please get a hold of me at NoNotThatChad@MyDadOwnsADealerShipInOrangeCounty.com, my queen.

FOR SALE: Instagram model WITH culturally insensitive war bonnet included! Startles easily; keep away from poor people and uggos. Do not, I repeat, DO NOT get wet or feed after midnight. Asking price: VIP ticket to Coachella.

LOST: HOLY SHIT. HOLY SHIT HOLY SHIT SHIT. GUYS. I LOST MY FACEBOOK SHAMAN'S FERRARI. DON'T ASK HOW. IT WAS PARKED INSIDE DIDDY'S LARGER FERRARI. YES, THERE ARE FERRARIS CAPABLE OF HOUSING OTHER FERRARIS CAN WE PLEASE GET PAST THAT??? IF I DON'T FIND IT HE WILL CURSE MY TIMELINE WITH BAD VIBES.

WANTED: MDMA sure is lit as fire! I need some for the Steely Dan set at the trash fence. If you can help, please contact me at IAmAYoungAndCoolRaver@CopsSuck.gov. (I AM NOT A COP.)

MISSED CONNECTION: We had a passionate discussion in Center Camp about how "tripping balls" is sexist and it should be called "tripping buttholes." We then took a bunch of acid and tripped buttholes literally and figuratively. I desperately need you in my life; look for me at Center Camp in 2020. I'll be the guy in linen.

MISSED CONNECTION: I gave you a hug that lasted a second too long and told you the smell of your hair reminded me of my mother's shampoo. You gave me your number, but when I called they said there's no one named Amanda Fukindabut working at this Arby's. Must have given me the wrong number on accident. Happens a lot to me, lol. Anyway, find me at Burners Without Boundaries next year!

THE CRYSTAL GRID

CHARLY WOLNEY INTERVIEWS J. HANDEL OF SUBTLE SOL

Charly Wolney: Who is Jordan Handel? What aspects about you do you want our readers to know?

J. Handel: I was born and raised in North County, San Diego, growing up in a semi-rural part of San Marcos with seemingly endless areas for exploration. Sharing my childhood with a group of boys around my age lead to an extremely active upbringing. We filled our days with skateboarding, surfing, biking, in-line skating, snowboarding, wakeboarding, and dirt biking. The individuality of those sports, as well as self-motivation and constant drive to land the next best trick, offered a new challenge every day. I lived for the positive reinforcement of completing these self-made accomplishments and the adrenaline that coincided.

Music fueled the adrenaline of these activities music. Growing up in the 90's it was CDs and mixtapes of rock, punk, and hip hop. I remember listening to the radio for hours, waiting for a song I liked to come on, quickly pressing the record button on the duel cassette/radio player, and hoping to only miss a split second of the track I wanted to copy. If I were too slow, I'd have to wait for the next time that song came on, which was never guaranteed. This was my first experience interacting with produced music, but it wasn't until I got my hands on Napster and a CD burner, as well as countless parent-driven trips to the nearest Sam Goody music store, that it became possible to begin my obsession with music collection and organization. If I liked a band or artist I'd track down their entire discography, buying or downloading everything I could find on them and archiving them in my CD books.

My parents also put me through piano lessons at an early age. Regrettably, I was never that into it; piano wasn't the "cool" instrument to play at that time, so I switched to electric guitar. Guitar became my first creative outlet for musical expression. After years of picking up the guitar on and off, I was taken to my first rave in October 2009 for Monster Massive in Los Angeles. I was immediately hooked by everything the electronic music scene had to offer. I was a frequent concert go-er already, but this was different. There was a culture behind it, a community, a unique passion for music, and a strong feeling of unity. From then on, electronic music was an integral part of my life.

Eight months later, my life-long friend and neighbor, Michael, brought his DJ gear home from college for the summer. He was already proficient in mixing, so having him (and my good friend Andy) mentor me in my early stages of DJing was priceless. When he went back to college, I sold my guitar and bought a pair of CDJ-800's and an old Numark two-channel mixer. I now had an outlet that allow me to manipulate and interact with my own music collection in ways I never had before, breeding a passion for the art of DJing that has built the person I am today.

In what ways has Burning Man influenced your music and sets?

At any given time, burners have the ability to catch sets from international DJs who are simply playing for the fun of it. This brings out a unique aspect of authenticity that you rarely find in a club setting. Hearing music from all over the world played in an ever-changing environment and feeling how these sounds affected me and those around me influenced the evolution of my own sound.

The aspect of Burning Man to which I attribute the most personal growth as a DJ is the wide variety of settings the Playa has to offer: time of day or night, location and atmosphere, length of set, a stationary DJ booth or a moving art car, a lounge, a food camp, a major sound camp, or simply an intimate setting providing tunes for a few friends. The variations are endless on the Playa, and I find a lot of joy and satisfaction in catering my sound, tempo, and mixing style to complement each individual setting.

You played an impromptu set at the Burn in 2019—if you had the opportunity to recreate that experience, which elements would you be eager to repeat?

Ahhh that set was MAGICAL! I'm so glad I didn't over-schedule myself this year. It was nice having some free time to go with the flow, which gave birth to moments like these! It was a Wednesday night and a group of us had just returned back to our camp (Never Sleep Again) after making the trek across the playa to see Carl Cox at Playground. We had a half hour to regroup before heading out to The Cloud for Township Rebellion. I hear "Fire up the generator, Jordan, hop on the decks!" What was supposed to be half an hour of music to kill time turned into one of the most cherished memories I have of playing music. I realized there was nothing I'd rather be doing than playing music for a group of close friends with no time constraints, complemented by a pristine sound system. During the course of that four-hour set, a fluctuation of groups, couples, and solo wanderers were drawn to the corner of 9:30 & E to seek refuge in the massive cuddle puddle palace that was Never Sleep Again in 2019. I would have loved to have played twice as long and through the rest of the morning but, just as the sun started peaking over the horizon to welcome in the new day, the generator ran out of gas and shut us down.

This experience would be almost impossible to recreate, because the key element that made it truly special was the people. I deeply cherish being able to create an experience for others by filling an environment with energy through sound, so being able to provide that gift in that setting was nothing short of magical.

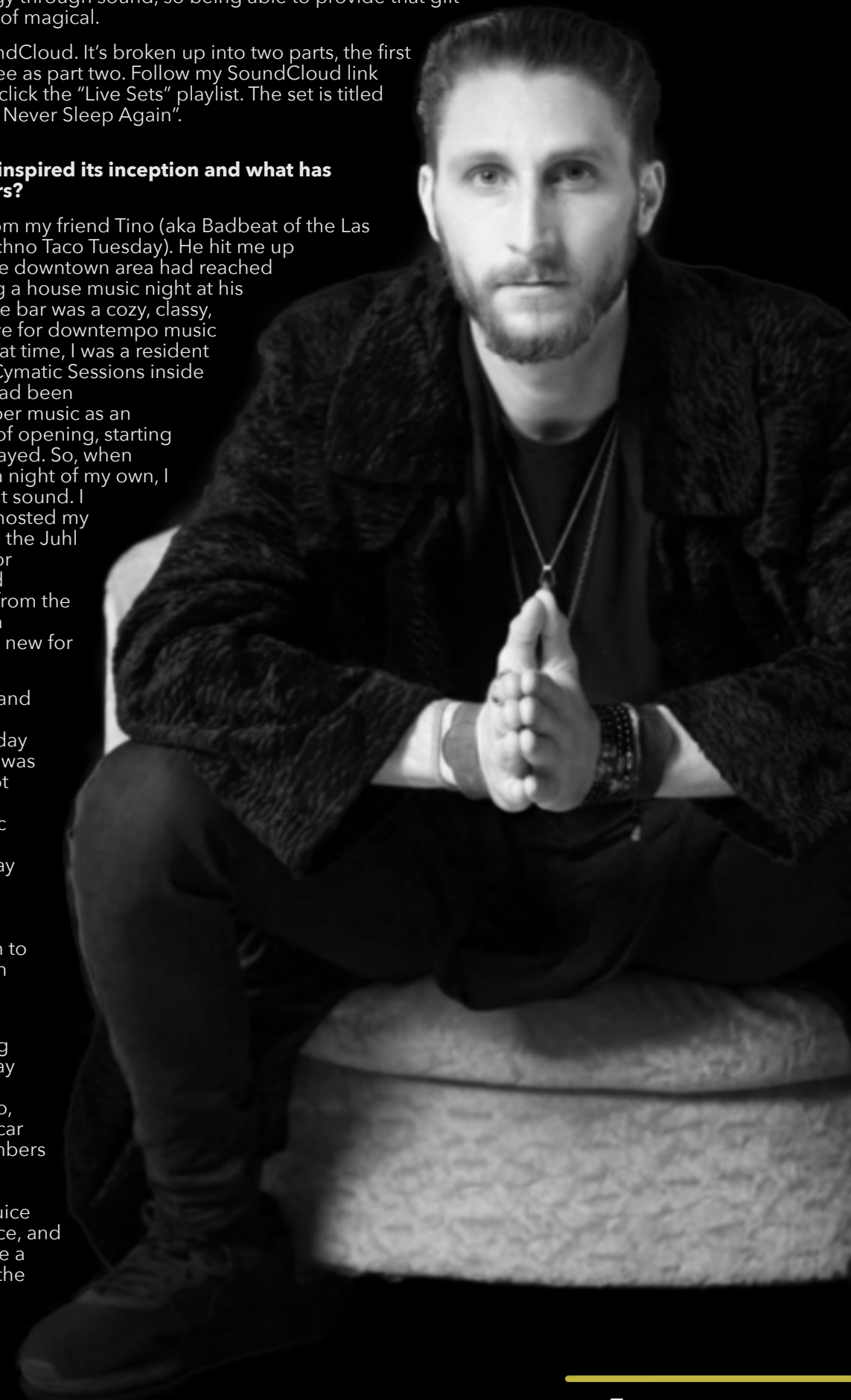
You can listen to that set on SoundCloud. It's broken up into two parts, the first hour as part one and the last three as part two. Follow my SoundCloud link (soundcloud.com/j-handel) and click the "Live Sets" playlist. The set is titled "J.Handel @ Burning Man 2019 - Never Sleep Again".

Tell us about Subtle Sol. What inspired its inception and what has been its story through the years?

Subtle Sol began as a referral from my friend Tino (aka Badbeat of the Las Vegas collective MNTRA and Techno Taco Tuesday). He hit me up telling me a new bar owner in the downtown area had reached out to him with hopes of creating a house music night at his newly opened establishment. The bar was a cozy, classy, cocktail lounge, so he felt my love for downtempo music would fit the vibe perfectly. At that time, I was a resident DJ at the Tuesday night weekly Cymatic Sessions inside Downtown Cocktail Room and had been experimenting with slower, deeper music as an opener. I fell in love with the art of opening, starting slower and slower each time I played. So, when given the opportunity to create a night of my own, I wanted to exclusively feature that sound. I happily agreed to the offer and hosted my first event at Classic Jewel inside the Juhl high-rise the week before I left for Burning Man 2016. I was beyond excited to begin after returning from the Burn with clear intentions and an opportunity to create something new for the Vegas music scene.

I named the event "Subtle Juhl" and hosted the newly established downtempo weekly every Thursday from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. The format was simple; the featured DJ could not play over 120 BPM and was encouraged to collect new music or dig deep into their library to create a set that they couldn't play anywhere else in the city. I loved helping other DJs expand their libraries in ways that most other events didn't and exposing them to different ways of playing music in the process.

Subtle Juhl continued to grow, attracting regulars and becoming somewhat of a staple on Thursday nights until once again, a new opportunity presented itself. Tino, along with Lance Le Rok and Oscar Molina (two other founding members of MNTRA), were working on an ambitious new project: a unique venue, which offered a full bar, juice bar, nightclub, collaborative space, and a vegan restaurant. This would be a one-of-a-kind establishment for the underground, by the underground.



With my background in bartending and an unrivaled weekly event, I obliged joining the team that would help bring this concept to fruition. In June of 2017, Juicy Beets was born and I moved the event to the newly established venue, changing the name to Subtle Sol and helping however I could to ensure the success of this new space. With the support of the team and creative control of the environment, I was able to transform the vibe of Subtle Sol into everything I imagined it could be.

For the next year and a half, Juicy Beets was a catalyst for the growth of the event. Bringing together those seeking a different nightlife experience, and offering sound healings and deep house yoga from time to time. We filled the space with local artists, jewelry designers, and other forms of creativity. It was a beautiful collection of souls and it would never have developed into the communal creation it became without the individual contributions of everyone involved. A massive thank you to you all who made this possible, a special thanks to the whole Juicy Beets family for keeping it all alive to do something ambitious and memorable for the Las Vegas community.

Somewhere along the way, I began to feel stagnant. So, when presented the opportunity to move to Colorado with my lovely lady Caroline, everything felt perfectly aligned. I quickly found a job teaching adult snowboarding in Breckenridge, and just like that I was off to the live in the mountains for the winter season of 2018 and 2019. It was tough to break away from Subtle Sol, but knew this move would be a positive decision for my mind, body, and soul. The last two events went out with a bang, hosting Magician On Duty from Miami in the middle of November, then ITAI and FELT on the last Thursday of the month. A few days later I departed from Vegas for the next six months.

Toward the end of my time in Colorado, my friend Kevin hit me up with a new idea to bring Subtle Sol back in an epic way. I collaborated with one of his friends in Burbank, California, to throw a series of events that would boost the event. The idea sounded ambitious, but we knew we could create something amazing. We set the dates and began planning. The coordination was everything: shuttles, security, performers, staffing, et cetera. I had never put something this big together before, but I was up for the challenge. The first event featured headliners SAAND and Ray Kash and gained more traffic than we could have ever imagined; we were over capacity and trending on social media (not to mention that the police were called multiple times, and people finding their way into the gated community caused a load of issues).

I think I may have lost a year of my life from the stress alone of that night, but it was a success and, with the second event two weeks away, we had no time to chill. There were many small adjustments to be made. Better porta-potties, a smoother bar system, and a closer shuttle transport were among the quick fixes, but the real issues were the timing of the event and its overall cost. The first event was held from 10.00 p.m. to sunrise. This type of party in a residential area was too loud, so we changed it to daytime. Then there was the cost... The first event reached capacity and was still over budget, so we had no choice but to raise ticket prices for the second one. Lastly, it was the week after the Fourth of July. This combination was detrimental to attendance and we saw about a quarter of the attendees this time around. The event itself was great, and we were much more organized, but it was a definite loss from a business standpoint. I know you can't expect success every time but this one sure did a number on me. I wasn't sure if I'd ever bring the event back. After much thought, I realized that Subtle Sol had changed into something I never intended it to be. Now all I can think about is regaining its authenticity once again. Taking it back to roots centered around community and connection.

You described making the trip to Black Rock City as a natural progression from attending music festivals throughout the years. How did these festivals lead to your interest in attending your first Burn in 2014?

After immersing myself in the rave scene for a couple of years back in 2009, my music group and I decided to try Coachella. Something about going back to a hotel room after an event always breaks the continuity of the vibe, and the added inconvenience of traveling to and from the venue is always a pain in the ass. Staying on the festival grounds through the remainder of the weekend creates an entirely different experience and builds camaraderie between attendees. A huge benefit to camping is that once you're there, you're there. If you lose your group you'll eventually meet them back at camp; if the weather changes and you need different clothes, or you're hungry, thirsty, or tired, you can always go back to camp to remedy whatever that may be. All these things naturally create a much less stressful experience. Also, my dad instilled a deep love for the outdoors after countless camping trips in me from a young age, so combining music with camping was that "a-ha" moment.

After that first experience, I quickly realized that festivals were much more my style and began favoring the outdoorsy music experiences over city-based ones. As much fun as a three-day camping festivals can offer, time is always your worst enemy. Everyone is amped to be there on the first day, but it's kind of a clusterfuck as no one knows the layout or how to get around. The second day, everyone is comfortable with their surroundings and starting to get loose, and by the time the third day rolls around, it's already time to go home and you have the pack-up process and exodus on your mind. The sheer length of Burning Man allows you to totally forget about time, not stress about seeing everything right away, and just go with the flow.

What was it about your first Burn that impelled you to continue attending future ones?

2014 was by far the wildest and most raw of the four years I've been. Meeting my two best friends from San Diego, all sharing one hexi-yurt and a car-port. The week started with a rare rain and lighting storm. Luckily we got our camp set up right before it started; to this day that was the loudest thunder I've ever heard. The lightning was literally cracking right over our heads.

Once the storm subsided, we attempted to walk around which turned out to be a comical ordeal as the playa would clump up and create thick platforms of clay on our shoes. What a way to bring in your first few hours on the playa! After the ground dried up it was ON, and for the remainder of the week we only stopped to eat, shit, and sleep, seeing every sunrise and pushing our bodies to their limits. It was one of the best weeks of my life; from then on, the playa was home and the yearly pilgrimage to Black Rock City was forever in my mind. After my first year, I returned in 2016, then 2018, and finally last year.

For you personally, is the Burn as much about music as music is about the Burn?

It's kind of a yes and no for both. The Burn is whatever you make it. If you want to focus on music, then you can fill your time up with music; if you're interested in art and workshops you can spend your week doing art walks and attending classes; if orgies are your thing you can fuck around til your hearts' content. There's no right or wrong way to Burn, and that's the most freeing part about it!

Personally, my first two Burns were completely music-driven; 95 percent of our focus was to catch all the sets we could. Every year besides last year, I had created an in-depth schedule of all the sets I was interested in. At any given time I could refer to my notebook to see who was playing and where. I took a different approach last year, scheduling myself less as a DJ and not being as concerned about who was playing and who I was potentially missing. I also don't think music is necessarily about the Burn; I think the Burn has a worldly music feel because people are there from all over the world sharing music that has been produced in far stretches of the globe. The Burn encompasses EVERYTHING. It's not about one particular thing, it is what you make it.

Will you be attending Burning Man in 2020? If so, will you be playing any sets for the rest of us to indulge in?

As of now, I'm not sure if I will be attending Burning Man in 2020. It's always in the back of my mind and I would go every year if I could, but life sometimes has other plans, so I'm just going to answer that as a definite maybe. But if I do make it out there this year, you'd better believe I'll be bringing the tunes!

Where can we find you outside of Black Rock City? Are there any upcoming events that we should know about? Plug your Soundcloud too!

I'm currently living in Las Vegas so I'm mostly playing out here, but I go down to Southern California quite a bit to visit family and friends so it's not uncommon for me to play there as well. The DJ life is spontaneous one; you can get a random call, text, or email to play somewhere next week or next month and, if it fits my schedule, I'm in! I love to travel and explore, so being able to do that and share music at the same time is an absolute blessing!

The best way to stay up to date with me is by following my Instagram @j_handel. Instagram is where I post upcoming events and music releases.

To anyone interested in talking with me about playing anywhere, feel free to email me at djihandel@gmail.com. Hop on to my SoundCloud page to listen to over 50 different live sets and podcasts dating back to 2014.

Thank you to the Intergalactic family for this opportunity to share my life and love for music!



J.Handel is on SoundCloud and The Intergalactic Observer is on Spotify!

Scan the code to the left with your camera to listen to J.Handel and the music of Subtle Sol on SoundCloud, or scan it from the Spotify app to listen to his favorite tracks on Spotify.

soundcloud.com/j-handel
spoti.fi/310l926





Image by Joosep Kõivistik ([instagr.com/joosepkoivistik](https://www.instagram.com/joosepkoivistik))

JUSTIN BEIBER

VETTED BEST
TEAR

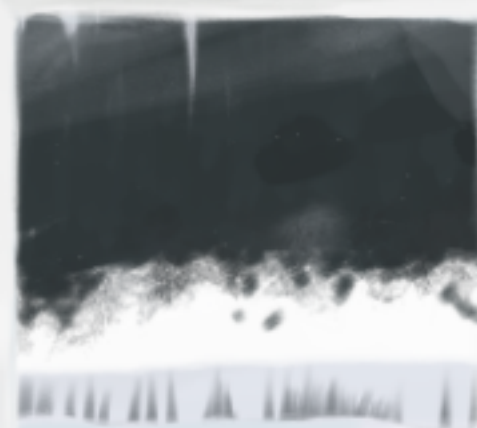
MONDAY SEPTEMBER SEVENTH

TWO AND K

TICKETS NOW ON SALE

Images provided by johandesign and Soundercover under respective CC BY-NC-SA 2.0 and CC BY-SA 4.0 licenses

*If you're cold,
they're cold.*



Bring them inside.

PETA

ANDY MACDONALD!

as
interviewed
by Katie
Swalm

We met Andy on the Internet last month. At first, he was just another stranger harassing us about Dave's soft serve, but within a few short DM's, he became our friend. Andy is on the leadership team of Yummy RUMinations, home of the YUM Cart and purveyors of the finest kava the playa has to offer. He camped across the street from Intergalactic Sasquatch Village last year, and currently camps in Los Angeles.

Katie Swalm: Tell me a little about yourself. What brought you to Los Angeles?

Andy MacDonald: I don't really "get" Tool but I respect if you do. I THINK it's like listening to a neon fractal tell you about its childhood. Like... is it music, or is it math? Choose one or the other, Maynard.

I'm a very important person on, like, three different Burning Man Facebook groups. These hot takes ain't gonna write themselves. When I'm not driving the danged millennials with their "lit AF" hoverboards to their Anti-social Social Club meetings around on Uber, I spend my time doing really important things like complaining about *The Lighthouse* not getting enough Oscar attention. I'm 420 friendly, no drama, and just love fukkin' chillin' with my friends. Looking for my partner in crime, lol.

I was born in Ohio, grew up in San Diego, spent my high school years in Hawai'i, went to college in Oregon, and currently live in Los Angeles. What brought me here is a 10-year-old Prius with a broken tire-pressure sensor that I will definitely fix tomorrow.

Okay, fine, a serious answer: I've been to two Burns (2018 and 2019), obsess about movies, write jokes on Facebook, and hope to someday turn that obsessive need for validation from strangers on the internet into BEAUCOUP BUCKS, BABY.



Image by @loubaldanzaphotography (loubaldanzaphotography.com)

I camped across the street from Intergalactic Sasquatch at both of my Burns, and they are all special, unique treasures. Especially Dave. He brought us ice cream every day during early build in 2019, and because of this I will faithfully carry his banner through the gates of Hell if need be. If you need someone to "paint a house," Dave, get at me; I am proficient in wet work. I love you and light a candle in your honor every night before I sleep on a pillow with your face on it.

What first interested you about going to Burning Man?

Starting around 2014, my life was a dumpster fire full of teeny-tiny dumpsters that were also on fire. My core group of friends were all burners who I thought were weird as shit. I hung out with them and thought the deep, caring connection they had with each other was gross.

After spending a couple years hanging out with them and listening to their stories of lighting pianos on fire and catapulting them because, why not, I thought I'd go with them and see how weird I can get. I was doing nothing with my life and just needed to do SOMETHING. Anything. So I decided to go camping in a desert, shit in 10,000 degree plastic boxes, and have a complete emotional breakdown in front of a group of strangers after realizing I had lost my dad's ashes (more on that another time). It sucked and nothing of value was learned. Don't go.

Has Burning Man changed the way you live your day-to-day life at all?

Surrounding myself with a group of savages, weirdos, and malcontents showed me that it's okay to be strange. Because of this I pursue things that I enjoy rather than things that I think I should enjoy. Tweet like no one's watching.

What do you do in your spare time?

Write long-winded, nonsensical jokes on Burning Man Facebook groups, go to burner events around town, participate in leadership for my Burning Man camp, and annoy everyone around me by finding a way to relate any topic of conversation to Burning Man somehow.

What do you have planned for the Multiverse this year?

I'm working on a teleportation device that sends whoever steps into it to Coachella.

What's the best thing to gift on the Playa? Best thing to receive?

Give: a wooden pendant with texts from my mom saying she's worried about me etched onto it. Receive: a Cybertruck.

How do you help your camp?

By getting norovirus at a Death Cab for Cutie concert a few days before leaving for the burn, driving around Los Angeles in a hazmat suit collecting everyone's stuff while wondering why I'm doing any of this, driving it all up a week early, and spending the first 18 hours of my burn in a \$40 Ozark Trail tent in the middle of an empty playa because I didn't have the keys to our shipping container.

Also by spreading totes chill vibes.

What do you love about your camp?

The people in it are some of the finest human beings I've ever met and have helped me through some very troubling times, and we are close enough to the portos that I don't have to scrawl a letter on a rock telling my

non-existent children to take care of their fake mother if I don't make it back, but far enough that we aren't enveloped in a thick, miasmic doodoo cloud that only the bravest of knights dare venture into.

Do you go with the same camp every year?

Yes. I fear change.

Do you believe in the Multiverse theory?

RICK AND MORTY IS REAL.

What's your least favorite part about the Burn?

Diplo.

What's your essential item to pack for the Burn, besides the bottom part of Maslow's hierarchy of needs?

A copy of The Four Agreements dipped in DMT.

Favorite hot and cold drink?

Hot: a nice mug of hot chocolate enjoyed around a warm campfire with dear friends and new acquaintances. Cold: kombucha that smells like Gwyneth Paltrow's vagina.

Would you rather attend BM on an unusually hot year or unusually cold?

Unusually hot, because it would give me a reason to finally get over my self-image issues and walk around proudly, displaying my hot, naked dad-bod.

Favorite musical set that you've seen?

The time I rode past Distrikt and said to my friend, "I am genuinely offended that someone would listen to this and say, 'Yes, THIS is what I think good music is,'" because never before in my life had I said something so genuine and passionate.

Do you think coincidences are just that, or is there a grand meaning or narrative to the universe?

Yes.

What's something you've learned in the past few months that's changed your perspective?

Keep your Facebook jokes to groups where your family can't see them.

Who's the most influential/memorable person you've met at the Burn?

The woman who got her butt eaten out by Flume.

Where do you prefer to spend time at Burning Man?

Handing out Bibles at the exit of the orgy dome.

Where would you most like to travel?

The universe where I can afford to travel.



ANCIENT WISDOM FOR THE MODERN BURNER

*"The journey of a thousand miles begins
with a single quick trip to the porta-potties."*

—Lao Tzu

*"You have power over your mind—not
the Burn."*

*"A good burner has no fixed plans and is not
intent on arriving; especially not on time."*

*"Waste no more time arguing about what a
good burner should be. Be one."*

—Marcus Aurelius

*There is nothing quite as embarrassing as, in any particular auspicious moment,
reaching for the perfect witty platitude to assuage the existential dread of a compatriot
and finding that your brain has turned to dust and mush. No one should be forced to
rely on their few remaining brain cells having a chance collision in such an important
moment. The thought alone is enough to induce anxiety.*

*Rest easy, gentle reader, for I have a solution. As my gift to you, I have digested
thousands of years of the world's greatest philosophical thoughts to provide you with
easily transmissible shit-nuggets of wisdom, sure to make the sparkle-ponies think you're
wise, and the seasoned veterans roll their eyes. Some paraphrasing may be involved.*

*"The best burning man was 20 years
ago. The second best burn is next
year."*

—Ancient Chinese Proverb

*"Those who know where Diplo is playing do
not speak. Those who speak do not know."*

—Lao Tzu

"If you meet the Buddha in the dust, hug him."

***"There is more happiness in
doing one's own Burn without
excellence than in doing
another's Burn well."***

*To thine own burn,
fuck off*

*"Strive constantly to serve the welfare of the burn;
by devotion to selfless work one attains the supreme
goal of Burning Man."*

—The Bhagavad Gita

*"Sometimes we are lucky to
lose something or someone—or
a few people."*

—Mokokoma Makhonoana

"The only certainties are absurdity and dust."

—Pugazharasu Anancia Devaneyan

*"If you realize that all Burns change,
there is nothing you will try to hold on to.
If you are not afraid of dying, there is
nothing you cannot climb."*

"Confine yourself to the present."

—Marcus Aurelius

Askquatch

with Taskwatch



Hello, dearest readers! Taskwatch is back to answer questions from our readers about personal care for vanity's sake while on playa!

That's right! This month's column is all about beauty and hygiene in the land of ugly and dirty. We're gonna figure out how to keep our back hair bushy and fresh, and our feet large and outta this world!

"I have long hair and heard it can get tangled and damaged. What extra precautions should I take to prevent this?"

—L, Nevada.

Dear Luscious Locks,

Here's my favorite method for readers with long hair and type A personalities:

After your last shower before the burn, as well as after every shower during the burn, expect to brush a lot of leave-in conditioner through your hair, then quickly toss it all into a braided style. The braids prevent the hair from knotting itself further in the wind, and the conditioner acts as a barrier for alkaline dust and electro-magna-psycho-resonance. Do not touch or unwind the braids again until your next shower.

Alternatively, you can lean-in and really embrace the inevitable knotting and damage, and plan to clean shave your head on the last day of the burn. How else will your colleagues in default know that you had a "totally life changing experience" before you even tell them a few times.

"I've heard showering on playa is a bit of a chore. What's your advice to make it more simple?"

—D, Tennessee.

Dear Dirty,

As with most things at the burn, and even more importantly in life, showering can end up being a chore for the poor, and an easy-sitch for the rich. I attempt to shower as little as possible, because personally my least favorite anything to do at the burn is collect, store, transport and dispose of grey water. If you have an RV or equivalent, grey water storage tank is going to be your best friend. If I'm your best friend, baby wipes are your best friend.

"Can you elaborate more on that?"

—Obvious Psychic, New Jersey

Get out of my head psychic-freak... and in to my car.

"I've heard playa foot is a thing. Is it a thing?"

—E, Everywhere.

Dear Everyone Who Asks Me This All The Fucking Time,

Much like big-foot, playa-foot is also very real. So is everything you're thinking about what people have been saying about you, but that's besides the point.

How do you deal with it? I'll let you in to my extremely personal and horny foot-care routine, which I do every day before bed at Burning Man.

1. Remove socks and thoroughly clean all feet, ankles, and calves with wet-wipes.
2. Rub copious amounts of my favorite moisturizer in to my thirsty walking-skin.
3. Fresh, absolutely fresh, knee-high socks over the still-wet moisturizer. Yes, I use that much.
- 4: Cry myself to sleep.

"What's the easiest way to brush my teeth?"

—S, Maine

Dear Stank Mouth,

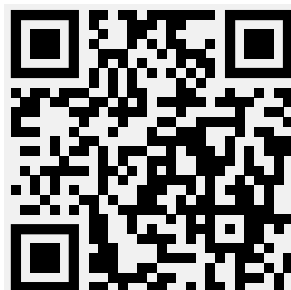
Personally, my favorite is two side-by-side bottles, sitting cross legged on a towel, with a second towel across my lap, and a third towel draped casually over my left arm, so it looks like I'm a fancy waiter. Bottle One is full of fresh water, Bottle Two is empty for collecting spit and tears. DO NOT MIX THEM UP! Well, not again at least.

"I'm worried about my 'intimate hygiene', can you give us some information on helping with that?"

—SJP, Manhattan

Dear Yuck,

Ew.



Got questions?
Ask them here.

Principle of the Month

Radical Self-reliance

—Dave Levy

A word on last month's principle. When talking about Decommodification, we instantly think, "take the money out of it." While commodities are usually traded for currency, that doesn't mean if we can decommodify simply by taking cash out of the equation. Assigning value or quantifying something can commodify it.

It is important that we truly understand what we do with our money in regards to Burning Man. Amazon and Wal-mart both see a huge influx in sales leading up to the event; this is not necessarily bad, but we do need to be cognizant of the influence we have as a community. They have indirectly benefited from the commodification of Burning Man.

"Plug'n'play" camps literally put a price tag on a Burning Man experience, have a bad reputation, and tend to spark some heated debate. The widely accepted description of a plug'n'play camp is one that, at a cost, provides a large percentage of what makes you comfortable at Burning Man, i.e. lodging, food, gear, and amenities. Recently I heard an account of an outsider even dubbing my own camp as a plug'n'play.

I know full well what my camp is and don't take offense to it; however, perception in semi self-governing communities is important. This person's opinion stems from an account of theirs in which they met some of our campers. Realizing that may have been those camper experiences, the only thing I can do is my best to ensure that next year everyone doesn't feel that way. We can all list plenty of negatives to plug'n'play camps; personally, I like to look at the positives to see if it places perspective on the negatives.

Plug'n'plays provide an avenue for people to travel to attend without acquiring a lot of supplies, or purchasing single-use gear. They also give the opportunity for someone well-off to experience Burning Man at a level they are comfortable—not to down-play people that are well-off and still contribute their time and effort. I believe the values of Burning Man penetrate even the most opulent, soundproof shift pod on the playa. I see these as both important, as they aid in becoming even more Radically Inclusive.

The question that needs to be asked is, can plug'n'play attendees ever be Radically Self-reliant?

This month's principle: Radical Self-reliance.

Radical Self-reliance sometimes is construed as being able to do a task by yourself or having enough supplies to sustain yourself for the duration of the Burn. This can't be all it is; all of the amazing experiences we take part in require many people working together to make it happen. You can never bring everything you'll need on playa because it is impossible to know what you are missing if you have not had it yet.

Radial Self-reliance can be taken as permission to be proactive in taking part. Radial Inclusion can create the opportunity, but it's ultimately up to you to seize it.

If you make it to playa and come to the realization that you do not know how to use a drill, you have five options; 1) go the entire week without using one and the project doesn't get completed, 2) figure it out on the fly, 3) find some work-around method to complete the task, 4) ask someone to teach you, 5) have some else do the drilling for you. I don't believe there to be a right answer. So many variables could be applied to make each one of these an acceptable example of Radical Self-reliance.

Burning Man encourages the individual to discover, exercise and rely on his or her inner resources.

Another part of self-reliance is that you will only enjoy Burning Man as much as you allow yourself to. I equate it to someone living in a city they dislike, under the assumption that things would be better if they were to move to a new place. I would pose the question: What steps have you taken to change the city you're currently resided in? The problem with relocating is that you will still be unhappy elsewhere if you are unsatisfied with yourself. The exception is if you are using this change as a catalyst to commit to an improved version of yourself.

What active steps toward radical self-reliance have you taken? What are some you wish others would take?



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