

Crawler

Ed Adkins

Ed Adkins has been creating and organizing the well-known Crawl Reno bar crawls for many years. The Onesie Crawl is on Feb. 8, and cups can be bought at many different locations including Party America, a main sponsor for the event.

How did the bar crawls first begin?

Well, I went to my first bar crawl on accident and had never been. I loved the atmosphere and the way people gathered for the event, and for me, I've always loved stuff like zombies, and with my birthday being in October, it was always around Halloween. Once I went to that first bar crawl on accident, the idea to create my own in Reno just followed. The first crawl we put on, I think 100 or so people showed up, and it was kind of like a big house party, which was the main goal: To have this party where everybody knows each other. And even though five times as many people showed up in the next couple years, it's never lost that atmosphere.

With how much success the crawls have seen, and how many ideas you've come up with over the years, do you ever think of the possibility of Reno hitting a saturation point? When can you tell if there's just too many crawls?



PHOTO/KIRK GELLER

We try to always stick to the original idea of having a party where you look across the bar and know the person. So, with that, we can always tell just because people will recognize and come up and say whether they liked a crawl or not, and we just go off of that type of feedback. Plus, the attendance of each crawl is obviously pretty showing on whether or not we should do the same crawl next year or add more. It's completely based on how the people react and what they have to say whether in person or afterwards on social media. The only real threat we fear is losing what we wanted to make.

Is social media something you use regularly when planning the crawls and looking for feedback?

Oh yeah. That's how we advertise the event and get people knowing

that it's happening. That's how we've heard a lot of stories over the years from people who go if they don't see us and tell [us] in person. We try to show our identity through social media and advertising the crawls because something that is really important to us is showing that everyone belongs. People worry so much about going out because they think they won't fit in, but that isn't the case here.

Even with all the new developments in Reno, and how much the city has been growing, you don't ever worry about losing that identity?

I feel as if people who come to Reno and try to change it are just embarrassed or scared of it. We party better than anyone else in the world, and as long as we don't lose what gives us teeth, then we'll be fine. Our events come from the people of Reno. Interns we have from [the University of Nevada, Reno] gave us the idea for the Harry Potter crawl, and people will really just come up and request different ideas for crawls that, if we think there's a crowd for, we'll try to make it happen. The crawls give something that makes Reno unique, and no one does what we do. No other place has people coming up to you and telling you countless experiences and stories they've had because of the crawls. I'm incredibly lucky to do what I do. □

NOTES FROM THE NEON BABYLON

BY BRUCE VAN DYKE

Force of nature

Recently, while nursing a cold, I binged the excellent *Our Planet* series on Netflix (narrated by the awesome David Attenborough, who is to nature flicks what Jesus is to candles). I came away with a commodity that's in somewhat short supply these days, and that's optimism. Yes, optimism.

You know how it is with nature documentaries. Sooner or later, in every freakin' episode, there's a point where it's obvious—an-other beautiful, elegant ecosystem getting horribly screwed up by *people*. The endangered wetlands, for example, are never getting threatened because there's too much muskrat poop in the water. It's always about *mankind* and some horribly wretched toxic slob behavior that's gone completely haywire, which seems to be a specialty of our species.

But there was a segment on *Our Planet* about Chernobyl, of all

places, that blew my mind with inspiration. Indeed, it was so inspirational that the producers wisely chose it to be the last segment of the entire 8-hour series, because the message is just so doggone positive. I mean, here is this City of *Total Doom*. You simply can't have a bigger disaster than Chernobyl, a place soaked in The Worst Poison Ever, soaked so badly that all the humans had to pack up and GTFO. And sonuvagun, if that didn't turn out to be Nature's cue to move in, set up shop and get down to business. And when the cameras returned to this Voodoo Melt-down Hellhole 35 years later, they found ... trees. Growing all over the place. Bushes. Shrubbery. Bunnies and deer and goddamn wolves running around, eating the plants and each other. It's a lesson we see played out time and time again. You give animals and plants a place, no matter

how crappy, *and* you get the humans out of there, and bingo! Nature absolutely *loves it!* Even in some nuclear dump shithole like chernobyl, fercrissake. The sheer *resiliency* of life on our wondrous planet is breathtaking.

There are a lot of kids in America and Canada and Peru and Kenya and Spain and Greece and India and Korea who want to be nice to polar bears and bats and coral. All the kids who are gung ho ho ho and ready to love this wounded planet. There are a lot of Greta Thunbergs out there, and they just might be capable of something good. Something *really* good. It's quite easy to envision The Momentum swinging over to these kids. I'm not gonna put it past 'em. Are you kidding?

Times change. Momentum shifts. Pendulums swing. Sooner or later. Shit happens. □



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