

May 16, 2005

Marian Goodell
Director, Communications and Business Affairs
Burning Man
1900 Third Street
San Francisco, CA 94158

Dear Ms. Goodell,

It is with the utmost gratitude that I send this letter thanking you and the Burning Man organization for the extremely generous donation to the Gerlach High School Drama Department. I was overwhelmed by the amount of the donation; you cannot know how deeply grateful we are.

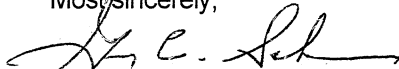
I have been in charge of the Gerlach High Drama Class for several years. Each year we attempt to give two performances: a lighthearted fall (Christmas) performance aimed at the younger members of our community and a serious spring presentation intended for more mature audiences. Our endeavors are unique in that we do not have many of the things that usually contribute to the successful staging of a dramatic performance: our "stage" is a general purpose stage located in a multi-purpose structure and it is not configured for drama, our sound system is antiquated and ineffective for public performances, there are no background drops or curtains, and we have almost no storage space in which to save props or other items. Most importantly, there has never been a budget for Drama; any monies in the Drama account have always been donated by a teacher. All performances are free since we do not have a large population and we have found that more people attend our presentations if we do not charge admission. As a result, the Drama account has never, in any single year, exceeded \$200.00 in total.

In one unbelievable swoop, your organization donated an amount of money that is *ten times* the amount of money this department has ever had available to it previously. How do I acknowledge such a gesture? I have spent the past eight weeks trying to determine some method of doing so. A simple "Thank You" is so paltry I am embarrassed to offer it, but it is all I have.

When you were a child, did you ever get an unexpected windfall gift of cash? Wasn't it fun just imagining all the possibilities? Well, if you can relate to that experience, then you know exactly what I am feeling today. After these many years, I can actually afford to plan a field trip to Reno to take my students to a professional dramatic performance and, in cooperation with the Art Class that you also graciously donated to, the students of both classes will take a joint Art / Drama field trip next year. Also, I am exploring the feasibility of purchasing backdrops that will make our presentations so much easier. Or, perhaps I will save toward the purchase of clip-on microphones so that the audience can actually *hear* our actors for once. That would be a tremendous treat for both the audience and the actors. But no matter how we eventually utilize the monies you donated to us, your organization will get 100% public recognition and acknowledgement for making it possible. You have my absolute word on that.

Once again, on behalf of every student who ever takes drama class in this school, I send you and your organization our deepest Thanks. We shall always remember your fabulous gesture.

Most sincerely,



G.C. Schenauer
Drama Instructor
Gerlach High School