



Jonathan Burns

December 14, 1985 - July 9, 2007
Paw Paw, MI

LIFE STORY / OBITUARY



Jon Burns was a young man who was so gifted, so talented, and so bright, he lit up the lives of all those around him. He was a loving son, brother and friend, who could do anything he put his mind to. He shined on our lives so briefly, the way the brightest of lights often do, yet the light of his life warms our hearts even today.

Jonathan's story began on a cold winter day in 1985, in the growing town of Longmont, Colorado, nestled in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Those were fascinating times, when the Cold War neared its conclusion, and technology became readily available to the masses, with the Nintendo, the Amiga, and Windows all introduced to the public that year. On December 14, 1985, Jerry and Susan Burns were celebrating another introduction, with the birth of a baby boy, a son they named Jonathan.

Jon's dad drove a truck for a construction company, a job that took the family from Longmont to Paw Paw, Michigan, when he was just nine months old. He was a pleasant, good-natured baby, and it was obvious he was talented right from the start. He was a real "water baby" too, and could swim before he could walk! He loved to swim, and would swim like a fish all day long, if his parents let him.

Jon also learned to read at a very young age, spurred by wanting to read the captions on his Nintendo video games (Mario Bros. was his favorite). He could read very well even at the age of two as a result!

He was a very polite, respectful boy, a trait he carried throughout his life (except when he'd spray his dad with the water hose!). His parents divorced when he was 10 years old, and he eventually gained four step-siblings, Michael, Justin, Jessica and Heather. He enjoyed having brothers and sisters, though Jon was the type of boy who always seemed to identify better with adults.

When he got a little older, Jon became interested in computers, a trait he took from his mom, who had her degree in electronics. He enjoyed sports as a little boy, playing soccer and little league like his friends, but his real passion was for learning and trying new things. He was usually far ahead of his classmates when it came to learning, which was both a blessing and a curse for him.

He attended Paw Paw Schools, and by the time he was in high school, he was taking advanced classes. School came easy for Jon, though perhaps too easy, and he lost interest, getting bored with being so far ahead. He would have graduated with the class of 2004, but didn't finish, instead completing his GED later that winter.

Jon began taking classes at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, and stayed a very busy young man. He went to work at a sign shop, running the computers and creating the graphics, and also recently took a job at the Kalamazoo Weekly newspaper, covering the whole county. There he enjoyed an interesting and varied job, formatting pictures, creating graphics, laying out pages ... whatever needed doing. He loved the people he worked with there, and also loved going to all the big events the paper covered in the area.

Of course, Jon was far from all work and no play. He was a young man with a wide variety of interests, who relished learning and trying new things on his own. He was a very gifted pianist, after taking lessons as a young boy, and he could play everything from Bach and Beethoven to TV theme songs. His musical tastes were very diverse, including new age music, alternative and classical. He was also very artistic, and enjoyed painting, another outlet for his talent aside from his day job. He and some friends also kept a bird coup, raising finches, quail, and other birds, too, which Jon enjoyed. He wasn't a fan of camping, but he loved nature.

Jon also enjoyed cooking, and was quite a good chef, as well. He even had an "open-invitation" dinner for his friends on Sunday nights, where he would whip up his latest creation. He was a gifted cook, and would try anything. His dinners were a big hit with friends, many of them who worked on the newspaper with him. When he was younger, he and his Aunt Nancy loved going to Uncle Ernie's Pancake House in Kalamazoo for their famous breakfasts.

Jon had many friends, thanks to his happy-go-lucky demeanor and outgoing personality. He was so easy to be around, always without attitude or drama, never complaining, always upbeat. He was also a helpful, hardworking young man, who was thoughtful and generous to everyone around him.

Sadly, Jon died unexpectedly on Monday, July 9, 2007, at the age of 21.

Jon was such a wonderful young man, so talented, so gifted, and so caring. He was a loving son, brother, coworker and friend, who touched the lives of all who knew him. There are so many things in this world we can't understand, but this much we do: Jon was a gift to us, a gift we will cherish and remember forever. He will be greatly missed.

Jonathan Burns died unexpectedly on July 9, 2007 in Kalamazoo. Jonathan was born December 14, 1985 in Longmont, CO, the son of Jerry and Susan (Pullen) Burns. Services honoring his life will be held Sunday, 1:00 PM at his Uncle Bob Pullen's home (35204 51st Ave - Power Plant Road, Paw Paw) followed by food and fellowship at the Paw Paw Eagles. He graduated from Paw Paw High School in 2004 and was working at the Kalamazoo Weekly. Jonathan is preceded in death by his maternal and paternal grandparents. Member's of his family include his mother, Susan R. Burns (Philip Stickels) of Paw Paw, his father, Jerry (Tammy) Burns of Lawrence, many aunts and uncles, and 4 step siblings: Michael, Justin, Jessica and Heather. Please visit www.lifestorynet.com where you may share a memory or photo of Jonathan, sign his online guest book or make memorial contributions to his memorial fund C/O Susan Burns. LIFE STORY FUNERAL HOMES, Betzler & Thompson, Paw Paw 657-3870.



SERVICE

Sunday, July 15, 2007
1:00 PM to 2:00 PM EDT
Uncle Bob Pullen's Home
35204 51st Avenue (Power Plant Road)
Paw Paw, MI 49079
[\(269\) 655-2979](tel:2696552979)

CONTRIBUTIONS

At the family's request memorial contributions are to be made to those listed below. Please forward payment directly to the memorial of your choice.

Jonathan E. Burns Memorial C/O
Susan Burns