

BLACK ROCK BEACON



ADAPTATION EDITION WEDNESDAY WWW.BLACKROCKBEACON.ORG 5:30 EVOLUTION (NEAR CENTER CAMP) VOLUME V, NUMBER III. SEPTEMBER 2, 2009

Bussers Bring Burns To Burns

By Taymar

For Greg Young and his wife Barbara, aka Smoke Blower and Luscious, Burning Man is more than just seven days in the desert - it's a 52 week per year quest to live a better and more fulfilling life.

Greg, a former executive with Sony's digital camera division, and his wife are now driving a digital art project bus across North America visiting as many regional burns as they can. After his first trip to Burning Man in 2003 he had what he describes as a "quasi-religious transformation" putting him on, "the seekers' path." Greg says his "sense of wonder was suppressed" by 25 years of working in the corporate world; however, six months after that first burn Greg quit his job and began trying to live in a Burner way in the default world.

The couple started by hosting Burner parties at their home in San Diego and then going to regional burns. Last year, in San Francisco, Greg hatched an art project idea to visit as many regionals around the country as he could shooting photos and video and showing them at other regional Burns. As a result the Blue Fire tour was born. This year so far they have been to five regional burns - Toast, Dark Skies, Lakes of Fire, Critical Massive and Scorched Nuts. This fall they also hope to get to Playa Del Fuego in Delaware.

The project relies on a giant video screen the width of their bus and about 20 feet high, with still images and video rear-projected from three data projectors. Greg shoots still photos and video himself and occasionally accepts photos from other photographers. In the bus Greg edits the video with sound to create a video montage.

For Greg the project is about fostering the burner community spirit off the playa and helping to bring continuity to the regional burner network. He hopes to do the tour for another year; after that he's going to go wherever the spirit takes him.

You can see Greg and Barbara's bus at Culture Labs on the Esplanade near the entrance to Center Camp every evening starting at sunset.

Burning in the Material World

By Rod Allen

There will be a permanent research entity to study Burning Man culture and the ways by which it can be reflected in the Default World, and it will come into being faster than many thought it would.

That's the view of Larry Harvey, founder of the Burning Man movement, who was speaking frankly and at length to the Burniversity Towards Burning Man 3.0 debating group in a meeting hosted by *The Black Rock Beacon* Tuesday.

The Burning Man organization has already acquired land in the Gerlach area and is considering further purchases, but Harvey insisted that bricks and mortar are less important than ideas, and he plans to

2010 Theme: Metropolis

Next year's Black Rock City will be a desert metropolis. Larry Harvey, the Burning Man founder revealed Tuesday that the theme for next year will be Metropolis. The idea seems reminiscent of the 2006 Hope and Fear approach, perhaps without the dystopian aspect.

- Durgy

initiate the as-yet-unnamed research entity in the virtual world before the Default World. He is contemplating a series of blogs as the first step.

Harvey's view is that the world is short of big ideas, and that a research entity could provide radical, yet practical, ideas to make the world a better place through

the study of Burner culture and ethos and ways of applying them to Default-World issues. It will be a multidisciplinary institute, incorporating an influential public policy think-tank with other kinds of study such as welding and farming. "I'm a farm boy," said Harvey.

Conditions for entry to the institute

will be inclusive rather than exclusive, and Harvey does not envisage a traditional higher-education application process. But members and contributors will have to have been to a Burning Man event in the desert, because it is widely held that in order to understand Burning Man you have to have experienced it.

Last year, Harvey told *The Black Rock Beacon* that he was planning a research initiative.

The Burniversity group, which is led by Professor Nod Miller and dAndre Teeter of the Artery, will hold further meetings during the week to further some of the plans. All are welcome -- check at *The Black Rock Beacon* headquarters, 5:30 Evolution, for times and places.

The Key to Life's Meaning



Photo by WeeGee

By Kris Wilton

Michael Christian is scaling down this year.

The Oakland artist, who's previously brought to the Playa "Elevation," a 65-foot-high, Eiffel-inspired scalable tower in 2008, and "I.T.," a menacing, 40-foot-tall, three-legged steel creature with an oscillating, E.T.-shaped head for 2006, has opted this year for something a little more modest.

At 15 feet high, "Key Note," a hunched figure of a man dragging behind him a giant key ring is "smaller in scale and much more manageable" than most of Christian's 12 previous commissioned projects for Burning Man, "but still a lot of work," he

said. And as of this writing, he still had a long way to go.

As conceived, "Key Note" was to be made "entirely of locks — padlocks, door locks, cabinet and chest locks, car locks, bike locks, locks, locks, locks," but Christian said it proved too difficult and presented weight and safety concerns, so he decided to stay truer to past works and fabricated the locks himself.

That kind of adjustment is all part of the fun, though, he said. "The spirit of the piece hasn't changed, but the process always presents challenges that push your creative problem-solving skills. It's half the fun of building a new piece."

Real padlocks or no, the work's meaning is clear. "Locks we use to secure all we find of value or feel the need to protect," said Christian.

And maybe all we leave behind. Locks shut others out and us in. They keep people behind bars, property private, secrets safe. They separate the haves from the have-nots. They protect us, but remind us what (we think) we need to be protected from.

The giant figure, dragging a collection of keys behind him, is also about looking for meaning — as Christian said, "The right key, the one key."

See more works by Michael Christian at www.michaelchristian.com. See Keynote at 10:45 and 1,100 feet from the Man.

Howeird's Positively Playa!

Day Three: By now there is a little voice in some of your heads saying: LEAVE, WE ARE ALL GOING TO DIE! This is normal. Pay it no mind. Of course we are all going to die -- but hopefully not this week if we remember the Misery Potential Factor of everything we do. For instance, a naked dawn dash to the potties two blocks away is an MPF of 2 - if you come straight back and don't start partying all over again. Riding out to the Temple, tripping your brains out at noon without water or a hat is a 9.0. A 10 if you get a flat.

So what compels us to keep coming back? Is it "what doesn't kill you, makes you stronger"? Or is it an instant Darwinian weeding out of the weak? The latter I think and the sooner it happens to those yahoos with the megaphones the better. My first Burn was an MPF 11 - in a good way.

Remember you are a child of the Universe. The Big-U loves you. Now pick up some MOOP!



Warm Memories of the Fire Conclave

By Howeird

The best sight on Burn Night has to be the arrival of the Fire Conclave. The sheer scale of the conclave's grand entrance into the great circle surrounding The Man has no match anywhere on earth.

Infuriatingly, the conclave was unable to perform last year because of safety issues relating to the high winds and whiteouts. Indeed, the burning of The Man himself was accomplished only near midnight when the wind backed off sufficiently.

This unique group has evolved over the years. In 2008, it consisted of 29 fire groups and a membership totaling over 1200 including 810 fire performers, 335 fire safeties, 29 radio communicators and 120 musicians.

Unlike the Papal Conclave that gathers to elect a new Pope when a vacancy arises, the Fire Conclave convenes yearly in Black Rock City and actively conspires to put Burnie to the torch. Crimson Rose, Fire Goddess, is the leader.

My first meeting with Crimson in 1997 was purely coincidental, like many things at Burning Man.

The morning of the Burn was appropriately crisp when I 'barely' showed up in time for Spencer Tunick's dawn photo shoot of hundreds of naked people at The Man (immortalized in the 2000 HBO Undercover series in the episode 'Naked States'). Ten seconds after the photo shoot ended, the area at The Man was retaken by the conclave's final dress rehearsal. There were a few dozen participants marching up and down, each with an unlit Tiki torch, or some similar sized six-foot pole, practicing some rudimentary moves.

They were led by a bare-breasted Boudicea with piercing blue eyes, wearing a loincloth. Now according to historical reports, "Boudicea was a striking looking woman - very tall, the glance of her eye most fierce, her voice harsh. A great mass of hair fell down to her hips. Her appearance was terrifying." It was love, honor and obedience

at first sight; I would follow this woman to the ends of the earth. I joined the group on the spot.

I introduced myself to Crimson and persuaded her to let my camp mates, Bellboy & Young Kiwi, join in that night, after assuring her that I would teach them the moves and that we would all provide our own Tiki torches. Things were very flexible back in the day.

The rest of my Burn Day was spent practicing the moves back at camp, deciding on the Speedo or the jockstrap, and having a fake six-pack applied to my abdomen at Face Painting Camp.

One of the first duties of the Fire Conclave is to form a safe perimeter and to hold the line surrounding the Man between the artwork and the audience. In fact, we were a kind of inner perimeter / distraction, the actual line being held by the Black Rock Rangers.

The Man base that year was, as usual, a pyramid of straw bales and at showtime

we commenced our simple torch swirling routine. I do remember our eyes exchanging embarrassment on one occasion as one clockwise move was blown but Bellboy and Young Kiwi performed like pros.

No matter - the show goes on and the straw at the base of The Man was ignited and we retreated to a safer distance. After a full 30 seconds, with the fire taking hold of the straw nicely now, some young wag emerged from his hidden crevice in The Man's base. He had time for one victory wave before he was open-field tackled by a firefighter in full gear and brought to safety. What a gruesome discovery his skeleton would have been in the morning, had he mistimed his exit! Fill in your own headline!

On an amusing note, when Bellboy and Young Kiwi and I were leaving the area, we found ourselves being followed by motorized furniture of all sorts including a lampshade and a table with a telephone on

it. It rang and the New Yorker on the other end, who I assume was controlling all this stuff remotely from the slow moving RV to our right, demanded, "Where's the party? Come on, I know you know where it is."

The Conclave's evolution has been exponential. Even as recently as 2001, there were but 300+ members "forming a protective presence around the pyre" according to the Afterburn Report.

Last year fire groups included: Radiant Heat from Vancouver, BC; 15 groups from California - with Pois In The Hood from LA getting the prize for the best name; two from Colorado; Hawaii; Massachusetts; Minnesota; Nevada; New York; two from Oregon; Pennsylvania; Utah; Virginia; Washington, DC, and Maryland; Washington State; and an international troupe - the Pyronauts - from 21 US States and 15 countries.

Burn on you magnificent bastards.

As Crimson says, "Everybody move your fuels back."

Black Rock City Population, as of 12:00 P.M. Tuesday: 27,129

ERRATA Readers of the BRB may have noticed that Tuesday's Cancer horoscope was the same as Monday's Taurus horoscope. Sometimes the stars align that way.

BLACK ROCK BEACON



Black Rock Beacon Mega Event Mega Cache Day Two

Cache: Leave No Trace

Location: N 40.45.936 W 119.13.547

Cache: Keep it under taps

Location: N 40.46.900 W 119.13.762



The Black Rock Beacon newspaper distribution boxes may be found at the following locations:

9:00 Plaza @ Rue Morgue

3:00 Plaza @ Ice Cubed

4:30 Plaza @ Black Rock Diner

7:30 Plaza near the information board

Center Camp @ Media Mecca (unofficial)

Seltzer: Solution to Playa Dust

By Mary Jane

On your behalf, Doug searched the Internet for weak acid. A chemical hobbyist, Doug claims to have found the solution to the peskier properties of Playa dust. The answer? Club soda. With a pH over 10, Doug claims our dust is about as alkaline as oven cleaner. To neutralize its corrosive effects, you need some nice weak acid. It's not what you think; we're talking vinegar, lemon juice or, Doug's choice, club soda (which contains carbonic acid).

With the strap of his Gilligan's-Isle-style hat tightened up to his chin, wearing a beige t-shirt that reads Arizona and black dress socks as his only touch of color, you wouldn't pick him out as a veteran burner; however, Doug has been coming out here since 1996. Six or seven years back he developed a stubborn case of playa foot – sores on his feet he got from wearing open sandals. Bringing back a bag of dust the next year, Doug tested it with a pH kit he got at an aquarium store.

Vinegar, says Doug, is the quickest alkali fix. But it leaves you smelling like a gherkin. Lemon is nice but pretty sticky. Only club soda met all of Doug's criteria: safe to ingest, available at any grocery, and a substance you'd not need to wash off. "Every dance club out here has it, big canisters of carbonation." Doug envisions spray bottles filled with the stuff. So playa-mates, drink lemonade, eat pickles and embrace the wisdom of Bozo the Clown – "a little song, a little dance, a little seltzer down the pants." 🐷

Letter to the Editor

Your 8/31/09 issue had an article titled Theme Camp SNAFU, that did not make statistical sense. You pointed out that there are about 130 camps that did not get placed. You quoted someone saying placing these camps would consume 75% of the city. Placed camps marked in gray in the map consume about one third of the city.

If one placed 10 camps to a city block you would need 13 blocks, i.e. from 6:00 to 2:30 for one street. If you placed them only five to a block you would need only one more street for placed camps. This would result in less than 40 percent of the city in placed camps.

Not placing these theme camps severely inconvenienced people. For example, the line at Playa Info to register is one hour long. This should not happen again.

Dave S.
5:10 & Fossil

Question of the Day: Least Favorite Playa Thing

Dust - 7x
Moop - 6x
Exodus/Leaving - 2x
Playa Boogers - 2x
Wind - 3x
Burnier than thou
Camp Drama
People that spray you unexpectedly
Boundaries - people get too "huggy kissy"
Logos on trucks
Baby Wipes
Overbearing law enforcement
Answering questions
Sun
Heat
Negative people

Poop on the Playa
Down in front at the Man
Big sound when I want to sleep
Neighbor wants music turned down
DMV clusterfuck
Hippies
Stop sign by commissary
When you're all fucked up
Waking up and going to bed
My campmates waking me up
Deep sand
Nothing

Question of the day posed to visitors at The Black Rock Beacon headquarters. 🐷

On Your Way Out

Help maintain top of the biscuit for the Black Rock City volunteers who will be on playa after the event restoring the playa to pristine condition and those working year round in Gerlach. Some workers have families and your donations help out greatly.

Department of Public Works Collexodus stations will be located at the 5:30 and 6:30 fallopian tubes and be operational 24 hours a day from when the Man Burns.

Needed are: unopened non-perishable food stuffs, alcohol, camping equipment, coolers, beer (cans preferred), porn, baby food, tampons and anything you think they may enjoy and do not want to take home. The Bureau of Land Management Playa restoration inspection is expected to occur on or about 6 October.



Evolution
By Rick-Boy

"Yes, we do have to keep up, don't we?" said McCready.

"What's that supposed to mean?"

"You know, it wasn't long ago that we had people with memory units outside their skulls," said Dr. McCready.

"Yes, what a nuisance," replied Prosecutor Hobbins. "So unattractive, constantly shorting out if you went swimming or took a shower without covering it. Now it's all inside, either mechanically or biologically."

"So we are modified humans, some might say improved, others might dispute it," said McCready.

"Yes, but that's all been settled in the Man vs Machine case, please get to the point. In MvM, it was made clear that adding a pig's eye to a robot didn't make it a pig and adding a titanium leg to a human didn't make them a robot," said Hobbins.

"What if someone built a robot from biological parts?" asked McCready.

"Can't be done," said Hobbins.

"Until now."

"What? You've constructed a human from parts, Dr. Frankenstein?" said a startled Hobbins.

"Oh please, no, that might be against the law."

"Might be?"

"Well, it's never been tested in court. What has been approved is the growth of human organs on other animals, like human ears on mice. And furthermore it's been approved for organ transplant."

"Yes, human organs grown can be used for transplant."

"I've grown human organs. That's all."

"That doesn't explain the people out at your ranch that we raided."

"They aren't people. They are grown organs."

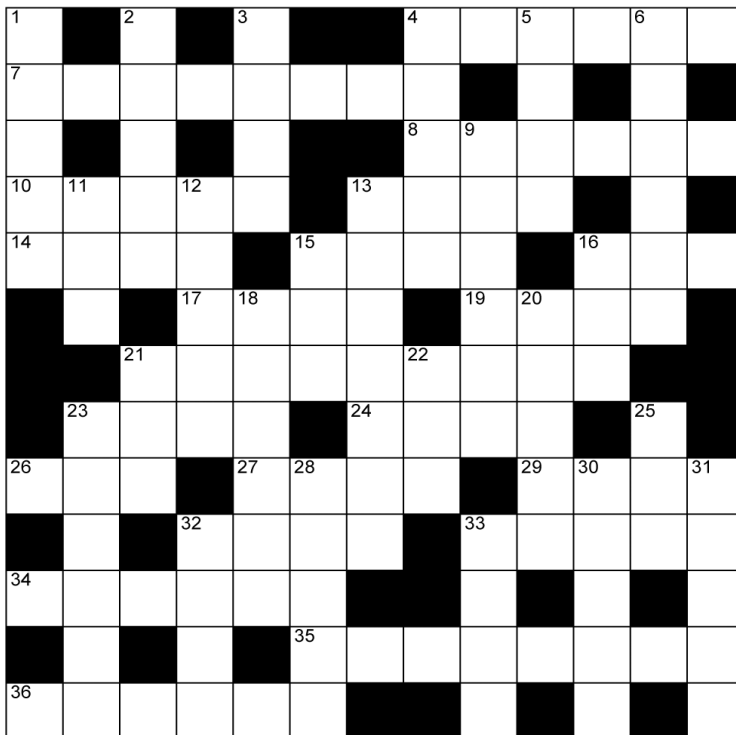
Tomorrow: The Recipe

Brainteasers ?

by Durgy

Across

4. Gave Faisal a rye-bread portion for a payday treat (6)
7. Subdue completely, a couple of queens to vanish outside (8)
8. Dead or confused, still loved (6)
10. Surely without beginning exercise become irritable (5)
13. Naughty child takes BART, perhaps (4)
14. Plant one of these in the street (4)
15. One's equal to come slightly into view (4)
16. Part of the iceberg to slant (3)
17. Some part of a dame is a man (4)
19. Some shallow rendition of a songbird (4)
21. Revolution without an end of wars shows gradual change (9)
23. Never get up without a bit of rest to make level (4)
24. Ratted on conspirators in Pisan gang (4)
26. Single goner lacks some greatness (3)
27. Need help for 17a and 21d's garden (4)
29. Pitcher threw fewer, not very loud (4)
32. Northern Iraqi to hear the sound of coagulated milk (4)
33. The grad secured excellent mark (5)
34. Initially could any normal open person yell for shade? (6)
35. Rapturous European Commission got this electricity (8)
36. ER germ mix-up caused consolidation (6)



Down

1. A wide pirate says stop (5)
2. Saw Z's while Reno's hopping (5)
3. Truly has no time to be orderly? (4)
4. Hares are startled, but give generously (5)
5. Tool used backwards on booty (4)
6. Reeling, not good, land a fish (4, 2)
9. Daughters of the American Revolution victory for Charles (6)
11. Burn without some bravado, and the ashes end up here (3)
12. The French avenue provides escape (5)
13. Puzzled when muse is in bed (7)
15. Swiss mountain disoriented friend (3)
16. X Rating for perfect beauty (3)
18. Finished, not down and extravagantly dressed (4, 2)
20. Jolly flagman (5)
21. Steven revealed a lady (3)
22. Stanley has a bronze look (3)
23. Put into gears pairs of energetic gallant gentlemen (6)
25. Primary color seen by predators (3)
28. Less wet when you use this machine (5)
30. Make a stew into trash (5)
31. Preach not softly and strive (5)
32. King ape! (4)
33. A grand tea, though haphazard, at the entrance (4)

Almanac By Igneouss



Sunrise Sunset Moonrise Moonset
Wednesday 9/2 6:29am 7:28pm 6:29pm 5:33am (Thur)
Thursday 9/3 6:30am 7:27pm 6:52pm 6:34am (Fri)



Leo (Jul 23-Aug 22):

You thought of a stuffed eel just now, didn't you? Ok, how about now?

Horoscope

by Citizen X



Virgo (Aug 23-Sept 22):

In camp, you're known as an "intense" person. So, you might try getting out of the sack a little earlier to give a hand, hm?

"The time has come,"

the Walrus said,

"To talk of many things:

Of shoes – and ships –

and sealing-wax –

Of cabbages – and kings –

And why the sea is boiling hot –

And whether pigs have wings."

– Lewis Carroll

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SEMI-LEGAL MUMBO JUMBO

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