

BLACK ROCK BEACON



Свет. Правда. Бекон.

HOME ON THE PLAYA 🐾

FRIDAY

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) (Burning Man Forever) (

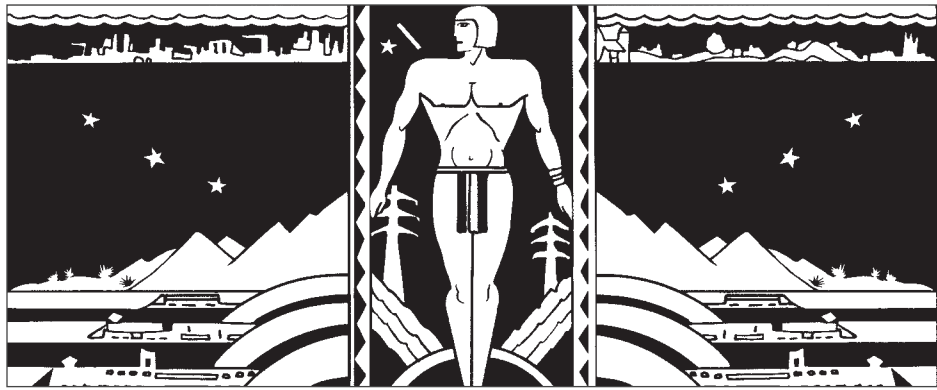
BY: DEB PROTHERO (FIREFIGHTER)

If a week of Black Rock City is good, more would be better. Burning Man aficionados are about to get something better.

Larry Harvey, the Burning Man founder, let a kitten poke its nose out of the bag at the annual Black Rock City news conference on Wednesday.

"There'll be some fanfare next year that will announce some form of permanence for Burning Man," he said, without providing any more information.

Although Harvey has in the past indicated that the annual Black Rock City event is not integral to the evolution of Burning Man culture, his comment seems to point toward a full-time installation in the Playa vicinity, though it is unlikely to be on U.S. government land.



The Burning Man organization already owns an 80-acre work ranch and additional land in the Gerlach area.

Earlier in his presentation, Harvey spoke of the growth of the event. Burning Man has "become more cosmopolitan but against

the odds has also become more interactive," he said "The ethos instilled seems nearly irresistible to the world."

The organization's place in the world is a subject of considerable interest for Harvey. Burning Man is "being embraced" in other

countries, with more than 25 sanctioned regional events, he said.

This year, however, the Burning Man focus is on the United States.

"America is at a point that could be described as the hinge of history. We face a crisis as a nation after 40 years of comatose behavior buying off our problems with our wealth.

"Iraq is our Suez, not our Vietnam - in that, Britain learned that it had to listen to the world. Now it's our turn to learn that lesson," Harvey said.

The Burning Man founder said he knew he was "stirring a hornet's nest" when he chose this year's American Dream theme, but he said that patriotism need not be just about nationalism or a commitment to a specific country. 🐾

The Milk Of Human Unkindness

BY ROCKSTAR

Consider the Playa art guide stapled in the middle in your cracked, dusty What Where When. Passively useless when not actively irritating, this series of dots and cryptic names fails to even hint at the existence of the bleak and freakish milk carton shoved upright in the Playa near 4:30.

A mere midway diversion from the harnessed beta males playing monkeys-with-sticks at nearby Thunderdome, Malaleche is a grimly humorous reminder of one of the crueler sucktides of the American Dream.

Staring up at the massive carton, the idle gawker learns of the appalling plight of maquiladoras of Ciudad Juarez and Chihuahua in northeast Mexico. Since 1993, 450 young women, ages 12-28, have been found murdered; most of them abducted, raped and disposed of by persons local cops don't seem too keen on catching. An additional 400 are missing, as the handy "Femicide Facts" section informs, drawing one's eyes almost gratefully from the beautiful face of Brisia De los Santos, 20 years old when she was discovered murdered early in 2001.

Most all the victims are female workers making \$4.80 a day at the many farms, dairies and factories set up in the wake of the North American Free Trade Agreement to allow philanthropic U.S. employers to pay sub-U.S. wages in order to uplift the local populace. Needless to say, workers fearing rape and murder don't organize as effectively, and such methods of labor control scarcely elicit comment in the U.S. media.

Malaleche shocks us with its meeting of the monumentally familiar with the completely obscured. 🐾

When a Home Is Not a House

BY: ROD ALLEN

The yurt near the 3:00 Promenade, a few hundred yards from the Man, is no ordinary yurt. It's an example of how the principles by which we live on the Playa are reaching out into the real world.

The American Dream Home Version 2 Alpha started as a fusion of ideas for playa living, but the project has blossomed into a product which has enormous implications for disaster relief agencies, nongovernmental agencies, municipal and federal governments, and most importantly, the third world.

Sunshine Daydream, who is in charge of the yurt, created for Playatech a line of slotted plywood furniture that has become popular among Burners over the years. The furniture is marketed on a gift-economy basis, with royalties going to the Black Rock Arts Foundation.

Last year, Playatech came in second in the Burning Man Treehugger competition, but Sunshine Daydream was fascinated by Vinay Gupta's design for a self-sustaining dwelling called a hexayurt. Sunshine, a physicist, suggested to Gupta that they work together.

The result is a completely self-sufficient, self-sustaining dwelling, rooted in the Playa's Ten Principles, including radical self-reliance, leaving no trace and a sustainable way of life. Made from building insulation materials, the yurt is naturally warm by night and cool by day.

The interior is furnished with Playatech items, which are integrated into the structure, and potentially the yurt will use solar power or geothermal energy for heating, lighting, and hot water.

The building will capture rainwater and process it organically for drinking and washing. The yurt, completely independent from local infrastructure, will come with platforms to make it impervious to floods, earthquakes, and rubble. It also comes and goes in a 4-foot-by-8-foot flat pack, stacked four to a pallet (or one to a donkey cart, as the situation dictates).

This makes the yurts ideal for flood or earthquake relief, and it is why default-world organizations like the American Red Cross, municipalities like Ontario,



The Playatech American Dream House, furnished with the organization's slotted furniture. Below: the exterior, located near the 3:00 Promenade. PHOTOS BY SARAH

Calif., and even the U.S. Department of Defense have expressed interest in the product. Ontario wants to stockpile yurts for use in potential disaster relief; the Pentagon wants to evaluate the yurts for use in Iraq. But relief agencies like the Red

Relief agencies like the Red Cross stand to benefit most from the yurts. In any given year, the Red Cross provides 40 million tents, and 20 million of them will not last 12 months.

Cross stand to benefit most from the yurts. In any given year, the Red Cross gives out 40 million tents, and by the following year, 20 million of them will have been destroyed. The developed hexayurt will cost, in bulk manufacture, about \$2,500 fully equipped, or twice the price of a

standard Red Cross tent. But the yurt will generally last 10 years, releasing much-needed resources to be used elsewhere. The basic structure, without furniture or plumbing, could go as low as \$200.

Sunshine hopes to have a million families living in hexayurts within five years. They could be American homeless people or third-world refugees. Producing them in quantities of a million or more will, of course, reduce the unit price. He said he envisages people taking out micro mortgages for \$500 to build a basic structure.

Sunshine said the technologies used in the yurt are open source, adding that full instructions on how to build one are already on the Web (at www.hexayurt.com).

So technologies that are rooted on the Playa, and philosophies that are grounded in the Burner way of life, are likely soon to make a

real difference in the default world, where a totally self-sufficient and self-supporting dwelling, drawing on no outside resources or infrastructure, could save hundreds of millions of dollars in housing the homeless, disaster relief and third-world humanitarian operations. 🐾

See www.playatech.com for more details, and to contact Sunshine Daydream if you have a default-world application for the hexayurt.



**Black Rock City Population: 36,737 as of 12:00 P.M. Wednesday
44,845 as of 12:00 P.M. Thursday**

Artists have notified the Burning Man fire-related Performance Safety Team of the following major burns on Friday:

7 p.m. The Shrine 5:45 at 1,900 feet from the Man
 9 p.m. Rock Opera. 2:30 near the Esplanade.
 10 p.m. Mutoyia, 4:30 at 1,300 feet from the Man. Show starts at 9 p.m.
 Flaming Lotus Girls do fireworks.
 12 Midnight Ellis Island. 2:00 at 1,000 from the Man.



We're really sorry, we missed a day: our Wednesday paper was distributed on Thursday, the result of a power mishap that toasted one of our more important pieces of equipment. Our Thursday paper never happened. But don't worry, we'll add a Saturday issue, so there will still be five Beacons this year

Theme Camps of Note

Lazy Days In Black Rock City

BY MITCH

They have this schtick at Lazy-Ass Fuckers camp -- or at least they say they do: A couple of camp members will be working on a shade structure when a passer-by passes by. They will ask if the Black Rock citizen can lend a hand, and being a Burner, the answer is usually "yes."

Then those lazy-assed fuckers will just peel off and leave the sucker to finish off the work.

"We've got four shade structures," said Fancy, who does most of the talking. "Shade is always good. You've got to have more shade -- kind of like more cowbell," she added, producing a small cowbell for gifting purposes.

What happens when the temporary builders realize they've been had? They usually can be assuaged with some schwag: the aforementioned cowbell, some home-canned blackberry jam, the obligatory



medallion, or a bumper sticker. Fancy especially likes the camp classic "There's all this Sex, Drugs, and Rock and Roll and then you make sock puppets."

Isn't making the schwag, well, work? "Well," said GDY Stacey*, "we design it. We make little sweat-shop people make it." Fancy said she "conned somebody else into picking the blackberries for me."

With the risk-reward ratio in favor of

the camp, do they attract new members? "We have a waiting list of people who want to come by and be lazy asses," Fancy said.

"Klingons," Stacey added. "Not the Star Trek kind."

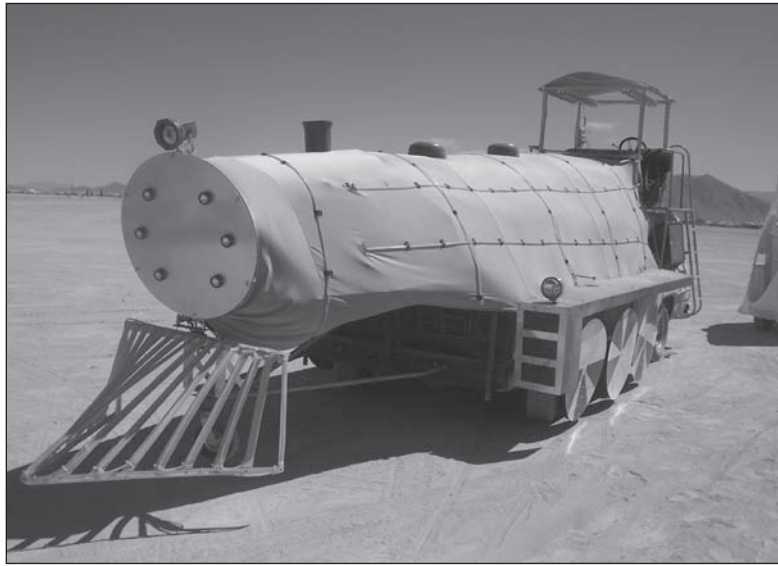
So, how did these lazy folks come together and plan a theme camp? It just happened.

"We were members of the Solar Collective," said Fancy. That camp disbanded five years ago, and in their last year, a friend on a bicycle saw some what would become the core members of the new camp lounging around and suggested that they were a group of "lazy-assed fuckers." The group, who liked camping together, decided to make that their theme for the future.

Lazy-Ass Fuckers is located on Bonneville near 9:00. 🐷

ΚΟΝΤΡΑΡΤΙΩΝΣ: Snout and About

BY NORM



Soul Train is a 30-foot locomotive-styled mutant vehicle that is shucking and jiving around the Playa this year. It's powered by a 1983 Dodge Ram truck with the controls moved up into the engineer's cab, high and in the rear of the classic steam locomotive layout.

The entire nose of the vehicle swings side to side and fore/ aft to the beat of the music being played. Internally there is a dual set of control linkage. A rotating arm moves the linkage rod fore/aft; another

lower linkage rod moves the nose side to side.

The speed of the motor is variably controlled from the cockpit to a maximum of 60 rpm, which equates to 120 beats per minute, so that the motor can be matched to a chosen song or beat.

The entire structure of the vehicle is sheathed in mylar over its metal frame, which gives the locomotive its cylindrical shape and keeps the frame from touching the spandex fabric covering. The elastic

nature of the material helps it to keep its elliptical shape through its entire range of motion. About the design and the efforts involved making it work, owner-designer-builder Christopher of Las Vegas offered "Figuring this part out took maybe a month. I started building it in April, and since July I've basically had no life. It cost me about 15 grand, I had no idea it was going to cost so much, it took a lot to finish it. I worked on this pretty much 24/7, but it's been worth it to see everyone's reaction."

Upon first glance at Christopher, with his black shaven head and massive amounts of gold bling, one wonders if this turned into a homage to the recently departed soul legend Isaac Hayes. Christopher - "I did a musical version of '300', this was my Xerxes costume, but that (Isaac Hayes) works too."

Christopher's first attempt at an art car / mutant vehicle will eventually grow into a passenger-carrying soul machine. "The original plan was to bring it up here on the car hauler, then make a caboose out of the car hauler, but I ran out of time." There's always next year.

When visiting Black Rock Roller Disco at 5:30 and Esplanade, don't be shocked if you are joined by a dancing locomotive. 🐷

Doing Breakfast at 9:00

BY DAVE THE INTERN

Pancakes. Liquor. Pigs. Sliced up thin, fried up slow, and served up to tourists and Burners alike every morning on the 9:00 Plaza.

Hung over? Fuck it. The solution to your problem (a big fat Bloody Mary with a bacon stir stick) can be found at Pygmalion.

Pig sticks are the perfect tool for

keeping your cocktails well mixed, and there's no sense finding your way to the best bloody breakfast bar on the Playa if you're just going to let their perfect blend of horseradish, Tabasco, and black pepper sink to the bottom. Remember: you can sweat that hangover away. Or try, anyway.

Need more? Go next door to the

Pancake Playhouse and load up a plate full of carbs. Then once you're finished with the food and ready to get back to the hard drink, just across the Plaza you can find the Moonshine Tavern.

Top it all off with few words from the specialists at the nearby Bad Advice booth. 🐷



You Want Fries With That

By durgy

Down the 4:30 keyhole you will find "Ketchup." You can't miss the 50-foot-tall, familiarly shaped ketchup bottle bearing the label "Burnz Tater Fried." In the evenings, they serve up tasty thick-cut fried potatoes that are crispy on the outside with a baked-like texture on the inside. Available with your fries is the tasty American sauce favorite -- tomato ketchup.

Uncle Jonah is the driving force behind Ketchup, and was manning the deep fryer along with members of The International Bamboo Workers World Union Shop when the Beacon stopped by. The Union members, many from Hawaii, are volunteering this week. Union heads negotiated the free gig for the workers since the work met the minimum standards of being "interesting, fun, and not too hectic."

Side by side with the union workers are random participants from Black Rock City who volunteer on an ad hoc basis. Training to work the cutter, fryer and seasoning shaker takes less than five minutes, and volunteers stay for as long as they like -- usually an hour or two.

The fries are served up in burnable paper cups. There is a fireplace near "Ketchup" into which fry recipients are encouraged to put their paper cups for leave no trace purposes. 🐷

REMEMBRANCE OF GAZETTES PAST: 1998

BY CITIZEN X

We continue our look back at Burning Man 1998, through the pages of the Black Rock Gazette. Because of our production snafu, here are Thursday's and Friday's highlights, sorry we missed a day.

Thursday

"Let's Talk Trash" -- long public service announcement about how garbage is perpetually the No. 1 complaint at Burning Man and the greatest threat to its continuance; your mother's not here; pick up your crap.

"Radio Free Burning Man" -- history of the radio station, then in its fifth year of broadcasting (and still blasting away!)

Friday

"Getting Wet on the Playa" -- places where you can go soak your throbbing head and hot bod. Waterfun Camp inside Gigsville featured a 3,200 gallon pool!

"Dangerous Tiki Torches OUT OF CONTROL!" -- The ban on tiki torches this year did not sit well with everyone; this is a collection of Burner-in-the-street quotes about the ban, and an announcement of the Tiki Liberation Front's protest march at 5:30 pm that night (though it might have been more impressive if they'd waited a few hours for dark...).

LISTINGS

If you had any negative experiences getting gas on your way to Burning Man, the Beacon wants to speak to you. We're on the 9:00 Plaza.

Please come by the Temple of Community at 8:15 and 1,100 feet from the Man, where you may write or attach messages. The crane-like structure will be burned at dawn on Sunday.

Ticketed and Ticketing

BY TECHNOMAD

From Tuesday morning through Wednesday morning, Bureau of Land Management rangers report two arrests, both on outstanding warrants. One lucky incarcerated was wanted on multiple warrants, while the other case involved a Burner who failed to pay a citation from Black Rock City 2007.

BLM rangers also wrote 21 citations, five for possession of drug paraphernalia, eight involving possession of a controlled substance, three motor-vehicle offences, and one each for open container of alcohol in a moving vehicle, driving under the influence of alcohol, and interfering with an officer. They issued 16 oral warnings on various offenses, nine related to vehicle and traffic code, one on possession of drugs, and two for violations of the closure area.

From Wednesday morning to Thursday morning, they report one arrest for drug trafficking, and there were 23 citations, about half related to drugs, and the others to motor-vehicle rules. They gave 18 verbal warnings, all in the previous categories.

Why are some offenders given citations and others verbal warnings. Bureau of Land Management Incident Commander for Burning Man Roger Farschon says officer discretion, citing one of his officers, "I just didn't have it in me tonight to give someone a 500 ticket for just a joint."

Bureau of Land Management Rangers also assisted Black Rock Rangers with 2 evictions from Black Rock City.

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