

Night of Fire



PHOTO BY WEEGEE



PHOTO BY TAYMAR



PHOTO BY WEEGEE



PHOTO BY TECHNOMAD



PHOTO BY TAYMAR



PHOTO BY WEEGEE



PHOTO BY CURT MCCLAIN

This fellow obviously did not understand the concept of Burning Man as only a wooden statue. At about 11:20 on Saturday night, he attempted to run through the Man's pyre, but fell into the fire partway through. After stumbling several times, he eventually jumped out. Rescue personnel cut off his clothes – except his socks, which had melted to his feet – and he was quickly taken away by ambulance. He was conscious when he was taken away.

Welcome to NoThing

BY DEB PROTHERO

The Black Rock City theme for 2007 was supposed to be revealed Saturday night, but keeping to strict Playa time, the Burning Man organization made the announcement more or less to itself.

Following weeks of indications that the theme would have to do with alternative energy, Burning Man Founder Larry Harvey stated on Saturday that the announcement would be made "during the burning of the Man."

Bmorg spokeswoman Andie Grace a.k.a Action Girl confirmed the information would be posted to the Burning Man website during the Burn and that it would seem like "a

natural evolution of Burning Man. Next year's theme will be announced tonight and people will say: Oh, of course, that makes sense."

Harvey and Grace refused to reveal the theme in advance of the announcement. When the appointed hour arrived, nothing was added to the website, which later in the evening went – or was taken – down. At 2 a.m. on Sunday morning, it remained inaccessible.

In recent weeks, evidence has been growing that the 2007 theme would include a major commitment to alternative energy. Will Korthoff, president of Energy Efficiency Solar LLC, whose company has provided

solar energy to several Black Rock City projects this year, indicated there was interest in greening the Man "in a big way for next year."

Burning Man Information Radio's broadcast on Saturday with the Alternative Energy Zone's mayor Jolly Roger pointed to an increase in importance for next year of solar, wind and other alternatives. Roger predicted a doubling in size of the Alternative Energy Zone's village for 2007, already one of the largest in Black Rock City.

In past years, the Burning Man theme has been announced in the autumn, well after the disappearance of Black Rock City. 🐾

Black Rock City Population:
38,989 as of 9AM Saturday.

Black Rock Beacon

Well, Burners, this is it. We hope you have enjoyed the second year of the Black Rock Beacon. We will be back in 2007, bringing you news, views and pork-related trivia. Meanwhile, please visit our website at www.blackrockbeacon.org for updates on Black Rock City 2006 and information for the Burning Man community all year long.

Lux. Veritas. Lardum.



The winner of our fabulous Bacon of the Month raffle was Gail Davies of Aptos, Cal. We asked Dena of Los Angeles, who was hanging out at the 9:00 Plaza, to draw the winner. Ms. Davies will enjoy a different kind of artisanal Bacon each month for a year, starting in September.

Thanks to all who participated and helped make the Black Rock Beacon a reality in 2006.



Graceful Cathedral

BY ALEXANDRA DAVIES

Rising 50 feet above the Playa at its highest points, the Conexus Cathedral is a dominating feature of the landscape at 1:00 on the Esplanade.

This imposing structure occupies a space of 100 by 200 feet. It is made of construction-grade cardboard tubing and rebar, on which about 5,000 individual welds were performed. Many of the group members who made it are veterans of bringing large art to the Playa, and include people who worked on the Giant Pink Lotus, Foucault's



Pendulum, and Crucifixion. Having accomplished these, they desired to bring something of an even greater scale to Burning Man.

The project was initially envisioned in 1998 by a first-time Burner who had been part of a group in San Francisco dedicated to achieving and re-invigorating spirituality through all-night dancing. The group held several of their dances at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, and the design of Conexus was inspired by Grace's architecture. The Conexus group was in touch with Grace's archivist during the process of designing their cathedral and was pleasantly surprised to find out that their edifice turned out to be approximately one half the size of Grace Cathedral.

The group had wanted to build a cathedral for years, but was concerned about the religious implications. When this year's theme, Hope and Fear, was announced, they realized that this was the perfect opportunity for their structure: the hope of believers for salvation and the fear of eternal damnation. The theme was also personally realized for the group, with the hopes of completing such a challenging installation, and the fear that they would be unable to reach that goal.

The Conexus Cathedral has some traditional activities taking place, including at least 10 scheduled weddings, and also activities that are decidedly not cathedral traditions, such as yoga, and superhero flying lessons.

Conexus Cathedral is located at 1:00, about halfway between the Man and the Temple of Hope. 🐷

Sweet Virginia Street

BY CROSS THE SIDHE

If you are ready to leave the playa, but not quite ready for the long trip home, park it in Reno for the night. Visit this gateway to Black Rock Country for some great, cheap hotels and other Burner-friendly services.

Boom Town is the cheapest hotel in the Reno area. It's actually 10 miles west of Reno off I-80 in the towns of Mogul/Verdi. There is an indoor pool, and it's easy to get a room on short notice. If you're pulling a trailer, there is a large area to park your rig. It is family-friendly - there is even a merry-go-round. There is also a gas station on the property. Cons: the rooms are small and the food is a couple of toques short of gourmet.

All of our other recommended hotels are accessible via the Virginia Street exit off Interstate 80.

The second-cheapest Reno hotel is El Dorado, which has one of the last remaining major casinos in the downtown district. The rooms are cheap and they often run specials. They have an excellent buffet with a wonderful seafood spread on Fridays and an all-you-can-drink (yes, you heard right) champagne brunch on Sundays. The casino is physically connected to the Circus Circus and Silver Legacy casinos, so you just might walk into another casino without realizing it! Cons: some rooms are run down, and the parking lot is rather small.

Silver Legacy is also in the heart of Reno's casino district. It features shows with big-name stars, plus it has a spa and a pool, and the rooms are clean. Cons: The lines at checkout can be long, and the machines are tight.

Circus Circus also offers cheap rooms, and is extremely family-friendly: with a 24-hour circus and carnival games for kids. Cons: The food is nothing to write home about.

Fitzgerald's and Cal-Neva are smaller and lesser-known casinos in Reno. Both are fairly run down, but they have a good bar scene and very loose tables and machines. Cons: The food is not recommended.

Atlantis and Pepper Mill both get good buzz. They can be pricey, but worth the splurge. Both have excellent dining (try the oysters and fresh lobster at Oceano in Pepper Mill.) Both have RV parking. Follow Virginia Street all the way down, just watch out for the weird lane changes.

Avoid buying gas on I-80, as the stations tend to gouge people driving to California. For cheaper gas, head to Virginia Street. There are a couple of head shops on Virginia Street too. Car Parts? Virginia Street. Breakfast? Heidi's on Virginia Street. Anything else? Virginia Street!!! It's a Burner's home away from home. 🐷

Salmon Season For Grizzlies

On your way home, watch out for old Smokey. Small-town police departments are said to be looking at the Exodus from Black Rock City the way grizzly bears look at salmon. Obey speed limits, especially on major roads when they pass through small towns.

As noted in the Survival Guide, Burners passing through Schurz on U.S. route 95 last year were pulled over on the flimsiest of excuses, their cars searched, and evidence of drugs or associated paraphernalia led to arrests. Consider taking an alternate route.

If you possessed controlled substances in Black Rock City, it would be a really good idea not to have any in your vehicle on the way home.

Exodus chief Odwally warns departing Burners not to try to leave after 9 A.M. on Monday, unless you want to spend a lot of time waiting to get out of the city. At the peak departure hour of 2 P.M., waits of up to four hours are expected.

The Department of Public Works welcomes donations of food but does not want your water or perishables.

Correction

The photograph with Powered Flowers on the Playa in the Thursday issue was of Hope Flower and Fear Trap, not Field of Sunflower Robots.

Clarification

The Black Rock Beacon would like to emphatically state that the headline "The Jack Rabbit Splats" in our Friday issue was in no way meant as a veiled reference indicating any displeasure with alleged uncommunicativeness on the part of the Burning Man organization. We don't know how anybody could have gotten that idea.

Answer to Friday's Classic Cryptoburn

Without culture, and the relative freedom it implies, society, even when perfect, is but a jungle. This is why any authentic creation is a gift to the future. - Albert Camus

KEY:
ABCDEFGHIJKLMN O PQRSTU VWXYZ
NMRAQPOVGEFWZHYXLUBCSDKTJI
:

Howeird's
Positively Playa !

The week has flown by. Old friendships were renewed and new ones initiated. I laughed, I cried - and expect to do so again at the temple burn tonight, where I placed the little memorial to fellow Burner Bryan, part of my original posse in 1995, who selfishly shuffled off this mortal coil last Winter Solstice, the little shit.

I finally made it to the midnight Rocky Horror Picture Show performance at Camp Nine From Outer Space. I spilled a hundred drinks on the Beacon's press tent carpet but didn't run out of cigs until Saturday. Happy Days.

Have a safe and sane trip back and remember - the anagram of 'EXODUS' is 'DOUSE X', not 'DO USE X.'

Fear & Hope

BY RICK-BOY

Vitale went to the round tent of many flags and saw people standing in line ordering beverages. That must coffee, he thought. Nothing as delicate as a coffee tree had survived the cataclysms.

He had little time. He had to get back to the rendezvous soon.

"How can I find the one called Harvey?" he asked a balding man holding a puppet on strings. The puppet wore a sombrero.

The man smiled and said, "Ah, Harvey, only I can see Harvey."

"Are you speaking of the man or the rabbit?" asked Vitale, having assimilated this information from the previous inquiry.

The man with the puppet giggled, "the rabbit, of course. Is there a man?"

"No, I want the man."

"I'm sorry I don't know. Maybe Pepe knows," he said bending over to look down at his puppet, "Pepe do you know where to find Senor Harvey?"

Out of the side of his mouth the man said in a high strained voice, "No, I don't. Last time I saw him he was here." With that the man lifted the puppet's arms by the bar that held the strings and Pepe's arms waved up and down slightly.

"I am sorry, but we cannot help you." He shrugged his shoulders.

"Thank you very much, you have been most kind."

Vitale continued to ask and tried to find a picture or accurate description of 'the man named Harvey' but no one had a photograph and the descriptions varied wildly. He was running out of time - soon the rift in the time warp would close. Time travel was still more art than science, and he could not risk being caught on the wrong side.

Then he found a woman who called herself Maid Marian. She said she knew of Harvey but did not know where he was at the moment. Vitale was nearly out of time so he told her all about the coming cataclysm. He also told her of the nuclear war and that the Burners would be safe as long as they stayed here in the valley, even though it might not look like that way for a while.

Maid Marian stared intently at Vitale nodded her head seriously. "I'll tell him," she said. "He will get the message."

"He must keep his tribe here - safe from the toxins that will swirl around the globe. He must wait for them to settle."

"I understand."

There was nothing more he could do. He had to go meet his transport.

The next night, after the Temple Burn, Larry was taking off his white hat when he mentioned the odd stranger to Marian. The stranger who spoke in funny halting English and warned him of a coming disaster that didn't involve potties or access fees.



Marian said she had met him too. "Something about a nuclear attack."

"Pretty wacky," said Larry.

Marian nodded, "Weird thing is, I thought I saw his face in the flames of the Temple Burn."

"That's funny - same thing happened to me," said Larry. "Pretty wacky." 🐷

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