

Black Rock Beacon

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WELCOME TO NOW- HERE

BY ROCKSTAR

First off, congratulations. You failed to buy the hype about Burning Man being finished and showed up anyway. Still, before your Burn is even fractionally over, expect to hear from a dozen grizzled and overworked mouths that the thing you're standing in a) has kicked the bucket list, b) was better last year, or last decade, or 1957, before the locusts and hippies came, or c) would be a fuckton better without all the noobs, code jockeys, and Arizonans.

Kindly indulge these idiots. They're like the guy who hated high school yet still hangs out in the parking lot five years after graduation. Often such balloonhead babble is but a momentary lapse brought about by dehydration or the speaker recently tripping over some rebar. For the one simple truth about Burning Man (which you've probably already intuited) is that you are the spectacle you came for. All the art and fun and skin and lights and dazzle you see heaped everywhere is just there to flog your senses while the desert sucks you dry of moisture and further addles your wits. It's how you react to this rolling mishigas that will determine whether in years to come you recall this week with dazed amazement or a supercilious "meh."

Remember that half the world wishes they were standing where you are now and you owe it to them to Burn until you drop. 🐉

Midnight Poutine

BY BICKLE

I'm not sure I should share this, because the line is already epic, but you'd likely hear about it sooner or later, so what the hell.

It's late, you need a jolt of energy, maybe some entertainment, and maybe, if you're really lucky, something hot and freshly cooked to eat.

Voila, Midnight Poutine, a delicious dish from Quebec, Canada, where it's a drinking-night staple and something of a secular religion.

What, you ask, is poutine?

Ah, mon frere et soeur, it is ambrosia: A heap of freshly fried potatoes is tossed with cheese curds, then doused in brown gravy. The heat of the fries and the gravy melts

the cheese into stringy strands of yum. American cheese fries, even chili cheese fries, simply don't compare.

Midnight Poutine has been available on Playa intermittently since 2008, the brainstorm of a single intrepid Quebecois chef with a camp stove and a yen to share his native cuisine. Now it boasts a full kitchen and a staff of 23, none of whom are food professionals, all of whom, says crew member Antoine Couture, are "a bunch of passionate weirdos."

The excellent poutine -- it would be among the best even in many Canadian cities -- has made Midnight Poutine an extremely popular spot. The line at the counter can take three hours to snake through, leading the camp to offer live entertainment, including an open mic, for those waiting to be fed.

CASCADIA SERAPEUM

BY BICKLE

In most cases, when a work of art is put to fire, that's that: There are ashes and a scar to clear, but the piece is gone.

The Cascadia Serapeum, though, is designed to live two lives: before and after the flames.

The project re-creates the famed Library of Alexandria, which perished in a conflagration centuries ago along with untold volumes of ancient learning.

That history will be recreated in a single week on Playa.

For several days, the Serapeum will be an open-air library filled with books to read, write in, play with, and take away. In a secret chamber will sit the Community Book, a ledger of the Serapeum's history inscribed by visitors.

On Thursday, the structure will burn -- save for the books, which will be donated to a local library, and some concrete elements, which are designed to survive. Afterward, the Serapeum will stand, like its classical ancestor, as an evocative ruin with only a few parts -- including the Community Book -- to suggest what it once was.

According to Deb Beaudreau, one of its presiding geniuses, the project arose as something of a lark: "A bunch of friends just start getting silly and throwing out wild and random ideas. Some are ridiculous, but in between there are some gems. From that point, eureka moments of creativity spring up until you have something you love."

Many elements of the Serapeum suggest Greek influences: columns and friezes and statues and a flaming



chandelier. But the project comes, as its name reveals, from Cascadia, the Pacific Northwest, where teams in Portland, Seattle, and Vancouver, B. C., created pieces independently.

The initial plan was for folks to bounce from town to town to collaborate. "It turns out," Beaudreau

says, "we all have lives, so other than very rare instances, we kept working in our own cities. I can't wait to see everything come together for the first time on Playa!"

And then, of course, to see it all go up in flames and live a new life as skeletal ruins. 🐉



Disabled & Injured Transportation Options:

Injured? Stuck at camp?

Goldies Taxis offers rides in pedicabs, and "rents" mobility trailers.

Send a friend to reserve a ride or check-out one of our mobility bike trailers for the day. Playa Bike Repair @ 9:00 plaza, ask for Goldies Taxi. Trailer check-out times are 10am-11am and you can have them through the night until the following day at 10am, Pedicab rides offered 11am-4pm.

"If those long-time Burners are so jaded, why don't they let someone else have a turn?"

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"SOMEONE has to run the city!"

FIRST EUROPEAN BURN BURNS!

BY DURGY

Durgy has been a member of the DPW in BRC and at international burns for the last few years. Last year, he told us about Midburn, in Israel. This year's story is from Spain.

Nowhere, established in 2004, was the first official international regional Burn. In 2016, Nowhere drew a crowd of over 2,000 participants, up from about 1,500 in 2015.

For the first time in its history, Nowhere was also able this year to build and burn an effigy: a 4-meter (13-foot) tall lighthouse.

The Monegros region near Sariñena Spain bans open fires from May until October (Nowhere 2016 ran from July 5 to 10). The Nowhere site is desert-like, with small bushes and scrub grass. An uncontrolled fire there could potentially spread from camp to camp with devastating and bumming-out effect.

Nowhere organizers have been negotiating with local fire authorities since the event's inception to get a variance to the fire ban. These discussions led to stipulations for the Burn of the structure built by Werkhaus (Nowhere's DPW analog).

The event was required to provide fire extinguishers at all the barrios (theme camps) and free camping areas.

Werkhaus staff built and installed over 150 fire extinguisher boxes. This reporter personally augured many holes, as "Auggie" (Werkhaus's gas powered augur), is fickle, particular, and knows how she wants her buttons pushed. On the last day of the build before the event start, participants conducted a fire drill to show we could evacuate the site on foot.

Local fire officials attended the drill, which was a beautiful dance. Using sheets of orange, red and yellow fabric, Middle of Nowhere (MON) crew gathered and then spread the simulated fire towards town. Abby Fantastic took position with her fire extinguisher, but the fire danced and pirouetted unabated toward the city. Transfixed fire officials needed to be told to evacuate their viewing position at MON, one commenting that he had never before seen a fire that he wanted to jump into.

In the afternoon before the Burn, Werkhaus crew attached paraffin-soaked cloth to the exterior of the lighthouse. Spare wood, brush and other kindling was packed into the structure to ensure that once lit it would continue to burn.

On Burn night, winds gusted to over 40 kilometers

(25 miles) per hour. At the appointed time, Aqua and Cid lit the effigy with dragon's breath [magnesium pellets fired from a shotgun] and a [propane] poofer, respectively, to satisfy a stipulation that the lighthouse be lit near its top.

As the effigy burned, a stream of sparks roared down the desert. After a short time, paraffin-soaked cloth freed itself from the lighthouse and floated away, burning. Firefighters sprayed the fiery airborne debris and nearby bushes with water in an effort to prevent the spread of fire outside the Burn perimeter.

After the effigy fell, firefighters parted the crowd with high-pressure hose water and moved towards the collapsed structure. Consistent with stipulations, they extinguished the lighthouse almost as soon as it had become a reasonable bonfire on the ground, leaving a pile of wet charred wood and muddy ash.

Fabio, one of the builders of the effigy, did not watch the lighthouse burn, expressing a feeling that it was somehow a waste of good wood and effort to burn it. Tamsin, a long-time attendee of Nowhere and other burns, said she did not believe the modest effigy Burn was a big deal. Many others were over the moon and some wept for the Burn many years in the making. Delighted firefighters stated that they could not wait to do it again next year.



patronage because mothering is better than money.

High Renaissance: The zenith of visual arts in Italy during the Renaissance, starting in the 1490s with Leonardo's The Last Supper and ending with the Sack of Rome in 1527.

Italic: The Italic, or Most Holy, League was a mutual defense alliance among Florence, Milan, and Venice that resulted in a period of peace for much of Leonardo Da Vinci's life.

Justice: From a Da Vinci notebook: "This law is the expression of eternal justice. He who cannot establish dominion over himself will have no dominion over others."

Knowledge: Da Vinci is the poster boy for polymaths, people who draw upon vast and disparate bodies of knowledge to solve specific problems. His knowledge of anatomy, for example, would have informed his paintings.

nence during the Depression.

Citizen X reported on the First Annual Shirtcooking Procession, which took place the previous day. About 30 half-clad marchers, male and female as far as could be determined, took part in this Donald Duck-like waddle.



BRAINTEASERS BY DURGY

R	E	D	O	N	A	T	E	L	L	O
B	E	F	F	I	G	A	R	E	X	E
O	P	N	O	M	A	D	L	I	U	G
T	E	L	A	H	R	A	E	O	I	D
T	C	O	S	I	M	O	N	B	T	E
I	I	R	F	G	S	R	K	U	A	L
C	T	E	L	H	A	S	S	R	L	W
E	S	N	U	S	I	D	A	N	I	O
L	U	Z	F	R	I	O	O	N	C	N
L	J	O	F	L	O	R	I	N	C	K
I	N	E	D	A	N	A	L	P	S	E

Find the below words in the grid. The leftover letters spell a burning principle that people do radically.

ARNO, BOTTICELLI, BURN, COSIMO, DONATELLO, EFFIGARE, ESPLANADE, FLORIN, FLUFF, GUILD, HIGH, ITALIC, JUSTICE, KNOWLEDGE, LORENZO, NOMAD, RENAISSANCE, RISK, RODS ROAD

Street names continued

He preferred vision as a gateway to knowledge — seeing is believing. From one of his notebooks: "The acquisition of any knowledge is always of use to the intellect, because it may thus drive out useless things and retain the good."

Lorenzo. Known during his lifetime as Lorenzo the Magnificent, indirectly ruled Florence from the time he was 20. He took over from his father, Piero the Gouty, whose reign was cut short by health issues. Lorenzo de' Medici surrounded himself with artists including Da Vinci and Michelangelo. Their visibility at his court resulted in commissions from other patrons. Lorenzo also referred Da Vinci to the Duke of Milan, who he served in an engineering as well as artistic capacity.



ALMANAC

Black Rock City begins early this year, with the Gate opening at 12:01 a.m. on Sunday, August 28.

Early arriving Burners will be greeted by a starry sky, with the waning crescent Moon only rising at 2:37 a.m. First light comes at 5:51, followed by sunrise at 6:20.

Civic activity begins at 6 p.m. Sunday evening. The sun will set about 7:36 and the final light will fade by 8:05. The Moon will rise at 3:37 a.m. Monday and will then cease to be a factor this year, hitting its new phase on Thursday and setting shortly after twilight.

First light on Monday will be at 6:21, followed by sunrise at 6:48. For the rest of the week, the sun will rise and set about a minute earlier each day.

-- Sun and Moon times courtesy of SunriseSunset.com

New This Year

courtesy of burningman.org

- 88NV, the airport of Black Rock City, has greatly expanded: Burner Express Air aims to reduce road traffic, and make flights more affordable and accessible, while maintaining safety.
- Ice sales formerly at B street at 3:00 and 9:00 streets have moved to mid-city: on G street at 3:00 and 9:00 streets [new plaza location, moved from K].
- The plaza formerly on K at 6:00 street is now on I at 6:00 street.

PATRON/MATRON THE PLAYA!

Sealed, shelf-stable food and drink at the end of the week: Don't want to take it home? Give it to DPW!

Collexodus will be set up on your way out of the city — check BMIR for details. After Tuesday, the stations will be down — another option is The Black Hole Bar, home of the Gate Department's social club, which will still be operating. They are located at 5:40 Effigiare Street, mountain side. Members of these groups are in the desert for a month after we leave — be kind to their livers and donate quality booze!



BLACK OUT BLACK ROCK

Wednesday, August 31 between 11 PM and Midnight, several Black Rock Citizens are asking people, camps, and worksites to reduce light pollution and make the most of the new moon. By turning lights off, downward, or dimmer, the stars will appear brighter. Some take this as a chance to get in touch with the cosmos, whether spiritual or scientific; others may appreciate a break from the blinkies. They are aiming for peak darkness at 11:30pm.

What the street names mean

Esplanade: Sounds like it might be Italian, but it's really Spanish. A cognate, however, of the Italian spianata, which means to make level.

Arno: The river in Tuscany. It probably forms the backdrop of the Mona Lisa, and not for nothing; Da Vinci worked up a plan to divert the waterway away from Pisa for the benefit of rival Florence, which was upstream. There's a theory that Leonardo was allied with Niccolo Machiavelli, then a Florentine city official, in the undertaking. A series of unfortunate events derailed the plan.

Botticelli: Italian painter and contemporary of Da Vinci. Various recorded as a student, classmate, or associate of Andrea del Verrocchio, who taught Leonardo. Alternatively, a word game you can play on the road to the Playa or the mysterious, unmutated fifth brother of the Ninja Turtles (because who knows what Larry is really thinking?)

Cosimo: Founder of the Medici political dynasty that ran Florence for three centuries. Scion of a banking family, Cosimo de' Medici's grandson Lorenzo was a benefactor of Da Vinci.

Donatello: Florentine sculptor. Like Da Vinci, he was supported by the Medicis. Namesake of the smartest Ninja Turtle.

Effigiare: To represent or portray.

A possible cognate of that whopping big effigy in the middle of the middle of Nowhere.

Florin: A gold coin originating in Florence and widely accepted in Europe during the Renaissance. It weighed just over a tenth of an ounce, worth about \$150 today. Da Vinci often wrote down prices in his notebooks; he paid 1 florin for a jerkin in 1504.

Guild: Medieval craft unions. In the early 14th century, Florentine painters began to split off from the medical guild with which they had been associated (apothecaries supplied pigments, so it made a certain amount of sense) and form their own group. Somebody let Bmorg's Caveat Magister blog about this and he suggests that Theme Camps provide a social structure that could support art-based communities, a modern form of guild. There's also something about "matronage" instead of



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10 Years Ago

Tuesday, August 29, 2006
Wednesday, August 30, 2006

It was the year of Hope and Fear, Larry's look at dystopia, which was pretty prophetic. "Whole chunks of the middle class are falling into the underclass," he said. "We have been governed in a way where the division between rich and poor grows." To brighten things up, the city was decked out in Art Deco, the utopian architecture that rose to promi-

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