

Black Rock Beacon

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MAN PROBLEMS, MOSTLY RESOLVED

BY ALEX BREGER

Finally! A Man in Black Rock City with his head on straight. As you all have surely noticed, the Man is now upright and got his head. After much hard work, crews were able to get him into place and attach his head Tuesday evening and he was lit soon thereafter.

According to sources close to the Beacon, there were numerous construction delays due to high winds, rain and shearing bolts.

The Man was upside down when Beacon staff arrived early Friday pre-Gate. It was decided by the construction team that once the workings of the Man couldn't be repaired as intended, he should simply be put into place and given his head so that he may be burned properly.

Underneath the Man, The Medici Court is open and full of life. The various guilds are set up and greeting curious burners. There is a wide variety of displays and interactive experiences in the Court, creating

an atmosphere of curiosity and learning.

There are five sculptures set up around the base of the Man in Medici Court, but if you find your way to the area behind the Man, you will find a creation of Matthew Davis entitled Disco Sphere. Matthew first conceived of the lighted steel Sphere almost ten years ago.

The interactive sculpture was designed and engineered in New York City and welded in Portland, Maine. Matthew and his girlfriend, Charlotte Omnes, drove themselves with the Sphere in tow 3000 miles in three days, to arrive in Black Rock City on Saturday, and have been working tirelessly on installation ever since.

The Disco Sphere is an interactive sculpture that moves through human power and serves as a bridge for Leonardo Da Vinci's drawing of the Vitruvian man from a two-dimensional image to a three-dimensional, interactive experience. It is just one of the many impressive works of art scattered all across the Playa this week.



Burning Man vs Brain Surgery
Short-term pain; long-term gain
Specialized clothing
Test your mettle & relationships
Awesome shaved hairstyles

Beacon to the Beacon - Best View on the Playa!

BY ELLY MANCINELLI

Observe the island that is Black Rock City from the top of the cluster of lighthouses located at 11:00 and 3900', deep Playa. An amazing view awaits you especially when the lights are on!

This stunning installation measures 60' x 70' x 70' and is the brain child of father and son team Jonny and Max Poynton from Oakland, California. This ambitious dream project was first built at American Steel in Oakland, then partly disassembled,

into stacked sections, which were reconstructed in Truckee, California, with final assembly on the Playa. The structure came in on five 18-wheelers stacked to the gills.

The main lighthouses were all named after goddesses with each lighthouse having its own interior designer. Artemis was designed by Gretchen, Coco by Rebecca, Elli by Gabriella, Brigid by Raven and Megan. And finally, perhaps the most magical lighthouse, Parga, was

designed by Mirrorbowlers who hailed all the way from Japan. Mirrorbowlers used crowd funding to bring resources to their vision. Together Toshiaki, Peta and Kitaron designed the crystal structure made of magic film and the thinnest of Japanese paper. American Steel made the 120 brass frames that provide the crystal with structure. Before the burn, the magic film will be replaced by Japanese paper.

While Max and Jonny wanted to build

than nothing," said Dave X, Fire Arts safety manager.

Touching briefly on the rising cost of tickets, Harvey said that the BMorg is "going to have to square away the money" if it wants to continue its impact on the world.

While demand for the event grows, the organization is working internally and with the BLM on the logistics of expanding Black Rock City's population. The two-lane county road that leads to the Playa is a limitation that the BMorg has begun addressing through alternative mass transit such as the Burner Express air and bus services.

BMorg is also working on an event lead mentor pilot program, which matches regional event leads worldwide with BM leadership, according to Regional Network Associate Director Meghan Rutigliano. Though there was no extra funding for projects this year, there are more art pieces, Harvey said. He also said that fewer pieces are being burned so they can be shown off-Playa after the event.

However, the scale of the burnable pieces this year is impressive, said BMorg Director of Education Stuart Mangrum. Though he could not confirm that any of this year's burnable art had the largest known footprint, Fire Arts safety manager Dave X did say that the Catacomb of Veils was the "largest pile of lumber" he's ever seen ready to burn at this event.

BY REECY PONTIFF

Burning Man organizers were assured that there would be no undercover law enforcement officers present at this year's event, said Larry Harvey, Burning Man's founder.

"We need law enforcement here," Harvey said. "We're a big city."

Gradually, he said, law enforcement agencies "will come to realize they need us as much as we need them."

Speaking at a press conference on Wednesday, Harvey touched on the growing divide between self-sufficient participants and plug-and-play camps -- prepaid, prepackaged camps built by hired hands rather than participants themselves. He said Burning Man could help solve "the supposed division between the one percent and the other 99."

"Let's start in our little corner of the world where the very wealthy and the middle class can come together," Harvey said. The organization has mandated that only theme camps receive early placement, according to Harvey. In defense of the gray area of paying for services provided on-Playa, Harvey said, "Do you know how many nannies there are out here?"

Heather White, managing director of people and operations, encouraged participants to have conversations with neighbors whose camps did not present a welcoming front, to help educate them on Burning Man principles and culture.

"Even if it's only a slight influence, it's better



"Everyone wants to know what time it is, but no one wants to wear a watch"

BLACK ROCK BEACON

"Don't Ranger me, bro!"

KOI IN THE POND



BY DRUNKEN HOUSEWIFE AND SOBER HUSBAND

This year Burners can visit a uniquely contemplative fenced courtyard with an interactive koi pond. Artist Joe Joe Martin created an unusually thoughtful and nuanced piece, located at 12:45 at 2300' in the open playa.

Martin's goal was a "cohesive use of space" where the work fit its environment uniquely. The courtyard is a pentagon, which mimics the shape of the trash fence, and the Japanese torii gate leading into the courtyard is designed so that on September 1, the sun will rise in perfect alignment with the bridge. The construction was painstaking, with Martin taking pride in sanding each inch so that everything is smooth and pleasing to the touch. The torii gate is a masterwork of construction which used no screws and no nails. All cuts were guided by hand without the use of CNC.

Within the painstakingly carved and shaded fence lies a pond where both recorded and simulated koi swim beneath a graceful arched Japanese bridge. Martin recorded koi in Fruitvale, Oakland for the footage. Starting Thursday the fish will respond to visitors in interactive ways. The Beacon's staff has been tipped off on how to trigger the fish but encourages visitors to try to figure out for themselves. Martin notes that he was inspired by the tradition of people feeding koi, who swim to the surface to interact with their human visitors.

Team member Sherry Wong "did the deep dive" into researching Japanese architecture to ensure the gate, fence, and bridge were



authentic. Aaron Cron built the gate. Martin designed the koi medallions decorating the fence. Owen Lair created the bridge, which is built entirely from wood salvaged from an old theatre in Hanford, California which in its heyday was a major stop on the country music circuit. Martin likes knowing that artists like Merle Haggard and Dolly Parton performed on the wood which now graces the playa.

After Burning Man the fence will be given to Burners Without Borders. Martin is in talks to possibly show the interactive koi pond at the Exploratorium in San Francisco.

Martin developed his concept during his tenure as a visiting artist at Autodesk, where he could play in the finest machine shop he has seen. The installation was created in a short time after Martin and his wife returned from their honeymoon. The Koi Pond is an Honorarium project supported by burningman.org.

The Bmorg promised but failed to reveal the 2007 theme. It was supposed to be posted on the Burning Man website during the Saturday night Burn and then just wasn't, though it was subsequently revealed to be the Green Man.

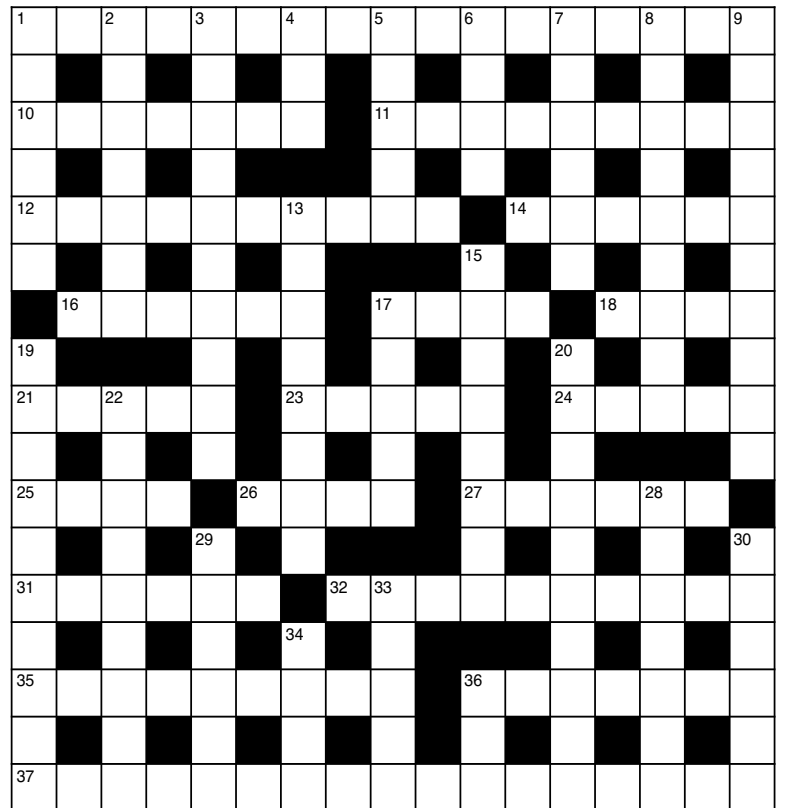
ACROSS

- 1 I show DC's vain pork project at genius's studio?! (2,5,?,1,8)
- 10 Insectivorous bird enthusiast butt (7)
- 11 Being wild, entice sex (9)
- 12 Rare taunts disturb eatery (10)
- 14 Cancel leaper leaps (6)
- 16 To rip, rend is more unkind? (6)
- 17 One pound of headless squid (4)
- 18 Kids topple runner (4)
- 21 Carob mixture for snake (5)
- 23 Twisted creep's pancake (5)
- 24 Archaic mold encircles some (5)
- 25 Primarily one knight raves about seed pods (4)
- 26 Equal support purportedly (4)
- 27 "Expert" joke: energy-less diet! (6)
- 31 After half premiums, nine assembled ingredients in advance (6)
- 32 Confused twit I see miss quips (10)
- 35 Bind midline false tooth (9)
- 36 Devious creature per Clinton order (7)
- 37 Diamond covered aspirin remedy is difficult to accept (4,4,2,7)

DOWN

- 1 Blemish formed (6)
- 2 Splay veins on deer meat (7)
- 3 Close, also distant, ubiquitous (4,3,3)
- 4 Forty nine? Fifty? Sick! (3)
- 5 Hard reckoned rents (5)
- 6 A bit of good information for god (4)
- 7 Tackle some tender pussy (6)
- 8 Bullied chicken bit (9)
- 9 Red gun clip reloading, prohibiting (10)
- 13 Set balls up again at shaky rear deck (8)
- 15 Lincoln's note for VIP set off unending struggle (4,4)
- 17 Three queens at the

BRAINTEASERS BY DURGY



- 19 Complete claims, chop apart (10)
- 20 Disrupt last American CIA coup or get bounty (10)
- 22 Server in saloon offer (9)
- 28 Where the horse stayed at station (7)
- 29 Carry off little goat, rest (6)
- 30 Forgo cheese endlessly, mix it up and gain a point (6)
- 33 Unmoving trainer taught group (5)
- 34 Flue released accelerant (4)
- 36 Horrible sin connections (3)

INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN

A woman in a slick leather jacket wanders around the inner playa, eyes wide, mind racing. She is alone in a foreign country, here to take part in a 70,000-person experiment only the American West could offer. The camp supposedly meeting her with a tent and bike is nowhere to be found. Her temporary trauma will make for a terrific tale when she returns to Holland, but at the moment of occurrence was surely daunting. So sometimes goes the experience of those Black Rock City citizens traveling from overseas.

People residing outside the U.S. made up 20.4 percent of Black Rock City in 2015 and come here from nearly every crevice of the globe. While domestic travelers are loading their trailers up with the metric ton of gear they plan to wreck on the Playa, those from overseas are figuring out how to get what they need into their two checked bags. Whether they know it or not, international virgin Burners will be relying on the kindness of strangers.

While there are festivals around the world, there's nothing like Burning Man.

"I don't know if there's another country that could put this on," said Michael, a virgin Burner from Bristol, England. "It's very American. ... We are very reserved. I can't imagine a guy walking around Hampstead, Heath with his dick out."

He and his friend Logan flew into San Francisco from the UK, rented a car, and bought all the camping gear they would need, adding significant cost to the already-expensive prospect of at-

tending.

Part of Burning Man's existence is thanks to America's luxury of space, Logan speculates. "There aren't half a million people here," he said. "At Glastonbury, it's commuter hell."

Inch is a return Burner from Taiwan. Her American friends had long relayed the wonder of Black Rock City to her and finally she made it out in 2005. Burner culture is a far cry from Chinese culture, and she said she's learned a lot.

"We have a different background and way of thinking," she said. "Before I joined Burning Man I never thought about Leave No Trace or gifts. ... It's a new thing."

Inch is a project coordinator with the Dream Community Foundation that assists in community art projects in rural Taiwanese villages. After three nonconsecutive Burns, she was able to organize a sculpture on the Playa in 2015, the Mazu Temple, but only with the help of a Reno build crew.

This year she convinced around 25 people from Taiwan and mainland China to join her Mazu camp in BRC, 10 of whom quit their jobs to assist with the building of the camp and art car. Their funding ran out two days before their trek from Reno and Inch had to think quick. She loaded up their art car -- which was not street-legal -- with all of the camp's gear to make the 4.5 hour drive to the Playa at 50 miles an hour. Everything wouldn't fit in one load, so they had to make two trips, fingers crossed they would not be pulled over, as onlookers gawked.

"I know it's not legal or right, but I had no choice," Inch said.

Patches is the volunteer coordinator at Nowhere, the Spanish regional Burn. As a third-time Burner, she recalls her first year here as a tough slog.

"I felt very lonely," Patches said, and "my backpack was just my corset, my coat and my spices."

But after a few years on the Playa, she has friends who hold onto some gear for her.

"Everyone admires us for coming from so far away," Patches said.

"Burning Man is a big challenge for those coming from overseas. You have to put in 200 percent," Inch said. "100 percent is not enough."

Black Rock Beacon 2016: Small Crew, Small Budget, Big Thrills

At the end of the 2015 Burn, many Beaconers were unsure whether we had the personnel or budget to put out a paper in 2016. Four of us pushed hard to do it, and here we are, with three editions. Thank goodness for our awesomely-healing craniotomy survivor. The layout isn't as pretty as usual, but we got it done, and learned a lot in the process. Where there's a will, there's a Beacon! For 2017, we plan to increase recruitment and fundraising. This will allow us to increase our publication schedule. We especially need writers and layout designers. Please join us online, and on playa. *Lux. Veritas. Lardum. PIE.*

COSMIC REPORT

Black Rock City officially closes at 6 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 5, which is Labor Day. Exodus ends at Noon on Tuesday. First light on those days is about 6 a.m. and sunrise is half an hour later. Sunset is 7:30 p.m.

The Black Rock Beacon
10 Years Ago

Friday, September 1, 2006
Sunday, September 3, 2006

The Belgian creator of Uchronia really didn't like his massive matchstick mound being called the Belgian Waffle. "If they understood our philosophy, they would never call it that," said Arne Quinze, the brains behind the 45-foot-high woodstrosity made out of wooden 2x3s. The philosophy had to do with a message from a happier future. It burned spectacularly on Sunday night.

PERPETRATORS OF THE BLACK ROCK BEACON: Ali Baba, president. Mitchell Martin, VP. Naughty Zed, treasurer. Suzanne Zalev, editor. Taymar, photographer. Rockstar, camp manager. Francis Wenderlich, artist. Smash, editor on hiatus. Mrs. Lucky, deep thinker. Larry Breed, copy predator. WeeGee, photographer on hiatus. Durgy, doer of stuff. Rhino, transportation chief. STAFF THIS ISSUE: Editor, Ali Baba. Assistant Editor, Suzanne. Layout, Ali Baba & GlydiaShine. Masthead, Francis Wenderlich. Template Provider, Naughty Zed. Writers, Drunken Housewife & Sober Husband, Elly, Alex Breger, Reecy, Beacon staff. Transpo & Layout Lounge, Breger & Shep. Delivery Deacon, Leslie.

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