

Black Rock Beacon



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Don't K Me: Cop Used Ketamine in Self-Defense

BY CURIOUS

When Pershing law enforcement officers encountered an inebriated Burner in 2015, they tranquilized her with the sometime party drug ketamine. Nevada documents obtained by the Black Rock Beacon reveal their motive: self-defense.

A deputized paramedic administered the drug "for the overall safety of law enforcement officials who were in contact with the attendee and the attendee as well," according to one of the documents, obtained under a Freedom of Information Act request.

While information about the incident is scant, the Reno-Gazette Journal (RGJ) reported days before the 2016 Burn that the woman suffered respiratory failure and nearly died as a result of the action.

Dr. Dale Carrison, Burning Man's emergency services medical director, called the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services to complain about the attendee's treatment, according to

one FOIA document. Carrison told them medical care for Burning Man was to be handled by CrowdRX and Symons ambulance, the vendors Bmorg contracted for Playa emergency medical services.

That document, a May 5, 2016, internal Health department letter that referenced an investigation opened the previous October, recommended corrective action to paramedic Monique Rose, employed by Humboldt General Hospital, and her former supervisor, based on its "review of statements, electronic patient care report, narcotics logs, and protocols, and other available reports."

The internal letter did not specify a medical reason for using the drug, an anesthetic used in surgery and pain management.

The Beacon invited Humboldt General Hospital and Rose to comment. HGH would only say Rose is no longer employed there. Rose did not reply. Pershing officials

did not respond to requests for comment.

A summary of the incident in the letter addressed only procedural and code violations: lack of documentation of ketamine waste and inability to verify "transfer of care" and that "Paramedic Rose did not have required equipment for all phases of response to care."

Seven days later, the Health department sent warning letters to the paramedic and her supervisor, demanding remedial training. It also recommended "a more clearly defined role and responsibility of HGH EMS staff when working as part of a law enforcement team."

But less than two weeks after that, the Health department rescinded the warnings, saying the elapse of eight months made corrective actions "irrelevant." The warnings and revocations were among the FOIA material.

The Beacon spoke with Joe Pollock, an official of the Health division that oversees paramedics,

who called for the reversal. "The letters came up to administration for review...and I said, 'yeah, this isn't fair to the paramedic, there's no way to defend herself, too much time has elapsed.'"

In a further twist, critical information about the ketamine injection got dropped during the incident. Pollock said when BRC medics "arrived to take control of the situation, not all the information was transferred." Rose asserted she gave "a verbal statement," he said, "and they claim that never happened, so it's a 'he said-she said,' but without being able to get credible witnesses who saw the exchange or witnessed what was said, it's really impossible to tell who's right."

"What I understand, there was no written reports, submitted to us, and the log that the Burning Man paramedics had didn't record that this patient had ever had ketamine administered," Pollock said.

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Ticket Seekers Where They Shouldn't Be

BY MICHURIOUS

Despite Bmorg exhortations not to show up in Gerlach seeking to score a ticket to the event, several Beacon staffers were accosted by desperate buyers seeking to gain access to Black Rock City and offering to pay cash for the privilege.

Gerlach had several parked vehicles with signs seeking tickets and one pedestrian pounced on a Beacon editor at the gas station.

More surprising were hopefuls in cars on the entry road, asking fellow motorists to roll down their windows and then seeming disappointed upon being informed that people did not bring spare tickets for sale to a place where buyers would not be expected to be found.

A final flock of vultures circled Will Call, pleading in their eyes.

"They are taking a chance," said Dave Marr, Media Mecca captain or emperor, terming the ducat-seekers "I need a miracle people." There is "no shot" for laying hands on a ticket that way, he said.

While Bmorg has implied that it is not permitted to travel to Gerlach without already having arranged access to the event, there seems to be no law enforcement check that would stop someone from doing so. The organization itself seems not to be forcing the issue. 🐘

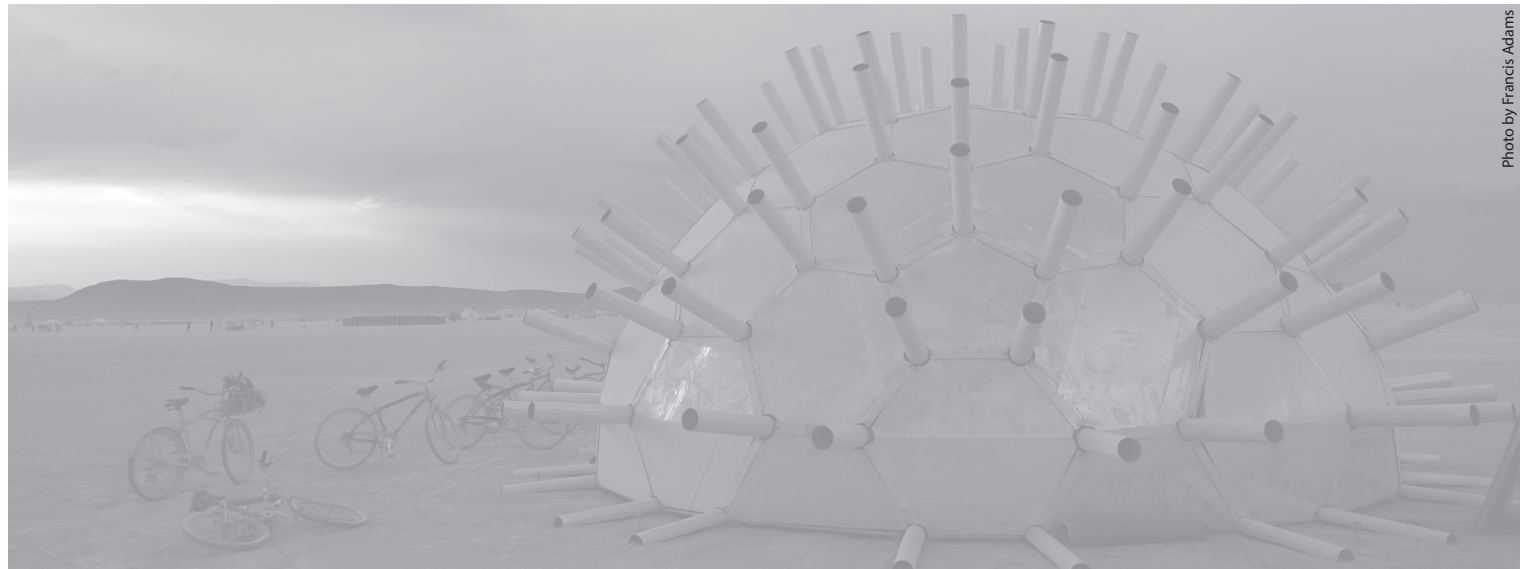


Photo by Francis Adams

The Sun Is the Star of Celestial Field

BY TRAVIS

When wandering the Deep Playa at night, there is little more satisfying than being drawn toward lights dancing in the distance and stumbling upon a glittering oasis waiting to be explored. Fueling wonder and awe, art takes on a new shape in the inky desert depths, which is exactly what the creator of The Celestial Field is hoping will happen.

The roughly 150-square-foot piece is rooted in humanity's reverence for the sun, the glowing ball of fire that has inspired countless rituals and deities since the dawn of time. Staking its claim at the

intersection of science, art, and iconography, The Celestial Field is inspired by the surface of our great star and the swirling, ever-changing forces at play therein.

The piece should be visible from across the Playa, day and night, luring Burners to explore its field of spring-loaded rods designed to toy with light and motion in a manner akin to solar flares. During the day, mirror film encasing the many rods will shimmer in the desert sun; during the night the field will transform, with tubes lit from within by LEDs that will change and shift as curious Burners interact with them.

The artist, Eleanor Cranke, hopes that Burners will rediscover the childlike

wonder of enjoying something that they can play with but not quite understand while exploring the field of color and light. Like the sun, art may not always be fully understood, but every Burner appreciates it and knows that it is crucial for existence.

Supported by DS10, sometimes known as wewanttolearn, a U.K. architecture studio that has produced five Burning Man pieces in the past — including Tangential Dreams (2016) and The Infinity Tree (2015) — this is Eleanor's first piece, first Burn, and first on-site live build, a bold endeavor across the board, and one not without its challenges.

Eleanor said the logistics of shipping,

managing time zones, and dust-proofing electrical systems have been the highest hurdles to clear.

Originally most of the materials were to be manufactured and shipped from Asia; however, in order to mitigate customs obstacles, Eleanor has partnered with U.S. companies to produce and deliver most of what is needed.

There is a team of almost 20 supporting Eleanor in her vision, with the majority based in the U.K. The piece will perpetuate the connection the studio group has to art on the Playa while breaking from its work in traditional timber structures. They'll be camped at 3:15 & C if you want to stop in and say hello! 🐘

Pleiadian Oasis Comes Alive at Night

BY INDIE

Like the constellation for which it is named, Pleiadian Oasis is all but invisible during the day, coming alive at night. Just as our ancestors navigated by the stars, Burners can use the Oasis to reorient themselves in a tumultuous and overwhelming environment.

Nathan Starchild, a former civil engineer turned full-time artist from Sydney, Australia, created the 80-by-60-foot space with an array of structures built from electric metallic tube conduit, using principles of sacred geometry, which ascribes symbolic meaning to certain shapes.

"I always work with sacred geometry, it's kind of a short-cut to good design, both aesthetically and structurally," Nathan said. "I wanted to create a space where people could feel held and grounded and nurtured. From that solid and safe ground, participants can meet each other in a more open and connected way, can express themselves more freely, and can allow themselves to undergo transformation."

Pleiadian Oasis appears as "a

shining cloud," a small cluster of coordinated lights in the Deep Playa. From a distance, participants hear bells. Closer, out of the dust appear 21 sacred geometric shapes — tetrahedrons, octahedrons, icosahedrons and more — ranging from 10 to 30 feet tall. These skeletal frames, lit by flowing light patterns, are meant to create a peaceful, safe space for people in all phases of consciousness. In line with principle of Decommodification, most of the project is built from 3/4-inch EMT recycled from other installations.

Starchild described the space as a "starting point," with participants free to decide how they will use the Oasis, be it yoga, music, weddings, stargazing, midnight picnics, sacred ceremonies or just a place to sit and ponder the universe.

People can ring the bells, press buttons to affect the lighting patterns and hang their own art from the structures. But the artist said he hopes Burners will discover the installation on a more spiritual level. It will become "whatever they need the space to be at that moment," he said.

The BRC honorarium grant is mostly going to lights, electronics and power and truck rentals. The rest of the ma-

terials, food and water for the crew, Gang Star Gazers, will be covered by a fundraiser, direct donations and a small contribution from Starchild. The overall budget is around AU\$12,000 (\$9,300).

A regular Black Rock City attendee since 2008, Starchild was inspired to leave his engineering career after finding fulfillment creating the Stargazers Anonymous installation for the 2014 and 2015 Burns. Trading art for accommodation on his travels, he was optimistic about the future and managed to cover the costs of creating his works — but as applications for grants and residencies and tenders for public art dried up, he started to wonder if it was ever going to become a sustainable livelihood. Just as he was starting to contemplate a return to his Default career, he discovered he had received the honorarium for Pleiadian Oasis.

The award "came just at the right time — since then everything changed, the rollercoaster crept past the highest peak and suddenly took off and now I'm just along for the ride," Starchild said. 🐘

POPULATION COUNT: 49,149 as of 10 a.m. Monday.



Photo by Francis Adams

The Man's home is his castle.

"The human soul can always use a new tradition. Sometimes we require them."
Pat Conroy

BLACK ROCK BEACON

We need volunteers! InDesign artists & Burners to meet & greet the public especially in demand.



Photo by Francis Adams

FILL IN THE BLANKS BY DURGY

Civic Responsi__lity
R__dical Self Relian__e
Dec__modificatio__
Fill in the blanks on the above event principles.
The letters you use spell a magical meat.

Sun Rituals

What better place for solar rituals than Black Rock City in the summer? Many Burners start or end their days watching the sunrise. At dawn, you'll often hear faint cheers as Sol arrives. One attendee makes it a point to greet the Sun the day after the Burn. Another positions herself at the Temple one day during the week. Sundown is magical; the Playa oven dials down to room temperature (for a room that isn't, you know, in Hell), there's still plenty of light to see by. Have a drink, watch the sky change colors, enjoy the vanishing warmth. 🐛



Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2007 That Burning Feeling

- The Man was removed from his pedestal and sent for repair after a partially successful arson attempt. Paul Addis was arrested and charged with third-degree arson, possession of illegal fireworks, destruction of property, and resisting a public officer.
- Mechabolic had trouble getting off the ground, but boy was it a cool concept. A recycling plant built as a slow-moving art car in the shape of a garden slug, it was meant to turn Playa garbage into agricultural fertilizer while sequestering carbon dioxide and powering itself with syngas all while speeding along at 0.5 mph. The technology was World War II gasification. 🐛

If We Could Talk to the Animals

BY HERSCHELL STREET

Flocking through the air and swarming through the sea, fish and fowl can rarely connect. We humans inhabit the space between, mediating little between the two. But suppose we could communicate with each, bringing us all together? Exhibiting for the first time at Burning Man after years of visits, Lelavision — partners Ela Lamblin and Leah Mann — and a cast of volunteers make it so, with a big steel whale and a big flapping bird. Burners can interact with "Interspecies Communication," a kinetic and musical sculpture actuated by the wind, the motile creation echoing the murmurations, swarming, and flocking of birds, insects, and fish. Once daily, at 4 p.m. Lelavision, (a portmanteau of Leah and Ela) foment interspecies

communication through music and choreography on and around the sculpture. The rest of the time, you are invited to clamber aboard the metallic whale with the skeleton of a flatbed truck to play at your own murmurations and flocking behaviors beneath an enormous bird. The leviathan stretches nearly 49 feet with a performance platform of about 8 by 15; above, the massive avian's fully undulated wingtips flap as high as 32 feet (directed by performers and Burners pulling on a rope). Each wing contains hundreds of smaller birds spinning in the wind, mimicking flock behavior. "People who encounter 'Interspecies Communication' on the Playa I hope will be inspired and filled with awe at the collaborative beauty, not only in its sculptural form but the forms found in nature that it's inspired by," said Lamblin. It's a center for participation, perfor-

mance, spontaneity and ritual. "I hope that it piques their curiosity such that people go up on it and figure out how to activate it and go beyond just viewing it to become engaged with it." Visitors who figure out how to activate the sculpture will be rewarded by the susurrations of ambient sound that can be produced by galvanized and stainless steel and aluminum — natural sounds from engineered art. With music and ample interruptions of loud banging, "Interspecies Communication" is a place for people to reflect, experiment, and discover. Designed by Lamblin, engineered by RBHU — a group of builders that aids Burning Man artists — and assembled with local volunteers, "Interspecies Communication" was built on Vashon Island near Seattle. Following Burning Man, it will be displayed in Seattle's Duwamish Waterway Park on Sept. 30. 🐛

Ketamine Continued

BMorg's Chief Transition Officer Harley Dubois was quoted in the August 2016 RGJ as saying: "The participant subsequently went into respiratory failure twice and nearly died. Burning Man's medical staff saved her life. Ketamine is a dangerous drug, especially when mixed with alcohol, and the participant—a 110-pound female—had been drinking." Pollock said only that Rampart doctors "eventually figured it out," and that ketamine was the cause. Pollock said the Burner "was having a medical episode and was given ketamine to counteract what she had taken." He did not specify what that episode was. He did say, "She was drunk, belligerent, and I assume that's why the sheriff responded. "Whether or not they should have waited for the Burning Man medical team to show up, that's a debate...but her side of the story was: 'this person needed medical attention, I provided it,'" he said. The Beacon spoke to Pollock before seeing the FOIA documents to reconcile his account with the lack of a reported medical condition in the letter. BMorg did not respond to multiple requests for more detailed information. Pollock acknowledged "someone acting as a sheriff made use of a controlled substance and there's no apparent medical. Whether or not it was appropriate to administer ketamine, that's not my call...she has the ability to administer medication if she's the first responder... the fact that information wasn't relayed, is where the weak link in the chain is." The RGJ reported, "Because the patient was in legal custody at the time of the incident, [Pershing Sheriff Jerry] Allen said he believed his deputies were allowed to administer any emergency response they saw fit." Allen claims he hired medics for his own staff, Pollock said, but against Burning Man's wishes. He said HGH told him that Rose was working with the Sheriff as a volunteer. BMorg Spokesman Jim Graham told the Beacon via email, "While we do not have a medical protocol agreement with them, as a result of this incident, Pershing County Sheriff Jerry Allen has informed us he will not hire HGH staff to work as deputies for him at the Burning Man event." Black Rock City has had rocky relations with

"She was drunk, belligerent, and I assume that's why the sheriff responded. Whether or not they should have waited for the Burning Man medical team to show up, that's a debate...but her side of the story was: 'this person needed medical attention, I provided it.'"

Humboldt General, its previous medical vendor. BMorg severed a \$500,000 contract with HGH six months before the 2015 Burn and hired CrowdRX, paying it \$736,000 that year, according to financial data filed with the U.S. government. A paramedic by the name of Monique Rose (and listed as an HGH employee) is vice president and co-founder of Reviving Responders, an outreach organization for EMS personnel suffering job-related post-traumatic stress, according to that group's web site. She is slated to give a talk on the benefits and risks of ketamine in pre-hospital settings and the dangers of overdose at an EMS conference in September. 🐛

Utility Kinetic Insect

BY INDIE

Every year, rumors spread about a plague of bugs infesting Black Rock City. Some years, it is true. This is one of them. Except this time, the "bug" is the size of a small car, has a wingspan of nearly 20 feet, pulsing lights and a surround sound system. Meet UKI, the Utility Kinetic Insect, where art and technology intersect. Powered by batteries recycled from cell-phone towers and built on a modified chassis from a four-wheel drive using actuators from agricultural flood gates, UKI can reach a speed of about 10kmh, flapping her wings and carrying three "pilots," including one who operates the sound mixing deck. Inspired by etymological drawings produced by project lead Callan Morgan, the roving art piece was built as a collaborative project, in Melbourne, Australia. "UKI is a female, she is the mother insect, we have plans to build her a family," Morgan said. "The inspiration for UKI came from nature... The vision was to create a challenging collaborative project that would showcase the talents of the Melbourne community." The result of more than 3,000 hours of work from the 12-person collective Make Mob, UKI cost about AU \$60,000 (\$48,000) to build, and a further AU \$25,000 to ship to Black Rock City. The Make Mob's concept "is to inspire people to create beyond what they are individually capable of" said Morgan, by giving them access to "a project platform and resources." An insect altar has been built so UKI knows when to return home after roving the Playa and recharging her batteries at Illumination Village. Following her time in Nevada, UKI will be flown home again — a little dustier and with a weary crew — where she is scheduled to take part in festivals in Australia. 🐛

ALMANAC

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Venus, named after the Roman goddess of love, is the brightest star-like object in the night sky. The planet rises around three hours before sunrise, looking east. To the left is the bright star Pollux and nearby is his twin Castor. They form the heads of stick figures that comprise the constellation Gemini, twins in Greek and Roman mythology.

Further to the right is the constellation Orion, notable for three closely spaced and equidistant stars that form his hunter's belt.

Wednesday • August 30

Sunset: 7:34 p.m. Twilight ends 8:02 p.m.
The moon is in the sky at dusk (61%)
Moonset: 12:26 p.m.

Thursday • August 31

First light: 5:55 a.m. Sunrise: 6:24 a.m.
Next issue of the Beacon appears.



Photo by Francis Adams

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