

Embrace Our Picks And Pans

BY MRS. LUCKY

The first rays of the Burn day sun came over the eastern mountains and touched the backside of the embracing polished aluminum couple like bright needles at their chakra points. The exquisitely crafted piece inspired awe all week from veteran Burner metalworkers who knew how much grinding and polishing was required to make the welds disappear. For these reasons, I declare In Every Lifetime I Will Find You (known to Burners as The Embrace) as the winner of this year's Burning Man.

Notable debuts:

• When Steve Braithwaite showed up at the Gate for his first Burning Man in the Big Banana Car, which he has just piloted across Interstate 80 from Michigan, it was hard to believe he hadn't been here before. Few first-time burners arrive in BRC with such élan. When speaking with the Gate crew, he popped off his banana hat, saying "I didn't want you to think I was a shady character."

• A first-time Burner who got a little carried away was the brick fire pizza oven at Nocino's near the 9:00 plaza. The wood base on cinderblock stacks got a mite hot in the process of baking 40 pizzas on Wednesday, resulting in an unscheduled burn, quickly addressed by its fine Bay Area crew.

We hope both the oven and the banana come back again.

Whoever wrote "Happy Traverz Gello <3" on the crotch of the giant polar bear on the Playa, please don't come back again. Likewise, whoever knocked down the corral at 4:30 at the Man during Wednesday night, facilitating the escape of one of the iSheep, should feel very baaaaaaad. Later reports to the Beacon indicated that the ebony ovine had returned to the fold.

The portas are cleaner this year. Thank you, Site Services. The city is desirably quieter, while the sound camps are gleefully rocking deep Playa. Thank you,

Bmorg, for this long-sought accommodation between the forces of amplitude and the necessity of repose.

At Friday night's Center Camp "Battle of the Bands," Orphan Band took first place for the first time. Made up of people who play together only on Playa, the band has been a perpetual also-ran. After their victory they celebrated with an impromptu concert at the keyhole, featuring Robbie (aka Cosmo) in the middle, trophy held high, dancing an un-self conscious, celebratory, band-nerd jig. 🐼

POPULATION: 69,507 as of Friday noon.



Photo by Tammie

Bmorg Yet to Figure Out How BRC Can Accommodate 100,000

BY MICHAEL MOORE

The Burning Man organization knows it wants Black Rock City's population to grow to 100,000, but it has yet to devise a plan to accommodate that expansion.

Bmorg is in the process of applying for a 10-year Special Recreation Permit that would raise the city's population cap to 100,000 — from the current 70,000 — by 2029. There is little doubt with that much growth, BRC will look and feel like a vastly different city if the federal Bureau of Land Management approves the permit.

Details like how to prevent long lines at the Gate from becoming longer, any extra staffing and volunteer needs that Bmorg will require, how to deal with the additional traffic of a 100,000-person event and more will be determined in the coming months, Burning Man spokesman Jim Graham said.

The permit review and renewal process requires an Environmental Impact Statement, a comprehensive study of how the event's proposed expansion will affect not only Burners, but also the local year-round residents of Pershing and Washoe counties. That EIS is underway and a draft is expected by fall. A public comment period on the scoping of the EIS—or how intensive and detailed the study should be—ended last month, but not without some verbal

Art Vandalization

Baaaaad guys broke into the iSheep corral and stole the project's prized specimen, the Black one with a specially carved head. We think they used a Lamb-orghini, given the expensive shaped hole in the fence that they left. The android sleep aid later returned to the fold with unspecified damages.

Meanwhile the Terra Luna art project was vandalized and a giraffe on the Playa was graffitied, which oddly is a word that contains the word "giraffe" -- but that's no excuse for vandalism, people! Vandalize your own art!

—The Fridge

sparring between Bmorg and Pershing County officials.

After District Attorney Bryce Shields submitted a letter to the BLM asking for the Feds to consider capping BRC's population at 50,000, Burning Man representative Roger Vind fired back with a scathing missive describing many of the DA's claims of a high volume of unreported crime at BRC and excessive burdens on the county's criminal justice system as "inaccurate."

"Capping the event at 50,000 people does little to address the issues we face now and in the future of the event," Vind told the county commissioners earlier this month. He said "none of the outlandish claims" by Pershing "can be tied to population whatsoever."

Vind also noted that reported crime at Burning Man has lagged the event's population growth rate, suggesting the county's claims are exaggerated. In 2016 and 2017, a dozen "person-on-person" crimes were reported at Burning Man each year.

Shields declined to comment on Vind's statement. His Aug. 3 letter that provoked Vind's ire was submitted on behalf of the county officials as their formal comment on the EIS scoping. Shields' request for a 50,000-population cap would include paid staff, vendors and contractors.

The growth of Burning Man to 100,000 over the next decade would not

continued on other side

Black Rock City Busts Population Maximum

BY CURIOUS

Oops, looks like Burning Man overbooked the party, leading to a backup at the Gate on Friday as late arrivals could only enter Black Rock City as current residents departed on a one-for-one basis.

The snafu comes as the Burning Man organization is seeking to expand Black Rock City's population limit to 100,000 from the current 70,000, while Pershing County wants to reduce it to 50,000.

Jerry Allen, the Pershing sheriff, told the Beacon in an email on Thursday that "BRC reported and confirmed their 'Paid participant' population was over the 70,000 people allowed by the BLM permit. They have been served with a notice of non-compliance by BLM and placed on probation. Pursuant to this, BLM has ordered BRC to control access to the event to the point BRC is only allowed to let one person into the event when one person leaves."

Bmorg told the Beacon by email that it surpassed the population cap with the BLM's permission.

"In the interest of public safety and to relieve pressure on Gate staff, Burning Man organizers and BLM agreed to exceed a BLM-mandated 70,000 maximum peak participant population in order to allow participants on Gate Road to enter Black Rock City," according to the email. Early Friday morning, the population peaked at 70,248 and then began decreasing, as the rate of participants exiting the city began to increase. At 9:15 a.m. Friday, event population again fell below 70,000 and is expected to remain so for the duration of the event."

According to stipulations of the BLM's special recreation permit for the Burning Man event, BRC must cap its population of paid ticket holders at 70,000 (vendors, staff, volunteers, officials, and others, who are not covered by the cap add about 10,000, according to the Burning Man organization). Allen has asserted that BRC population persistently exceeds that cap, and this year he has evidence to support his claim.

In a follow-up email, Allen reported population overages on Wednesday and Thursday nights, with his most recent count, as of Friday, at 70,358. He said incoming Burners were being greeted

Tristan Harvey Sees Targeting In Drug Citation

BY CURIOUS AND MICHAEL MOORE

Tristan Harvey, stepson of Burning Man founder Larry Harvey, was cited for drug possession, Pershing County Sheriff Jerry Allen told the Beacon in an email on Thursday.

"We had a separate request for information regarding Tristan Harvey alleged to be the son of founder Larry Harvey," Allen said in the email. "Pursuant to a traffic stop with a K9 sniff of the vehicle, Harvey was found to be in possession of a small amount of an illegal substance. He was issued a citation pursuant to the possession and subsequently released."

Two passengers in Harvey's vehicle were also found to possess illegal substances. One was found to have a "small amount" and was cited and released. The other was arrested and booked for possession of a controlled substance-not for sales.

Tristan Harvey provided a statement to the Beacon:

"I believe wholeheartedly we were unfairly targeted and stopped and illegally searched and persecuted. We were written tickets based on faulty premises and an illegal search, the reason for which I think was fabricated and unfair in the extreme.

"While I don't begrudge the presence of law enforcement here, I think their efforts can be directed in a more supportive and effective manner than locking people up en masse. We are not hurting anyone here. We are here to celebrate life and community and art.

"Maybe they could learn something from us, the same way we could learn something from them." 🐼

by a traffic sign that warned of the population control and of extended wait times. Nancy Cadigan, a 26-time Burner, experienced this directly.

continued on other side



Photo by Tammie

The winner.

On Saturday afternoon, the Beacon encountered newlyweds Sandy and Arthur Mamou-Mani on the Esplanade. They were married this week in Galaxia: The Temple, of which the groom is the lead architect. They shared that they wanted the structure to embody love, not just death. The London architect is a proponent of cradle-to-cradle design, which anticipates destruction as the prelude to new creation. When asked about the temple's underlying idea, Mamou-Mani paused to reflect. "Lattice is the structure and the poetry," he said. "Ratchet straps and 2x4s, that's how you make a cathedral." -- Mrs. Lucky. Galaxia burns at 8 p.m. on Sunday.

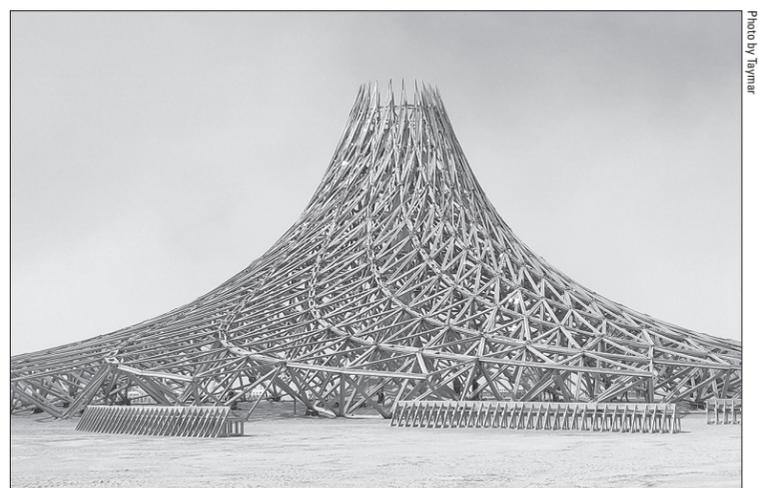


Photo by Tammie

"Robots should stand up for themselves and not try to be humans. They should either utterly destroy us or protect us from aliens. And vampires. And pirates." —Daniel H. Wilson

BLACK ROCK BEACON

"Everyone knows robots write the best books and make the best music. Just look at Daft Punk." —Andy Dunn

Eyes Front Bike Riders

BY THE FRIDGE

Yes, BRC is a bike-friendly city. But you have to look where you're going!

On Tuesday, a bike-riding participant named Adriene had a narrow escape when she realized that the two women cycling in her direction were talking to each other, not looking ahead. She stopped pedaling to avoid them, and her slowing bike turned into a passing truck.

Adriene was lucky. The truck ran over and mangled the front of her bicycle, and while she fell and hurt her head and seriously bruised her arms and legs, she missed its wheels and broke no bones.

A disturbing side note is that the Beacon could not verify that the truck driver had reported the incident -- he apparently drove away after Ariene, still in shock, told him she was okay. It was only later, after she was examined by Emergency Services, that her extensive bruising became apparent. 🐛



Bird Is Flown, Coop Remains

BY HERSCHELL STREET

Burners can challenge their ideas of freedom by visiting the 12th project brought to Black Rock City by the Iron Monkeys.

First and foremost, it's a cage. A cage is often a prison, but it can be a refuge. In this case, it's simply lovely, fashioned deftly with fire and steel by around 16 Iron Monkey blacksmiths directed by their chief, Tabasco.

This birdcage no longer hangs. It has crumpled onto its side in a garden; its original occupant has flown. You might be drawn to its emptiness and the freedom it represents. Its door has swung open, creating a ramp over which you may clamber inside. From there you can witness the persistence of the hundreds of steel flowers that seem to have overgrown the birdcage. Inside the cage is the swing. Did the missing occupant spend miserable hours there, or happy ones?

Attending the perimeter of the installation are more large ornamental flowers, all delicate and beautiful reminders of inexorable Nature.

Perhaps the only way to know is to escape upward. Scramble to the top of the birdcage and take in the Black Rock City vista from 10 feet above turf. Whether you are free, or about to be entwined is only for you to know.

Come evening, LED lights sparkle from the flowers encasing the installation. Garden flowers flutter with propane flame at the periphery. Fire means the exhibit is staffed. Maybe you can ask about the missing occupant. As for what it means, it's Burning Man. "We want to leave that up to viewers," Morrison said. "Cages are metaphorical. They mean different things to people at different places in their lives. We hope visitors will identify whatever part of them needs to acknowledge about being free and whatever part of them needs to acknowledge being captive."

Just perhaps, this intricate, 20-foot long installation full of ambiguity represents Tabasco, Morrison, and the Iron Monkeys. "We wanted to spend a lot of time building detail and nuance into the concept," said Morrison. Tabasco has attended the event since 1999. The only professional blacksmith in the group, he has trained everyone else.

When you've experienced OVER | GROWN, it will be time to continue your journey. The missing occupant and the encroaching flora are pursuing theirs.

The cage lies at 5:11 and 2,060 feet, about 300 feet past the Esplanade. 🐛



Friday, August 29

Larry Harvey revealed plans for "some sort of permanence for Burning Man," indicating a possible full-time installation in the vicinity of the Playa. Speaking at the annual Black Rock City news conference, he also addressed the 2008 American Dream theme: "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."

Saturday, August 30

Larry Harvey indicated to Beacon editors that the plan for a permanent Burning Man presence would take the form of a research institution. "A place where people can live in trailers, people can live in tents, and people can live in a conference center, and rich and poor, very much like we are." 🐛

Washington Exhibit Puts Burner Art in Spotlight

BY CHARLIE

If you can't drain the swamp, maybe you can fill it with Playa dust. The Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, in collaboration with The Burning Man Project, has brought "No Spectators: The Art of Burning Man," to Washington after a prior installation with the Nevada Museum of Art.

The Renwick is an intimate space, recently renovated, a little removed from other Smithsonian museums. Like the best art on the Playa, you have to work a bit to find it. Curators managed to fill the relatively small space with a great selection to give others a taste of what it is like to go to Burning Man.

Your attention is quickly drawn to the first room on the left, where a large dioramic paper-crafted archway has four peep holes in the legs, each with something to surprise you, like a big scary spider right there. Signage on the walls gives a primer to Burning Man, complete with definitions of Moop and Sparkle Pony. It also introduces the 10 Principles. Overheard conversations of those getting their first experience with Burning



Man were priceless: "They have a barter economy," "Everybody goes naked!" "They blow things up."

The next room holds representative "Burner" clothing. A sexy white leather dress with feathers is suspect (see Moop, above) but impressive. What dominates this room, though, is a replica of Marco Cochrane's "Truth is Beauty" from Burning Man 2013, his glorious towering metal statue of a naked dancer poised on tiptoe, arms raised, back arched. Brilliantly lit. She's one third her Playa size but of the original cast.

A fire-breathing dragon art car appears in the next room, made of bakeware, along with a movie showing the Playa evolving from empty space to a thriving city to empty space again all in two weeks.

Upstairs the exhibit really gets cooking. A chill space beckons, with pillows on the floor and sound-activated neon ceiling lights. Giant mushrooms from the Foldhaus Collective collapse and grow. The Man stands in his own space in a gallery next door. The show stopper is a David Best Temple that takes over an entire 5,000-square-foot room.

Outside, Mischell Riley's "Maya's Mind," Kate Raudenbush's "Future's Past," and Laura Kimpton and Jeff Schomberg's "XOXO," among others, are all a short walk away. This public art, however, has signs saying, "No Climbing." I tell people on the sidewalk, "At Burning Man, if it can be climbed, it will be climbed."

The show runs until Jan. 21. There will be a walking tour of the outdoor sculptures on Sept. 26 at noon. 🐛

BRAINTEASERS BY DURGY

I	T	S	E	L	A	Y	L	A
B	R	V	D	E	L	E	A	K
E	O	O	A	O	G	W	H	I
N	G	R	N	N	O	E	J	N
D	E	T	A	G	R	D	O	O
E	F	K	L	N	I	T	H	S
R	R	E	P	O	T	A	N	H
H	I	L	S	L	H	E	N	I
M	B	E	E	Y	M	A	Y	T
N	O	N	O	C	A	B	5	A

Find these words: Algorithm, Bacon, Bender, Cylon, Dewey, Elektro, Esplanade, Fribo, Gort, HAL, Iron Giant, Johnny 5, Kinoshita, Leon. The remaining letters spell out a popular burn night refrain. (4,3,3)

Bar Monkey Grows Up

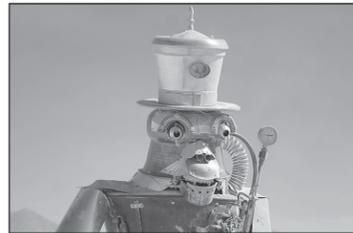


Photo by Taymar

BY BETH VANDERWERKEN

Meet Steam Monk, the 450-pound metal monkey. Made from recycled keys, plates, brass bowls and farm disks. Come wind him up, crank his shaft and watch him move. Shifty eyes and musically inclined, this primate serves to be a true spin on a classic toy.

Deep in the outer rings of the Black Rock City is a community bar called Playa Springs, where you will find the creators John Trimmer, Wes Waltenspiel and Dave Wrenn (Side Yard Art), from Sparks, Nevada. Simple, sweet and short of words, their inspiration was rooted in the idea of equipping this busy bar with a conversation piece.

Where the monkey idea came from, they wouldn't disclose. Yet, serving as a prototype for the larger project, a smaller rendition of Steam Monk was born. This aided them in the editing process for their future monk. See him on Esplanade, just past 3:45. 🐛

BRC Expansion Continued

be the largest rate of growth BRC has seen. From 2010 to 2016, the city's population grew by 58 percent, Vind noted.

After a draft EIS is completed this fall, another public comment period will follow. BLM spokesman Kyle Hendrix said some common complaints heard during the scoping period have to do with Burners leaving trash on the side of the road and the ability of public streets on the way to BRC to handle the increased traffic as the population rises. Hendrix said the 2017 Burn was "incredibly successful" from the BLM's standpoint.

BLM will consider approving the 10-year permit in early 2019, after a final draft of the EIS is completed. 🐛



ALMANAC

Sunday • September 2

Ice sales: Noon-6 p.m.
(Center Camp and both Plazas)
Sunset: 7:29 a.m.
Twilight ends: 7:57 p.m.
Temple Burn: 8:00 p.m.
Moonrise: 11:51 p.m.

Monday • September 3

Labor Day
The Moon is in the sky at dawn
First light: 5:57 a.m.
Sunrise: 6:25 a.m.
Ice sales, Center Camp only: 10 a.m.-Noon
Black Rock City ends: 6:00 p.m.
Sunset: 7:27 p.m.
Twilight ends: 7:55 p.m.
Moonrise: 12:39 a.m. (Tuesday)

Tuesday • September 4

The Moon is in the sky at dawn
First light: 5:58 a.m.
Sunrise: 6:26 a.m.
Gate closes: Noon.
Sunset: 7:26 p.m.
Twilight ends: 7:54 p.m.
Moonrise: 1:36 a.m. (Wednesday)
Happy trails. We will miss you!

Sun/Moon data courtesy of SunriseSunset.com

BRC Busts Population Max Continued

On a postal run for BRC3PO and the 9:00 Post Office, she returned from the Default World with Burner mail and found herself stuck at Gate, closed out in a whiteout. As she sat for the next six hours, word spread like Playa dust that Burning Man oversold tickets and long after the air cleared, cars were subject to the one-for-one policy. Some Burners were furious at the idea of tickets oversold and by easier ingress for the Burner Express Bus, she said.

Bmorg added in its email that it may sell more tickets than the population cap allows, based on the idea that not all ticket holders will be on the Playa at the same time. It sold fewer tickets this year than last, but good weather and the desire of Burners to honor Larry Harvey, the recently deceased founder of Burning Man, contributed to the overage. 🐛

BLACK ROCK BEACON UNINDICTED CO-CONSPIRATORS: Ali Baba, president; Gothlot, vice president; Mitchell Martin, editor emeritus; Suzanne Zalew, editor; Taymar, photographer; Francis Wenderlich, artist; Rockstar, Ali & Francis, camp manager; Mrs. Lucky, deep thinker; Smash, editor and website wrangler; Larry Copy Chief, breed apart; WeeGee, long-lens photographer; Gayle Early, curiouser and curiouser, also nrly. Abetted by Durgy, doer of stuff; Angie Zmijewski, treasure and production goddess; Lena Kartsov, page and masthead design; Gothlot & Nod, pandamonium. **Staff this issue:** The Fridge, Curious, Michael Moore, Beth Vanderwerken, Mike Flynn, Charlie writers; Mitch, Smash, The Fridge, editors. The Fridge, Durgy, Francis, city desk. Tim McNally and Mr. Lucky, emergency transport team. Headline fonts courtesy of cloutierfontes.com.

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