Night of Fire

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.
Diana Acosta.
Illustrations: Anthony Peterson, Kevin Powell.

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 meditation and the celebration of their dances at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. The design of Conexus was inspired by Grace's architecture. The Conexus group was in touch with the cathedral's staff during the process of designing their cathedral and was pleasantly surprised to find out that their edifice would be the same size as 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 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 each member feeling that they were living out a challenging installation, and the fear that they would be unable to reach that goal.

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

Conexus Cathedral is located at 100, about halfway between the Man and the Temple of Hope.

One thing that caught my eye was a new piece of art created by a group of Burners who worked on this installation, a sculpture that looks like a rabbit with a sign that says "DOUSE X', not  'DO USE X.'

Semi-Legal Mumbo Jumbo
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The winner of our fabulous Bacon of the Month raffle was Gill Davies of Aptos, CA. We asked Damo of Los Angeles who he was hanging out with at the 9:00 at Night with Ziggy event. 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.

Fear & Hope
BY RICK-BOY
Vitalic went to the route of many bands and started producing in the order of beverages. That must coffee, he thought. Nothing as delicate as a coffee tree could exist.
He had little time. He had to get back to the rendezvous soon.
"I might 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 Vitalic, having assimilated this information from the previous inquiry.
He saw the puppet with the puppet giggled, "the rabbit, of course. Is there a man?"
"No, I want the man." "I don't know. Maybe Pepe knows," he said bending over to look down at his puppet. "Pepe do you where in find senseless 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 the puppet's arms were raised up and down slowly.
"I am sorry, but we cannot help you." He shrugged his shoulders.
"But you very much, you have been most kind." Vitalic continued in ask and tried to find a structure or any description of 'the man named Harvey' but no one had a photograph and the descriptions varied widely. 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 'Black Heart'. She claimed she knew of Harvey but did not know where he was at the moment. Vitale was nearly out of time before he could ask about the coming catalyst. 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 that way like a wave for a while.
Mad Marian stared intently at Vitalic and nodded her head seriously. "I will tell him," she said<br>"He must keep his tribe here – safe from the toxins that will swirl around the globe. He must wait for them to serile.
"I understand." There was nothing more he could do. He had to get on his transport. That night, after the Temple Burn, Larry was taking off his white hat when he mentioned the old stranger to Marian. The stranger who spoke in funny English and warned him of a coming disaster that didn't involve potpies or access fees.


Graceful Cathedral
BY ALEXANDRA DAVIES
Howard Jones, Rick Kinnaird, John Lam, Anthony Peterson, Deb Prothero, Cross the Sidhe, Matthew Turtle.
Ali Baba, Emmy Love, Susan Kirr, Torment (Grownup Emo), Suzanne Zalev.
Deb P & Nuke Boy
Howard Jones
LNT manager and shack wrangler.

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 grizzlies look at salmon. Obey speed limits especially 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 an arrest. If you are apprehended, take a photograph and the descriptions varied widely. 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.
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Perpetrators of The Black Rock Beacon...

The week has flown. Old friendships were renewed and new ones initiated. I laughed, I cried - and expect to do so again at the big event to come. At the end of the day, I was left with a little more to fellow Burner Bryan, part of my original posse in 1995, who selfishly shuffled off this mortal coil last Winter Saturday. Happy Solstice, the little shit.
He had to go meet his transport.
I nodded, "Weird thing is, I
"Pretty wacky," said Larry.
"No, I don't know. Maybe Pepe knows," he said bending over to look down at his puppet. "Pepe do you where in find senseless Harvey?"
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