Mechabolic in theory (above) and as it appeared on the Playa on Tuesday.

Look at that Escargot!

by Howesrd

Faster than, um, well nothing much really. More powerful than, probably, something. Able to leap...no scratch that. One of this year's most ambitious art projects is the Mechabolic, a recycling plant-cum-slow-moving art car in the shape of a common garden pest expanded to monstrous size. It's a miracle of Burner engineering, and it's a miracle that it's in Black Rock City at all.

"Over 6,000 pounds of bio-innovative biofuel – from the metabolism of nature, re-embodied in steel, polished aluminum, orchids, wood chippers, town gas lamps in a 120-foot-long slug body" to paraphrase head Mecha-block Jim Mason, who magically dreams these things up, and Dunn Davis, the co-author of this year's sculpture.

"It makes no sense. Completely counter-intuitive. It produces a flammable fuel to play with, combined with byproduct needed for agriculture, in a total carbon negative cycle," Mason continued.

So far Mechabolic, in common with many of this year's major art projects, is not finished. But crews were busy putting the major parts together on the Playa on Tuesday. When it is complete, Burners who encounter Mechabolic at night will see a flame very blue from the hydrogen in it, with purple and reds (if they scored correctly) – quite different from the incandescent orange of propane. Forget slurry bubble columns and paper and saucenut and yes, even dry colfer boxes, into the resolving shredder or chipper of their choice.

The shredder is connected to the mysterious gasifier, still cloaked in secrecy, where the biomass is converted into clean-burning hydrogen and carbon monoxide gas for the draper engine and lighting system, char and ash part of the larger Terra Prata notion, which in Mechabolic gives fertilizer for food plants and orchids, along with FREE carbon sequestration.

Small edible plants and orchids will be found growing waist height in the abdomenal seating area – the only plants allowed on the Playa this year – so it may be possible for people to eat part of their residual garbage. Charcoal-making pods will be found in the rear. The pods produce the char under drapes; turns Playa garbage into agro-based fertilizer – sequencying carbon like an SOB as it goes – and provides syngas to power the lighting system AND the blown 427 dragster engine. All twirled with burning love by those geniuses down at The Shipyard. Vroom: 0 to 0.5 mph in a night.

In birthing at the Shipyard is a miracle all by itself. Mason's artists' complex in a sea of freight containers was shut down earlier this year by city officials in Berkeley in a dispute over fire safety. Mechabolic and several other Burning Man projects were being built there and work was delayed by the dispute, which was eventually papered over but is not yet resolved.

At the Shipyard, Jess Hobbs, an artist and graduate of the University of California at Santa Cruz, walked me through a scale model of the project. Hobbs' involvement, besides dating Jim, is that of Mechabolic's project manager. Those 'make you smaller pills,' Alice gave me finally came in handy.

"I may be walking the line with this but I consider it more kinetic art that recycles itself than a vehicle.

This defies the fact that it is powered by a 427-cubic inch V-8 running on recycled NASCAR tires from Ohio.

Participants will enter through the head and are encouraged to deposit dry solid waste such as cardboard, instruction sheets, newspapers other than the BRCs' inhumane or recycled in the abdominal seating area – the only plants allowed on the Playa this year. - so we might be able for people to eat part of their residual garbage. Charcoal-making pods will be found in the rear. The pods produce the charcoal gasifier prefers, Jess hopes this homage to the hot-rod fetish with its industrial motif will really wow the gearheads. After the event, one of the few local businesses, USG's Empire Farms, may use the charcoal to help it produce commercial garlic, used as a scent for propane.

Noting that Chicken John is listed on Mechabolic's website as a principal, I asked Mason if Chicken would be seen running around the Playa gathering fuel for Mechabolic.

"He might – you never know what Chicken's going to do. I built that cafe racer truck out there (in the yard) for him to attempt a Bonneville land speed record in October and it will be out on the Playa."

"The first internal combustion engines ran on this same type of synthetic gas, which also powered the first automobiles."

By: Deb Prothero (firefighter) and Technomad

The Man will rise from the ashes to burn again as planned on Saturday.

An unauthorized attempt to burn the Man early Tuesday left the figure structurally challenged, although there was little damage to the art exhibits in the pavilion below. Burning Man Communications Manager Andie Grace at a news briefing Tuesday, Grace assured the media that the Man will be burned as planned. The figure has been removed from its place of honor at the center of Black Rock City.

In the meantime, the north platform and the 9:00 side remain open. The 3:00 side is closed until the damage is repaired. No injuries were reported, Grace said. However, in a photo showing law enforcement arresting a suspect in connection with the incident, the suspect appeared to have sustained injuries.

Alain Tom, BRC medical clinic supervisor on Tuesday, said that the records for the clinic were removed by the clinic director. Due to medical privacy laws, Tom could neither confirm nor deny whether the suspect was treated for medical conditions before being removed by Pershing County Sheriff's Department.

Pershing County Sheriff's officers arrested Paul Addis, a 35-year-old actor and writer from San Francisco, for setting the blaze. He was charged with third-degree arson, possession of illegal fireworks, destructio of property and resisting a public officer, according to Pershing County Sheriff's Department.

Addis was set at $25,632, which was posted. Addis was released and came to Gerlach to pick up his belongings. He will not be allowed back into Black Rock City.

Grace said, in jest, that Burning Man would like the suspect to be charged with Manslaughter.
Fourth annual giggle Regyna Longlank, also known as a good acronym. "BED was perfect," Longlank. The three women were going Erotic Discourse. BED, as it is known, sex and rape. attitudes creatively about consensual Tribenet, Black Rock citizens have bulletin-board systems like ePlaya and sunscreen applying Burner. case to be successful the first under case is to life in and rape as one crime, carrying possible fact that Nevada treats sexual assault corporate body behind Burning Man. The LLC is Black Rock City LLC, the The LLC is Black Rock City LLC, the corporate body behind Burning Man. Joe Prich, the Black Rock Ranger in charge of the city's Emergency Services Department, said volunteer more and psychiatric counselors working with local law enforcement knowable, I was able to cope and ready to work with nonjudgmental support services 24 hours a day. Any ARC Ranger can get them to right away. You may have heard BDE's public-service announcements in the Johns: Silence is not consent!, "The best lubrication is communication," "No means No. Yes means Yes. A series of fun, sometimes erotically-charged workshops called Negotiating Sex 101: How to Get to and Burn Man appeared in 2005. This year the men and women in BDE are offering workshops hosted by camps Deep Heaven and Boozy Bar. BDE buddies are busy and have also posted helpful hook-up and educational information at www. burningfreedom.org. Workshops will run at the Boozy Bar, Boreal and 3:00, at 4:30 p.m., and at Deep Heaven, Epanalepe, and 7:00, at 4:30 p.m. So long as they have workable5, the couple is holding and ready to the same as they did in his previous giggle. Kimmie intends to use intent and the law of attraction to manifest desires and heal negative emotional wounds and dissonance. I also ran into Neith from Galiano Island, British Columbia. This is Neith's fourth Burn and her intention is to past the “Wos” factor and into the human connections possible on the playa. As the Co-accom璘um of the Energy camp at 2:30 and Boreal, Neith and her travelling mates were going really well, said Neith’s boyfriend who was in a full van, the vehicle had a “driver on water” guizmo attached to the carburetor that catalyzes water to add hydrogen to the engine and makes the engine as it goes and make gas go far. This is apparently not a new technology, and can be checked out at www.driveonwater.com. They will also set up a hydro generator working on the same principle on the pavilion with the rest of the group by the camp, the camp’s system and lighting will run completely on solar power. Lucky Linda from Portland was parked next to Neith’s van. This is her second Burn and she is with the Otter Oasis theme camp at 4:30 and Habitat. This camp’s gift is to help people set up with their own personal water filtration with immersion therapy. Her intention is to see the art, interact with people and this is the same as practically any other Burner. as you can see the art, interact with people and she wants to be helpful and selfless.

Playing Nice on the Playa

By Vicki Olds, a.k.a. shburne

April 12, Susie Dhewar was found guilty on two counts of sexual assault in the Piskey County Court House in Lovelock for violating two women in Black Rock City in 2004. A third woman whom Dhewar raped in her Black Rock City tent in 2002 testified August 7 for the Piskey County Judge to the3 no further questions during sentencing hearings. Somewhat in Dhewar’s favor is the fact that Nevada treats sexual assault and rape as one crime, carrying possible sentences of 10 years to life in prison. The defendant is default and the case is under appeal. This is the first successful criminal conviction in a case to be brought against a veteran Burner. Dhewar has said she had been applying sunscreen to naked BRF females since 1997. Recently, thanks to Internet bulletin-board systems like ePlaya and Tribenet, Black Rock citizens have joined together to try to change social attitudes creatively about consensual sex and rape.

One manifestation is the Bureau of Erotic Discourse, BDE, as it is known, was founded in 2004 by Gigi De L’Amour, L evacu and Regina Longlank. The three women were going to call themselves “Pink Rangers” but the real Black Rock Rangers objected. They also considered Sexual Assault Prevention Team but SAPT just wasn’t a good acronym. “BDE was perfect,” giggled Regina Longlank, also known as Kelly Wahon. “Why not get into BDE with us?” The group produces public service announcements and compassionate workshops (see the safety section of your 2007 Survival Guide) to help prevent sexual assault and other inappropriate behavior on the Playa.

“...when we started there was widespread assumption that the LLC did not want to acknowledge that rape happens here,” said Gigi De L’Amour, “which we were forced to completely unnerve.” The LLC is Black Rock City LLC, the corporate body behind Burning Man. Joe Prich, the Black Rock Ranger in charge of the city’s Emergency Services Department, said volunteer more and psychiatric counselors working with local law enforcement knowable, I was able to cope and ready to work with nonjudgmental support services 24 hours a day. Any ARC Ranger can get them to right away. You may have heard BDE’s public-service announcements in the Johns: Silence is not consent!, “The best lubrication is communication,” “No means No. Yes means Yes. A series of fun, sometimes erotically-charged workshops called Negotiating Sex 101: How to Get to and Burn Man appeared in 2005. This year the men and women in BDE are offering workshops hosted by camps Deep Heaven and Boozy Bar. BDE buddies are busy and have also posted helpful hook-up and educational information at www. burningfreedom.org. Workshops will run at the Boozy Bar, Boreal and 3:00, at 4:30 p.m., and at Deep Heaven, Epanalepe, and 7:00, at 4:30 p.m. On the Playa, they planned puppet shows and a dance performance to get medical help/advice and morning cofee.

In a supermarket parking lot in Klamath Falls, I met lots of Burners stopping to gather water and other supplies. Michelle and Kimkuni, part of a group from Vancouver, Canada, planned to gift watermelons, sparkling tattoos and radical forgiveness to those who are seriously overheating with immersion therapy. Her intention is to see the art, interact with people and this is the same as practically any other Burner.

Attention First-year Burners:

If you were here Monday night, you ain’t a virgin no mo’!

Black Rock Beacon


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Semi-Legal Mumbo Jumbo

Perpetrators of The Black Rock Beacon...


Brainsbeats

By Maze

Succulent meat is the king. We love this marvelous thing. In the same way, we love meat. Not far from the border. Enjoy as its praises we sing.

Arson As A Political Statement

By Mitchell

Rick! who is camping with San Francisco mayoral candidate Chavi John presented himself at the Black Rock Beacon camp on Tuesday and said he knew Paul Addis, allegedly the arsonist who scorched the Man in the wee hours of the morning.

The pair met at 4:00 and Epanalepe at about 10 p.m., said Rick!, adding that he was surprised to run into Addis, who he did not know to be a Burner. “I asked Paul what he was doing here, and the first thing out of his mouth was ‘do you have a flare gun or explosives?’”

Rick! said he was making an anti-establishment comment by burning the Man before his time had come. Addis, Rick! added, “is really good friends with John Law,” a major figure in the early days of Burning Man who is involved in a three-way court battle with founder Larry Harvey and Black Rock City LLC Director Michael Mikkel. Rick! speculated that Addis was acting in sympathy with Law but that Law was unaware of his imminent plans.

“...we came here with a mission,” said Rick!, who described Addis as “an intense guy, but a nice guy.”

He said he hoped the Burning Man organization would not press charges against Arson for making what amounted to a political statement.

Addis, Rick! said, sees himself as an outsider along the lines of Hunter S. Thomson, the gonzo journalist of the 1960s. Indeed, Addis, a jack-of-many trades, wrote and directed a biographical play about Thomson, and

Along with his quip inclinations, Addis is an “excellent climber,” said Rick!, which helps to explain how he got up the Man. He has been active in “urban exploration,” the investigation of abandoned buildings and tunnels and was formerly a lawyer, according to Rick!

Letter to the Editor

Harvey Larry Harvey and his operatives set the Man alight, just as he did in 1986 and 1998, just as he and his friends set out to do annually under the banner of art meets anarchy, his unscheduled lighting of the Man was bad. As I argued above he gave birth to. Consider the following: The Man is a small thing, easily replaceable. Harvey set the Department of Public Works up with the chance for a heroic recovery after the pre-Burn Burn. No one was hurt. Harvey made arrangements for a quick evacuation of the pavilion below the Man. This pavilion is simple this year: easy to clean, compared to the massive and towering infernos of other years. One arrest, no charge. Clearly one of his operatives prepared to take the fall with the state authorities to promote the illusion of order.

Watching the Man burn, I reviled at the senselessness of this anti-social act. But it made me reflect on the Burningman I never say. The one described by those self-righteous old-timers. Back then, so it seems, Radical, free self-expression was also reckless. No event directory, no rules and no schedule. Just drive-by shooting camps, fireworks and deadly collisions between airplanes and motorcycles.

Larry Harvey, now a fat car living off his creation. Black Rock must long for the subversive ethos he set in motion and once stood for. He pre-Burned the Man to shed Black Rock City LLC of its corporate culture and curtailment of its roots. The question now is: will it work? — Ian Flett, Black Rock City

Babettes can be delivered to the Black Rock Beacon at the 9:00 Plaza. Letters may be edited for length and content and that we will ask you to use a real world identification (driver’s license or passport).