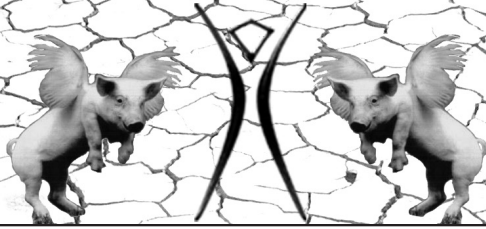


BLACK ROCK BEACON



NATURAL SELECTION EDITION THURSDAY WWW.BLACKROCKBEACON.ORG 5:30 EVOLUTION (NEAR CENTER CAMP) VOLUME V, NUMBER IV. SEPTEMBER 3, 2009

Howeird's Positively Playa!

Day Four: Don't you just love all the coincidences out here? I just gave Energy Bunny — all the way from New Zealand — a lift to the bike repair camp at 9:30 & Biology, which my own Burner friend's son worked at a couple of years ago. It turns out her ex is camping right next to the Beacon at Home Brew Camp. She still thinks you're awesome, D!

As well as mobs of Kiwis and Aussies we have beaucoup Law Enforcement in 2009. Just doing their jobs, I suppose, in the land of the free, but it is shocking to new Burners from other climes used to a more laissez-faire attitude. Wave and say 'Hawo Shewiff,' if you're into that whole Blazing Saddles thing. We are all Burners at heart — have a nice day Officers. Do make sure you carry your ID if you look under thirty and want alcohol. Bars have an obligation to check this year, even if they are giving it away. Have a great Burn. 🐰

Cops' Tactics Questioned

Heavy-handed police action upsets critics.

By Annie McGee

Sheriff's deputies issued a citation to Burner Beowulf McGiver of the Absinthe Camp for allegedly furnishing alcohol to a minor during a party at the Absinthe bar, located at the 7:30 Plaza, on Tuesday evening.

McGiver, who lives in Maryland, was cited for \$1000.

In an interview, McGiver said he did not remember serving anyone who looked underage. The charge was thought to have been based on the use of an underage decoy who allegedly received a drink at 8:33 pm.

Last year, law enforcement agencies issued more than 100 arrests and citations for everything from drug possession to a sex crime.

While Burning Man has worked hard

to maintain a cooperative relationship with the three main law enforcement agencies that patrol the event, the use of a decoy at Absinthe has sparked discussion around whether authorities are entrapping otherwise law-abiding Burners into violating Nevada law. Burning Man has not traditionally had a problem with under-age drinking, in part because the event is difficult for minors to attend.

Absinthe is fundraising to pay McGiver's citation. "It could have been any one of us at the bar," said TomTom.

Burners who served alcohol at other camps said they are trying to be careful to ask anyone who appears to be under age whether they are old enough to drink.

At Absinthe, camp members working at the bar have begun asking young-looking Burners for IDs.

A member of the Black Rock Rangers public safety volunteer organization said attendees are responsible for carrying

IDs and that people serving alcohol need to ask for them rigorously, though that breaks Burning Man's long tradition of laissez-faire generosity.

"I don't know if that naked girl in front of me is an undercover cop," said the Ranger, who asked not to be identified because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

In other police news, emergency personnel from around the county were responding to a traffic accident at Route 447, about 24 miles west of Empire, NV.

According to a member of the medical response team, there was one victim: a man named John Shaw, who broke his leg. Shaw's partner, Kayla Turner, who accompanied Shaw to the hospital, said in an interview that her dog had also been killed.

Traffic backed up on the highway for about half an hour after the road was closed. The road reopened at 9:30 p.m. 🐰

Black Rock City Fails to Become Non-Profit

By: Deb Prothero (firefighter)

After some serious investigation of the not-for-profit option, the owners of Black Rock City LLC have concluded they don't have the money required to proceed in that direction, and announced this at their annual press conference. Larry Harvey, founder of Burning Man, Harley K. DuBois, City Manager, and Andie Grace, Manager of Communications and Regional Networks Manager spoke Wednesday morning in the dome beside Media Mecca.

Journalists from around the world listened or videotaped a brief presentation by Harvey who touched on next year's theme, Metropolis, as well as the future status of the LLC. During his recent health problems Harvey realized how much of the organization's planning is in the minds and hearts of the owners. Since then there has been a conscious mentoring of staff in order to broaden the knowledge. Harvey said "what we need is a tripartite system like the Founding Fathers created, with no single branch having all the power." The staff are being challenged to "blog about the history of decisions made in each area and to engage in dialog with citizens of BRC citizens about future decisions that affect BRC."

Harvey also talked about the hold-back of fees to the BLM for 2008's event. "The BLM has been completely unable to explain what they have done with their money from the previous two years; they are insulated from reality — the reality that every other organization is having to make accommodations for the recession with less resources available. We are applying pressure to ensure accountability. Policy can mask a vast incompetence," said Harvey.

As for the spread of the Burner ethos out to the world, Grace is particularly "excited about the PlayaTech creation of affordable housing alternatives for disaster areas." Harvey related "having a discussion with Gavin Newcombe about how there are no garbage cans in BRC. Newcombe's reaction: his eyebrows nearly went into orbit."

Ice and coffee surpluses have been spread throughout the local communities who are affected by the presence of BRC but do not necessarily benefit directly from the event. Gerlach's seniors' center, its fire department and the school have received cash from sales in BRC. In addition, \$5,000 per year is given to the Friends of the Black Rock/High Rock Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area, which also benefits from Burner memberships to help protect local trails.

Cell phone service, sporadically available on playa this year, has been a bone of contention for Burners online in the Eplaya discussion forums and the Tribe social networking groups. Harvey holds that the best way to influence behavior is through the culture. Asked to explain this comment, Harvey said "You can't fuck in the road, you can't shit in the road and you can't use your cell phone in the road, it's a private function, do it in your tent! 🐰

Buddha Bunny Bounces to Burning Man

By Jane Tuv

This year's Burning Man added a new bunny to the bunch. No, this bunny won't be marching or hopping, but it will reach enlightenment and its creators hope all Burners will as well.

Inspired by the Burning Man 2009 theme of "Evolution," Animus — a New York City three-person collective responsible for last year's Arbor Animus, a 16-foot-tall, multimedia, interactive, artistic representation of a willow tree — has been showcasing the Buddha Bunny, a 20-foot art installation, created to evoke reflection, provide a haven for the restless, and look super freakin' cool.

The bunny represents evolution in every meaning of the word: its meditating body and beaming light sources depict spiritual evolution; the fragmented, mirror-filled interior embodies the repartition of replicating DNA; each day's chakra lighting emphasized the development of the festival; and let's not forget that the Buddha is a symbol for self-evolution, while the rabbit is associated with rebirth in Western cultures.

To create the Buddha Bunny, Animus' Annie Vainchenker, Preston Dane and David Ort played with various forms

of lighting and textures: from color-changing light-emitting diodes (LEDs), strobe lights and fiber optics to wooden frames, spandex fabric and plexiglass mirrors. The bunny's cheeks are covered in white faux fur and the whiskers are made of fiber-optic wire. The body frame is wood; the 'muscle tissue' contains white LEDs covered by neon-colored squares of cloth, which feature inspirational quotes from the project's sponsors. Individuals were encouraged to inscribe their reflections on enlightenment while sponsoring 'quilt' squares for \$20, thus physically taking part in the bunny's creation. In addition, the bunny's lap is made out of futons, providing Burners with the chance to relax and watch the sunset or study the giant art installation.

Burners wishing to peek inside have to climb through the tail end. They enter a chapel-like room filled with plexiglass mirrors, where they have the chance to emotionally and physically reflect. There's room for seven people or so to sit comfortably and see themselves imperfectly through the fragmented reflections.

By reusing most of the lighting from previous projects, obtaining yards of free

cloth from Materials for the Arts, and building the bunny's body in Reno, the collective was able to budget the Buddha Bunny at \$8,500 — all of which they raised through the generous donations of the Burning Man community. The bunny's head was completed in a month and a half and was shipped out to Reno on Aug. 10. To finish the Buddha Bunny in time for the event, the artists enlisted the help of friends who flew out to Nevada in late August.

The big surprise will come today, when the last chakra is lit. Animus teamed up with the Billion Bunny March, a stampede of hundreds of people sporting rabbit gear who march to protest the injustices of humanity against rabbits, and will venture to the Buddha Bunny at sundown where they will dance and worship at the giant bunny mecca to the original music beats of NeonBunny, a San Francisco-based disc jockey sporting a pink and green bunny suit. The 20-foot installation of multi-sensory fun will burst into light, glowing in dozens



of colors from every inch of his body, reaching 'enlightenment.' Expect big DJ names from around the United States including Nigel Richards and Freq Nasty to rock the celebration. 🐰

What's Up, Doc?

By Omyg

On Monday, the Med tent reported that morale was high, anticipating the usual flood of BRC injuries. As the population of BRC increases so does the number of construction-related injuries.

Dehydration cases increase as the daytime temperatures rise. Wind has also caused an increase in injuries due to lack of visibility.

Black Rock medics urge burners to take greater care when trapped in a dust storm to avoid half-buried rebar and

unmarked tent ropes. As the week goes on the medics anticipate more cases of alcohol-related injuries and problems. Later in the week heart attacks and strokes rise in numbers.

New this year, the Med tent has greeters to get new arrivals over to a cot and take down names and camp locations. This frees up medical staff to work on life-saving first aid more efficiently.

It can get stressful in the Med tent but medic Mikie says he likes it. 🐰

Bus Stopped

By Deb Prothero

On Tuesday, September 1 at 4:30 pm, volunteer staff for BioTour arrived at Reno Nevada Airport to pick up Burner passengers headed for the burn. Instead they were served by the Department of Transportation with Administrative Citation No. 14425 and a warning that the vehicle would be impounded if they returned to the airport.

The citation alleges that BioTour "provided Nevada to Nevada passenger travel without a CPCN." The second charge is for a "web advertisement for passenger transfer without a CPCN." A CPCN is a form of operating license.

The court date has been set for October 1, 2009, requiring an appearance by the volunteer who was driving and potentially carrying a maximum fine of \$10,000 per offense.

Ethan Burke of BioTour reported that on Wednesday they were able to contact all of their passengers and have them travel to Trader Joe's for their pick-up.

He will continue to operate by shifting locations and asking passengers to use other shuttle services to meet them on Thursday. For the return to the airport next week, BioTour intends to shift drop-off points and assist passengers to arrange transport to the airport from elsewhere within Reno. 🐰

BLACK ROCK BEACON

The Black Rock Beacon newspaper distribution boxes may be found at the following locations:

9:00 Plaza @ Rue Morgue • 4:30 Plaza @ Black Rock Diner
3:00 Plaza @ Ice Cubed • 7:30 Plaza near the information board
Center Camp @ Media Mecca (unofficial)



Why you are reading this now instead of then

Today has not been the best of days for the Beacon. Last night we suffered a CPF (catastrophic printer failure), which meant that today's and yesterday's papers had to be printed in Reno and trucked into Black Rock City. We expect further publishing to be restricted because of the cost and logistics involved, possibly limiting us to one more edition after this one. Apologies to all.

Radical Innovation: Playa Bus Runs on Time

By Reecy Pontiff

The cherry-red double-decker bus lumbered gracefully across the playa before coming to a rest near the Esplanade. "Form an orderly queue, form an orderly queue!" the cockney conductor called authoritatively from the back door of the bus to the dusty crew bunched up around the bus stop. Like tourists in a foreign land, they obeyed and were allowed to climb aboard one by one.

Welcome to the Nowhere Omnibus, Black Rock City's newest public transportation option. The Omnibus runs regularly scheduled routes with stops at central locations around the Playa, and features such English insanity as cleaning ladies harrassing passengers with spritzers and baby wipes, little old ladies with curlers and large undies, Bobbies (British police officers), ticket takers, and even the occasional Tom Jones impersonator.

Conceived by British artists Pete Johnson, Steve Double and Toby

Slater, the project is intended as a public service.

"It's a pain in the ass to walk across the playa, especially after the tenth time," says Johnson. "So you see an art car going roughly in the direction you want to go, hop on it, and you end up further away than you started."

But don't think that this service keeps to Playa Time. "The truly radical thing about this project is that it runs on time," says Cheeky, who plays a cleaning lady on the bus.

The Nowhere Omnibus runs two hourly morning loops beginning at Center Camp at 9 am and 10 am, and four evening routes on the hour beginning at 4 pm with the last tour departing Center Camp at 7 pm.

It travels clockwise and stops along the Esplanade at the even-numbered streets and Center Camp, as well as at The Man and the Temple.

Schedules are posted at each bus stop, marked by the red Nowhere Omnibus signs. 🐰



Photo by Omyg

The Production Department's favorite playa sculpture so far.

Plus ça change

Remembrance Of Gazettes Past: 1999

By Citizen X

The Black Rock Gazette was an almost-daily paper sponsored by the Burning Man organization. The first issues appeared in 1992, and the last year of regular production was 2004 (a "Gazette-ette" edition was handed out at the gate in 2005). Past Gazettes are archived on the Burning Man web site, linked off the page associated with the Burn for that year (e.g. www.burningman.com/whatisburningman/2004/04_gazette.html for a look at the very last issues).

Several stalwart members of the Black Rock Beacon team are ex-Gazette people, and it's fair to say that if the Gazette had never been, neither might the Beacon.

Now that the Beacon is in its fifth year, and Burning Man is in its twenty-third, it might be interesting to take a look at Gazettes of ten years past, to see what was uppermost in the minds of Burners (OK, well, perhaps

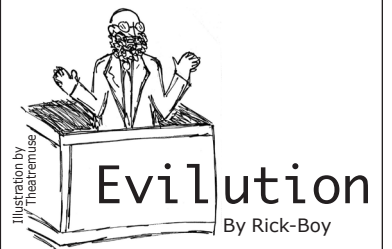
just the Org) in 1999.

There were five editions that year, produced on Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Here are some selected headlines and features:

- **First Time? Do It Right**—Sound advice for virgins, always a good idea for the first edition of the week.
- **Defending Black Rock: Leave No Trace**—More sound advice on the principles of LNT.
- **Sister Dana Sez**—Sister Dana Van Iquity writes on playa fashion tips.
- **Capitalist Pig Camp Evicted From Playa**—Yep, someone managed to cross the wavery line that constitutes the limit of consideration and decorum at Burning Man, and on Tuesday night, after many attempts at mediation by Black Rock Rangers, a whole camp who persisted in defacing other people's artwork and berating their neighbours with racist and homophobic insults through megaphones was shown the gate.

- **Women Artists in Black Rock: Magical Collaboration**—The theme for 1999 was "The Wheel of Time", and this piece concentrated on pieces by women artists invited by The Org to create their interpretations of it.
- **Fire Not Bombs: Bomb Threatens Burning Man**—On Friday morning, a person or persons unknown detonated a large bomb that left a 3-foot deep crater on the playa. Because of the size and potential lethality of the device, law enforcement agencies treated the explosion site as a crime scene and a \$3,500 secret witness reward was posted to provide any information on the culprit(s).
- **Man Fails At Flying Attempt**—If you build it, they will fall off it: a man dived off a 30-foot tower at the Temple of Mez and was hurt severely enough to be evacuated.
- **The Playa Gourmet**—Reviews of some of the fantastic meals served at some theme camps.

- **Permit for Burning Man 2000 Denied**—A warning from the future, this news story purporting to be from July, 2000 describes the decision by the Bureau of Land Management to deny a usage permit for the Black Rock Desert because of a massive explosion of trash and playa scars, and the reactions of local organizations. Just a cautionary tale, but it could happen if we're not careful!
- **Driven: Please Drink and Drive**—an account of conversations overheard in a rolling bar car, and the driver's concern that someone falling off would be hurt and sue. (Several years later, 2003's only fatality was a young woman falling off a bar car.)
- **The Playa Gourmet**—The results of the Gourmet Cooking Contest, judged by the staff of the Black Rock Gazette. First prize: California Breakfast Scramble, prepared with tofu and vegetables; second prize: portobello mushroom risotto with fresh parsley and goat cheese; third prize: penne pasta with ham and mushrooms in a marsala cream sauce.
- **Two cosmopolitan cities in unique flat regions, known for their arts and culture, in which pedestrian travel predominates and auto travel is banned, and which once yearly are filled with masked and costumed revellers: Venice Italy and Black Rock City, Nevada.** 🐰



By Rick-Boy

The courtroom had exploded when Dr. McCready said he had not made humans out at his ranch laboratory, just grown organs.

Judge Pervis banged his gavel for order and the room quieted.

Prosecutor Hobbins proceeded, "I've seen those people out at your ranch. They sure look like people to me, not grown organs."

"Well, thank you, I'm glad you appreciate my handiwork. I built them. Those models have very small brains. I'm sure Social Services is having quite a time with them," he laughed.

"Are you telling me that you grew these people, these organs, or whatever they are?" asked the judge.

"Yes, your Honor, sort of."

"Sort of?" echoed Hobbins.

"Well, you see, the law says that a human being has to be conceived that is to say the union of an egg and a sperm. You might remember 20 years ago the biological assemblers of Dr. Reginald Summers?"

Hobbins and the judge nodded in agreement.

"Except for the most primitive structures and it wasn't clear if they were really alive, much like a virus. But that case established that human life came from an egg or cloning and nothing else," said McCready.

"That's right. Didn't Summers die shortly thereafter?" asked Hobbins.

"Yes, the stress of the trial killed him. I acquired his assemblers and dabbled with them. Eventually, I saw that the basic tenet of his work was viable. I realized that I could replicate most strands of DNA by putting together the basic atoms into molecules and building it up from there. There are no humans at my ranch. Just assembled atoms that look like humans."

Tomorrow: Another revelation 🐰



Almanac

By Igneouss



Thursday 9/3

Sunrise 6:30am Sunset 7:27pm Moonrise 6:52pm Moonset 6:34am (Fri)

Friday 9/4

Sunrise 6:31am Sunset 7:25pm Moonrise 7:15pm Moonset 7:35am (Sat)

Horoscope

by Citizen X



Libra (Sept 23–Oct 22)

By today you will have acquired a good idea of what went right and wrong with your supply system this year.

Scorpio (Oct 23–Nov 21)

"You're only young once, but you can be immature forever."

—Dave Barry

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SEMI-LEGAL MUMBO JUMBO

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