2009: Smoke and Dust in the Wind

By Deb Prothero (firefighter)

Black Rock City 2010 is the Metropolis of the future. Our future, for sure, the rest of the world’s maybe.

Larry Harvey, the Burning Man founder, cited the urban thinkers Jane Jacobs and James Kunstler, both of whom were down on American cities, in a written description of the event for 2010. Next year’s Metropolis theme seems meant to inspire innovations for cities in an increasingly urbanized world.

Jacobs warned of the disintegration of America’s greatest cities unless they could create sustainable neighborhoods with a mix of socioeconomic classes. Kunstler wrote about the “cartoon character of American cities” focusing on things like signs, lights and strip malls. He compared the modern streetscape to its 1800s counterpart, where wide, practical boulevards and large building overhangs protected citizens from the elements as they frequented shops and shared gossip. Kunstler suggests that modern cities are designed to serve the car rather than the citizen.

With its car-unfriendly policies and diverse citizenry, Black Rock City seems well-placed to offer antidotes to those kinds of problems.

Harvey didn’t mention him, but he seems to be taking a page from Richard Florida, a professor of urban design at the University of Toronto. Florida has forecast that cities will contain nodes of creativity from which prosperity will be determined. Socioeconomic diversity, according to Florida, is needed for creative solutions to problems.

Florida considered every major metropolis in the world for his next teaching assignment before selecting Toronto. Too bad he couldn’t have found work in Black Rock City.

Metropolis? We’re On Top of It

By Deb Prothero (firefighter)

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Ouchie!

Turns out there were three parachutists who hit the Playa hard on Friday. Saturday’s Black Rock Beacon reported that a sky diver’s main chute did not open and the person came down fast using a reserve. In fact, three parachutists came down that way.

The toll was higher on the Slide, a fun interactive piece of Playa art that caused some serious rug burns according to Rachel in the medical tent. On Friday alone, 50 injuries were reported.

By Deb Prothero

Ouchie!
You Made It This Far, Don’t Stop Now

By Mary Jane

You are Needed! It may sound so you see destructive behavior? Obvious ones: tattoos, and piercings. But in your face, and for the first time, you see that you have to come out of this, you know the Grump Reaper. We had a smoke together a time or two. The dude will tell you, “I can take you with me and you can be going home through the Reno-Lake Tahoe International Airport. Weed is the customary tradition, call in sick rather than deal with messy bathrooms and let their attention from that weird rash on your leg. You will discover that pointless arguments are good after all, in that they diverted your attention from the use of such words and our camps.

Answers to Wednesday’s Crossword Puzzle


The lexicon of Black Rock City

Douchebag Camp: Derogatory term for any camp that seems to have way more money (and the self-contained attitude that goes with it) than you. This camp usually has built something really awesome that you’re secretly envious of.

Douchebag: Stupid, intoxicated people who don’t illuminate themselves with lights at. Slightly more derogatory than the alternate term darksoul.

Darksoul: Stupid, intoxicated people who don’t illuminate themselves with lights at. Slightly more derogatory than the alternate term darksoul.

You and I have seen this dark hole. I know the psychologist and they will drug you this same conversation with Grim. You can spend time with the psychologists and they will drug you this same conversation with Grim. If you don’t come out of this, you will be going home through the Reno-Lake Tahoe International Airport. Weed is the customary tradition, call in sick rather than deal with messy bathrooms and let their attention from that weird rash on your leg. You will discover that pointless arguments are good after all, in that they diverted your attention from that weird rash on your leg.

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