



WELCOME TO NOWHERE

BY SMASH

On July 2nd a roof on my apartment complex erupted in flames. Eighty firefighters spent two hours trying to save the building. Property was destroyed, pets were traumatized, and 15 families were displaced for a year. I came out of it OK, but anxious about the ensuing

disruption to our mail service, as my Burning Man ticket was due to arrive any day.

For a second this felt ironic, then it didn't. We are drawn to Black Rock City by strange and wonderful things absent from our everyday lives: Discofish, Thunderdome, shirtcookers. But we also come here to experience the familiar in

unfamiliar ways, and a raging fire is just one of many things that feel very different here than in the Default World.

Presented for your consideration, a few others: Air. Spray cheese. God. Nitrous oxide. Pigtales. Random hugs from sweaty strangers.

Go make your own list, and welcome home. 🐙

"Safety in Numbers" with CrowdRX

BY CURIOUS

Hey Burners, we've got a new medical team slapping band-aids on our Burn. You are radically self-reliant and brought your own plaster, we know, but when the worst happens nothing looks sweeter than that red neon emergency beacon on 5:15 and Esplanade — Black Rock City's "Rampart." The Burning Man organization's Emergency Services Department cut its \$500,000-a-year cord with local area provider Humboldt General Hospital this spring and contracted Playa newbie CrowdRX for its emergency medical services.

Bmorg assures us CrowdRX will dish the same level of service that Humboldt General provided for the past four years. CrowdRX has been in business since 1989 and covers 20,000 sporting, musical, and other events a year. But the Philadelphia-based company remains to be tested in our harsh and isolated environment and has yet to experience first-hand how this feisty-weatherly city can fuck with anyone's plans.

CrowdRX's slogan is "Keeping Your Event UnEventful" and "Turn-Key Confidence" — the unfortunate adjective in the second one reminds us of certain popsicles.

Dismissed after serving four of its five contracted years, Humboldt General took its licks like a gent. In articles published in the Journal of Emergency Medical Services and the Reno Gazette-Journal, the hospital was quoted as saying it was grateful for the opportunity to learn and serve but was frustrated with philosophical and operational differences. Humboldt General took its public safety mission seriously but felt Bmorg's Emergency Services saw it as mere event contractor.

In February, Humboldt General exercised an 180-day option to cancel its contract, hoping to negotiate for things it said would improve operations, like adding another agency to manage what it called "population surge" and the grim specter of a mass casualty incident. Talks seemed to progress.

Meanwhile, in March, the Bureau of Land Management, public steward of

these dusty lands, leveled its critique of last year's Burn, raising 20 health, safety, and environmental concerns (quit pooping on deep Playa, you disgusting people!). Specifically at issue were communications between medical services staff and ESD, some downtime with ambulances, and handling of hazardous materials (i.e., bodily fluids after an art-car accident).

BLM would not sign off the 2015 Special Recreation Permit that allows BRC's existence until Bmorg fully addressed these issues. (A little pork-barrel rider found its way into BLM's demands, which may or may not have had something to do with the delayed approval.



PHOTO: Naughtly Zed

Mrs. Lucky will tell you more about #chocotacogate later this week.)

Then Bmorg worked out the medical gig with CrowdRX, sparking criticism about the out-of-state provider from Humboldt General and other local medical interests, as well as BLM, which wanted all 20 concerns fully addressed with CrowdRX suddenly on board.

Bmorg responded to BLM's "safety document" with an expanded medical plan for this year, Burning Man spokesman Jim Graham told the Beacon. BLM signed off and forwarded it to federal Health and Human Services for additional review, a first in Playa safety protocols. "We're raising the bar for medical support at remote events like this," Graham said. "We're better than we have been at any time in the past."

BLM finally signed the Special Recreation Permit — the ur-Burning Man Ticket — on August 8. (It usually lands around June.)

"Part of the reason for the transition from Humboldt General to CrowdRX was we [looked for] the best medical

service we could provide for the event," said Graham, saying the search started early in the year and included consideration of Humboldt General. "Also, we're looking to scale. We were looking for a medical support service that could grow with us, that had experience doing really large outdoor events, doing really large remote events. CrowdRX has the experience, the resources — it was a perfect fit."

"Medicine is medicine" — under the tent, in any case.

Bmorg's AfterBurn report tallied over 6,100 patients last year from a population of about 67,000. The new vendor brings experience managing upwards of 100,000 revelers at Bonnaroo, 90,000 at Coachella, and 100,000 at Lollapalooza. But hanging out longer in the dust adds a little more challenge, especially on the staffing front.

Connor Fitzgerald, Crowd RX's director of operations and business development, is its lead out here. "We're really excited to work the event—it's an interesting one to prepare for. We're appropriately nervous," he told the Beacon.

"We've got tons of air support, tons of ground support, we've brought way more than enough

stuff," Connor said. And the new vendor has hired a "vast majority" of medics and locals who have worked the event in the past, who already have experience on the Playa, according to both Graham and Connor.

In a nod to criticism about draining Nevada's emergency resources, CrowdRX has hired one ground ambulance from the Fernley fire department and nine more from California. Connor said these will be staffed mostly with locals and repeat Burner medics. The ambulances will be available for mutual aid with Reno and Northern Nevada.

In addition to Rampart Urgent Care Clinic and the two medical outposts on the 3:00 and 9:00 Plazas at C are three new medical stations: at 7:30 & H, 4:30 & H, and near the Temple. ESD will also cohabitate with CrowdRX at Rampart this year. All six clinics will be illuminated with the big red cross.

Remember: When in danger find a Ranger in the brown khaki shirts and occasional utilikilt. They can make the 911 call if you're not near a medical site. 🐙

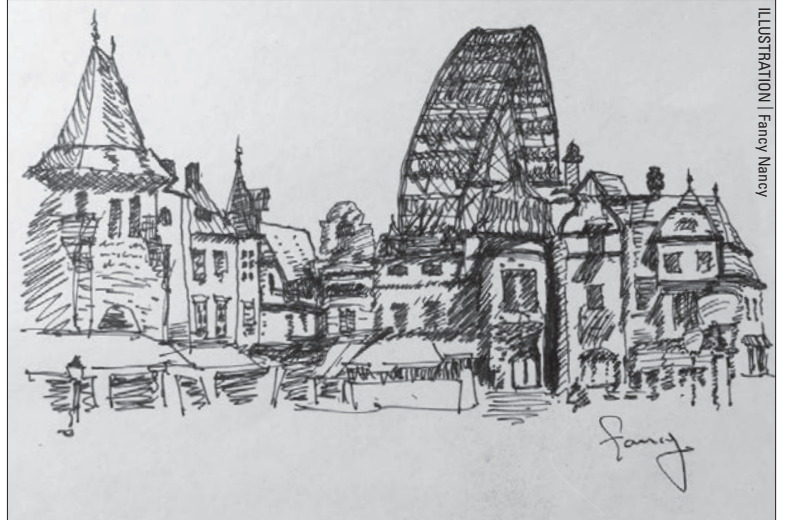


ILLUSTRATION: Fancy Nancy

MIDWAY Through History

BY MITCH

The carnival midway, much like Burning Man, is uniquely American. While circuses, Gypsies, snake-oil peddlers and minstrels brought itinerant entertainment to people around the world for centuries before, the midway as we know it clearly traces its origin to that most American metropolis, Chicago, at the end of the 19th century.

The World's Columbian Exposition — or, more generically, the Chicago World's Fair of 1893 — took place mainly in Lake Michigan-facing Jackson Park, which is connected to Washington Park to the west by a mile-long, 220-foot wide strip of what had been marshland. There were plans by 1869 to create a system of paths and waterways to link the two large parks, and the project was given the grandiose name of Midway Plaisance. The moniker survived, but the Chicago Fire of 1871 claimed the plans, which were drawn up by Olmsted, Vaux and Co., the architects who devised New York's Central Park.

Two decades later, with the bulk of the World's Fair to the east, a 23-year-old impresario and future Congressman named Sol Bloom was put in charge of construction and development of the Midway Plaisance as an amusement area that would form a lively counterpoint to the otherwise stately global exhibition. The main grounds showcased American technological and cultural achievement on the 400th anniversary of Columbus's first voyage to the New World, including Beaux Arts pavilions and a central area known with or without irony as the White City.

The Midway included ostensibly educational ethnographic exhibits, with groups of people brought from around the world to populate recreations of their native villages. It was most definitely not White City, although Austria, Germany and Ireland were among the countries represented. Buffalo Bill, denied entry to the fair itself, set up his Wild West show across the street.

The precursors of Burning Man theme camps were found on the Midway, according to Charlie Hailey, author of the book "Campsite." There were "military and Bedouin encampments as well as Sitting Bull's camp," he wrote. As in Black Rock City, these were campsites that provided a structure for the event as well as places for groups of affiliated people to hang their hats.

One Midway attraction of note was called A Street in Cairo. According to widely circulated yet unverified reports, a Syrian woman named Farida Mazar Spyropoulos, who later came to be known as Little Egypt, performed to a song possibly written by Bloom himself at this attraction.

The number was officially titled "The Streets of Cairo, or the Poor Little Country Maid," but has since been popularized as the children's ditty "There's a Place in France Where the Naked Ladies Dance" with slightly different lyrics. You probably know the tune from old cartoons, usually connected with snake charmers or desert scenes, and as a snippet in more modern music: it forms, for example, the intro to Steve Martin's "King Tut."

The precursors of Burning Man theme camps were found on the Midway

The future Ms. Egypt's gyrations on the Midway were an early and possibly the first example of belly dancing, otherwise known as hootchie-kootchie, in the United States. Legend

has it that a performance triggered a near-fatal heart attack in one Samuel Langhorne Clemens.

Along with such high-minded educational entertainment, the Midway offered diverse cuisines, a German beer garden, glassmakers' exhibitions, a Japanese bazaar, an animal show, games of chance, and rides. Among the last was the Ice Railway, a kind of roller-coaster with toboggans that showed off the promise of newfangled refrigeration, and the original Ferris Wheel, a riposte to France's Eiffel Tower, which made its debut at the 1889 World's Fair in Paris.

"I used to live in a room full of mirrors; all I could see was me. I take my spirit and crash my mirrors, now the whole world is here for me to see."

—Jimi Hendrix

BLACK ROCK BACON

"Never believe in mirrors or newspapers."

—John James Osborne,
English anti-establishment author and playwright,
known for the play *Look Back in Anger*.

Surviving A Playa MELTDOWN



PHOTO | Taymar

BY REDNIKKI

It might happen on day two, or day four, or maybe even as you're watching the Man burn. Some Default World friend who came out here with you let you down. Some Burner shouted insults at you through a megaphone as an "art project," and you feel uncool, unwanted, like you don't belong. Your special squeeze started screaming at you the third time your shade structure collapsed, and now they have stormed off to Entity knows where. Mother Playa has just sucker-punched you in the face, and you're left on your ass in the dust wondering, "Why the fuck did I come here?"

My friend, you have just met the flip side to all the inspiring shit you read about Burning Man. There's enlightenment here, too, but it's a hell of a lot less pleasant than the huggy, fuzzy, loved-up kind.

But before you can get to a more enlightened state, you need to perform

some emotional first aid. It's tempting to try to figure out "why," but if you fell through a stair and broke your leg, would you be asking "Why on earth did that stair

collapse?" No, you'd be screaming "AAAAAAIAGGGH!!! SOMEONE FIX MY LEG!!!" and you'd wait for the cast before you tried to investigate the staircase issue.

If you are adjacent to someone having a meltdown, your first thought may be to help them, but emotional first aid is kind of like those oxygen masks in airplanes: place your own on before you try to place one on your child — or in this case, the person acting like a toddler. Wipe away your tears (of despair or rage) and follow the below steps.

1. Is anyone nearby dying? Critically injured? Skip the below and get Rampart immediately.

2. Is your shade structure about to fly away in the wind and clock a Burner in the head? Something else about to happen that will cause Step 1 if you don't take care of it immediately? Holler for help and nail that shit down, then move on to step 3.

3. Congratulations! It is now time to take care of yourself. Start by taking a five-minute break from whomever or whatever is making you miserable. If you're comfortable being mobile, do one lap around your block. If you need to stay near where you are, ask a neighbor if you can sit in a chair at their camp for five minutes.

4. "But I can't take a break from the person making me miserable! They're not here! That's why I'm miserable!"

a. If they're not there because they couldn't be, they wouldn't want you to mope. Okay, maybe they'd want you to mope a little. You've done your duty. Now it's time for a Burning Man Scavenger Hunt: go out and find five beautiful things you can tell them about.

b. If instead you are feeling forgotten by someone, remember that living well is the best revenge. Pick something at random out of the What Where When guide and head out for it. Make it a point to stay out for at least an hour exploring, then do a self check.

5. Feeling too emotionally shaky to leave your safe place? Breathe in for a count of four, hold it for a count of four, then breathe out for a count of four, and repeat that pattern four times. Take a sip of water and repeat.

6. "Say Yes To Everything" is nice in theory, but in practice it can leave you overcommitted and exhausted. Feeling stretched thin? Practice saying No to things.

7. If all else fails, take a nap. Sleep gives your brain time to bandage up the wounds.

Congratulations! You've just survived your first Burning Man meltdown. 🐷

MIDWAY, continued from other side

The impressive Wheel was said to have made the difference between profit and loss for the overall fair.

Inspired by the Midway, Otto Schmidt, who worked there, decided to take the show on the road. He quickly created the Midway Plaisance Amusement Co., the first true traveling carnival, with some of the entertainment from the Chicago exhibition, including the Cairo streets. He made two attempts, starting in 1893; both failed, but some of his workers started shows of their own.

Around the same time, British showmen Frank Bostock and brothers Francis and Joseph Ferari arrived in New York, offering animal-based carnival fare. Early in the 1900s there were nearly a score of traveling carnivals, many offering entertainment inspired by the Midway Plaisance exhibits; by 1937, the number had reached 300. There are still more than 220 in the United States. (None are based in Nevada, but California has 17.)

The Midway also encouraged the development of such stationery amusement parks as Coney Island.

Traveling carnivals often attach themselves to exhibitions like street fairs and agricultural shows. Some are independent, but when they show up in conjunction with another event, they are usually known as the Midway, typically positioned between the entrance and the main attraction. The modern elements include food stands and rides, games of chance and skill that may not always have been on the up-and-up, and sideshows, though these are becoming politically correct shadows of their former selves.

This year, Burning Man regional organizations were invited to populate Black Rock City's own Midway, occupying the area surrounding the Funhouse at the base of the Man. The idea is to satirize the hucksterism of Default World midways, turning "the grifting into gifting." In Tuesday's edition we'll highlight a few of these. 🐷

The Black Rock Beacon 10 Years Ago

Tuesday, August 30, 2005
Histrionics Edition

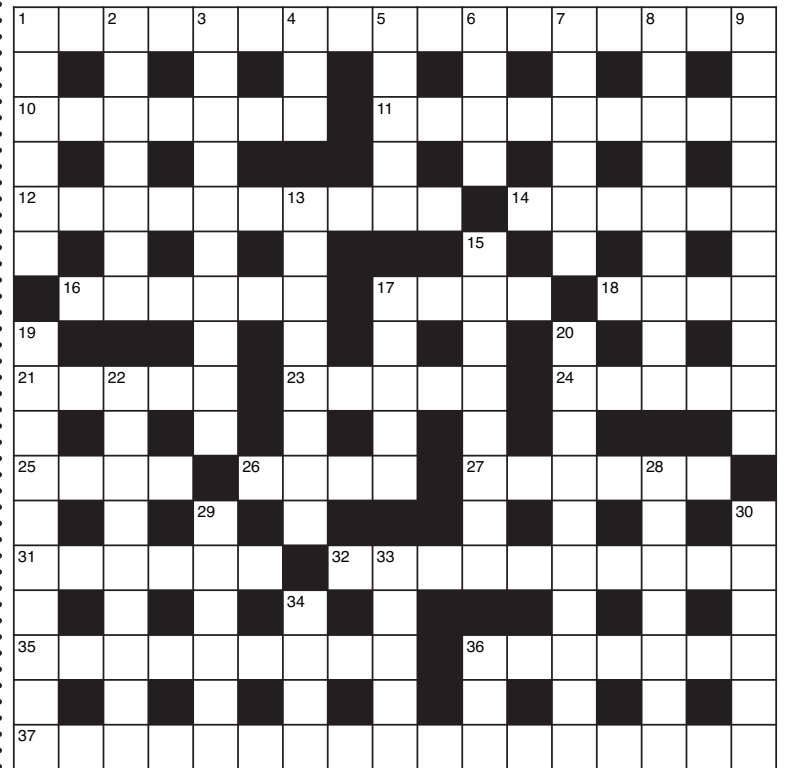
Greetings, ladies and germs. For 10 years, this little corner of our tabloid regaled you with Burning Man history as reported in our illustrious predecessor, the Black Rock Gazette. But now, what's new is old: this is the 11th year of the Black Rock Beacon, so we can gaze back into our own past. The year was 2005, the theme was Psyche, and here's what we reported:

Smaze welcomed 40,000 Burners to the playa and to the Beacon, noting our motto: Lux, Veritas, Lardum (Light, Truth, Bacon). "If you're a vegetarian, get over it."

It was Borg vs. Borg in a battle for the arts and minds of Black Rock. Celebs Chicken John and Jim Mason sought to wrest control of art grants from the Burning Man Organization with Borg2. If they raised \$250,000 and funded amazing art, the existing Borg would consider changes to its subsidies policy. In the end, Borg2 raised less than 10 percent of its goal, but it helped fund crowd favorite Dance Dance Immolation and the old Borg subsequently dropped the requirement that works reflect the annual theme. 🐷

PERPETRATORS OF THE BLACK ROCK BEACON: Ali Baba, president. Naughty Zed, treasurer & stunt double. Mitchell Martin, publisher & editor. Smash, editor. rednikki, editor. Larry Breed, tino kaiwhakatika tārua. Rockstar, camp manager. Francis Wenderlich, artist. Mrs. Lucky, deep thinker. Suzanne Zalev, editor in absentia. Taymar & WeeGee, photographers on hiatus. Durgy, doer of stuff. Lena Kartzov, design diva. Sunami, wave of repair. **STAFF THIS ISSUE:** Editor, Smash. Layout & Masthead, Lena Kartzov. Production Goddess, Naughty Zed. Writers, Mitch, Smash, Curious, Mrs. Lucky, rednikki, Durgy. Photographers, Angie, Taymar. Illustrator, Fancy Nancy. Thanks to jeffjonesillustration.com for use of the masthead pig.

BRAINTEASERS BY DURGY



ACROSS

- 1 Make carrion from rivals in funhouse (8,2,7)
- 10 9 to 5, he went back to the Assyrian capital (7)
- 11 Elves diet in a way on air (9)
- 12 Boundary for the capital of Louisiana reproduction (10)
- 14 Sundial you lost in a tizzy on the water locked tract (6)
- 16 Rioted about the reviewer (6)
- 17 Purported path of the basic origin (4)
- 18 Goes mad for people's self esteems (4)
- 21 Some paint roses for a brief beginning (5)
- 23 Beef type for a Scot? (5)
- 24 A true other French (5)
- 25 Most lapse at the church recess (4)
- 26 Jim Morrison portal? (4)
- 27 Three disoriented somehow now repudiate (6)
- 31 Use oil in bed and got bubbling (6)
- 32 Ant I hold on to release moisturizer (4,6)
- 35 Says something about south mountains not being safe (6,3)
- 36 Retiles to make sanitary (7)
- 37 Like Pinocchio without stipulations (2,7,8)

DOWN

- 1 Four candidates, fifty middlemen, one light source (6)
- 2 Meander about and gave an aka (7)
- 3 Contained vat ignition without a grand request to come along (10)
- 4 Flash removes Florida fire remnants (3)
- 5 Outdoor or not best (5)
- 6 Ass primarily makes us less earnest (4)
- 7 One verse to edit (6)
- 8 Makes laughs not attack (9)
- 9 Mistresses table offerings? (4,6)
- 13 To read some Orwell to the bullfighter (8)
- 15 Last child spoiled, unevenly balanced (8)
- 17 Hardship for second Frankenstein assistant (5)
- 19 Bats laid in destroyed DC reservoir (5,5)
- 20 Vain queen's constellation (10)
- 22 How delicious spill stains set (9)
- 28 Thin scrap if I wash (7)
- 29 Baker has the first egg container (6)
- 30 Denied stirringly, most assuredly (6)
- 33 Stakes obscured a nest (5)
- 34 It's 12 either way (4)
- 36 Group put in place (3)



THINKERS BURNERS SHOULD KNOW

Ralph Waldo Emerson

BY MRS. LUCKY

Ralph Waldo Emerson loosens his linen stock, strolls the Esplanade, book in hand, straw-hat shading his bluff of a nose. Is it the hat he wore to visit Thoreau? I don't ask. He is, after all, the patriarch of American letters.

It's Sunday morning. The gate hasn't opened. We turn in at the Keyhole. A bike cuts by, rider bare-breasted, booty-shorts, tin cup clanging on her tool belt. Does scanty garb offend Emerson's 19th-Century sensibilities? "To the contrary," he says, tarrying on a description of a nude dinner party and Margaret Fuller's transparent gown. Transcendentalists had fun you know.

At Center Camp we stand below the circle of open sky, gazing up into the oculus. Flags spank the wind. Emerson opens his book and reads from "Gifts."

A gift of fruit is like music out of a workhouse.

The only gift is a portion of thyself.

We do not quite forgive a giver.

The hand that feeds us is in some danger of being bitten.

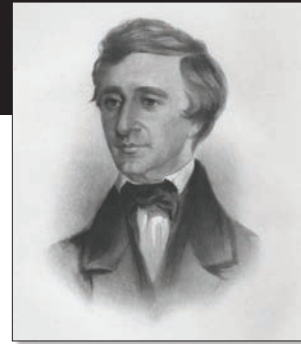
We can receive anything from

love, for that is a way of receiving

it from ourselves; but not from any

one who assumes to bestow.
If the gift pleases me overmuch, I

am ashamed that the donor should



read my heart, and see that I love his commodity, and not him.

The expectation of gratitude is continually punished by the total insensitivity of the obliged person.

Rectitude scatters favors on every side without knowing it, and receives with wonder the thanks of all people.

There are persons from whom we always expect fairy-tokens; let us not cease to expect them.

They eat your service like apples, and leave you out. But love them, and they feel you and delight in you all the time.

Emerson closes the book, and looks up again — his face lit from within and without. Behind us, plywood groans as artists hammer their final installations. A person across the way is shooing us out. I go to her to tell her that I'm showing Ralph Waldo Emerson around, but when I look back he is gone.

Ralph Waldo Emerson (May 25, 1803 — April 27, 1882) was an American essayist, lecturer and poet who led the Transcendentalist movement of the mid-19th century. He was seen as a champion of individualism

ALMANAC

Black Rock City begins this year right after a full Moon, offering great nighttime illumination at the start of the event, and, like much of life, deteriorating from there. As the city opens on Sunday, the Moon will rise in the East mere minutes after the last of Sol's rays lighten the western sky. After that, Selene will come to the party about 40 minutes later each night, diminishing to her last quarter on Burn Night, when she'll appear about half past midnight (technically on Sunday). Once risen, the satellite will stay in the sky for the rest of the evening every night this year.

Sunday • August 30

BLACK ROCK CITY
2015 OPENS • 10:00 A.M.
Sunset • 7:34 P.M.
Twilight ends • 8:03 P.M.
Moon rise • 8:12 P.M.

Monday • August 31

First light • 5:54 A.M.
Sunrise • 6:22 A.M.
Sunset • 7:33 P.M.
Twilight ends • 8:01 P.M.
Moon rise • 8:50 P.M.

Tuesday • September 1

First light • 5:55 A.M.
Sunrise • 6:23 A.M.

courtesy of SunriseSunset.com

and a prescient critic of the countervailing pressures of society. He disseminated his thoughts through dozens of published essays and more than 1,500 public lectures across the United States. 🐷

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