**MAN PROBLEMS, MOSTLY RESOLVED**

**BY ALEX BREGER**

Finally! A Man in Black Rock City with his head on straight. As you all have surely noticed, the Man is now upright and has his head. After much hard work, crews were able to get him into place and attach his head Tuesday evening and he was lit soon thereafter.

According to sources close to the Beacon, there were numerous construction delays due to high winds, rain and shattering bolts. The Man was upside down when Beacon staff arrived early Friday pre-Gate. It was decided by the construction team that once the workings of the Man couldn’t be repaired as intended, he should simply be put into place and given his head so that he may be burned properly.

Underneath the Man, the Medici Court is open and full of life. The various guilds are set up and greeting curious burners. There is a wide variety of displays and interactive experiences in the Court, creating an atmosphere of curiosity and learning.

There are five sculptures set up around the base of the Man in Medici Court, but if you find your way to the area behind the Man, you will find a creation of Matthew Davis entitled Disco Sphere. Matthew first conceived of the lighted steel Sphere almost ten years ago.

The interactive sculpture was designed and engineered in New York City and welded in Portland, Maine. Matthew and his girlfriend, Charlotte Omnes, drove themselves with the Sphere in tow 3000 miles in three days, to arrive in Black Rock City on Saturday, and have been working tirelessly on installation ever since.

The Disco Sphere is an interactive sculpture that moves through human power and serves as a bridge for Leonardo Da Vinci’s drawing of the Vitruvian man from a two-dimensional image to a three-dimensional, interactive experience. It is just one of the many impressive works of art scattered all across the Playa this week.

**THE EVENT’S FUTURE, SPECULATED**

**BY REECY PONTIFF**

Burning Man organizers were assured that there would be no undercover law enforcement officers present at this year’s event, said Larry Harvey, Burning Man’s founder.

“We need law enforcement here,” Harvey said. “We’re a big city.

Gradually, he said, law enforcement agencies “will come to realize they need us as much as we need them.”

Speaking at a press conference on Wednesday, Harvey touched on the growing divide between self-sufficient participants and plug-and-play camps — prepackaged camps built by hired hands rather than participants themselves. He said Burning Man could help solve “the supposed division between the one percent and the other 99.”

“Let’s start in our little corner of the world where the very wealthy and the middle class can come together,” Harvey said.

The organization has mandated that only theme camps receive early placement, according to Harvey. In defense of the gray area where the very wealthy and the middle class can come together, Harvey said, “Do you know how many nannies there are out here?”

Heather White, managing director of people and operations, encouraged participants to have conversations with neighbors whose camps did not present a welcoming front, to help educate them on Burning Man principles and culture.

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Touching briefly on the rising cost of tickets, Harvey said that the BMOrg is “going to have to square away the money” if it wants to continue its impact on the world.

While demand for the event grows, the organization is working internally and with the BLM on the logistics of expanding Black Rock City’s population. The two-lane county road that leads to the Playa is a limitation that the BMOrg has begun addressing through alternative mass transit such as the Burner Express air and bus services.

BMOrg is also working on an event lead mentor pilot program, which matches regional event leads worldwide with BM leadership, according to Regional Network Associate Director Meghan Ratigliano. Though there was no extra funding for projects this year, there are more art pieces, Harvey said. He also said that fewer pieces are being burned so they can be shown off-Playa after the event.

However, the scale of the burnable pieces this year is impressive, said BMOrg Director of Education Stuart Mangrum. Though he could not confirm that any of this year’s burnable art had the largest known footprint, Fire Arts safety manager Dave X did say that the Catacomb of Veils was the “largest pile of lumber” he’s ever seen ready to burn at this event.

**Burning Man vs Brain Surgery**

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**BY ELLY MANCINELLI**

Observe the island that is Black Rock City from the top of the cluster of lighthouses located at 12:00 and 3900, deep Playa. An amazing view awaits you especially when the lights are on!

This stunning installation measures 60’ x 70’ x 70’ and is the brain child of father and son team Jonny and Max Poynton from Oakland, California. This ambitious dream project was first built at American Steel in Oakland, then partly dissembled and into stacked sections, which were reconstituted in Truckee, California, with final assembly on the Playa. The structure came in on five 18-wheelers stacked to the gills.

The main lighthouses were all named after goddesses with each lighthouse having its own interior designer. Artemis was designed by Gretchen, Coco by Rebecca, Ely by Gabriella, Brigid by Raven and Megan. And finally, perhaps the most magical lighthouse, Parga, was designed by Mirrorbowlers who hailed all the way from Japan. Mirrorbowlers used crowd funding to bring resources to their vision. Together Toshiki, Peta and Kitaron designed the crystal structure made of magic film and the thinnest of Japanese paper. American Steel made the 120 brass frames that provide the crystal with structure. Before the burn, the magic film will be replaced by Japanese paper.

While Max and Jonny wanted to build something and have fun, the Mirrorbowlers intended on creating a sacred place dedicated to world peace. This balance of fun, self-expression, and a vision for a better world captures Burning Man for many.

The lighthouses burn right after the Man - until then you can watch it shoot flames as it acts as a beacon of hope for wanderers in the deep Playa.
KOI IN THE POND

BY DRUNKEN HOUSEWIFE AND SOBER HUSBAND

This year Burners can visit a uniquely contemplative fenced courtyard adorned with an koi pond. Artist Joe Joe Martin created an unusually thoughtful and nuanced piece, located at 12:45 at 2300’ in the open playa. Martin’s goal was a “cohesive use of space” where the work fits its environment uniquely. The courtyard, which mimics the shape of the trash fence, and the Japanese torii gate leading into the courtyard is designed so that on September 1, the sun will rise in perfect alignment with the bridge. The construction was painstaking, with Martin taking pains in sending each each piece so that everything is smooth and pleasing to the touch. The torii gate is a masterpiece of construction which used no screws and no nails. All cuts were guided by hand without the use of CNC.

Within the painstakingly carved and shaded fence lies a pond where both recorded and simulated koi swim beneath a graceful arched Japanese bridge. Martin recorded koi in Fruitvale, Oakland for the footage. Starting in September 1, the sun will rise in perfect alignment with the bridge. The construction was painstaking, with Martin taking pains in sending each each piece so that everything is smooth and pleasing to the touch. The torii gate is a masterpiece of construction which used no screws and no nails. All cuts were guided by hand without the use of CNC.

After Burning Man the fence will be given to Burners Without Borders. Martin is in talks to possibly show the interactive koi pond at the Exploratorium in San Francisco.

Martin developed his concept during his tenure as a visiting artist at Autodesk, where he could play in the finest machine shop he has seen. The installation was created in a short time after Martin and his wife returned from their honeymoon. The Koi Pond is an Honorarium project supported by burnmangrouping.com.

A woman in a slick leather jacket wandered around the inner playa – “I love this place!” She is alone in a foreign country, here to take part in a 70,000-person experiment – the American West. She was at the koi pond supposedly meeting her with a tent and a kite is nowhere to be found. Her tempo- rary helper and guide for the evening was a turtle who she left at home. But at the moment of occurrence it was surely daunting. So sometimes goes the experience of those Black Rock City citizens traveling from overseas.

People residing outside the U.S. made up 20.4 percent of Black Rock City in 2015 and come here from nearby and far destinations as far away as China to join her Mazu camp. Overseas citizenship is the future of Burning Man. “It’s a new thing.”

“Inch is a remanu Burning from Taiwan. Her American friends had long relayed the wonder of Black Rock City to her and finally she made it out in 2005. Burning culture is a far cry from Chinese culture, and she said she’s learned a lot.

“We have a different background and way of thinking,” she said. “Before I joined Burning Man I never thought about Leave No Trace or gifts... It’s a new thing.”

Inch is a project coordinator for Dream Community Foundation that assists in community art projects in rural Taiwanese villages. After three consecutive Burns, she was able to organize a sculpture - "Island of the Black Rock" and "Mazu Temple", but only with the help of a Reno build crew.

This year she convinced around 25 people from Taiwan and mainland China to join her Mazu camp, 10 of whom quit their jobs to assist with the building of the camp and art car. Their funding ran out two days before their trek from Reno and Inch had to think quick. She loaded up their art car which was not street legal – with all of the camp’s gear to make 4.5 hour drive to the Playa at 50 miles an hour. Everything wouldn’t fit in one load, so they had to make two trips, fingers crossed they would not be nailed, as overlanders gasked.

“I know it’s not legal or right, but I had no choice,” Inch said.

Patches is the volunteer coor- dinator at Nowhere, the Spanish regional Burn. As a three-time Burner, she recalls her first year here as a tough slog.

“I felt very lonely,” Patches said, and “my backpack was just my cor- set, my coat and my spices.”

But after a few years on the Playa, she has friends who hold onto some gear for her.

“Everyone admires us for coming from so far away,” Patches said. “Burning Man is a big challenge for those coming from overseas. You have to put in 200 percent, Inch said.”

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THE BELGIAN CREATOR OF UCHRONIA REALLY LIKED HIS MANTICHE MOUTH BEING CALLED THE BELGIAN WAFFLE: “If they understand woodstrosity made out of wooden ingredients in advance (6), 13 Somber memories (9) 12 Insectivorous bird enthusiast (7) 11 Being wild, entice sex (9) 10 56 Functional keys (6) 55 Patches would by her to do the cooking for the crew. She is a skilled chef and if you cut through that outer skin, you will discover the resulting work only under a license identical to this one. These conditions may be waived if you obtain permission from The Black Rock Beacon. No tied rights are granted by these conditions. For more information, see our Publication License.