**I, ROBOT**

BY CURIOUS

Will look who’s here! You made it. That ride in a bitch, isn’t it? I hope you had a soft landing. You think you’re somewhere, like somewhere cool, but actually you’re not. You’re cheap. You’re woeful, and that defies definition until you define it. The City is just a template; you, in all your splendor, is the fourth dimension. It’s no accident you’re here, or maybe it is. There are no accidents or it’s all an accident, and sometimes where we’re screwing up is just rocking on our porch on Man, We’ll figure that one out.

But for now, how odd is it that you (and 10 of thousands of our closest primitive friends) of the billion possible people on this planet, happen to be here. Going nowhere, love. Bringer it, with whatever masochistic curiosity or inertial instruction landed us on this dusty playground, this cosmic desert full of eons.

Are you new to the City? Everybody is a Virgin here. Black Rock City incarnates every year and even the closest of us can’t step into this same river twice.

I don’t know about you, but my favorite thing about Decommunification is–it’s nice to stop obsessing about filthy lute for one solid week, to have other-than-humanist interactions with humans, which seem to be 99% of the deal these days. The Playa restores the art and the act of gifting to its noblest intention. Fancy, worth the price of admission alone.

For once, people might approach to help or offer or give and they’re not trying to sell you something. This is a unique community of weird and nonweird (who are they? robots?) people who have a soft landing. You think you’re somewhere, like the cats who built that movie the hour days you might already be putting in, like the bears, and tens of thousands of voices and ideas, and possibly more.

Interviewing him was like trout fishing. You cast your questions into his stream of consciousness. You’d get a response from him, but that’s what you’d get anyway.

As a kid Larry Harvey planned to change the world. He got a slow start. He was 30 before he earned a living. He had only one friend for attracting supportive sponsors. He lived with an elementary school teacher. He won the bread. He took the community and they served human beings via automated forms of labor. We were also alive, and defeated human together. This year, with the many forms of artificial intelligence permeating the Playa, from the humble algorithm and its subscript, the portable and abstract to the behemoth Puppet Girl, blockchain-based self-expli-

Pleading for caution for Mr. Roboto

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HERRSHELL STREET

In the constellation Hercules, 9.5 light years from Black Rock City, can be found an otherwise-unremarkable G-type main-sequence star by the name 61 Virgo. For about two years the SETI project, which searches for extraterrestrial intelligence, has received anomalous signals from that patch of sky. Ilya Barannikov and Soul Oceans want us to talk about it.

"In the past We Miss Each Other," a fantasy short story modeled after drawings of the ones seen at Roswell in 1947, will be your close encounter of the Playa kind. Combining a kick-ass woven steel frame, a tessaform aluminum structure reinforced with a cabling system, and an otherworldly holographic kyra sheet, Mylar laminated plywood sheet and kinetic aspects, every night its LED lights will burn to Celsius to install the configuration like Richard Feynman to Dettos Tower.

"When I was a child, that unlike art that’s political and about the here and now, it wanted to do something that moves forward and doesn’t reflect society. [feynman] will actually go by the name of the 9.5 years, traveling longer than any of us will be alive. I’m looking to pivot people’s attention from things happening on this planet now to a larger stage."

The project team is called Soul Oceans. Barannikov has pulled together 30 specialists to send communications and other specialists from NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory and California Institute of Technology (both in Pasadena, a community full of space brains).

Because any message transmitted will take 9.5 years to reach whatever—or whoever—in 61 Virgin’s area of the sky, ‘senders’ should feel in their bones that ‘their message is going to be heard by someone they’ll never meet, their messages will be transmitted, and all the things we think up being received, will all be lost long, unless there’s some really healthy nonminding nonthinking baby who leaves one.”

A Plea of Caution

Welcome to Numbness complete every square hectare of this seething vil

Black Rock City begins this year under a full moon that will provide its pale light right through dawn every day. It will rise just as the last rays of sunlight fades on Sunday, and will be shining bright later each day, so if you play the full show, it will become visible after midnight the first day by the time you hit the road.

Sunday • August 20
GATE OPENS • 12:00 a.m.
A full Moon-Burnsville BRC until dawn.
First Light • 5:30 a.m.
Sunrise • 6:17 a.m.
Beg and Breakfast • 7:54 a.m.
Moonrise • 8:07 a.m.
Moon rise • 8:38 a.m.

Monday • August 21
The Moon is in its waning phase.
First Light • 5:31 a.m.
Sunrise • 6:18 a.m.
Sunset • 7:39 a.m.
Twilight ends • 8:07 a.m.
Moon rise • 8:38 a.m.

Tuesday • August 22
The Moon is in its waning phase. You pee toward the sky! (2)

The Sun and Moon times assume you are on a flat plain with clear views to the horizon. Sun and Moon times for a flat plain ringed by mountains, so the heavens are closed at the horizon, will be 10 to 20 minutes later and set 20 minutes earlier than the times listed.

Calculations are based on the GPS coordinates for the Golden Spike, with corrections applied for local time. As provided by Burning Man (tinyurl.com/brightspike2018), that’s 40°38′44″N 103°42′52″W, which has been virtually unchanged for at least three years.

Elsewhere on its site, Burning Man gives 40°38′12.8″N 117°39′20.7″E (equivalent to 40°38′32″N 117°39′32″) which is the unit on Route 40 for the Gate Road. Sun/Moon data courtesy of SunSail.com

ICE SALE

Sunday • August 28
Center Camp & 9/10 Plaza
(far S04 of the 5:50 Plaza)
 Noon – 8 p.m.

Monday • August 29
Begins regular schedule on Saturday
Center Camp & 9/10 Plaza: 9:00 a.m. – 4 P.M.

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