

# THE BLACK ROCK GAZETTE

## MERCOWE • fo NOMIERS

### Post-modern Environmentalism

The post-apocalypse is no place for tree-huggers. In fact, there are no trees to hug. In Black Rock City, there are no facilities that billow toxic gases on the masses. The only fumes here are from artifacts we ignite in the name of psychic release. Yet, here where there are no endangered species to protect, lies a clarity beyond the buzzwords of contemporary environmentalism.

Here, true modern environmentalism makes us radical deserters, for there truly is "nothing" here to protect. Removed from forced consumerism, we decompress in the stark openness of a nature where our bodies remind us that the difference between life and death is a gallon of water. Choosing each item we carry to this clean slate, we become keenly aware of what is for our survival and what is for "color" on the social palette of Black Rock City. We celebrate the simple triumph of a head of lettuce in our cooler, keenly aware of our dependence on ice, and the combustion of fuels. Removed from the coddling grid of civilization,



HMS Love Boat, 2:00 playa, Burning Man 1999 (WHO TOOK THIS PHOTO?)

we are forced to confront our own stream of waste, and must choose to take responsibility, or let it become a crippling threat to the fabric of our city's life. Yet, through this reflection at our selves and our surroundings one heartfelt message sprouts: this is our home. The blank canvas that invites our ephemeral existence is, in its barren nature, the seed of Burning Man's future, our survival, and hope.

If we want to continue to exist here, we must take care of our home. If by our sheer numbers we trample the rights of others who

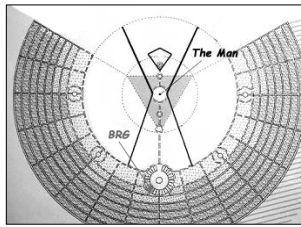
also call the desert playa home, then only with hypocrisy might we expect our freedom to return to be respected. Within this framework, environmentalism means we're all in this together. One need not be a tree-hugger to appreciate this simple requirement of our continuing existence. One only needs the desire to return to nowhere; to understand the strange passionate yearning the wide open emptiness instills. In order to be welcomed back among the migrating tribes of the Black Rock Desert, we must absolutely vanish without a trace. ■■■

### Man in the Sky

MUMBLIN REVEREND

The centerpiece of this year's playa bacchanal will be a mile-long elevated laser scribed pictograph of the Burning Man logo. Etched into the night sky and representative of this year's theme, "The Body", this colossal figure will be a living art gallery. Upon and within this body, many artists will position their hyper-real interpretations of the body parts in pieces they've created in the spirit of our event.

Stretching out in the concave arc that is the map of Black Rock City, this giant form will be projected from a series of thirty-foot towers. The familiar outline will become our communal Black Rock City playground, as much as our bodies are the theme.



The laser man was conceived and designed by Larry Harvey, and Russel Wilcox, a physicist currently at Lawrence Livermore National Lab. The concept and creation of a construction of his scale in the desert was a technological challenge ideally suited to Russel's skills. Wilcox, who holds four patents in laser technology, is also the designer of a subsystem for a billion dollar laser project, and has invented new methods for generating light pulses used in laser fusion research. He is also an avid video cinematographer, and former film grad student of San Francisco State University. Mr. Harvey is known for his hat.



"Isn't this a lot of work for just one erection?"

### WHY WE TAG CAMERAS

— a message from Media Mecca

Burning Man is radically inclusive. This means we never prejudge people. It is not necessary to belong to some particular clique or subculture to gain acceptance in Black Rock City. This is a place to do and be; and anyone can be a part of our community. This same basic rule also applies to members of the media. We have always welcomed the participation of journalists because we think we have a story to tell to the world.

burn burn burn burn burn burn burn burn  
**Hopelessly bitter,** **SAGE** **advice**  
unusually blunt, frequently biased, mostly honest... your Sage, will answer ALL your (dumb) burning questions, or Sage isn't obviously your (opinionated) friend. Trust the Sage. Sage is your friend. \*SMÖCKH\* Write your "Dear Sage" questions down, and drop them by during business hours at the BRGazette City Desk. O.K?

Over the years, we have learned to supply journalists with plenty of context, for it is stories without context – movies, videography or articles that focus on sensational and superficial features of the event – that have the power to harm our community. We require all journalists to learn about Burning Man. We ask them to live here, and experience Black Rock City for themselves. We are also ready to exclude the media. In 1999, MTV proposed to film at our event without cooperating in this process. \$10,000 in legal fees later, and through the threat of law, we prevented MTV from broadcasting a show they had touted on national television.

Our careful filtering of media coverage also extends to our policy regarding cameras on the playa. We tag cameras that record moving images, whether for public or private use, and ask people to sign Use Agreements. We do this for two reasons: commercial exploitation and privacy.

In a world awash in images, it is impossible to control to what use an image is put. The collection of imagery must be controlled at the source. We object to the commercial exploitation of material collected in (JUMP TO PAGE 2)

### What's Cookin' at the Café

Center Camp Café might be described as an urban jewel adorning the body of Black Rock City. Twenty-four hours a day for the duration of the event, you can get a world-class latte or a chai, hear music and see diverse performances in the café's four different environments. This is the place to meet your friends or make new ones in some welcome shade. Check your daily Gazette, or tune into Radio Free Burning Man (99.5 FM) for updates. The Center Camp Café... in the center of the center. No reservations.

### POETRY CORNER (man)

**Attention Citizens!!!** Do you feel: Confused? Alone? Not-so-fresh? Want to make a difference (but don't know how)? Well, can't help you with those things (sorry). But what I can do is offer a place where you can say/do/be anything – kind of like the playa itself, man, only this is a playa of the mind. Only, it's in, like, a corner. I'm talking about poetry; brilliant, brutal or beautiful. We need your best... (can I take that back?) We deMAND your best burning poetry for the Gazette! "Please." Ladies and gents, animals and aliens, freaks and geeks, deposit your gems and camp jewels at the City Desk so that all may delight intersecting with your emissions. Include credits and contact info, like "Your Beloved Poetry Editor, Captain Yum Yum, BRC." Get published in the Poetry Corner of the Black Rock Gazette, man!

*"It is difficult to get the news from poems yet men die miserably every day for lack of what is found there."*  
– William Carlos Williams



### FIND Waldo!

Each day, a participant will be randomly selected (without their knowledge) to be Black Rock City's "Waldo!" If you see him/her in the crowd, shower them with gifts, hugs, food, invitations, and your best Jerry Lewis impression. Make Waldo! happy. If you can find our Waldo! and have made him/her truly happy, drop by to tell us. (Bring us a melon.) We might even give you a prize: Waldo's Angel Wings, a beer, or a hug or something like that.



### A Message from Media Mecca

All film, video and DVD (motion-capturing) cameras must be tagged, and a use agreement signed, whether for public or private use. Use agreements are available at the Greeters, Check Point Salon and Ranger Outposts. Professional media must report to the Recovery Room at Media Mecca for proper probing. (See "Why We Tag Cameras" in this issue of the Gazette.)



### BRC GRC EMP GRC BRC BUS

Again, this year, Burning Man will provide public transportation on a loop from Black Rock City to Gerlach and Empire and back. Bus tickets will be sold just prior to the departure of each bus; no "advanced ticket sales." Tickets are \$5. Please note:

- Each person must present a BMAN ticket stub to purchase a bus ticket; one ticket per customer. You must be dressed appropriately for town, and be not obviously under the influence of intoxicants.
- The bus ticket is only your boarding pass to get on the bus. Your BMAN ticket stub is your re-entry ticket to Black Rock City. The bus will make only scheduled stops, so to re-board the bus, riders must show one of the following combinations:
  - (a) a BMAN ticket stub and bus ticket, or
  - (b) a BMAN ticket stub and Gate in/out token. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- For schedules, locations, additional rules, regulations and more, ask for the book in Center Camp at Check Point Salon.



### 911

In the event of an emergency contact a Black Rock Ranger; or contact the Rangers Dispatch Center with a CB or HAM radio.  
CB: Channel 9  
HAM: 2m:144.400 100 PL/CTCSS tone  
HAM: 70cm:444.400 "

Dispatch monitors all three channels, 24 hours a day. Be prepared to state your name, location (theme camp, landmarks, intersection), and the nature of the emergency. Try to remain in radio contact with the dispatcher until the Rangers arrive on scene. For more information, visit the Ranger Headquarters in Center Camp.



### Burning Man Archive

This year we'll have Official Playa Collectors walking around to collect samples of the unique and bizarre creations you have made for your Burning Man 2000 experience. You can donate your stuff to them, or make a donation at the Artery in Center Camp. Burning Man manages a growing archive of images, video tapes, flyers, drawings, art and other artifacts. Many of these items have made it into a traveling, evolving Burning Man art show. This show has been hosted by galleries and art commissions in "LEFT IS LEFT" ... ALWAYS CONT'D ON PAGE 2)

fire haiku: somewhere the desert > burns with fire unseen elsewhere > welcome to NOWhere

And now cried Max, let the wild rumpus start! Maurice Sendak  
 "The highest art is the art of living an ordinary life in an extraordinary manner." N Tibetan saying  
 Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever  
 - Margaret Meade  
 "Life is like Sanskrit read to a pony." N Lou Reed

THE BLACK ROCK GAZETTE IS A THEME CAMP AND A NEWSPAPER TEAM STAFFED BY BURNING MAN VOLUNTEERS WHO OPERATE THE PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICE OF THE SAME NAME IN BLACK ROCK CITY. OPINIONS EXPRESSED HEREIN DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF THE PLAYA SHIKEN. (BUT, SHEEK BAEK TSMRRRW.) READ AT YOUR OWN RISK. REMEMBER. THE BLACK ROCK GAZETTE, THE ZONE, CENTER CAMP, BLACK ROCK CITY, NV BRG@BURNINGMAN.COM BLACK ROCK CITY LLC © 2000 (MORE MOUSE TYPE AND SMALL STUFF THAT YOU'RE NOT NECESSARILY SUPPOSED TO KNOW.) PROMOTING THE LIFE OF THE PLAYA MIND SINCE 1992 Recycled Paper

San Francisco, Reno, Chicago and Los Angeles. After the event, you may send relics to the Burning Man office in San Francisco. Thank YOU!

Volunteers manage a number of services to help you find yourself, your camp, leave messages, or locate your friends.  
 ¥ The Dynamic Board at the Greeters station lets you indicate your location. Bring your own push pins to the giant map of BRCity. (There's an evil twin dynamic board in Center Camp, but it's not official.)  
 ¥ The Find a Camp board is maintained at Burning Bell, 6:00 Center Camp. Leave paper-based messages for pick-up.  
 ¥ The BRCity Directory is a more discreet listing service, located at Check Point Salon. Just fill out a card and tell your friends how you're indexed to find the information.

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For contact and more info, see:  
<http://www.ihot.com/~maquiao/BM2K/>

Find out what's happening!  
 Tune in to Big Bear Ranger Radio  
 Show every afternoon at 3:00.  
 Radio Free Burning Man 99.5  
 FM, of course!

Please! Don't dig holes in the playa for a generator or any other reason.  
 Holes leave a trace.

# WHERE THE IN Crowd Goes

BY DOC SQUAT  
 Coprophilia is the love of shit. Coprophagy is eating shit. Although these qualities may be unbearably common (perhaps even promoted) in the everyday workplace, they're not so common on the playa. In fact, the conditions are so rare that the standard textbook on psychology, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV) doesn't even mention them. It does list encopresis, the repeated passage of feces into inappropriate places N but(t) encopresis is only mentioned in the discussion of 1% of five-year-olds. No problem on the playa, right? Wrong.  
 Outhouses are mandated by the state health department! Shit is just not a healthy thing to leave lying about. Oh sure, bake it for a few days

at 104 degrees and it loses most of its aromatic potency, but it's sure it gets smeared about in everyone else's camp, and into places where modern hygiene becomes a distasteful challenge. By the time it's filtered from the sun, the little bugs from your butt hole survive even longer, perhaps to be dissolved and dissipated over the entire playa when the rains come. One word there; yuck. And, while it's true that the ancient bottom of Lake Lahontan is covered under thousands of feet of dead fish shit, that dump is pre-historic. You and your shit are still alive!  
 So flex your sphincters, proud citizens, and do your duty where the In-Crowd goes. A special effort has been made to make those cozy hospitality huts available in a neighborhood very near you! As your mother undoubtedly warned, consider going early to avoid the rush. Though we try to be open-minded about others' nesting habits, specimen displays and proclaimed works of art, those little brown piles just won't cut it this year.

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Black Rock City. We have never allowed the name or images of Burning Man to be regarded as a commodity N to be bought and sold independently of the experience of this event. Nor will we allow these images to be used to sell products. Burning Man will NOT become one of the "United colors of Bennetton," nor will you see yourself pictured in a Nike ad.  
 Privacy. More than half of our population probably brings a camera to Black Rock City. It's only natural that people would want to capture memories. We eagerly await sharing our printed photographs when we return home. And, Burning Man publishes many of these images of yours on the Burning Man web site. We do, however, require all photographers during the event, whenever it is possible, to ask permission from anyone they feature as a special photographic subject. Furthermore, we license ALL motion-capturing (video, film, DVD, etc.) equipment by requiring registration with Burning Man's Media Mecca department volunteers. A Use Agreement is signed, and the issued tag must be prominently displayed on all motion-capturing devices in Black Rock City. Do you really want to be featured, stripped naked, as a character in an amateur "adult" video?

The sign at the front gate says: "No Film or Video Without Permission." This is the beginning of our communication to the community about our rules on the collection and use of photographic imagery. If the camera is for personal use, you can pick up a form from the Gate, Greeters, Check Point Salon or Ranger Outposts. Professional media will also have a visibly distinct tag of their own. Professional media tags are an indication that they've participated in an initiation and have agreed to our rules.

Should you encounter a person with an un-tagged camera, suggest they check in at any of the above listed stations, to sign an agreement in cooperation with Burning Man. If you have an immediate problem, please contact a Ranger. If you feel your privacy may have been compromised, report the person and the tag number from their equipment to a Media Mecca volunteer in Center Camp, Black Rock City.

Silence is sometimes the best answer. N the Dalai Lama

CHRISTOPHER DYER

You, dear reader, are obviously some sort of mad fool. Exactly what kind of person would abandon all modern comforts to spend a week in the confines of this desert oasis? What the hell are you doing in nowhere? Certainly you didn't spend weeks planning to survive this pilgrimage N socking away supplies like some strung-out religious zealot N simply to bear witness to a wood and neon statue going up in flames. Now-here, you are a citizen of an ephemeral city; founded on the premise that every one of us is contributing to the wondrous, demented endeavors for which our temporary community is, the world over, famous.  
 To be among the "radically inclusive" might be the experience we seek, but this concept was not always popular. Through the mid-nineties things were strikingly different. Burning Man on the playa was more a gathering of underground art groups and friendly subversives; a giant, dusty desert camp with no city limits N where cars ruled the playa. In 1996, the designer of the Man, founder of the event, and one of the original organizers of the desert spectacle, argued that Burning Man should be kept "open" to all. Attendance had been doubling in size every year, and there was a substantial pull to go the opposite direction. Harvey's idea prevailed.  
 The now familiar sights N the theme camps, Pepe's midnight opera, the mad roving living rooms, the bizarre contradiction of someone chas-ing down a cigarette package, twisted on chemicals in a dust storm, so as not to leave a trace N you might not have known that it ever existed.  
 Now, Black Rock City is a true "community." If this is your first burn, you will quickly learn that the oft-used phrase "participants only" isn't just Burning Man jive propaganda N it is the only real way to make sense of the beautiful and the damned. Degenerate, Caligula-type imagery aside, perhaps the larger meaning of this year's theme is: the body of people around you.  
 Here the fast way to find yourself is to become completely lost. Lose yourself in your surroundings; assault your neighbors with treasures. Be a stranger to no one. To hell with the notion of bartering, just go about bearing gifts

Disappearing is a creative

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ingested and excreted by our luminous host.  
 A high degree of precision alignment and stability must be maintained in order to sustain a laser sculpture of this size. The source towers must be stabilized by commercial guy wires, and the bottoms are mounted on a pivot system that compensates at the ground for tilt. In anticipation of the high desert winds, this allows the structure to sway at the bottom, and assures that the tops of the towers move only by a few millimeters. The optics are enclosed but have motorized doors, which are sealed during the day and open only at night, like nocturnal eyes awakened to watch our folly.  
 The giant figures carved into the Nasca Plains of Peru have held humans fascinated long before they were first seen from the air. Their builders probably never saw the finished outlines to scale unless there really were some flying aliens about. We assume that these enormous carvings were part of an ancient tribe's endeavor to explain the experience of corporeal manifestation.  
 No doubt, from a passing plane, Beaming Man will rival the shock of Peru's timeless glyphs. But unlike the Nasca carvings, this mile-long, illuminated figure will last a short while; illuminated through the nights of our time in Nowhere as part of the larger body of citizens in Black Rock City. Yet, both marvels serve to remind us of our most fundamental connection to the natural world: the realization that everything is temporary and eventually will pass to memory and dust.

# Community

POSE NUDE on Friday afternoon for a massive group photograph by Spencer Tunick. Called "Community" this photo event is part of Tunick's Reaction Zone series, which involves the staging of large group photographs that combine the elements of performance, sculpture and installation. Friday, September 1, at 5:00 p.m. sharp! The entire event will take 40 minutes; you will only be nude for a few minutes. Meet at the Man. Wear loose fitting clothing, no costumes, no body paint, no mud, no necklaces, no glasses, no hats, no watches, no jewelry. Tattoos and piercings are fine. In exchange for posing you will have the opportunity to receive a signed print of the event by the artist. Bring friends & family.

# Immediately

Tunick's photo shoot, be part of a fledgling tradition, and participate in the Black Rock Gazette newspaper's annual "The Naked Truth" photo. Pick up your copy of the Black Rock Gazette and wear it, share it, lift it high and proud, and romp for our BRG photographers. Sunglasses, kids, mud and tiaras, O.K. The Naked Truth photo will be published in the BURN edition the very next day and delivered throughout your neighborhood!

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Pythagorean theorem: 24 words  
 The Lord's Prayer: 66 words  
 Archimedes' Principle: 67 words  
 The 10 Commandments: 179 words  
 Gettysburg Address: 286 words  
 Declaration of Independence: 1,300 words  
 U.S. Government regulations on the sales of cabbage: 26,911 words  
 Burning Man: Beyond words  
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# Black Rock Gazette Classifieds

"Greeters have more fun!" Hello! Express yourself while welcoming citizens to the land of the Man. Show up and show off, cause we need you and your friends for a 4 hour shift (they start at 8am) anywhere around the clock. Volunteer Greeters, especially for the night shifts Wednesday-Friday. Come by the Greeters station and ask for a lead greeter, anytime! Experience unnecessary. You'll never forget!