

# THE BLACK ROCK GAZETTE



Today's Waldo!

**FIND HIM!**

... entered Black Rock City yesterday afternoon. Shower him with gifts, invitations and your very best impression of *Danger Ranger!* Give him a melon, **RIGHT NOW!** He's Black Rock City's WALDO for the day! Make Waldo really, truly happy! Bring proof (and a melon) of your success to the City Desk for the grand WALDO's ANGEL WINGS giveaway (you nice person, you!)



## Playa Iron Chefs?

Hone up your desert cooking skills, the Black Rock Gazette is once again hosting a cooking contest. This year's contestants may compete in the following categories:

- Best of Show
- Best Use of Beef Jerky (real or soy)
- Best Use of Fresh Vegetables
- Best Dessert
- Best Kitchen/Dining Set-up

Come by with entries from 4 to 5 on Thursday and Friday. I, *Saida Benguerel*, your *Playa Gourmet*, will also be riding around on the Playa Gourmet Food Mobile checking out people's kitchens and sampling food directly from the source. Winners will be announced in the paper on Saturday.



## Beat The Eternal Heart

Hear ye, hear ye, Burning Man community! Experience the Eternal Heartbeat at the center of the Heart Chakra Playground, past the head of the Man. What is the Eternal Heartbeat, you ask? It is an ongoing community ritual that began at dawn on Tuesday and continues 24 hours a day until the final sunset of Burning Man. Bring your dreams, hopes, and prayers at the Heart Drum Temple so that they may be energized with life. Sign up to drum at any time and for any duration, and help keep the Heart Drum beating. Resonate with the energy of the Heart as a drummer or cosmic pilgrim. No previous drumming experience required.



## See Us From Outer SPaCe

On Friday, September 1st at 10:49 am (11 minutes to 11) there will be a photo shoot from an orbiting satellite, of Black Rock City. The resolution will be 1 metro in B&W and 3 meters in color. This is being arranged by the folks at Black Rock Spaceport (4:20 on the Esplanade). Individuals and their shadows will be viewable at this resolution.

Since it is a day shot, the folks who are doing this are hoping to get the word out so that interested folks can stand on the same coordinates as the Laser Man, in order for the Man icon to be seen in the photos. They are hoping that some folks might take it upon themselves to form human crop circles and other "bizarre phenomena".

For more info, talk to Joe Bullogh from Anon Salon.



## 2-Wheeled Coffee Talk

We all know from past experience that tripping in the Center Cafe can be hazardous. So, for heaven's sake, leave your bikes at the perimeter.

# Oh Desert Living!

## Two Mayors, one playa

SIOEN ROUX

Listen up, citizens. An election battle is brewing in our chaotic paradise. Two men (what? no women?) claim to be the mayor of Black Rock City. One man claims he's been the mayor for the past two years and no election has yet been held. The other says he was voted mayor on Monday, by the people and for the people. It's gonna get ugly, y'all. The bigger question on this journalist's mind is one of legitimacy. Does the Burning Man organization allow the citizens of Black Rock City to hold elections or govern themselves? Is this radical self-expression or radical fascism?

Luckily for your addled Wednesday-morning minds, I braved the bright heat of the afternoon sun and spoke to all the parties involved. Here's the super-jinx lowdown: Self-proclaimed mayor #1: Johnny (of the Playa Cruisers), located near the 9 o'clock outpost. Did he campaign? "I was running unopposed, but I rode up and down these streets, and I gave a campaign speech. There were 12 people present, and I showed them my Johnny and they all agreed I should be the mayor."

Wasn't holding the election on Monday a big ploy to exclude citizens from participating? "Everyone who has heard my speech has said it was the best speech they've heard."

What does Johnny offer the citizens of Black Rock City? "If elected mayor, I promise to do nothing to you and nothing for you. I can be bribed. The more you bribe me, the less I will do for you."

What about the legitimacy question? I spoke to Harley Bierman, and she told me, word for word, 'Go for it.'

Self-proclaimed mayor#2: Brett (pronounce all three-Ts) Roncelli, located at 7:45 and Throat. He'll respond to name-calling if you pronounce it correctly. Why is he circulating ballots, claiming to be the mayor? "I'm the incumbent. If I win this year, it will be my third term. I have a high degree of confidence."

What about Johnny's claim that the elections have been held and Burning Man staff authorized him to be mayor? "He's an impostor... Harley Bierman is on my side. She's one of my campaigners, and I think she was simply telling him that he's free to run. But the elec-



Leave It to Beaver Camp — JOHN O

tion hasn't happened yet."

What about showing his Johnny? I'm happy that Johnny showed his Johnny. I'm 100% behind that."

What does Brett offer the citizens of Black Rock City? "If elected, I'm not going to change very much. Last year, I said I would get us more Portapotties. And that happened, but they diverted the money for them from the toilet paper funds. Have you noticed we have plenty of potties, but no paper?"

But what about the legitimacy of electing a mayor on the playa? I spoke to Larry Harvey, who gave me the super-official highdown: When people become citizens of the city, they gain a lot of liberties, and they take on a few responsibilities. But no one bought a decision-making role at Burning Man. If they think that by buying a ticket, they have power, they're mistaken. Once they do something, they gain a voice. You have to do something to have power at Black Rock City. We do have a hierarchy, but as an organization, Burning Man never taken a vote. Decisions have always been made by consensus. We're proud of that. But as much as having an opinion does give you power out here, then I think they should vote. And the winner will be the head opinion-holder, and he will get everything that he deserves. He will gain dominion over the opinions of others. I have never wanted that." Don't worry, faithful readers. I will be following this story closely. Both candidates say they are ready and willing to have a debate. ☺

## Arrests!

BLACK ROCK GAZETTE STAFF

Federal and local authorities have arrested seven citizens of Black Rock City in the past 36 hours for drug-related offenses, according to Big Bear, director of the Black Rock Rangers.

All of the arrests were for use of marijuana in what law enforcement officials considered to be public places, and none resulted in jail sentences.

Five of the cases involved the federal Bureau of Land Management, which issued citations that carried fines of \$250. Three occurred late Tuesday afternoon, the others on Monday night. Two other cases were

brought by Pershing county officials and were misdemeanors with \$50 fines.

Big Bear added that undercover government agents are in Black Rock City, as they have been in past years, although they were not involved in these cases. One of the incidents involved marijuana use in front of an Pershing county official in plain clothes who called a uniformed officer to make the arrest

Two of the arrests at Bianca's Monday around 3:00 pm by two officers in uniform, according to eyewitnesses affiliated with the camp. The officers saw them smoking marijuana and waited for them to leave the camp before making the arrests.

Other arrests occurred Monday night in the cases of two men smoking pot in front of the Out of Body Experience camp at 7:30 and Brain. According to Mad Hatter, one of those cited, a small group of camp occupants and visitors was smoking when two officers approached them. Mad Hatter said he thought the officers believed they had witnessed a drug sale.

Burning Man officials said citizens should conduct themselves as if they were in any city off the playa. A lesson to draw is not to do forbidden things in public places. While tents and campers may be considered as homes, which would require search warrants, areas open or visible to others are considered public spaces by law enforcement agencies. Some of the incidents occurred when people openly used drugs directly in front of law enforcement officials, giving them little choice but to make arrests.

Speaking of arrests, at approximately 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Black Rock citizens witnessed the Pershing County Sheriff's Department extraction of a member of one of the theme camps on charges of assault with a deadly weapon.

A number of sheriff's personnel arrived onsite, with the backing of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, accompanied by a K-9 unit, various vehicles, and several varieties of law enforcement equipment.

The theme camp member was taken away in a calm and orderly fashion by Sheriff's personnel to an undisclosed location for questioning about the alleged assault. ☺



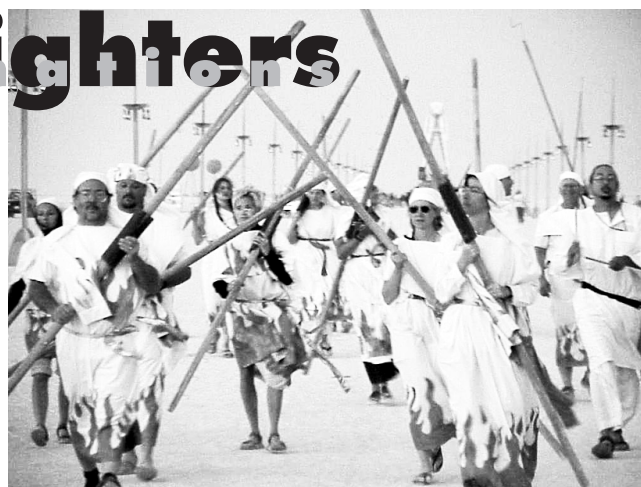
"Hmm, should I go for her, or that Ranger man?"

## Lamplighters

STEVE MOBIA, LAMPLIGHTER EMERITUS

As you wander through Black Rock City at night, you might notice the lanterns arranged on wooden spires above certain pathways. These are real kerosene lamps which must be cleaned, filled and put up daily. Taken in total there are over 700 lanterns and the industrious people who do this are the Lamplighters. Watch one of their processions at dusk and you will be amazed both at the number of lanterns and the number of people needed to put them up.

The Lamplighting ritual is Burning Man is a quiet yet essential part of the communal desert experience. It creates a sense of a real city with street lamps and invokes an old tra-



dition of lamplighting. Before electricity, lamplighting was an essential part of every town. Gas, oil lamps and candles marked the boulevards of the past. Lanterns were the flashlights of their day but even more important as they provided a controlled flame that would last

**POETRY CORNER (man)**  
Hey man, here's our poetry submission for the day, man. Isn't that hip, man?

"There is a fable often told  
About a tortoise and a hare  
And how the laurel crown is won  
Not always by the swift  
But by the sure.

Another story—just as old—  
Reveal to us the swan's deep care  
That she is ugly, awkward, young.  
Not yet clear her beauty...  
Oh! Just now done!"

— Richard Thomas Ing

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."  
-- Mahatma Gandhi

"Life is that which presses, persistently, unfailingly, imperially, interrupts."  
-- Cynthia Ozick



SMALL STUFF T  
YOU'RE NOT NECESSARILY SUPPOSED TO KNOW THROUGH PRINT, SUBTEXT AND WILD ASIDES TO THE NAKED TRUTH IN YOU. PROMOTING THE LIFE OF THE PLAYA MIND SINCE 1992

# Market Heat

Madam Ruby

By TOM CALDER

CONTINUED

This morning and early afternoon is the best time to attend to projects that require attention to detail and analness. 5:21pm to 5:33pm is an excellent window for reflection, contemplation, and drug taking. Get dialed in to your higher self, decorate your most regal robes and take on the town with charm and good manners. Those who score the most points tonight will be the social butterflies who taste a bit of nectar from every camp on their street.



Gallons of water per resident per day used by an average U.S. city: 100  
Gallons of water per resident per day used in Black Rock City: 2  
Gallons of water per week used by an average U.S. city of 30,000 residents: 21,000,000  
Gallons of water per week used by Black Rock City: 420,000  
Gallons of water we collectively save by being at Burning Man: 20,580,000.

Number of elephants enrolled in painting schools in Thailand: 10.  
Number of elephants enrolled in Burning Man art academies: 0 (so far).



The Burning Man community mourns the death of one of its own. Adrian Roberts passed away in a San Francisco hospital last month due to complications following podiatric throat surgery. Adrian is survived by his mother, Julia, and father, Patrick.

Adrian, a long-time burner and rocker, made many wonderful contributions to Burning Man. He was also the founder of the newspaper *Piss Clear* and a member of the San Francisco rock band *Blue Period*.

Many members of the Burning Man community turned out for the funeral to speak at his wake. Larry Harvey gave the eulogy, but was asked to stop, after the second hour, by Adrian's mother. Pepe wept. A grieving Will Roger collapsed in tears and was consoled and escorted elsewhere by a stoic Crimson Rose. Harley, Burning Man's theme camp placement director, in tears, threw her ample breasts on the coffin, crying that Adrian was Ö...the only man I ever loved!Ö

Adrian, we will all truly miss you. To commemorate his long career as a rock star, editor, publisher, ephemeral artist, and master of sexual ambiguities, Adrian's last request was to have his ashes and personal belongings thrown on the fire at this year's Burning Man. To help fulfill Adrian's last wish, please stop by the *Piss Clear* camp, show his former camp mates this article and ask if you can help in any way. And, remember Adrian when you add your copy of *Piss Clear* to the pyre at this year's Burn.

A financial column in the desert? No, it's not a mirage. Like it or not, the Markets continue to operate even while we're out here on the Playa, and an increasing number of us party-icipants have a vested interest in what goes on while we're away. Thanks to this year's expanded Internet connectivity, the *Black Rock Gazette* is now able to add business news to its growing coverage of off-Playa events. While a few readers may see this as a sure sign of the Apocalypse, I trust that a less-vocal majority will find this new feature a welcome convenience.

If all goes according to plan, tomorrow's column will include a report on today's market activity, gleaned from the Internet after the U.S. markets have closed. While next-day reporting may seem quaint and old-fashioned compared to real-time quotes, it will be a distinct improvement over anything seen to date out here in our Öhome away from home."

Speaking of quaint, did any of you catch this note in *Salon.com*?  
ÖWith online trading, the global financial markets have turned virtually every corner of the whole world into a 24-hour-a-day gambling pit. So, it's high time that the joys and agonies of market mania made it to Nevada's barren Black Rock Desert." (www.salon.com, August 00)

No, they weren't promoting this column, they were in fact referring to one of this year's most intriguing art installations: Jim Mason's ÖStock Puppets" project. Calling on the same data stream that will power this column, Mason has created a visual Öticker" for the major market indices, employing oversized human effigies that will rise or fall with the market's fortunes. It's bound to attract the curious, as well as the true market junkies who can't live without their intraday numbers (this writer included).

That's it for today. If you have any suggestions for this column, i.e. particular stocks you'd like to see covered, please leave me a note at the *Gazette* office. Ö

Good morning citizen-campers of Black Rock City! Welcome home! The name's Uncle Tio and I've been dragging my playa encrusted butt back to this wonderful place for a number of years. Had me some adventures and seen some crazy stuff too, dag-nabbit! And just yesterday, I came up with a little gameÉ

That's right children, gambling has made its way onto the playa with a vengeance, and the hottest game in Black Rock City goes by the name of Port-O-Roulette. Now it's easy to play, and not unlike its casino cousin with the exception that no spinning wheel or ball is required. Simply make your way to one of the many banks of Port-O-Lets lining the avenues and size them up. Choose Red or Black, Even or Odd and a number between one and three, then enter.

through the night.

It's the sense of the controlled flame that I find interesting in relation to the wild flames of Burning Man. Though people are exuberant, even reckless at passionate times in their life, the controlled flame is what provides an ongoing source of comfort and inspiration. It is the fire of civilization. Though the lamps at Burning Man have a practical purpose they also, like the Man, evoke ancient rituals as they are placed high on spires reaching up from the desert floor. While the Man stands out apart from the city, the spires are his emissaries that inhabit and illuminate the community. And it is the spires and lamps the form the passage processional between the city and the man. This year, the spires provide spine that connects the elements of the huge body that will stretch across the land.

This is also the first year that I will not act as Head Lamplighter though I have no doubt that the young new crew will rise to the occasion. Because of my personal perspective, I'd like to give you a brief history of how hanging lanterns out here began.

The first two years of desert Burning Man festivals went without official lamplightingÖ the nights were very dark. In 1992 lanterns were placed on the ground in two rows to form a processional to the Man. Unfortunately wind, dust and a few souvenir hunters quickly diminished our supply of reusable lanterns. For the 1993 festival, Larry Harvey designed the first spires which both raised the lamps out of reach and made them more visible and useful as navigation markers. Like much at the festival, the spires proved to be both symbolic and practical.

As the number of spires and lanterns grew with attendance, so too did the lamplighters. While only I and an assistant lit the first spires, the number of Lamplighters quickly grew to six, then ten. It stayed at ten for two years

Once inside, you make a judgement, using the structure of Roulette. The first call you must make is ÖRed" or ÖBlack", red meaning that the unit needs servicing, black is OK. Next, you must determine ÖOdd" or ÖEven", based on one or two rolls. If there is no paper, that's a Green Zero, you lose. You determine the number 1 or 2 based on what you need to do, Öthe combo" is considered number 3. Simple, right?

Of course there's another way to lose. If you open the Port-O-Let door and you find garbage in the hole, you know, beer cans, bottles, plastic bags and the likeÖwe ALL lose. That's the double Zero! Now, we all know that a citizen of the playa wouldn't dare throw these things in the Port-O-Let. So clearly, some of you have found a way to eat this stuff, digest it and push it out your exhaust pipe. Well, Black Rock City doesn't need this shit. Put on your rubber gloves, pick it out and take it with you! And remember to wash your hands too, dag-nabbit! You don't want to mess with number 4 (playa-rhea)?!

(though we had more lanterns to hang). In 1997 the number of volunteer Lamplighters shot up to 25. In 1998 it was 50 and in my final year 1999, the lamplighters numbered 65. Estimates for this year's festival are that 80 to 100 lamplighters will be needed each night.

Through the years, techniques on how to put up the lanterns began to take on the appearance of a new tradition. Robes were worn for the hanging at dusk and wooden poles with hooks replaced wagons as a means of carrying the lit lamps. Though originally I tried to light each lamp with a flaming helmet and long wooden matches, this proved to be completely impractical with even a tiny breeze. So the lanterns were cleaned, filled and lit before the procession and carried by shoulder poles out to the awaiting spires. The new lamplighting group, headed by Brien Burroughs, with Thorny, I am sure will add new methods of their own.

Be sure to visit Lamplighter Village when you're in the Center Camp circle. And check out the Lamplighter lounge behind their main workspaceÖat night you can't miss it. They are always looking for volunteers for their processions. You can participate for one evening or several. And if you play a portable instrument, how about accompanying them as they hang the lamps? It's a great way of contributing to Burning Man and is an experience you'll surely remember. Ö

EMBER

In the desert, a world of myth and fantasy intersects and interpenetrates reality. We are drawn from across our world to this intersection. What we bring and take away belongs to us. Our disappearance is creative; it's the last act of our desert performance.

After we go, the playa recreates itself; it can do this more successfully with our help. What must disappear with us is our MOOP: Matter Out Of Place. Camps, neighborhoods, big art Ö these intentional objects readily disappear. MOOP is the rest, and it too must go. The experience of Burning Man is incomplete without this final magic act.

On our ticket this year, we are asked to contribute two hours to community cleanup. Two hours of easy, as-you-go cleanup will save a month or more of full-time effort by post-event volunteers. This is a month we do not have.

This year, our BLM permit requires us to have completely disappeared by October 5 Ö over a month earlier than last year. We can do this if we each contribute two hours to clean up.

Our permit requires Black Rock City to occupy the same site in 2001 and 2002. Can we re-create emptiness? This is our test.

Our contribution weaves us deeper into the Burning Man experience. Of those two hours, we could spend five seconds on prevention. Routinely securing light stuff augments serenity. Tuck a lightweight plastic bag into your pocket or pack. You'll always have a place for your litter as you stroll through the city.

Also, you might hike away from town and bring home a bagful of MOOP souvenirs. I've found dollar bills (some real, one a bad counterfeit), pricey clothing, and the dust cover from a hard bound *Gray's Anatomy*.

There are several ways to get involved: Visit the Earth Guardians in Center Camp. During the week, the EG's spot clean-up problems and head out to fix them. You can join a short-term team dedicated to the theme of leaving no trace.

Every day at sunrise, a group called the Dawn Patrol leave the EG camp to collect last night's trash. They will appreciate the help.

The Sunday morning clean-up ritual around the Man's pyre has become a yearly meditation for many. Come join in.

We generally do well erasing our own camps; it's the public spaces that tend to escape our attention. Before you join the stand-still traffic, give a bit more time and help a public space disappear. Better yet, spend another day or two helping, and miss the traffic entirely!

Once the exodus has passed, the DPW volunteers return in late September to pick up what's left. You're welcome to join in.

Next year, we can return to a clean slate and start all over again. Ö

"Fire is my child, but I must be consumed and become fire."  
ÖRumi

you can't send a kid to his room  
when the kid has a circus in his head (ric masten)

"All the places that can be kissed are also the places that  
can be bittenÉ"  
ÖThe Kama Sutra