

THE BLACK ROCK GAZETTE



Today's Waldo!
FIND HER!

... entered Black Rock City yesterday afternoon. Shower her with gifts, invitations and your very best impression of the Playa Chicken! Give her a melon, RIGHT NOW! She'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!)



Gridding & Cleaning

Leave No Trace is not a trendy expression, it is essential to the survival of our community. The creation of each successive Black Rock City depends on the clean up efforts of the previous one. This year, all traces of our existence must be removed by Oct. 5 for us to keep our permit. We are a community, so all of the garbage belongs to all of us. You must remove all traces of your camp, then carefully walk a grid over the entire area removing everything that is not dried mud. You also must contribute two hours to the community clean up effort in order to make next year's Burning Man a reality. Your help is crucial to the survival of Black Rock City.

Earth Guardian Camp of the Day

The Midnight Popcorn Palace, at 5:50 Head Way, is Friday's Earth Guardians Camp of the Day, and they win a free ticket to BM 2001. Their creative signage and friendly persuasion have ensured that popcorn gets consumed instead of hitting the ground. Watch for future winners and hints on recycling, composting and dealing with gray water.

Sunday Clean-up

Why rush out on Sunday just to wait in line? Extend that BRC community feeling by joining the clean-up festivities! Starting Sunday at noon in Center Circle near the Earth Guardian camp, we'll be going out in teams to attack the trash. There will be special prizes for those helping out the most. Many hands make light work, and a clean playa will help us ensure that there is a Burning Man 2001.

Amplification

Regarding the article Update on Arrests that appeared in the Friday issue of the Black Rock Gazette, the Pershing County sheriff's office said the citizen who was arrested Wednesday night and detained for several hours was held at the county outpost near the Black Rock City entrance at the request of her family, who asked that she not be taken to jail. The charges against her, which included drug trafficking, required she be held lieu of \$5,100 bail, and that could not be raised in Black Rock City. Her husband had to drive to Reno to obtain the services of a bail bondsman.

Celestial Weather Report

Things are apt to get pretty intense today so be careful about how you throw your words around. One slightly offensive remark could turn a friendly fire performer into a rage that leaves you with all of your body hair singed off—sending off a mighty stank from here to Winnemucca. Do things with passion today. It's all or nothing. Have wild pumping sex that is so amazing that your orgasm doubles the number of cracks in the playa. If you are having trouble dealing with the emotional intensity of the day, you should seek out a Pisces, Scorpio,

LEFT IS LEFT ... ALWAYS CONT'D ON PAGE 2

The Naked Truth



PHOTO BY VISAGARTH

Burn Heads

OTTER

You will be there. Whether you are sober, whether you are working, performing or witnessing, whether you are a greenhorn newbie or a crusty veteran, you will be there. It is the one event that virtually everyone in Black Rock City makes it a point to attend. I refer, of course, to the Burn.

But each participant's experience is different, ranging from the ecstatic to the infuriated. The increase in Black Rock City's population over the years has also changed the dynamic of the event, with larger crowds resulting in more aggravation. Between frustrated people who cannot see past those in front of them, bikes clogging the crowd, and artworks being burned against an artist's wishes later in the night, there is real potential for celebration to turn into catastrophe.

Boggman, lead trainer for the Black Rock Rangers, says "No matter how much community there is, at the moment when the Man goes up, it's still personal. People want to crawl into their little pill boxes and have their own experiences. They have to 'die,' undergo a catharsis; and that can take away from the communal experience."

"The Burn is the culmination, so people are already excited," says Hail Mary, a Fire Performance Safety Coordinator on the B.A.T. (Burn Activities Team) for the past four years. "People get territorial, but that's a good thing. I think that people sometimes forget that wherever they are sitting or standing, that's their immediate community. They have the power to make it worthwhile for everyone, and there are

always solutions in situations like that. People just need to be respectful and smart, and not take away from the experiences of others"

Bikes are a necessity for sightseeing in Black Rock City. But, they're a liability at the Burn. A bike you take into the crowd is a hazard and can paralyze your mobility. A bike left at the outskirts can be lost or "borrowed." Hail Mary said, "If people didn't take their bikes, it would make the crowd much more comfortable."

A bike left behind at your camp isn't necessarily safe either. In 1999, several bikes were stolen from camps during the Burn. If you walk out to the Burn, make sure your bike is locked and secure.

The angst doesn't necessarily end when the Man topples and the crowd surges forward. In recent years, art arson has become a problem for many artists who either wanted to burn their art on their own terms, or didn't want it burned at all. One artist had created a memorial to his recently deceased father, and the burning of the piece was intended to be a very personal part of his grieving. He was devastated when he and his family returned to find the memorial in flames. LadyBee, Black Rock City Art Curator, asks "Why do some folks feel that they are entitled to burn someone's art installation? Just because we're at Burning Man doesn't give you permission to destroy someone else's property. Leave the self-entitled behavior back in the corporate culture we've escaped for a week. IF YOU DIDN'T CREATE IT, DON'T BURN IT!" No one person comprises Burning Man, but without the community effort that each individual contributes, it would not be possible.



(SO, DO YOU THINK ANYONE NOTICED WE USED THE SAME CARTOON THE WHOLE WEEK?)

Berlin to Burning Man

BREEZY

It's 7,000 or so miles from Berlin to Burning Man. Pretty long way, right? Doesn't bother a Berliner, because they are known to simply love travelling. Hardly a place in the world where there isn't at least one of them. In Black Rock City I have counted three so far; I am number four. People keep asking, if I came all the way from Europe JUST to be at Burning Man. YES! Normally I wouldn't have come this time of the year or even at all. But I guess normally 30,000 or so people don't gather in the desert in the summer either.

Last May a Los Angeles friend told me about BM. I got lost in the website for hours. I signed up to volunteer in Center Camp Cafe and the Black Rock Gazette and was proud to be part of something that I didn't really know anything about. I explored the e-playa and got swamped with daily e-mails that nurtured my excitement about this adventure I was going to have.

Hanging loose and going wild might be something that comes naturally to you Americans. Most Germans though do that in their cars on the freeway. Well, yeah, there are raves and there's a LOVE PARADE where a million people come together in Berlin to get intoxicated listening to

techno music, but other than that?

So there I was, desperately wanting to attend BM but not a camper-type at all. How to do this from Berlin? Without the help and sweetness of some awesome people that I've met through the e-playa, it would not have been possible to land here so smoothly. Total strangers invited me to join their camp, and brought an extra bike. Can you believe it? I just love it!

Bewilderment, cynicism, awe, envy and admiration were the first reactions I got from friends at home. The Burning Man idea about sharing and all is surely contagious though, because even my tight-ass optician gave me all the contact-lens equipment I needed for the trip at no charge!

Now I've been here since Sunday and, of course, have never seen anything like it. I am trying to imagine how I will describe this event to people at home. Before I got here, I read an article that reduced Burning Man to free sex for all in the desert—I knew there was more to it. By now it doesn't seem strange anymore to: talk to strangers; get your neck massaged while selling coffee; receive treasures; get hugged; be disgusted; be delighted; feel too hot in the sun; use porta potties; have a living room drive by you; and so forth. Yeah, I like it!

Wir sehen uns am Strand! ☺☺☺

Market Meltdown

Stocks crash in heavy liquidation!
Total drop of billions!

TOM CALDERA

Granted, a billion doesn't buy nearly as much as it did when the gory headline first appeared in the 1929 New York Times, but other than that it works just fine to describe Thursday's unexpected NASDAQ meltdown.

News travels fast out here (and bad news is no exception), but just in case you've had your head stuck in a cup of chai for the past 24 hours, here's the naked truth: a minor tech-sector correction on Wednesday turned into a wholesale run for the gates Thursday morning, with a flood of automated sell orders at the opening, which triggered massive amounts of stop-loss sales and shut down trading for nearly an hour. By the end of the (JUMP TO PAGE 2)

Staying Connected

MAID MARIAN & ZMAN

It's ironic that Burning Man is a leave-no-trace community when you consider the trace it leaves on each and every one of us. And when you find your community at last, it's only natural to want to stay in touch year round.

Those of you with internet access and e-mail are encouraged to stay up to date on Burning Man politics, ticket sales, start date, URL's and events by subscribing to the Jack Rabbit Speaks internet newsletter. Send an e-mail to bman-announce-subscribe@burningman.com. The newsletter is intermittent and infrequent but full of useful information.

Your best one-stop resource for information by and about the Burning Man community is our Web site: www.burningman.com. The recently re-designed site is searchable, easy to navigate and contains all the information you will need to participate in Burning Man – from desert survival to volunteering.

The new "Black Rock City Year Round" section of the Web site is intended to be a destination for extensive information & connectivity. It will include an on-line zine (let us know if you are interested in helping this develop), links to other Web sites, articles on participant experiences, Burning Man friendly business listings, and the e-playa BBS area.

Information on how to connect with other burners in your area can be found under Regional Contacts in the BRCYR section. There are 45 contacts world-wide, including the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and the U.K. Regional contacts can be a valuable source of information about local events and gatherings, or simply a good way to connect with Black Rock citizens in your area.

The e-playa is also accessible from the front page of the Burning Man Web site. Once registered, you can post messages to regional bulletin boards on a variety of subjects. Chat rooms are also available. Also, the e-playa is a good place to leave messages and your experiences for others to enjoy.

Many find calling (415) TO FLAME (415-863-5263) the simplest way stay connected. The information line is updated regularly to keep it current. Staying connected ensures our community remains a vital one and that Black Rock City's spirit endures year round. ☺

If we fed mayonnaise to tuna, could we save a step?

