

# Black Rock Gazette

**FRIDAY**  
August 29, 1996

Sunrise 7:27am | Sunset 8:30pm | Moonrise 9:42pm | Moonset 8:44am

Free

Largest Circulation Daily on the Playa since 1992

Our community suffered a tragic loss Tuesday night, when a member of one of our performance groups died in a motor vehicle incident on the playa. The name of the deceased has not been released (pending notification of his family) but here's the story according to the Black Rock Rangers. After a long session of drinking in Gerlach, he refused to accept a ride back to camp with friends, choosing instead to get on his motorcycle and return under his own power. Driving without headlights on the playa at night, he ran head-on into a slow-moving truck and was killed instantly.

In case you still haven't got the message, driving on the playa can be hazardous under the best of conditions. Driving while intoxicated, driving at night with your headlights off, driving too fast in conditions of poor visibility - these are all behaviors that can get you killed. The bottom line: don't drive if you don't have to. And if you must motor, read your Survival Guide and follow the guidelines presented there. The information is in your hands, but it won't do you any good if you don't read it or don't follow through on it. Survival is ultimately a personal act - no one can do it for you.

## Alien Rumors Discredited

Burning Man festival authorities want to put an end to the persistent rumors of alien abductions on the playa. All personnel reported as "disappeared" have been accounted for. Nocturnal sightings of "aliens" have been attributed to swamp gas, pieplates reflected in the atmosphere, and/or mass hysteria. There is no evidence of spacecraft or alien humanoids. However, we recommend that you take the following precautions:

1. Do not talk to anybody that you don't already know personally.
2. Avoid vast, empty places by day and night.
3. Do not sleep.
4. Ignore anything strange or unusual that you may see or hear.

## Polkacide to Gig in Gerlach

Cultural exchange department: Polkacide, one of the Man's favorite bands, will play a first-ever gig tonight in downtown Gerlach. No one is exactly sure how the locals will respond, but how could their hearts and minds fail to be swayed by the universal language of POLKA? This special in-town show will start at 8PM tonight at the Black Rock Saloon. Polkacide will also play tomorrow night (Saturday) on the west stage in Center Camp, around 1AM.

## Darwin Award at Burning Man

Presented in Camp Darwin, in vaguely chronological order, are about 500 examples of persons performing the most selfless of human endeavors: removing themselves from the gene pool through insanely stupid acts. The friendly counselors at Camp Darwin invite you to enjoy these lurid tales of genetic purification and vote on your favorites. The winner will be announced on Sunday.

## Bulletin Board of Love

- Jewish Meditation, Thurs thru Sun, 8:30 AM under silver tarp next to Polkadome.
- Radio EOM starts broadcast Friday, 90.5 FM
- Lazy Camp! Go due South from Central... BE lazy!
- Volunteers needed. Elude the curse of the Pharaoh, help build the Pyramid! See Vickie.
- Black Rock Rain. Take a shower at the BIG RED Balloon.
- Dumb Camp show of original music by Headcase-O-Matic, Love Props & more! Fri and Sunday at 9pm
- Drink water. Really.
- Black Rock Post Office. Send and receive mail in Camp. Navy blue coin-op mailbox at the Bulletin Board. First 200 entries free.
- Black Rock Travel Agency. Hot springs tours, overnights to High Rock, custom tour packages. Offices located on the road to Rave Camp.
- Main Gate volunteers wanted. Inquire at Ranger Camp.
- Drink some more water. Yum!
- Bubble Wrap Camp has some small pieces of bubble wrap to cover exposed tent stakes. Free while supplies last.
- Radio Plunderdown, 106.3 FM.
- Visit the Café in Center Camp. Coffee, espresso drinks, and more. Open 24 hours.
- Nebuchadnezzar's Coffee Shop, Rave Camp
- Red Line Speedway: time trials at 5:30pm Friday, two miles west of Camp. Bring your own car and plenty to drink.

IF YOUR CLOTHES EVER CATCH ON FIRE...



## Map Corrections

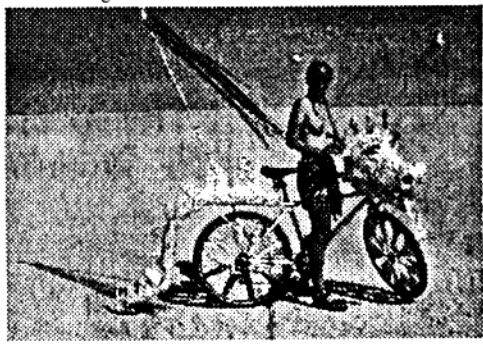
In case you were wondering why you keep getting lost, the answer might be in your map. Due to seismic activity and/or temporal distortions, the map you received at the gate may no longer correspond with perceptual reality. The road leading through the black quadrant is marked with BLUE flags. The road leading through the yellow quadrant is marked with GREEN flags. The road leading through the red quadrant is marked with ORANGE flags. The no-camping zone in the white quadrant is marked with RED flags. And the Outer Ring Road is really the Inner Ring Road. GOT IT? There will be a test...

## Participate - Make an offering! STROKE THE FIRE THAT BURNS THE MAN

You may have heard the credo of the Burning Man festival: "no spectators." The idea is to participate and be connected. The origin of this active, inclusive principle can be traced to the fact that in the early years it required everyone in camp (100 to 200 people) to pull the rope raising the man to a standing position. With attendance now in the thousands, it is no longer possible to involve everyone in that particular act. However, another way people have participated in the burning ritual has been through symbolic sacrifice, attaching mementos to the man and creating a personal connection to it.

Help feed the flame! On Friday afternoon that enduring fire we call the sun will be channeled through a magnifying lens, igniting a flame in the center of camp that will burn until Sunday evening, when it will be transported by torch to light the Man. All are invited to bring wood or paper articles endowed with personal significance to keep the fire alive through the weekend.

- Dan Miller



## Burning Man Impressions

Thursday morning

Josh (uses fire to create those metal men crawling over Central Camp), "I'm just an aesthetic contributor. I never did art before but 2 years ago I came to Burning Man and just started doing it."

Miss P. of Miss P's Cafe "My function here? Hostess."

Mack Reed, reporter for the L.A. Times "This is the first year we've covered BM." (See him under giant iridescent Ilyeye hat.) "My favorite sight was the huge cloud of dust rising behind my car, but everything is amazing."

Chris Campbell, builder of the man, "This is my man."

Bob Gelman "I started the drumming out here 5 years ago. I started the trouble."

Marsha Cosby of Climate Theatre "Don't spread rumors."

Ted Smart, "I came down from Canada for Burning Man first time this year! The best thing here are the people. Everyone is SO Cool. I love it."

## Fly Me, I'm Airplane Camp

With wreckage of the last TWA disaster still being plucked out of the Atlantic, some of you may not want to get airborne anytime soon. But for those of you with nerves of steel, pilot and Burning Man first-timer Gordon Mills, of Sierra Air Charter, is offering his services to this year's attendees: scenic trips above the Black Rock Desert in a 5-passenger, twin engine aircraft for a minimum of \$100 per ride. Look for him and other pilots in Airplane Camp, aka the Burning Man Airport, on the far outskirts of Main Camp.

- Rusty Blazenhoff

## Burning Man Historical Note

BARNYARD MAN SPEAKS!

"I am the original BM! I know what I know and these are the facts: for years I have been doing a thing I call 'Barnyard Man' - a scarecrow with battery operated lights all over my clothes-at kid's parties and regional state fairs around Visalia California. One Saturday in March I met Larry Harvey at a fair, and shortly thereafter Larry started something that is now called the 'burning' or 'braining' man project (I've heard it called both). Think about it: a highly combustible human form called 'the man,' with lights."

Allegorical, mythological, metaphysical, reactionary. The scene is vibrant and alive with human interaction, the feeling is electric. All of a sudden the man bursts forth and the crowd goes wild. My flame is metaphoric, his is natural. Now I'll admit Larry has added a few things. He's got numbers, that's for sure. And the idea of actually lighting the man on fire, and going to the desert. And the event itself is nothing like a weekend state fair in Visalia. Don't get me wrong: the burning man is a beautiful thing, and I'm absolutely down with Larry's views of art in the nineties (if you'd read your newsletter): the desert is all about survival. The barnyard man lives on, happy to be a part of it. I don't make any apologies about the way I live my life and I don't expect anyone else to either. And I wanted to say hats off to Larry, the man who gave me my first real break in the business."

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## Black Rock Gazette FRIDAY AUGUST 30, 1996

## IN THE SKY 2NITE...

Midnight. You're still awake. Lie on your back and picture an origami crane flying directly above you. Well, it really is there, as it is the constellation Cygnus, the Swan. The brightest star in the constellation is Deneb, to answer your question. If you are still lying there at 4 am, stand up and look to the east to see Venus and Mars rising together. (There's a metaphor for you...) Check after midnight in the northeast for meteors from the Alpha Aurigid Shower.

- Ian Gerrard

## ASK DR. DOUG...

### WHEN LIZARDS RULED THE PLAYA

The Black Rock Desert of the past was much more hospitable to life than today's desert. The moist environment of the Pleistocene created marshes, rivers, lakes, grasslands, and woods that supported some of the weirdest animals this side of Las Vegas. Nevada in the Pleistocene looked like a combination of the typical National Geographic depiction of the African savannas and a little of Buffalo Bill's opium dreams. Herds of imperial mammoths (the non-wooly kind) over 13 feet tall roamed the edges of Lake Lahontan. Their smaller, distant cousins, the American mastodons, milled around the foothills of the Sierras with Oreamnos, the spindly brother of the musk ox.

Some of the most impressive critters were a huge giraffe-like humpless camel, and an ancient bison that stood over seven feet high and had a six-foot spread between the horns. A true group of oddballs were the giant ground sloths. Northrotheriops was about seven feet long, and Megalonyx (first discovered by American paleontologist and president Thomas Jefferson) towered twice its height. What's strange is that these huge, thick-skinned, ground-living, claw-wielding, plant-eating dolts were also ancestors of the li'l ol' tree sloth of tropical America.

Blood flowed a-plenty in prehistoric Black Rock. Packs of dire wolves, larger than timber wolves, hunted the herds of wild horses, llamas, and antelope. The American lion was a quarter larger than the African one, and made the Lion King look like a sickly house cat. Thrown into the mix were two big saber-toothed cats: Smilodon, the California State Fossil, with two smooth 8-inch long fangs, and Homotherium, a pumped-up cat with serrated saber teeth specialized for eating young mammoths. If that weren't enough, the king of the grasslands was a scary mofo named Arctodus. This huge bear was a skull larger than a grizzly, had legs as long as a horse, and a third equipped with massive bone-crushing jaws and teeth. It ate just about anything it wanted to. In the skies were Teratornis, a gigantic condor that was North America's largest bird ever. This vulture had a 12-foot wingspan and lived a blissful existence feeding on the abundant carcasses that littered ancient Nevada.

The same climactic changes that dried up Lake Lahontan affected the environment throughout North America, driving many of these animals to extinction. The few survivors like the mammoths, ground sloths, and giant bison were finished off by the early Native Americans. The party ended between 6,000 and 10,000 years ago. Today, puny turkey vultures feed on the bodies of "hits" or "rats" tossed in the desert outside of Reno, packs of coyotes pick through the Little Nixon dump, and crows are the largest plant-eater around. It's just not the same.

- Doug Long

## BURNING MAN TO BE BOUGHT OUT BY HELCO®



Merger talks between HELCO and top brass at Burning Man have reached a final stage, it was reported today. Members of Burning Man's management team were unavailable for comment, however insider sources indicate that negotiations are now focused on the size, shape, strength, and ultimate buoyancy of a golden parachute package which HELCO is offering Burning Man higher-ups.

Controversy has surrounded HELCO dealings throughout 1996. In an earlier deal this summer, the supranational conglomerate acquired Hell in a bold takeover that has left market analysts gasping, but disgruntled ex-employees of Hell have charged HELCO with unfair labor practices. Demons, imps, and lesser devils have flooded labor markets in recent weeks, the result of a downsizing move.

Papa Satan, former CEO of Hell, now serving as a commercial spokesperson for HELCO, was contacted at his home in Sausalito. The colorful and sometimes controversial personality remains upbeat.

"We're no longer a Mom and Pop operation. Hell is now leaner and meaner!" he stated. Asked to comment on HELCO's plans to merge its current Hell Division with Heaven later this year, Satan refused comment. However rumors of this mega-merger, part of an integrated vertical merchandising scheme, have fed the current market surge throughout the summer. A new HELCO stock issue is planned, timed to coincide with a HELCO stockholders' meeting that will occur Saturday evening in downtown Black Rock City. This meeting will also signal the reopening of Hell, renovated by HELCO as a world-class theme park and now renamed "Seven Flags Over Satan."

It should be noted that HELCO's initial stock offering, priced at 50 cents per share in July, has more than tripled in value. Analysts predict its next issue will set records. Stock certificates are now available - for a limited time only - at our central pavilion.

-Compiled from wire services

## ART OR TOYS? SEEMEN'S KAL SPELLETICH

Interviewed by Vicki Olds

I caught Kal in his San Francisco warehouse, tin-wrapped burrito in hand, amidst the detritus of his machine dreams. There's a sign-in sheet by the door with contact info for the 20-odd volunteer members who help conjure and fabricate the noisy, fire-spewing, low-tech robotic wonders that challenge viewer/participants at any SEEMEN show.

In performance, SEEMEN machines take roles informed by the sexual thrill of barbarism. The rules

seem simple: Might is Right, and the Louder the Better. These assaultive performances are the product of a challenging curiosity, restless imagination, and the collective synergism of the SEEMEN themselves.

Art or Toys? "There is no difference," says Kal, who grew up in the Midwest and pulled stints in art school and a few punk bands before moving to San Francisco in 1984 and falling in with the machine art crowd.

"I create performances that bring people to the edge... to help them appreciate their mortality, to help them appreciate life," Spelletich says. His rewards lie in the psychological experience of "orchestrating transformative events," and in the act of witnessing his destructive creations. "The most common reaction," Kal says of his audiences, "is usually pretty gleeful."

Seemen will perform Saturday night at 9:00 PM at the Gate of Hell. Feed Cerebus at your own risk.

## TOP BURNING MAN BULLHORN SLOGANS OF 1995

9. Please remain calm. You are not here.
8. Keep your arms and legs inside the Playa at all times.
7. The white zone is reserved for the immediate loading and unloading of passengers only. No parking.
6. To facilitate the drying process, please keep your shadows off the Playa.
5. I am the great Kahunaholio! I need Tiki! Tiki for my bung-hole!!!
4. Does anyone know where we can get a beer???
3. Left side ready? Right side ready? Polka pit ready?
2. Please remain seated until the Playa has come to a complete stop.
1. You can all go home now, the man WILL burn without you.

-Compiled by geekboy@ & Big Wave Dave

**AT LAST, AN ALTERNATIVE...**

Black Rock City has had multiple radio stations for years, but only recently have we gained a second print market. Adrian Roberts' *Piss Clear* is the perfect weekly for our town, full of youthful funk and rebel attitude. And this year it's going daily! Pick it up around camp, and if you see Adrian, tell him not to be so soft on us establishment media types. Let's see some real venom!

## MURRY OF DA DESERT



## DR. ANDERSON



MURRY SEZ... THINK THICE OR DISTORBING FOLKS YOU ASSUME ARE NON-VIOLENT