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# Black Rock Gazette

Friday September 4th 1998  
burning man festival, black rock city, nv usa

## FIRE AT BURNING MAN?

FREE

### Dangerous Tiki Torches OUT OF CONTROL!

Tiki torches: Yes or no? If you haven't heard, this year the Black Rock Rangers have banned the use of Tiki torches on the playa. Not incidentally, earlier in the week one camp was burned to the ground when a Tiki torch set fire to some surrounding bales of hay.

While such a mishap may be a cautionary tale for the responsible use of the Tiki ("This is your camp! This is your camp on fire! Just say no to careless use of Tiki!"), does this really warrant government intervention? Is *the man* oppressing our inalienable right to enjoy Tiki-lit evenings on the Playa? Will it even lead to the Rangers finding more and more reasons to regulate our affairs? Or is such a rule sadly necessary to prevent us from being set aflame by our own worst instincts? We sent our roving reporter out to find if the people felt:

"GOOD IDEA! These torches are dangerous. If they were used responsibly then I would say okay, but obviously everybody won't use them that way." *Zephron, Water Woman*

"I'm of two minds. On the one hand it is a danger. On the other the majority of people here are capable of handling a Tiki torch." *Book Bill, The Lending Library*

"I say against. Tikis have light at night and they look good — they provide ambiance." *Ann*

"Yeah, I think it's a good idea. It's less of a chance of someone causing an inferno." *Fast Eddie*

"I think they shouldn't be banned, but I also think you should be held accountable for your actions." *Julie*

"It's not the Rangers' fault. Don't blame them for making the rules. It's the idiots who didn't know how to handle the torches." *George, Tiki Bar*

"This is Burning Man! We should have the right to be stupid enough to burn ourselves down." *Maj*

"It's just a shame that they had to make a rule. That's the real thing." *Terry*

"I think it's bogus. Most Tikis run on liquid kerosene, so it's not like burning embers are going to float off start a fire, like campfires would. Also, liquid kerosene will not blow up, if it is spilled over." *Mike*

"There are more rules here than I have at home." *Commodore Kurt, The Lake Cahentan Yacht Club*

If you feel your inalienable right to Tiki enjoyment has been violated by the Black Rock Rangers, you can voice your concern at the Tiki Liberation Front's protest march, which takes place Friday at 5:30pm at the Critical Mass bike ride.

— Job

### Event Listings, Friday

Johnny Jetpack pisses off at 4pm at the ARF Camp, L. of Pepe's Opera, the Playa

Forage Camp Frolics, 6pm at Devil's Dozen Recycling Center Camp

Kozmic Origami Duck Squad, evenings at Woodhenge, S.18th/ Baltic

Worst Poetry in the Universe, evening at Atlantic/ S.5th

Film Butcher vs. The Kung Fu Grip, sundown at CyberBuss, Center Camp

Flute Fronted Rock, sundown at Heavy Silver Camp- Atlantic/N.14th

DrumDanceFiring, 7pm, Playa Shiekhdom on Playa, front of Blue Light District

Johnny Burnman blasts off when they switch fuels on the lil' guy on Saturday at 7:45pm

Bindlestiff Family Circus, 9:30pm at Center Camp

Playa Prom, 10pm at S.4th/ Village

Scot Generik, Ethan Port, 10:30pm at Drano, N.13th/ Village

Vitaly Chernobyl and the Meltdowns, Midnight at the smoking hole in the ground

Rocky Horror Picture Show, Midnight at Rubik's Cube, the Playa

Amber Strobelight and the Female Food Additives, 3am at BrainDead Rave Camp(s)

### Cochise's Instant Laundry Tip

(when loincloth do turn funky)

Save ice bag. Find end with fewest leaks. Fill with old (warm) cooler water — use half of cooler. Add two teaspoons full of dishwashing detergent, or if challenged by improvisation and fearful of mimes, laundry detergent. Wrap open end around favorite phalange (finger). Shake violently for 15 minutes — just like Louise Woodward (everybody's favorite English au-pair). Pour water and soap out of bag onto street. Refill bag with rest of clean warm cooler water. Shake again. Roll bag up from closed end and squeeze bag up to open end (like Howard Hughes squeezing another nickel out of a defense contract). Dry out bag, reuse for trash, hang clothes up to dry — seven to eight minutes with ten mph breeze — faster with more wind.



Doc Black

### GETTING WET ON THE PLAYA: A GUIDE

When it's a typical 102-degrees-in-the-shade afternoon on the Playa and you're too darned hot to wait for the dust suppression truck ("the shower truck") to show, don't despair — there are all kinds of places to get wet on the playa. Many citizens of Black Rock City 1998 have come prepared to beat the desert heat, pitching a campsite pool alongside the tent and tarp. There is also, however, an unprecedented number of theme camps devoted to water sports.

Let us begin our watery tour on the north end of the playa with the **Black Rock Travel Agency**, located at the northwestern-most tippy-top of the village. BRTA offers a "virtual hot springs experience" with two pools, one warm, one cool, with a spectacular view of the mountains. They offer this calm oasis at the edge of camp as a way to participate more deeply in the village through offering a pleasure everyone can share.

The guys over at **The Nunnery**, on North 10th between Atlantic and Baltic, really *really* want to share pleasure with as many people as possible. Their motto is "come and be baptized — we will teach you how to be holy" and they appear to be great believers in the laying on of hands. All, um, comers are welcome to share this sizeable inflatable pool so long as a few rules are followed. One, everyone getting into the pool must remove all clothing; two, no diving. Oh yeah, and wash your feet first.

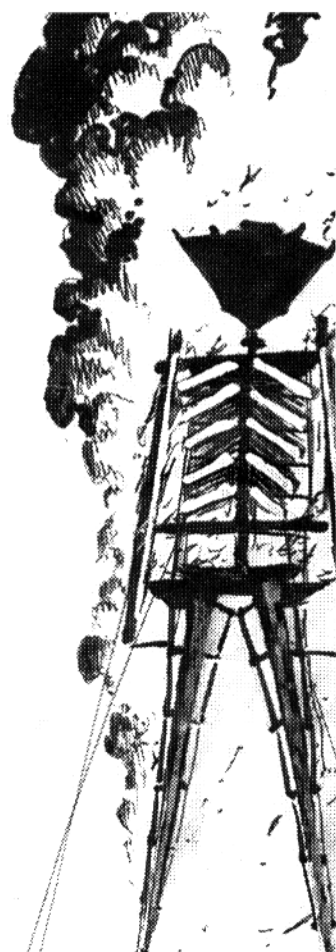
**Infinity Village** is offering an interactive pool at their encampment at North 19th and Atlantic. Come swim with the inflatable eyeballs floating in not just one but two! two! two! deluxe eight foot pools. All that is requested of those seeking wetness is the willingness to spend some quality time with the inhabitants of Infinity Village — no quick dips, please. While in the neighborhood, check out **Glowcamp's** ultraviolet fluorescing fountain pool. It's lovely to look at, but would-be F. Scott and Zeldas beware: the fountain's creator advises the glowing waters are only for admiring. On your way south, be sure to drop in on Commodore Curt for a soak in the small but friendly waters at the **Lake Lahontan Yacht Club** (North 6th and Esplanade).

### Love Jones on the Playa by Venus Jones

*I'm going out to Burning Man for the first time and I'm curious about the sexual energy involved. Could the Goddess of Love give me a survival guide to sex at Burning Man?*

As you state, there is a lot of sexual energy swirling and whirling about, much like a little hippie chick at a Dead show. Anything and everything can and will happen when you stick a bunch of 20th century homo sapiens in an empty desert. Here's the inside skinny that will make your journey through the sexual side of Black Rock City more pleasant:

- Figure out what you want. Love? Sex? Your wildest fantasies? It's all there for the taking. And for goodness sake, make sure the person across from you wants the same thing. If she or he doesn't, there's 500 others who do. Don't go breaking no hearts.
- Be respectful. Just because people are walking around naked does not necessarily mean they wish *you* were naked in a small enclosed space with them. Learn to take no for an answer, and don't be afraid to use the "n" word yourself.
- Don't be afraid to try new things. If there was ever a space for exploring, this is it! Who knows, you may even like it and want to do it again (and again and again).



## Black Rock Gazette

Friday 09.04.98

Net Spots... continued from page 1

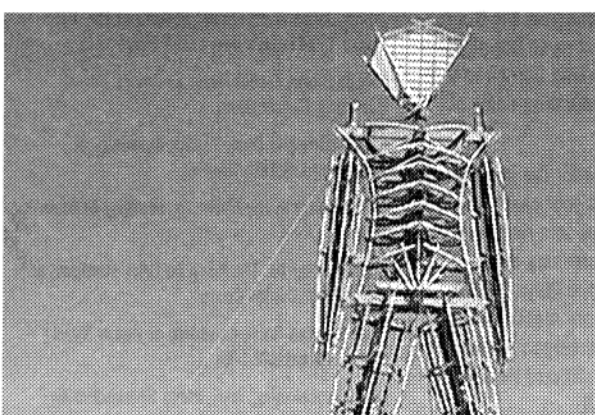
Black Rock City's most popular watering hole is undoubtedly **The One Tree**, right off the promenade leading to The Man. Dan Das Man's gorgeously realized interactive tree sculpture is especially enjoyable at night when flames blossom from the upper branches while cool streams of water rain down on supplicants gathered around its base. The One Tree has a great advantage among wet spots on the playa in that it can simultaneously saturate great numbers of parched playa dwellers.

There are so many water attractions over on the south side that your dedicated team of roving reporters never had to leave The Esplanade. And what a fine watery promenade it was, from the **free mass showers** (near South 11th Street) to the super deluxe poolside at **Space Station Zebra** (South 16th Street). Anyone and everyone is welcome to get wet in one of SSZ's two palm tree-shaded inflatable pools, but be prepared to barter for the experience. Space Station personnel request that you bring pool toys to share, and a cold beer if you happen to have a spare.

They say size doesn't matter, but "they" obviously never plunged their steamy bodies into the 3200 gallon pool in the **WaterFun** camp in Gigsville. The biggest body of water in Black Rock, WaterFun invites participants into the water while also bringing water to esplanade passersby via powerful "Stream Machine" water cannons. Ye will know them by the giant mud bog in front of the camp near South 8th Street.

And, finally, a deeply relaxing way to counteract the dessicating effects of a long afternoon spent strolling the playa is to stop by the **Mist Tree** at South 16th and Esplanade. The helical wooden structure sprays gentle mist from the water hoses that snake throughout, rehydrating every dry, dusty centimeter of body surface. Just say "ahhhh..."

— Lulu



Love Jones... continued from page 1

- Always play safe. If your budget for supplies didn't include condoms, stop by and see the fine folks at one of the sexual information camps. They'll hook you up.
- Make love to the playa, and she will love you back. Become one with the sun, the stars, and the omnipresent dust. This is also a great trick for attracting human lovers.
- Pay attention to your body. The desert is a dangerous place, and the climate alone will push you to the limit physically. Get plenty of rest, monitor your substance intake and carry water with you at all times (you also have to drink it).
- Take responsibility for your own pleasure. You can find anything your little heart desires, but you have to ask for it first! If you don't get what you want, look in the mirror.

### Fashion: What's Hot and What's Not by Evol Girli

#### HOT:

This year on the Playa, **high heels** and **platforms** seem a definite must.

**Fairy wings** accentuate any outfit nicely.

Large **cowboy hats** — or any hat for that matter — are always nice in the desert.

Capturing that tribal look, **body paints** look marvelous on just about anyone.z

Bright **hair dyes, wigs** and  **dreadlocks** are big this year.

Men in **skirts**. Boy, if you've got the legs, work it.

**Slip dresses** on any gender are always appropriate Playa wear.

#### NOT:

This year the large and ugly seem to be wearing...well, **nothing**.

Men take note: **thong bikinis** were NEVER in.

Okay, can someone tell me **why** there are people wearing **all black**?

Shouting your stupidity with a big **red sunburn**.

**Vests and fanny packs** are accessories, not outfits.

**Banana Republic** adventure gear — get a grip, this ain't the Amazon.

**Bondage wear**. Trust me, nobody's excited.

Mix 'n' Match! **BURNING MAN**  
**BUZZ PHRASE GENERATOR™**

Hey, try this at home! Make your own groovy individual buzz phrase by making up a 4-digit number and combining one word from each column! See how many combinations you can make!

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
1 Interactive	Cyber	Anarchic	Happening
2 Postmodern	Tribal	Absurdist	Experience
3 Psychotronic	Primal	Dionysian	Tractor pull
4 Non-linear	Ritual	Drug-fueled	Meltdown
5 Surreal	Techno	Anti-establishment	Freakfest
6 Psychedelic	Abstract	Hyper-caffeinated	Community
7 Proto	Pagan	Non-traditional	Hukilau
8 Twisted	Alcoholic	Extra-rational	Hoodown
9 Neo	Apocayptic	Mind-bending	Sensory Strew
0 Dusty	Alternative	Survivalist	Pyropalooza

### Burning Man Mad Lib by GodTodd

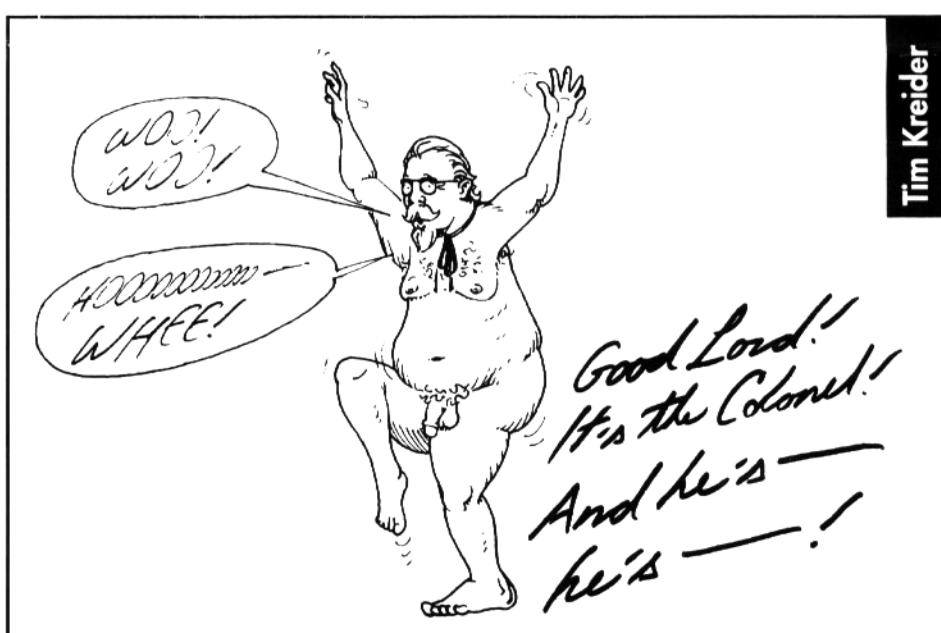
I was \_\_\_\_\_ing across the playa in my \_\_\_\_\_ outfit when I \_\_\_\_\_ed an art car that looked like a \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ Jumped out \_\_\_\_\_ and invited me to \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ Camp, where they give out \_\_\_\_\_ enemies. Having had \_\_\_\_\_ the night before I opted for going to the \_\_\_\_\_ Chai Tent for a \_\_\_\_\_.

There was a \_\_\_\_\_ behind the counter \_\_\_\_\_ing the customers. Every one there was \_\_\_\_\_ing on the pillows. After I drank my \_\_\_\_\_ I got up to go. But just then a man in a \_\_\_\_\_ hat came in smoking a \_\_\_\_\_.

I offered him some \_\_\_\_\_ and he said, "It's all about \_\_\_\_\_."



Tim Kreider

The Black Rock Gazette is published onsite by Burning Man's Interim Ministry of Propaganda and the Embassy of Ice. Opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of Burning Man LLC. Printed in the USA on 100% recycled paper.

Publisher: Stuart Mangrum  
Ole' Mr. Cranky: Jeff Hansen  
Distribution: Paizley Hayes, Tobone, Evol Girli, geekboy@  
Wiring:  
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Thanks: Maid Marian, Darryl Van Rhey, Squid, Media Mecca, Newt, Señor Spanky