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# Black Rock Gazette

Wednesday September 2, 1998  
burning man festival black rock city NV usa

## FIRE ON THE PLAYA!

FREE

Tent fire in center camp illuminates risks of open flame

This year we mourn the passing of the Tiki Torch. That's right, open fire is verboten in your happy little campsite, except for designated fireplaces on the Esplanade. Propane burners are fine (stoves and lanterns), but the Fire Marshall has banned all personal fire pits and open flame due to the hazards of windblown sparks causing serious damage to camps and public safety.

As if to demonstrate why, Black Rock City was subject to a serious flash fire on Sunday evening when a tiki torch blew over in a sudden wind gust in Center Camp and ignited a hapless Anonymous camper's tent, shade structure, nearby hay bales, and thousands of dollars worth of audio-video equipment. Fortunately there were no injuries (thanks to the timely response of firefighting personnel), but we are reminded most forcefully of the dangers inherent in playing with fire. Don't get burnt and do not be stupid.

However if you brought tiki torches, do not despair. Ranger Duffy is assembling a Field of Dreamin' Tiki Torches out on the playa 500 feet from Environmental Disaster Camp in the Blue Light District. From there they will light up the night at a safe remove from this tinderbox we call home.

—Doc Black

## THE PRINCE ALBERT INCIDENT

as related by Danger Ranger

"We were just getting ready to raise the Man. We heard a call over the ranger radio, a call for medical assistance. Our medical officer was actually in Gerlach at the time. We were able to radio in to Gerlach and he was on the scene in 8 minutes.

"This individual was part of the modern primitive culture and had a very large cock ring. He was evidently squatting down in his tent at the time, and his ring got caught in one of the shoelace loops of the boot he was wearing. It did tear the ring out. It was a large ring—they called it a #2 ring. There was a lot of bleeding and a lot of pain. We were able to get the bleeding stopped.

"The specifics of medical treatment are confidential information...his Significant Other, a charming woman who was very well-pierced herself in many places, drove him to Reno to the hospital. Their response at the emergency ward must have been: 'Oh, it's Burning Man time again.'"



And they asked us why we did the things we did, and we answered: "Because no one could talk us out of it."

- Due to a printing mix-up, the Camp Map was inadvertently printed upside-down; everyone must relocate.



- Don't bother buying water, the Washoe County health department has required Burning Man organizers to provide two gallons per person per day at no charge.

- The FDA has announced a recall on Nitrous Oxide cartridges. Participants may drop off their unused cartridges at the Black Rock Gazette office for safe disposal.

"Don't Believe a Word"

- A member of Leonardo DiCaprio's entourage got into a fistfight with Black Rock Rangers when Leo was told to extinguish his Tiki torches.

- Drug Czar Barry Mc Caffrey will be distributing anti-drug literature and posing for photographs in the NeighBARhood on Friday night at 5:00pm.

- The Nevada Gaming Board is investigating allegations of unlicensed slot machines at the Village of Drano. Local Justice of the Peace Thomas advises, "I would rather suck a fart out of a dead chicken than tangle with the Nevada Gaming Board."

- Multiple chupacabra sightings near the BBQ pit at Little Gerlach; keep a close eye on your goat.

- Big Daddy Roth is onsite, checking out art car designs.

- The Man has put on a little weight this year, no longer fits into a thong bikini.

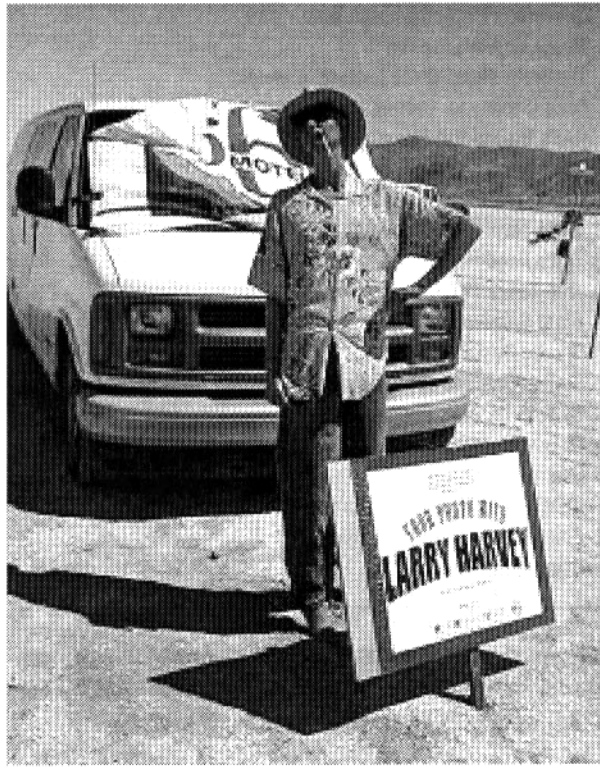
- Sources close to the matter report that Independent Prosecutor Ken Starr plans to subpoena Burning Man attendance records.

## Motel 666 offers helpful tools for media folks

Ever find yourself at a loss for words? In the desert, it's no big deal; at Burning Man, it might even be a sign that one understands what it's all about even if words fail to capture the magic. For media workers, though, this awe-strike could be a kiss of career death unless one has a back-up plan for rendering the odd goings on of Black Rock City in suitably prosaic terms for popular consumption. Here to the rescue for muted hacks and pundit wannabes is the Media Resource Center at Motel 666 (Outer Ave. and S.19th St.).

MAD MAX CREATES LARRYPALOOZA...SURREAL TRADER JOE'S THEME CAMP...GET YOUR PHALLUS OUT OF MY MUSHROOMS are some of the phrases that you can create using the Giant Magnetic Word Scramble. "Here you'll find all the usual clichés and hackneyed phrases used to describe Burning Man. Just rearrange the magnets to compose this year's article." BURN THE FUCKER...LEAVE NO TRACE OF DIGERATI. Hear hear!

But that's not all that is being offered by the helpful folks at Motel 666. Using the latest in desktop body double design, it is possible to have YOUR PHOTO WITH LARRY HARVEY to show friends and memorialize your stay on the playa. Stop by the Motel today; no reservations required.



Wednesday 09.02.98

## Black Rock Gazette

## Playa Crossword

Mike Wooldridge

1		2		3	4	5	6
7	8						
9				10			
11							
12						13	14
						15	
16	17		18		19		
20							
21							

### Across

- Russian-born sculptor
- It can really light up the playa
- "La" lead-in
- Cool way to take tea
- PC key
- Lots of bare skin can be seen at Burning Man with this
- Roofing goo
- In \_\_\_\_ (disoriented)
- Econ. indicator
- A handy thing to have in a dust storm
- Inhale

### Down

- Regularly
- Desert north of Gerlach
- Sex Pistols record label
- Familiar vehicle at Burning Man
- Ground-level digit
- Finish
- \_\_\_ Minor
- Talks noisily
- Estrada, et. al.
- To the rear
- Famous toy maker init.
- Exclamation of wonder

<answers tomorrow>

## Spot the REAL theme camp

Hey kids, c'mon — test your Burning Man know-how with this tricky quiz. TEN of the theme camps listed below are the real thing; can you tell which without consulting your Camp Map or Event Guide?

- Alien Sheep Love Vibration Camp
- Chai Rub Camp
- Flamingo Slanted Pussy Camp
- Baskin Throbins Love Fountain
- Shepherd's Pie Autonomous Zone
- Messy Marvin's Pig Pen
- The Brotherhood of the Lactose Intolerant
- Scug (Society for Cutting Up Gnomes)
- God's Tripped Out Playground
- The Mangina Liberation Front
- Seersucker Fetishists of the Eastern Star Lodge #188
- Multi-Level Marketing Mecca
- Disco Head Hunters
- Free Range Piñata Sanctuary
- Giant Carnivorous Panda Camp
- Spooge Dust Ballroom
- Soylent Green Is Spectators Camp
- Up With People's Temple
- Ox Bow Incident Camp
- Sherry Lewis Sock Shrine
- Auntie Gravity's Galactic Gazebo of Godzilla
- Chicken Owes Me Money Village
- Gone Wrong Salon

ANSWERS: 1, 3, 8, 9, 13, 14, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22

Thought for the Day...

"It takes a village to raise a village idiot."

—Jésus Cuervo

## The Men That Might Have Been...

by Daredevil and Dave Cherry

As icons go, the Burning Man is indeed both visually arresting and aesthetically provocative. Its size is imposing, yet its skeleton-like structure belies any notions of ponderousness or permanence. The Burning Man is not an eternal monument crafted to withstand the ages, but an artful, momentary happenstance of creative ether. A combination of both natural and hi-tech materials, the Man also stands outside any defined era or isms.

The Man's current biplane-fuselage, lantern-headed incarnation was influenced by Larry Harvey's background in landscape architecture and interest in Japanese design. But of course, the Burning Man was not always as we see him today. Many wonder what previous iterations of the Man looked like and, more interestingly, what other designs were considered along the way. The Gazette has delved into the old sketchbooks of the design team and unearthed these lost Burning Man designs.

**The Old Growth Redwood Burning Man** This project had to be canceled after several activists chained themselves to the Burning Man.

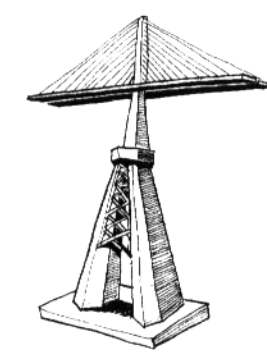
**The WeedMan** The WeedMan never got past the prototype stage as the materials invariably got consumed, leaving Larry spending the rest of the day on the couch watching the Cartoon Network.

**Bob's Big Burning Boy** Licensing issues killed this one.

**The Michelin Burning Man** It was thought that the Michelin Burning Man, which was to be built entirely of discarded car tires, might lower chances of a favorable BLM environmental assessment. Go figger.

**The Single-Cable-Stayed-Suspension Burning Man** This design was rejected after Critical Tits protested that the Man's arms lacked a bicycle lane.

**Asbestos Man** Okay, it was just a bad idea. It was late, they were tired, give them a break.



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.

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"All writing is garbage" —Astaud