



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1999:
BLACK ROCK CITY POPULATION:
21,329

COMMISSARY NOTE

Starting today and going through the end of the event, the commissary is accepting donations of extra food to feed the more than the hundred-person clean-up crew who will be clearing the playa all through September. Foods left for consumption should not be spoiled, bruised or open unless they are dried, sundries or oils. Bring to Xena at the big white commissary tent, 6:00 + Mars at the base of Moon Circle.

IMPULSIVE POETRY AND HAIKU BY DION

Burning Man inspires many and leaves others speechless. The playa is full of poetry.

*A span in our time
A sharp decline in our prime
A sign of the times*

— Morgan, Viking Camp

*I hate it when
human beings inhabit the
Desert
Because the space
is so
Sacred.*

*But if we're going to
do that,
This is the way to
Do it.*

— Holly

FIRE ON MARS!

By Zen Man Me

Think Fire. Think Mars.

- 330: Firefly Camp. Fire Jungle.
- 415: Heather's Flaming Mohawk Helmet.
- 500: Heliostat for checking Sun Spots.
- 500: Smoke Bomb at Barter Table.
- 520: Dog Camp. Heartburn.
Spicy Scallop Quesadillas
- 530: Lava Rock Dance Party 4pm.
- 545: Tad Aires. Space Red Hair.
- 645: Free Fire Zone. Water Soaking NRA.
- 630: Hottest Zen Babe on the Playa.
- 730: Poopie Camp!
Poop Burns after the Man.
- 745: Chump Camp. Devon eats Fire.
- 800: Burn Your Cash. Sunday 3pm.
- 830: Stoner Camp. Burners line up.

HOCKEY ON THE PLAYA By Tim McCarry

With its Desert Hockey tournament, Team Canada is helping to expand the meme on Burning Man Sports. The 10-member team has been descending nightly upon their funk-up mini-coliseum out in the desert to hone their skills at this new sport. This is Team Canada's first Burning Man, and already they have garnered attention from *The National Post* and *Saturday Night*, two leading Canadian publications. Find the team at Hubcamp (415 and Earth). The Finals run tonight with Team Canada challenging the winners of Friday's playoffs. The championship game is played one hour after the Man burns.

CORRECTION

The byline for the story on Pepe Ozan's opera was not included in yesterday's edition.

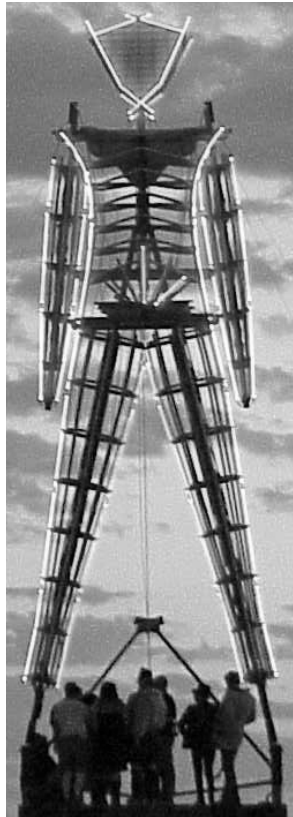
The story was written by
Innate,

ace reporter for the Black Rock Gazette.
We regret the omission.

FIRE

Searching for KIMRIC SMYTHE

By Bryce Perry ©1999



to track down Kimric Smythe — the pyrotechnical artist who's set the Man in flames since 1990. We located Kimric on the Wheel of Time at twelve, right beyond the Man. We set out on foot to get an interview.

At the Man, I asked for Ranger help to find Kimric. Confused, squinting at our request, she searched through the channels. As time wore on, I found myself weary of the business of reporting as a whole: the Disgruntled Postal Workers — all 30 of them — screamed obscenities about the Gazette and reporters in general. Yesterday, a young woman screamed "Fuck the Media!" the moment she saw my press pass. Reporting's an ugly business, and with a dry, dusty landscape

Reporting in Black Rock City is no easy task, but it's not without its perks. Smoking out with interviewees or sipping a beer while typing, reporters in Black Rock have an enviable work environment. Still, the task of hunting down a story can be harder than smuggling a truckload of explosives past the front gate. Today was certainly no exception.

At 1:30, my photographer and I were at Check Point Salon, utilizing the skills of Nambla the Clown

and ineffectual rangers, your average volunteer reporter begins to entertain thoughts of dropping a few hits of liquid acid on the back of his press pass and rubbing it against his skin until the letters jump off the page and writing becomes a task too impossible to pursue.

We gave up on the Ranger and wandered toward Kimric's last known location, a three-story building just behind the Man. Kimric came out, and I asked for an interview but Kimric wasn't in the mood. He was busy and Rangers were giving him problems. His rant on the state of things went something like this:

"The Rangers are giving me flak. We're getting zero support from them. First they said we couldn't move this structure to where we want it, then they came by and told us to start cleaning things up. I'm about ready to say 'Fuck the Rangers' and set that damned Man on fire myself."

Then he said we could quote him and rode off to get batteries and bitch out some key people.

We'd gone to the center of the playa for Saturday's Big Story. In Hunter S. Thompson's words: "It had been a waste of time... a lame fuck around." My feet weren't holding up and walking was painful back to the press room, but I'd made the commitment to Cover The Story so I pushed on while my photographer took pictures of people having a much better time than we were.

In situations like this, it's best to type the story in cold, bitter, naked truth and hope the editors leave it alone. If it gets toned down, I'll probably resign and become one of those angry young writers who trashes the Gazette next year. Then I'll spend the last day or two at Burning Man drinking and smoking anything I can get my hands on to make up for lost time, getting a painful headache for the ride in the overcrowded Ryder truck back to Spam Diego. Until then, though, I'll stash a few beers from the press room and find a group of freaks open for anything — without editing.

by Sage Collins

NOT BOMBS BOMB THREATENS' BURNING MAN

By: Janaki Ranpura

At 11:33 a.m. Friday, a renegade bomb exploded at 6:15 and Neptune, leaving a scar in the playa two and a half feet wide by three feet deep. Local authorities have declared the area a crime scene. "A bomb, exploded without the knowledge and awareness of anyone else around is criminal," said Big Bear, Director of the Black Rock Rangers. The device, possibly a volatile propane bomb, exploded with a cloud of black



smoke that billowed into a perfectly dark mushroom before forming an undulating ring.

Friday morning's explosion, despite its beauty, cannot be classified with the other pyrotechnic art of the event. This "was a serious, large and lethal device" said Big Bear. It could be qualified as a terrorist act. It could threaten the future of the event."

Cooperating law enforcement agencies — the Bureau of Land Management, Washoe County sheriffs, Pershing County sheriffs, and others — are working with us to find out who did it." Burning Man organizers are joining with Washoe County to post a \$3500 secret-witness reward to any individual who can provide information that will lead to the apprehension of the culprit.

Any information may be reported in confidence at the Ranger Station, 6 o'clock, Center Camp. Ask for any senior Black Rock Ranger staff, or you may speak to any of the law enforcement agencies mentioned above.

Man fails at flying attempt

by Lady Godiva and Minch

Around 3:30 on Friday afternoon a male, name not disclosed, did what some witnesses described as a swan dive from a thirty-foot tower at the Temple of Mez. The accident occurred on the corner of Earth and 4:15. The Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA), in conjunction with the Black Rock City Rangers and the Washoe County Sheriff, responded quickly, transporting the individual to Washington Medical Center in Reno.

"I overheard a girl who seemed to be his girlfriend say that he was talking about jumping but they thought he was kidding," said Lou Parker, a member of the Church of Mez.

Shortly after the mishap, two unidentified individuals ran into the medical tent requesting help. This was immediately followed by a call from the Rangers, summoned by members of the Church of Mez. At the scene, the REMSA medics conferred via radio with REMSA's on duty physician, Dr. Jim Allen, who decided that

the injury warranted immediate evacuation.

The tower stands behind the Temple of Mez, and can be seen illuminated at night with strings of blue lights. At thirty feet, the tower is one of the taller structures in the city.

"People are not supposed to be at the top level — there's no guard rail and only two sections of wood [supporting] a kinetic sculpture. It's very dangerous," explained Parker. "People [from our camp] were going up there to get him down."

Although the extent of the man's injuries will not be known until later Saturday, Becky, an EMT-2 with REMSA, noted that the individual would not have been evacuated if severe head or spinal injury were not suspected. Witnesses said they saw him moving his legs, breathing, and mumbling before he was taken away.

The mood at the Church of Mez camp was extremely somber after the accident. The tower was closed off and camp members huddled together for comfort.



by Sister Dana Van Iquity

WEL-CUM TO THE BURN EDITION!!!

Long time ago on a planet far, far out there was a thing called Burning Man. The year was 2010, right after Bman had gone commercial. The Disney conglomerate bought the rights and started Burnmanland, "the fieriest place on earth."

The idea was to clean up the image of this freaky event and make it palatable to general audiences, especially young, impressionable tots. First came the now famous "NO FIRE-SPECTATORS ONLY" rule. Even The Man himself had become flame-free, with digitally produced images of fire streaming hourly from the top of his head and his extremities, followed by a safe-and-sane fireworks show.

Right after The Man "burned," spectators could present their "E" tickets to witness the

continued on page 2



BURNING MAN AIRPORT

By Daniel Teediman (Jschoolidan)



From 1,000 feet above the playa, Black Rock City shimmers like a map come to life. People are ants; cars and motor homes are toys. The Man stands proud like a matchstick icon.

Just outside the border to the City, a few hundred meters past 10 o'clock, lies the Black Rock Municipal Airport. It's from here that all those skydivers you've seen have set out to plummet from the sky.

But thrillseekers are not the only ones using the airstrip. Airport Manager Lissa Shoun said with considerable pride that she and her staff expect 75 planes this year. Many will get here in just over an hour from the Bay Area.

And why fly to Burning Man? "It's America," gushed Meshugganah, at the Black Rock Travel Agency. "Flying is the great freedom of the West. It's the realization of the unobstructed West."

Shoun, who flew her own ride in from San Jose, Airport Camp Host Eric Bong and others are there to greet the new arrivals at the Bureau of Land Management, and FAA-sanctioned strip. Unlike last year, when for organizational reasons disputed by Burning Man and the BLM, there was no airport, Shoun and her loyal staff planned early this year and got the blessing of

both Burning Man and the authorities.

"All we needed was somebody to take charge," said Blaine Heald of the BLM. "This year, it's what we wanted."

At 4:45 on Tuesday, to the loud cheers of the airport types, the first plane touched down on the newly-drawn runway.

A few minutes later, in Shoun's four-seater as she and DPW Foreman Lulupie inspected the runway and circled the City, it was obvious that everyone involved is ecstatic at the prospect of so many happy Black Rock City dwellers coming in by plane.

For most of us here in the City, the only evidence of the airport was the skydivers that appeared out of nowhere every hour or so earlier in the week.

Meshugganah was one of the lucky few that got to do the 14,000 ft. jump. He got just 45 minutes' notice and was taken up for a tandem dive, the first of his life. A little later he raved about his newfound passion. "It was like being a rock star," he said. "It was very much like a tantric orgasm."

If you'd like a quick spin around the City, bartering might just work. One pilot, Roger, is offering rides in his rented plane and is asking a \$20 fee to cover his gas and rental costs. Another pilot, Rodney, posted a message on the airport bulletin board offering topless women a free tour before 10 a.m. ☺

Sister Dana Sez... continued from page 1

Electric Freak Parade, where fully clothed Disney characters, dressed in colorful neon colors, would ride around on bikes. Later, Disney vetoed the neon and chose pastels instead, feeling there might be some unwanted hippie overtones. The highlight of the parade was when Snow White descended from The Man statue, all lit up in twinkle lights. She used to be accompanied by the seven dwarfs, but Disney Corp thought the concept was derogatory to little people, and there was that awful incident when some tasteless yahoos shouted out, "Show us your teeny weenies!"

Nudity, even semi-nudity, was forbidden at Burnmanland. Instead, people were encouraged to wear full body suits and paint on them with pastel body paint (provided). Of course there were the occasional rebels who refused to don the modesty-provoking suits, took off their tops, and actually painted on their skin! A rumor went around that some brazen lady stripped naked, covered herself with glitter, and blatantly

smoked a marijuana cigarette. But this was probably just an urban myth.

On the main stage, things occasionally got frantic until Burnmanland producers insisted on performers playing only Christian rock or, at the most, light rock. Even this got out of hand when some rapsallions were caught trying to sell hits of Claritin. Burnmanland was proud to declare itself a drug-free zone and enforced this rule to the hilt. Prescription drugs do not belong here at the safest, sanest, family oriented place on earth, producers said. Oh yes, they eventually changed the name from "the fieriest place on earth" because it was just too incendiary. Get it? Fire? Incendiary?? Sorry, this writer was drinking a rather strong root beer and got carried away.

But it all went to heck when Microsoft merged with Disney and turned the entire event into a virtual reality experience, thus avoiding dust, wind, heat, rain, and all the other negatives that occasionally happened at Burnmanland. Somehow it just wasn't the same. ☹

Bernie's Index

Population of Black Rock City at its zenith in 1998:
18,000

*
"X"ceptable practices in Black Rock City:
Xerophagy (the eating of dry food)
Non "X"ceptable behavior in Black Rock City:
Xenophobia (the fear and loathing of strangers)

*
Only Chief Assistant Public Defender serving to have passed the California bar without attending Law School:
The Fish (re: Country Joe MacDonald and...)
Only Man invited back 3X to speak at Harvard on cultural trends without holding a degree in Sociology:
The Hat (Larry Harvey)

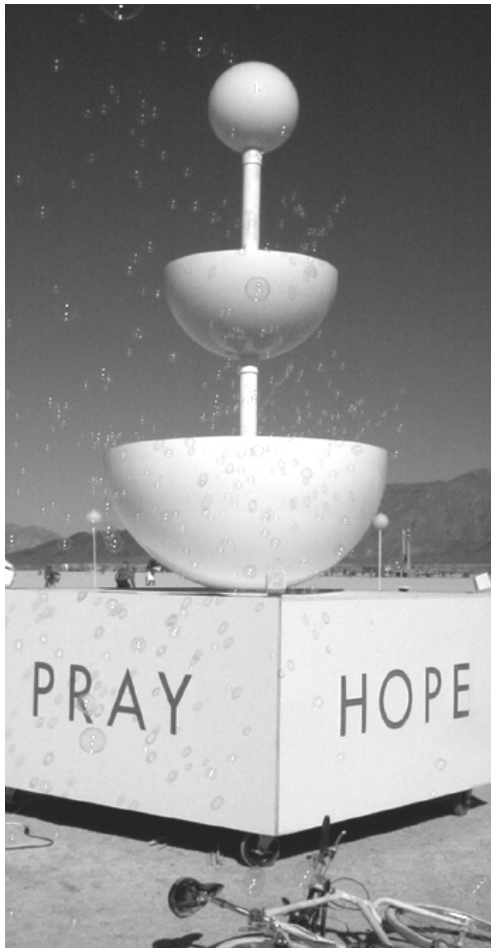
IF YOU HARBOR INTERESTING FACTOIDS, PUT THEM TO WORK FOR BERNIE'S INDEX. SUBMISSIONS TAKEN AT THE CITY DESK (IN FRONT OF THE BLACK ROCK GAZETTE HQ).

The Bubble Fountain: Prayer Is the POP

By Rachel Nevada

If you think the art of Burning Man is all about pyrotechnics and welding, you need to spend some time with the Futura Deluxe Bubble Fountain and Porta-Temple. You may have seen it rounding up the Processional last night; a message of hope to close the funeral for the 20th Century. A white box with the words *hope*, *pray*, *wish* and *dream* painted on each face supports two white plastic hemispheres, which in turn support a globe. Soap bubbles cascade from the hemispheres to float over the playa and the citizens of Black Rock City. The Futura lights up at night and has its own gentle, meditative soundtrack. It moves around the playa, inviting interaction without dominating the space. If it reminds veterans of the Nebulous Entity, that's no accident; designer Doctor Aaron Wolf Baum admits he was a great fan.

The Futura is the brainchild of Steve Raspe, who made the Sacred Prayer Grove and Lottery in 1998. Aaron, Simon Clark and a team of volunteers spent two months helping Steve build the fountain in San Francisco's Cell space. It contains twelve commercial bubble machines, modified with computer chassis fans to improve bubble output. The plastic hemispheres had to be specially made. The bottom one, the largest, was blow-molded, the middle one was free-blown and the sphere at the top is made of two hemispheres molded together.



Jeremy Chalmers Fitzhardinge ©1999

A woman's voice recites messages - are they warnings or prophecies? In the future, we discover, everyone will be issued with one orange ticket. Children will scrape their knees on the sound barrier. Small spelling errors will lead to the downfall of nations. "The voice is designed to trigger thoughts about the future," Aaron says. "We want to make people think about all possible futures. Each bubble is a possible future - that's one way of looking at it."

The four words on the four faces of the base represent four ways people relate to the future. In the procession, four avatars embodied these aspects of the Futura Deluxe: the Prayer Keeper, the Hope Giver, the Wish Maker and the Dream Seeker. Wishes are represented by the lightness of the bubble, hope by the force that holds the bubble together, dreams by the colors. Prayer is the pop. ☺

"We wanted to do something totally divergent from what you normally see at Burning Man," Aaron explains. "Its geometric, simple, shiny, sleek and smooth. It's something you could believe was from the future, but it doesn't matter which future it's from. The story behind the Futura is that it's here to bring us into the future. The future is always a teensy bit ahead of us. With the Futura, we will cross that barrier and live and be in the future."

Like so much at Burning Man, the fountain fuses engineering and art. "There's a definite play between technology and mythology," Steve acknowledges. "We tried to represent that by having bubble sprites and bubble technicians." The prophecy-warnings parody the nonsense pseudo-science of official discourse. Most importantly, though, the piece is what people make of it. "The Futura is both sacred and secular, a civic park, a non-denominational church, a public fountain like those in Rome, where people gather and have conversations, and also a meditation space," Steve says. "I wanted to create something inherently optimistic but not to be taken for granted; that's why I fastened on the image of the bubble. I want to create an empty frame into which people can walk and complete the work for themselves." ☺

THE PLAYA GOURMET

By Susan Kirr

Canned soup, ramen noodles, macaroni and cheese, MREs. Truth is, most people cooking out here keep it pretty simple. But some adventurous chefs are hauling in gourmet groceries and concocting magnificent dishes right out here in Black Rock City. Here's what's cooking on the playa.

Over at Tatoonie, young Chef Cameron stocked up at an organic market before he arrived and is now prepared to serve a spectacular feast to his 30 fellow Star Wars fanatics. On Friday, he was preparing portobello mushroom sandwiches layered with avocado, grilled squash, and bell peppers. On the menu for Saturday night: a Moroccan banquet complete with couscous, chicken kebabs, and tofu kebabs. Fresh strawberries, barbecued trout with dill rice, and fusilli with a basil pesto are also coming up.

In the Bleu Light District Communal Kitchen and Good Lovin' Bistro, Chef Juke served up green eggs and ham on Friday morning. (Okay, it was eggs and green ham, but who's keeping track?) Chef Juke trucked in 30 pounds of salmon (which he smoked on site) and 5,400 eggs, to create his smoked salmon scramble on Friday. With over 300 mouths to feed every morning, Chef Juke serves up good food, good soul music, and a smile to all the Bleu Light kids who show up blinking in the early morning sunshine.

Chef Kurt is another fellow who really has his hands full. In addition to building the amazing Maze and taunting anyone who dares to enter it, Chef Kurt has been cooking up a storm at the Maze Camp. Chef Kurt's advice is this: Limit each meal to one dish, and make it simple enough that you only have to add water and heat. For one fabulous meal, Chef Kurt browned flank steak and marinated it in teriyaki sauce. He then removed the meat from the dish, added Rice-a-Roni and water, put the meat back in, and simmered it. Add a little mango salsa on the side and a mixed green salad with balsamic vinegar, and you have haute playa cuisine.

Let's not forget dessert. You may have seen an ice cream truck roaming around the desert and thought it was a mirage. Believe your eyes. It is the Freezing Man ice cream truck, and it really is bearing ice cream: Dole sorbet and cream bars, frozen Snickers, popsicles, and ice cream sandwiches. Coupons are being distributed, and if you have a coupon in hand and you see the truck, you're in business. Whatever's left over on Sunday at 2:00 p.m. will be given away, of course, for free! ☺

Black Rock Gazette Classifieds

HEY YOU! WANT AN ICE CREAM TRUCK?

The Freezing Man ice cream truck is for sale. If you would like to continue the tradition of giving away free ice cream to the citizens of Black Rock City at Burning Man 2000, please call Mike at 415-552-8702, or e-mail mikew@hyperreal.org.

Publisher	Vicki Olds	Publication Team	Mambo, all our	Janaki Ranpura, Lady
Managing Editor	Fang	anonymous DisReps, and the		Godiva, Rachel Nevada, Susan Kirr
Operations Manager	Zac Bolan	vibrating monkey with the		Contributing Writers
Distribution Managers	David & Bryan Pon	string out his bum		DION, Tim McCrary, Zen Man Me
Art Director	Shibumi	Sister Dana Van Iquity		Photographers
Production & Design Manager	Maha Shamiyeh			Bryce Perry, Jeremy
Photo Manager/WebMaster	Steve Piasecki			Chalmers Fitzhardinge,
Technical Advisors	zman, Blue Collar Bob, Ronen			Ronen Ben-Hai
		Guest Editor	Susan Kirr	Shibumi, Mambo
		Feature Writers	Minch, Sage Collins,	Special Thanks to
				Maid Marian, Larry Harvey

