



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1999  
BLACK ROCK CITY POPULATION:  
10,822



### WEATHER FOR THURSDAY FROM CLOUDY JOE

Sunny with high clouds. Windy in the afternoon. Highs around 76. Thursday night mostly clear, low around 42. Outlook through Monday: continued sunny and cool. Temperatures will rise Thursday to Monday. High Monday in the mid-80s. As always, be cautious of sudden winds. Rain probability is zero, according to Tuesday's reports.

### BLACK ROCK COMMUNITY COLLEGE NEEDS INSTRUCTORS

Yes, functionally ignorant people need education, and the Black Rock Community College is back in operation on the playa. You too can get an education and a degree by attending classes at the College located at 4:15 and Earth. Instructors are also needed, so if you have an unusual expertise, please share it with the under-educated citizens of Black Rock City. Contact the College for further information.

### THE PLAYA GOURMET CONTEST

Something smells really good out there. Grills flare, and the fragrance of your cooking fills the air. You're the creative chef behind the effluvium: you're talented, resourceful, and feeding your camp mighty well. Why not strut your stuff in the Playa Gourmet contest for big, or rather, interesting prizes. Bring a sample any time between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. on Friday. Our Playa Gourmet, Susan Kirr, will taste and judge. Best of luck to all you chefs! (Recipes will be requested of winners.)

### THE WHEEL OF TIME NEEDS YOU TO ROLL

Volunteer to be a spoke in the Wheel of Time. Meet Thursday and Friday at the Man at 10:30. Quordelia is your contact.

### PIERCING RITUAL & BALL DANCE

Come and lend your powers of positive suggestion to Heidi and Fred as they perform a ball dance and ritual piercing in front of Café Temps Perdu today at 1 p.m. The Ball Dance originated in Southeast Asia and features dancers with weights attached to their piercings.

### QUOTES OF THE DAY

"Dance, when you're broken open.  
Dance, if you've torn the bandage off.  
Dance in the middle of the fighting.  
Dance in your blood.  
Dance, when you're perfectly free."  
—Rumi

"The tension between the call to the desert and to the marketplace arises not from the greater presence of God in one or the other, but from our varying psychological needs to apprehend God in different ways."  
—Sheila Cassidy

"And now, cried Max, 'let the wild rumpus start!'"  
—Maurice Sendak

## Capitalist Pig Camp Evicted from Playa

by Andres Sturgeon

On Tuesday night, Capitalist Pig Camp was escorted out of Burning Man after several complaints were lodged against them. Members of the camp were shouting insults, including racist and homophobic slurs, through a megaphone at people passing by.

Big Bear, Director of the Black Rock Rangers, described the incident. "We had asked them many times to cool out and cut down on the belligerence. I talked to them four times myself, so this took some time to happen."

According to Big Bear, the camp started out on a bad note. They had camped in a restricted space, but had already set up quite a bit. Big Bear went to meet with them. "I let them know they were in a reserved space, but that if they respected Black Rock and respected the rules of the city, they could stay. We agreed and shook hands on that."

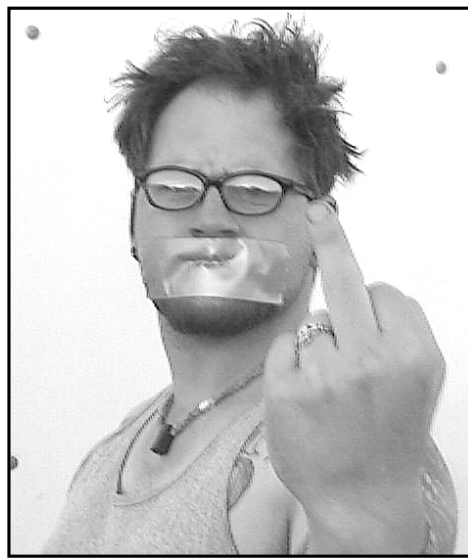
The rules of Black Rock City are quite simple. Anything goes as long as you take care of your own survival and do not interfere with another's experience. That means you have freedom to dress or not dress as you please, to create art, sound, and expressions to the limits of your imagination. But you cannot do anything that infringes on the freedom of other participants.

Complaints continued about Capitalist Pig Camp. Four women were in tears, and one neighbor threatened violence. "The worst was the tagging," said Big Bear. "They tagged the Man

and other peoples' art with spray paint. The decision came to evict them when they made sexual comments to a twelve-year-old girl on Tuesday."

"They tried to argue that this was their art, and that they were expressing themselves artistically. This is the most free city on the planet. I have no problem with bad art, but these actions were aggressively anti-social."

"It just wasn't nice having them around," says a woman from Thunderdome, the once-neighbors. Says Big Bear, "They basically evicted themselves."



This is not actually a Pig. Model used for re-enactment purposes only. Photo by Christopher Dyer ©1999

## DJ CHRIST SUPERSTAR

by Sage Collins

I've found myself regarding Jesus Christ, Superstar with a number of different attitudes. In my family's strict Catholic environment, the musical was viewed as an abomination. The very idea that Mary Magdalene and Jesus had any level of intimacy was appalling in their eyes, and I was told not to see the film or even hear the music. To be honest, I did not see the film until a few years ago, and I was literally speechless upon viewing it. Since then I've chased after information on the Internet, hunted down the original album, and listened to the motion picture soundtrack no less than 50 times from beginning to end.

I am not alone in this, as I was to discover the moment I arrived at the DJ Christ Superstar



Photo by Donn ©1999

camp located on Mercury and 4:30. Mark Pesce and Tony Parisi, who adapted the work, have assembled dozens of performers, musicians, stage hands, and video specialists to tell the tale in a way that would be immediately denied in the world of mainstream theatre.

The most notable change in the storyline is the setting. The scene is set in the rave and techno scene, where flashing lights and club scenes take the place of temples. In fact, the bulk of the music has turned from the jazz and acid rock that dominated the early 70s into truly modern genres. Some may debate that the music should have remained the same, without additions of new songs, but it should be noted that Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber (the original creators) broke with tradition by using contemporary music styles in a stage musical. Changing the music again, in a sense, is true to the spirit of the production.

Mary's role is expanded, combining Mary Magdalene with the Virgin Mary. Instead of being a background character, Mary, played by Ziona Cohen, takes center stage as a strong influence over the last seven days in the life of Jesus. The creators also wiped away the Christian aspect of the performance to give it more of a universal appeal. Cast members come from different religious backgrounds, and no one viewpoint emphasized.

More than anything, the influence drug culture had on this production should be noted. While members of the cast might have spent a night in Mendocino around the campfire singing their favorite songs, a number of key meetings in

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## EYES UPON THE EYES: THE MEDIA TEAM ENGAGES THE MEDIA

by Lee Gilmore,

Media Mecca Ho, Double Agent, Naditu

"The Media"—people often spit the word as though speaking of something unwelcome and vile; or, alternately, they slut themselves in front of the camera in eager extroversion. But who are The Media? Are they the rogues some perceive them to be? Or are many of them, in fact, creatively engaged individuals who have much in common with the thousands of others who attend Burning Man? And why are they here in the first place?

Face it. Burning Man makes enticing copy and simply oozes stunning visuals. And without the publicity our cause has received, many of the challenges which Burning Man faced in the past—such as permit hassles and financial difficulties—might not have been overcome.

The Media Mecca "Ho's" manage and welcome the media people who attend Burning Man. Our mission is, "to introduce media to the magic of Burning Man, to educate media and participants about the media's role, and to minimize negative media-related experiences for participants." We encourage media people to actively engage in the event, rather than simply spectating. In doing so, our interactions with the press have deepened and developed into relationships with individuals. As Maid Marian, our own Jack Rabbit and Mistress of Communication, says, by bringing them in we all have a better experience.

We work to ensure that they participate in the event like anyone else and help them remember not to interfere with anyone's immediate experience. We have also established certain parameters, such as our mandate that they come at least three days before the Burn if they want to interview key organizers. This gives them time to develop their perspectives. This year, we are also asking that all video cameras, both commercial and personal, be tagged in order to help protect your privacy on the playa. And as always, we ask photographers to share copies of their images with us for our archives, as well as with the participants or artists photographed.

In order to facilitate the media's integration, beginning in 1998 we started "initiating" all those who check in at Media Mecca. With a dash of costuming and a sprinkle of glitter, we then turn the scrutinizing eye of the camera on them for a change to discover their intentions and prepare them for their own experiences. Those that have checked in with us will be sporting press passes (pictured) that entitle them to nothing in particular and remind them what V.I.P. status really means—Very Interactive Participant. If you discover someone who is clearly here as a journalist and who is not displaying a press pass, please encourage that person to make the pilgrimage to Media Mecca.

Curious as to what sort of effect our efforts were actually having on the press and their coverage of the event, I chatted with a couple of journalists in order to learn their side of the story.

Yomi Ayeni covered Burning Man for the BBC in 1998. He said, "after the initiation ceremony, I really didn't know what to expect next. It helped me to understand that chaos was about to ensue. I like chaos, I'm a black Englishman! What do you expect?" Yomi readily understood his role as a participant, and he fully immersed himself in the event, saying, "as a film maker I try to get close to the subject matter. I had seen so much about the event on TV, I knew there was more to it than the freakshow that is always portrayed. I was amazed at the amount of creativity and the way that so many people collaborate to produce amazing things, concepts, and experiences."

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	sunrise	sunset	moonrise	moonset
2	0628	1929	0007	1344
3	0629	1927	0058	1450
4	0630	1926		1552
5	0631	1924	0155	1648
6	0632	1923	0257	1737

September  
Gerlach, NV LAT: 40 39' 6" N, LONG: 119 21' 15" W

# L2K, ring around the Man

Rachel Nevada

If you've been near the Man after dark, you've seen L2K—a circle of 2000 lights buried in the Playa and flashing in mystifying sequences. What you might not know is that you're invited to the Pattern Buffer lounge on the Man-ward side of Center Camp to play your own blinking symphonies on the desert floor.

L2K is the brainchild of Tim "The Wizard" Black, who was part of the crew for last year's Nebulous Entity: he worked on the abduction chambers. "We had people lining up for it!" he chuckles. "It was my first Burning Man and I jumped in with both feet, got involved in a big project and just had a blast." Even so, he promised himself that this year's project would be no more complicated than a hat.

Then Larry Harvey started talking about the Wheel of Time. "I said to myself, I bet I could literally do a wheel of time," the Wizard says. So much for the hat. He designed processor boards and had them manufactured; he ordered ultra-bright orange LEDs from Taiwan. He and his crew—mostly Silicon Valley power nerds—assembled the 200 processors (one controls every ten lights) in their homes.

The lenses for the LEDs were time-intensive creations. The Wizard designed a casting jig and his daughter Melissa suspended the LEDs in liquid plastic, which hardened into hemispherical fisheye lenses. The lenses were cured with solar power, in a black-painted box in his sunroom. Playa dust was a key design component. The lenses produce point-source light; it's the dust that diffuses the light to produce vivid orange discs. Since the strings of pods are hand assembled, the pattern of lights is a bit irregular—a more organic quality is an unexpected benefit.

The 2,000 pods are wired into a harness with eight golf-cart batteries—enough power for 14 days, the team hopes—and 200 processor boards. A twisted-pair cable links the harness to another 200 circuit boards, these ones arranged around the Pattern Buffer Lounge. Lights dance around the lounge in sync with the pods on the Playa. You can influence the lights' movement by hitting buttons mounted directly on the boards. Station WL2K at 89.9 FM is an all-music station that may, later this week, synchronize the ring's patterns.



A circle of 2000 lights buried in the Playa and flashing in mystifying sequences. Best viewed at night. Photo by Jeremy Chalmers Fitzhardinge ©1999

The Wizard views the artwork as a natural extension of his work as an engineer. "My work is mostly invisible, going into mundane, boring things. Here we've used the technology that might be used for 200 telephones to redefine the entire physical space."

"People have said, 'It's the best toy I've ever seen,'" says L2K camp manager Timothy Childs with a grin. "And, 'You guys are really evil,' but they said that in a nice way." The team is saving up some surprises for the night of the Burn, when the ring of lights will mark the safety perimeter. "We have a performance piece planned," says the Wizard. "We want to ask people, please don't abuse the ring. The pods are durable, but they're not immortal. Please walk your bikes over them, and don't drive over them at all."

A vast amount of work has gone into L2K—not only from the Wizard, who dedicated four months to it, the last month full-time, but also from his volunteers. "We have some really high quality people on this project," he says. "I'm just amazed at the way the team has pulled together. It's an insane effort."

## Eyes upon... continued from page 1

Another journalist, Chris Simunek from High Times magazine, was also impressed. He told me, "I knew it was going to be a freakshow, but for some reason, perhaps its San Francisco association, I thought it was a hippy thing. You know, people waving their peckers around in public in an attempt to forestall middle age. I was not prepared to enjoy it. It was a pleasant surprise to see people my age actually involved in something that required both talent and imagination." This experience shaped the article he was to write. Rather than simply framing the event in terms of "Sex, Buds, and Burning Man," as his magazine billed the article, Chris embraced a wider perspective. He said, "Sex, drugs, and rock'n'roll being basic everyday life essentials, I figured I'd focus on what was unique about the event."

As our press kit emphasizes, "the best coverage of Burning Man always has been and always will be that which is profoundly personal. Immerse yourself."

## DJ Christ... continued from page 1

less than sober conditions provided the vision to the work. A few days in Amsterdam inspired the creators to center the story around the beauty and potential horror of drugs. This twist on the story has been defended by several team members as a perfect metaphor for what takes place in the play.

Overall, fans of previous versions of Jesus Christ Superstar will recognize the music enough to sing along, but find the new rendition a completely original endeavor. Despite the changes, the true passion of the work is very much intact.

After hearing excerpts from "Heaven On Their Minds," "The Temple," and PJ Harvey's "To Bring You My Love," it was obvious to me that this production will be talked about well after the Man burns to the ground. In the meantime, I'll be impatiently waiting for the production to begin at 8:30 pm on Thursday. This will be my first glimpse into a live production of the musical. I feel it's long overdue.

## THE PLAYA GOURMET

By Susan Kirr

There is one main principle that applies when preparing food on the playa, and that rule is really more of a non-rule: don't always do what the recipe tells you to do. Use what you have, make substitutions, and be creative (as you would in ANY endeavor on the playa). All good cooks know this; it is the basis of great cooking. Hummus is a good example. This Middle Eastern spread is usually made with pureed chickpeas, chopped parsley, tahini, and garlic but clearly there's lots of room for improvisation here. If you don't have parsley, but you happen to have cilantro, go for it. In Texas, some gourmet chefs are making a cowboy hummus with black-eyed peas (instead of chickpeas) and peanut butter (instead of tahini). Truth be told, you could make hummus with any kind of bean you desire. If you brought your Cuisinart along, jolly good for you. If you didn't, you could puree the beans with a little olive oil in your margarita blender, or you could just mash the heck out of 'em with a fork. What follows is a very basic, standard hummus recipe. Let your imagination do the rest.

P.S. I also hear that hummus keeps very well in the desert and will stay fresh for a few days.

### Hummus

- 1 can chickpeas, pureed or mashed
- 1 garlic clove, minced or sliced
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 tablespoons tahini paste
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- handful of parsley, finely chopped
- salt and pepper, to taste

Combine all ingredients. Spread on bread, pita, or crackers. Share with a friend.

## Camp Camping with PussPuss

NOWhat that you're NOWhere? The refreshing heat of the playa caresses your skin, the warm silt dances between your toes. Now that dry heat has embodied your experience it's time to own your destiny. Here are helpful safety hints to guide your experience for better "pusspuss" living.

Black Rock City is a place that lends itself to flexing survival skills. Giving, sharing, and bartering are valid and productive ways to connect with other folks. Heat exhaustion isn't—drink water and use sunscreen.

A good playa hostess offers sunscreen, a sponge bath, or other tasty treats to strangers in hopes of making new friends. If you're serving or sampling cocktails, remember the "piss clear rule": Drink enough water between drinkees to piss clear. Keep coolers with water, dairy, and meat items in the shade, as full as possible, and open them only when needed. Did you forget to bring cocktail mixers or sunscreen? Really, if you're reading this you've already discovered dozens of things you forgot to bring, so you'll just have to make do with what you have or can borrow.

Colorful fabric, beads, lighting, and artwork help make any hovel into home and can help you find your way back at night. And cover those tent stakes with decorated water bottles so we don't go scraping our toenail polish on 'em. Please don't leave electrical items or burning candles unattended (the rangers may have to put them out).

Those rangers aren't there to be hall monitors, either—they're like the designated drivers trained in safety skills to pull your badass out of messes. Feel free to interact—you might learn something.

Above all, respect for your yourself and others will pave the way for fun and a broadening of the senses. Life is to be lived—passionately and with style.



by Sister Dana Van Iquity

Hello, New Age Playa Dwellers and their Spiritually Evolved Friends! While communicating with My Inner Higher power and the Psychotic Friends Hotline yesterday, a revelation came to me: We desert deity-seeking dudes are in desperate need of daily declarations. Duh. So Kenny Kingston's Sappy Sweet Spirit in me has come up with some very special Black Rock Affirmations to steer us all along the transcendent path.

First of all, I want you to find a mirror or any reflective surface. Close your eyes for a moment while humming "Ohhmm ohhmmmm ohhmmigod it's hot!" Now open your eyes and look right into the mirrored surface while affirming: "I am a beautiful person despite days and days of unwashed hair, bathing with baby wipes, and having the breath of a carrion-eating buzzard."

This second affirmation is vital for your very survival, to say nothing of your spirit's well-being: "Here on the playa I remember to drink one gallon of water every day." [Note: We regret that some editions of this newspaper accidentally printed a typo, and people were drinking a gallon of water every HOUR. Sorry. We are not responsible for burst bladders.]

This next one may be a teeny bit difficult, but you're true evolved beings fairly dripping with unconditional love, and I know you can do it. "Every day in every way I find something nice to say about my neighbors, despite the fact that their gawd-damned four-hundred amp sound system blasts 24/7 and I'm not that fond of [insert annoying music genre here]."

If you enjoy rough sex, in the sense of abrasion, ignore the next affirmation. Otherwise, repeat after me: "I always remember to put the cap back on the lube tube and thereby avoid playa sand sores." And don't forget: "I keep my condoms and dildos in a cool, dry place, thus avoiding that unpleasant melted latex smell and all-around tackiness."

You should always remember that people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones, so this is a handy affirmation: "No matter how tempting the situation is, I have the power to resist yelling at frat-boys, 'Show me yer dick!' and then pointing and laughing when they do."

Portapotties: Nope, sorry, I got nothing here. There simply IS NO AFFIRMATION for our outhouses. Just grin and bear it, and for gawd's sake, close the lid each time.

Memorize and repeat daily: "I now think of playa powder on absolutely everything I own as a blessing of nature's fairy dust and a delightful memento of my trip to Black Rock City, which I will have forever and ever and ever, because that shit don't EVER come off."

And lastly but certainly leastly, "I promise to read every single article in the Black Rock Gazette and then go out and participate my ass off!!!"

## Bernie's Index

Cities and landmarks that share the same latitude as New York City:  
Istanbul; Eugene, Oregon; Barcelona; most of Albania.

... as San Francisco:

Seoul, Korea; Tunis, Tunisia, the Rock of Gibraltar.

... Black Rock City:

Thessaloniki, considered by the Greeks to be the second city of culture.

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).

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### On this Edition

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