



# Burners to occupy, then burn, 'Wall Street'

## MITCH AND AZALEA

Burn Wall Street was always going to be controversial.

The self-described largest honorarium art project on the Playa in 2012 is designed to bring the financial industry to the protestors, the flip side of the real thing at Occupy Wall Street last fall.

Five big buildings representing key players (Chaos Manhattan, Merrill Lynch, Goldman or Sucks, Bank of UnAmerica, and the New York Stock Exchange) are meant to offer interactive elements like climbing the corporate ladder at Goldman getting charged for breathing bank air at Chaos Manhattan. You can try to occupy the football-field-sized project, and then the cops can chase you out, since there's no camping on the Playa.

Aside from giving a Burning Man twist to the Occupy battle against the 1 percent, Burn Wall Street is meant to bring together those protestors with Tea Party types. Both groups are unhappy with what project mastermind Otto Von Danger sees as the hijacking of America by its finance industry, and it is not uncommon for the radical fringes of the political spectrum to find they have more in common with each other than with the more moderate elements of their respective persuasions.

Before any of that can happen, the project must be complete. By the time you read this, it should be, but like many things at Black Rock City 2012, Burn Wall Street was not ready on time.

Recriminations are flying between the Bmorg and Von Danger. Sources told the Beacon that Von Danger, who has done several previous BRC projects, was not up to the task of managing the huge effort. Specifically, they said, Von Danger fired several of his most competent staffers, leaving a crew without much building experience and one that enjoyed the perks (free PBR, hot coffee) more than the work.

Out at the site Tuesday afternoon, 1,800 feet past the Man at 11:00, Joe the Builder, the Bmorg's construction manager, had a

one-word reason for the delayed opening: "Mismanagement." He said some of the buildings were shortened, with a loss of seven stories, as a way of moving the project ahead, though interior safety issues remained unresolved.

A bull at the center of the courtyard was deemed too fragile to be accessible to the public, and Joe ordered Von Danger to surround it with orange fencing and post a docent to keep Burners from being gored by the beast.

Von Danger pointed his finger right back at the Bmorg. He said the standards for the buildings' foundations and the rigging required to put them up had been changed, requiring new supplies to be ordered. He was also unhappy about being given 14 days to build the equivalent of five Man bases. The crew that does that, he said, is given six weeks.

One reason for the tight schedule, he said, was a Bmorg requirement that significant work be completed on the Temple before Burn Wall Street could begin.

On top of everything else, there was this year's epic dust. As he spoke, a total white-out descended, making his point clear. The Burn Wall Street buildings were fabricated in sections off Playa then transported here for final assembly. That involved cranes, which cannot function during dust storms. A particularly vicious gust picked up a trailer and moved it six feet, he said.

Turning to the philosophy of the project, Von Danger said he wanted to unite people on the left and right who "want prison sentences for people who rip off my grandmother and yours."

Where will he find Tea Partiers at BRC? He said they have already found them. One night, a Pershing County police cruiser approached the project. Von Danger greeted it and asked what the officers wanted. "They said, 'We are Tea Partiers and we love this.' One of them had been foreclosed upon by Bank of America.

Burn Wall Street will Burn Friday night at 9 p.m.

*As he spoke, a total white-out descended, making his point clear.*



Black Rock City? No, New York City.

# Dancing in the dust

## BY LEXI FEINBERG

Tom and Gary are two Canadian friends who decided to start a wildly inventive soiree called the Decentralized Dance Party and take it around the world. So far in 2012, with the help of the fund-raising site Kickstarter, they have cut loose in New York City, Asheville, and Minneapolis, among other locales. Next stop: Black Rock City, Thursday night.

"It will be my first time at Burning Man," Gary said. "It's crazy how many parallels there are between Burning Man and DDP. We are expecting a very similar mix of human beings, and we're excited to meet everyone and team up to create a DDP that will be unforgettable."

So what exactly is the Decentralized Dance Party? It is led by a master DJ, who wears a backpack with an FM radio transmitter. Hundreds of people carry boomboxes, all tuned into the DJ's broadcast, and this portable dance party roams the night, resulting in a mobile, synchronized sound system. "The music we play at DDPs

is pretty much '90s wedding reception music, with some newer stuff mixed in, which works perfectly," he said.

These Boomers plan to meet at Center Camp at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday. They will lend 150 boomboxes and 50 FM receivers for Art Cars and guerilla sound systems, and take their party all over the Playa all night long. Mission statement: "We will party with everyone we encounter, on, under, and inside whatever structures we encounter."

One of the Decentralized Dance Party's fans is Kerry Leonard, who has been on the crew since 2009. She says it attracts people that live life and have fun in positive ways, and those that are inspired to embrace things that are beautiful and artistic. "The reality of a common accomplished goal is something no one can fully explain, but everyone can feel. I know we're going to make a lot of friends at Burning Man; the possibilities are limitless."

Let's get the party started.

# Fresh produce is given away daily at Playa Farmer's Market

## SUSAN

The place for foodies between 8 and 10 am is the French Quarter (7:30 & Alyssum).

The Black Rock City Farmer's Market offers fresh fruits and vegetables, ready-to-eat treats, and freshly-blended smoothies (with or without alcohol — bring your own cup!). Order a smoothie and pedal the bicycle-driven blender. Tuesday's ready-to-eat offerings included hot corn on the cob, a gingery cabbage and carrot salad served in a fresh cabbage leaf, cold grapes or pluots and chocolate-covered strawberries, passed on trays by Carrot Camp volunteers. Bring your moop bag for stems and pits.

For dinner, pick up a Roma tomato, a pattypan squash, and a couple sticks of celery. If you're lucky (or generously donated to their IndieGoGo campaign), a volunteer like Delivery David may deliver a basket to your camp.

According to Mo Dumplings, Burners can donate fresh produce or ready-to-eat homemade goodies, but More Carrot (Less Stick) Camp buys most of the produce at the Reno Farmers Market. Volunteers wash it, chill it, and pack it in coolers for each day. They store these on Playa in their insulated and cooled hexayurt.

This reporter got a peek inside the yurt, and found it cool and roomy, thanks to a battery swamp cooler. Later today, Delivery David will connect solar panels.

Next door is Café du Monde, and Tuesday the bakery was serving French toast, so some lucky Burners enjoyed a big balanced breakfast.

The More Carrot camp started in 2009 and launched the Black Rock City Farmer's Market in 2010, motivated by that year's theme, Metropolis, Life of Cities. This year, the founders of Carrot Camp are celebrating fertility at home in Australia, welcoming their first child, but many of their children-in-spirit are carrying on, making the market bigger and better than ever.

## LISTING

Doron Gazit invites you to Sculpting the Wind, a project that uses long tubes to develop a dialogue with the wind. It starts every day about 6:30 p.m. on the Playa, close to 6:00 and the Esplanade. It is fun.

# DEFAULT WORLD OCCUPIERS NEED BURNER HELP

## MITCH

The original Occupy Wall Street was like a photo negative of Burn Wall Street: a miniature display of Burning Man squished into a small New York City block. There were tarps and tents, and generators — the quiet red models — and a gray-water treatment set-up. For a while, potties were installed at a discreet distance from the main encampment.

Many of the people at OWS looked like Burners. Some were, although many others said, often wistfully, that they could not afford to attend.

"There is lots of overlap," Reverend Billy, the activist New York-based Burner with interests in anti-consumerism and ecology, said in a telephone interview at the time. "There are a number of people in the Stop Shopping Choir who are both Burners and central activists in the Occupy Wall Street movement. The Burner greetings are going on pretty constantly. The evidence is overwhelming," he said between arrests — he was jailed at least twice in connection with OWS-related protests at bank and brokerage head-

quarters in Lower Manhattan.

There is, on the face of it, much commonality between Burner and Occupy cultures. Radical inclusion, self-expression, a sense of community, OWS and its offshoots adhere to most of the Ten Principles. Perhaps more to the point, both reject elements of modern society, Burners by abandoning it, Occupiers by confronting it.

While many Occupiers espoused Burner values, there were other elements living in the park. Some looked like the kinds of people who always lived in parks, and there was some talk that the police sent them there so they could arrest them later.

Not that the protesters minded the company. "Humanistic value isn't about 'I have,' it is about each other," said Daniel Medic, who aptly worked in the medical tent and as an herbalist in the alternative medical tent. OWS attracted people who needed a free meal, but that is a positive thing from a philosophical standpoint, Daniel said.

Daniel is friends with members of Costume Kult, a New York-based perfor-

mance art collective that runs a Black Rock City theme camp. Daniel has not attended Burning Man, though he has been to other festivals and considers himself a Burner. Besides, he said, "We burn the Man every day."

It is all about radical inclusion. He pointed to a drum circle that had formed at the west end of the park, backing a saxophone player. Live music at OWS was not planned, he said; it spontaneously occurred.

OWS had been criticized for lack of a coherent platform. Reverend Billy said the medium was the message: "You could not be more specific than to occupy Wall Street. You start feeding each other, living together at the symbolic center of world finance, you could not be more specific." OWS defined the 99 percent, he said, and that was enough.

The 99 percent seemed to know viscerally it had been screwed in the past couple of economic downturns, but it could not say exactly how. There was an almost morbid preoccupation with the legal status of corporations as people. It sounds weird,

but corporations have been people before the law for hundreds of years without any apparent ill effects.

The protesters were on firmer ground when they opposed the idea that corporations, as people, have a First Amendment right to provide financial support to politicians. They may be people, but they are not citizens. The issue could be addressed by campaign finance reform.

For the most part, the 1 percent does not break the law. Instead it has managed to bend laws to its advantage, to influence regulation, and to increase its wealth relative to the majority. There are things the 99 percent can do to counteract this, but only with lifestyle changes that include increased civic participation and reduced living standards, though the latter will come in almost any scenario. The 1 percent may have exploited the rest of society, but not without at least tacit participation by many of the 99 percent.

"Pointing blame at someone else does not really accomplish anything for anybody," said Tabitha Conrad, a Burner from

Los Angeles who spent time at Occupy Wall Street. What is needed is "a new society with new rules; a real democracy," she said in an interview at the time. An excellent template is Black Rock City. It is an intentional community in which people are free "to do whatever they want to do, to be whoever they want to be."

What Occupy Wall Street needs, she said, is Burners to lend some savoir-faire. "They need this culture to be integrated with those really intelligent good-hearted people who are leading this movement."

Her friend Daniel Pinchbeck, the author who writes about New Age philosophy, said, "Burning Man is kind of a prototype."



## How to get rid of playa dust

### RHINO

In 2010, as an afterthought to his trip to the playa, Rhino took home a Ziploc bag full of playa dust. Lots of Burners do that, as a reminder of being "one with the dust." Rhino, a highly qualified professional geologist, was different. He had the dust analyzed at his workplace.

It turned out to consist of about 53 percent calcite, 30 percent quartz and petal spar, and the rest a mineral called halloysite, a type of kaolin clay (think kitty litter).

How to get rid of it? Burners for years have used vinegar on the dust; but a residue still remains. The secret for getting rid of all the dust hasn't been formulated or shared — until now. Add a solution of Calgon and water to the vinegar, and playa dust comes right off. How? Here comes the science bit: Calgon acts as an ecologically friendly surfactant. 🐷

*Rhino is Chief Geologist for the Black Rock City Division of Geology. And you thought there wasn't any such thing.*



**Fertility is an unfortunate theme.** The Burning Man Festival has an annoying habit of taking your life, and flinging it in directions that were never thought necessary.

Larry's little shindig is where I met my second, third and fifth wives..

Of all my various spouses, my third wife has always been my favorite.

I don't remember her name, it's hard to keep them all straight. What I do remember is her winsome smile, and her venal taste in divorce lawyers.

I met her one fateful night, at Bianca's Smut Shack, under a pile of naked, writhing bodies.

Once her proclivities for enema bondage were revealed to me, I was lost to all other women.

I figured that since cleanliness is next to godliness, this specimen must truly have the angels singing in her colon.

I can only imagine that what snuffed out our eternal love, were the steady stream of complaints from the aforementioned Cherubs.

They did not appreciate my incessant intrusion upon their privacy, and my attentions left gooey stains that could not be scrubbed out of the carpets.

Nonetheless, other than some brothel in Bangkok, or a very lonely dairy farm in Iowa, there are few places in the world where such heroic women can be found.

Burning Man is one of them.

Oh, that I had never set foot on the hallowed grounds, inside the Orange Hippie Enclosure.

If I had remained innocent of the morally fragrant creatures that inhabit Larry's Dream World, I might still be under contract to 20th Century Fox, making vapid, unwatchable movies.

## Don't get busted, says ACLU

### AZALEA

The ACLU has re-emphasized its recommendations for Burners who come into contact with law enforcement this year. Even if you have a medical marijuana card from any state, it is no protection against prosecution and you could be cited and fined — or worse. If you are serving alcohol it is vital to check real IDs — not photocopies, or verbal identifications. The onus is on the person serving to make sure everyone who gets a drink has legally valid 21+ identification.

If you are stopped by law enforcement when there is no evidence of illegal activity — such as visible drug paraphernalia or the smell of marijuana — the officer may ask for your identification. Tell him your real name, but do not give any more information and immediately ask if you are free to go, says Staci Pratt, legal director for American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Las Vegas. "They have to say yes, or they have to arrest you, and they can't do that without probable cause," Ms Pratt said. "They

may ask you if you have any drugs on you, and some people are so shocked they will say yes. Do not volunteer any information because it truly will be used against you."

To establish probable cause for an arrest, an officer must be able to pinpoint evidence of illegal activity — for example, seeing or smelling drugs. This year officers have used causes such as having license plates obscured by bikes carried on the car, faulty headlights, or driving 1mph over the posted speed limit.

Maintain your privacy, says the ACLU. Make sure you do not leave anything illegal in plain sight or smell; even if it is within your tent but visible from outside, that constitutes probable cause. If someone is caught smoking pot in your camp this should not constitute probable cause for every tent or camper to be searched — but anecdotes suggest this may have happened to some Burners. If this happens to your camp, you may be able to challenge the legality of the search in court.

If police ask to search you: "Consenting to a search is the worst possible thing you can do, because it gives them licence to look through everything you have," says Ms Pratt says. "Under the 4th amendment,

police officers must have probable cause to search you — but if you say yes to a search, you cannot later challenge it."

But the reality — both on the Playa and off — is that many people feel intimidated by law enforcement. Ms Pratt says the key is not to lose your head — stay polite, stay calm, and remain aware of your rights. "The officer might indicate sniffer dogs will be used, or you will get off easy if you say yes — but do not consent," she said. "To get a search warrant, they need facts — that the officer saw you drop some drugs, or smelled drugs on you."

If dogs are used on you or your camp, watch the police officer carefully for any hand signals or indications the dogs were spurred on. You may later be able to challenge the search in court — this is especially important as the Playa dust makes sniffer dogs' noses less effective than usual.

If you are arrested, document everything including the officer's name and badge number, if sniffer dogs were used, and the circumstances of your arrest. Contact a lawyer immediately. Some Reno lawyers take a special interest in advocating for Burners. 🐷

## Playa etiquette: how to behave

### REECY PONTIFF

You made it. Information on what to bring is now irrelevant — you're stuck with those broken tent poles and SOL if you forgot your electric pink bunny onesie — but now that you're here, let us offer some helpful hints for virgin and jaded veteran alike.

#### Err on the side of yes

BRC is nothing but one opportunity after the next; let your instincts be your guide. You're sure to hit a few hard limits, some of which you didn't even know you had. But when you find yourself pondering the pros and cons of accepting an adventure presented to you, push through that doubt and just say yes.

#### Concentrate on this year

Yes, we know that after mere hours here in BRC the words "next year" will leave your mouth. The city is full of wonders and experiences sure to get your creative juices flowing, but be sure to appreciate the moment instead of planning for the future.

#### Biking through sand: ride faster!

It sounds counterintuitive, but when you can't avoid that pile of sand on the playa, get up some speed and centripetal force will be on your side.

#### Practice personal possession bondage

If it's not attached to you, it's lost. Carabiniers are your friend.

#### Set up two meeting times

With all the shiny, blinky wonders to behold in BRC, it's best to leave yourself an hour minimum — though two or three might be more realistic — to get anywhere in the city. To ensure you're able to meet up with your friends or lovers, try setting up two meeting times a couple of hours apart in different places in case distraction, dehydration, or dancing leaves you unable to make that first time. 🐷

## Ice cream and sex in delicious combination

### RINGO FIREFLY

If you find yourself hankering for an icy treat between now and Thursday, bike on over to Camp Pink Heart, where they are serving up coconut bliss ice cream cones.

If the vegan ice cream doesn't have you furiously running towards the great pink heart, take advantage of their unique matchmaking opportunity. All those bold enough to stand in line while burning underneath the sun will not only reap the re-

wards of ice cream, but will also be subject to Cupid's arrow. Matchmaking will be in operation throughout the queue.

Sex and ice cream: now there's a combination to be reckoned with. 🐷

## ALMANAC

Jupiter will rise in the east around 11 p.m., appearing as the brightest star in the sky. With a pair of binoculars you can easily see its four largest moons just as Galileo saw them in 1610. Venus will rise around 1 a.m., and will be exceptionally bright, outshining even Jupiter. Just before sunrise Mercury will try to poke through the eastern mountains, but the light of the rising sun may be too bright to observe the planet before it comes into view.

The two ice giants, Neptune and Uranus, are too dim to be seen with the naked eye. They will be up in the sky — but you will need to find someone with a good telescope to see them. Given the full moon, telescopes will likely be scarce in Black Rock City.

— Frogbird



### WEDNESDAY, AUG. 28

"Mean Streets" told of a group called "Takin' Back the Streets" that had changed the longitudinal signs in use that year back to the familiar clock system. Burners were divided about whether they liked the new way, but the clock came back for good the following year.

Lady Merv wrote about the connections between Burning Man and 9/11. She described the next night through a Playa prism: people riding in masks and goggles on golf carts as roads were sprayed to keep the dust down. Much of that dust came from pulverized sheet rock, most of which originated in Empire at the time. Burners later helped the city replace aged garbage cans used as burn barrels to keep relief workers warm with decorated Burning Cans.

Population: 12,347

## Ace of Bass

### LEXI FEINBERG



Have you looked at Stonehenge and thought it would be even more awesome if it had a little bass? No? Well, expand your horizons, because Basshenge is making its debut at Burning Man this year.

The installation is an artsy tribute to a world wonder, and project manager Christophe Lobe is hoping to take it on tour after its release party. "That's the goal," he says, made possible by "lots of fundraisers and a ton of money out of pocket."

Giant speakers of different shapes and sizes will be stacked to resemble Stonehenge, and the outer layer of stones will be illuminated by more than 120 LEDs. The installation will be displayed in "correct alignment with the sun, stars and moon."

You can catch this interesting landmark in Sacred Spaces Village, at 9:45 and E. 🐷

## BRAINTEASER BY DURGY

Find the following words in the grid: Alyssum, Bacon, Begonia, Columbine, Dandelion, Edelweiss, Esplanade, Foxglove, Geranium, Hyacinth, Iris, Jasmine, Kingcup, Lilac. The remaining letters spell a theme-related word.

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| B | P | B | A | C | O | N | K | E | O |
| D | E | D | E | L | W | E | I | S | S |
| A | N | G | V | L | L | N | N | P | H |
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| D | B | R | L | N | L | M | C | A | A |
| E | M | A | G | I | I | S | U | N | C |
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| N | C | M | U | S | S | Y | L | A | H |

## Open Water

by Hydro

There are many things you will be exposed to this week. Part of the beauty of BRC comes from the experiences you wouldn't have imagined. When I first visited BRC in 2010, I gazed upon a sight that indeed I would never have imagined. Running backwards down one of the city streets behind a water truck was a herd of naked men, not unlike a pod of dolphins chasing the wake of a large boat.

What were these men doing? They were enjoying a free, mobile shower. It was explained to me that this was not an uncommon activity. In fact, although it isn't

technically allowed at Burning Man, many participants chase down the water trucks to rinse off the sweat and dust from the day before.

If you are unaware, these trucks water the city streets in an effort to lessen the amount of "fugitive dust" caused by the event. The BLM has worked with BRC, LLC., this year to ensure Burners are aware that this water, obtained from nearby Fly Geyser, is not intended for drinking or bathing. The trucks should be labeled "Non-Potable". But is the water bad for you?

Earlier this year, the BLM published some measured concentrations of potential health risks found in the water. Here are some of the highlights:

Total coliform bacteria = 1,733mpn/

100mL (Drinking water standard = 0)  
E. Coli = 11mpn.100mL (Standard = 0)  
Flouride = 8.4 mg/L (Standard = 4)  
Antimony = 0.019mg/L (Standard = 0.006)

Everything else tested was either not detectable or was measured below drinking water standards. It appears there aren't many health concerns related to elements or compounds unless you have specific allergies. Be mindful, though, of the presence of bacteria. Remember that this water is NOT TREATED. If you decide to use this water for anything other than its intended purpose (dust abatement), you do so AT YOUR OWN RISK.

Personally, I'll be relying on the bottled and tap water I bring with me.