



Playa Pshycology

Know your Campmates 102: Narcissism

Today I would like to discuss Narcissism in the Arts but frankly I can't be bothered. Besides a light bulb has gone out on the large mirror in my suite and you know how many Burners it takes to change one of those.



THEATREMUSE

All you really need to know is that a handsome Greek boy spurned the advances of a hot nymph named Echo, in favor of staring at his own reflection in a pool of water. Fat chance he would have out here. 'Hello! Hello!' No great mystery here, even if you are not a handsome Greek. Today Narcissus would be out of the closet but still feeling grandiose and self-important, making exaggerated claims of his achievements and talents, demanding to be recognized as superior, obsessed with fantasies of unlimited success, fame, fearsome power and omnipotence.

If you come across this type lead him to Lucid Revolution Camp and get him to check out the contorted mirrors, preferably when he is in an altered state. — **Howeird**

Lockout Camp Locked Out

Lockout Camp is no more. The camp, formerly sponsored by the Burning Man organization, helped citizens who lost their keys get back into their vehicles. In 2004, Lockout Camp got at least 200 citizens behind their wheels, but when Burning Man decided not to donate tickets to the staff members – about half a dozen last year – the group dissolved.

The loss of Lockout Camp places Burners in an expensive position. If your car keys are lost, you will have to call a locksmith from Reno, which will run you about \$150. On top of that, you will have to buy a Gate ticket, costing \$300 or more, if you want help before Tuesday. Ticket sales end at 11:59 p.m. on Thursday.

If your keys are locked in your car, consider smashing in a window or other violent mode of entry. Otherwise you can go to Gerlach and call for locksmith assistance from Reno. Try A&J: (775) 826-9312, Andys (775) 332-8588 or Lock&Glass (775) 323-6688.

— **Lord Fouffypanss I.G.M.A.**

Letter to the Editor

Collecting, stealing, and pranking with street signs directly endangers life. Medical, Ranger and fire responses are delayed every year because some folks who think they're Burners (but are NOT) take them down. At best, it is selfish and pointless, at worst it is criminal.

If the street signs on a corner near your camp are stolen, please make a replacement out of something like cardboard and secure it to the post. That would be a big help.

— **Sasquatch**

I'm not the Rangers. Just A Ranger.

The Black Rock Beacon wants to know what you think! Bring letters to us (or write them here) at 9:00 a.m. and Amnesia. Letters of 50 to 150 words work best, and topics must somehow pertain to Burning Man. Real-world ID is required for our records.

Black Rock City population 17,816 as of noon Tuesday.

A Clockwork Lemon: Tower Is Toast

BY SMAZE

Most people could not care less what time it is at Black Rock City, but even \$30,000 will not buy you this timepiece.

At the Clockworks art installation at 8:15 between the Man and the Esplanade, you get three times to choose.

Clockworks was designed and built by Liam McNamara, Shannon O'Hare and a crew of about 12 from the Shipyard in Berkeley and currently residing in Illumination Village. The materials for its construction are largely after market. Parts of it are pieces of a recently demolished house. Wooden dowels holding it together are recycled broomsticks. Woks power its windmill. "There's a lot of salvage and a lot of crates," says crew member John Brecht.

The three faces of the tower tell three different times in three different ways. The face aimed at Center Camp operates on a pendulum and gives approximate Pacific daylight time. It needs to be wound five times a day. The time visible from the Man is wind operated and shows the passage of

time slower or faster depending on weather conditions. The third face is monkey operated and will go as fast as the primate at the end of the wheel turns.

On Monday, the crew of Clockworks was offered \$30,000 not to burn the installation, but they will not take the money. "There are no cash transactions on Playa," said Kimric, a crew member. Kimric also added that nobody has shown them any cash at this point. But even if you have a spare 30K lying around, save it. Clockworks is not accepting offers.

Kimric was concerned that somebody tried to get into the body of the installation. One of the pins was pried halfway out of one of the hinges on the top level. "Don't fucking vandalize the art!" implored Kimric. McNamara, thought that the damage was consistent with one of the crew members trying to break in to wind the clock after losing his key, but echoed

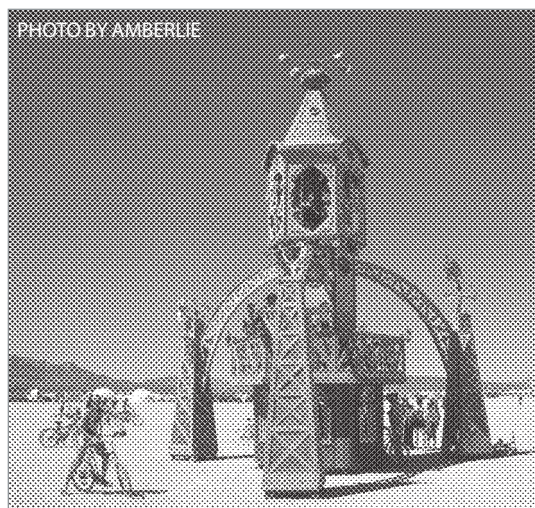


PHOTO BY AMBERLIE

Kimric's sentiment about art vandalism.

As striking as it is, Clockworks was built to burn. When Sunday night turns into Monday morning time will stop. 🐼

Coal Plant Would Be a Different Kind of Burner

BY HOWEIRD

Ah, Black Rock Country. Wide, open spaces. Constellations twinkling in the clear night sky. Fresh air, peace and quiet. A perfectly logical place to build a massive power plant to light up Southern California.

From an economic point of view, it IS the perfect place to put up a power plant, according to San Diego-based Sempra Energy Co., which wants to build a "state-of-the-art" coal-powered generation station 10 miles northwest of Gerlach. A confluence of resources makes it attractive: rail transportation for coal from Wyoming, a major power transmission line, and enough land and water for a big generating plant.

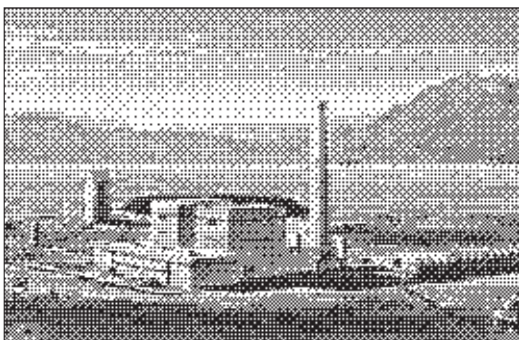
The proposed Granite Fox Power project, named for two nearby 9,000 foot peaks, would produce 1,450 megawatts of electricity, enough "for as many as 1.5 million homes," according to Sempra. The utility hopes to have the first unit online by 2010.

If the project gets built, an average of 800 construction jobs would be created over five years and then there would be about 130 permanent positions at the plant. The \$2 billion facility would generate about \$125 million in annual tax revenue for Washoe County and its localities. That is a huge windfall for the Gerlach/Empire region, which has a population of about 500 and a medium annual household income of about \$35,000. The Granite Fox jobs would pay about \$70,000 a year.

Yet the consensus at the Miners Club, a favorite Gerlach watering hole for locals and Burners alike, is that only a handful of area residents support the plant. In June, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to oppose the project and to ask Los Angeles to deny Sempra access to the transmission line, the Pacific Intertie, which is run and 40-percent owned by the LA Department of Water and Power. (Even if Los Angeles won't take the power, Sempra could still sell it to Southern California Edison Co., which owns half the line, and

the municipalities of Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena, which own the remaining 10 percent.) The plant is also opposed by the Nevada Clean Energy Coalition, a group that prefers that energy generation in the area be of the green variety, taking advantage of geothermal and wind resources.

The Burning Man organization has decided not to take a public stand on the issue since it does not "pertain directly to the survival of our event and/or the Burning Man overall movement," the website says. Granite Fox is to be located approximately eight miles from Black Rock City, and the plant would not be visible to Burners.



Artist's conception of coal plant.

Who besides Sempra DOES want this plant?

One recent Friday morning, I found myself eating hash browns and eggs at the counter of Bruno's Country Club restaurant when the trim octogenarian Bruno Selmi, town resident since World War

II, sat next to me with a small bowl of fruity gelatin dessert.

Bruno, whose restaurant/bar/casino/motel/gas station complex is one of the leading employers in town, had been fingered by locals the previous night as the ONE man in town who wants the coal plant, "or maybe that guy who works for the oil company wants it too" someone added.

"So Bruno," I ask, "what do you think of this power plant idea?" He curls his lip and asks in a Tuscan accent, "Do you turn the light on?" He has been asked this question many times before. I start to tell him that San Francisco recently declared it doesn't want power from this proposed plant. Bruno snarls "I'd like to tell [San Francisco Mayor Gavin] Newsom, that cocksucker, do you turn the lights on?"

Later that day I found myself sitting on the last stool, at the Miners Club, next to Planet X Pottery owner John Bogard. Bogard is active with the Nevada Clean Energy Coalition, and he had a stack of 'Got Mercury?' and

'Clean Coal?' bumper stickers with him. The coalition says the plant would release "more than 50 dangerous pollutants" though Sempra points out that it would have to comply with federal and Nevada emissions requirements.

Bogard said the first he knew of the project was when a 180-foot air-monitoring tower was erected three miles from his spread, northwest of Gerlach. Every few seconds the sensing site's sonar squawks out a spooky chirping sound, like a demented bird imitating a phone ring. If the plant is built, the tower would be replaced by a 464-foot smokestack, 158 feet taller than the Statue of Liberty.

"Clean air gets a place in trouble," said John, referring to the ironic situation that the area's pristine air quality gives power plants room to pollute, "but everybody is downwind from a coal plant."

Air pollution is not the only problem presented by coal-fired power plants. They need water for cooling. A lot of water. Sempra figures it would use about 14.3 million gallons a day. It would divert water from farming as well as from plants and drinking holes relied upon by deer, elk and wild horses, according to an article by Marianne Ericsson in the North Lake Tahoe Bonanza. The federal government, with financing from Sempra, is currently assessing whether there is enough water available to cool the plant.

While the Sempra plant is much further along, there are alternate ideas to generate power using renewable resources. According to the Nevada Clean Energy Coalition northern Nevada has enough wind and geothermal resources to generate more electricity than the Sempra plant - 1,000 megawatts of wind and at least 800 megawatts of geothermal. This would lead to 3,354 construction jobs and 580 permanent positions. "Sempra," the group says, "is trying to tempt our community with the promise of economic growth and prosperity. But that financial growth comes at a very hefty price: our health; a damaged environment; and limited economic growth."

Sempra is offering a sop to the greens: while its plant would generate 1,450 megawatts, its connection to the Pacific Intertie would be 1,650 megawatts. The extra 200 megawatts of capacity could be used for energy from renewable sources, but that's small solace to opponents of the plant. 🐼

Facts and Figures

- Hogs are a source of nearly 40 drugs and pharmaceuticals on the market.
- Pork is the world's most widely eaten meat
- Pig skin is used to treat massive burns in humans due to its similarity to human skin
- The pig is rated the fourth most intelligent animal.

Black Rock Beacon

Question of the day:

What is your gift?

Please bring your responses to the Black Rock Beacon, 9:00 and Amnesia

More Than Meets the Eye in BRC

BY TONY TONOH

Carl Jung, the noted Swiss psychiatrist, coined the word "synchronicity," which he defined as "the coincidence in time of two or more causally unrelated events which have the same meaning."

In essence, his suggestion was that there are universal forces aligning the life experiences of all individuals. People sense these forces and act in harmony with them, often synchronizing with others.

It is a nice theory, but one that does not sit well with the scientific community. Since the proposal cannot be tested by the classic scientific method of controlled experiments, critics prefer to explain such occurrences via some probability theory, dismissing synchronicity as nothing more than magical thinking.

Jung died in 1961, so he missed the Police album he inspired and never got to visit Black Rock City. Had he lived longer, he would have found support for his theory through the phenomenon of Blackrocknicity.

Blackrocknicity is when you feel the flow of the Burn moving so strongly around you that just by thinking it you can make things happen, just by imagining it you can create it, and just by feeling it, you can not only share it, but find others who are sharing it and feeling it simultaneously. Blackrocknicity unites all citizens of Black Rock City, far surpassing what may be explained as a simple coincidence.

You cannot prove it in a laboratory, but examples from Burners abound:

Angelicfiend sets out to find a friend who is camped seven blocks away. Turning a corner she runs into that friend, who in turn has set out to find her.

Reverend Ed-Eye sits with campmates discussing what they will eat for dinner. "I just want a bag of chips," the Reverend says. Fifteen minutes later a complete stranger rides up on his bike and says, "You look like you need a bag of chips."

Some tales are even more incredible. Scamp-A-Licious tells the



story of two generous burners handing off a pair of tickets at the greeter's station to be passed along to someone in need at the box office. Upon arrival at the box office the greeter meets a couple all the way from Japan who have just discovered the discounted tickets they purchased at the airport are counterfeit. Stunned and in tears, with no more money to pay for entry, the free tickets were their only salvation.

Consider Brian's dream to attend Burning Man in 1998, which was smashed when he was run down by a car. The injury required years of rehabilitation. Finally in 2003 he made it to the Burn. While visiting the camp of an acquaintance, a woman he didn't recognize walked up and said, "I don't know how you're going to take this, but I'm Sarah." Sarah was the woman who was driving the car that had ran him down.

How can you explain any of those stories via some probability theory? Jung didn't believe you could, nor do I. So the next time you are on the playa don't be surprised if the last thing you expect to occur becomes the reality you know it can become. 🐾

There Goes Flaming Simon

BY MITCH

It was 1978 and at Studio 54, Ground Zero for the disco culture, the world was introduced to Simon, arguably the first electronic game for home use.

For those too young, too old or too wasted to recall, Simon was a circular plastic contraption with four large, colored buttons on top. You'd turn it on, and it would play a tone and one of the buttons would light up. You were supposed to press the same button that just illuminated.

If you managed that, it played two tones and lit two buttons, and if you were coordinated enough to press the two correct buttons it would keep extending the sequence until you did it 20 or so times. Then it would beep like R2D2 after his morning coffee to let you know that you were incredibly special.

Fast-forward to 2005: disco is dead, Simon is still around, and on the Playa, it's burning. Thanks to Erok, a multitasking creator who works in robotics and electronic music, you can play Flaming

Simon in Black Rock City.

Financed in part with a Borg2 grant, Flaming Simon is a chest-high square of metal pipes, eight feet per side, with torches in each corner. You stand in the middle, hit the start button, and one of the propane-fueled torches flares - close enough to you so that you can feel its heat. After it subsides, you swivel and press a button in front of the torch that just brightened, and you're off to the races. If you do it right 20 times, you're a winner and your reward is a flaming light show. Erok warns players who miss a sequence will be burned to a crisp, but the safety description in his proposal makes it seem as if he has not yet implemented that feature.

It's the kind of interactive art that the Borg2 promised when it threw down its gauntlet last year, and people who have played it say it is fun.

An earlier version of Flaming Simon was created in 2001, with the electronics hacked from a portable version of the real game. "For the new one," said Erok, "I'm recreating the algorithm using my own circuitry and

code, which will give me more control over timing and special effects. Plus, it will be more desert-resistant than the hack."

Why Simon? "I had one when I was a kid," said Erok, "though it wasn't necessarily a big influence on my life. I was big into videogames, though, and think of them as the ultimate in interactivity."

Erok said that in 1999 he created "a sort of precursor to Flaming Simon called Boing Sproing Bonk Clonk." This was a game where participants activated pods that triggered cartoon effects that suggested a code, which, if guessed, would set off a pyrotechnics display. "It was a spectacular failure," he said. "Failure in that no one really got the game; spectacular in that the fireworks did go off in the end." He also worked on lighting and flamethrower controls for the Madagascar Institute's Creature from the Deep, a giant Octopus that rose from the floor of Lake Lahontan.

In the default world, where he is known as Eric Singer, Erok has created some astounding robotic instruments. A particularly impressive effort is Guitar Bot, a four-stringed slide guitar in which each string can give its own virtuoso performance. 🐾

Chai Revolution

SCRYL CID



Black Rock City is supposed to run on a gift economy, but there are exceptions. Besides black-market transactions, there are also official sales of ice, coffee, tickets to Gerlach and RV services. This does not sit well with all citizens, and on Friday at noon, the Chai Tea revolution will take place in front of the Center Camp Café.

Organizers, who oppose commercial activity in Black Rock City will caffeinate the populace with chai tea, The protest will continue until the Chai runs out.

The protest is aimed at the sale of coffee at the Café. Unlike ice, which is necessary to keep perishables from spoilage, coffee is not required for survival. Yes, caffeine withdrawals suck, but there are plenty of neighbors giving away coffee throughout the city that even the most broken caffeine addict could get fixed. 🐾

Those who should be held directly responsible for The Black Rock Beacon...

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Playa Math

Being a Compendium of Useful Information, Including Divers Formulae, for use on the Playa

How long until sundown?

Here's another use for your hands when stretched out at arm's length. Allow about one hour for each palm-width the sun appears above the horizon, and you have an estimate of how long until sundown (or how long it's been since sunrise).

— Citizen X

Horrorscope

Cancer (June 21-July 22):

You feel quietly happy about your life and have faith in your future. I guess now is not a good time to tell you that you left your door unlocked.

Leo (July 23 - August 22):

You are wise, witty, and wonderful, but you spend too much time reading this sort of trash.

Virgo (August 23 - Sept 22):

Hm, it is way too early for vultures to be following you around this hopefully.

Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22):

It is wise to follow your dreams, but do you really need to find a job sorting doll heads in a fast food restaurant where the phone never stops ringing?

Other Zodiac signs will appear later this week.

Listings

Continuing

High-tech art lovers have several interesting options on the Playa this year. The Artery, 6:45 at Center Camp, offers a self-guided audio tour for download on MP3 players or on compact disk. The tour features 14 large-scale artworks funded by the Burning Man organization and all eight Borg2-financed projects.

For the less electronically inclined, there is a self-guided tour sheet and a guided bus tour and bike ride. The bus has limited seating, seniors, handicapped people and kids will get preference. Bikers can follow behind and listen to the tour guides by FM radio. Tours are offered several times a day; sign up the day before you want to go. — Lord Fouffypanns I.G.M.A.

Wednesday

10 a.m. Volunteer Meeting for the Black Rock Beacon.

We are looking for a few good writers, photographers, editors, illustrators, and logistic professionals to round out our elite corps of Burnalists. If you happen to have a 220 volt generator, we could really use it. 9:00 and Amnesia.

The Black Rock Beacon provides details of upcoming events in Black Rock City that were not listed in the materials handed out at the Gate. For consideration, please visit us at 9:00 and Amnesia. We require a piece of real world identification - so driver's licenses preferred - from anybody requesting a listing.

Semi-Legal Mumbo Jumbo

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