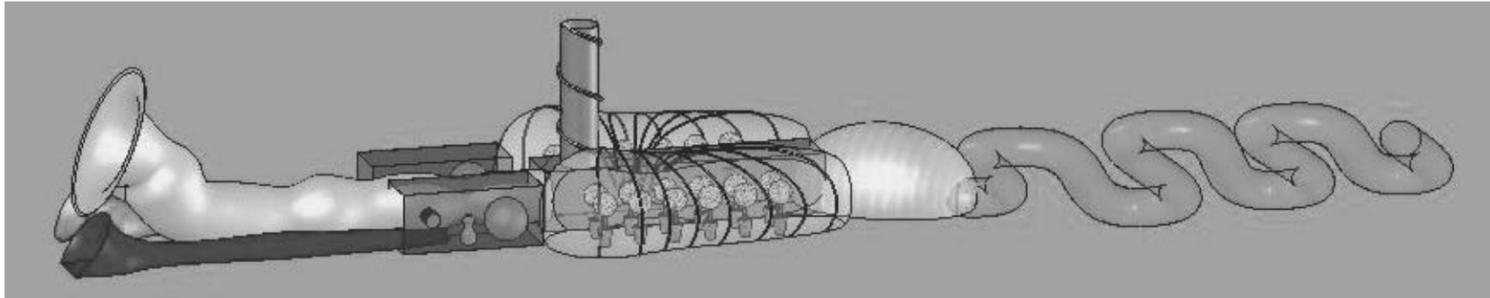


# Black Rock Beacon

THAT BURNING FEELING

LUX. VERITAS. LARDUM.

VOLUME III, NUMBER III. AUGUST 29, 2007



Mechabolic in theory (above) and as it appeared on the Playa on Tuesday.



MITCH

## MAN WILL RISE AND FALL AGAIN

By: Deb Prothero (firefighter) and Technomad

The Man will rise from the ashes to burn again as planned on Saturday.

An unauthorized attempt to burn the Man early Tuesday left the figure structurally challenged, although there was little damage to the art exhibits in the pavilion below.

Burning Man departments are working to restore the Man in time for the scheduled Burn on Saturday night, said Burning Man Communications Manager Andie Grace at a news briefing Tuesday. Grace assured the media that the Man will burn as planned. The figure has been removed from its place of honor at the center of Black Rock City.

In the meantime, the north pavilion and the 9:00 side remain open. The 3:00 side is closed until the damage is repaired.

No injuries were reported, Grace said. However, in a photo showing law enforcement arresting a suspect in connection with the incident, the suspect appeared to have sustained injuries.

Alan Tom, BRC medical clinic supervisor on Tuesday, said that the records for the clinic were removed by the clinic director. Due to medical privacy laws, Tom could neither confirm nor deny whether the suspect was treated for medical conditions before being removed by Pershing County Sheriff's Department.

Pershing County Sheriff's officers arrested Paul Addis, a 35-year-old actor and writer from San Francisco, for setting the blaze. He was charged with third-degree arson, possession of illegal fireworks, destruction of property and resisting a public officer, according to Mark Vorderbruggen, who manages the Black Rock City operation for Pershing County.

Bail was set at \$25,632, which was posted. Addis was released and came to Gerlach to pick up his belongings. He will not be allowed back into Black Rock City.

Grace said, in jest, that Burning Man would like the suspect to be charged with Manslaughter.

## Look at that Escargot!

by Howeird

Faster than, um, well nothing much really. More powerful than, probably, something. Able to leap...no, scratch that.

One of this year's most ambitious art projects is the Mechabolic, a recycling plant-cum-slow-moving art car in the shape of a common garden pest expanded to monstrous size. It's a miracle of Burner engineering, and it's a miracle that it's in Black Rock City at all.

"Over 6,000 pounds of bio-imitative blown hot-rod fetishism, the metabolism of nature, re-rendered in steel, polished aluminum, orchids, wood chippers, town gas lamps in a 120-foot-long slug body" to paraphrase head Mecha-bloke Jim Mason, who magically dreams these things up, and Dann Davis, the co-author of this year's sculpture.

"It makes no sense. Completely counter-intuitive. It produces a flammable fuel to play with, combined with a byproduct needed for agriculture in a total carbon negative cycle," Mason continued.

So far Mechabolic, in common with many of this year's major art projects, is not finished. But crews were busily putting the major parts together on the Playa on Tuesday.

When it is complete, Burners who encounter Mechabolic at night will see a flame very blue from the hydrogen in it, with purples and reds (if they scored correctly) – quite different from the incandescent orange of propane.

Forget slurry bubble columns and

Fischer Tropsch liquification – this baby uses World War II, Masonically modified gasification technology (still under drapes); turns Playa garbage into agricultural fertilizer – sequestering carbon like an SOB as it goes – and provides syngas to power the lighting system AND the blown 427 dragster engine. All tweaked with burning love by those geniuses down at The Shipyard. Vroom: 0 to 0.5 mph in a night.

Its birthing at the Shipyard is a miracle all by itself. Mason's artists' complex in a sea of freight containers was shut down earlier this year by city officials in Berkeley in a dispute over fire safety. Mechabolic and several other Burning Man projects were being built there and work was delayed by the dispute, which was eventually papered over but is not yet resolved.

At the Shipyard, Jess Hobbs, an artist and graduate of the University of California at Santa Cruz, walked me through a scale model of the project. Hobbs' involvement, "besides dating Jim" is that of Mechabolic's project manager. Those 'make you smaller pills,' Alice gave me finally came in handy.

"I may be walking the line with this but I consider it more kinetic art that relocates itself than a vehicle." This despite the fact that is powered by a 427-cubic inch V-8 running on recycled NASCAR tires from Ohio.

Participants will enter through the head and are encouraged to deposit dry solid waste such as cardboard, instruction sheets, newspapers (other than the *Beacon*) nonwhite or recycled

paper and sawdust and yes, even dry coffee grounds, into the revolving shredder or chipper of their choice.

The shredder is connected to the mysterious gasifier, still cloaked in secrecy, where the biomass is converted into clean-burning hydrogen and carbon monoxide gas for the dragster engine and lighting system; char and ash – part of the larger Terra Preta notion, which in Mechabolic gives fertilizer for food plants and orchids, along with FREE carbon sequestration.

Small edible plants and orchids will be found growing waist height

scent for propane.

Noting that Chicken John is listed on Mechabolic's web site as a principal, I asked Mason if Chicken would be seen running around the Playa gathering fuel for Mechabolic.

"He might -- you never know what Chicken's going to do. I built that café racer truck out there (in the yard) for him to attempt a Bonneville land speed record in October and it will be out on the Playa."

"The first internal combustion engines ran on this same type of synthetic gas, which also powered



The Shipyard, birthplace of Mechabolic.

in the abdominal seating area – the only plants allowed on the Playa this year – so it may be possible for people to eat part of their residual garbage. Charcoal-making pods will be found in the rear. The pods produce the char bed the gasifier prefers. Jess hopes this homage to the hot-rod fetish with its industrial motif will really wow the gearheads. After the event, one of the few local businesses, USG's Empire Farms, may use the charcoal to help it produce commercial garlic, used as a

a million vehicles and boats during World War II," added Mason, who suggested I talk with Dann Davis, the co-designer of the creature part of the feature.

"Why a slug?" asked Davis. "You mean other than the fact that Jess went to UCSC?" It apparently evolved from a combination of Davis's collaborator Michael Christian's drawings of slugs and Mason's original concept of eviscerated organs laying across the Playa.

"I would eat my right shoe to get Burning Man to go away."

"We are condoning something that is out in the desert that we would arrest them for in the streets."

"I think it is a very immoral outfit and I would give anything if they went away."

Pershing County Commissioner Roger Mancebo, quoted in the Oct. 26, 2006, issue of the Lovelock Review-Miner

www.nevadarancher.com/rminer/rm2006/rmoct26a.htm

Black Rock City  
Population: 28,866 as of  
noon Tuesday.

# Black Rock Beacon

## Attention First-year Burners:

*If you were here Monday night,  
you ain't a virgin no mo'!*



**Homer:** Are you saying you're never going to eat any animal again? What about bacon?

**Lisa:** No.

**Homer:** Ham?

**Lisa:** No!

**Homer:** Pork chops?

**Lisa:** Dad, those all come from the same animal!

**Homer:** Heh heh heh... ooh... yeah... right, Lisa. A wonderful... magical animal.

## Playing Nice on the Playa

By Vicki Olds a.k.a. shibumi

On April 12, Sanjiv Daveshwar was found guilty on two counts of sexual assault in the Pershing County Court House in Lovelock for violating two women in Black Rock City in 2004. A third woman whom Daveshwar raped in her Black Rock City tent in 2002 testified August 7 for the Pershing County Sheriff's report to the presiding judge during sentencing hearings. Somewhat in Daveshwar's favor is the fact that Nevada treats sexual assault and rape as one crime, carrying possible sentences of 10 years to life in prison. The defendant is defiant and the case is under appeal.

This is the first successful criminal case to be brought against a veteran Burner. Daveshwar has said he had been applying sunscreen to naked BRC females since 1997.

Recently, thanks to Internet bulletin-board systems like ePlaya and Tribenet, Black Rock citizens have joined together to try to change social attitudes creatively about consensual sex and rape.

One manifestation is the Bureau of Erotic Discourse. BED, as it is known, was founded in 2004 by Gigi De L'Amour, Diva Flamma and Regyna Longlank. The three women were going to call themselves "Pink Rangers" but the real Black Rock Rangers objected. They also considered Sexual Assault Prevention Team but SAPT just wasn't a good acronym. "BED was perfect," giggled Regyna Longlank, also known as Kelly Walton. "Why not get into BED with us?" The group produces

public service announcements and sex-positive workshops (see the safety section of your 2007 *Survival Guide*) to help prevent sexual assault and other inappropriate behavior on the Playa.

"When we started there was widespread assumption that the LLC did not want to acknowledge that rape happens here," said GiGi De L'Amour, "which we found to be completely untrue." The LLC is Black Rock City LLC, the corporate body behind Burning Man.

Joe Pred, the Black Rock Ranger in charge of the city's Emergency Services Department, said volunteer medical and psychiatric counselors working with local law enforcement are knowledgeable, compassionate and ready to listen with nonjudgmental support services 24 hours a day. Any BRC Ranger can get them to you right away.

You may have seen

BED's public-service announcements in the johns: "Silence is not consent," "The best lubrication is communication," "No means No. Yes means Yes." A series of fun, sometimes erotically-charged workshops called "Negotiating Sex 101: How to Get Laid at Burning Man" appeared in 2005.

This year the men and women in BED are offering workshops hosted by camps Deep Heaven and Booby Bar. BED buddies are busy and have also posted helpful hook-up and educational information at [www.bureauoferoticrodiscourse.org](http://www.bureauoferoticrodiscourse.org).

Workshops will run at the Booby Bar, Boreal and 3:00, at 4:30 p.m. tonight, and at Deep Heaven, Esplanade and 7:00, at 4:30 p.m. on Friday.

## Arson As a Political Statement

By Mitch

Rick! who is camping with San Francisco mayoral candidate Chicken John presented himself at the Black Rock Beacon camp on Tuesday and said he knew Paul Addis, allegedly the arsonist who scorched the Man in the wee hours of the morning.

The pair met at 4:00 and Esplanade at about 10 p.m., said Rick!, adding that he was surprised to run into Addis, who he did not know to be a Burner. "I asked Paul what he was doing here, and the first thing out of his mouth was "do you have a flare gun or explosives?"

Rick! speculated that Addis was trying to make an anti-establishment comment by burning the Man before his time had come. Addis, Rick! added, is "really good friends with John Law," a major figure in the early days of Burning Man who is now involved in a three-way court battle with founder Larry Harvey and Black Rock City LLC Director

Michael Mikel. Rick! speculated that Addis was acting in sympathy with Law but that Law was unaware of his incendiary plans.

"He came here with a mission," said Rick!, who described Addis as "an intense guy, but a nice guy."

Rick! said he hoped the Burning Man organization would not press charges against Addis for making what amounted to a political statement.

Addis, said Rick!, sees himself as an outsider along the lines of Hunter S. Thomson, the gonzo journalist of the 1960s. Indeed, Addis, a jack-of-many trades, wrote and directed a biographical play about Thomson, Rick! said.

Along with his thespian inclinations, Addis is an "excellent climber," said Rick!, which helps to explain how he got up the Man. He has been active in "urban exploration," the investigation of abandoned buildings and tunnels and was formerly a lawyer, according to Rick!



## THANKS A LOT

By Citizen X

I came to Black Rock City from Victoria, Canada, more than 800 miles away. As I approached the Playa, I noticed increasing numbers of Burners. I accosted a few people in parking lots when we took breaks and asked them what sorts of new, cool and green stuff, ideas or intentions they would be bringing to Black Rock City.

At a rest stop area 70 miles north of Klamath Falls, Oregon, I met CJ. and Divina from the Sunshine Coast (near Vancouver, Canada). It was Divina's second Burn and C.J.'s first, though he had been planning to go since he had first heard of it in 1994. To make the journey, they bought a diesel-burning van for fuel economy, and they intend to convert it to use biodiesel. They got their Playa bikes free from the town dump and fixed them up.

On the Playa, they planned puppet shows and a dance performance and to gift medical help/advice and morning coffee.

In a supermarket parking lot in Klamath Falls, I met lots of Burners topping-up water and obtaining other supplies. Michelle and Kimmie, part of a group from Vancouver, Canada, planned to gift watermelon, sparkle tattoos and radical forgiveness to restore balance and well-being to everyone who needs it. They did their best to use as much recycled and recyclable stuff as they could, including returning the plastic shopping bags to the store

as soon as they finished stowing their purchases. Kimmie intends to use intent and the law of attraction to manifest desires and heal negative emotional wounds and disruption.

I also ran into Neith from Galiano Island, British Columbia. This is Neith's fourth Burn and her intention is to get past the "Wow! factor" and into the human connections possible on the playa. As part of the Cosmic Elves theme camp at 2:30 and Boreal, Neith and her travelling mates were going really green! Besides making sure they had a full van, the vehicle had a "drive on water" gizmo attached to the carburetor that catalyzes water to add hydrogen to the gasoline burned, cleaning the engine as it goes and making gas go further. This is apparently not a new technology, and can be checked out at [www.driveonwater.com](http://www.driveonwater.com). They will also set up a hydro generator working on the same principle in the pavilion underneath the Man. Finally, the camp's sound system and lighting will run completely on solar power.

Lucky Linda from Portland was parked next to Neith's van. This is her second Burn and she is with the Otter Oasis theme camp at 4:30 and Habitat. This camp's gift is to help people who are seriously overheating with immersion therapy. Her intention is to see the art, interact with people and return inspired - the same as practically any other Burner.

## Brainteasers By S m a z e



Succulent meat is the king,  
We love this marvelous thing.  
In rhyme there is order,  
Not far from the border.  
Enjoy as its praises we sing.

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

GREEN, GREED, BREED, BLEED,  
BLEND, BLING

## Listings

### Wednesday

**10 a.m.** Black Rock Beacon team meeting. There's still time to join the greenest paper on the Playa. Help us keep track of what's going on in Black Rock City and the world of preserved pork products. 9:00 Plaza at 7:45

**2 p.m to 5 p.m.** Fourth annual Burning Woman Goddess Gathering. At the Iron Rose Camp, 4:30 Plaza at 7:00. Annual reunion of the Burning Woman Tribe.

*The Black Rock Beacon will list events, space permitting, that were not included in the What Where When guide. Please be prepared to show us a default world ID, such as a driver's license or passport.*

## Letter to the Editor

Larry Harvey and his operatives set the Man alight. Just as he did in 1986 on Baker Beach... just as he and his friends set out to do annually under the banner of art meets anarchism, his unscheduled lighting of the Man was his reclaiming of the event he gave birth to. Consider the following:

The Man is small this year, easily replaceable. Harvey set the Department of Public Works up with the chance for a heroic recovery after the pre-Burn Burn.

No one was hurt. Harvey made arrangements for a quick evacuation of the pavilion below the Man. This pavilion is simple this year: easy to clear, compared to the mazes and towering infernos of other years.

One arrest, no charge. Clearly one of his operatives prepared to take the fall with the state authorities to promote the illusion of order.

Watching the Man burn, I reeled at the senselessness of this anti-social act. But it made me reflect on the Burningman I never say. The one described by those self-righteous old-timers. Back then, so it seems, Radical, free self-expression was also reckless. No event directory, no rules and no schedule. Just drive-by shooting camps, fireworks and deadly collisions between airplanes and motorcycles.

Larry Harvey, now a fat cat living off his creative impulse in 1986 must long for the subversive ethos he set in motion and once stood for. He pre-Burned the Man to shed Black Rock City LLC of its corporate culture and return to its roots. The question now is: will it work? -- Ian Flett, Black Rock City.

*Letters can be delivered to the Black Rock Beacon at the 9:00 Plaza. Letters may be edited for length and content and that we will want to see a real-world identification (driver's license or passport).*

## Perpetrators of The Black Rock Beacon...

**Mitchell Martin**, managing editor. **Michael Durgavich**, major general counsel and director of foreign intelligence. **Francis Wenderlich**, graphics editor and co-camp manager. **Ali Baba**, co-camp manager and volunteer coordinator. **Angie Zmijewski**, production goddess. Rod Miller and Rev. Pete, trendy design. **John Lam**, news editor. **Larry Breed**, chef copy editor. **Edge**, webmaster. **Armadillo**, goddess of the underworld and circulation manager. **Howard Jones**, LNT manager and missing shack wrangler. **WeeGee**, minister of photography. **Brian Train** and **Lianne McClarty**, superior dupers. **Saint Everything**.

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