

BLACK ROCK BEACON



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Harvey Looks Forward To Third Act

BY DEB PROTHERO (FIREFIGHTER), DURGY & MITCH

I'm not talking about an ivory tower, I want a place where people can live in trailers and think, says Larry Harvey, in an exclusive interview with the Beacon

The thing that Larry Harvey doesn't want to tell you about just yet is probably a Burner think-tank. In a Friday interview with the Black Rock Beacon, the Burning Man founder dropped hints that the move to permanence that he mentioned on Wednesday would be a kind of research institute.

While he said a formal announcement would have to wait until the "first part" of the New Year, in a 2006 interview, Harvey raised the idea of a research institution run under the auspices of the Black Rock Arts Foundation, a sister organization to Black Rock City LLC, the for-profit company that puts on the annual Playa event.

On Friday, he described the new project as an intellectual undertaking. "So now we want to do this other thing, this more meditative thoughtful thing," he said. "We want people who write well and who have a public or are likely to generate one because they write so well, and that would be one of the goals. But it would be an environment that's like this,



BEACON STAFF PHOTO

LARRY AND MITCH SHARE A HAMBURGER.

only one that supports that kind of effort. This is so much about action and so much about immediacy." Immediacy is the 10th of the Burning Man principles and is "the radical source of all the others."

While he did not provide any details of the size of the project, it seems to involve a fairly large installation, which would jibe with the idea that it will take several months of work to craft a plan. Harvey did mention that they are applying all the lessons they know and have learned,

about the extremes large and small, and applying this knowledge in this "third act" of Burning Man.

"I'm not talking about an ivory tower, I want a place where people can live in trailers, people can live in tents, and people can live in a conference center, and rich and poor, very much like what we are. If we stop being what we are then it won't work. It's that simple and we think we've found a way," he said, his newly-operated bionic eyes glinting.

Since he spoke of living in trailers and tents, it seems reasonable to assume that the project will require a significant amount of land, and duplicating the Burning Man environment suggests something in the Gerlach area.

In any case, thinkers are going to have to pass through Black Rock country. Harvey said the plan has one requirement: "That you come to this event, which creates a context ... though it doesn't dictate your thought. And then I want to make it very

interdisciplinary because that's very much Burning Man."

It would be the kind of place where people could "reason together and talk and discourse, and when we're not doing that, let's do some welding."

Harvey also spoke generally about Burning Man's place in world culture – *not*, he said, counter-culture. "I've always said we are culture." The upcoming project, he said, could have a significant effect on the 21st century. But he was quick to point out that idealism should be tempered with pragmatism to avoid frustration and burn-out.

"We're coming up on an era where ideas are welcome in the halls of power." Harvey said the United States was coming out of a period of dumbness that "started with *Forrest Gump* in the popular media, by my reckoning, and ended with George Bush." He said it became "desirable to be stupid – an adaptive trait apparently."

"Stupidity," he said, "doesn't work." Republicans, he said, undertook a "30-year effort with very conscious intent to use think-tanks to develop political strategies." Research institutions were conscripted to influence the intelligentsia and the media.

Now Harvey is apparently planning a research institute of his own at what he sees as the dawn of an era of change. Where are the new ideas going to come from? Burner culture. 🐷

Beacon Anti-Shirtcockers Campaign: The Answer May Be Here

BY DAVE THE INTERN

It's no secret. Shirt-cocking is a serious problem. We haven't gotten rid of it yet. But we're working on it, and we're recruiting help.

Experts of all kinds have been working 51 weeks a year to put an end to this nuisance. And while we certainly seem to be getting somewhere, none of the new ideas can hold a candle to a good old-fashioned pants cannon.

The fine folks at Spike's Vampire Bar have finally made some definitive progress in the shirt-cocker counter-offensive. And their strategy involves artillery...

It's a simple matter of physics. Cannons can deliver more pants to more people – and they can do it across vast expanses

of playa. The pants cannon at Spike's is capable of covering cocks from a range of 600 yards.

It's no ordinary pants cannon. It's a triple barreled, high-velocity delivery system – powered by liquid CO₂, mounted on an anti-aircraft swivel and loaded with a densely rolled payload of desperately needed trousers.

"We give the gift of pants, at 190 miles per hour," said Boy Chaos, while readying his weapon to fire a pair of shorts at no one in particular in the Center Camp Cafe.

If only we had known that all it takes to deter shirt-cockers is a triple-barreled artillery system powered by liquid CO₂, we could've distributed them to the DPW years ago.



PHOTO BY TECHNOMAD

Boy Chaos with Pants Cannon

Howeird's Positively Playa

Know why I like Burning Man? It's the Burners, stupido! Not necessarily the Me, Me, Mes with the clenched teeth smiles wandering from bar to bar – although Lord knows I was one too back in the day. It's first time Burners like Mario and Pat from Marin, repeat Burners like 86 year old Lorraine 'Go, Go, Go' from New York with son Michael and partner Cucumber. She watched Lindbergh take off on his historic trans-Atlantic flight from her Dad's shoulders – Lorraine, not the plane. Now he was a true American hero.

Lorraine was one of several wrinklies on the Art Tour checking out the art the You, You, You provide for us on the Playa, courtesy of the Artery's Saffron Lee, Tito and the Mobile Groove Bomb's bus, (apparently purchased for four cigarettes) brought down from Portland region each

year with volunteers from everywhere, including Ireland.

Touring the Deep Playa you see what so few have done for so many. They come from Nevada, California, Oregon, Utah, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, New York, Switzerland, Hawaii, Amsterdam and there's even a flock of sheep from Wales – by way of Home Depot.

The forty foot Man on his sixty two foot base looks smaller each year but isn't. The Flaming Lotus Girls' structure gets bigger and better each year as does the Celtic Forest. If you go all the way out to the perimeter you will come to The End – Wizzard's offering for 2008 and the last to burn Saturday at midnight.

Returning to Center Camp – another feature that appears smaller this year, but isn't – I see the faces of Burning Man sitting round in a circle playing Monkey See, Monkey Do in unison. I see your faces and weep for joy. It's the people, man. That's what keeps me coming back. 🐷

Miller Stars as Academics Meet on Playa

BY ROD ALLEN

It was a green shade structure over on 13:30. All around, naked men and women showered, pranced and paraded. But inside the structure, more than 40 academics and others were engaged in weighty consideration of topics such as the importance

of ecstasy; sexual rituals in 18th century Jewish cults; the theory of play as applied to the Playa; and a Marxist analysis of contemporary economic models.

It was the first full-scale academic conference to have been held in the context of Burning Man, and it took the form that most academic conferences take, with invited papers, panellists, session chairs and a keynote speaker – in this case, the

Beacon's own emeritus professor, Nod Miller. The main difference was the dress of audience and panellists; as one speaker noted 'In public speaking courses, to tackle nervousness they tell you to pretend the audience is undressed. In this case, that was very easy to do.'

The conference, organised by David Higgins of the University of Indiana, dealt with approaches to art and freedom

at Burning Man, and Professor Miller discussed the event from her point of view as a social scientist and an anthropologist. She spoke particularly of the exclusionary aspect of this year's theme of The American Dream, suggesting that it reflected the inward-looking nature of much of American culture – and some insensitivity to other cultures. She said that notions like 'Mohamed's Wine Bar' and 'Media Mecca' simply wouldn't be tolerated in most other countries, where respect for Muslim cultures is seen as socially important. 🐷

Join The Beacon!

The Beacon will be back next year, chronicling the ways of the Playa and holding the BMorg to account as always. To help us, we would like to meet writers, editors, designers, layout people, and super-dupers.

If you'd like to volunteer, you can contact Beacon Editorial through the Black Rock Beacon Tribe on Tribe.net. Meanwhile there will be a final Beacon this year on Sunday.

Black Rock City Population: 48,651 as of 12:00 P.M. Friday.



This is an extra bonus edition of the Black Rock Beacon which we are bringing to you to make up for the regrettable loss of one edition this week. We will also publish an edition tomorrow (Sunday). In the meantime, we seem to have a substantial surplus of bacon in our 9:00 Plaza office and we intend to award a certain amount of it to the person who can give us the most imaginative unconditional positive regard.



Temple Burn Schedule (see story below):

Detroit Temple: never, hopefully
Sembazuru: after the Man burn, approximately 4:30 AM approaching a dawn of peace
Basura Sagrada: dusk on Sunday

No! I Want to Play Post Offices!

BY ROD ALLEN, NOD MILLER
& DEB PROTHERO

Two post offices are serving the population of Black Rock City in 2008. The Black Rock City Post Office - BRCPO — is located in Center Camp at 6 o'clock. The 9 o'clock Tokyo plaza also hosts a post office called Black Rock City Post Office.

According to veteran volunteer Steven Jacquier at the Center Camp location, the BRCPO's "philosophy is all about giving wholeheartedly friendly service, an opportunity for creating mailable art and enjoying conversation while sending and receiving mail, and folks leaving the Post Office with a smile on their face and glow in their heart, feeling they have received a welcome gift."

Black Rock City Post Office — BRCPO (a licensed trademark) — has operated as a not-for-profit corporation for at least eight years as such and is directed by a Council of nine members.

So why are there two post offices?

Blue of Tokyo said "someone came in from outside and wanted to take over. We tried to negotiate with the incomer - we went to a lot of trouble to try and work with her. Some people like to be in control but control doesn't work in Black Rock City. So we decided to open our own camp."

According to Chip, another Tokyo volunteer, "The Center Camp post office claimed they had exclusive rights to the official USPS cancellation stamp, which they had negotiated with Gerlach PO." The nine o'clock Blue took legal advice (or at least looked on the internet) and negotiated for an official cancellation stamp from the Reno US Post Office.

The renegades accused the original PO of censorship because the original post office prevented them from distributing postcards with a political message. Jacquier denies accusations of censorship and says

that the breakaway post office is damaging the original post office's reputation for quality and service. In particular they are accused of demanding swag from community members as a condition for their mail being sent (this violates the ethos of Burning Man to not sell on the playa); demanding that women display their breasts in exchange for their mail being sent; and he accuses the breakaway group of being people "spewing pent-up hatred and rage at hapless BRC community members who simply come to the window wanting to mail letters."

Lady K said, "If a person is not aligned with the BRCPO mission and esprit de corps then there are plenty of other camps and opportunities for radical self-expression elsewhere."

Legal correspondence was sent to the Tokyo post office group, asserting that unless they "immediately and completely cease representing yourselves to be the Black Rock City Post Office ... this office will bring a civil lawsuit against you for trademark and trade name infringement, unfair competition, breach of copyright and theft of intellectual property." Blue indicated that no response has been given and denied having received the letter — although he did say, "the letter contained grammatical and spelling errors."

BMorg communications spokesperson Andie Grace said that she had "nothing to say about the BRCPO on Burning Man's behalf."

This Law-esque situation may end up papering the wallets of lawyers. In the meantime, if you want to send mail with the official Black Rock City stamp from the Gerlach USPS office, go to the Center Camp BRCPO. They'll send it out daily. If you want to send mail with the official Black Rock City stamp from the Reno USPS office, go to the Tokyo 9:00 plaza post office and your mail will be delivered via Reno at the end of the burn. 🐷



The critical tits bike ride took place as usual yesterday, but instead of the usual lascivious and louche pictures from the event we thought we would bring you this tasteful painting inspired by the annual ride. ART BY DIANE KNOPF

Temple, Temple, Temple

BY DEB PROTHERO (FIREFIGHTER)

Faced with a void left by David Best, at least three groups applied to Black Rock Arts Foundation to build a temple.

Best has not disappeared from the burner scene. He's taken the leap into spreading the message. In June, Best's team joined with the Detroit Dream Project (DDP) and others to create a long-lasting project in the Old Redford section of downtown Detroit. The DDP dismantled with sledgehammers a crack house near an elementary school. A local burner realized the opportunity and offered to help raise money for a temple-type structure. Burners converged from across North America June 10 to 18 to assemble a major project, now adopted by the community with several events created in a public square type environment.

Best said, "It's all about community working together." This temple will not burn. It is in use weekly for ritual and public gatherings. Two burners married at the opening ceremonies on June 21. A local couple was wed last weekend.

Basura Sagrada ("sacred trash" en Espanol) won the competition for BRAF funding to build a temple at Burning Man 2008, constructed of recycled materials and in the traditional Temple location. On Thursday large crowds climbed the stairs for a peek at the city and to leave symbols of losses and significant life events. Meanwhile the lower quadrants were fully occupied with groups praying together and individuals either in meditation or actively laying remembrances.

Designed by Shrine, known for the Tasseograph Trash Tea Temple of reused materials, the Basura Sagrada builds on his visual art reputation in collaboration



David Best drawing portraits.

with Lucent Dossier, the Do Lab of San Francisco and the Vau di Vire Society. The builder, Tucker Teusch, has created a timber frame reminiscent of lodges of yesteryear while combining the critical reused material in decorative elements of the Temple.

One temple-like project attracting the attention is Sembazuru (1000 Cranes). Designed by Skirblah to resemble a large oragami crane and intended to be simple, yet peaceful, the project was produced by the Rue Morgue team led by Sir Gothermal and Butterfly at Steamboat Ed's ranch at Santa Rosa. The folding of origami cranes at the Rue Morgue camp in 9:00 plaza has been a haven for those burners seeking a place of quiet reflection.

The Crane is attended each evening by Sohei (Japanese warrior monks) from nightfall to dusk to assist in the placement of remembrances. "This is art for a purpose," said Gothermal. 🐷



PHOTO BY FRANCIS

Cops Nab Alleged Sex Criminal

BY TECHNOMAD

Pershing and Washoe County Sheriffs, operating under one command, report a sexual assault around 9:15 on Allante early Friday morning. They now hold one suspect pending an investigation and a probable-cause hearing in Lovelock. According to Sheriffs' onsite commander Lt. Darren Balaan, Black Rock Rangers have assisted with the investigation.

To date through Friday, the Sheriffs report no further citations and only one other arrest, for driving under the influence of alcohol.

From Thursday morning to Friday morning the Bureau of Land Management reports 27 citations: 11 for drug paraphernalia, 8 for possession of a controlled substance, 3 for driving with an open container of alcohol, 2 for speeding, and one each for vehicle without a permit, driving without a license, and possession of fireworks; and one arrest for drug trafficking.

REMEMBRANCE OF GAZETTES PAST: 1998

BY CITIZEN X

Continuing our look at Black Rock Gazettes past:

"You're as Young as You Feel" — account of the "Aging Hipsters' Cocktail Party"

"Profile" - The story of Charlie Gadenken who first came to Burning Man in 1992, and began the tradition of Illumination Village.

Sports column: "Desert Fore Play" God Todd and his friends play nine holes of golf out on the playa. Par 24 and there weren't any water hazards....

Features:

- Official Burning Man Media Whore Scorecard: example scores included "Succeed in talking to media person and you are not a naked woman = +5 personality points"; "But you sound like a dillweed = -20 dumbass penalty"

- A Safe Place for Sludge: PSA on how to dispose of gray water by digging a drain basin (not allowed anymore)

- Playa Crossword
- Cartoon

METEOROLOGICAL NOTES

BY OUR WEATHER CORRESPONDENT

Dear Dr. Weather: When I arrived on the playa the other day I was held up for four hours because the organisers closed the gates due to the white dust that was obscuring everybody's vision. Is this dust likely to return? — Automobilst, Mich.

Dear Auto: Yes.

Dear Dr. Weather: Why am I finding it so difficult to ride my bike around the Playa this year? — Two-wheeler, Ore.

Dear Two: Most years, there is sufficient rain in the winter to cover the whole of the playa and to return it to its original role as a lake-bed. This year there has been considerably less rain than usual, and much of the playa remained dry all year round. In turn, this has led to a greater accumulation of loose dry playa dust on the surface, which is not friendly towards bike riders, who tend to get mired in piles of playa dust. It is impossible to blame the

Burning Man authorities for this problem.

Dear Dr. Weather: I hear that heavy rain is forecast for the weekend to coincide with Exodus. Is this true? — Seeker after Truth, Calif.

Dear Seeker: The weather forecast for the playa changes six times a day. That said, there is apparently a greater chance than normal or heavier precipitation than usual on the weekend of the Burn. While it is unlikely that the rain will douse the Man, it is possible that it will turn the playa into a giant mud bath. Under these circumstances it is important not to attempt to drive until the mud has hardened, which it certainly will do once the sunshine makes its return. Attempts to drive in wet mud almost inevitably end badly.

Dr. Weather's forecast for today: hot and dusty. 🐷

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Semi-Legal Mumbo Jumbo

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