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THINKERS BURNERS YOU SHOULD KNOW: LEWIS HYDE

A Prehistory of the Sharing Economy

BY MRS. LUCKY

In 1979, when Lewis Hyde's "The Gift: Creativity and the Artist in the Modern World" first appeared, the first Man burn on Baker Beach was still seven years in the future. The classic text on the sharing economy is lauded by literary light Margaret Atwood as "the best work I know of for talented but unacknowledged creators. A masterpiece."

Drawing on diverse influences, Hyde uses an anthropological lens to examine European folk tales, Pacific Island giving circles, and how the potlatch practices of the native people in the Pacific Northwest were changed by European capitalism.

A single carefully wrought Kwakiutl copper became piles of mass produced wool trade blankets. Sort of like the stack of swag we're all carrying home. Reading Hyde is like discussion around a theme camp dinner table at Burning Man – at its best, at least – wide-ranging, and profoundly curious.

Hyde has a huge advantage over Ralph Waldo Emerson and Ayn Rand, the other two philosophers we've looked at this year: He's very much alive. Though he has had lunch with Bmorg leaders, he

has never been to Black Rock City. He'd like to. But it's the first week of classes at Kenyon where he teaches.

"I would mostly be interested in the ephemeral artistic practice at Burning Man," he told me. How essential is motion to goodness, release to creation, I am thinking as I stare into the embers of the Man.

Here is Lewis Hyde in his own words:

Material goods pull us down into their bones unless their fat is singed occasionally. It is when the world flames a bit in our peripheral vision that it brings us jubilation and not depression.

We stand before a bonfire or even a burning house and feel the odd release

it brings, as if the trees could give the sun return for what enters them through the leaf. When no property can move, then even Moses' Pharaoh is plagued with hungry toads.

Our generosity may leave us empty, but our emptiness then pulls gently at the whole until the thing in motion returns to replenish us.

Creativity and science is cumulative and collaborative; it proceeds collectively and it flourishes in conversation. 🐜



LEWIS HYDE | Photo by Ruben Cox



Photo by Carlos Vaquero

10 YEARS OF FLATPACK FURNITURE ON THE PLAYA

BY MITCH

A decade ago, the Beacon introduced itself to Black Rock City, and we also told you about Playatech, the fantasy furniture company that's been seating dusty bottoms ever since.

Playatech provides furniture plans using plywood sheets that are cut into shapes and slotted, enabling pieces to be joined without fasteners. It started in 2005 with the two-person Playa Loveseat. The enterprise is still going strong, now offering about 30 designs, including bars, beds, tables, couches, and stages. Users can download plans from www.playatech.com, and more than 350 camps and art projects have done so in the past year, according to Sunshine Daydream, creator of the project.

In Playatech's inaugural year, the Burning Man theme was "The Psyche" and Borg2 challenged the Burning Man organization to increase art funding. Sunshine inserted Playatech into both, psyching out Burners by promoting it like a brand where brands are not welcome, and by directing the \$5-per-plan payments to the users' choice of the Bmorg's Black Rock Arts Foundation

(which funded off-Playa projects) or the upstart Borg2.

None of the money goes to Playatech. Donations -- which came to more than \$3,500 in the past 12 months,

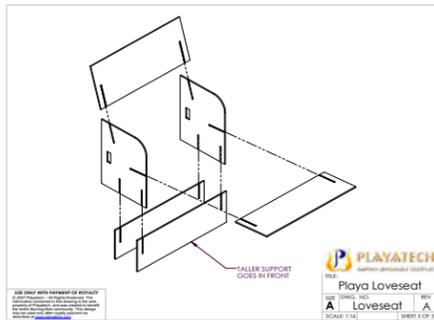
incredibly bad karma, users now must shell out before they can see the plans.

Playatech's designs are sturdy and surprisingly comfortable, and they can be deconstructed and stored flat for

future use or burned for pyromaniacal fun. The inspiration came from a wood bed frame that Sunshine made in college. The only tools required are a saw and a router to make the slots; some of the simple designs can be cut by your lumber supplier.

"Many hundreds of Burners have used power tools the first time in their lives making Playatech," Sunshine said. "Typically a group/camp gets together for a build day, a couple guys bring

the tools, and everyone else learns. My kids were cutting slots at age 11." That's participation, one of the 10 Burning Man principles, and according to Sunshine, building the furniture to share on the Playa encompasses them all. 🐜



according to Sunshine -- are now directed to Burning Man Arts, following BRAF's recent merger with the Bmorg and Borg2's less-recent demise. While payments were initially enforced only by the honor system and the threat of



Photo by Carlos Vaquero

CENSUS RESULTS: TOTAL SAUSAGEFEST

BY REDNIKKI

Based on the Black Rock City Census Lab's 2015 preliminary results (2,270 forms to date), Burning Man's population this year has remained remarkably consistent with 2014's population distribution.

Once again, there are three men for every two women on the Playa. An estimated 39% of the population is female, 59% male, and 2% genderfluid.

As in 2014, preliminary results indicate two-thirds of the population has attended Burning Man before while one-third are virgins. Roughly two-thirds are over 30 (nearly one-third over 40) while one-third are under 30. Roughly 82% of attending Burners are from the US, 5% are from Canada, and 14% are from elsewhere -- a similar distribution to 2014.

Hearing more foreign languages on the Playa? There appears to have been a

significant increase in attendees with a first language other than English (estimated at 19% this year and 16% last year).

Notably, 50% more Burners report paying over face value for their ticket than in 2014, while only 25% as many Burners paid less than face value. An estimated 24% of Burners received their tickets via a direct distribution method such as the Directed Ticket Sale. 🐜

BRC INCIDENT REPORT

An unnamed law enforcement officer warned citizens of BRC: Do not buy pills from anyone you don't know. A number of Burners have taken pills, become violent, been arrested, and have had no memory of the incident three hours later. The source indicated that outside of these incidents it has been a relatively quiet year from a law enforcement perspective.

Indications are that law enforcement has been more active than ever. A Burner reported being pulled over because his license plate "did not check out in the database." Further conversation with the law enforcement officer

indicated that officers are scanning the plates of Burners as they enter and exit. Next year, plan to take care of those traffic tickets before you come in.

Ron Jon from Media Mecca confirmed the following incidents:

There were two unplanned fires Wednesday night. An RV called Doghouse was pulled aflame from DPW's HEAT Camp onto Esplanade and extinguished. Several people were treated for smoke inhalation and released. A tent also caught fire elsewhere in BRC and was extinguished by participants. 🐜

"Mirrors should think longer before they reflect."
— Jean Cocteau

BLACK ROCK BEACON

"The world is full of fools, and he who would not see it should live alone and smash his mirror."
— Claude Le Petit

OP-ED

LATINO LABOR ABUSES AT PLUG-N-PLAY CAMP

BY BUENA CHICA

Everyone has their breaking point – when we sit in silence, break down, and cry on Playa. Sometimes we cry out of gratitude, in awe of the beautiful installations and experiences that have been so laboriously created for our entertainment. And sometimes we cry at the realization that we have been doing it all wrong for so long in our lives.

My own tears this year had a completely different base. I had long heard about those plug-n-play camps: Building a compound surrounded by giant RVs to keep the "peasants" out of the decked-out "members' only" elaborate amenities. Considering the "Sherpa" phenomenon of last year's burn, and the promise by Bmorg that these camps would align to our Ten Principles, I was shocked to encounter the construction of one such camp during my own Early Arrival on August 21st.

Let me be absolutely honest, my fellow Burners, and tell you that even now I am crying as I write these words: My shock quickly turned to horror as I observed that this particular plug-n-play camp was being built by Latino laborers.

Every day, as all the Early Arrival Burners went on building the city for you, these Latino laborers

worked from early morning through the night to build a camp for people who are obviously oblivious of the Principles that have taken so much time to establish in our temporary city.

It took me four days to build up enough courage to talk to some of the laborers to learn about the appalling conditions they contracted to: Low pay and no leaving the camp nor being present on the rare occasion the camp opens its doors to the general population.

As more and more Burners started arriving to set up their own camps, I was further appalled by the comments they would direct to these workers. From my own tent I heard on more than four occasions passengers of art cars driving by hurling insults such as "How does it feel to work for rich people?", "Fuck your Burn, Sherpas," and "Get out of my city."

So not only were the Latinos brought in to serve a particular kind of people who do not abide by our Principles, but now they were being abused by our fellow Burners who did not understand the situation: They are NOT Sherpas, as at least Sherpas are invited to entertain at parties. The workers were particularly selected to build these kind of camps then stay out of view and not partake in the

rest of "our" Burner experience.

We hear it every year: Why are there no minority Burners? Well, here is one answer for you: You bring people who look like me to serve you but not to be seen or integrated as equals.

Just yesterday I walked around Center Camp Cafe to see the amazing artist murals. There is a display of colorful pictures. As I stepped closer, I observed that everyone in those pictures looked like me – Latino, African-American, minorities – who had been killed by cops in the Default World.

I turned around to see Burners in various get-ups and outfits on bikes going in every direction. Nobody looked like me. I turned back to see the mural again; everyone looked like me. And then I remembered the 15 or so Latino laborers at the plug-n-play camp hidden away from view not far from the 9:00 Plaza.

Why are there so few minorities on the Playa? The answer lies within. How do you see me? How am I included in your own lives in the Default World? Am I just your hired help? Or do you include me as a participant in your own community?

If you do not ask these questions, then you are Doing It Wrong, not only these abhorrent plug-n-play camps. 🐷

ALMANAC

Sunday • September 6
Sunset • 7:23 P.M.
Twilight ends • 7:51 P.M.
Temple Burn • 9:00 P.M.
Moon rise • 1:21 a.m. (Monday)

Monday • September 7
First light • 6:01 A.M.
Sunrise • 6:29 A.M.

BLACK ROCK CITY 2015 CLOSES: 6 p.m.
Sunset • 7:21 P.M.
Twilight ends • 7:49 P.M.
Moon rise • 2:16 a.m. (Tuesday)

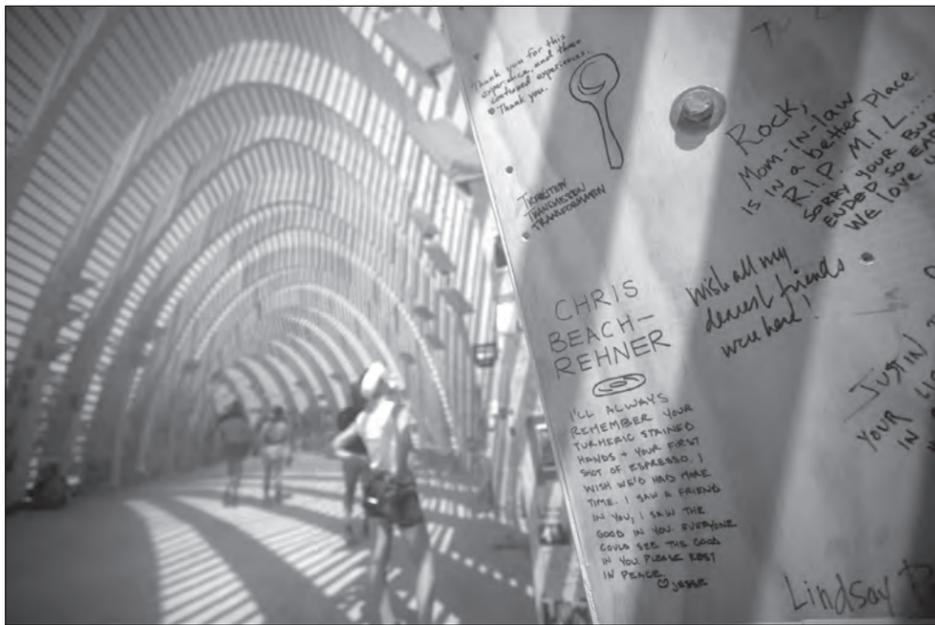
Tuesday • September 8
First light • 6:02 A.M.
Sunrise • 6:30 A.M.

EXODUS ENDS: 12 p.m.
Sunset • 7:20 P.M.
Twilight ends • 7:47 P.M.
Moon rise • 3:12 a.m. (Wednesday)

courtesy of SunriseSunset.com

This Week In Pictures

BY CARLOS VAQUERO



People who live in society have learnt how to see themselves, in mirrors, as they appear to their friends. I have no friends: is that why my flesh is so naked?
— Jean-Paul Sartre

How To Remember the 10 Principles

BY DURGY AND SMASH

- Civic Responsibility
- Inclusion, Radical
- Reliance, Radical Self
- Communal Effort
- Leave No Trace
- Expression, Radical Self
- Decommodification
- Participation
- Immediacy
- Gifting

Answers to Gate edition puzzle.

C	A	R	N	I	V	A	L	O	F	M	I	R	R	O	R	S
A	E	N	S	U	U	E	N	I								
N	I	N	E	V	E	H	T	E	L	E	V	I	S	E	D	
D	A	I	D	E	I	L	E									
L	I	M	I	T	A	T	I	O	N	I	S	L	A	N	D	
E	E	A	O													
E	D	I	T	O	R	R	O	O	T	E	G	O	S			
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D	A	N	D	O	I	S										
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A	N	A	N	N												
S	P	E	A	K	S	O	U	T								
I	S	E	O	E	E	I	S	E								
N	O	S	T	R	I	N	G	S	A	T	T	A	C	H	E	D

 **The Black Rock Beacon**
10 Years Ago
Sunday, September 4, 2005
Pyromania Edition

Mother and Child were monumental statues that loomed 30 and 20 feet, respectively, above the Playa. Karen Cusolito had them walking away from the Man, metaphorically leading him to the mountains and the future. The steel sculptures weighed eight and five tons and were part of a night-time fire show that encouraged the contemplation of destiny. 🐷 An admittedly grainy photo showed an early version of Ember's Gray-B-Gon wind-powered evapotron, which has since been perfected as a Playa-specific gray-water disposal system.

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