Pack Early and Often

By Chris Penny

You planned your trip to Burning Man for weeks. You mapped out your camp, worked your check list, carefully packed and loaded your stuff to they playa. But when your vacation in altered reality draws to a close, it’s time to pick up your toys. It’s time to pack your art cars. It’s time for Exodus.

Burning Man began organizing Exodus in 2000, said Black Rock Ranger Odwally, who oversees Exodus. “By 1999 Burning Man had grown to the point where we were getting bad bottle necks. We realized we needed a system to get people off the playa and onto the pavement more efficiently,” he said.

Last year the Exodus team was a bit too efficient. It did such a good job getting vehicles off the playa that it created traffic jams on the pavement. This year the team will better monitor the flow. There will be two exit lanes. If traffic gets backed up on the pavement, one lane will be shut down.

Black Rock City so large this year that traffic jams on the pavement may not be a problem at all. “By 1999 Burning Man had grown to the point where we were getting bad bottlenecks. We realized we needed a system to get people off the playa and onto the pavement more efficiently,” he said.

The storms worsen. I seek new machines behind large machines with noisemakers to adjust my gear between Mars and Jupiter. It is possible for us, behind glass barricades.

I decide to head for Uranus, having heard it was a dirty but non-notify place. I arrive at the end and run into a small enclave of humanoids, exposing themselves to the Sun.

I inquire, “Can you tell me where the center of Uranus is?”

One reply, “We are holding up this end of Uranus. You need to head that way.” He points down a bare outline of a boulevard.

Fragments of human waste fling past me as I head into the storm in a new direction. When I stop, a water-erasing vehicle peels my legs as it passes, a cooling experience. Inspired, I return to the Red Planet. When I arrive, Tobias of the Camp of Inestinal Nipples greets me. I am offered sausages and a cool drink. Tobias, tells me of a day when they create a large omelet. An Orgasm Omelet. Participants are required to scream their most convincing of human organs or tell a tale of their favorite ecstasy.

Satisfied I return to my quest. Tobias points me to Center Camp, which he identifies as possible center, a place where thing happen. I arrive and find this is true, but there is so much more. A sea of humans engage in various activities: making music, a verbal diarhea called rap, some form of contortionism, we exchange some scrip for a delicious beverage called Chai, which I quickly imbibe. But it’s not the center, so I move on.

I exit the large red and gold tent and resume my search. I head toward the Sun, following an Esplandane. I spot a communications device, emitting a ringing sound. I operate the device, and a voice says, “Hello, who is this?”

Who is this?“I ask.

“God?”

“God! Do you know where the center of the universe is? I’m looking for a home.”

“The center of the universe is where ever you are.”

“Where is the center of the universe?”

“Wherever you are,” the voice confirms.

Another dust storm swirls. I panic and leave the communications device dangling on its cord head toward the effigy at the place where I began my search. The camp seems to be revealing a small white structure.

It is a house. Completely white. Inside, a simple white sheeted bed. I go inside and sit on the mattress. Was I home now? A perfect house and a perfect fence? I search for answers in the universe and the more I see, the more I learn, is that there are just more questions. Even when God said I am the center of the universe, surely he must have meant each human as well. That no matter where we are we create our own center.

Taking That Burning Feeling Home

By Liane Gabora

Nobody’s quite sure what it means, but Burning Man leaders are quite certain they want to head toward development of regionalBurns. In 2000, they held an annual conference on Wednesday, they discussed recruitment and development goals, along with the challenges of taking magic off the Playa and performing it in distant towns.

This year’s Burns included low-profile training for regional leaders around the country. Projects under consideration include inter-city art exchanges and multi-camp decompressions. There was also a Regional Playa Info desk run at Center Camp by Steven Raspa. But regionalism is new enough that nobody knows how it will work.

“We’re learning as much from them as they are learning from us,” said Marian Goodell, Mistress of Communication. “We’re not dictating a program to them. It’s about voluntary cooperation.”

It may not be a rigid ideology, but they clearly want it as an extension of their value system. Harvey even compares regional burning groups to the old Elks Lodge. “A whole array of groups are dying at a drastic rate,” he says. Burning Man could provide another motif for public service on the local level.

“It may seem a stretch that we’re all talking about what’s happening beyond an exotic event in such a remote location, but the clear majority of people (here) are exotic if given half the chance,” he said. He calls it an effort to “reinvent the culture”, and calls the Playa a “life lesson in civics.”

As for the nuts and bolts of regionalism, the group appears to be stepping cautiously. It wants to provide autonomy while not endangering the Burning Man name or sensibilities. To obtain regional status, groups will have to agree to follow the “10 Principles” articulated on www.burningman.com. These include “transparent books” and other sorts of accountability. It also includes “radical inclusiveness” and “interactivity” to find a role for everyone.

“Where do you find a home. I aimed for the center of the universe is? I’m looking for a home.”

“You’d have to meet everyone individually just to get a bull point pen,” he says.

But he suggests it can co-exist with the ecommerce-based “Real World”.

“They can do projects they could never do with a credit card. There’s a huge amount of social capital out there,” says Harvey. He is also interested in how to provide the community building associated with arduous travel and precarious conditions (the struggle of achievement).

Organizers appear to be counting on the passions and energy of the artists that comprise the Burning Man community.

“All of these communities sprang up spontaneously,” said Harvey. “You can’t plan culture.”
Cut the Shit

Apparently, there are some people who would want to shut down Burning Man by sabotaging the porta potties. Their M.O. is to bankrupt the banks of porties of toilet paper, put MOOP in the potties, and otherwise attack our most faithful vendor, Johnny on the Spot. Andie Grace, communications manag- er, said, “It has never been more important to impress upon people that nothing should go into the potties unless you use it first.”

All participants keep your eyes open, let a Ranger know who they are, and remember descriptions of people. To the people doing this, come to the BRG, and let’s discuss your grievances in an open and honest debate.

Dorks on Wheels

You might not know it from nighttime appearances, but bikes and scooters in Black Rock City must have front and back illumination if they are operated after dark.

Ranger Frist Dixon dropped the Black Rock Gazette’s office on Wednesday to tell us what we already knew: Lots of diminutive citizens are whizzing around the playa in the non-reality of their own little worlds and, more significantly, everybody else.

“Blinkers front and back,” he said, “are the minimum standard for night riders. “Glow sticks are not enough.”

Besides the common sense and safety aspects of using proper illumination, Ranger Frist noted that “the spirit of the event” should impel Burners to glow.

Burn With the Man

Burners who have special objects to burn in The Man should bring their burnables to the box at 6:00 perimeter by 6 p.m. Saturday. Your stuff will be put in the crate and placed in The Man before the burn.

On the subject of commerce.

Danger Ranger says:

“Everything is free except your attention”

Don’t jump on or off moving art cars.

If you do, run as you would want to shut down Burning Man by sabotaging the porta potties.

Wrangler/IT: Tveit, Peg Oberste, Just Debbie; Paperboy, Paperboy Biff, Snapper; Layout & Production: Angie Zmijewski, Carry Tveit, Doug, Carry, Shiela.

www.burningman.com

Dedicated Leaders Of Playa Fashion

By Famous Melissa

Fashion on the playa is a vacation of the imagination combined with survival accessories. Think of it as G.I. Joe cross-dressing with Barbie’s wardrobe.

This year, along with neon fishnet thigh highs, paraols and thongs, hot pink is the rage. Technicolor space cowboy hats and dressing with Barbie’s wardrobe.

By Caleb Clark

Burning Man is a Leave No Trace event. Black Rock citizens work together to make sure that the playa is used respectfully during the event. Black Rock City, but there is a growing

Biodiesel is a fuel with a 20 percent biodiesel mixture. Biodiesel is made from substances such as vegetable oils. But what about animals that come here for the burn? What about the wild things that come here?

Black Rock City is a Leave No Trace event. Black Rock City, but there is a growing

Biodiesel mixture, or some other explosive combination.

Animal Control/False Ecosystems

By Daisy

Some burners come here unprepared, whether they are first-timers or those who forgot essential items such as a first aid kit. But worry not about animals that come here unprepared because they have been unnoticed by not only the Gatekeepers, but also they have been unnoticed by not only the Gatekeepers, but also the materials.

Animal Control is in charge of rounding up pesky humans dressed as non-native animals in Black Rock City, but there is a growing issue of “real world” animals finding their way into BRC unnoticed until they are inside the gate. These are “real” animals misusing the non-reality world of Burning Man. And often they need help.

If Black Rock City Residents find animals that are not sur-

veive in the harsh climate of the desert.

Andy, an ecologist with the Earth Guardians, helps to repatriate native Black Rock Desert animals back to their desert eco-system, which is not necessarily the playa. Playing mantises and beetles are sometimes relocated to the Frog Pond just east of the playa. Praying mantises were found. Three were alive. Dehydrated and without a mother, the kittens were immediately taken to a veterinarian in Reno almost two weeks after being placed on Black Rock City. E.Z. Bob, a staff member for Gatekeepers was last seen roaming around the playa. But what about the tiny kittens that came here with DPW until it can be taken to the

The generator is maintained and serv-

ied outside of our normal generator contract specifically for this experiment, so that the results of running biodiesel can be carefully monitored and documented.

A small team is working together on the test, including experts in alternative fuels and engine maintenance who will be on hand just in case there are any problems. No seri-

ous issues are anticipated, based on the knowledge and experiences shared from other events which have been operated entirely on alternative fuels. The only anticipated effect of changing a fuel which had been previously run on straight diesel to run on biodiesel is a slight tempo-

rary increase in the number of filters needed as a result of the transition. The same should happen when that generator transi-

tions back to running straight diesel fuel.

The Burning Man Ranch just north of BRC to be released. A rat that also snuck past Gatekeepers was last seen roaming around the city and suspected of creating havoc in some camps. And yes, this year, kittens have secretly made their way to Black Rock City. E.Z. F.B. Black Rock City. E.Z. F.B.

Bonds is a creative experiment on BRC who is camped at Little Texas, bought a trailer in Reno almost two weeks ago, and is still being price for the trailer. For a couple of days, a fellow campmate heard meowing as she walked the trailer. After walking into the trailer four kitten were found. Three were alive. Dehydrated and without a mother, the kittens were immediately taken to a veterinarian in Reno almost two weeks after being placed on Black Rock City. E.Z. Bob, a staff member for Gatekeepers was last seen roaming around the playa.

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Finding the Flaming Lotus Girls will be conducting a series of experi-

ments with different fuels in The Seven Sisters. This installation will be releasing plumes of fire 100 feet into the sky, and that fire might be created by ethanol, a biodiesel mixture, or some other explosive combination.

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