



# the BLACK ROCK GAZETTE-ETTE

SPERATE MISERI, CAVETE FELICES  
HOPE, YE WRETCHTED, BEWARE, YE HAPPY

Volume 2 Issue 1

August 28 – September 4, 2006

## Leave No Trace: It's not just for the playa anymore

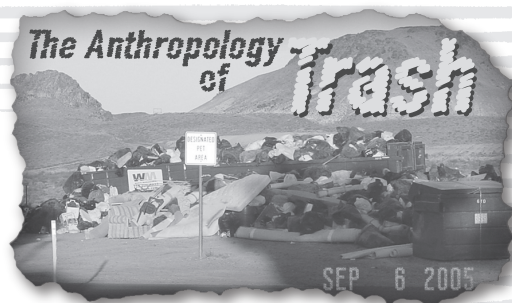
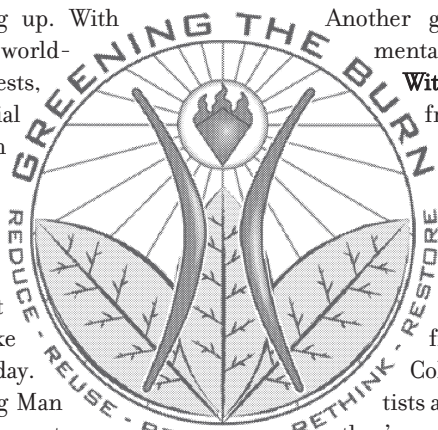
**B**urning Man attracts a wide spectrum of participants. But no matter what you're into, we all have things to share.

Perhaps the most important thing we share is Earth and, in particular, its atmosphere. Just in case you haven't noticed, this atmosphere is heating up. With more cars and factories world-wide, vanishing forests, and a new Industrial Revolution occurring in Asia, we appear to be turning the world into a greenhouse—but not the sort of greenhouse that produces oxygen. It feels a little more like Venus here each day. Participants in Burning Man have learned to leave no trace upon the ground. Now some folks feel it's time to cleanse sky.

This year, more than ever, there was a groundswell of environmental efforts in our community. In February a group of Burning Man staff, volunteers, theme camps and participants held an environmental conference at Burning Man Headquarters. The result is **Greening Man**—a collaboration between participants and

Project staff—that is working to spread environmentally conscious ideas in Black Rock City, as well as in the lives of Burning Man participants returning home. To work with them after the event join their email list: [greeningman-list@burningman.com](mailto:greeningman-list@burningman.com).

Another group doing environmental work is **Burners Without Borders (BWB)**, fresh from doing six months of disaster relief after Hurricane Katrina. BWB is involved with two important environmental projects. The first is Green Burn. Collaborating with scientists at [www.coolingman.net](http://www.coolingman.net), they've calculated the global warming impact of burning the Man and his pavilion measured in tons of carbon (90). By the time you read this newsletter, BWB will be working with regional groups and others around the country, who will be planting trees and buying carbon credits to invest in things like renewable energy worldwide. Start a project, or go online and learn how to calculate (and eliminate) your own camp's carbon footprint. **SEE GREEN, P.2**



**I**T IS A MAXIM THAT GARBAGE ATTRACTS GARBAGE. On the playa, for example, participants will often nestle beer cans at the bases of lamp-posts. One spent beer can will attract another until a cozy little cairn is produced. Presumably, the litterbugs who do this feel it makes their act a little less conspicuous—but this is false discretion. It's on a par with that odd delicacy of feeling that leads people who urinate on public streets to turn their backs and pee on walls. Decency is hardly served by this. And, in the case of ordinary garbage, one bad act compounds itself, inciting many more.

Consider the case of the westbound I-80 rest area near the local town of Wadsworth. For the last few years two dumpsters have been stationed here. The end result has been a kind of tumulus, a suppurating mound, like a detritus slope, that is produced once these receptacles begin to overflow. Not only is this mountain of garbage unsanitary and an affront to the local community, it is a prime example of the classic definition of hypocrisy: the tax vice pays to virtue. People scruple to retain their refuse for a hundred miles after leaving Black Rock City, only to heap it in an ugly mound in somebody else's backyard.

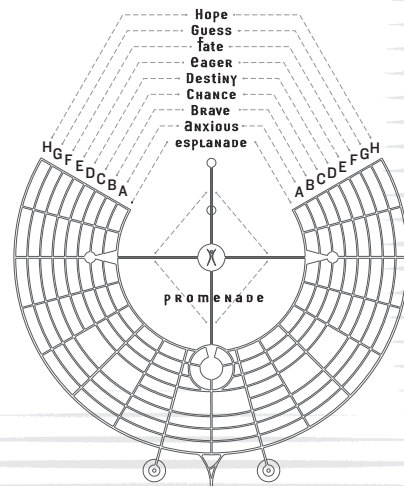
This year, at the request of the Burning Man Project, no trash containers will be placed at this location, and the area will be posted as a no dumping zone. The Project asks you not to merge with the herd. Exercise a little self-reliance. This really isn't hard to do. Not only does your Survival Guide give tips on recycling and separating garbage from burnable trash, but it also lists the locations and hours of three legitimate disposal sites—one in Fernley, one in Lockwood and one in Reno—and this includes easy directions. Let's treat our neighbors as we treat ourselves, and Leave No Trace!

## ARE THOSE YELLOW BIKES FOR ANYONE TO RIDE?

How come Black Rock City doesn't have community bikes like in Amsterdam? The answer to that question has always been: because no one has started such a program. That is, until now. The Black Label Bike Club of Reno is producing a pilot program in Black Rock City this year. Yellow bikes are being introduced to serve communal needs, not private ends. Below are the guidelines. Follow them, you'll help to make this experiment work.

- **Use a yellow bike if you don't have access to a bike and you need to get somewhere.** Don't use a yellow bike if you already have access to a bike. Leave the yellow bikes for those who don't have bikes.
- **Use the bike for a specific purpose,** i.e., get ice, go to a theme camp, etc. Do not use the bike for an extended multi-hour joy ride.
- **Do not appropriate the bike as your own property!** It's a gift, and you should pass it on. When you get to your destination leave the bike for someone else to ride. Do not take a yellow bike into your camp, tent, RV or shade structure. You will begin to feel that it is yours. Leave it in a public place for someone else to use. **Never lock a yellow bike to itself or anything else!**
- If your yellow bike breaks down then **exercise radical self-reliance** and do your best to fix it. Check with your campmates and neighbors for tools, expertise and parts.
- **Spread the word to other participants about these guidelines.**

If the program is a success, the Bike Club will be introducing more yellow bikes next year. Does this mean you don't need to bring a bike in 2007? The answer to that question is no. The yellow bike program cannot sustain 35,000 participants. The program is merely intended to supplement the bike culture that already exists in Black Rock City.

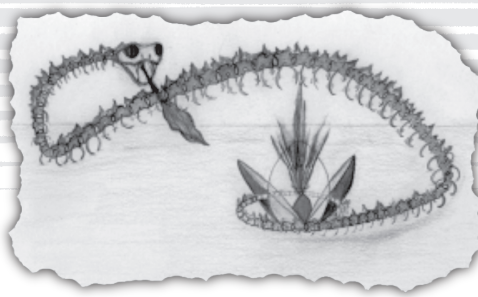




## FLAMING LOTUS GIRLS' "FIREWORKS FRIDAY" & "SERPENT MOTHER"



unday is for the Temple, Saturday is for the Man, and now, Friday is for the Flaming Lotus Girls' Fireworks Friday, a computer-controlled fireworks show guaranteed to blow the playa dust out of your mind! From 2002's Fire Island to the 2003's Hand of God and last year's Angel of the Apocalypse, the Flaming Lotus Girls have brought amazing fire art to the playa. This year is no exception, with Serpent Mother, a highly kinetic, participant-controlled installation of metal, fire, and light. Serpent Mother, located on the playa between 4:30 and the Man, is an ancient skeletal spirit whose long wait for the unleashing of life inside her egg is about to be realized. Surviving the transmutation from



fear to hope, the Serpent Mother invites all participants to accompany her on the last leg of her journey. As the week progresses and participants interact with the Serpent Mother, they too must transmute their fears into hope by reassuring her that the future, which waits inside her egg, will be forever taken care of. This will culminate Friday night in a monumental display of fire art and fireworks. Her egg will then symbolically stay open for the remainder of the week as a testament to her trust, her releasing of fear, and her faith in the community of Black Rock City.

## YOU ARE ~~What Is~~ The Artist Behind ScrapEden?

ScrapEden is a collaborative art garden that needs your participation in order to grow! The Black Rock Arts Foundation's (BRAf) community garden installation is populated by sculptures created from re-claimed, re-purposed and re-cycled materials. Creative energy is transforming whatever is treated like waste into art. You can be a part of this. Stop by ScrapEden on the Esplanade across from the radial streets of 6:00 and 6:30 to make art with your green thumb. Your magical experiences this week are temporary. But, imagine how you can keep this spirit alive beyond the playa. ScrapEden exemplifies the potential that our creative community is capable of producing year-round. Visualize a ScrapEden project where you live in the default world. Now instigate it—right

in the place where it is meant to be in your neighborhood. Ask one of the ScrapEden volunteers (in farmer's overalls) how BRAf can help you grow an art garden in your community.



Stop by ScrapEden to learn more about BRAf's mission of supporting and promoting community-based interactive art. Better yet, ask about how you can get involved in exporting the art and spirit of Burning Man beyond the playa.

## Bike & Scooter Lights

NOT JUST FOR OTHER CITIES ANYMORE

**Make sure you light your bike this year!** Even if you forgot a bike light, get that roll of duct tape out of your car and fasten a flashlight to your handlebars. While you're at it, take that blinking red light gizmo thing that you were going to put on your costume and tape it to the back of your bike. The playa at night is a very dark place. Add a dust storm and visibility is completely lost. You can prevent injuries to pedestrians, other bicyclists and yourself by seeing and being seen.

This all goes for scooter riders too. Put a flashlight on your handlebars or wear a headlamp for the front. Put a red light or a glow stick on your Camelbak for the rear. Better yet, go all out with that El-Wire you brought but haven't used for art.

For years the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has threatened to require bike lights as part of the regulations they enforce. However, the Burning Man Project has successfully convinced the BLM, our federal landlords, that educating participants is the better method of control than citing them with tickets. Citizens of Black Rock City, this is your last chance to keep it that way! Light that bike because it will prevent accidents and injuries. Otherwise, next year, we might be saying, light that bike to avoid a stiff fine!

## Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

What's up with all these cliques at your event? Last year, I bought a lot of Burning Man gear on EBay. The sequined jock strap chaffed me bad, and the Fluffy Pink Partici-Pants

I purchased made my butt look big. What does it take to fit in at Burning Man? What a snobby environment!

—Fashion Challenged

You're in luck! This year there's an unlisted Fluffy Pink Partici-Pants camp in the back of our city. You'll fit right in. Don't confuse this with the Leotard Leopard Partici-Pants camp next door. They kind of stick to themselves, but don't let it bother you. After all, some feelings are only skin deep.

—The Editor

## GREEN FROM P.1

BWB will also be doing onsite lumber recycling. Tired of watching all that good wood go up in smoke after the event? So are they. BWB has partnered with Habitat for Humanity to collect all the usable lumber. They'll turn it into affordable housing for families in Reno. All day Sunday and Monday, you can drop off your old, usable lumber (2x4s, plywood, etc.) at drop stations adjacent to burn platforms throughout the city or in front of Camp Katrina at 3:00 and Esplanade, where they'll clean, sort and bundle it. Come and help! (Hey, who's this "they," anyway? BWB is really a "we." It's anyone who wants to put his or her Burning Man values into practical action on and off the playa.) For more information visit [www.burnerswithoutborders.org](http://www.burnerswithoutborders.org).

Other environmental projects include the Earth Guardians, Recycle Camp and the ScrapEden project that is mentioned elsewhere in this newspaper. Additionally,

there are a lot of projects going on this week that you may want to know about and get involved in. Come learn about solar panels, wind generators, solar ovens, solar showers, water cleaning, and the like at the Alternative Energy Zone village located at 8:00 and Chance. Or check out the Evolutionary Center at 4:30 and Eager, a theme camp focused around sustainability and permaculture. These folks have a lot going on: workshops in alternative energy and building techniques; the She Horse art car, a mobile permaculture demonstration unit, waste vegetable oil and recycle collection vehicle, and a public transportation system along the Green Trail, connecting all of the sustainable focused camps and ideas in Black Rock City (Look for the **Greening Man** logo on signs and stickers in camps and on vehicles.); a biodiesel processing facility, and a Green Resource Center to provide information. *Whew!*

### EDITORIAL BOX

PUBLISHER  
William Randolph Harvey  
EDITOR  
Rabid Cujo

WRITERS  
Darryl Van Rhey  
Ritzy Twaddle  
Casey Pollard  
Dr. Really, Majitope

GRAPHIC DESIGN  
Brian de la Cruz  
PROOFREADER  
Swayframe

THE BIG MEOW  
Jack Rabbit

