



Black Rock Gazette

Black Rock Desert, Nevada

Pop. 1+

Friday, September 3, 1993

Welcome to Nowhere

There are no spectators here, only participants. No audience, only players. Here on this sere and desolate plain, our community springs from the desert floor like a strange and beautiful mushroom, a postmodern Brigadoon in an ancient wasteland. Its name is whatever you name it. Its wealth is whatever you bring. Next week it will be gone, but next week might as well be never. You are here now.

"Precooked, they've come, roasted by society, soul-seared, half-baked, and hard-boiled; sun-dried, heat-blasted, and cheese-fried to a crackly crisp, they've come over the mountains and into the desert to smolder as one at the feet of the great symbol of their own relentless combustion. They have come to see the Burning Man."

—Lawrence Gallagher, *Outside*

Behold the Man

What the hell's going on here? Your guess is as good as anyone's, but here are some answers to a few common questions asked around the Man:

HOW BIG IS IT?

Burning Man measures roughly 40 feet (12m) from head to toe and weighs about 1,500 pounds (680kg). In comparative terms, that's the height of a four-story building and the weight of a small automobile.

WHY A MAN? WHY NOT A WOMAN?

Burning Man is sexless, a "man" only in terms of species, not gender. When it burns, it burns for all of us.

WHY THIS PLACE?

In its first incarnation, the Man burned on a San Francisco beach, but it swiftly outgrew the confines and constraints of that urban landscape. This playa is a more apt setting, a stark and surreal environment where the Man can attain its full measure.

WHY BURN IT?

In the words of Larry Harvey, the man behind the Man, *"If we didn't destroy him, we wouldn't have to make him again."*

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

It means whatever you think it means. Although Burning Man has been said to occupy that "ambiguous territory which separates religion from art," any religious aspects to the Burning are entirely personal. There are no priests, no scriptures, no dogma — only a shared experience which you are free to interpret in any fashion you choose, or not at all.

YOU WANT A COLD BEER?

Sure, thanks.

"At the beginning, Burning Man was like an infant. No one knew what it was going to become. As the years went on, the man began to develop a personality, a distinct physical appearance. As time passes, we figure out more and more what it's about and what its purpose really is."

—Dan Miller

Weather
Forecast

Temperature: Yes
Humidity: No

DANGER RANGER'S



Desert Survival Tips

WATER: Your registration packet recommended one gallon per person per day, and we weren't kidding. Dehydration is your #1 enemy in the desert. Drink water even if you don't feel thirsty. Beer, coffee and soda are NOT water — if you wake up in the morning and your mouth feels dry, it does NOT mean you need another shot of tequila. Danger signs include dizziness, headache, and dark or nonexistent urine. Dehydration accelerates heat stroke, heat exhaustion, and other unhappy conditions. DRINK LOTS OF WATER.

SUN: Stay out in it long enough without protection, and it will cook you like a hot dog. Wear a hat. Use sunblock. The hours between 1:00 and 4:00 are the hottest — stay in the shade and avoid strenuous activity if you want to save your strength for the night.

DRIVING: Vehicles behave differently on the playa than on the street. If you take a turn too fast, you will not skid — you will ROLL. The edge of the playa is particularly dangerous; there is MUD under the dry crust. If you hear a crunch, or a crunch followed by a thump-thump in your wheelwells, you have broken the crust and are about to get stuck. DO NOT STOP. Make a slow, gentle turn away from your course and don't stop until you are on terra firma. Be advised: last year, the going rate for a tow truck from Gerlach was \$100 CASH.

NAVIGATION: Don't drive at night without a caravan unless you're a Black Rock veteran. Learn to find the North Star. The main road runs along the west side of the playa. If lost, head west by keeping the North Star over your right shoulder. If you're lucky, you might find the road.

COMMUNICATIONS: If you leave camp, let people know where you are going and when you expect to be back. Get to know your camp neighbors and look out for each other. If you think someone may have disappeared on the playa, REPORT IT in central camp. We will be monitoring CB channel 5 — if you're stuck or lost, that's the best way to contact us.

DONNER AWARD: Each year, this dubious prize is awarded to the party that gets itself into the most extreme survival situation. Last year it went to the Playa Plane Crashers. This year, DON'T let it be you! —D.R.

Black Rock Gazette is published on-site by the Cacophony Society (SF.415.663-0351; LA.213.937-2759) with support from *Twisted Times* (Box 271222, Concord CA 94520). To get in touch with the Gazette staff, leave a message on the bulletin board in central camp. —Sir Real/ed.

Special thanks to: Joe Fenton, Paizley Pez, Central Services, Bruno's Country Club, Michael Michael, Larry Harvey and, of course, *The Man*.

"COGITO ERGO FLAMBÉ"

UFO Rumors Explained

In a hastily assembled press conference, Camp Authorities acted quickly to dispel rumors of an alleged extraterrestrial infiltration of this year's Burning Man festival. "There's no truth whatsoever to these allegations," asserted Danger Ranger, chief of Camp safety. "Every one of these alleged sightings can be attributed to some sort of natural phenomena — dry cleaning bags filled with marsh gas, for instance, or pie plates reflected in the atmosphere."

But sources close to the advance team privately contradicted Ranger's official statement. "They're here alright," said one source. "Just look around you—their landing prints are everywhere. Last night I lost two hours—where was I? They wiped my memory, but I'll give you three guesses. I'd tell you more, but the Men in Black told me to can it. Something big is going on here, alright. Something major."

No "Men in Black" were available for comment.

Rapture of the Playa

Just as divers who descend to extreme depths sometimes fall prey to nitrogen narcosis, or "rapture of the deep," visitors to the playa often experience a psychic version of this disorienting physical state. Black Rock largely lacks all normal boundaries and this stunning fact can produce sudden psychic decompressions. To quote Larry Gallagher, who describes our event in this month's edition of *Outside Magazine*, "At the bottom of the sky are the mountains. In the foreground is the end of your nose. In between things get fuzzy." Within this fuzzy zone distant objects hover 40 feet above the ground, sounds vanish upwards, and the result can be profoundly disorienting. Our lives, after all, are defined by those things which surround us; by walls, shopfronts, the constant proximity of a built environment. Personal identity is founded on the middle distance. In a world where there is nothing but the infinite and intimate, a lot is up for grabs.

Participants in Burning Man should be advised: *your consciousness may be altered.* Reported reactions during our 4-year sojourn here span the spectrum from micro-breakdowns to macro-enlightenment. We suggest that you remember this: whether your existence balloons or contracts, the Man, as a constant reassuring symbol of our presence here, may be a useful anchor.

—Larry Harvey

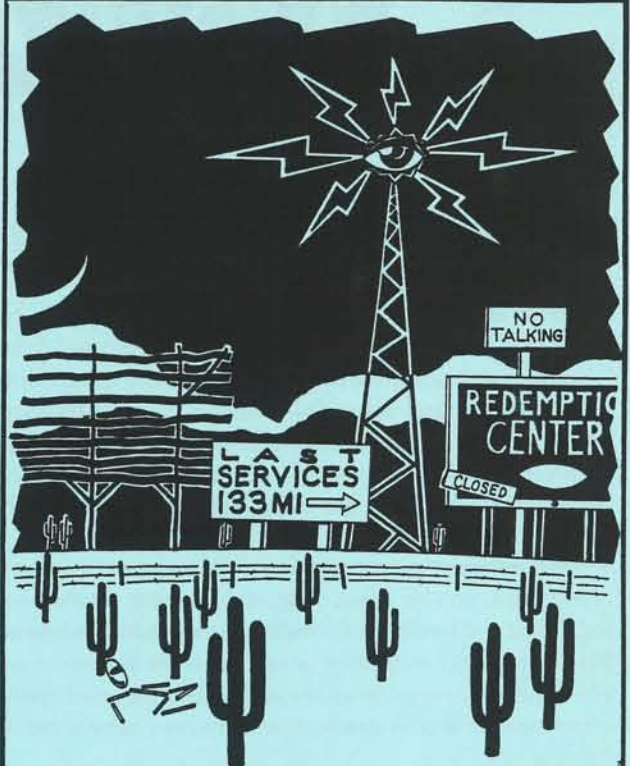
Travel Advisory

Travelers to the Black Rock Springs area should be forewarned that a number of unsavory characters have been spotted in the vicinity of that lawless frontier town. Reports of gambling, drunkenness, and foul language are commonplace. Any desperados encountered in or around Black Rock Springs should be considered armed and/or dangerous until proven otherwise.

"This is what chaos should be."
Howard Hallis

SCHWA

BILL BARKER
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XXX Alien Repellent Patch: The Plutonium™ coated patch at left will prevent abduction for up to 48 hours. Clip & tape on skin. Relax. For more information on alien defense send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Schwa, Box 6064 Reno NV 89513

Schedule of Activities

Date	Time	Event	Location
Friday	6:00pm	Raising Man	End of processional roadway
Friday	7:30pm	Potluck	Central camp
Friday	9:00pm	Slide Lecture by Billy Clewlow: "The Abyss of Time"	Central camp
Saturday	6:30-7:30 pm	Fashion Show: "Lost in Space"	Central camp
Saturday	TBA	Sculpture/Performance: "Fire Tree"	Northeast of camp
Saturday	9:00-10:00pm	Concert: Three Day Stubble & Mudwimmen	Northeast of camp
Saturday	10:00-10:30pm	Pyro Performance: The Incredible Exploding Couple	Burning Man
Saturday	10:30pm	Concert resumes	Northeast of camp
Saturday	Midnight —	Rave	North of camp
Sunday	Before dawn	Java Cow Ritual	Burning Man
Sunday	8:30-9:00am	Golf/Skeel Tournament	Assemble at central camp
Sunday	All morning	Communal art show	Central camp
Sunday	3:00pm	Lower Man	End of processional roadway
Sunday	6:00-7:00pm	Cocktail Party (BYOB)	Central camp
Sunday	7:00-7:30	Kali-Ma Dance: Mona-Jean Cedar & Melinda Mohn	Central camp
Sunday	7:30pm	Raise Man	Burning Man
Sunday	8:00-8:30pm	Fire Performance: Crimson Rose & Will Roger	Burning Man
Sunday	8:30pm	Ignition	Burning Man
Sunday	10:00-11:00pm	Concert: Three Day Stubble & Mudwimmen	Northeast of camp
Sunday	Midnight—	Rave	North of camp
Monday	Morning	General Clean-up - All participate	

Check the bulletin board in central camp for schedule changes and additions.