WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY, AUGUST 27/28, 1997

ISSUE No. 1

BURNING MAN'S OFFICIAL ONSITE DAILY NEWSPAPE

Community by Lee Gilmore & Paradox

urning Man is a paradox of artistic fertility blossoming in an infertile land, born out of the flesh of human community and balanced between multiple realities. The stunning emptiness of the land invites us to recreate ourselves within its barren context—through individual and collective creativity the land comes alive. The unique geog-

raphy of the Hualapai Playa inspires our vision and informs the physicality of our encampment, yet the heart of Black Rock City's magic lies within its human spirit.

Ours is a unique subculture that has evolved over the course of more than a decade. Within the context of our shared histories special bonds have emerged. Yet the commu-

nity remains emphatically open to new participants who bring fresh insights and inspirations, infusing the community with raw energy. Burning Man embraces the unknown and unexpected, sharpening our awareness and ensuring our continued evolution.

Community is born via active participation in a shared context. In this spirit some have created villages — groups of camps united by a common vision or related theme. Several villages now circle their wagons within our city including the Blue Light District, Camp Camp, the Illumination Village, and others. In villages, we pool our resources and maintain relationship through shared events. Get to know your neighbors and form your own village.

Burning Man exists between the paradoxes of fertility and infertility, individual freedom and collective responsibility. Manifest your wildest passions, live on the edge of chaos, but respect the veil that keeps our community on this side of life and death.

<observed> by rusty@sirius.com

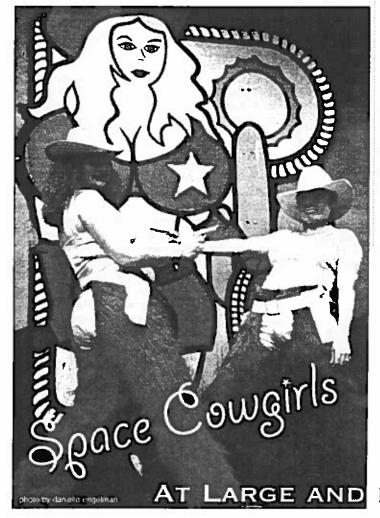
Well, I just heard that internet addiction is a 'real addiction,' treatable with a 12-step program. No kidding. A bonafide addiction. And they just figured this out?

Hi, I'm Rusty, and I'm addicted to the Burning Man e-mailing list.

I'm not in denial on this one. I've tried to unsubscribe but then I'd spot a nifty post about where to buy cheap tiki torches or some meaningless blather about a takeover project. Once I did unsubscribe, I went on vacation and imagine my disappointment when I came home to just 3 e-mails. Hal I was offline for 2 weeks while my computer was being upgraded -2,230 posts. Score!

It's simultaneously annoying and ego-boosting to download 100 or more posts a day. Most threads I delete right off the bat. But others I save on my hard drive for eternity, who knows when I'll need to have rebar info quickly? How else would I keep up with all the

continued on back page



Fashion victims beware...San Francisco's Space Cowgirls, a flagrant, rip-roarin' team of partywear goddesses-turned-cultural vigilantes have been spotted disciplining, catcalling, and otherwise invading the space of certain "style-challenged" desert denizens. Posing as local law enforcement officials, the duo have reportedly declared an obsessive vendetta against the unfashionable, publicly humiliating their chosen victims and, in many cases, touting their own obnoxious clothing line as the only viable solution to society's collective blandness. The Space Cowgirls, aka Kim and Brynne, were last seen sporting fuchsia and blue hair, respectively, with perfectly coordinated fake fur chaps and various accessories. They are armed and very loud.

IN CHARGE

by Leon Chase

Brody's Nature Challen

Brought to you by Dr. Brody Culpepper of Bigrig Industries®

Watch your toes, and be careful where you step. At this year's Burning Man, what you don't see may kill you, or at least hurt you a whole hell of a lot. Unlike the the dry, sterile playa of years past, in this year's camp we will be neighbors with dozens of little critters that you may never even notice. Nature has a way of dealing with what it considers dangerous, and to the animals in this neck of the desert, you are the intruder that is to be feared. Many of the creatures that have lived here for eons may not be too fond of your type and may leave you with a kindly reminder of your encounter. If you watch your step and take a few basic precautions, there is little worry that you may be on the other side of a poor creature's attempt to protect itself.

The first question ignorant urban visitors ask is if there are any venomous snakes around here. Some Burning Man organizers and some veterans will claim that there are no dangerous snakes, but that's because they don't know better or don't want to scare away desperately needed money. In fact, there is a subspecies of rattlesnake that lives only in this area, the Great Basin rattlesnake (Crotalus viridis lutosus), and I saw seven adults in the area earlier this summer. Rattlers are fascinating and highly evolved snakes, but have a poor public relations problem and there is more b.s. about them than I can even begin to deal with. So, here is the scoop about our native rattlesnake.

First, they are venomous and potentially deadly, but few deaths have ever been reported because they have a relatively weak venom, they don't grow much over 4 feet long, and are quite shy. Rattlesnakes will strike without warning you with their tell-tale buzz, but our rattler tries hard not to be seen, and rarely rattles because it gives itself away. Additionally, they avoid the heat of the day and are more active at night, but around here they go into a sort of a summer hibernation to avoid the hottest part of the year. What should you do if you see one? Give the guy a little space, take a few photos, and leave it alone. They don't go looking for a fight and usually freeze or quietly crawl away when they see you, which is usually before you see them. The few people in the U.S. bitten by surprise usually step on the thing without even watching where they walk, but over 75% of all snakebite cases in the U.S. are due to people actively killing or attempting to handle live

(or mistakenly dead) rattlesnakes. Bad move. The Great Basin rattlesnake only strikes when cornered or taken by surprise, and can only lunge about half its body length away; they don't jump and they won't chase after you.

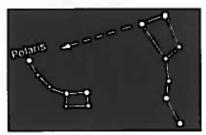
Luckily, a high percentage of bites are 'dry', meaning that no venom is even injected. If you are bitten, stay calm and seek a Ranger immediately. If treated quickly, fatalities from snakebite are rare, and you have little to fear in the way of immediate death, but localized tissue damage may be your souvenir. Most of you will never see one of these rattlers, but encounters are possible, and one may even enter your

camp. If one does, a large trash can be used to scoop up or place over the snake, but call Ol' Brody (via a Black Rock Ranger) who

carries rattlesnake handling gear with him, and who will graciously relocate the wayward serpent. Tomorrow's Challenge: Scorpions

STARGAZING AT BLACK ROCK

By William Stevenson



Connecting those little dots in the sky seems to transcend time and culture. For thousands of years people have used the sky to understand nature and themselves. Whether corresponding to a myth, marking the seasons or providing a metaphor for greater reality, what we see in the sky somehow seems to reflect who we are.

This year, Burning Man will be graced with an almost empty moon. With our location in the desert and distance from major cities, the sky will come alive with stars. Taking notice is simply a matter of looking up.

The easiest way to orient yourself is to find the Big Dipper. No matter what time of night, any evening of the year, the two stars on the end of the bowl farthest from the handle point towards Polaris, the North Star.

Draw a line through them and extend it about five times the height of the bowl and it will reach Polaris. Polaris also forms the end of the handle of the Little Dipper. All the constellations seem to rotate around Polaris, so where they are in the sky during a given night depends on when you look.

After you've found Polaris tilt your head back until you can see the Milky Way. Look a little ways up and down it until you see an inverted cross.

This is the main part of Cygnus, the Swan. The bright star at the short end of the cross is Deneb. The long end is the neck and the "horizontal" part begins the outstretched wings.

In addition to the constellations we can often see four of the nine planets with the unaided eye. All are usually in the southern sky and from west to east (right to left if facing south) will be: Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. Venus and Mars will set the earliest, followed by Jupiter, while twilight will swallow Saturn.

On Thursday and Friday evenings a constellation seeing excursion, complete with starmaps and stories, will leave from the Ranger Station at dusk. Everyone is invited.

Story Ideas? Event Listing? Brine it to the Gazette

....Chelsea (Clinton) may be attending Burning Man this year."

THE STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE



As a participant in Burning Man, you must bring all necessities to the desert: food, shelter, water, fuel — everything you need to survive. Above and beyond this provision for individual survival, we request you help ensure our collective survival. The following rules are necessarily cast in negative terms. They are ultimately intended, however, to preserve the integrity and creative freedom of our community. They are very simple and relate to public safety at this event — the necessary and shared concern of everyone. Upon tendering your ticket and entering our private site you become a citizen of Black Rock City and will be expected to abide by these standards. Community membership is a privilege. Any violation of these simple requirements could result in the loss of your right to be among us. In short, you can be required to leave. If you need guidance, please speak to a Black Rock Ranger.

Do not drive your car in camp. Be prepared to come to Black Rock City and anchor your vehicle at your campsite. No cruising! Except for specially-marked vehicles, no cars will be allowed on the open playa. Black Rock City is designed for pedestrians and bicycles. When entering and leaving our site, please observe posted speed limits within camp. In order to diminish traffic, a limited number of survival supplies may be purchased at our frontier store.

Use fire only on the playa. The flat and fuel-free surface of the playa (the dried lake bed of Hualapai Flat) is suitable for fire. The land along its shoreline is not—covered by grass and shrubs it is highly combustible and fire in any form is banned in this area. Furthermore, the use of fireworks (bottle rockets explosives, etc.) and, in particular, parachute flares, is very dangerous—drifting to ground in unpredictable spots. These flares present an extreme hazard to our community. Do not use them.

Finally, the practice that's grown up in recent years of burning public structures at the finale of our festival on Sunday night, is not acceptable. The Man and other designated artworks will be burned by the artists who created them. Please do not burn the lamp posts, bulletin boards or other people's property.

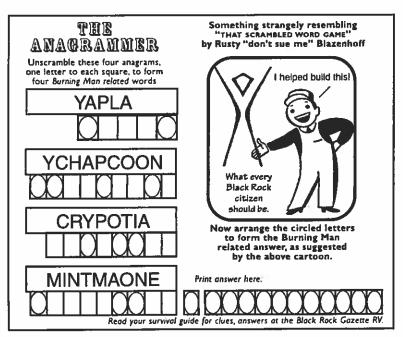
The open display or discharge of firearms is prohibited. Should you bring a firearm, please keep in under lock and kee within your vehicle. Neither, our campground nor the greater plans are suitable areas for recreational shooting. We have scheduled no such events.

Respect public boundaries. The immediate margin of the playa we will occupy is private land. Its boundary will be clearly marked. The area of the playa beyond this boundary line is, administered by a federal agency, the pureau of Land Management, for purposes of public recreation. You're free to travel here on foot or bicycle. Do not, however, attempt to install artwork

in this area. The land to the north and south of our location is marked by fences. Travel in these areas is an act of trespass. Our campground is large; its borders clearly marked. Do not camp in any area overgrown with brush.

Burning Man '97' supports both federal laws and the laws of the State of Nevada, Very practically, this means you should comport yourself, with regard to these laws, as you would in any municipality. We intend to cooperate fully with State authorities. Burning Man also supports the istrAmendment. We are devoted to radically free self-expression. We recommend that you behave as you would any-where, with intelligent discretion. Burning Man does not promote or condone the use of drugs or public sex acts. A participant in lastiyear's festival was arrested by local law authorities for purveying and openly consuming drugs—we respect your right to privacy and we have no intention of harassing individuals In their private space. We do suggest that drug use in a physically challenging and hazardous environment may be ill-advised. We offer one general thought: Individuals take drugs to alter their consciousness, but the consciousness of Black Rock City is already altered—It is an environment filled with bizarre creative visions. Perhaps the best response is a creative one.

No one will be admitted without a valid registration ticket from the Burning Man '97 Project Your ticket is a revocable license. Violation of rules, recklessness, disruptive conduct or nuisance will result in revocation of your ticket and ejection from the event without refund. No one under 18 admitted without an adult. The vending or sale of commercial products at this event is prohibited. Our gate will be open at Noon on Wednesday, August 27th. Admission price is \$75 per person. The Man will burn at sunset on Sunday, August 31st. Our community will disperse on Monday, September 1st.



You might be new to Burning Man if...

submitted by Hernan Cortez

originally posted on the Burning Man Mailing List

- you arrive Wednesday and naively announce "Hey these porta-johns ain't so bad!"
- on the way eat all your Oreo's, Doritos and drink those 2 six packs of beer you thought would be enough.
- don't realize that this is a gun friendly crowd and take shortcuts through heavily tented areas pulling down as many tent stakes and tents as possible
- you think everybody appreciates getting woken up at the crack of dawn despite the fact that they may have fallen asleep 30 minutes ago.
- come to the realization that drinking a gallon of water each day is a royal pain in the ass and stop drinking it.
- 7. steal souvenirs from every camp you go to.
- don't pick up your trash because 'someone else will pick it up for me.'
- 9. get married to a complete stranger.
- ask strangers to sell you drugs even though they look like they are from Langley, Virginia.
- walk around asking women to show you their tits!
- 12. think sunscreen is a big joke.

Structure from Chaos he other Side Of Anarchy

haos, anarchy, and liberty are themes central to ✓ the Burning Man mythos, yet they are easily given to misinterpretation since in the common vernacular these terms are frequently used to refer only to one half of their full meaning. For the layman, the term chaos has come to describe only a part of chaotic dynamics, the concept of a state having no discernible structure. In regard to anarchy, most Americans think only of the absence of traditional governmental structure. And most think of liberty merely as one's right to do as one pleases. This incomplete perception is unfortunate, for the full definition of each of these terminologies is as practical as it is profound.

The mathematics of chaos theory demonstrate that within chaotic motion there arise complex, turbulent motions: fundamentally interrelated motions that presently defy simulation on all but our most supercomputers. powerful However, chaotic dynamics are not purely random, and this is demonstrated by the observation that even an infinitesimal change in the state of a chaotic system will send its evolution careening off in a wildly different direction.

The Renaissance philosophers Rousseau, Locke and Kant demonstrated that in all societies, an unwritten social contract exists between all people. a contract which must be adhered to for a society to function. Inherent in this contract is the concept of liberty for all: a liberty predicated on the responsibility of each and every individual to control themself, to rein in their actions before interfering with the liberty of their neighbors. This responsibility is succinctly stated in the classic phrase, "your right to swing your fist ends at the tip of my nose." The validity of this formulation is clearly evident when any individual fails to control themself, resulting in the loss of another individual's liberty. Nietzche's Ubermensch, the Overman, is mistakenly perceived to be above the law: again, only half of the story was told—the truth is that the Ubermensch has no need of law because he is capable of controlling himself from within, and therefore does not need to be controlled from without. Thus, the personal responsibility of the Ubermensch results in the maximization of personal liberty.

The seminal anarchist writers Bakunin and Makhno set forth their theories of spontaneous social organization near the turn of this century, theories which were later partially vindicated by events in the Russian countryside in the wake of the Bolshevik revolution. When the Czarist regime was toppled, vast areas of the Ural mountains were suddenly freed from any rule or authority, creating the "state of nature" so often speculated about by Renaissance philosophers. Small geographic groupings of people rapidly formed, based essentially on a primitive village structure. These villages ruled themselves by popular decree, with no means of social control save peer pressure: these groups were small enough that everybody knew each other, and hence had no need for law enforcement. In a community so small, if you're a jerk, everybody knows it, and the loss of your friends demonstrates the need to integrate yourself into the existing social dynamic. Occasionally roving bandits would attempt to raid these villages, resulting in the formation of vigilante patrols that protected the villagers. These enforcers were ordinary villagers, unlike the police forces of large centralized societies. The inhabitants of these village communities were termed anarchists, referring to the intrinsic social organization which required no external enforcement, as it came from within. In recent decades, most people have forgotten that anarchy was originally coined with this meaning, that in an

anarchist state there is no external governmental organization because each individual governs themself. The Ural mountain anarchists, or Mahknovists as they were called, prospered for nearly two decades before the growing Communist government eventually conquered these temporary autonomous zones, preventing the experiment from reaching completion.

A similar dynamic has developed at Black Rock City. Brought together with no form of external control, the creative spirits of Black Rock City spontaneously originated their own tribal ethos. The high level of personal responsibility forced on all by the extreme environment of the Black Rock Desert, coupled with the willingness of all participants to police themselves, resulted in an environment which maximized personal liberty, allowing the freedom for radical self-expression that is an essential element of the Burning Man Experience. As the

society grew, an inherent structure evolved within it. The volunteer patrols of Black Rock Rangers were formed to protect the citizenry from themselves and from the

increasing number of gatecrashers intent only on satisfying their own needs, at the expense of the community at large. Last year, the failure of certain individuals to adhere to the social contract induced the external authorities to attempt to shut us down. We must prove to them that we can develop our own internal system. The rise of villages within Black Rock City is the next step of our natural evolution. eliciting order from chaos to create a truly anarchistic society. This is an attempt to bring citizens closer to create a structure where peer pressure can again enable us to be selfenforcing. Your cooperation is critical: you are now a citizen of Black Rock City. Meet your neighbors, get to know those around you. They are your most immediate source of aid in the event of an emergency. and they are your connection to the society at large. Get involved. Help others building their structures, and don't be afraid to ask assistance from those around you. Make new friends. If you observe antisocial behavior, ranging from fire dangers to littering to sexual harassment, intervene. Speak up. We must all protect ourselves and our neighbors--there is no external authority to do it for us. If we stand idly by and do nothing, our society will crumble.

Our interactions and behaviors define the existential space of the Burning Man Event. Our choices, and the choices of those around us, weave the tapestry that is the fabric of our society. We are all performers in a dance, a dance which is not choreographed, but which evolves sponta-

"Your cooperation is critical: you are now a citizen of Black Rock City."

neously, and which is affected by each and every interaction, no matter how small. From the responsibility of each and every participant to confine their actions so as to "never interfere with anybody else's good time," arises a City with maximum personal liberty for all. And from the chaotic motions of thousands of individuals contributing their own energy, skills, and spirits, coalesces a dance, an incredible performance of remarkable beauty and exquisite fragilitya monumental performance piece that exists within its own temporal anomaly, the unique society of Black Rock City. You are now a part of that society: you can make it happen.

At Playa In The Fields Of Fire

s summer winds down and the dry season crackles with possibility, a good many of us have plans to make an exquisite and unforgettable fire here on the playa.

Labor Day weekend depopulates our respective cities and towns as effectively as a neutron bomb. But rather than go nuclear, an increasing number join this vast adoptive family, or movement—some might call it a cult—and come to Nevada for the Burning Man Festival. This year marks the 12th iteration of this incendiary celebration; a far cry from its apocryphal beginnings in 1986 on Baker Beach.

Barred from burning the man in San Francisco by fire authorities since 1990, Burning Man has kept on trucking with a move east of Eden into this desert north of Reno.

A forty foot wooden man lined by a neon skeleton stands for less than a week, then is burned. This year more than 12,000 will trek to the back of this beyond and revel in the Temporary Autonomous Zone that is Black Rock City. Most are from California, but participants are coming from all over-Canada, Rica, Japan, Brazil, Costa Argentina, Germany, even South Africa, For the few short days of this long weekend, a selfsufficient metropolis is coalescing on the playa (beach) of the ancient lakebed of Lake Lahontan. Like Essenes who quit Jerusalem in the first century of the Common Era (A.D.), we have rejected the commerce of the Temple for an experiment in intentional - even, spiritual co mmunity, however ephemeral it may be. The only commandments are: bring everything that you need to survive-this is a desert!-and leave nothing behind. Do not interfere with anyone else's immediate experience. No spectators-everyone is a participant, whether they are drawn to the desert for ascetic reasons, or the bacchanalia.

Everyone comes for their own reason—there is no unifying belief, apart from an active love of freedom and unfettered expression. The desert provides the most perfect blank slate for bringing dreams to life in an

by D.S. Black

otherwise pitiless and unforgivaling environment.

Look for artears like Ripper the Friendly Shark. Theme camps abound to express elective tribal and artistic affinities. There are villages like the Blue Light District; an Alien Abduction Camp, S&Merald City, plus numerous coteries of Barbiedoll worshippers. No doubt there are disgruntled postal workers delivering this daily newspaper and several competing pirate radio stations buzzing the airwaves.

Towering over all is a Man who will be torched Sunday evening in

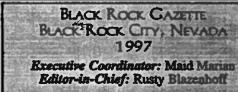
a pyrotechnic frenzy that will burn several thous and points of light against a velvet new moon.

Woodstock or Altamont? was the refrain at last year's festival. Casualties were few, but duly noted: one person died in a head-on collision, and others injured by a drunk driver running over two tents.

This year Burning Man has moved from the 400 square mile Black Rock desert north of Reno to private land nearby, a mini playa on which car traffic is restricted. In this way, a community which has exiled itself to the desert has brought with it some of the very human and mechanical problems of civilization.

Still, an army of fire-dancing visionaries is a force to be reckoned with. We may be unleashed for only a few days in the desert, joyfully atomizing and recreating the ways of our world, But when we go home, like modern day Prometheus, we will bring some of that mad brilliant energy with us.

D.S. Block owns a hol(e)y toaster.



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"This is a Papyrus free zone"

Agony Ant

A sex column specifically geared for Black Rock Citizens

Dear Ant.

Do you think Playa dust might degrade condoms? I didn't get a chance to find out last year, but my boyfriend's coming with me this time.

Grinder

Dear Grinder,

While immeasurable quantities of free-ranging gypsum do present certain challenges, this seems more likely to be a nuisance than an actual danger. Without question, P-dust is a major anti-lubricant, but a wipedown and a generous application of the usual water-based substances should suffice. Wash again immediately afterwards, of course, or you may find your-

selves quickly mummified by the resulting deathmask-like crust which will form when that mess dries.

Have fun,

Agony Ant



Do you have a sex question for 'The Agony Ant'? Stop by the Gazette RV and submit your question, anonymously if you wish...



Sister Dana Sez All the Dirt From the Desert

by Sister Dana Van Iquity

Kiya, howaya...from Hualapai Ilaya!

Allillirighty then...you are in the middle of the burning desert, and what is the most important issue? Water?? Well, yes, I suppose so...but there's something much more vital: FASHION!

True, you could die from lack of H₂0, but worse yet you could die of embarrassment when issued a fashion citation because of your boring, improper playa attire. You say all you brought was a white t-shirt and shorts? Not to worry. Pour some of that water you brought (oh gawd, please tell me you didn't forget to bring water!) onto the playa floor. Dunk that pristine tee into the mud until you have a nice desert sand tone. Rip the shirt into strips and tie a knot in each. Now go through the same steps with your shorts (better yet, your undies, which tear easier and look sexier). Pour on orange juice or any other liquid that stains your clothing. Now for your face. Forget desert. Mud makes an excellent makeup base. Remember, it's just the opposite on the playa: a lighter coat at night and a thicker one during the noonday sun. Do NOT forget eye shadow. Try to find some burnt wood (hard task!) and apply the charcoal to your lids and anywhere else on your person. For blush, there is nothing like the blood of a freshly slaughtered playa chicken, but barring that you will need a red vegetable (beets are best) smeared on your cheeks. Lips look great in berry juice. Highlight everything with carrot juice. If you can find someone who brought henna, the longlasting tattoo effect can't be

Finally, be sure to accessorize, accessorize, ACCESSORIZE! Anything you can find to hang from some twine around your neck, and to wrap around your extremities (ALL of them) and to stick on top of your head. Now just look at the new you: delectable in the desert!!

Madame Arcana's Almanac

Dear citizens.

For me, Burning Man is an exercise in noticing that amidst all of the crowds, dust, and noise, there is still room for feeling that we are still connected to the earth that we live on every day. In fact, being alienated from our usual living spaces is usually a fantastic catalyst for personal growth and change. The aim of this almanac is to provide you with facts that you may find useful and informative- each of the next four days is divided into a whole season of the cycles of the earth; time is both sped up and halted on the playa, as though we were between worlds! In keeping with this year's theme of fertility, the almanac primarily focuses on goddess names and moon phases. (The new moon occurs at 4:52 pm on Monday.) This creates a balance- it is important to recognize that in our daily lives, we usually follow a calendar based on the sun. Enjoy!

Madame Arcana

Tarot Cards
The Fool and The High Priesess

The tool begins his journey brough the world fearlessly. knowing that there may be obstacles ahead and that he will be able to conque his challenges which they arise. The purpose priestess reminds us out our intuition, instead of always welling answer outside of outselves.

Moon Phase

Cancer

Today, remember to recognize when you need to take time our for both yourself and the people you came with. Recognize emotional needs as they arise.

Spring Festival mbok (usually February 2)

Our city/awakens slowly, showing signs of life as more people arrive. The time for planting seeds, recognizing the beauty, and promise of youth, and also planning for the year ahead. The time of the virginal maidenties goddess.

Goddess Names rsephone, Diana, Artemis Kone, Artadne

You too can subscribe to
The Burning Man mailing list,
send an e-mail to:
burnman-list-admin@chorus.com
In the subject field, type "subscribe."

In the body, put your e-mail address.

The mailing list is run by Blue
Light District's Eric Pouyol.

<obsessed>...continued from cover events and gossip yearround involving Burning Man people?

Clinique, m'dear, 'cuz this is the

Which brings me to my point...after being on the list for just a year, I have met some truly wonderful people. People from all facets of life—all ages too, cut, uncut, gay, straight, perpetually indulgent, thick

haired, drunk and disorderly, sober, hairy backed, shaved back, shaved head, named Jen, 'kleptos', short, tall, French, lurking, angry, gun-toting, informative, creative, spontaneous, ranting...you name it, we cover all the bases. An eclectic group for sure. Believe me, I wouldn't have it any other way.

And for now, keep me subscribed, I'm not bored yet. Addicted, sleepless, but definitely not bored.X

Rusty Blazenhoff is female.

Bring her scotch and ammo.

Stop at Red Lights by Blake Wiers







