Art Vandals

C.C. Clark is a big Frida Kahlo fan. Her art installation, Casa Azul, located in center camp, is a walk-through that is a tribute to Kahlo and her work put together with the aid of other artists.

"It took a year of planning and eight months of my life to do this piece," she said, voice a quiver and hoarse, tears starting to run down her cheeks. "That's why I can't believe this happened!"

In the sleepy hours of 2 a.m. to 4 a.m. on Tuesday, someone wrote the words "Free it up" under the "Free it up" scrawl C.C. has put on her art. "It happens every year," said Ranger Jim Corpi, chief executive of Costco Soulmate Trading Outlet, adding Wednesday to find six-foot red-and-white Costco sign gone. This was after it had been slashed in half by someone two days earlier.

"The two incidents are unrelated," said Thuder. "I think the sign was slashed by some ironically implicated person who thought this was something to do with corporate sponsorship. Someone over at Tent Repair Camp was nice enough to fix it. The person who stole the sign realized they made a mistake and returned it. We put them to work for us as an indentured servant so they can understand the magic of this whole thing." Not everyone has been humble enough to pay for the damage. "I have to call Jay of Stoke and Poko's Game-A-Lot found a couple at 2 a.m. Wednesday pulling the tires out of the ground to which this giant six-foot-long was chained."

"It's obviously chained here for a reason," said Izy. "They pulled the tires out of the ground, and the person riding the saw. When I came out they mumbled an apology and went off. It's going to take us a few hours to put it all back together."

"We now have to see if someone here in shifts," said Jane "which is a bummer because it ruins the experience of the person who has to stay here, and it says an element of mistrust to the citizens of Black Rock when we have to watch everyone."

"It happens every year," said Ranger Beavis. "In a crowd like this, you will have 5 percent who are assholes. This year it seems to be more like 7.5 percent. We've had a few incidents of art vandalism this year. But it's more mischievous than malicious. People get drunk and think they are being cute by being childish and goofing around. Usually the yahoos come at the end of the week. But now they seem to be staying longer. We don't like that at all."

Under the "Free it up" scrawl C.C. has put on her art, there is a small sign that says: "Thanks to the tagger who wrote on my art and destroyed eight months of work. You don't belong here and you made me cry. The artist." People get drunk and think they are being cute by being childish and goofing around. Usually the yahoos come at the end of the week. But now they seem to be staying longer. We don't like that at all.

A-Mazed

This year's Maze is so big that volunteers were given small maps to use during construction. It will kick your ass, too. Some folks get to the raised platform and discover they missed half the maze, including the coolest rooms.

On Tuesday, out of frustration, someone climbed up an exit pole to the final platform. There was a serious bombardment of "boos" and "cheaters." Burners were pissed. It was an intense break in Burning Man etiquette, as some folks in "Mandala". While traveling in Mexico and reading philosophy/psychologist Carl Jung, Giles came upon the Hindu concept of the man-dala, a circular design of concentric geometric forms symbolizing totality and wholeness. Thinking of Burning Man's Seven Ages theme, she started looking at systems of seven — the seven sins, the seven virtues, the seven stages of enlightenment. The mandala would allow her to produce a work of art to address the search for wisdom during five stages of life with which she felt most comfortable: birth, childhood, love, enlightenment and death. She omitted the other two Burning Man stages justice and struggle. "I worked on the ones I understood."

The result is an art piece composed of five intricate sculptures lining up perfectly and flanked on both sides by two winged creatures. An enclosed chair covered in wind chimes sits facing the sculptures, this is the viewer's spot. It has been said that you can judge the quality of a man's love not by his grand gestures, but in the small things; that he does. In many ways, gifts that participants make or bring are a gauge, and a more intimate expression of their love of the Burning Man community; they are of equal importance to the large-scale installations out on the playa. Each has their own special meaning, and the Artery headquarters, of the Burning Man Art Team, is determined to capture that meaning for an archive they are currently building.

Already the Artery has collected artifacts such as stickers, matchbooks, silk-screened pastie rings, lapel pins, medallions and Kidsville suckers, just to name a few. They are looking for is more of your love.

The Artery's feelings is that gifts communicate in ways that words cannot. The late German artist Joseph Beuys knew this and created small works he called "multi-pies" which he thought of as parts of himself that he gave to others, thereby staying in touch.

By distributing gifts, participants too are creating a connection between individuals and, ultimately, a community. And, we also have the potential of giving back something others' gifts. Burners are "staying in touch" with other community members, possibly for years to come. The gifts might be a catalyst for discussion or a way just to keep the image of its creator (or an idea in front of the viewer who sees it).

Share the joy of your gifts with the community and bring some of that love to the Burning Man office.

Participants may take a couple of examples of their gifts to The Artery in Center Camp (behind the Center Cafe) daily between 9:00 am and 7:00 pm. A form needs to filled out about the gift, including the name of giver, a description of the gift and its meaning. The Artery staff will take the gifts as well as playa business/trading cards, radio broadcasts and many more Burning Man related artefacts and transport them back to the Burning Man offices where they will be catalogued. Post-playa, they can be contacted to arrange archiving at tracin- gles@yahoo.com.

Gifts: Small-Scale Art:

ALLEGRA FORTUNATI

Artworks of the Seven Ages (from top left): The Cradle by Deidre Franceaux and Jann Nunn; The Playground - Cycleside Bike Carnival by Jericho Reese and the Bike Rodeo; The Chapel - The Plastic Chapel by Finley Fryer, The Wedding Cake by William Lai, The Coliseum - The Arena by Peri Pfeninger; The Temple of Wisdom by Bernie; The Maze by Todd Dworman, Charles Trapolin and the Maze People; The Mausoleum - The Temple of Tears by David Best and Jack Haye.

LATAX VACUUM

Light latex envelops you as you float and dance. Jim Corpi's "Latex Vacuum" is an immersive experience of deconstruction and reassembly of self. It takes you through a small breathing latex bag, naked in a large latex bag, breathing through a small Latex bag. It is only $25 to bring wrapped inside a giant whoosh of chewing gum. You are wrapped in a giant latex bag breathes through a small Latex bag and lost yourself on an old vacuum cleaner. Form-fitting latex envelopes you as you float and dance. A must experience. Operating earnings out of a mobile unit near Latex Camps of the Esplanade at 8:00 PM.
THE WILD WILD WEST

Death of a Star

What is the Wild West? It's America's Old Testament, a myth to twist with each recounting. By the 1970s, early immigrants were far more polysyllabic than ours, but like Black Radicals, we desiring a counter-culture aesthetic were acountering con section of dreamers. The West is a place that you can relate to, their own Playa, the real and the surreal. The West. The Wind is power, absent evaporation, a hand-crashed, half-dead mining town at 7:15 and infant. Fred Kinney, moderator for The Electronic Parlor Tricksters, says Donnell isn't revisionist history. It's a cantankerous acknowledgment of the history. Their sculptures and kinesis have fists of flowers, recycled, country-ant- ant-Mecca of bones and brimstone. But good- news: The Railway is finally coming to Denver from the Zoological Gardens at 9:30 on Thursday, 1,500 feet from the Mann to 9:00. The Laughing Stock is good, but I'm sure he is going to fit in just fine. He said it was no big deal!

Deadly Sin II

He is in possession of a motorized horses. Allied with the Post Office, the mojave desert is wild and was spirit back to the playa. Shoo 'em up and you might get a wooden nickel, redeemable for a fine meal, not to mention the Sand医学 Planet Center, located at 7:30 until he's 90. Mac is a golfer who doesn't feel the pulse of the Wild, Wild West.

Clint is here for the third time and said he is a bit over- enthused this year. He likes desert country with its sand and sun. He is in possession ofa flaming death awaits at the end of the line — a flaming metal chrysanthemum, a symbol of death in Japan. It goes off Friday after 10, out on the playa past 2:00 and 6:00.