



Spring Issue

April 2003

Blacktop City

Community Extranet Tools Expand for Rollout

by Dave Marr

Behold the Tech Teams. The wild-spirited, fire-loving, keyboard-and-mouse-in-hand Burners, who keep the Burning Man website, databases and servers running, are up to something.

As the Burner community has grown and expanded across the globe, so has the interest in creating regional Burning Man-like groups with their own events and local Burner-based circles. The Burning Man Project first began to establish Regional Contacts in late 1997, now numbering over 70. In the past few years a number of Burner-centric web sites—built by Burners, for Burners—have emerged to meet the needs of the Burning Man culture. By creating regional websites, folks around the globe hope to experience a similar cultural life during the 51 weeks of the year when Black Rock City loses its corporeal existence.

Some Burning Man related sites have offered Burners such resources as event listings, event planning, personality profiles and general obtainium. Understandably, these individual web sites require time, money and resources to get off the ground and most people don't have the capacity to focus on this kind of development.

In 2002 and into 2003, the Burning Man Project organizers chose regional expansion and the development of community based technical tools as a primary mission. In an effort to guide, assist and expand the Burning Man ethos the Project has initiated development to create tools that will help cultivate Burner connections, spawn regional interaction and assist others with group management using the Web.

"We need to reach beyond the boundaries of Black Rock City," said Marian Goodell, Mistress of Communication.

Plans for this development have been in the works for years, but it was only after Burning Man 2002 that things really began to take off. Now, a new digital playa is on the horizon for Burners via something called Plone. Plone is a document-publishing framework that can be used to make web sites, manage documents and group work projects. It works in conjunction with Zope, a flexible up-and-coming application server. Both are open-source applications: they can be obtained and shared for free and are constantly updated by the open-source community.

Initially, 35 different volunteer teams will use the new tools now called the Burning

Man Extranet. The rollout is a phased-in approach with the first groups actively using the Extranet as the Blacktop Gazette went to press. After the volunteer teams are all up and running, the Extranet Development Team will focus on using Plone to make and test tools for broader community-based applications. Eventually these tools will allow regional groups to create user groups, maintain contact lists, share files, offer discussion groups and calendars, and eventually, offer classified ads.

Long before all the work is completed, and just as summer begins to heat up, Burners can expect some eye candy from a visual redesign of Burning Man's official website. It has been nearly three years since the last artistic change in Burningman.com. In that time the volume of website content has increased three fold. The maintenance of this 1000-plus-page site has made changing the design a daunting idea, however, the Burning Man Web Team has spent the past year organizing it.

At Decompression 2002 in San Francisco, several Web Team members spent the day interviewing attendees on their feelings and opinions about the website. Weeks later, and after a posting in the Jack Rabbit

Speaks newsletter, 500 people responded to an online survey about improving Burningman.com.

The Project's focus on regions and technology has dovetailed with the recent research from participants regarding the web site. Starting with the web site face-lift, visitors will begin to see more community-based features. Eventually, it is likely to utilize a great deal of the Plone and Zope tools being developed for the Burning Man Regional Network. There are also plans to offer some really cool features people have been asking about for years. Interested participants will have to stay connected and visit the site regularly as it is rolled out.

"It takes a lot longer to implement new ideas with so many volunteers and staff involved than you'd think it would," said Goodell. "Patience will be rewarded with a web environment that will help you connect easily to other burners in your area and around the world, share profiles, easily find events in any city, find collaborators for a project and more."

Toilet Issues Critical to Event



"If it wasn't in your body, don't put it in the potty!"

by Matt Morgan

Does anyone remember the potties of 2000? The Black Rock City (BRC) supplier was Johnny on the Spot (JOTS), who reported that the potties were frequently filled with an extraordinary amount of non-human refuse. A potty trip was often an unpleasant ordeal. Many had a pyramid of poo rising up above the rim of the seat, just waiting to give you a kiss on the cheek.

As a result, the Waste Water Reclamation (WWR) facility gave written notice that unless BRC cleaned up its act, they would no longer take our shit. The WWR visually inspects all effluent as it passes through a series of filters. When these screens become critically obstructed, the folks at the treatment plant have to jump down into the pits wearing rubber suits and "hand trowel," or rake the trash off, the screens. Then they have to draw up a mountain of paperwork for the State Health Department. To them,

the paperwork is as bad as wading around in our excrement.

In 2001, the Burning Man organization launched a massive campaign to educate participants in potty etiquette. The results were a drastic improvement: JOTS was able to perform its duties more efficiently without a significant turnover in personnel (in 2000, almost 50% of the pump-crews walked off the job in frustration); the potties were cleaner for Burners; and the waste was cleaner for WWR. Everyone was happy.

Unfortunately, the etiquette didn't last. While 2002 wasn't nearly as bad as 2000, it was significantly worse than 2001. If JOTS has to pull a shoe, a beer bottle, a glowstick, a chicken (it has happened) or whatever else out of the suction hose, they're not going to be able to service the potties as frequently or as efficiently as required.

If we don't get our shit together this year, the powers that be may very well shut down the entire event. It's that serious. So what

can we do? We must preach as well as practice. Spread the word; take some initiative.

Test your level of preparedness and consider the following:

- What can you throw in the potties? Nothing but human waste and toilet paper.
- Does your camp have a plan for gray water? Gray water is any non-potable water. Don't throw it on the playa and don't dump it in the potties. Pack it out or evaporate it—for tips on building a gray water evaporation pond check out: <http://home.earthlink.net/~karinaoc/burn99/gwater.html>.
- Does your camp have a plan for icky garbage? This includes used tampons, sanitary napkins, condoms, diapers and the like. Do NOT throw this stuff in the potties. For ways to minimize and handle your garbage, check out: http://www.burningman.com/on_the_playa/garbage_recycling/index.html.

The best place to start educating folks about Potty Awareness is in your camp. If you have first timers camping with you, clue them in. If you see anyone toss a bucket of dirty water on the playa—speak up! Excremental awareness, that's what it's all about. Participate before the shit hits the fan!

The Potty List is an email forum for all things potty-related. If you've got a question or a concern about potties on the playa, post it to the Potty List. Subscribe at potty_list_subscribe@burningman.com. Let others benefit from the question you thought to ask.



Dogs are at risk in the desert.

DOGS: LOVE 'EM & LEAVE 'EM AT HOME

by Frog

Due to the numerous issues surrounding dogs at Burning Man, the organization has decided that it is not fair to dogs or participants to allow dogs at the event. Staff will also be asked to follow this policy.

The weather conditions and "alien" environment that make Burning Man a unique event are not viewed the same by a one-to three-foot-tall, four-legged, non-English speaking, fur-coat-wearing canine. Alkaline soil is corrosive to noses, paws and bellies. Dehydration and heatstroke happen quickly and there is no animal medical service. Pets are also prone to responding adversely to loud noises, fireworks and crazy costumed people.

Many animals have been lost each year and problem dogs have caused serious disputes between camps. Complaints from participants regarding dogs at the event include excessive barking, using other people's property as a toilet or chew toy, digging, wandering unattended and aggressiveness.

Incidents have increased over the past three years: from a six-month-old puppy staying at an Esplanade camp with a deafening sound system, to a pregnant dog lost

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San Francisco Decompression: 2002 Heat the Street FaIRE!

by Steven Ra\$pa

Before the playa dust has completely settled and our heads have stopped spinning, many of us gather in the months after Burning Man to “decompress.” We take one more communal plunge into the depths of what we found so affirming and memorable at Burning Man. Decompression is an opportunity to: dust off and share again playa art, performances, theme camps, photos, videos and stories from the playa; re-connect with family and friends; and collaborate to create new art. It’s a reunion. But more significantly, it is a thoroughly participatory celebration of Burning Man art and community within our larger communities. One of the more powerful ways many of us bring some of what is so inspiring about Burning Man to our cities and the rest of the year!

On October 20th, 2002, in San Francisco some 6000 participants converted Indiana Street, between Mariposa and 20th, into the best Street FaIRE! imaginable. There were over 30 registered large scale art installations, 30+ theme camps, dozens of art vehicles. Hundreds of performers of every kind, including: poets; stiltwalkers; dancers; musicians; circus freaks; fire performers; DJs; schools of fish; Porn Clowns; Santas; mermaids; French Maids; pirates; monkeys; sea anemones; and bears, oh my! All of this on four stages, inside Café Cocomo, and spilling over into the street and Esprit Park. And that was just what was registered! A GREAT deal more simply showed up unex-

pectedly and nearly everyone there—a cast of thousands—was an artist or performer of some kind.

The people who came were wildly expressive, silly, and imaginative. They were living art on legs, wheels, springs, hula hoops, and dorsal fins. They were utterly fantastic and creatively combustible! The result: omnipresent non-stop spontaneous art and performance *en masse*. In fact, the entire event was something akin to a palpable swirl of creative energy that pulsed in every perceivable direction. It was humbling and absolutely inspiring to experience that depth and breadth of creative expression off-playa.

Up and down the street, amazing art cars and theme camps created worlds within worlds and offered a full range of music, bizarre rituals, games, and performance. This year was the strongest theme camp presence to date. Everyone pulled out the stops, creating a full array of unusual environments and experiences. Suffice to say, it was indeed “Blacktop City” even though playa dust WAS in the air! (Thank you Playa Dust Camp.)

Esprit Park came to life as never before. It was transformed into a living gallery of art, installations, theme camps, and light sculpture. By day people picnicked, performed, and played interactive games (like “pin the tail on the mermaid”) amid sculpture and art like the Hippocampus and Koi Pond. At night, the Swimmers, Beehive, Radiant

Atmospheres and Lily Pond installations attracted throngs.

Inside Café Cocomo, A/V team volunteers showed slides, digital imagery, and video that participants brought to share. New videos were previewed, including Timothy Child’s “Folding Time” as well as amazing new footage from the Burning Man Art Documentation Team.

Throughout the day, early into the wee hours, and the following day, street sweepers and volunteers picked over the street and park, ensuring no trace of the event afterwards. As a public service, the street, park, areas under the Indiana Street overpass and the surrounding blocks were left cleaner than they were found. There were a few minor sound complaints, but by and large the Dogpatch Community Board, surrounding neighbors and businesses, police, and fire officials, were all satisfied. We met and agreed that in many cases we exceeded their expectations as good neighbors. We have developed a reputation for honoring our commitments and for going above and beyond.

For the core Flambe Lounge/Decompression team that organized it, The Heat The

Street FaIRE! was the culmination of months of planning. Further, there was two months of nearly full-time effort responding to e-mail, scheduling performers, mapping art and theme camps, filing permits, arranging event insurance, staging, lights, projection, sound equipment, and infrastructure planning for “Blacktop City.” We spent more time than ever in planning meetings and had to spend more money on permits and equipment, but it was well worth it.

We all feel a tremendous sense of accomplishment at having produced such a memorable event and having brought together artists of every shape and discipline to share and make art, to celebrate our common values, and to engage in the kind of self-expression that Burning Man is famous for inspiring. We look ahead to other year-round events, the growth of regional activities elsewhere, this year’s “Beyond Belief” theme and, of course, to Heat The Street FaIRE 2003! See you there.

Thank you to everyone who participated in making this the best decompression SF has seen to date!

DON'T WORRY BIKE HAPPY

by Shanam M. Carney

Bikes are clearly the *best* way to get around Black Rock City (BRC)—at least for the vast destitute majority of us who don’t have art cars. So nothing could be worse than if your own bike went buh-bye...as in got lost. Or stolen (gasp! *not* at Burning Man!). Or abruptly borrowed by an anonymous stranger. Temporarily, of course.

Uh-huh. Can you tell yours truly had a bad bike experience in BRC?

The unfortunate truth is that more than a few bikes are stolen at Burning Man every year. And many more are left behind after the event, like so much “Matter Out Of Place” (MOOP). Very uncool. For the past few years the Burning Man organizers have tried to reunite lost bikes with their owners, but most efforts have proven fruitless and require too much time and energy to continue.

Never fear. In an attempt to keep all of us pedaling smoothly, the Burning Man put several BRC bike experts in one room to come up with the essential *Bike Tips for Burners*. Take them to heart and you’ll be happily playa-mobile all week long.

- Do NOT buy just any old bike for use on the playa unless you know something about bike repairs.
- Bring a patch/repair kit, including a spare chain, chain-oil, one extra tire and TWO extra tubes.
- Inspect your tires carefully long before you get to the playa. (If they’re not road-worthy, they’re sure as hell not playa-worthy.)
- Get a lock! More importantly, use it. Even when you’re camped in your own little corner of the desert, lock it up.
- Outfit your bike with a light for midnight adventures.
- In a theme camp? Provide a bike rack for visitors. There are many simple and cheap designs you can devise and your visitors will loove you for it.
- Consider using communal bikes in your camp for all to all share. You’ll reduce both the number of bikes in the camp and the chance of having some “getting lost in the crowd.”
- Decorate your bikes with big flags and markers that make them easily identifiable.



photo by Eric Ansley

Try to keep your eye on the bike.

- Appoint one person in your posse to be the bike mechanic for minor repairs like flats and broken chains. As for major repairs, refer to rule #1.
- Talk to anyone who seems to be acting suspiciously around any bike; thieves act when they think no one’s watching.
- Take your bike back home! Bikes are not an exception to the Leave No Trace mantra. The Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Black Rock City planners cannot use them and they will go to the dump! And it’s just plain sad to see bikes literally go to waste.
- If you fear your bike was stolen, check with Playa Information in Center Camp on the Monday after the Burn. It will be your last chance for recovery.

For more information on bikes at Burning Man, see

<http://www.burningman.com/preparation/event_survival/bikes.html>.

Editor LeGs’ note: In 2001, I grabbed a stranger’s bike by mistake after a potty call; the stranger actually found and stopped me an hour later while my own bike was left untouched alongside the potties, waiting for its owner’s touch! And a friend of mine did have her bike temporarily borrowed by an anonymous stranger who quietly returned it to the scene-of-the-crime a few hours later. The light of the Burning Man still shines bright.



photo by CameraGirl!

Thousands of participants enjoy the art and performances on Indiana Street in San Francisco.

Town Hall Welcomes You to Volunteer

Every year, thousands of citizens of Black Rock City (BRC) decide to participate by volunteering. The 2003 Volunteer Recruitment Town Hall Meeting in San Francisco is your opportunity to meet and greet all the major volunteer teams. Peruse the opportunities listed here—it's your guide to teams that may interest you. Whether you can attend the meeting or not, all interested volunteers can fill out the Volunteer Questionnaire. Visit

<www.burningman.com>

and select the "Volunteer" link under "Participate."

Art Team/Artery

We're looking for help registering and placing artwork on the playa. You'll need to attend regular meetings in San Francisco. Contact

<art@burningman.com>

For curatorial and archive work, please contact

<ladybee@burningman.com>



photo by LadyBee

Black Rock Gazette

Work on the first and only daily community newspaper in BRC. We are looking for writers, editors, production assistants, photographers, photo editors, and other general and specific help. Email

<brgazette@burningman.com>

Burning Man Information Radio (BMIR 94.5FM)

BMIR invites you to help program Burning Man's official, rumor-free radio station. Get the word out about your Theme Camp happenings and contribute to the safety and civility of BRC through public service announcements. Share your original music and spoken words with other denizens of the desert. Best of all, participation in BMIR is easy, go to

<http://www.burningman.com/on_the_playa/news_broadcasts/radio.html>

and follow the directions to upload your recorded sound in MP3 format and the station will then consider it. On-playa, BMIR needs volunteers to record public service announcements and Theme Camp updates from 12-5PM each day. Contact Carmen at

<surfburner@burningman.com>

CampArctica

The ice must flow, and as the "soul" outlet for this essential element, CampArctica is vital to the life of our community. Help us distribute this sacred resource to playa folk in a fun, friendly environment as we create our own frozen oasis on the desert floor. E-mail

<icequeen@burningman.com>

Center Camp Café

A community of over 600 volunteers, artists, musicians and builders come together every year to create the Center Camp Café. Located in the middle of Center Camp, the playa's largest coffee shop operates twenty-four hours a day for the entire event. Performance and Spoken Word stages call on Burning Man participants to showcase their talents. We need artists, entertainers, decorators, builders, electricians, lighting designers, baristas, counter people, sound

technicians, stage managers and recycling help to bring to life this array of color and beauty. The Center Camp Café invites everyone passionate about participation and community to help share in this truly amazing endeavor. If interested, please email

<cafe-volunteers@burningman.com>



photo by CameraGirl

Department of Public Works (DPW)

If you are available to help build BRC at least 2 weeks ahead of time, and you have carpentry, plumbing, electrical or building skills, please contact the folks who construct the city via

<dpw@burningman.com>

Documentation Team

General volunteers, photographers and videographers with their own equipment willing to contribute to ongoing documentation projects for the organization are welcome. Email

<docteam@burningman.com>

Earth Guardians

The Earth Guardians inform, inspire and encourage the citizens of BRC to apply Leave No Trace principles to life in our temporary desert home and beyond. We also visit the desert on weekends throughout the year to assist the Federal Bureau of Land Management and other desert users with restoration and conservation efforts. Email

<earthguardians@burningman.com>

Emergency Services Department (ESD)

ESD provides BRC with Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Fire Fighting, Crisis Intervention and Emergency Dispatch services. We are currently looking for professionals from all areas of service. If you have specific questions or want to volunteer please email

<911@burningman.com>

Exodus

People of Black Rock City! You are invited to pitch in and help make Exodus a true participant event. The Exodus team is responsible for ensuring a safe and timely trip out of BRC as well as giving all our beloved participants their final farewell for the year. It's truly a special feeling to see every smiling face leaving the city and screaming from the windows of their vehicles "See you next year!" Exodus volunteers are looked up to and well taken care of—so c'mon kids, line up, sign up and re-enlist today. We need more volunteers for a better Exodus for Burning Man 2003! Volunteer at

<http://exodus.burningman.com>

or send email to

<exodus@burningman.com>

Fire Conclave

We are looking for Fire Performers, Musicians, Fire Tenders and anyone who would like to help with fire activities and be part of the Fire Conclave throughout Burning Man. No matter where you may live in the world you can still participate in Fire Activities. Email Crimson Rose, Naked Fire Goddess,

<crimson@burningman.com>

Gate & Perimeter

At BRC's initial portal, the primary role of Gate staff is to ensure that all those entering Burning Man are entitled to be there. Perimeter staff finds "lost" vehicles outside the City and directs them to the Gate. For more information, email

<gate@burningman.com>

or Shiloh, Manager,

<shiloh@burningman.com>

Greeters

We are the face of the event and form a newcomer's first impression of BRC. Our mission is to orient and educate arriving citizens while spreading wit, whimsy and infectious enthusiasm to carloads of people. Email

<greeters@burningman.com>

Lamplighters

Illumination! Navigation! Celebration! Don a robe, grab a lifting pole, and jump on the new Lamplightermobile art car as we're off to light more of BRC than ever before! Email

<lamplighters@burningman.com>

Legal Team

Burning Man has a stellar team of legal help. If you have legal experience and would like to work *pro bono* let us know, email your skills to

<legal-volunteers@burningman.com>

Media Mecca

The Media Mecca Team manages media policy on and off the playa year-round. We need people willing to connect and create relationships with the media. Email your skills to

<media-volunteers@burningman.com>



photo by Steven Raspa

Office Squad San Francisco

We can always use dedicated souls to help out in the Burning Man office in SF on a regular or irregular basis. Email

<officevolunteers@burningman.com>

Playa Commissary

The construction, maintenance, disassembly, and cleanup of the BRC infrastructure requires the Herculean efforts of a small group of incredibly dedicated people. The Playa Commissary provides them with basic life support: kind words, nutritious meals, plentiful fluids, and a safe space to unwind after a long day spent achieving the impossible. If you'd like to support these efforts, and you have food preparation, serving, or cleanup experience, please contact us at

<commissary@burningman.com>

Playa Info

In Center Camp, under the blue "i" in the sky, you'll find the central point for getting and distributing the hot information. Want to know about the times for a particular event, how to have your RV pumped, or how far the Sun is from planet Earth? Lost something? Need a camera tag? Need to find a friend's camp? The Playa Info Oracles are a veritable fountain of factual and frivolous information about workings and activi-

ties of BRC. If you're someone who loves to meet all kinds of new people, be empowered with information, communicate, and be helpful, this is a great volunteer opportunity, in a very lively and fun environment. We need people with all levels of experience to volunteer in our service areas. Contact us via

<playainfo@burningman.com>

Rangers

The Black Rock Rangers ride the edge of chaos. The Rangers are non-confrontational mediators and providers of information, devoted to public safety and the quality of participant experience. Rangers also serve as a buffer or interface between participants, the Burning Man organization, and outside agencies. If you have specific questions about the Black Rock Rangers or would like to volunteer to be a Ranger, please email

<rangers@burningman.com>



photo by Dusty

Recycle Camp

Dedicated volunteers are needed to promote recycling to the citizens of BRC. Spread the word, collect aluminum cans for the Gerlach School, have fun and Leave No Trace. Email

<recycle@burningman.com>

Tech Team

The Tech Team develops, manages and maintains the technical infrastructure that keeps our administrative environment functioning. This includes our network, integrated FileMaker Pro database, extr/intrAnet, and the public web site. Email your skills to

<volunteers@burningman.com>

Web Team

A diverse group of talented individuals, this team includes Tech Team members, writers, graphic designers, information architects, project managers, photographers and Photoshop experts. Email your skills to

<volunteers@burningman.com>

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Back issues of the Gazette can be found on the Burning Man web site

www.burningman.com

Curator Calls to Artists



Artist Larry Breed on the playa with his fire installation *The Chaotick*.

photo by N. K. Guy, burningcam.com

by LadyBee, Curator

You have been working hard dreaming and working on your art installation—now we need to hear from you! It's that time of year again to register your art for Burning Man. If you are creating art installations for the playa, theme related or otherwise, we ask that you read the guidelines and fill out our online art questionnaire at

http://www.burningman.com/themecamps_installations/installations/new_guidelines.html

Every year the Artery members, Burning Man's on-site art placement team, refine the installation questions to ensure we receive as much information as possible from artists. The questionnaire is preceded by our guidelines, and reading through them should assist

you in bringing and removing your art to and from Burning Man.

We have added more detailed sections this year to our questionnaire for art that deals with fire:

Open Flame

(includes items such as candles, torches, fire barrels or any art that is to be set on fire);

Flame Effects

(includes all flames that are automated, switched, pressurized or have any other action than simply being lit on fire, as well as projects using propane or liquid fuels);

Pyro (fireworks).

Your answers help us to map your art installation and enable us to help you with specific details of your project. In addition, we use your information from the questionnaires to write descriptions for the Burning Man online art installation archives. Please register today. Remember, LEAVE NO TRACE!

THEME CAMP COMPETITION FOR PLACEMENT INCREASES

by Holly Kreuter & Harley DuBois, Community Services

Theme Camps and Villages are one of the most unique aspects of Burning Man. Groups of people plan both their living and public space to be interactive with others, communal not commercial. The giving, sharing, and participatory nature of Theme Camps make them a very distinctive group at Burning Man and in the world at large.

Many things are considered when mapping Theme Camps and Villages. We act as Cultural Geographers.

Sometimes the goal is to create neighborhoods within the city. Camps can give a preference as to which other groups they may want to be placed near. In 2002, for example, Spaghetti Western, Camp Bayou, and Spock Mountain Research Labs were placed at three corners of an intersection, across the street from each other, creating a Western/hillbilly locale.

Camps may also suggest a general location where they hope to reside in Black Rock City (BRC). Sometimes we recommend changes to a specified location based on our knowledge of the cityscape. Theme Camp placement staff discourage groups from claiming an area year after year in order to keep BRC vital and new. We do our best

to place camps where they will have a great Burning Man experience. Besides basic camp size information, we also contemplate what groups will work well together and/or complement each other's activities, aesthetics and culture.

Other criteria used for Theme Camp placement include: the population of the camp; number of structures and their size; artistic projects and activities offered; level

of interactivity; general camp aesthetics; number and size of vehicles; sound systems; and, one of the most important, past project history. Did the camp really pull off what they said they would in the past? Did they clean up after themselves? The importance of Theme Camps filling out the Burning Man questionnaire prior to the event as thoroughly as possible cannot be overstated.

In 2002, Burning Man hit a new hurdle—the space we had set aside on the playa for Theme Camps was not adequate

some camps from receiving the reserved space they've been counting on?

For 2003, Burning Man organizers are making it clear that Theme Camps must be interactive and welcome everyone to participate. Theme Camp organizers must complete all aspects of the Theme Camp Questionnaire on time and be available to discuss plans with Burning Man in July. Camps that have plans to build only a "chill dome" most likely will not be placed. We do not mean to discredit the effort it takes to build a beautiful space to relax, however, the bar has been raised concerning what the camp is offering to the community at large.

The qualifications necessary to be a registered and placed Theme Camp have increased. We will be looking specifically at a camp's creative projects and its interaction with participants. Theme Camps requesting placement that don't fulfill the criteria will be informed in advance and will be welcome to create their space in any open camping area.

Please complete the questionnaire when all plans have solidified. It is more important to your placement that your questionnaire includes all the activities you are planning than for it to be submitted early.

Are you thinking about creating a Theme Camp? See the Burning Man web site for more information. While planning your camp, read the Theme Camp and Village Resource Guide which offers many answers to your questions and will help logistics on the playa:

http://www.burningman.com/themecamps_installations/themecamps/resource_guide.html.



On-playa in 2001, Midnite Popcorn Palace gave crunchy, tasty gifts (& dental floss, too).

photo by Dave Marr

for the number of camps and the requested space for their projects. The size of the average camp had grown. We had a big dilemma: do we take away space from the rest of the city for Theme Camps? If so, would the trend continue and, somewhere down the road, would almost the entire city be mapped? If it is not possible to continue to use more and more open camping area for Theme Camps, how do we disqualify

Continued from Dogs, page 1

for two days, to a participant that wanted someone to watch his three dogs while he figured out where he was going to camp. Burning Man is a self sufficient event. Dogs cannot be self-sufficient in the desert.

The argument that "neither are children self-sufficient" can be countered by the fact that most participants do not treat their dogs as if they were their children. Also, animals cannot speak: "the dust is burning my nose and eyes" or "the guy in the camp next door kicked me" or "some weird lady just fed me whiskey."

Arrive at the gate with your dog at Burning Man and you will not be admitted to the event. It is unlikely there will be kennel space in Reno. Please plan ahead and, in your home area, find a pet-sitter, family member or friend, or a veterinarian's kennel or boarding facility.

The decision to ban dogs was made with the utmost concern for the health and well being of all. As fellow participants and animal lovers, the organizers of Burning Man thank you for understanding this new policy.

If you need further information or have any questions, email

dogs@burningman.com.

THIS IS A CONTRACT YOU MUST READ IT.



A Letter to the Community from the Burning Man Media Team

If you've attended Burning Man 2001 or 2002, it's nearly impossible not to know there is a camera use policy in place in Black Rock City (BRC). Remember, if you bring a video camera to Burning Man you must register it. Those with only intentions for personal use can sign the Personal Use form given out by the Greeters and return it to them, or Playa Info, or Ranger Outposts. Professionals with more specific intent need to check in with the Media Team BEFORE THE EVENT via "Press Here" on the web site. Professional media without previous registration may not be allowed to film.

Participants are reminded to read their Burning Man ticket, and the Survival Guide. A new Survival Guide is issued each year, however, the previous year's Guide is available at www.burningman.com under "Preparation." Rules governing cameras and the use of images are stricter each year.

Additionally, participants need to understand there are cameras at Burning Man: you may be filmed or photographed without your permission. The Media Team spends most of the year creating relationships with the media and outlining the community expectations for behavior. It's not uncommon, however, for bad behavior to come from amateurs. Your ticket states that Burning Man may or may not exercise the right to protect your right to privacy. However, you are your first line of defense.

There is a camera and image use policy in place; there is a trademark and citizens to protect. The Burning Man Project has prevailed in recent legal efforts to protect the mark, the citizens and the policy.

It is up to all volunteers, staff and participants to read and understand all information in the Survival Guide before entering the gates to BRC. If you've read it before, read it again. There IS new information added each year.

Media with questions should email

press@burningman.com.

Participants with general questions about the policy or other issues can email

questions@burningman.com.