Help deliver Piss Clear!

Help deliver Piss Clear to the Black Rock City masses! It's instant participation! Stop by our offices at 1:30 Karmic Circle at Esplanade in Center Camp, right next door to the Earth Guardians. It's a great way to get gifted ... and

Mysterious playa schwag

We get some weird-ass, poorly-written, handscrawled stories submitted to Piss Clear, most of which end up in the nearest burn barrel. But the following press release, which was found yesterday underneath our RV's windshield wiper, was just too mysterious to pass up.

Star-Glo on the playa During the wee hours of each morning, a myste rious masked character will enter the Center Camp Cafe. He/she will be dressed in primitive clothing – a coarse cloth robe or long gown, a worn WW1 leather flying helmet, a soft fur hat, ragged strips of fur and lace hanging from shoulders or sleeves, and wearing jewelry made with bits of computer chips and circuit boards. He/she will set up a table, upon which will be a small lantern and a tinv waterfall. On this table, a deck of cards will be spread, face down. A sign will say, "Pick a card, any card. I am gifting it. Each mysteriously beautiful card will have special meaning to the chooser. Image and word will combine to create a message deep inside the brain. On the card will be a unique password/ID that will allow passage into the portal of Star-Glo. Much hidden knowledge will be revealed. It's the story of King Bruno, and how in 1955 he found a key to a mine, and what was found inside, and about the deal with the devil and the goddess and the genie, and about windstorms on the playa, and the secret of the living water, and the aliens and the 10,000 year-old UFO at the bottom of Lake Lahontan, and why Larry built the Man, and who shot Flash, and the night that Danger and Dark Angel performed a ritual at the sul-

race across the playa. "The Experience" will

Last year, Black Rock City was home to over 40 radio stations. This year, only a handful are left.

Radio Free Burning Man? Or radio-free Burning Man?

 or many years, Black Rock City played host to a Veritable plethora of playa broadcasters, with over 40 different radio sta-

tions pounding the airwaves with an incredible **mixture** of music, commentary, and entertainment. Burning Man was home to some of the best and most diverse low-power_FM and AM radio stations around, and few places on Earth could compete with its variety of radio programming. Numerous theme camps and villages operated their OWN radio stations,

ranging from simple mono transmitter systems to elaborate studios with professional broadcast equipment. All of this was done without commercial support of any kind - and perhaps more importantly, without the permission of the FCC.

Radio broadcasting at Burning Man was - and Still is - considered a cultural gift to the community. It's a gift given to anyone with a radio. From the perspective of the broadcasters, there has **Never** been any expectation

of getting anything back in return. Working at Radio Electra, one comment often heard was, "How do you know anyone is even listening?" Well, we knew. But it didn't really matter. The gift was sent out there into the airwaves.

And indeed, people were listening except that some of them were not too happy about it.

Where are they now?

last year. So what happened? How did 40-plus radio stations get Whittled down to the less than twelve stations that exist on the playa today? Before going any further, some explanation is in order.

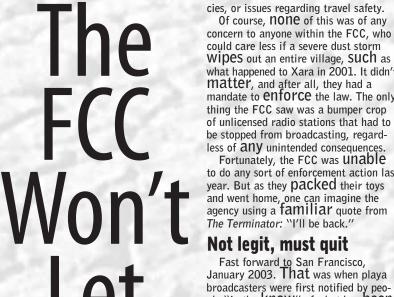
In the past, Many of the transmitters here at Burning Man were Very low power, "part 15 compliant," covering only a few blocks inside Black Rock City. Some were created Simply to provide an easy way for everyone in a village to Share the same music, by tuning in to their little camp radio station. Others however, had enough **power** to be heard throughout Black Rock City, and allegedly, by local residents of the surrounding area as Well. These larger stations typically had a staff of DJ's and were often OI the air for 24 hours a day. These high powered broadcasters provided **MUSIC**, travel advisories, event survival tips, weather reports, and emergency alerts for incoming dust and electrical storms. These stations were viewed, at least by the Black Rock Rangers and many law enforcement officials, as a big help in public service and safety during the event. Last year, it was rumored that four formal complaints had been supposedly filed With the Federal **Communications Commission**

regarding radio broadcasting in Black Rock City. Reportedly, event attendees were not the ones who filed these complaints. They were filed **by** what were assumed

phur plant, and the wild

That was then. In fact, that was just

to be residents of the surrounding area. These complaints are for-



Let BRC Be

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by ROCKSTAR, **RADIO ELECTRA** could care less if a severe dust storm WIPES out an entire village, SUCh as what happened to Xara in 2001. It didn't matter, and after all, they had a mandate to enforce the law. The only thing the FCC saw was a bumper crop of unlicensed radio stations that had to be stopped from broadcasting, regardless of any unintended consequences Fortunately, the FCC was unable to do any sort of enforcement action last year. But as they packed their toys and went home, one can imagine the agency using a familiar quote from

Not legit, must quit

Fast forward to San Francisco, January 2003. That was when playa broadcasters were first notified by people "in the know" of what has been transpiring with the FCC issue. These stations are informed that if they decide to Stay on the air in Black Rock City, the FCC will likely hit them with a minimum fine of \$10,000 per day, per sta-tion, for UNAUTHORIZED broadcasting at the event. Not only that, but it is likely that the FCC will Seize anything and everything used to run that station.

Much debate over this ensued between the Various playa radio sta-tions. But in the end, well over half of them decided that perhaps it would just be better to find another way to participate this year. Rather than risk confiscation of property and financial ruin at the hands of the FCC, these broadcasters are opting out instead.

Now many of you may be asking, "Well, why don't these playa broadcasters just get a license and go legit?" And that, my fellow Burners, is literally the \$10,000 question. After all, the Burning Man organization runs BMIR 94.5 FM, Burning Man Information Radio, which is **NOW** a fully-licensed, FCC-approved radio station. However, current FCC regulations do

not allow a low power independent broadcaster - in Other words, the rest of us - to get a license to operate at the event. Rules like this are Written to ensure that multi-million dollar broadcasting corporations such as Clear Channel, who can afford heavy government lobbying, can compete for bandspace and listeners.

Rules are intentionally slanted to make SUFE that smaller, privately-owned stations, **NOt** to mention emporary radio stations that only operate during events such as Burning Man, can't be licensed. This prohibits broadcasters from offering their community what they really want to hear, rather than the Spoon-fed garbage produced for public con-

sumption in the default world. I'm still standing ... yeah, yeah, yeah Despite the threats and scare tactics of the FCC, there are

still a few Stalwart, stubborn

Noteworthy on the playa

by LADYBEE This year's "Beyond Belief" theme has inspired more art installations at Burning Man than ever before. To see all the different projects that are happening, not to mention where you can can find them, be SUI'E to check OUT the theme art map and pullout section of the What, Where, When guide. Now, in no particular order, here are a few that intrigue me:

No Diving by Linda Graveline, Los Angeles

It's about time there was a swimming pool out on the playa and in such a pretty open pyramid, too! I especially enjoy sitting on the lawn at night, under the stars, watching folks as they swim and frolic in the water.

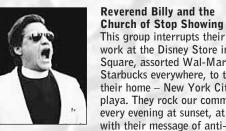
The Temple of Honor by David Best, Petaluma, California Come on, now - could David really top last year's awe-inspiring Temple of Joy? Well, he has. Paper has replaced the dinosaur kit parts, and xerox has never looked so good. More is more.

The Temple of Gravity by Zachary Coffin, Atlanta, Georgia The master of boulders returns with a scary exploration of weight, ten-

sion, and belief. Go ahead, hang around under those immense slabs of granite - you'll be fine! Responsive architecture, with a fiery pendulum at its heart. www.templeofgravity.com

Carousel Numinous by Jenny Byrd and Mosbaugh, San Francisco, California

Get dizzy as you spin through the world's religions in a devil mobile or an angel cart, whipped into spiritual ecstasy. It's a treat to see really good paintings out on the playa, and you'll see twelve here - four at the center of each of three carousels. Love those bunny-headed women, and the babes peeing on cupcakes. www.jennybirdart.com



This group interrupts their good work at the Disney Store in Times Square, assorted Wal-Marts, and Starbucks everywhere, to travel from their home - New York City - to the playa. They rock our community every evening at sunset, at the Man, with their message of anti-con-

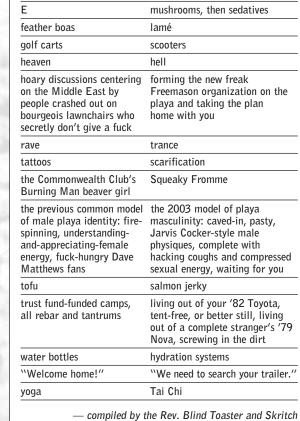
sumerism and peace. What happens when you drop a group of urban gospel singers led by a performance art preacher onto the playa for a week? Find out! Can you sing and shout "Stop shopping!!!"? www.revbilly.com

Bollywood!

It's a little slice of Bombay in the Black Rock Desert. Watch out for their cute fuzzy neighbors in Bunnywood ... and ignore the gorgeous babes down the street in West Bollywood at your peril! These LA divas will bring us Glama Sutra on Thursday night on the Bollywood stage - trying desperately to top Wednesday night's show, Shiva Las Vegas! If you're lucky, you'll witness a costumed and choreographed Bollywood dance routine, spontaneously performed at surprise locations on the playa. "Om mane padme hum." www.dragondebris.com

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner This sea poem will be recited in full by the beloved Reverend Hal Robbins of San Francisco, as he rides in glory on the 16th century Spanish galleon La Contessa. Clashes with sea monsters, a boat swarming with zombies, and a dice game with Death are features of Samuel Taylor Coleridge's epic poem, a classic of English Romanticism written in 1796. As Hal recites, Gustave

WHAT'S OUT พหลาวร เพ 80 Acres Work Ranch all the losers who passed all the people who fucking on going this year made it - isn't it already better? Chap Stick Carmex depth humor DJ superstars playing Klezmer and dub lame android music lamé scooters hell



Dore's illustrations will be projected on La Contessa's sails to the accompaniment of the Xtra Action Marching Band. Performances daily across the playa. "Water, water, everywhere, nor any drop to drink."

Johnny on the Spot by Saul Melman and Ani Weinstein, Brooklyn, New York

Has our Beyond Belief theme summoned the spirit of Marcel Duchamp to the playa? Apparently so, as the world's largest ever replica of a Duchamp object rises in the Wholly Other. In 1917, Duchamp contributed a urinal signed "R. Mutt" to a New York art exhibit and the readymade art object was born. This 40' replica takes the form of religious architecture and contains, as an altar, a fountain. Sacred or profane? You decide. www.iohnnvonthespot.ws

Satyrs' Bacchanal by the Mystic Krewe of Satyrs, New Orleans, Louisiana

One thing I can't live without is the annual Friday night Mardi Gras-style parade from the Satyrs' camp to the deep playa. There's frenzied dancing with the Xtra Action and the March Forth 3/4 Marching Bands, fabulous costumed creatures, flambeaux-bearers, and much raucous revelry, all led by the giant Golden Ram. Upon its midnight arrival at a secret location, the Ram will be sacrificed by entranced Maenads and all will drink its blood to feel the empowerment of Dionysus.

Pillar of Fire by Nate Smith, Salt Lake City, Utah

While imprisoned in the Mormon Tabernacle, this Utah artist made use of his time by inventing a marvelous machine that will create tight and beautiful fire vortexes up to 200' tall at various locations on the playa. But will he succeed

in harnessing dust devils and infusing their energy with fire? www.fire-arts.com

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us what we

request, when we request it, you may

not get placed. If you do not tell us how

you plan on being interactive, we

what a theme camp is supposed to be

about. I try to keep it Simple, so play-

And if you talk to some long-standing camp that you think may be in ques-

tion, nine times out of ten - if you can

getting the good spot, or that they've

GIVE someone else a Chance at it. I

even got First Camp (Larry Harvey's

camp) to change sides of the Keyhole!

PC: Why do Certain theme camps

especially ones that aren't even that

good, get prime playa real estate every

year, while other camps that are much

better get relegated to the boonies?

H: Some people request the boonies!

Some people underestimate them-

selves and forget to tell us how great

they are. We try not to judge aesthetics

but instead ask that a camp be "visually

stimulating." That leaves the door wide

We try to not **penalize** people just

open for how a Camp presents itself.

because they're not loaded with dough or exquisite creativity. Everyone

deserves the same chance to Shine at

Burning Man. So what if it doesn't look

QUITE as good as they hoped? As long

as a **Group** comes together to give

something to the community, why not

We try to find the most interactive,

beautiful, and "charged" camps for the

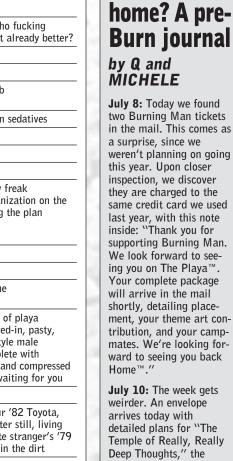
give them a ShOt with a great spot?

will actually come out of that rental

truck until they Show up.

may not place you. Interactivity is

ing favorites is not necessary.



Welcome

theme art we've been assigned by LadyBee. She clearly outlined exactly what she wants us to build, how she wants people to interact with it, where she's going to place it, and the emotional connections we should forge with both the art, and the people who interact with it. "Your Temple will provide emotional and intellectual catharsis for festival attendees," she writes. "It will be a place of prayer, reflection, self realization, and really, really deep thoughts. You will also pass out Deep Thought Tokens to be used to gain entrance to the 'Temple of Extremely Deep Thoughts' beneath The Burning Man[™]." The plan calls for \$5,278.73 worth of materials, and comes with a rejection for a Burning Man arts grant already attached. July 29: Our camp placement and campmate assignments came today We're placed at the inter-

section of Insipid and Vapid, two blocks back from Inane. Our theme camp is the Divining Rod and we will help attendees fashion their own custom holy dildos out of playa dirt, recycled water, and Impolex G (the latest in biodegradable plastics from Germany). Our camp mates include a lesbian couple from Seattle, three polyamorous first-timers from Texas' Burning Flipside, and the entire staff of SportKilt.com -

involve hidden knowledge, ritual, magic, sex, and drugs as it unfolds time and space at Burning Man.

Visit www.star-glo.org. It will push boundaries for Black Rock City.

Black Rock weather forecast

This weather forecast is brought to you by your experienced DPW mental meteorologist, based on careful analysis of eight years of weather patterns during the Burning Man event. Here is the forecast:

Dry, hot, and dusty. Cooling somewhat in the evenings, possibly getting downright chilly. Scattered wind through out. Possibly gusty and extremely dusty with periods of utter whiteout. Offhand chance of cataclysmic torrential downpour of rains, frogs, and/or fire. Remember, do not attempt to drive on the playa during or following major rain (of water, frogs, or fire). You will get stuck. (And in case of raining fire, we're all pretty much fucked anyway.) Prepare your camp to be able to hold up against

a rain of flaming, mudcovered frogs in gale force winds, possibly with widely-fluctuating temperatures.

And don't forget! Every night, everyone is invited to the "Free Booze and Drugs of Choice with Lotsa Nekkid People Mixer/Rave," held at First Camp from dusk till dawn. BYOB, as in boombox. It's "beyond belief!" Just look for the staff golf carts in Center Camp, parked off the Keyhole where the main circle opens up, facing the Man. Namaste as I wanna be!

— Elcircumanotymboy

mally known as "malicious interference" of licensed broadcasting stations. For the record, NO ONE at Burning

Man has ever intentionally or "mali-ciously interfered" with any licensed broadcast. If there **EVEr** truly was a conflict of any kind, it was accidental, not intentional. Others, however,

didn't SEE it that way. Enter the FCC. The FCC won't let BRC be For years, the FCC has known that Black Rock City was a hot bed of

suspected illegal radio broadcasting. However, it was only last year, when the FCC SUPPOSEDLY received these complaints, that they turned up the heat. Keep in mind, the FCC wasn't even at Burning Man last year. Because of this, due to time **CONSTRAINTS** and a lack of resources, the FCC was unable to per-

form any kind of formal investigation

in Black Rock City. But rumors of gov ernment agents at the Gate flew hard and heavy after the event. It was said that the FCC wanted to do an enforcement action in Black Rock City and that they had asked the Washoe County Sheriff and the Bureau

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of Land Management to help. Fortunately, COOler heads prevailed and those agency's supervisors realized that not **ONIY** did they not **have** the authority to **enforce** FCC regulations, but that there would be an incredible public UProar as well. No one wanted to deal with the negative fallout of raiding 40 or more camps of their radio equipment. Besides, officials also knew that shutting down all the radio stations in Black Rock City would create severe public safety issues inside the event, making it impossible to broadcast storm warning alerts, event emergenbroadcasters this year who feel that the Service they provide to the Black Rock City community goes above and beyond the risks involved. Some feel that freedom of speech should transcend all SOCIAL, cultural, and economic barriers. Suppressing that freedom – by shutting down the playa's radio stations and intimidating the broadcasters - not only runs **CONTRARY** to the customs and courtesies of Black Rock City, but is a danger to the health and safety of the community as well.

This year, please show your SUPport for Black Rock City radio. Stop in and let the remaining stations know that you support and appreciate what they are doing. It may not SEEM like **much**, but by simply serving and entertaining the Burning Man community, these radio stations risk losing it all to a bureaucratic government machine.

Burning Man can wait by STEWART McKENZIE

ew participants at Burning Man have a terrible experience on the playa. For most, BM is an earth-shattering experience that is unbelievable the first time around and continues its energy and eloquence on every subsequent visit. Why else do we keep coming back, year after year, away from our everyday mundane world and into a space and time where we have meaning? I love Burning Man and I have been coming to Black Rock City since 1993. For every Major change, for every

major crisis, BM has endured. This is why I implore you, the teeming masses, to consider a year - maybe next year- in which you don't make the trek out to the playa.

I'm sure the BMorg doesn't want you to Make other plans. You and your brood are figured into the annual budgets now, the annual impact on every town from here to Reno, and your absence would not be a welcome trend to the folks that run this multi-milliondollar extravaganza. They do **NOt** want to hear about the Take Back My Labor Day Dammit Project, or the TBMLDDP.

They do not even want to Spell it. But Why not? These are tough times for many people and money doesn't grow on them dot-com trees anymore. The days of getting a job based on knowing how to SUIT the web, update your Palm calendar, and USE a company phone to transfer friends to free long distance are way over. The Old Jobs, the ones many of us used to WOrk before 1995, are back in VOGUE: coffee barista, office temp, and retail Whore. These jobs **USEC** to be able to pay our way to BM,

but fare badly in paying for today's trip to Black Rock City. After you get used to that Cruise America RV rental and the \$200 shade structure, it gets hard to go back to that shredded tent you bor-

rowed from your neighbor that you **Never** gave back - perma-playaed and bent poles are the hallmarks of a sixty-mile-an-hour windstorm, you know. One thing that I've learned though, as we've swung from the No Money era to the Fake Money era and now in the Owe Money era: BM ya next prevails. It has survived

year the dictum of the Bureau of Land Management, the premiums of the insurance industry, and the

hostility of (some of) the locals. So relax! Just TBMLDDP, I say. Go to Hawaii next **Year**. You can be Wet a lot, not wear much, let someone else cook your food, and not be dusty. And you don't have to start packing six weeks before the event and finish unpacking three weeks after, when the dust has settled in as far as it will go. (As a matter of fact, a 7-day vacation package to Hawaii right now, including airfare and hotel, can be had for about \$700 a person. But I digress.)

Okay, sure, Hawaii's more expensive than **Mere** airfare and hotel. Plus you don't have a life-altering experience that makes you question your existence, with or without hallucinogens. But BM will be there next year, I swear! It is part of our shared American and worldwide culture. It actually has more staying power

than the Dot Com world, hallelujah. In fact, there are many things you can do, not being at BM, and not being on some **expensive**, consuming, and capitalistic vacation. Here's your TBMLDPDP itinerary:

Buy things besides ice and coffee. Some things are obvious, like food and alcohol, but others are less obvious_like rent and electricity. Rename your house. Who needs a theme camp? Just think, your little castle could just as **easily** be

Maybe it already IS and you just haven't cashed in yet. Drink lots of water. Because you can pee it all away, in a bathroom that's not overflowing.

Keep up on BM on the web and in the news. There's always a major article or two on the wire, and it's Just Like Being There.

Most of all, taking time off from BM refreshes and rejuvenates you, and you're that much more stoked the following year to put even more energy into the process. Think of it as a vacation from Black Rock City. If we collectively Whine about it enough, the BMorg may consider writing artist grants for folks to plan their BM Vacation properly. And what would their interest be? Wouldn't it help to spread the word in the Real World on how we live our lives in the BM world? Stop the playa, Larry Harvey, I want to get Off!

Harley talks to Piss Clear

by ADRIAN ROBERTS

She is the goddess of theme camp placement, and she has the thank-

less job of juggling both precious playa real estate and precious egos. She is Harley DuBois, and she actually took time out of her **DUSY** schedule to answer Piss Clear's stupid questions.

PISS CLEAR: What IS your official title in the Burning Man organization?

HARLEY: Director of Community Services and Playa Safety

PC: So you, like, place theme camps and stuff?

H: Among stupid questions other things I oversee

the Greeters, Playa Info, Earth Guardians, Lamplighters, Recycling, Volunteers, Bus Depot, Gate/Perimeter, Rangers, ESD (Fire, Medical, Communication Crisis Intervention), DMV ... I think that COVERS it.

PC: How Many theme camps are here this year?

H: Around 507.

PC: How long does it take to **figure** out where they **all** go?

H: We do two to three weeks of inten-SIVE mapping to place all the camps and Villages. A team of two puts in 8-15 hour days. We Shut the door and OCK it until we're done.

PC: Do you play favorites with certain camps?

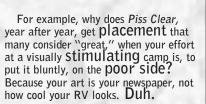
H: No. I'm pretty much by the **book**.

PC: Come on, really?

H: Yeah, really. It's true that a triedand-true camp that we know we can count on will be placed in places where we need a **Certain type** of interactivity. But camps have Cycles. They may be great one year, and fall apart the next. We try to stay on top of who is doing what, and what a camp's track record is.

Some camps write a great question-naire and do **nothing**. Others write nothing and are fabulous. It's a job of guesstimation, intuition, history, and trust. Occasionally, there's a camp that gets the short end of the stick one year, and deserves a year of great placement to make things right – but it's rare. If you SCIEW up though, you start to

be given less priority. If you do NOt get



PC: Do certain camps get "blacklisted" or put "on probation" if they piss you off or don't clean up properly?

H: Yup. sure enough. Clean-up is Crit-ICal to the survival of our event! If they don't show up they're also on my shit list. If they act like primadonnas, I can't help but take note. And if they whine a lot, I SEEM to remember. Listen, we do this as a service to everyone and it's a Very tough job. We try our best to be fair and consistent, and nothing bothers me more than someone who can't uphold our community standards or who thinks they are above the guidelines.

PC: We understand that placing 500+ theme camps is a logistical nightmare, and that that many egos are **bruised** in the process. What's the **biggest** drama you've ever had with a camp being annoyed with their placement?

H: I was threatened to be SUED this year! That was kinda ugly. Boy, if I get them to admit it - you will find that I've told them that this is their last year went into all of the drama that unfolds around placement we would need an been pulled from that spot in the past to entire edition of your paper.

I have to say that one beautiful thing about Burning Man is that it is self-correcting. Camps that **Treak** often end up thanking us. People that drop the ball for their camp and try and blame us for the subsequent Crappy placement are often not the people that end up contacting us the following year. The placement team does a beautiful job of stroking egos and highlighting the positive aspects of a spot, and all this goes a long way toward making people give up their preconceived ideas of what they thought they wanted. In truth, the number of bruised egos at our event are remarkably few.

PC: Does brown-nosing, begging, schmoozing, bribery, flattery, and/or favors of any kind have anvthing to do with a theme camp getting placed in a **prime** spot?

H: Nope. I kinda resent it, actually.

PC: If not, then how the hell did a stupid, lame-ass excuse for a theme camp like Piss Clear end up with such Esplanade, but we're **Never** sure what prime playa real estate?

H: You write a **Great** paper!

cheaper. August 3: BM Survival

this year's Utilikilt, but

Guide arrives in the mail today, complete with the following instructions:

• Be sure to buy a lottery ticket for the night of the Burn, with the following numbers: # of times you've been to Burning Man, # of people in your camp, # of months you've been collecting unemployment, # of epiphanies you've had at Burning Man, and # of days you went last year as the

• As you approach the Wadsworth/Pyramid Lake exit #43 off of Interstate 80, be sure to feel giddy anticipation.

bonus number.

• The night the Man burns, you should feel reverence and awe ... no wait, that's Sunday night. Bring something meaningful, like your last unemployment check stub, or a printout of the last IM you had with your ex, to cast into the fire to cleanse yourself and begin anew. Beat your drum.

• The night the Temple of Honor burns, feel smug satisfaction for having the foresight to stick around till Sunday. Honor thy mother, thy father, and utilize this last chance to honor any hottie who looks like they've had a shower in the last three days. Use a condom.

· As you leave the festival on Monday, if you are a first-timer be sure to cry and declare to anyone who glances in your direction that you "Can't wait to come Home[™] next year!" If you are a jaded veteran, begin planning next year's camp/art/hip costumes before you get

August 8: We sold our tickets on CraigsList.org and bought round-trip tickets to Vegas for Labor Day weekend. With a little luck, maybe we'll be able to catch Celine Dion the night of the Burn.

to the gate.

