# A Barfly's **Guide to Burning Man** by IIGNOTA

Okay Alice, forget about acid, mushhrooms. grass, and that evilsmelling Jimson weed. If you sizzle your synapses on the playa tonight, things will only morph into a pack of fire-breathing, electroluminescent, flesh-eating slugs.

The drug of choice for Black Rock City is, of course, firewater. Follow this simple program, and you will have

the best Burn of your life: Start the day with a healthy breakfast of Joy Juice: fill a wide mouth water bottle with fruit juice, sliced bananas, strawberries, chopped ice, and a pint of vodka. Cover and shake. Share with your friends. You're ready to start the day!

Want to piss clear? The Barfly Guide recommends you carry Giggle Water wherever you go on the playa: six parts water to one part hooch A bona fide barfly will drink more water this way, it stands to reason.

When the sun is down, you're ready to get out of your mind. Forget the Ecstasy, especially you alcoholic stud hammers. There's nothing ecstatic about trying to 'thumb it in', now is there? No worries, Casanova. What you need is some Blind Tiger - guaranteed to take you to the next level: 4 oz. vodka, 4 oz. teguila, chopped ice and topped off with plenty of Red Bull. If you like, add a splash of lime juice and a slice or two of fruit. Shake. Drink. Roar. Stumble around in the dark. You are now a blind tiger.

# Ten ways **Burning Man** can screw up your life

by RIGGED

1. In Real Life, you're an account exec for a Fortune 500 company. But here at Burning Man, you just can't resist a visit to Shave Camp. You cut off all your hair and then get a henna tattoo on your bald dome depicting an act of fellatio. Back in Real Life, you find that henna doesn't wash off. Maybe you can wear a hat at the office until your hair grows back.

2. You ask a sheriff to light your pipe. Are the iails in Nevada air-conditioned? Let us know when you get out.

3. Thinking that "what happens at Burning Man stays at Burning Man," you attend an orgy and don't use condoms. Now what happens at Burning Man will keep happening to you pretty much forever.

4. You sample every pill, powder, drink, and herb on the playa – in one night. You spend Burn night getting your stomach pumped and the next few months attending drug counseling as part of your plea bargain.

5. Your spouse comes back to camp to find your tent moving vigorously. Opening the flap, your spouse finds you bouncing up and down on a "sweet young thang" you picked up while dancing at Sheik Jourbouti Camp. Being thrown out of the tent is iust the beginning of a

6. You drop acid and decide you can fly if you jump off a high enough platform. You quickly discover that the ground isn't made of foam rubber. You'll be missed.

whole new life for you.

7. "She said she was 18!"

8. You sold E to a really cool guy. He liked it so much he came back with two of his friends. Friends with badges.

9. You get home from the Burn very late the night before having to go back to work the next morning. Tired and groggy, you head off to work. On your drive to your job you get the feeling you've forgotten something. As you step into the lobby of the office tower you suddenly realize you forgot to put on your clothes.

10. Back in Real Life, all you ever talk about is BM. Now, the only friends you have are Burners.

he last time Piss Clear ran an extensive drug guide such as this one was Way back in 1998, so we figured it was high time (pardon the pun) to bring it back.

We sent the word out to our various writers, asking everyone to submit anecdotes about doing drugs at Burning Man. You WON't always find tips and tricks here, but hopefully you Can learn a thing or two from other people's experiences - both good and bad. Besides, who doesn't love articles about doing drugs on the playa? Why, you could get a contact high just reading this!

One word of Warning, though: be careful out there. Black Rock City may Seem like Utopia, but it still exists in the state of Nevada, where, as you may have heard, **MOSt** of the substances listed here are illegal. Be discreet and use Caution – there are more cops out here than ever before. **Never** do drugs out in the open, and be wary of who you offer them to. Be safe, and always be sure to drink plenty of water. Have fun!

### ACID



Acid is pretty much a staple drug here at Burning Man, but it's a lot less disorienting now that there's a City infrastructure. Back in

1995, before there were city streets, the best way to locate your camp was to sort of triangulate, using the Man as one reference point and usually some big mountain as another. Once the Man burned down though, it became a real challenge to find your way back to camp, especially at night.

My campmates and I had the **bright** idea to decorate our camp with a lot of glowsticks and other lights, so even on acid, finding it would be a cinch. What we **didn't** count on was some asshole stealing the lights. It took us over two hours to find our camp, and tripping your brains out, that is no fun.

The lesson? Since there are streets nowadays, go ahead and take that Seventh hit! You'll always be able to find your way home, unless you wander into the desert chasing the white rabbit. — PF

It was a typical cold night night on the playa, back in 1999 – a year more people got laid, I think, because it was just too damn cold to do much else.

Anyway, I had just gotten a pro drag queen makeover from Taffy at MASHcara, the first one ever in my life. I was wandering around the playa when I saw a Ranger vehicle parked, with its lights on. They were trying to rope in this skinny kid who drank waaaaaaay too much of the Kool-Aid. His clothes were nowhere to be

found, and it wasn't getting any warmer. So this skinny naked boy is dashing around the **deep** playa, but the lights of the Ranger car would intrigue him, so he would come Creep up to it, touch the headlights with his index fingers, and make a tunny "whoop whoop" sound. He was doing that to everything he tocussed on. Your hat, a rock on

the ground, whatever - "whoop whoop." As the Rangers walked up to him with a blanket, he'd dash off into the playa again. So they'd stroll back around and act like they were just hanging out. The next time he came up, I thought I'd help out, since I wasn't wearing a uniform. I said something like, "Hey buddy, aren't you COld? How about a warm blanket?" He walked up to me, eyes bugging out, and points to my face and says: Too much makeup."

Then he dashed off again into the

And that's it. He ran off and was never heard from again. If you come across some bones out there, it might well be him. Give him a "whoop whoop" for me. — Caution Mike

### ALCOHOL



This is about hangovers and you. One supposes that if you're hungover, you're probably not reading this right now. But perhaps one of your campmates is reciting this to you while

you're hurtin' from last night's partying. Quick, my shriveled friend, ask for some water – piss clear! – and listen on. First and foremost, alcohol dehydrates

you. In addition, it also depletes nutrients such as Zinc and Vitamin C. Some drinks are worse than others, so I suggest you avoid cheap plonk wine and brandy. Before you Start all over again

tonight, drink plenty of water and score some zinc tablet and vitamin C. Or eat some fruit. If you hurt, pop a painkiller as well, such as aspirin or ibuprofin. That is, providing you're not on any other meds, in which case you should not be drinking alcohol at all, my friend.

Eat well before you start to imbibe. For every drink, have a glass of water. And torget about coffee. It's a diuret-

ic, just like booze.
If you have a hangover, you can rub a lemon under your drinking arm like in Puerto Rico. Your campmates can only approve. A pickled sheep's eye in tomato juice does the **trick** in Outer Mongolia. Dancing or making love helps. Whatever you do, don't call me, 'cause personally I'm always pissed, yet hydrated, and am only available for emergency hangnails. Now where's my drink? - Dr. Proctor

Hard liquor equals hard currency here in Black Rock City. Fuck gifting. When it comes to something you really

want, barter is the best way to do it, and nothing is **better** to barter with than booze. We always bring a bunch of those little airline bottles. They're cute, pocket-sized, and perfect for all the barter bars. — Adrian Roberts

# **ABSINTHE**



Absinthe is fun, but it can make you do Crazy things. Rumor has it that last year, after a heady evening of absinthe intake in the

VIP Lounge of the infamous Duck Club, the owner, known only as Slim, began crawling around the open roof. Alas, when nature called, there was no portapotty on top of the Duck, so he lifted up his Utilikilt and peed right there, over the balcony ... and Onto his bar staff. Needless to say, the bartender was, pardon the pun, pissed! — Adrian Roberts

# CAFFEINE



"But it's too hot to drink **coffee** on the playa!" Oh, stop whining you pussies, and don't even mention that iced

coffee bullshit. Some of the hottest, Spiciest food and the thickest, darkest coffee is served in the hottest countries around the world. I **started** going retro the last couple years by using

a stovetop percolator (you can find one in

a camping store) and honey, it brews

up the darkest, bitterest brew this side of

the Congo. It's just what I need to get me

through a day full of "Welcome home!"

ankers and all the blonde dreadlocked

dickheads that are trying to take over

one talks about getting stoned, or drop-

Who wants to be looped out of their

heads on psychedelics, especially when

trippy already? What you do want to

party. You want to dance your ass off,

meet new people, and see as much art

out on the playa as you can. Cocaine helps facilitate all of this, while

keeping you with a relatively clear

head, undulled by booze or psychedelics.

And Unlike crystal meth, which can

leave you up for days, feeling edgy and

irritable, good cocaine will have you in

bed asleep three hours after your last

plined enough to know when to say

your bindle. So be careful, you big

cokehead! — Adrian Roberts

bump. Of course, you need to be disci-

when, and with cocaine, it's hard to say

no when you've still got a bump left in

Spend MOre for the good stuff. Every

year there's somebody in our camp who

buys Crappy cocaine in bulk or some-

thing. Like Costco-brand coke. Then he

and his campmates avail themselves to this gas-smelling devil's dandruff for

the first few days, thinking, "Hey, at

least we're not doing crank." But by

the third day, they're all snarling and

VICIOUS. This crap doesn't actually get

you high - it just moves you straight to

Back in the dot-com heyday, other

folks in our camp were getting the

purest Peruvian flake. A nice clean way

to stay up for an evening without feeling

like ass for days afterwards. The moral?

You **get** what you pay for. And coke is

arriving, a friend let him know that she

had some glass. Glass, crystal meth,

speed – pure, SWeet, and wonderful.

in the nose. It's what kept the Navy

Seals on long range patrol in 'Nam

More **bitter** than caffeine, it's a punch

**Killin'** killin', and what kept the Nazi

So, this friend of mine goes for a bag

(ironically traded for Viagra). Suddenly,

he goes from one minute, one thought

at a time, to a time-lapse chunking

of hours going by, and before he knew

pilots blitzkriegin' in WWII. Za-zing!

A few years ago, a

friend of mine was feel-

ing a lil' **tired** after a

long drive from SLC to

BRC. Lo and behold, ho

and blow, shortly after

**10** place to cut corners. —*Malderor* 

**CRYSTAL METH** 

the edgy and irritable phase.

do though, is stay UP all night and

the whole VIDE of Black Rock City is so

It's also one of the best drugs here.

about it - at least not

the Same way every-

the playa. — Rev. Blind Toaster

COCAINE

ping E, or frying on acid.

it, Burning Man was over. What should be a wonderful **experience** became a **blur** of words and fire and road and before he knew it, he was back to Real Life, punching the clock again. And he hasn't been back SINCE.

You can argue about how wonderful the extra energy is and how time suddenly blossoms. You can say, "I'll sleep when I'm dead." But ultimately, you **need** some sleep. That wonderful sensation of waking, thinking you were dreaming of the playa, then realizing it isn't a dream, that you really are here -

it won't happen if you never fall asleep. I guess moderation might be possible, for people who know where that SWITCH is. But for me, I've become a tnurd again (temporary NON-USEr of recreational drugs). — Gavin Heck

# **ECSTACY**



You know, just once, try **not** going to the Burn That way, you see, you won't need to worry anything about timing.

You won't need to worry about "coming on" just as the Man goes up in flames. And you WOn't need to worry about needing to take a ferocious dump the minute you come on, and having to fight your way through the huge crowd of people to try to find those damn portapotties in the dark, and then WOTTYing about the fact that you lost all you

friends, and that you're completely dis-

oriented, and that you're high as a kite, and you're feeling Oh-SOgood, but damn, where are you friends, you're SUDposed to be experiencing this with them

dammit, and oh, you feel so GOOd right now, and you're breathing deep, and fuck, you need a 101lipop right now, and some water oh good, you have Water you need to drink some water, but fuck, your friends have the lollipops, and oh, you feel sooooo good, especially now that you've taken that dump, but fuck, where

are they, oh wait, the Man is burning, wow it's SO beautiful, I love everyone here, everyone and everything is so beautiful. Sigh. Anyway, the Burn is still pretty beautiful, even  $\mbox{Without}$  the E, and you can always drop it after they burn the fucker down. I mean, they burn him **pretty** early in the evening, and hell, you've got all night, right? Just be sure to drink PLENTY of water. — Adrian Roberts

### KETAMINE



Ketamine is my personal favorite mind-alter-Inq substance. Technically, it is legally administered as an animal tranquilizer,

ld that fact deter animals from its consumption? Needless

to say, it doesn't deter me in the Slightest. I'm like a kid in a candy store anytime I can get my paws on the stuff (which really isn't very often). The trick with ketamine, as with many other substances, is the dosage.

A huge rail will probably render you sick or at least incapacitated for a bit, so its best to start off with a keybump or two and see where that takes you. Where do you want it to take you? Out of your body. In addition to being a tranquilizer, ketamine is also a dissociative, meaning that the perfect dosage will give you the feeling that your mind is **completely** outside of your body. Quality playa time with a feline playmate is the shiz knit. — Orange Peel Moses

## **MARIJUANA**



What's up with Europeans and blunts? I try to share my oncea-year-primo-splurge pot with them and they always roll it with a pile

of skanky Bull Durham and start Pass-ing it around the RV. Nothing says buzzkill like the taste and smell of hand rolled tobacco when you're expecting a few hits of that aromatic Humbolt from your eyeball pipe. Sure it makes it last longer, but it also takes longer to get you where you want to go, if you know what I mean. — Rev. Blind Toaster

Just remember, this is Nevada, not California. Cops can SMell pot. Be discreet, and avoid getting busted. - Adrian Roberts

Damn, I love grandmas! Especially the ones from California with pharmaceutical marijuana, baking skills, and that grandmotherly instinct to share. Last year, granny got our whole camp's groove on with what looked like a 10pound tin of heavenly-tainted Tollhouse cookies. Thank you, granny! — Rev.

# MUSHROOMS



At the 2001 Burn, I did an eighth of 'shrooms, because I just Wasn't getting fucked up enough off of 3/4 of an eighth.

Well, I guess this batch was a right powerful one. At first, I felt the Sudden urge to take a huge crap. On the way to the porta-potties, I dryheaved, and thought, "Oh, that's odd."

As I sat in the stall, I started sweating and feeling Nauseous "beyond belief." Something was wrong and on top of it all, I was feeling paranoid. At

# WHAT'S OUT WHAT'S IN

Burning Man reality TV shows
campaign to recall Burning Man
Walk-In Camping
Newbies who act like jaded Burning Man veterans
cocaine
digeredon't
going to the Burn sober
Black Rock City Neighborhoodies
hetero sex at Jiffy Lube
fire spinning
Gate
if you're not here, you miss out
running a radio show from your iPod
Utilikilts
spectators with an attitude
lynching art thieves
re-naming street signs
rock bands on the playa
Spock Science Monitor
theme parks
shit in the porta-potties

— compiled by Adrian Roberts, Lenny Jones, and PF

# **Hands Across the** Playa tomorrow by ADRIAN ROBERTS

t's a simple, yet ambitious project. It's called "Hands Across the Playa," and it's the brainchild of Yoni Sandler, an Art Director for

Discovery Networks. The Concept couldn't be more straightforward get 2000 Burners together on Thursday afternoon around 3 PM to form a complete human chain across the playa, including the Man. Conceptualizing a project like this is one thing.



of it is another. If Yoni can pull this off, it will be one of the Single largest events in Black Rock City this year. PISS CLEAR: Everyone in Black Rock City operates on

scattered "playa time." Nothing ever happens when it's supposed to. This sounds like a logistical nightmare.

**YONI:** If it takes all day, I won't let anyone leave until the human chain is **COMplete**. PC: You don't really think you can pull this off, do you?

**PC:** So Why are you doing this? Do you **enjoy** the challenge of the impossible, or are you just a **masochist?** 

PC: Why should I take time out of my busy day of hanging out in Black Rock City to stand around in the hot sun just to hold hands with a bunch of other people?

YONI: That's a really good point about the heat. I'm hoping that the 3 PM timing will help a bit. Since it's a really simple shape — a line — hopefully people will get the picture quickly, and we won't be baking in the sun for very long. To keep our minds off the heat, the Aerial Soul skydiving camp will entertain us from above, and there might be an Art Car parade down the chain as well.

PC: If you pull this off, how will you feel?

YONI: Hot and tired, probably.

PC: And what if it ends up going down like most high**concept** Burning Man projects – a **great** idea executed poorly? How will you feel?

YONI: Hot and tired, probably. Then I'll Cry.

this point, I felt that if I tried to squeeze

anything out of my ass, a Valve would

burst or something. I didn't know what to do – I was fucked up in a bad way.

At the very height of my freakout, I

Next thing I know, I'm waking up on

the ground, about three steps from the

utes with several people coming to my

rescue. I went in and out of these horri-

ble feelings. They tried to make me puke

it up, but I couldn't. They tried to keep

me Warm, but I was freezing. One per-

son, a kind chiropractor (who only want-

Finally, an ambulance came and took

me to the Medical Tent at Center Camp.

It was the longest fucking ride of my

life! They put an IV in my arm. As I

very funny. The three of us sat in the

six-year-olds. After awhile, they

and played that night.

caps or the Stems.

started to feel better, everything got

med tent, laughing our asses off like

released me, and we actually went out

Let me just say, what a **great** staff

over there at Medical! In fact, last year

I went back on the one-year anniversary

of the incident to bring gifts and say

hi to the guys who helped me. Many of

them were the same people, and they

on the playa. Dosage is hard to regu-

late. Different batches of 'shrooms are, well, different. And I never seem to

remember which is more potent, the

For me, it seems like every other

mushroom trip is a bad one. One year,

it'll be great, and I'll be dancing around

the playa having a grand ol' time. So of

**COURSE**, the following year, I eat

them again, only to have the universe

come Crashing down on me. Then I

vow never to do them again. Until the

You know, don't you

think it's pretty hypo-critical of the

Burning Man organiza-

tion to print things in

the Survival Guide like

next year. — Adrian Roberts

NICOTINE

remembered us too. — Crash Almighty

Mushrooms are an iffy proposition out

ed to party, and not babysit some dork)

thought that I was going into Shock.

potties. I lay there for at least 45 min-

heard my girlfriend and her friend

calling to me. I got my pants up

(barely) and opened the door.

# Taking the high road

# How to score drugs at BM

by SUGAR LARRY

Every August, like hundreds of other Canadian Burners, I leave a well-stocked box of drugs at home so that I can safely make the border crossing to Burning Man. And, like hundreds of other Canadian Burners, I Cross my fingers and hope I'll manage to find a way to stay stoned for the week. This is no small task. A **Process** that is usually convenient, safe, and reliable in Vancouver becomes an ordeal at Black Rock City. I know that **many** Americans face the challenge of finding

drugs on the playa as well, but jeez - if you live South of the 49th parallel, there's really no excuse for not showing up with enough drugs to render Nick Nolte comatose. Try asking your sister's weird boyfriend

or that sketchy-looking kid who slings your coffee. Burning Man is about preparedness, after all - like the Boy Scouts, though probably with more nudity. Anyway, SCOring drugs on the playa isn't



mixed results. One moment you could score some nice clean acid and have the **best** night of your life grooving at Space Cowboys, and the next you'll swallow a concoction of expired cold medicine, Ritalin, and baby laxatives – believing it's  $\mathsf{E}$  – only to spend the day wandering around in an unpleasant, thoroughly demented haze ... all while trying to avoid run-ins with the Law Who, let's face it, are looking for weirdos like YOU. Over the years, we've experimented with a number of drug-

foraging schemes. These range from setting up sketchy rendezvous with knowledgeable locals at service stations during the drive south, to posting blatant ads in Center Camp that direct drug-consultants to our camp. Yeah, I know that sounds blisteringly stupid, but we actually managed to Secure a big bag of mushrooms this way, as well as some acid from a guy who floated into our camp with a huge balloon full of nitrous. (Incidentally, I got SO high from the mushrooms that I **lost** the acid, because I kept taking it out of my pocket to make sure that I hadn't lost it. Doh!)

The best course of action is to keep your search simple and to do what you'd do back home if you ran out of sugar: haul out your measuring cup and ask the neighbors. This approach dovetails nicely with the notion that, here at Black Rock, we're all just one big family that has finally arrived "home" - but it doesn't always work. If you don't 100K like a cop, fellow Burners are often willing to help you find party favors. Plus, for some strange reason, people (read: men) seem to embrace the spirit of generosity more **freely** when it comes to women.

Aside from presenting logistical challenges, acquiring drugs from fellow Burners can also be dogmatically confusing, since it violates BRC's "no vending" policy. Of COUrSe, you can get around this philosophical issue if you happen to encounter one of those benevolent souls who gifts you drugs instead of expecting cash. This occasionally does happen, so don't lose hope that somebody may bestow upon you the gift of highness. And if someone is déclassé enough to demand hard cash in exchange for drugs, try not to be too disappointed with them. Because really, you are in **no** position to dictate **morality**.

If you're not a drug enthusiast – or even if you are – by now you may be saying to yourself, "You really don't need drugs to enjoy Burning Man." Author Dave Eggers agrees. In his forward to the recently-published book, Drama in the Desert: The Sights and Sounds of Burning Man, Eggers suggests that participants consider **not** using drugs at Burning Man. He makes a pretty good case for this approach, arguing that BRC in and of itself holds enough power to deliver participants from CONSENSUS reality, thus making drugs redundant – or perhaps even **detrimental** – to the experience.

After I read that, Eggers almost had me convinced - for a second. But then I gave my head a firm shake and regained my senses. Sure, Burning Man is a wondrous place, and yeah, tearing across the playa on a living room full of drag queens is pretty Weird in and of itself. But doing it with a head full of chemicals is a surefire way to kick it UP a notch or two. Do you really want to be the one saying to yourself on the car ride home, "I had a pretty weird time, but I expect it could've been even Weirder"?

And besides, let's not forget that, on a **purely** physical level, Burning Man without drugs is SOrta like anal sex without lube: dry and uncomfortable.

"the use of drugs in a physically chal-

can create a serious health hazard,"

hazardous drugs of all, nicotine?

while its founder, Larry Harvey, is seri-

ously addicted to one of the most

More people die from cigarettes than

all other drugs combined. And hell, just

standing next to Larry Harvey while

he's smoking (which is pretty much all the time) puts you at a health risk. I

could be shooting up heroin right next

to you, and you wouldn't be physically

harmed at all. But hang around Larry

for just a little bit, and you'll breathe in

so much Carcinogenic secondhand

smoke that you'll feel the lung cancer

coming on **before** you even know it.

**NITROUS OXIDE** 

Without a doubt, this is

my favorite drug on,

or off, the playa, due to

its sheer intensity over

a very brief amount

of time. But brief

amounts of time can be quite deceiving.

Nitrous is often misunderstood as some

hippycrack). Believe me, I ain't

never liked the Grateful Dead, but for

me, N<sup>2</sup>O is the perfect Burner drug! There's **nothing** so nice as sitting

cross-legged amongst a circle of friends,

doing balloons, flinging yer head back,

and having it literally "bounce" off the

playa! And then laughing about it.

The interesting thing about nitrous is the sort of afterglow effect after

focusing on a certain sound. In my expe-

rience, I've come to the realization that

Black Rock City is literally "buzzing" to

the sound of generators 24/7. You might

block it out most of the time, but a good

huff on a balloon will send you right into

that "d-d-d-d-r-r-r-r-r" sound - and

**110**, it's not techno. It's a generator,

and it's actually comforting sometimes.

A good friend of mind has a great

story of going out alone into the wide

open playa one year, lying down on his

back to do balloons while staring into

the Starry night sky. After some time,

he soon came to the realization that the

two bright stars he had been **Staring** 

at were in reality the glistening eyes of

a stranger, who was standing over him,

this person's voice: "Are you alright?

and the SOUND echoing in his ears was

kind of "hippy" drug (it's also known as

lenging and hazardous environment

### Are you alright-t-t-t?" "Uh... yeah, I'm - Eggchair Steve



2CB is a psychedelic drug similar to acid or mushrooms, but often with milder effects. If you do enough, you can get visuals, but you have a clearer head space than with other psychedelics.

A few years ago, the Weather was particularly bad at Burning Man, and there was one day where it rained off and on constantly. We kicked it in the shelter of our RV, but to help alleviate the tedium, I dropped some 2CB. As it turned out, I leave the RV all day. A pretty lame time in Black Rock City, right? Wrong. Not on 2CB!

Throughout the day, we entertained a steady stream of people, who dropped by to visit, seek shelter from the duststorms, or comment on something that was written in the paper. Even though I was Stuck in the RV, I never once got bored or restless. The 2CB kept things interesting, as did the conversations with our various visitors. To this day, that remains one of my best times ever in Black Rock City – which really SayS something, considering I didn't leave the RV all day! — Adrian Roberts

### VALIUM / XANAX



here at Piss Clear headquarters, and that's that every night, we 'WOrship at the House of Xanax." After

a night of heavy partying - okay, pretty much every night in Black Rock City it's nice to come home to our little friends. Valium and Xanax both take you down from whatever you're on, and help you sleep - and sleep solid. In fact, I've never slept so good at Burning Man!

doctor's prescription for it? Oh yes you do! Next year, about six weeks before Valium or Xanax. It's readily available through overseas doctors. Why, my doctor lives in India! - Adrian Roberts

# **Undercover** cops at BM by SPYDER

Last year, I was approached by a woman of about 38 years old who asked if she could place a light stick on my jacket. We talked briefly and we left the area.

Five or ten minutes later, she approached me again and asked if I had any "good stuff" or "fun stuff, you know what everyone else is doing." I quickly realized that she was a law enforcement employee. I carefully and politely explained that I do not "do that" and walked away.

Thirty minutes later, I saw her again, as she poked her head into the side dome of a dance camp I had been sitting in. Obviously, she was scouring the playa, looking to make a drug bust.

I have a friend that was arrested for drug use in Lake Havasu, when he unwittingly accepted a boat ride on the lake with a bunch of undercover police. He shared a little of what he had on him and got the shaft. He tells me that they cannot ask you for drugs by any formal name, or even common slang terms. They must call is something else, like "fun stuff".

Remember, a police officer will typically not be nude or get nude; they will not give you a kiss, drink three shots of whiskey with you, or hang out with you in a dark secluded pyramid on a back road of Black Rock City. All of these activities at Burning Man are common, putting the cops at a big disadvantage. Hang out with new friends for a while and see if they do any of these activities before you

share. The best advice regarding drugs is to be wary do not share anything with anyone you do not know. Never do drugs on the open playa, ever those days are gone. Remember, they are

# Virtual participation by PENFOLD

out there.

You didn't find yours truly, Black Rock City's Gruntled Postal Worker, on the playa in 2002, and you won't find me on the playa again this year either. Real Life has kinda gotten in the way. Funny how that hand But it hasn't kept me from still finding ways to

In 1997, my first trip to Burning Man, I created and brought with me something to Black Rock City – a gift to the city you might call it. It was through my efforts that for the first time, you could actually mail stuff off-playa! Of course, the mail didn't go out until after the event, but go out it did. Your mail would get inked with a special "commemorative cancel lation," a hand-carved stamp that I destroyed at the end of the festival. Some lucky camps even got their own hand-carved stamps!

Eventually, I fell in with the Black Rock City Post Office folks, who so nicely provided me with another pick-up point for the city's outgoing mail. The BRCPO folks now provide this service in my absence. But did you know that this year, Black Rock City has an official U.S. Postal Service presence on the playa? Yes, Black Rock City even has its own official postal cancellation and I designed it!

send one to vourself. It'll

come back with my art on

it, an example of my con-

tinuing participation and

There's always a way

gift to Black Rock City.

to still be a participant

and not a spectator. It

can be as simple as help-

ing friends load up for the

playa, or helping back at

home with an art project

I'd be lying if I said I

or camp set-up that's

going out to the playa.

wasn't homesick for

Black Rock City - but

finding a small way to

continue the tradition of

gifting and participation

has taken the edge off.



We have a joke around

The best part is that they're both legal. What's that? You don't have a you head out for the playa, do a Google Search on the internet for

So be sure to drop off your postcards and letters, and make sure you