

Black Rock Gazette

Your Playa Time Source for Infotainment Since 1992

Sunday, September 5th, 2004

EXODUS EDITION Volume 13 Issue #58

Population 35,551

10,000 Miles, Democracy and a Dream

By Misty Mocracy

Since July 22, 2004, the VoterDrive Bus has been using the roads and highways of America to create the largest artwork in the world - the word VOTE in script, starting with the letter e and unravelling the word westward across the United States. The VoterDrive started in New York City, and has stopped in small towns and huge cities and registered, questioned people anonymously, and learned from people from all walks of life.

Black Rock City citizens have been overwhelmingly positive, forward-thinking and engaging regarding the primary mission of VoterDrive: to increase participation in your community through engaging the democratic process.

The Vote art car is non-partisan, nor are we electioneering for any particular party or candidate. It is up to the individual to educate herself about the issues and the candidates and get herself to the polls.

Our questionnaire on board asks four questions: Why do/don't you vote? What issues are important to you? What can your elected officials do to make this country better? If you ever ran for office what would your platform be? After a participant fills out a form, it is scanned onto our website and then the participant can read what others have written across the country in the folders on board the bus. You can also register to vote on the bus.

What has been learned so far from this project is that Americans have basically



Photo by WeeGee

The author and The Man —both larger than life.

the same concerns regardless of their party affiliation: Jobs, healthcare, social security and freedom.

After finishing the V in San Francisco and underlining the word VOTE back to NYC, only one question will be asked of Americans: What is your definition of freedom? These answers will be posted to our website as well.

So if you aren't registered, or if you would like to add your opinions to our "voices of America" project, stop by the

Voterdrive bus in Center Camp or flag us down and get on board the "VoterDrive."

The website for VoterDrive is www.voterdrive.com. The project is not corporately sponsored, it is not with any large org, and does not ask you for your real name on the questionnaire. We help you fill out registration forms and give it to you to mail it in and get registered and prepared to VOTE. All VoterDrive asks is that you participate in the "default world" and please be positive!

LNT Everywhere!

By Technomad

Chris "Taz" Petrell first came to Burning Man in 1997. Driving home to California each year, he noticed clothes caked in playa dust, bags billowing with rotting food, and other jetsam alongside the road. Rather than let it sit, he approached event founder Larry Harvey about organizing a DPW crew to take a proactive approach to fix this.

After the 2003 Black Rock City, over the 4 heaviest days of exodus, twice daily a crew of 9 drove all 4 major highways leading out for 100 miles each way from BRC, and retrieved one to two pick-up truckloads of trash. This detritus included playa bikes, couches, mattresses, camp flags, consumables, money, clear piss bottles, and even Gazettes!

Phoenix, another DPW worker, pleads for everyone to glean page 7 of their Survival Guide for places that accept trash. Those places are:

Ferndale Sanitation, (775) 575-4964, open 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Lockwood Landfill, (775) 342-0401, open 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Reno Transfer, (775) 329-8822, closed Labor Day, otherwise open 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

To keep the peace between us and the default world, and in response to complaints, they take two weeks to collect not only all our trash left in dumpsters belonging to others, but also our overflow from dumpsters at highway rest stops from here to Reno.

So please mind your trash on your exodus out of NowHERE. Even off-playa, MOOP is MOOP. Get home safe, and continue the Burning Man ethos on the road through Gerlach and beyond.

Save The H2O Tower

By Howard Jones

Driving through Gerlach on the way to the default world, you may be excused for missing the old red water tower next to the small park just across Main Street from Bev's Miners Club. It may look cute, but it is in bad repair. The town has already raised close to \$30K of the \$50K they are targeting for its renovation. Every little bit helps, so consider donating to that cause. They have "I helped save the Gerlach Water Tower" T-shirts and tank tops available for \$10. If the T-shirt stand to the right of the tower is sold out, you might be able to park by the Water Tower and pop across to the Miner's Club and leave a donation with Bev. You can also make donations at www.burningman.com.

Give clean socks, beer, and unopened durable goods to the Exodus staff!

Greeters Three

By Matt Mullin

Jack, 70 years young, is the oldest of three generations of active Burners in his family. "We are all volunteers with Greeters," explained Jack, who joins his son, Rifle, and daughter-in-law, Beanie, as well as granddaughters, Lilu and Cin, each year for their annual family trek to the playa. "Our family has been represented at Burning Man since 1999," he said.

"We never get tired of Burning Man," Rifle said as he showed off his tattoo of the man, circa 1999. "Jack and Lilu have their own Burner tattoos too."

John and Beanie's youngest daughter, Cin, 17, said that she has been struggling this year to meet new friends. "I've been ditched a couple times this year, which is frustrating," she said, indicating that she believes the behavior is due to her age. "Maybe I'll organize a Minor's Camp next

year, or at least an activity that gives older teens a place to gather and meet."

It was interesting to note the family's difference of opinion on the presence of children at Burning Man, but all seemed to agree that the decision should be left to the families, not the event organizers. "As a mom, I get nervous sometimes having a teenage daughter out here," Beanie said. "But I also think there is a tremendous value to be found in the experience."

The family hopes to continue participating as long as the event exists. "As long as I keep seeing those 'thrilled-to-be-here' looks on their faces as they process through Greeters Station, I'll keep coming back," Rifle said.

"I'll probably stop coming to Burning Man the day after I die," Jack said. "This is my fifth year here, I'm having a great time, and I know next year will be even better."

Superlatives Will Swirl

By Mary Jane

It is pretty hard to talk about Burning Man without using words like biggest, coolest, strangest. Burning Man is an "est" experience. Here's quick survey of our host city with the most-est.

Biggest, Tallest, Longest Art: The Temple of the Stars sweeps all these categories. David Best, you are the best!

Most Modest Costumes: Brothers Geoff and Sly sported purple and blue burkhas

bought on e-bay spotted on their way to a wet-burkha contest at Bop Camp.

Really High on the Esplanade: The Embassy's 28 foot scaffolding. "We took it up another tier this year, because we could," Bucket says. The Embassy also has the most public phones in Black Rock City with one.

Most Far Out Art: A stone's throw from the trash fence the burlled limbs of Constellation hold the prayers and

petitions of the intrepid tourists who are willing to go the distance to this most distant of art.

Happiest Visit to the Tax Man: "Everyone is entitled to a refund on their existential suffering and a holiday from all future taxation," says Snooks. Green visors, vests and ties, no one seems to have told the guys at the Spiritual Accounting Office this years theme is about astronomy, not banking.

Publisher & Editor in Chief:
Michael Durgavich
Editrix Abby
Editors
Suzanne Zallew, Mitch
Masthead Design/ Operations:
Francis Wenderlich
Volunteer Coordinator:
Sarah Sevilla
Webmaster:
Edge
Minister of Photography:
WeeGee
Writer, IT:
John Lam
Photo Editor/Writer:
Gothalot
Writers:
Weegee, Durgy, Ed Carter, Caleb, Naomi, Jonno, Babesodelicious, Tom LaPorte, Howieid, Gothalt, Abby, LiAnimal, Stacy, Mary Jane, Leslie Landberg, Chris Bullseye, Richard, Alabama, Famous Melissa, RonJon
Photographers:
Bill Kositzky, Pixman, Dave Heller, Jerry Dagan, Liane G, Lord Fouffypanss, John Pettitt, Richard Gilmore, Gothalt, Pearl, Gartho, John, Loretta, Johnny Switchblade, Yvonne Soy, Quiet Girl, Abjctphoto, Cachz, Chris Penny, Dave Archer
Utility Infielder:
David Silver
Distribution Captain:
Armadillo
Dis Reps:
Paperboy, Paperboy Biff, Snapper, Jedi Keith, HoWeird, Worm, Anitz, Atom, Ronnie, Channoa, Spritzer, Alabama, Particle Man, Handy Andy, Rolando, Ian
Photo Wrangler/IT:
PixMan
Proofreader:
Larry Breed
Layout & Production:
Angie Z., Carry Tveit, Peg Oberste, Just Debbie
Special Thanks: Harry Yarvel, Marian Goodell, Glenn, AG, Porkchop Latte, Dayglo Bagel, Michael Michael, Raines Cohen, jRicK, and the other people who helped, whose names we did not get.
www.burningman.com



Photo by WeeGee

Mayor elect of Black Rock City



Photo by Bryce Perry (Pixman)

Org and friends

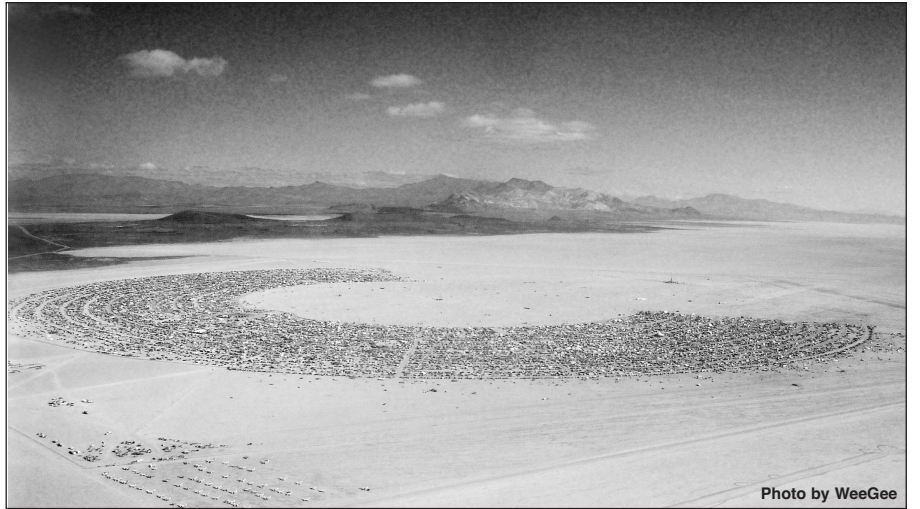


Photo by WeeGee

Aerial view of Black Rock City



Photo by Bryce Perry (Pixman)

Starmageddon by Pete Stars Hamilton and Luke Monster Egan



Photo by WeeGee



Photo by WeeGee

Temple of Stars

**Black Rock City 2004.
See you next year!**



Photo by Bryce Perry (Pixman)

Fire dancers



Photo by WeeGee

Burning Man



Photo by WeeGee

Falling Man



Photo by Bryce Perry

Sun God and lamplighters



Photo by Garth

Lamplighters procession to Center Camp



Photo by Richard Gilmore

Seven Sisters by Flaming Lotus Girls

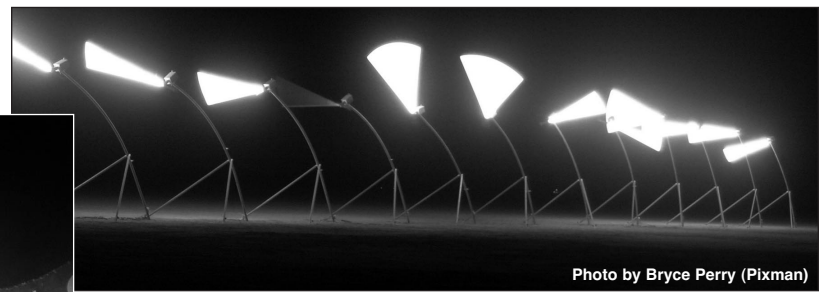


Photo by Bryce Perry (Pixman)

Alien Semaphore by Hedley Davis



Photo by Bryce Perry (Pixman)

One-leg Dave in his Footmobile



Photo by Bryce Perry (Pixman)

Going in style



Photo by Yvonne Soy (Babesodelicious)

Astronauts on the Playa



Photo by WeeGee

Coneville

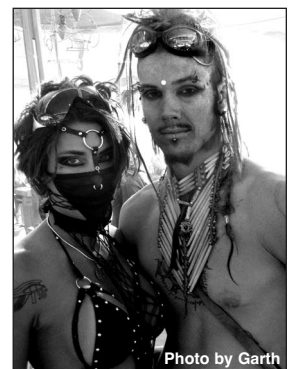


Photo by Garth

Burners