

SPOCK SCIENCE MONITOR

Volume One, Issue Nine

"For The Discriminating Vulcan"

Sunday, October 20, 2002

Flashlights To Replace Fire In 2003?

By *Frankenstein Jones*
International Affairs Desk

In a shocking development, Burning Man LLC has been involved in top-level talks with the Bureau of Land Management and various Nevada law enforcement agencies regarding a plan to end all fire performances at future Burning Man events, including the centerpiece Saturday night burn of the man itself, the Spock Science Monitor has discovered.

The ban on open fires on the ecologically fragile playa bed would also put the squash on all fire-related artwork, including the opera, and the fire procession before the burning of the Man. In a series of top-secret memos, LLC members have apparently come to the conclusion that ending the traditional whack-ass burning of anything and everything come the final weekend of the event would save the organization thousands of dollars in construction and clean-up fees and lower tariffs imposed by various agencies overseeing the event.

One memo, apparently written by BM co-founder Larry Harvey, notes that while many participants will be angered and upset by such a move, "Burning Man is about change and adaptation, and we believe this will test our strength as a community once again to

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2003 Art Theme: From The Floating World To The Stagnant Mountain

By *Miss Conduct*
Editor-in-Chief

The Pirate theme was so overwhelmingly popular this year that the Burning Man Organization has decided to continue the vein of geographic indigenous peoples by naming next year's theme Hillbilly: The Swampy Backwoods. That is correct, folks. The ubiquitous popularity of the Spock Science Monitor has moved the BMOrg to encourage the emulation of our proud Spock Mountain heritage. Although technically we are considered Cyber Hillbillies, or Cyberbillies: the connection is there and we are tremendously flattered.

2003 Theme camps are required to build shady shacks equipped with creaking rocking chairs, cracked spittoons and names such as "Hatfield and McCoyville" and "Red Neck Revelry." Aahhh,

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NEWS ON THE MARCH

Compiled by Mr. Bad and Frankenstein Jones

Decompression Participants Warned Of "Harsh Conditions"

Local officials warned Decompression participants Thursday of "near lethal" conditions in the Portrero Hill region of San Francisco, where the annual Decompression event takes place. According to event planner Maid Marian, "This is not an excursion to be taken lightly. You could die at any time." Notable threats to health include passing automobiles, chilling fog, steep hills, high curbs, uneven stairways and low-hanging tree branches. "You are responsible for your own safety," one official announcement admonished. "This is not the Playa. There are many hazards you are not familiar with. If you are not completely pre-

pared for every eventuality, you will most likely suffer grievous harm or death." Participants are strongly advised to obsessively read the Decompression Survival Guide over and over and over as if it were God's own word delivered from on high.

Cruel Punishment For Misbehaving Boy

A San Francisco teenager has received a novel form of punishment for neglecting his chores. Juan Walton, 15, of the Mission District, was sent to Dolores Park last Saturday to witness a drum circle performance after he forgot to take out the trash for the third week in a row. "My parents, they dropped me off. They're over there in their car, watching me," he grimaced while witnessing the performance of a troupe called "OneDrumOneWorldSpecTACK-youLEERCoLLECTive." "This is horrible. This sucks. Ow. Ow. Why do they do this shit? What is it supposed to mean?" Walton appeared contrite after prolonged exposure to the 17-shirtless-man strong troupe. "I will never forget my chores again, you can count on that. I mean, this is worse than death. It has to be. Right? Jesus. Does anybody like this sort of thing?"

Take The Burning Man Volunteer Aptitude Test

By Johnnie Royale
Senior Beverotologist

Have you been to several Burning Mans and feel guilty that you've never volunteered to assist the event? Volunteering is important as it is only off the backs of free labor that the Burning Man LLC can afford Mr. Harvey's seven-digit salary and unnatural dietary habits.

To help you decide which organization in Burning Man you are best suited for, the *Spock Science Monitor* has developed a BM volunteer's aptitude test. In the box below, check each line that matches your personality, skills or traits. Then count the number of boxes checked in each category. The category with the most checked boxes is where you should volunteer your services. See the Burning Man Web site for more information about how to become a volunteer.

✂ clip 'n' save! ✂

Rangers

- Dream of one day entering the fast paced world of private security
- Able to immediately state 250 differences between 2nd and 3rd edition ADD rules
- Live with parents
- Never had a girl/boyfriend
- Were picked on in school

First Camp Administrative Assistants

- Give good head
- Enjoy "spinning" gross moral turpitude into good wholesome fun
- Prefer attending meetings to actually doing real work
- Good at pretending to take orders
- Able to "cover your ass"

Lamp Lighters

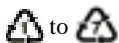
- Enjoy chanting, "We are NOT a cult" in large groups for long periods of time
- Prefer drudgery to creative thinking
- Have a yoke in your "toy box"
- Like hauling heavy things for miles
- Don't mind looking like a slave

DPW Thugs

- Take two drugs, before you take two drugs, then you take two more
- Unemployed
- Felon
- High school dropout
- Like being socially irresponsible

Earth Guardians

- Dream of unicorns prancing around Mother Gaia
- Prefer emotions to logic
- Cried when Princess Di died
- Look natty when covered in playa dust
- Know how to recycle plastics types



Black Rock Gazette Staffers

- Have a mundane writing style
- Think Sally Forth is the best comic ever
- Care about "facts"
- Actually believe the BMOrg press releases
- Don't mind working for the fourth best paper on the playa

Staff Box

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<http://www.pigdog.org/ssm>

Larry Shapes Up

By Johnnie Royale
Senior Beverotologist

A brand new, slim and trim, 350 lb. version of Larry Harvey has been making appearances at the Burning Man offices over the past week and no longer needs the assistance of a forklift to make critical BMOrg meetings.

When asked how Larry has been able to shed weight so quickly from the the gross and Jabba-like mass that remained hidden in First Camp during the entire run of the festival, Burning Man Communications Director Marian Goodell (Maid Marian) said "We had his stomach stapled shut. It was an expensive operation and will force Burning Man to raise the gate prices next year, but it will save the organization a tremendous amount of money over the years."

Goodell wouldn't provide more information on how, precisely, the LLC expects the procedure to save money, but sources close to the organization relate tales of gluttony and out-of-control obesity by Mr. Harvey on the playa that defy imagination. Allegedly, the food commissary truck that reportedly didn't arrive on Monday did in fact make it to the playa, but Harvey ordered the Black Rock Rangers to seize it and bring it to First Camp where, in a whirling rage of limbs, he consumed nearly 250 pre-packaged dinners in one sitting. After Monday, the LLC ordered in additional food trucks, one for Harvey and another to feed the rest of the BRC workers, nearly doubling the LLC's food costs.

2003 Theme

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it's as if I'm already there. Thunderously amplified Old Timey music rattles the Playa day and night. Bootleg likker decants from flaming jug shaped fountains. There are no art cars. Instead, long bearded Stump Jumpers named "Slappy" and "Orville" donning torn overalls lollygag atop cement block mounted vehicles. Hootenanny Barn Raisings and Square Dance Bivouacs replace the prevalent Hippy Rave Camps. Crickets chirp, roosters crow as "yeehaw!" is hollered from every tent and kin pumping, runs rampant. Lock up your wives and daughters!

The street names are expected to be far superior to those of 2002. Our white trash infrastructure will be swiftly navigable using such terms as "Polecat," "Coon's Age," "Varmint," "Corn Pone," "Moonshine" and "Hayseed." Commissary vittles will include the road kill classics: Squirrel Souffle, Parakeet Pate, Kitten Cake, Chipmunk Fondue and, Possum Stew.

If you are at a loss for fashion ideas, allow me to

assist. Fellers: shirts are optional, but if you must wear one I suggest a torn t-shirt emblazoned with the pithy phrase "My Other Wife is My Sister," or a plain white wife-beater tank top soiled with drool stains. For evening festivities, accessories should include a cummerbund and your weapon of choice. Women folk: I recommend tight, high cut denim shorts accompanied by a red and white checkered button up blouse two sizes too small and tied at the waist. A length of rope doubles as a handy, yet unnecessary, belt. Hair may be fashioned in pig and pony tails or tied up under a bandana. A ripped and tattered wedding gown will be the only acceptable evening wear.

Events will include terbacky-spittin', hog wrestling and turkey shoots. There will be demonstrations in still construction, whittling and building furniture from car parts. As for the crowning feature, instead of a wooden man structure, effigies of Ma and Pa Kettle will burn atop a smoldering heap of junkyard detritus.

A scurrilous and unsavory rumor is going around that next year's theme is Beyond Belief. You MUST ignore this egregiously inaccurate information. It is wrong, wrong, wrong.

by volunteers, ultimately to be taken to a warehouse in San Francisco, where he will await being called to 'life' again the following year."

Maid Marian, the LLC's communications director, gushed over the plan, calling it a "perfect representation of the life-death-rebirth cycle as is commonly expressed on the Black Rock Desert through art and interpretive dancing."

First-time burner Stephen Mawkey, 28, of San Leandro, said the planned move was a "definite bummer," but also expressed the belief that "Burning Man is all about, like, change and stuff, and getting used to change, and that stuff, so I guess it's cool."

LLC officials would neither confirm nor deny the validity of the SSM's finding by the time this issue went to press.

No Fire in 2003

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ultimately positive results."

As Will Roger, DPW head honcho, explains, "The LLC will save thousands of dollars a year by using and reusing a permanent Man installation, instead of perpetually constructing a new Man at great expense every year."

Another memo, source unknown, details the revised ceremony involving the traditional immolation of the Man: "Commemorative flashlights, each adorned with the Official Burning Man Logo, will be handed out to the thousands of observers present at the 'burn.' These flashlights, which are not to be bartered or sold, but instead are to be kept and cherished forever by the originally intended recipient, will be shined upon the man as the 'fire' procession reaches a fever peak, creating the illusion of a man dancing in flames."

"As this spectacular cavalcade of mesmerizing illumination continues and reaches its crescendo," the memo continues, "a command will issue forth from the dozens of loudspeakers hidden in a circle at the Man's base, and all flashlights will be simultaneously switched off to create the appearance that the Man has 'burnt' himself out."

Following this, the Man will be "carefully disassembled and packed into shipping crates

Spock Science Monitor is on the Web

If you missed the seven other super spektakular issues of the Spock Science Monitor, not to worry, they are now all available online at www.pigdog.org/ssm And remember to rock out with your Spock out.