

# SPOCK SCIENCE MONITOR

Volume Two, Issue One

We Got Our Drunk On

Thursday, August 28, 2003

## Butts Kicked Off The Playa

By Brother Ted  
Editor at Large



Photo by Yosemite Sam

Unidentified mechanic makes vain attempt to repair dragon. See related story below.

The BMOrg has again moved forward to take decisive action in response to the rising and changing needs of the Burning Man public, and to serve the greater interests of Free Radical Expression everywhere. In response to complaints of bad smell, increased littering risk, and carcinogenic damage, the BMOrg has specified that the smoking of cigarettes is restricted to smoking-designated areas.

Three such areas can be found in Black Rock City: two at the distant outskirts of town, and one special twenty-person maximum Executive Lounge in the Center Camp Cafe. Tobacco smoking in these areas is unrestricted.

The BMOrg was surprised to encounter resistance to this plan. A total of seventeen individuals have been noted as complaining about this policy, and two were even found violating it. All were immediately escorted out of Black Rock City and charged double admission on the way out.

"I heard one violator complain that this kind of rule violates what Burning Man is all about, but I don't think they understand the true purpose of Burning Man," said BMOrg volunteer secret police member Moondreamer. "Burning Man is not a giant camping trip combined with orgiastic frenzy where people go out to make inappropriate

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### NEWS ON THE MARCH

#### Draka Needs Speed

Far behind schedule and still under construction, perennial problem child art project Draka the Dragon is again lumbering towards on-Playa disaster this year. Welders and artists need your donations of methamphetamine, dexedrine, Ritalin, ephedrine and other truckstop stimulants, so they can work nonstop through the next few nights and get some damn thing working. Working together we can see a half-covered scaly dragon thing stop and start more or less over some of the Playa! At least for a while.

#### Death Guild Rigs Contest

At Wednesday's Prom Night on the Esplanade between 6:30 and 7:00, dozens of lovely prom attendees were denied a fair chance at being crowned prom queen. My sources, fearing for lives, asked to remain anonymous. They informed me that the Death Guild demanded that, in exchange for performing bouncer duties at the prom, one of their ladies be crowned prom queen. It seems to this reporter that the ladies of

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## DPW Gets Marching Orders

By Frankenstein Jones  
Editor in Chief

In a move that could threaten the viability of next year's Burning Man event, the Halliburton Company has announced a deal that will take hundreds of DPW workers away from their annual home in the Black Rock Desert of Nevada and transport them halfway across the world to help heal the wounds of war in Iraq.

The giant service and infrastructure company, which has close ties to the military-industrial complex, has struck a collective deal with the Department of Public Works to use the volunteer Burning Man city-building corps in its efforts to rebuild the infrastructure of Iraq, said Halliburton spokesperson Mark McNulty.

"We have seized a valuable resource," said McNulty. "It would take us literally years to train this many people to survive - let alone thrive - in a hostile desert environment, yet these people seem to possess an innate ability to perform under these conditions."

Burning Man officials had no immediate comment, but this development will certainly raise some questions as to the continued survival of the festival. "We've basically already depleted the greater Bay Area of all loadies, derelicts, drifters and the terminally unemployable to seed DPW," admitted an anonymous insider. "Next year we'll have to go as far north as Portland and as far south as Los Angeles, or at least

Bakersfield, and these new people are probably going to expect a few perks, knowing we're in the bind we're going to be in come next July."

The source ruled out the notion of paying replacement workers, but conceded Burning Man may have to offer enticement packages of illicit drugs or free coupons to the nearby Moonlight Bunny Ranch to attract new free labor. "You'd think it would be a buyer's market," said the source, "but these people's minds don't work that way. It's hard to hire someone who's made up their mind not to work for a living."

The DPW workers themselves expressed excitement over the news, although some of them seemed a little confused as to where they were headed. "I can't wait to get over to see the pyramids," said "Polygrip," 22, who gave his occupation as "unemployed longshoreman." When informed that the pyramids were in Egypt, Polygrip said "Get out of here! That's like in Europe!"

A minor uproar broke out when Halliburton officials arrived at 80 Acres, the DPW work ranch, to ink the deal. DPW workers, mistakenly thinking that the new arrivals were federal police, apparently burned a huge box full of marijuana behind the main commissary at the ranch. The blaze touched off a minor fire which torched the commissary and three brand-new work trailers to the ground, a setback that didn't

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# A Visit To BM's New Digs

By **Johnnie Royale**  
*Managing Editor*

SAN FRANCISCO: Most long-time Burners that follow the ebb and flow of the Burning Man Organization (BMOrg) have heard rumors that the BMOrg moved out of their old cramped quarters and leased a spacious new office complex on Third Ave near Portal Hill in San Francisco. The BMOrg was kind enough to invite me to its new HQ for a week during July -- right when the BMOrg began a frantic last-minute sprint to tackle the millions of big and small issues that arise from building a city in the middle of nowhere.

I spent the week watching a frenzied and highly uncoordinated dance that most critics of the arts and business models would claim to be an interpretation of Chaos Rising. Yet for all the unguided energy and complete disregard for any established or proven method of executing plans, it seems that the BMOrg has once again managed to build Black Rock City -- the proof of their miracle surrounds you as you read this.

In order to better control the peons, the BMOrg has divided them into several distinct teams, and during my week at BMOrg HQ I had the rare privilege of being allowed to watch these various groups prepare for the playa.

## Legal Team

The Legal Team is not widely known, but is now arguably the most important of all BMOrg departments. As Larry was quoted as saying, "This damn place floats on a sea of paper." which is where last year's theme is rumored to have come from. And the rumor this year is that, on returning from the playa to find his desk covered in reams of legal forms, Larry uttered, "It is fucking beyond belief just how many fucking pieces of paper I have to sign." However, this story seems implausible as the SSM has proof that the twelve-foot Owl God Moloch threatened to eat Larry's colon if this year's theme wasn't Beyond Belief. Why Moloch wanted it to be Beyond Belief is another story for another time.

## Rangers

The Rangers use the time between Burning Man to replace those fallen in battle and train the new conscripts in the Way of the Rang-

ers. During my week at BMOrg I watched drill after drill where novice Rangers pushed their bodies to extreme limits for the honor of wearing that world-famous and very coveted khaki shirt. Hour after hour, these idealistic recruits performed close-order drills under the watchful eyes of senior Rangers. Much like the vaunted and elite Waffen-SS troops (with their goose-stepping march) that the Rangers are patterned after, all Rangers practice the Ranger Shuffle -- that seemingly slow-paced lumber that propels them at a sub-snail pace across the playa floor. It might seem utterly simplistic to the untrained eye, but the Rangers are proud of the patented stride, scientifically designed to reduce stress on the joints and reduce physical exertion to the minimum.

## Lamp Lighters

The life of the Lighters may seem dull and boring to most, but those that hear the calling of the Burning Flame can follow no other path. During the summer months preceding the event, the BMOrg office is filled with Lighters carrying their heavy yokes filled with lamps, trying to figure out how to re-oil the fluorescent lights in the ceilings.

## Senior Staff

Recruited from the dregs of the burned out and disillusioned counter-culture of the sixties, these castoffs from society have found a niche where their talents can be truly appreciated and compensated. Dedicated to the end, these troops labor under incredible deadlines and mountains of work -- often exceeding the two and-a-half hour workdays mandated by the BMOrg. It is not unheard of for the senior staff to work an entire afternoon, from 1:00 to 5:00 straight through with only a dozen coffee and cigarette breaks to ease the pace. This kind of schedule places a tremendous strain on these aging hippies and routinely leads to BMOrg Senior Staff passing out or collapsing at their desks. But not to worry; dozens of Medical Rangers are always on duty and quickly rush the fallen staffers to the private resort maintained by BMOrg exclusively for its senior staff members. Named Hotel Nice, this elegant and fully staffed five star spa is capable of satisfying ANY hedonistic need or desire they might have, no matter how disgusting or revolting it might be.

# Smoking

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art. Burning Man is an opportunity for like-minded radical individuals to create a special space to build Pyramids of Silence and sit in them, pondering our theme, Beyond Belief."

Another source of strife has been Nevada Law Enforcement. Nevada law specifically denies anti-smoking rules in public or private areas, except for hospitals and elementary schools. However, BMOrg and Washoe County PD have come to an agreement on this matter, the terms of which are kept top secret.

"We only want to ban things which are bad," explained Black Rock City President-for-Life Larry Harvey, "firearms, cameras, and unauthorized journalists. And, of course, smoking."

Most BRC residents' fears were calmed when official word was given that the ban of smoking only applied to the smoking of tobacco or cloves, and not to marijuana, opium, crack cocaine or banana peels.

# DPW

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faze "Sloppy Joe," who claimed to be a work foreman. "We can rebuild that shit. Trailers ain't nothin' but wood and steel. But the pot, man, Jesus Christ." A brief firefight later broke out between DPW workers and Halliburton employees; no serious injuries were reported.

Terms of the deal weren't announced, but SSM sources say the former DPW workers will be paid 6,000 Iraqi Dinars per day, or about three US dollars. "This is the best paying job I've had in, um, probably ever," said one worker, who asked to be identified simply as "Mookie".

"I'm bringing my girlfriend," added Mookie. "She spent three years over there on an exchange program and she totally knows where to get real good hash."

# News

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the Death Guild could have just beaten the elected prom queen to a bloody pulpy mess and stolen her crown, but they resorted to political maneuvering instead. For shame.

## Baron Earl's Postmodern Puzzle

1. What gets wetter and wetter the more it dries?
2. Of those numbers whose English representation in capital letters consists only of straight lines, only one number has a value equal to the number of straight line segments required to write it out. What number is this?
3. What goes up and down the stairs without moving?
4. What goes around the world but stays in a corner?
5. Two people are talking on the phone long distance. One is in an East Coast state of the U.S., the other is in a West Coast state of the U.S. The first asks the other, "What time is it?" He hears the answer and says, "That's funny. It's the same time here!" Neither one of them were mistaken about the time. How is this possible?
6. Give me food, and I will live; give me water, and I will die. What am I?
7. What word is pronounced differently when the first letter is capitalized?
8. Punctuate the following so it makes sense:  
"That that is is that that is not is not is not that it is."
9. What word begins with 'h', ends with 'n', contains six letters, and contains eight words besides itself without transposing a single letter.
10. A person uses precious vacation time and spends hundreds of dollars in order to go live for a week in the most lifeless desert in the world, risking life and limb, and then rather than interact with the other multi-talented and oh-so-fabulous people there, this person spends time solving pointless puzzles. Why is this?

Check tomorrow's edition of the Spock Science Monitor for answers!

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