

SPOCK SCIENCE MONITOR

Volume Five, Issue Two

Snakes on a Porch

Thursday, August 31, 2006

LARRY SHOT

By Johnnie Royale
Senior Beveratologist

Minutes before sunrise this morning, Larry Harvey was shot in the head while touring Center Camp in his convertible el Presidente Mutant Vehicle.

The Burning Man founder is now in the Med Tent listed in super duper critical condition and not expected to survive past his next feeding.

Reports are vague at this time, but numerous witnesses, most in altered states, claim the shot came from the second story of the BRC Book Depository.

A state of emergency has been declared and Rangers are out in force as rival factions await the word as to the fate of the long time the Maximum Ruler for Life, Grand Poobah and Exalted One of Black Rock City.

At a quickly called news conference at 9 a.m., just outside that Med Tent, the teary eyed but loyal henchman Joseph Pred, head of the BRC Playa Security Department, related what little is known about Larry's condition.

According to Pred, Larry's head wound is fatal, but due to the serious drug experimentation conducted by Larry back in the 60s, it is just taking a long time for his brain to acknowledge his death.

Larry did order and consume a much smaller than usually breakfast this morning from this Med Tent bed – consisting of only 42 scrambled cheese eggs, 7 pounds of undercooked bacon, 3 pounds of freshly microwaved sausage, 8 pounds of hashbrowns,



Larry Harvey, pictured here in the BRC Med Tent, is expected to die very soon due to a possibly fatal shot to the head and an exceedingly fatty diet.

32 8" pancakes (with extra butter and syrup), assorted danishes and doughnuts, one very thin slice of melon and several gallons of Center Camp coffee.

When queried by the press as to why the always portly Larry has not been medically evacuated to Reno, Pred stated that after Larry's previous and rather ignominious flight that was cut short due to a weight miscalculation, the FAA has rated Larry as super heavy cargo. None of the lifeflight helicopters have the proper lift rating and all attempts to bring heavy lift aircraft to BRC have failed.

Most experts are expecting a civil war to break out on the news

of Larry's death, as rival factions scramble to arm themselves and take up defensive positions in and around Center Camp and the Man. Pundits believe that two main groups will vie for control of Larry's once great empire. The first faction is under the control Harley "The Butcher" DuBois and the second Maid "el Duce" Marian. The fighting is expected to be brutal and brief and few gave el Duce's faction much chance of surviving the upcoming chick fight.

Tourists are being advised by the US Embassy to avoid Center Camp and when the shooting starts they are urged to consume massive amounts of illicit drugs and duck into a rave dome.

News on the March

Snakes in the Man

For Burning Man 2007, staff member insiders at the BRC LLC say the Man will be stuffed with snakes to capitalize on the cult hit movie released this year, *Snakes on a Plane*.

"We thought it would give everyone something to blog about over the winter when it's kinda slow," said the insider. The Man has been constructed on a huge

pavilion, under which is a maze filled with hundreds of deadly snakes.

"Snakes are used to dry, dusty weather and don't need a lot of water so it will be easy to do," said the insider. "And those DPW guys can stand being bitten in the ass once or twice, at least."

Participants who successfully find their way out of the maze without getting bitten will get a "Snakes in the Man" sticker. People who get bitten will be sent

to the Med Tent in Center Camp to fight over a few vials of anti-venom medication.

Insiders say a whole new merchandising line—"Snakes-in-the-Man" calendars, posters and T-shirts—will be created to bolster lagging sales at BM HQ.

Camp Medusa is rumored to already be fund raising to give away 5,000 snake wigs to women participating in the Critical Tits ride to fend off creepy spectators.

Dr. Fiasco's Guide to Rocking the Playa

By Dr. Fiasco
Foreign Irrespondent

For many years, I've wanted to go to this life-changing, radical self-expression, self-reliant, community-building and other-hyphenated-words event.

But alas, I've never made it to the Montana Freeman Militia BBQ & Commie Hunting Festival.

So I'm going to Burning Man instead. And I'm writing this to let you into this very hush-hush underground world. You didn't hear it from me. To protect my journalistic integrity, I decided I would not let the experience of actually attending the event bias my views, so I wrote this before I ever set foot on the playa.

Burning Man is hot, dusty, crowded, noisy and there's always a naked dude somewhere in your line of sight. But there is a downside too. Getting there for instance. It is not as simple as it seems. The directions I got were something like: "Go over the mountains. When you reach Las Vegas, turn left. Go on for a while. When it gets really flat and really dusty, look for the middle-aged guy with the Stetson hat. Hug him and make small talk for half an hour. You have arrived."

Going to Burning Man is not an exercise in subtlety. You don't want to sheepishly hand your ticket to the poor guy baking in the sun and slip in. You want to BUST DOWN THE DOOR, MAAAN! Drive up with a bottle of Cabo Wabo in one hand, a spliff in the other, Ratt blaring from the speakers, get on top of the hood and shout "Who wants to partaaaaay!" for the whole world to see.

For added effect, try dressing like that Thompson fella who wrote crazy gibberish for Rolling Stone or some other rag. It will blow their minds. Especially the jolly good folks over at the DPW (Department of Porta-Potties and Whiskey). They kill me, those guys.

There's lots of drugs at Burning Man, and my advice to you, after seeing Johnnie Royale bend over a few hundred too many times is: just say no to crack.

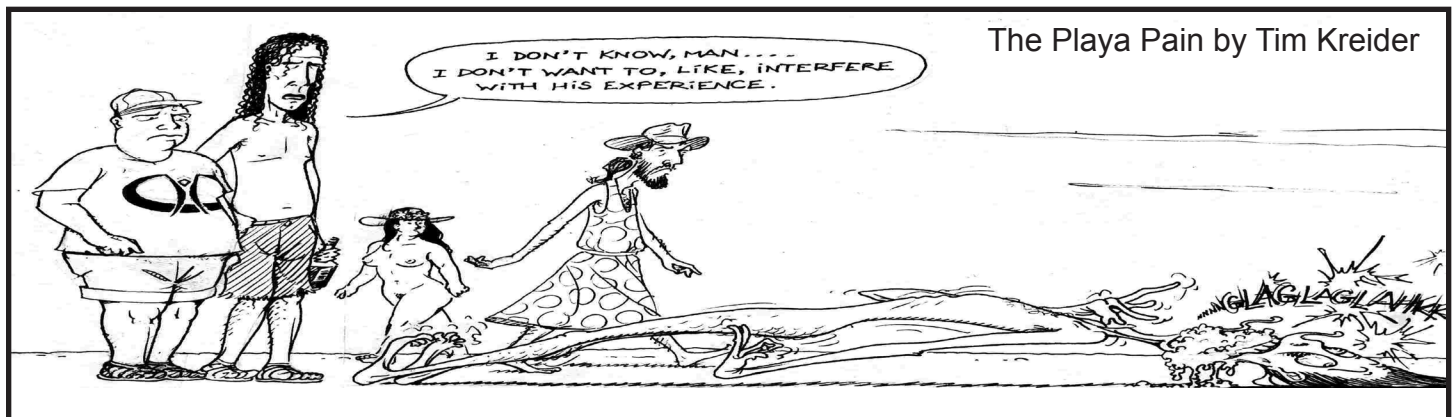
A healthy dose of cynicism is always a good thing at this event. You want to surround yourself with the most jaded, bitterest burn-outs you can find. It's a treat to listen to these

seasoned veterans tell their tales of the First Burn back in 1846, when the Paiute Indians and "Larry" had the Donner Party. Then the Party moved to Reno and it got weird. It's a damn shame.

The place to be at BM (that's what the "in" crowd calls it) is the "playa." It's so "in" I never managed to find it. I kept asking people where the "playa" was but somehow they kept sending me to Jiffy Lube. Friendly folks. Never saw anybody changing oil there though.

The desert is a delicate ecosystem. Tread lightly. It takes months for the dust to grow back after you pee on it, so make sure to spread it in amber waves leaving a very fine film. There are many species that thrive in harmony with this arid wasteland, such as the elusive Etruscan Pygmy Poi Spinner, the Bottle-Nosed West Oakland Industrial Artist and Chicken John. Leave no trace

Armed with this knowledge, an armload of raver nubles and enough E to turn Pol Pot into Santa Claus you too will be ready to rock the playa. If you find where the playa is, please let me know.



The Playa Pain by Tim Kreider

News continued from p. 1

Center Camp Coffee Double-Plus Good

The Spock Science Monitor has learned from anonymous sources that Center Camp has started to spike its coffee with extreme doses of Viagra in order to counter-act the impotence caused by excessive use of other additives in the substance. Coffee purchases can ask to have the level of Viagra adjusted by using the keywords "soft" for less and "hard" for more.

The SSM has also discovered that death toll from consuming Center Camp coffee this week has been reduced from 14 to 8 as a result of autopsies performed by the BRC coroner. The BRC coroner has stated that from his detailed investigation that Center Camp coffee is far safer than prior years and that consumers shouldn't worry as there is apparently very little pain.

Cosmo Camp Delayed Again

The participants of Cosmo Camp, due to be located at the corner of 9:30 and Chance, have once again pushed back their arrival date, this time to Thursday, in order to shop for just a few more "essential items" for their camp, said leader Trip Fontaine.

"Team Cosmo" already spent the first three days shopping at Wal-Mart, Home Depot, Albertson's and Bed, Bath & Beyond but wanted to get a few additional furniture items at the Bay Area Ikea, which necessitated a trip back west and the delay of the scheduled arrival time.

"I don't know how we can set up the kitchen area without matching floor tiles and breakfast bowls," Fontaine said. Thus far, the camp participants have spent over \$14,000 on supplies, even after nixing a trip to Pottery Barn to pick up rattan end-tables, candle holders and solar-powered lanterns. -SSM Staff

Spock Science Monitor

est. 2002

Publisher ... Frankenstein Jones
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Duke of Prunes ... Patient Joab
Senior Editor ... Saffron Lee
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