

SPOCK SCIENCE MONITOR

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You're Mellowing Our Harsh

September 1, 2006

This Year's Burning Man is off the Hook!

By Dr. Fiasco
Foreign Irresponsible

For months I had been asking for an assignment. I mean, running the dining out page for the Atascadero Metroplex area is a big job, but I wanted something into whose soft pink flesh I could really sink my tobacco-stained teeth. So when the editor said I was going to cover that crazy thing out in the desert, I knew this was my chance. My chance to be a big shot journalist on Spock Mountain's sumptuous expense account. I needed a mission and for my sins they gave me one.

When the editor handed me a plane ticket I was a bit befuddled. Am I flying into Black Rock like a celebrity, like Dr. Wasabi or that dude from the glass house? He replied to my question by swinging a baseball bat two inches from my head and threatening my physical integrity if I wasn't gone from his presence at once.

Apparently, in an effort to bring back the anything-goes vibe of yore, Burning Man is in a much, much more remote location this year, away from authority -- and the meek who can't or won't make the trek.

It took me four bloody days to get here! But so far I haven't seen a single BLM ranger or rave camp. No tinkerbells. No stilts. No funfur.

And I have to say, I'm impressed. Everyone here is on message. The discipline is astounding. It reminds me of when they made the little bear



Camp Abu Rave participants enjoy another cuddle puddle.

cry with those placards in the Moscow Olympics.

Kudos to Larry and his merry band. They went to such levels of detail as to create an elaborate made-up language which as far as I can tell sounds like ancient Romanian and Basque.

And people refuse to break out of character for even a second, which makes it hard for me to order my soyless soy mochaccino espresso at Center Cafe, but what the heck, I'll play along. I just wish I had attended that Burning Man orientation class at the Learning Annex.

From what I've seen so far, I'm guessing this year's theme is "Middle East Armageddon" or something. It's like in the good old days, when you had that sensation you could actually get killed out here, you know? And I think they finally got SRL to come out this year, I mean, the firepower is unbelievable -- fire and explosions everywhere. It's either SRL or the DPW budget has gone way up.

And don't get me started on the art cars. It's a totally new concept. One moment they're there. Then they are not. The cars and anything and anyone

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Strangler Strikes

By De Cognito
South Central Desk

Six bodies were found this morning, strangled by their own headlamp straps, according to the nightly report logs of the Black Rock Rangers. Local law enforcement officials remain baffled at this turn of events, saying only that this appears to be a case of separate but related murders. The victims were spread randomly throughout the city.

A male, approximately in his mid-20s was found at 3:30 and Hope. Ginger-Snap of the Cosmix Groove Camp was the first to discover the grisly scene. "He was just lying there, you know,

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Headlamp use could get you killed, as well as be an annoyance to others.

Commentary

Lose Your Child, Leave the Playa

It has come to our attention that the policy of the Borg is to close the gates to outgoing and incoming traffic when a child is reported lost. While this is a good idea to stop child abduction and to keep Burning Man from becoming some sort of pedophile haven, a more sensible solution would be to just to keep the kiddies at home.

A child lost at Burning Man is obviously not under close enough supervision therefore both child and guardian should be asked to leave. If the rest of the community

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News on the March

Man to be Erected Saturday

Burning Man LLC officials have confirmed that the full-sized Burning Man will be erected this Saturday, mere hours before being torched. The Borg secretly decided on not placing the full-size effigy until the day of the burn, fearing a faction planning to burn the man earlier in the week. "Mini Man," a 1/5th replica of the full-sized effigy, has been standing in the Man's place confusing participants by its diminutiveness.

DPW Worker Found Sober

Noted DPW personality, Playa Dick, was found by the Rangers in a sober, lucid and in what one could call a congenial condition yesterday afternoon. Playa Dick was immediately rushed to the med tent for intravenous alcohol treatment.

Several hours later and most of a 1.75 liter bottle of 100 proof vodka in him; Playa Dick was released from the med tent as his blood alcohol level was back to its typical daytime level of .25. He was last seen stumbling in a random direction out of Center Camp yelling obscenities at complete strangers with the assistance of a large and powerful megaphone and demanding they perform anatomically impossible sexual acts.

Back Rock Suburb Seeks Gates

A neighborhood coalition of burners along the block of Guess and 3 o'clock have petitioned the BORG to become a gated community.

"All we're trying to do is build a quiet neighborhood," said block beautification association chairman Robert Crisp, standing by his RV, one of 12 nondescript identical models on the block.

Crisp said the neighborhood has been plagued over the last week by unsightly art cars, intrusive drug-seeking hippies, and boorish late night drunken revelers who pee in the spaces between camps.

"We're all for self-expression, but take it down on the Esplanade," Crisp said. The neighborhood community association also plans to establish a neighborhood watch and a set of guidelines for new arrivals, specifying the appropriate colors and sizes of street-facing shade structures.

--SSM Staff

Strangler, continued

with his, like, headlamp on, pointed right in his face and he wasn't moving, you know, at all, and I was like, dude, is this dude dead? And so I went up and was like, 'Yo, dude... are you dead?' and he didn't respond and so I go like call my campmates and like the guy in charge of my camp called the Rangers... and we didn't know if we should keep on dancing... but eventually we decided that the party has to keep going."

Other victims include a woman, approximately in her late 40s found on Brave near 7:30; a man in his early 20s found at 2 and Destiny; two women in their mid 20s found at Chance and 4:20; and one man in his mid-50s found at Brave and 9:30. They were all found, face up, strangled by the

straps of their headlamps with the lit lamps shining directly in their face. Their names are being withheld pending notification of their next of kin.

The Washoe County Sheriff in charge of the investigation, Steve Johnson released this statement. "It appears that all of the victims were strangled by the same culprit. Our best guess for the motive is that he or she became enraged by being incessantly blinded by headlamps as they walked the backstreets of the darkened city."

The fate of the man in his mid fifties was even more baffling to officials since not only was he strangled with his headlamp straps but he had several pieces of high end camera gear broken around him and a large zoom lens shoved up his rectum.

Bad Parents Get the Hell Out, continued

is being asked to bear the greater legal liabilities of having minors in our midst then the rest of the community should be assured that those minors will be properly supervised.

Just on Wednesday, the gate was closed for 3 hours while a group of

lost children were searched for. And there have been reports of a 12-year old from Kidsville tooling around the playa in stolen BORG golf carts. This madness must stop. If mommy and daddy can't keep an eye on the li'l one 24/7, they should be asked to leave.

The SMRL Postmodern Puzzle

Can you spot the towering Burning Man in this picture?



Answer in the gate edition of next year's SSM.

Abu Rave continued

in a 100 foot radius. It gives a whole new meaning to Leave No Trace.

Two days ago I was walking by the Esplanade, these guys jump out of an art car and drag me inside. It's like the BRC Animal Control, but with a whole lot of attitude. I wasn't even wearing a bunny suit but I was loving it. They took me to this camp--it's very new and fun and fresh--something like a Bedouin S&M Goth camp. I am sure it will be all the rage in San Francisco in a couple of months.

They're so cute, they put me in this "dungeon" and they keep telling me to finish writing this "confession" and that if the "infidels" don't pay, they're going to "cut my head off and put the video on the Internet."

I got to say that this year's Burning Man is almost as awesome as that time when I saw Cirque du Soleil in Vegas.

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