

SPACK

SCIENCE MONITOR

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Containment Failure

Saturday, September 22, 2007

The Tao of Poo

*Burning Man 2007
was craptastic! Really*

By Radiant Tinkles
Earth Sciences Reporter

Perhaps the camp that most intrigued me this year was elusive Poo Funnel Camp. All things scatological are of supreme interest to me. And they should be to you too.

Why? As members of the human species, we all do four main things in life: Eat, sleep, have sex and shit. And two out of these four gigs are potentially bum-related. Yet even at Burning Man—a meeting of some of the most free-est and most-naked spirits this side of the planet—any talk of crap will simply turn up noses.

“I don’t mind the idea of poo, like, you know, the kind that comes out of my own bum,” said Windstar, a hippie from Lullaby Camp. “Poo is really natural and links us to the earth. But I draw the line at poo during sex.”

One helpful way to get over your poo aversion is to admit to your primal “you.” After all, we are animals. Who doesn’t secretly like to sniff their own log? Keep tabs on its size, density and length? Such behavior is



not just unresolved anal fixation. Careful observation can reveal a range of health and diet information about yourself.

We all know, for example, that the first few days at Burning Man, pooing is a chore. You’re out of your element, weathered from travel and acclimatizing to a punishing

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Addis Disrupts Ren Faire

By Patient Joab
Stone Polisher

Fresh from allegedly setting the Burning Man effigy ablaze five days ahead schedule, the notorious Paul Addis has now terrorized another popular counter-cultural event, the Des Moines regional Renaissance Faire.

Dressed in Merlin garb, Addis ran out onto the jousting field during much-anticipated duel between Henry VII and Sir Thomas Aquinas. Although he was precariously carrying a clay pot of napalm, whatever plans he had were spoiled by a jester who comically tripped him mid-route. The spilled inflammable set aflame the jousting paddock.

No one was hurt. Reaction has been mixed.

“The Faire has been getting too commercial lately—getting away from its roots of radical 17th century expression. Paul is now a hero to the peasantry. He injected some unpredictability into the mix, just like the Black Plague did back in the day,” said Girky McKirken, who, when not



Ren Faire cofounder John Law was unamused.

Burner Experiences Epiphany, Dumps Boyfriend

By Cheech Diller
City Desk

Massage therapist and jaded three-time burner Danielle Eisenman (aka Cubcake Sassafras) made her first solo trip to Black Rock City this year. She left her boyfriend of two years, Bob Level,

at home. Level, an admitted video game junkie and “not really the outdoors type,” thought that allowing Eisenman to experience the Burn on her own this year was an important trust-building step in their relationship.

Instead, the trip effectively ended the said relationship.

The two have dated for three years, although they never progressed beyond seeing each other one or two nights a week.

They reside in separate suburbs and had no plans to marry. Level, a systems administrator, thought it was important for couples to have separate interests.

Eisenman started her Burn week by attending Yoga n’ Yogurt, an adult education class focusing on yoga exercises and yogurt-making for relaxation. Afterwards, she said she felt more “empowered” by her experience and was ready to “push the envelope” with her “comfort zones.”



A euphoric Cubcake Sassafras, mere moments before her big realization (Photo by Frankenstein Jones).

She was not alone in her euphoria. Many Burning Man attendees have had profound experiences at the event. “By Tuesday, I was already feeling freer in my ability to just be me,” she said. “I enjoyed not having anyone check in on me and I was able to spend time at a camp that makes vegan sushi—which I’m really into.”

Later that week, after earning a fimo medallion for volunteering with the Playa Bookmobile, Eisenman then decided what was really missing in her life was being single. “Yeah, this thing with

Bob? It’s just not going to work out,” she said at the time. “I’m going to wait to tell him when he picks me up from my flight from Reno on Sunday.”

dressed as an Excalibur-bearing Shakespeare, works as a network administrator for the Junction City PrintShack.

Others took a dimmer view.

“Paul doth sucketh,” said the flax-wearing Mary Queen of Kennett County, a marketing assistant for the Piggly Wiggly supermarket chain.

Thanks to copious amounts of mead, most other attendees failed to form coherent opinions about the disruption.

“Woo-Hoo! Woo-Hoo ... Oooh M’Lady” one stout medieval reveler slurred, distracted by a passing maiden

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Poopchute

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environment. You've started to pump that body with foreign substances. You're eating cheese straight from a bottle.

All this subjects our bodies to a challenging digestive ritual. Myself, I couldn't help but observe the contents of the porta potties way too carefully for most of the week. Does that make me sick? I hope not. (Germans are obsessed about healthy, solid poos and no one calls them sick.)

Wondering what kinds of foods keep you "normal" on the playa? Eat nuts, my friend. They're the best of the "bonding" foods. Salt is good for replenishing electrolytes too. Bonus.

At this year's Burn, many lauded the Pee Funnel Camp—we're far less squeamish about pee. Their lovely devices just make so much sense, I could cry. While I would never want to switch a clit for a cock (well, maybe for 24 hours, once a month, during the full moon), I'd tear off my tits to be able to pee into a bottle. Nowhere more so than on the playa. Thanks to the Pee Funnel Camp, I can.

But we're talking about the Poo Funnel Camp, which fewer Burners knew about.

What did their mysterious funnel do? I personally prefer the crouched position for poos—like you do in the woods during camping. This is a good position for aim and stability and dispersing stench. Standing up might be a whole different poo experience—if indeed, that's what the poo funnel makes offers. Is it about pooing in a bottle or avoiding the portaseats? How would you clean your poo funnel? Or is it a disposable poo funnel? (and, ahem, how environmental is that?).

Despite much inner evaluation and questioning, Poo Camp remained elusive (no props to the BM Guide from this lazy journalist). Do we trust them to know their ass from their elbow? So far, their product leaves us with more questions than answers. Most important of which: CAN I POO IN MY TENT? If not, Poo Camp, what good does your poo funnel do me? Alas, we'll have to wait until next year to find out.

Five Movies Werner Herzog Should Make

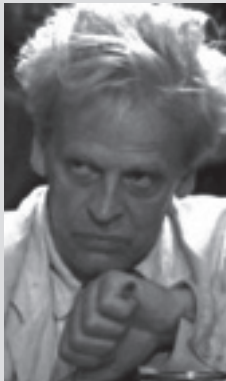
Fitz, Carajo! A stockbroker's epic struggle to build his dream bungalow in Cabo with unskilled native labor and primitive tools. A tsunami moves the house to Acapulco.

Pigeon Man: A rugged individual abandons society to live among the pigeons in Union Square. One day, the pigeons poop all over him and his girlfriend. Herzog reviews the grisly recording of the episode but won't show it, describing it only as "a lot of cooing and plopping sounds."

Little Chicken Needs to Fly: The moving story of a notorious fuck-up who wanted to be Mayor.

Even Dwarves Started Small: Herve Villechaize and Mr. T invade 16th Century Peru to oppress Incans. The Incans are not amused.

Larry, the Wrath of Gods: A ruthless autocrat erects a giant statue of his likeness (minus 250 pounds or so) and has adoring followers burn it.—*Dr. Fiasco*



RenFaire

Continued from page one

in a bosom-revealing bodice. Another individual brandished a megaphone and walked about denouncing Addis, until someone else pointed out megaphones weren't invented in 1218 or 1972 or whenever the hell the Renaissance actually took place.

Faire cofounder the Honourable Sir Lawrence the Layabout was unavailable for comment, as he was gnawing on one of those big-ass sticks of meat.

SSM affiliate publication Trebuchet & Treacle contributed to this story.

NEWS ON THE MARCH

Get Us Rewrite: The Losangelesification of Burning Man proceeded apace this year as the Burning Man Department of Statistics noted that script supervisors and junior propmasters replaced IT project managers and senior Java analysts as the least interesting people on the Playa. "Boring showbiz people have been coming to Burning Man for years," said lead statistician Dock-TUR FunnyNums. "But their increasing prevalence marks the ascendancy of the uninteresting Southern Californian."

Pop Yr Tart: After five years of organizing Camp Pop Tart, Paul Johannsen is packing it in. "As far as I'm concerned there will not be a Camp Pop Tart next year," he said. "I'm taking all the theme camp shit and using it around my house." The PVC from the dome will be deployed as a garden watering system and the camp shower water barrels will store rainwater for the garden. The stripper pole will hoist a basketball hoop. While his wife shook her head ("He says this every September"), Johannsen insisted he was serious this time: "Next year I'm getting an RV and camping on Z street. I'm going to be wearing nothing but a speedo."

BLM Had No Comment: BMOrg founder Larry Harvey and LLC member Marian Goodell were arrested in a surprise SEC/DOJ bust yesterday afternoon for allegedly backdating Burning Man LLC stock options. "I really don't know what the fuck they thought they were doing. It only makes sense to back-date stock options when you're a public company," said Northern California Deputy Attorney Jonathan Screw. "We figured they're just so used to copycat crimes. And man, are they lucky we didn't bring the DEA," Screw added, noting the stench of marijuana and patchouli the agents encountered. OSHA and EPA were also contacted about the tawdry, dust-filled working conditions—*SSM Staff*

Baron Earl's Postmodern Puzzle

One of these things is not like the others,
One of these things just is not the same.



Can you figure out which of these things doesn't belong?

See tomorrow's edition of the Spock Science Monitor for the answer to today's puzzle.
The answer to yesterday's puzzle was "Puzzlin' Evidence."

Hope is for losers

Black Rock City
Transportation Authority

E-Z Pass

INSTRUCTIONS: Clip and affix this pass to your front windshield. It will allow you to drive around traffic jams when entering and departing from Burning Man 2008!

NOTE TO TRAFFIC PERSONNEL: Please allow vehicles bearing this sticker to bypass all overcrowded traffic lanes. Thank you—SSM Staff.

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