

# SPACK SCIENCE MONITOR

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GATE EDITION

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## Housing Bubble Bursts in Black Rock City



**This Esplanade-facing lot, with its own “McMansion”-styled tent, has gone unclaimed despite a discount from the camp’s builders.**

By Dr. Fiasco, Foreign Irrespondent  
& Roper Marc, Chief of Operations

In keeping with this year’s American Dream theme, Black Rock City is seeing its share of abandoned lots and suburban slums, thanks to a housing crunch caused by an abrupt decrease in attendance.

Due to overly optimistic speculation in real estate development in the far suburbs of BRC, the Burning Man corporation is being forced to extend terms of sale and possible even sell properties at steep discounts.

Many people who bought property in BRC expecting ever-increasing ticket prices and attendance now find themselves stuck with properties no one wants. The City’s real estate market has been flooded with vast acres of unsold lots.

To compound the problem, playa developers catering to the burgeoning expectator demographics have built housing units that are now sitting virtually empty.

“It’s a complete washout,” said Dick S. Haul, president of Burners Without Borders, an association of “burnerpreneurs” affected by the real estate crisis, “I have six domes facing open playa and a couple of yurts right on center camp that I

can’t give away for free. That’s it, next year I am going to Ibiza.”

Others, like Divine Summerlove Jones, a raw vegan pagan anarchist co-op worker from Arcata have had to resort to renting space to eurotrash ravers, attracted to the event by the strong Euro, so as to afford the rising cost of paying for his teepee in Black Rock City. “It’s cool man, but I just wish

they hadn’t mistaken my didgeridoo for a sex toy,” said Jones.

Meanwhile, there have been reports that, taking a page from the Beijing Olympics, the Burning Man LLC has been busing vagrants from Reno to Black Rock City to occupy empty lots so as to make less evident the magnitude of the problem and keep investors from panicking. These claims are hard to verify as it is virtu-

ally impossible to distinguish vagrants from your average DPW worker.

So far, the leadership of the Burning Man Corporation has kept quiet. “Larry is away on a South Pacific shellfish-eating tour on his 737 and won’t be landing in the city until a couple of hours before the burn, said spokesperson Marion Goebbels. “He really doesn’t agree with the dust.”

## Man Declared Fire Hazard

Effigy must meet fire safety code, Nevada officials say.

**This year’s Man equipped with sprinkler system.**

By Baron Earl  
Staff Writer

Following last year’s premature burn, the Nevada Department of Public Safety has ruled that the Man must follow the same fire safety building code guidelines used for the construction of three-story-or-higher wooden structures.

“I can’t believe that last year was the first time that the Man burned prematurely,” said state fire inspector Mike Ditwater earlier this year. “I mean, the thing’s a tinderbox. Anything could set it off. An unattended birthday cake with too many candles on it... whoosh. Gone.”

Starting in 2008, the Man will be inspected by a state fire marshal and it must pass inspection prior to the beginning of the festival. If the structure doesn’t pass our inspection it will have to be torn down and rebuilt so that it does pass.

The Black Rock City Corps of Engineers studied their blueprints of the Man and made some adjustments and changes to meet the fire code.

The biggest change this year is the addition of a fire suppression sprinkler system fed by a 50,000 gallon underground water storage tank and fourwater pumps powered by a biodiesel generator.

Sprinkler heads are located on the head (eyes and nose), under the armpits, and on the chest, back, and lower body of the Man.

When asked about the fire inspection, festival organizer Larry Harvey wasn’t fazed. “We built an entire sprinkler system into the Man. We weren’t going to take any chances that something unexpected might happen this year.”

If anyone escapes from a federal institution and tries to burn the man before me, fifty thousand gallons of water will spray from every orifice of the Man and douse the fire. The Man will not burn this year. Not until Saturday night, anyhow.”

When asked if the presence of that much water might inhibit or slow down the burn, Harvey responded “We thought of that too. Just before the burn, we’re going to pump out all of the water and repressurize the system with mono-hydrazine, which is basically rocket fuel.

“That’ll not only help the burn, it will also vaporize the sprinkler system. When it burns, it will Leave No Trace of the sprinkler system,” he added.

You could hear the capital letters in his voice.

### Repopulating Black Rock

*In order to stimulate population growth in downtown Black Rock City, Burning Man LLC has initiated an incentive plan to lure in more residents:*

\*Participants who commit to filling **one city block** will have their shade structures put up by the DPW.

\***Two blocks** gets Lady Bee to come and decorate your camp with beautiful crafts made out of recycled cardboard.

\***Three city blocks** gets Larry Harvey himself to come hang out with you for 10 minutes and pretend he is your friend.

## NEWS ON THE MARCH

**A Burner Tries to Cope with Cash:** A naked blue raver was unable to find, nor even understand, the fiduciary instrument yesterday. "I offered him this beautiful macaroni necklace made by my girlfriend, but he insisted on 'dollar bills' for the shrooms," said Blue Guy, a perplexed burner unable to cope with cash. "I think they have a camp for that near the 9:00 circle."

**Drunk Dude Won't Shut Up About iPhone:** "I really wish my iPhone worked here so I could show you how great it does the email function," said some drunk dude to someone else's feet sticking out of a blanket late Sunday night, deep within the Snuggle-LuvDome TickleTent. "If you shake it, all the spam falls to the bottom of the... the... screen. I was worried about the dust but I think Steve Jobs...I think he probably put Burning Man in his design specs."

**Woman Avoids Playa Foot, Burning Man:** "Every night I spend 45 minutes with each foot in a wool sock dunked in lotion," claims Raida Clarence, of San Leandro, third-time Burner and expert playa-foot-avoider. "In the morning, I buff with pumice stone and massage tops and bottoms with baby oil. All my belongings are stored in waterproof plastic and I vacuum my tent with a Dust Buster three times a day," claimed the proud foot-care specialist. "I don't know what those noises out there are, though," she says, pointing out the door of her tent.

## Green Man Smells Like Pee

By Mr. Bad  
Staff Writer

Burners at the OK Lingerie Corral were surprised by the arrival of a large Green Man at their opening Brassiere Premiere.

"He said, 'I am Certumnus,' but he pronounced it Sayr-toom-noose,' and he made a beeline for the shrimp platter," said Jockstrap JIM, spokesperson for the Corral.

"He was painted all green and he only wore some leaves." "He smelled like pee," interjected a bystander. "Like pee and pot mixed together."

"Yeah," said JIM, "He smelled like a girl had peed in his bong and he'd done bonghits out of it. And he looked like the kind of guy who'd do it, too."

Whereabouts of the Green Man are currently unknown.



Lady Bee has dropped the BMOrg 2008 Arts Plan. Reassemble her words...

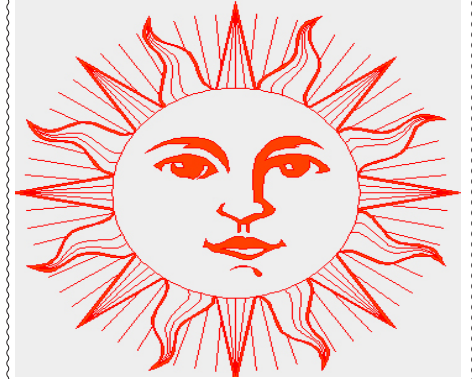
ABOUT  
SHIT  
GET  
UP  
AND  
LET'S  
ART  
THIS  
JUST  
FORGET  
FUCKED

Answer will be in tomorrow's SSM!

## Your Astrology

**Aries:** That thing you were looking for? It is either stuck in the crevice of the front seat of the communal vehicle, or you left it at home, dumbshit.

**Capricorn:** You're going to get laid today. Yeah, we couldn't believe it either.



**Sagittarius:** You will meet someone tonight who looks very much like some great historical figure, perhaps Jacques Brel, but you won't notice the resemblance, as his most distinguishable features will be obscured by a scraggly beard and a tin-foil hat. He will sing songs to you of indescribable loss, but you will blow off the metal-hatted cabaret star look-alike, because you think he looks creepy. Six months later, you will lose your job. The two events are not related.

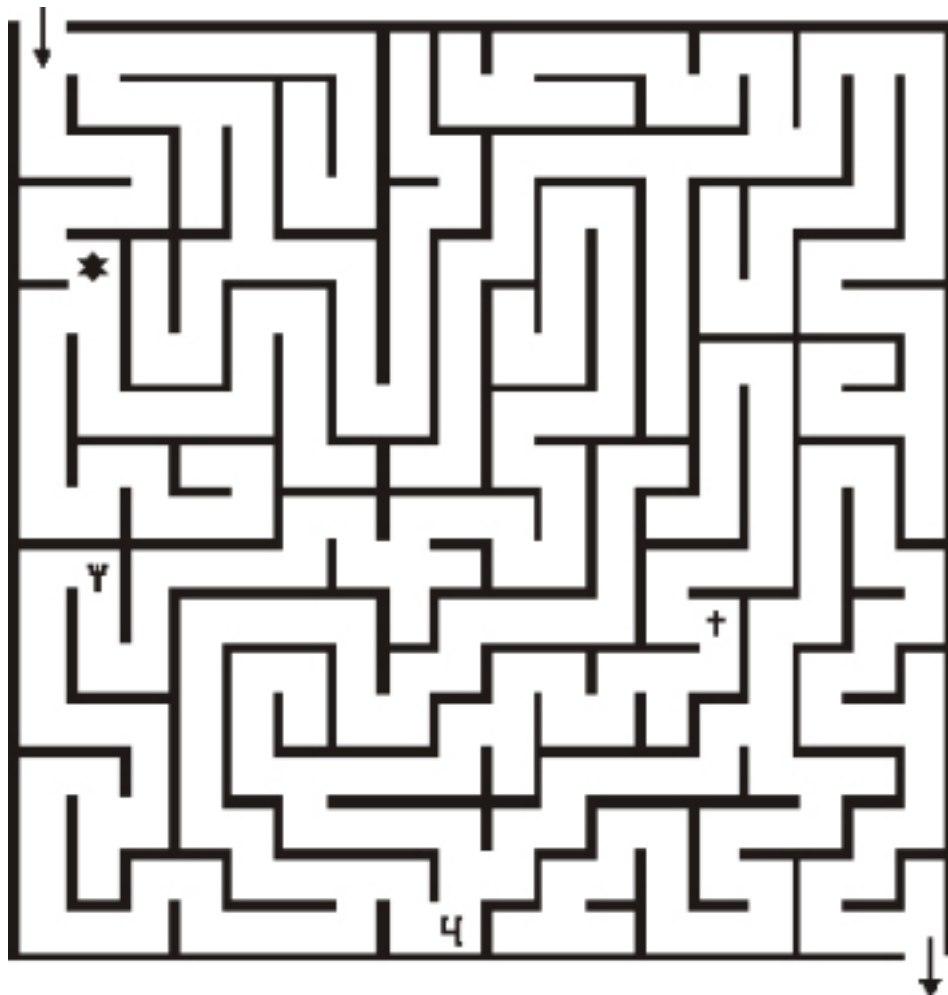
**Taurus:** You need to believe in a God. Any major league deity will do. You do not have the moral fiber to stand up straight against the dust storms of moral relativity, and your wishy-washiness annoys others.

**Virgo:** Today will be hot. Hot, hot hot! And there may be a dust storm or two. But tonight it will cool off and you will hit a few parties.

**Capricorn:** A loved one back home is desperately to reach you, but can not. We caution you against leaving early, however, for once you drive through those gates you will be leaving not only this wonderful hippie arts festival, but also the period of life that decades from now you will fondly regard as your untroubled youth.

## Baron Earl's Postmodern Puzzle

Today's puzzle: Help Cyrus the Great find religious tolerance.



Eres un pabardo grande que come la mierda de los perros!

Check tomorrow's edition of the *Spock Science Monitor* for the answer!  
Answer to yesterday's puzzle: There's a zombie behind you right now.

## Spock Science Monitor

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Publisher ... Captain Winner  
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Spell Checker ... Patient Joab

Printed on a goddamn printer running  
on gasoline and bandaids right here on the  
playa.

Spock Mountain Research Labs  
Allanté and 5:00

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