

## 36 ways to die at Burning Man

Your own stupidity. (See last year's Burning Man.)

Someone else's stupidity. (See last year's Burning Man.)

"Oh shit, I forgot my water."

"Oh shit, I forgot my sunscreen."

Rebar stake impalement.

Drive your car through camp, figuring that noone will mind. After all, it's such a nice car!

"Hi! I'm with *Wired* magazine!"

Put white-gas in the tiki torches.

Fall asleep while trying to get a tan.

"I'm sure that rancher won't mind if we cut across his field."

Running-With-Scissors theme camp

Figure that because you've stopped sweating, that must mean you've properly acclimated yourself to the desert, and can now run around all day without worry.

Plan on doing some gay-bashing.

"Hey! I think I'll try my hand at fire breathing!"

Assume that the rattling sound you hear coming from underneath that bush means that you've found the Super-Secret Burning Man Prize! Grope blindly for it.

"Look, I know that both of you are lesbians, but why not try a real man?"

Figure as long as your pork products are wrapped up in plastic, they'll be just fine without refrigeration.

Wear a t-shirt that says "Fratboy Rule."

"Get out of my way! I'm with the press!"

Asphyxiate yourself on your own vomit.

Jump right into that really steamy hot spring. "Look, it's bubbling just like a hot tub!"

Get a little too friendly with the Man on Sunday night.

Drink those two cans of your home-made white-lightning moonshine that your uncle gave you for the trip.

Buy your body paint at Home Depot in those nifty aerosol cans.

Sleep in your car. Fail to notice when the sun comes up.

Shoot yourself while drunkenly loading that gun you're not supposed to have.

Walk way, way out into the desert. Forget your compass. Remember that the sun rises in the west and sets in the east.

Take a whole bunch of those mushrooms that your friend found growing in his neighbor's yard, the ones he hasn't had time to try out for himself yet.

Get pissed off at that guy with the Harley. Tell him you don't like his bike. Or his jacket either.

Having trouble getting your fire started? Throw some gasoline on it.

Decide your tent needs some atmosphere. Light some candles and place them around inside.

Put on your own fireworks show.

Shoot parachute flares at passing UFOs.

Vodka is no different than water.

Holler "Show us yer tits!" at the Grrrry-Grrrrs performance.

Hang out in the secret haystack room underneath the Burning Man, say, around 8 pm on Sunday night.

— list compiled by Robert Kennedy, Charles Lucas, Adrian Roberts, and Lizard Man



What, you've never seen someone naked before? Stop staring!

## Be nice to naked people

by LIZARD MAN

You have no doubt heard that there is a great deal of **nudity** at Burning Man. This is most **certainly** true. But unless you have been here **before**, or are a regular at naturalist gatherings and nudist beaches, you may not have realized that public nudity cannot occur without **certain** societal implications, or "nudiquette."

A place with **nude** people must, by definition, be a place where people feel comfortable taking their clothes off. **Staring**, leering, shooting photos, and yelling "Hey baby! Show us yer tits!" do not contribute to this environment. So please, **don't** do it. More importantly, if you see someone **else** doing it, please ask them to stop. If you are coming to Burning Man to **ogle**, you have completely missed the point and will probably be run out of camp on a rail by a screaming horde of leather-clad bull dykes, while the rest of us cheer them on.



Is that cream-based make-up?

## Surviving beautifully

by ADRIAN ROBERTS

It gets hot out here. And in case you haven't figured it out, cream-based make-up **usually** doesn't last too long — especially in your make-up bag — in the sweltering desert heat. What's a beautiful **glamour puss** to do?

First of all, if you **did** bring cream-based make-up out here, such as cream foundation, **lip-stick**, or creamy eye color, be sure to put it all in a plastic zip-lock bag and store it in your cooler. There's **nothing** worse than getting ready to **doll** yourself up, only to discover that your favorite lipstick has turned to **mush**.

If however, you're discovering the above safety tip a little too late, rely on **pencils** and powders to do the trick. Thankfully, the desert heat is kinder to these cosmetic tools, allowing one to survive in the desert beautifully. Forget the lipstick and instead, use a lip-liner pencil to color your **kisser** — after putting lip balm on first, of course. The color will stay on longer, and your lips won't feel **gooped-up** either. Powdered eye shadow still works out here, as do eyebrow pencils. **Draw** a bit on your eyelid, then **smear** with your fingertip, to give your lid some color that will remain on despite the heat.

Fortunately, liquid make-up, such as mascara and liquid foundation, also **SURVIVE** the desert environment relatively intact. Be careful with foundation however — you're likely to just **sweat** most of it off, so perhaps it's better to **forego** your usual regimen and just use a light powder instead.

Finally, we can't **STRESS** enough that the most important make-up tip we can offer is to use **sunblock** as a base for everything! But then, you knew that already, didn't you? And whatever you do, **don't** forget the moisturizer! Now go out there and be beautiful!

## Get weird! It's okay!

by LIZARD MAN

There seems to be a lot of **vague** posturing and conceptualizing about participation at Burning Man and how it makes Burning Man so much different from other **mass** "events." But just what are they talking about? Sure, you can wander around the theme camps and get involved, doing **whatever** activities the theme camp planners have come up with for you. It certainly beats standing around **staring** while everybody else has a good time...but maybe you'll still be missing the **point**?

Burning Man is not a festival, it's not an event — it's a **forum**, a place where you are given the freedom to not only **do** whatever you wish (again, assuming you don't interfere with anybody else's good time) but also the freedom to **be** whatever you wish, whether you want to be a six-foot lizard (okay, my personal favorite — see above photo) or the guy in the tutu on the penny-farthing bicycle. Look around you — **everywhere** you look there are creative spirits popping their tops and going all-out — being and doing what "normal" society would chastise them for, just because it's a little too colorful.

Burning Man is an **extrovert's** convention, a place where everybody can let their hair down — or shave it off — hell, they can **burn** it off if they prefer — and appreciate everybody else who's doing the same thing in their own unique way. So don't just stand there and snap pictures — get **weird!** It's okay!

## haiku

Hualapai Playa  
It's smaller than Black Rock Desert  
Will we all fit here?

The *Piss Clear* theme camp  
Large origami around  
Big birds that don't shit

No driving cars here  
No more annoying dust plumes  
Bikes are much better

I asked, "Where's rave camp?"  
They said "There is no rave camp."  
"Come on! No rave camp?"

It's so fucking hot  
Really really really hot  
Boy, it sure is hot!

Piss clear, good advice  
Drink water and lots of it  
Transparent urine

Burning Man, heaven  
Only one thing is missing  
Delivered pizza

Too many theme camps!  
How can I check them all out?  
I know! Clone myself!

Fertility fest  
But what about the gay boys?  
Do they feel left out?

Burning Man haiku  
What is the point of it all?  
Now you're catching on

Sunset on playa  
I piss on his wooden leg  
He will burn slower

— haiku by David Karner, Adrian Roberts, Swirly Rat Jr., Heather Shirkey, and Bryan Finch

## WHAT'S OUT WHAT'S IN

Art cars	Art bikes
Black Rock Rangers	private security guards
blue dining tarps	geodesic domes
Burning Man web sites	Burning Man forum on AOL
Cacophony cocktail party	Bob's beer bash
cross-dressing	genderfuck
dogs	Tamagotchi™
driving around fucked-up	walking around fucked-up
drugs	fasting
fertility	sterility
firearms	Super-Soakers™
gate-crashers	people who paid to get in
gin	absinthe
Idiot Flesh	Beyond Race
Java Cow	Nub Chai
Medevacs	survival of the fittest
mud masks	mud fights
nihilism	orgasm
nudity	body paint
piercings with problems	tattoos with meaning
<i>Piss Clear</i>	<i>Martha Stewart Living</i>
porta-pottys	"holding it in"
<i>Power Bar</i> ™	<i>Clif Bar</i> ™
sarongs	leather bondage gear
showers	Fly Hot Springs
spectators	analysts
spiritual experiences	just getting drunk
Swatch™	Temporal Decomposition
theme camps	villages
yahoos	yahoos who get it

— list compiled by Sister Kitty Catalyst, David Karner, Lizard Man, Stewart McKenzie, Adrian Roberts, Heather Shirkey, and Swirly Rat Jr.



Nambla the Clown loves to play with children!

## BM child-care tips

by PF

Once upon a time, it was pretty **rare** to see children at Burning Man. I mean, seriously, what conscientious, responsible parent is going to subject the trusting, unsullied eyes of their **spawn** to the rampant nudity, arson, destruction, anarchy, and general mayhem typical of Burning Man?

But as the festival gets more popular, and as a **good** portion of BM's original target market of "too-busy-with-my-art-to-even-think-about-kids" hipsters succumb to "last-chance-to-breed" hysteria, it's obvious that the playa has become a playground.

Because we at *Piss Clear* want to **help** make Burning Man a **pleasant** experience for the whole family, here are a few tips for **parents** bringing their **kids** to Black Rock City this year:

Get your kids in for **free** by putting them in the **trunk** while going through the front gate.

If you lose your kid, **don't** worry. Simply go to the Cafe tent in Central Camp and ask to have them **paged**. There should be "white courtesy tele-phones" spread liberally around the playa this year.

Parental Guidance Suggested! The artists that produce so-called "theme camps" can sometimes have disturbing and **unsavory** senses of humor, creating sexual and violent imagery you may not be comfortable allowing your child to see. Thanks to pressure from **concerned-parent** groups, theme camps are now required to display "ratings," denoting sexual or violent content, naughty words, etc., on the entrance to their exhibits. If you see a theme camp **without** a rating, please report them to one of the Black Rock Rangers.

If your **brat** proves to be too much of a **hassle** and you decide you don't want it anymore, stop by the Modest Proposal theme camp to drop the little tyke off. Some campers may be low on **food** and will appreciate the donation.

The desert's **unfamiliar** surroundings can cause some children to break out in hysterical **Crying** fits. Be sure to keep **lots** of duct tape on hand.

Sunday afternoon is the traditional "solitude time" of the weekend, **SO** you'll want to leave your little one near an easy-to-find **landmark**—say, for instance, The Man. Then go off to explore your own **inner child**, and plan to come back around eight o'clock to **regroup**.

So **there** you have it. The staff of *Piss Clear* sincerely hope that you and your **heaven** offspring enjoy Burning Man this year, and that your children don't have any **nasty** accidents.

— list compiled by David Karner, Swirly Rat Jr., Adrian Roberts, and Heather Shirkey

## Bands we'd like to see play at Burning Man

Action Plus+  
Laurie Anderson  
Art of Noise  
Banco De Gaia  
Bjork  
Blue Period  
The Blue Up?  
Sheila Chandra  
Chemical Brothers  
Cibo Matto  
Crash Worship  
Enrique  
Giant Robot II  
Angelique Kidjo  
Lamb  
Loop Guru  
Malocoda  
Negativland  
Oranj Symphonette  
Orbital  
Bob Ostertag  
Ozric Tentacles  
Pugs  
Soul Coughing  
Tangerine Dream  
This Ascension  
White Zombie

— list compiled by Lizard Man, Argyre Patras, Adrian Roberts, and Michael Zeiner

## Bands we'd like to see at Burning Man, but only if they played in the middle of the playa with no shelter or water for three days straight

Ass Ponys  
Blue Period  
Blues Traveller  
Bon Jovi  
Boys II Men  
Bush  
Sheryl Crow  
En Vogue  
Everclear  
Sammy Hagar  
Hootie & the Blowfish  
Insecto  
Leftover Salmon  
Manhattan Transfer  
Dave Matthews Band  
Alanis Morissette  
No Doubt  
Oasis  
Phish  
Snoop Doggy Dogg  
Spice Girls  
Barbara Streisand  
John Tesh  
Third Eye Blind  
Three Day Stubble  
The Verve Pipe  
Yanni

— list compiled by David Karner, Swirly Rat Jr., Adrian Roberts, and Heather Shirkey

## Bitch bitch bitch about Burning Man

by STEWART MCKENZIE

If you recall my ramblings from one of last year's issues of *Piss Clear*, you'll remember my **brilliant** reflections on why I wasn't going to Burning Man. But indeed, I actually **did** go last year — just to **spite** you all!

This year however, I promise I won't be there. **Really**. However, I thought I'd **share** with you my experiences from last year that made Burning Man **especially** enjoyable for me. Something that many of you probably weren't up to.

Yes, in many ways it was the **perfect** plan. Adrian, the editor of this esteemed rag, managed to **convince** me—long after I had convinced myself of the opposite — that I was going to Burning Man. Now **mind** you, I was completely relaxed, and content to stay put in San Francisco last Labor Day weekend. Then, **three** days before the event, Adrian broke me down and convinced me to go. Besides, as it turned out, I was the best driver for the **Scary** rental RV.

But it ended up being good for me — because going up incognito was the **best** thing. On top of that, we camped way out in the 'burbs, where it was quiet and pleasant! I was on vacation from Burning Man, at Burning Man. Fuck it all, dude.

Now of course, while I was having this **bitchin'** keen time out in the Black Rock boondocks, there were still **way** too many people getting wasted beyond control — driving over tents and **causing** all sorts of general **brouhaha**. I was removed from the majority of it, but reading about it after coming home didn't exactly make me do **somersaults**. "Burning Man is finished," said conventional wisdom. "Everyone's gonna get **sued**."

Yet Burning Man has survived. Granted, it has to be done a bit differently this year. But I'm sure that in **many** ways, it will still be the same old Burning Man. I'm starting to **realize** that Burning Man is no different from any other festival or gathering of the tribes. It presents an image of anarchy and creative expression, in a setting of unquestioned emptiness and beauty — and people, desperate for a sense

## Bitter love

by DAN BITTER

Hey Breeder!

My friend Alice told me you can use playa dust as a contraceptive, but she didn't tell me whether you're supposed to apply it or ingest it.

Have you heard of this? And how much should I use?

Hey U:

You stupid girl. If you **really** want to make a contraceptive out of playa dust, mix three parts dust with one part water and then **dam** yourself up. Neither *Piss Clear* nor myself will be responsible for ensuing bodily injury.

Hey Breeder!

I think Burning Man is **hotter** than Brad Pitt. Can I have sex with him before he burns?

— *Burning For The Man*

Hey BFTM:

I was as **surprised** as the rest of you when I went last June to the *Mysteria* Burning Man benefit at the SOMAR Gallery in San Francisco, to **discover** that the project organ-

## We love kids! Even raw!

by LIZARD MAN

There are people wondering whether Burning Man is an appropriate **environment** for children. While I personally see nothing **wrong** with small children being exposed to public nudity, flamboyant homoeroticism, and large-scale **acts** of destruction, I know fully grown adults who have freaked out — while totally sober — over the **sheer** quantity of malevolent, sinister, destructive energy poured out at Burning Man. This is an integral part of the Burning Man **mythos** — after all, if we don't **destroy** stuff, we won't be **forced** to build new stuff for next year — but it's somewhat a **heady** concoction to give to children, especially since there is **no** escaping it: the sound and fury are all around, and most who sleep at Burning Man do so only when thoroughly exhausted. In the daytime, a **carnival** atmosphere prevails. But at night, the **monsters** come out.

## classifieds and personals

### STUMBLE-IN THEATER CAMP

Each show begins at 9 pm.

THURSDAY: *The Dark Side of Oz*—Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon* as the soundtrack to *The Wizard of Oz*. Other surprises likely. FRIDAY: *Saturday Morning at Burning Man*—Everyone must wear their pajamas and bring their favorite bowl of cereal for a special retrospective of when Saturday Morning ruled. SATURDAY: *Christmas at Burning Man*—Our very special Xmas presentation.

### THE REFERENCE DESK

Autodictad Polymaths will answer any question on any topic. Reach us on CB Channel 13 or at Camp Odisisique.

### FREE BEER!

Budweiser longnecks — Luke-warm. Come to FAT FRAT BOY CAMP. Willing to trade large quantity for freon charge.

### TENSE? STRESSED OUT?

Need some friendly, trained, experienced hands to fix that aching back/neck/etc? Fill your pockets with bribes and chocolate and drag your poor self over to CHOCOLATE BARTER MASSAGE CAMP, part of the Four-Sided Camp, next to Oasis Camp.

### SEXY SF BI COUPLE SEEK BOY TOY FOR FUN & GAMES

Cool, sassy girl, 26, and cute gender-bent femme tranny, 27, looking for cute, non-smoking SF bi male in 20s. We're into lite S/M, fetishwear, intelligent chat, knowing looks. Interested? E-mail: HMS1997@aol.com

### WANNA BE IN THE RECORDING INDUSTRY?

Stop by the FREQUENCY PUBLICA camp in Center Camp and get on the air! Bring your music, your poetry, even your mom and get on the air. Time slots are open now. Public Access Radio — 91.5 FM

### BLACK ROCK TRAVEL AGENCY

Your Gateway to the Big Empty. VIP service. Custom tours. Unspoiled & uncrowded hot springs. Morning bath run. Playa foot care. Face & body painting. Mist station. *Relax, unwind, get outta Dodge*. Reservations recommended. Open early — closed by dusk. Look for the signs. Mention this ad.

### HELP WANTED — OVER THERE

Those guys over there building that strange thingamajig with the stuff sticking out of it could sure use a couple of hands holding things steady while they bolt in the last pieces. And those people two camps over need a little help getting their awning under control. Need a sledgehammer? Those folks with the rainbow-painted RV have one you can borrow. I understand they need assistance finishing off that keg of homebrew they brought — unless somebody can fix their fridge for them.

See those dopes over there in backwards baseball caps? Yeah, those guys sitting on the tailgate of their red pickup. They've been sitting there quaffing Bud together all weekend, blasting



Stewart's not here this year. Really.

of community and bored with the sameness of First World culture, come in droves. It attracts wonderful people from all over the country. It attracts suburbanites and college crowds and urban dwellers in search of "meaning" and "freedom." It attracts opportunists looking to make a **fuck** or to experience a temporary feeling of power found lacking in their normal surroundings. And it attracts crooks, vagrants, and scoundrels looking only for amusement and tomfoolery.

Like it or not, Burning Man is not about survival. At its most **extreme**, it's about projecting our God-fearing, red-blooded, American values of waste, greed, and debauchery on an empty canvas of dust and air. And at its most innocent, it's an **escape** valve from the societal rules that bear down on us daily.

Many of us want to return to the innocent model of Burning Man from years long past, but find it impossible — we've "let" too many people know about our Own Personal Valhalla. If Burning Man is to **continue**, either it must end and begin in a fresh vein — a new setting, a new **focal** point, a new organization. Either that, or its members must teach the experience of Burning Man to the newbies and the day-trippers. **What** is that experience? You know the **mantras**: You must be prepared. **Sharing** is good. Inhibitions are banned. Learning is crucial. You must be responsible for your actions. Yadda yadda yadda.

For those that made the journey this year into a new setting, I **congratulate** you. You are all ushering in a new era of Burning Man. If the foundations you set this year are sound, I'll be **sure** to see you next year. Because we all deserve our own community and a good time. And because there's just **something** about driving a **million** hours out into the middle of nowhere, where you and all your possessions can get covered with **dust**, a half-inch thick... just so you can feel like a **human being** again.

Stewart McKenzie is the former editor of the Black Rock Gazette, and a future mayoral candidate of Black Rock City.



izers had given ol' BM a big hard prick. I've always opined that even though the structure is called Burning Man, it's pretty much understood to be non-gender-specific.

Or at least it **used** to be. Now he's got a dick and he's gonna use it, in a grand, **twisted** fertility ritual that, on the **surface**, seems to empower women, but really only empowers heterosexual women who want to get **knocked up**.

Anyway, to answer your question, probably not, unless your desired receiving **orifice** is very, **VERY** flexible. And you never even said whether you were a boy or a girl.

There are many people and things you can have **SEX** with before the Man burns, but he isn't one of them. I do believe, however, that you can have sex with what's **left** of him the next morning, if that's your thing. Good luck.

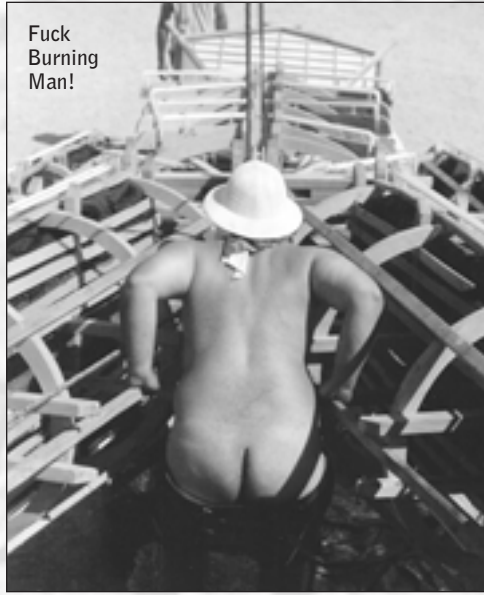
Confidential to L. Harvey:

Keep it in your pants. I'm straight, remember?

— *Unsure*

Got a question for Dan Bitter?

Keep it to yourself, asshole.



Fuck Burning Man!

RENO RECHARGE

Extend your B-Man trip even longer next year. Take a chartered party train from Oakland to Gerlach and back! Drink and ingest in safety, in numbers, dance to the DJ's! Train to Burning Man in 1998. Call for details at 415-28