

OUT / IN

Table listing various Burning Man items categorized as 'out' or 'in', such as 'abstinence quickies', 'bacon Morningstar Farms bacon strips', etc.

Best drug guide ever

by APOLLO
Years ago, back when Burning Man didn't suck, there was this publication called Piss Clear, full of snarky insight about stuff the official information distributors wouldn't touch.

Why I don't do drugs out here
There are a lot of reasons I don't "do drugs" in Black Rock City. One is paranoia.

Another reason, frankly, is my own personal phobia about loss of control. Black Rock City is an amazing, mind-bending, bizarre, and often dangerous environment all on its own.



one long enough for a hook-up - hope you're sober enough to remember condoms.

Marijuana: Irony of ironies, pot is the most benign of illegal substances - less dangerous than booze by any objective measure and yet the easiest for the cops to detect and bust you for.

LSD: Another perennial fave. Can you say "overstimulation"? Acid is about opening people's brains up and making them say "Wow" - which is exactly the same thing that Burning Man does.

Mushrooms: A gentler trip than acid with a shorter duration, and, so I've heard - having never actually done mushrooms, all you prospective employers - far more likely to plug one into a spiritual plane of existence than any other drug you're likely to find outside of the Amazon rainforest.

Speed: Can you say "instant asshole"? I knew you could. Another popular substance among the folks who need to keep going, and going, and going and...

Heroin: Just because I'm at peace with the idea of mortality doesn't mean I've got a fucking death wish. Not that you see it that much at Burning Man - not many users can get their shit together to handle the playa for a week.

Nitrous: Suck a balloon, head rattle, giggle, fall down, rinse, lather, repeat. Don't see the appeal. Must be a hippie thing.

Cocaine: Much celebrated, much maligned, and way too expensive. "You have too much money" is a message God has never seen fit to send my way.

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Your BRC soundtrack

by DELACHAUX
Daytime
Avoid Center Camp. Center Camp is not the place to go to in the daytime.

Get on your bike and go hit some day parties, which are kind of the last refuge for house music. As in the Default World, it used to be that house music's ubiquitous drone out here was inescapable.

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BALSAMAN logo and event information for Burning Man.

Getting playasexual

by POLLY SUPERSTAR
There's nothing quite like the sight of a bunny giving a pirate a blowjob on an art car as it rolls past your camp on a lazy afternoon.



Exploring your sexuality can be a scary thing to do, what with so much cultural pressure to conform.

When people leave the safety of their familiar environment, they step out like brave pioneers onto this cracked, baked landscape and experience a sense of freedom.

When you're young, before we have a chance to make up our own minds about how we feel about things, we are like sponges; children can absorb ideas, habits, and phobias which are not necessary to their survival.

When little Billy touches his peepie, he is told by his parents that he is dirty and bad, when Bill, the big hunky guy, decides to play dress-up and puts on his pirate costume, it's his opportunity to make up his own mind about how he feels about his cock and what he wants to do with it.

Slow the fuck down

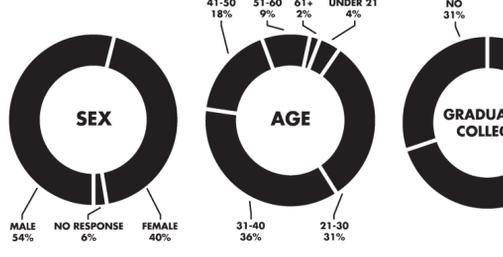
by WHELPLEY
Ohmygod!msoexcitedlovethis songandlookathoselasersand-holy shit!thetheacidkickingand!

Whoa there. Hold on a second. Just stop right where you are. Take a breath. Starting at your belly, fill your lungs, all the way up to your chest.

So it's like this: you're at the world's greatest buffet. Everything you've ever wanted to eat is laid out before you, and you've got a whole week to enjoy it.

Even if you had the ability to relive each day here a hundred times, a thousand times, a million times over, you will still never be able to do, see, and fuck everything there is here. More

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS



Metropolis in Flux continued from cover

Yet if the temple design bucks the Metropolis theme, the massive collaboration that created it epitomizes the urban ideal that Black Rock City is all about these days.

Since 2004, I've had regular conversations with Burning Man founder Larry Harvey about what Burning Man was becoming during those renaissance years, when the population exploded, the art became truly amazing, and the culture took on a life of its own.

As the country continued its descent into empire and crass consumerism, Larry chose art themes intended to guide the event toward greater sociopolitical relevance: Hope and Fear in 2006, The Green Man in 2007, American Dream in 2008, and

LINGO



but showing those signs of wear - that's when you go for some recovery time.

Eat. Food is not just a fuel to keep you raving longer - it's an experience to be savored on its own. Put some love into preparing it (even if you're just reheating a Tasty Bite). Sit down. Chew it, taste it, enjoy it. Let it become a part of you.

Have you just made a new friend on the playa? Why not trying making a deep connection, instead of chit-chatting for a while, then losing track of them at the next dance camp?

Burning Man's a river, and you've only got a cup to drink it with. Slow down and accept the situation, and you'll be a lot happier.

blue room bolt ditching an unwanted companion while they're inside a porta-potty
blue lounge a camp's own private porta-potty
douchebag camp a camp with a wall of RVs against the street, separating themselves away from the rest of the city
darkard an idiot who doesn't wear lights at night - also called a "target"
faffing fucking around for fucking forever - what your campmates do when you're trying to get somewhere
Gatestapo slang term for gate staff
gay skirt slang term for a Utilikit
golfer self-important Burning Man staff member driving around in an undecorated golf cart
Hot Topic Dome slang for Death Guild Thunderdome ... so last year
miracle worker a leech at Will Call begging for a free Burning Man ticket
playa points BRC equivalent of "good karma"
shirtcunting the female version of "shirtpoking" - when a girl wears a top but with no bottoms ... tres tragic
sit-downers those assholes at the Burn who bum everyone out by constantly yelling "sit down!"
sleepor camps camps that reserve "theme camp placement" in an effort to secure playa real estate, but ultimately have little to no interactivity - it's just a place for them to camp
sobriolito the "pretend drug" you say you're on when taking a night off from imbibing any alcohol or other substances
sparkle pony high-maintenance playa princess who looks cute in furry leg warmers and hot pants, but who doesn't actually do anything to help around camp
speed bumps darktards laying on the playa at night

Contibutors: Adrian Roberts, Eric "ShutterSlut" Stein, JohnJohn

people said was unachievable: we got Americans out of their cars."
At first, Burning Man was just a scene, without rules or a prescribed ethos. But as it grew and a culture organically developed around it, Larry said that some rules and structure became necessary, both to deal with the logistics of such a large event, and to convey to newcomers what the culture was about in order to maintain and spread it.

"We didn't start out with gift-giving as dogma. It was just natural human behavior," Larry told the group. Everyone brought something, more than they would need, so that they could share it with the group. Performing and making art was warmly encouraged and appreciated. There was great tolerance for even the freakiest lifestyles and forms of expression. People picked up after themselves.

And eventually, this lifestyle was enshrined as an overt ethos expected of attendees, conveyed to newbies on the Burning Man website as the "10 Principles": Radical Inclusion, Gifting, Decommodification, Radical Self-Reliance, Radical Self-Expression, Communal Effort, Civic Responsibility, Leaving No Trace, Participation, and Immediacy.

"We said to everyone that you can basically live by the ethos that guides Bohemians," Larry said. And that ethos then helped shaped the culture that formed up around the event. Or, as he told the SPUR crowd, "The whole city is an engine for producing culture."

Beyond the playa
And now that this urban culture has matured, it has manifested in interesting ways in communities around the world, from the disaster relief and community building of Burners Without Borders, to the vast networks of regional events and art collectives.

"There is a movement underlying the decentralization and creation of new centers," Larry said. "Something new is emerging."

The Temple of Flux is a manifestation of that, a project seeking to spawn many more projects and grow the culture through the non-profit it is forming, a pathway that Larry said the Black Rock City LLC is also now pursuing. Because now, Black Rock City is increasingly being seen as just one more manifestation of the Burning Man culture.

"I have this idea that they are trying to explode very slowly and be something that spreads out and becomes many other things, instead of just this one thing," Rebecca said. "And I think that would be healthy."

Scribe, aka Steven T. Jones, is the City Editor of the San Francisco Bay Guardian.

