

BRC WEEKLY

BLACK ROCK CITY'S INDEPENDENT NEWSWEEKLY · AUG 25 – SEPT 2 · 2019 · ISSUE 10

From the
makers of
*pliss
clear*

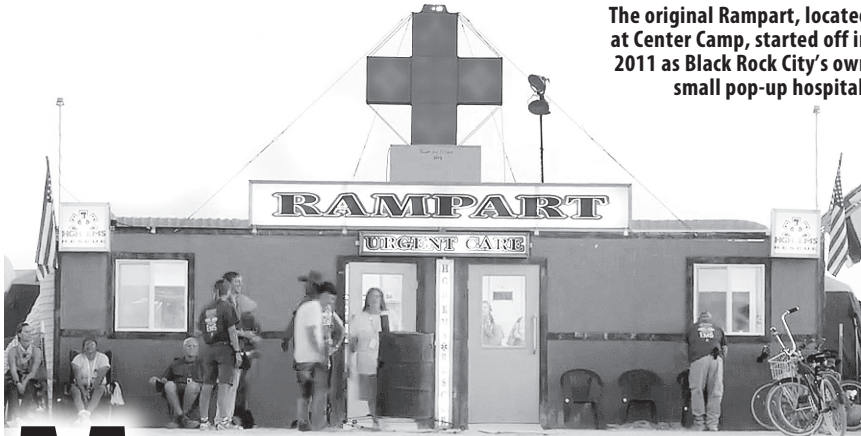
If you ever have the misfortune of being a patient at Rampart, the Burning Man hospital, you might notice a culture shift as soon as you enter – that is, after the fantastic yellow-shirted volunteer Emergency Services Department has determined that whatever condition you're in is serious enough to warrant moving you from the ESD "medical tent" to being treated by the red-shirted on-playa paid Rampart staff. It's a hospital that has morphed over the years, along with Burning Man itself, to become something a bit different from how it began.

In 2011, the local hospital in Winnemucca – Humboldt General Hospital (HGH) – was the first to offer hospital services on the playa. But four years later, HGH lost the contract and now CrowdRx, a festival medicine vendor based in New York City, runs Rampart. They were rumored to be the lowest bidder. The *Reno Gazette-Journal* reported in 2015 that CrowdRx announced they would "hire as many Silver State employees as it can." And that "Nevada residents with Burning Man experience would be given hiring preference over those who were out-of-state."

Not exactly a "local" clinic

Despite this, CrowdRx managed to have so few residents on staff from the Medical Schools of the University of Nevada (both Reno and Las Vegas) that the following year, the Burning Man organization (BMorg) understood the impact of this oversight enough to include this requirement in their next contract. However, to this day, most of the medical residents are from New York City.

"They were all wondering why I had my hair like this," says Reno resi-



The original Rampart, located at Center Camp, started off in 2011 as Black Rock City's own small pop-up hospital.

MEDICAL ALERT

Should an out-of-touch & out-of-state corporation really be running Rampart, Burning Man's hospital?

by BLOWTORCH

dent Sparkle Nurse* (*names changed due to request of anonymity) as she gestured to her colorful yarn braids. The culture clash between the NYC-based staff and burners has been such a problem that CrowdRx is claiming to offer "cultural in-servicing" for its staff this year. But which is a higher priority? Recruiting medical staff from within the burner community, or recruiting from elite medical establishments who then must get a crash-course in burner culture in order to indoctrinate them?

"It's good for them, they loosen up," said Nurse Anonymous* about the out-of-state residents. When asked if it was good for the patients though, she only replied, "I see what you're saying."

Some Nevada medical professionals claim that if Rampart has shifts without local doctors, poor decisions are more likely in the extreme Black Rock Desert environment, with high consequences. Simply "orienting" doctors from other states as a remedy is both naive and dangerous. Visiting doctors are valuable and certainly a part of the community, but expertise of local systems is lacking.

"This is not an inner-city ER," says Dr. Amazing*, a local legendary emergency physician who has worked at Rampart since it began. "We are in a frontier setting within a rural locale, caring for patients with special needs. The lack of medical leadership last year was palpable. It was disorganized and dangerous. A lot of data was lost. A lot of patients left crying."

"We need this now"

Dr. Bledsoe, a clinical professor of emergency medicine at the University of Nevada School of Medicine and the medical director of Rampart for the three years prior to the CrowdRx takeover, gifted a detailed list of what supplies were necessary for the pop-up hospital. "They would need 380 suture kits for the event," says Dr. Bestever*, a prominent local physician who has worked at Rampart for over a decade. "CrowdRx brought one. And one drawer of medications with one bottle of Cipro (an antibiotic) in it. And no speculum." She was scandalized. "This is a problem. We need this now." continued on the inside ►

INSIDE:

10 years of "cultural course correcting"

Burning Man needs to take a year off

Your gift is garbage

Placement is coming, look busy!

Burning Man Bingo!

Consent:
The 11th Principle

Malderer returns!

10 playa gifts that don't suck

Overheard in BRC

Out/In List & Lingo

Help deliver the BRC Weekly!

The BRC Weekly needs volunteers to deliver this newspaper. If you'd like to help, please stop by our offices at 6:45 Rod's Ring Road, which is basically at 6:00 & Diana.

Look for the dome and RVs with the big BRC Weekly logos. We usually have a couple boxes of newspapers at the front of the camp next to the red newspaper box. If it's early in the morning, we might still be sleeping, so just grab a stack of papers and go to town! It's a great way to meet people! Take all you want, but deliver all you take! Thanks, BRC!

10 years of "cultural course correcting"

by ADRIAN A ROBERTS

This past February, Marian Goodell, CEO of the Burning Man Project, posted an article to the Burning Man web site which swiftly made the rounds, setting the burner com-

munities abuzz. It was entitled "Cultural Course Correcting: Black Rock City 2019," and in it, Marian wrote, "Lately, participants have been talking about some alarming changes in the culture of Burning Man in Black Rock City, and their speculation as to who and what is causing them."

This left us here at the *BRC Weekly* scratching our heads.

What's the first word of that sentence? "Lately." Um... practically everything she wrote about are things we've been bitching about since 2010, when we first launched this newspaper – yes, this is *BRC Weekly's* tenth year! But before that, under our previous moniker *Piss Clear* (as in the classic BRC survival tip, "drink enough water so you piss clear") we published 13 years and 34 issues' worth of articles that "talked about some alarming changes in the culture of Burning Man." That's not "lately."

Your editor, delivering newspapers to Center Camp in the morning



This week at the BRC Weekly camp

6:45 Rod's Ring Road / 6:00 & D

Morning Coffee & Newspaper

Every morning, Monday thru Friday around 10 AM-12 noon

Join us in the morning for a free cup of joe to wash down our salty newspaper!

BRC Weekly & Heavy Petting Zoo Distribution Field Trip

Monday, 1:30-4:15 PM

Join us as we ride around on the Heavy Petting Zoo art car, distributing newspapers to the masses. 1:15 PM pickup at the *BRC Weekly* camp.

Playa Lingo Brainstorming Workshop with YaYa

Tuesday, 2-3 PM

Help YaYa come up with "playa lingo" – unique terms for things at Burning Man.

Piss Clear book reading with editor Adrian Roberts

Wednesday, 3-4 PM

For 13 years, from 1995-2003, *Piss Clear* was THE alternative newspaper in BRC, and it's been anthologized into a book, *Burning Man Live*. Editor Adrian Roberts reads selected highlights from this legendary publication.

BRC Weekly Meet-&Greet Cocktail Party

Thursday, 4-7 PM

Meet the writers & staff of the *BRC Weekly* newspaper while sipping on cocktails and listening to pop mashups! Pitch us story ideas for next year!

Say It... In German!

Friday, 2-3 PM

Classic cuss words, ordering beer, long-ass composite words & more! Hosted by Jupiter Gatling and Dr. Slaw.

Intro to Wook Fishing 101

Saturday, 12-1 PM

Comprehensive, hands-on introduction to the world of wooks and how to catch them. Hosted by DJ Tyme aka Doug.

Nobody actually reads this thing

Okay, so we've discovered that none of the higher-ups in BMorg actually read our stupid little newspaper. Otherwise, how does one explain THIS: right at the beginning of the article, Marian tells the story of an older burner who had been consistently denied rides on art cars, due to the discriminatory policies of many mutant vehicles, relating how this burner had been told "you're not pretty enough," and "we're only picking up hot girls right now."

In other words, EXACTLY the SAME cover story we published SIX YEARS AGO, in 2013, entitled "Are you hot enough to get on my art car?" and subtitled, "The encroaching douchiness of certain Black Rock City mutant vehicles threatens 'radical inclusion.'"

But despite us publishing 25,000 copies of this newspaper each year, apparently Marian never read it, because this sort of behavior was obviously brand-new to her. She professed to have been "really struck" by this and how it "broke [her] heart." "This isn't Burning Man," she wrote.

Except that it is. And it has been. For years now.

Which proves something I've been thinking about for a while: I don't think the Burning Man organizers actually go to the same festival that you and I and thousands of other burners go to. And yeah, we need some sort of witty "Playa Lingo" term for the fact that First Camp is the ivory tower of Black Rock City.

Blow the whistle

Anyway, while it's laudable that BMorg is finally taking notice of some of these cultural issues in BRC, we've been blowing the whistle on these things since we began publishing back in 1995, which, frankly, is our job as an independent newsweekly in the 4th largest city in Nevada (well, this week anyway).

Here's another example of how we've been trying to "course correct" Burning Man long before "course correction" became a thing. Later in her article, Marian talks about the issue of "turnkey camps," another case of Burning Man dealing with something "too little, too late." BMorg only started dealing with these camps in 2015 – four years AFTER we ran our cover story "VIP in BRC," an insider's look at a "plug-n-play" camp that catered to rich people willing to pay for a chartered and curated Burning Man experience, which included pimped-out golf carts and a Michelin-rated chef preparing meals.

There's no doubt that ever since Burning Man started selling out tick-

ets in 2011, the nature of the event has changed into a "bucket list" item for many people unfamiliar with the unique culture we've spent years building. We try to help these "burgins" get acculturated to our bizarre little city. And if you're one of them, reading this newspaper right now for the first time, well... thanks for reading and welcome to Black Rock City!

As usual, this year's issue is chock full of insightful community ideas, cultural criticism, and editorial pleas for change. Because we love Burning Man HARD. That's why our pages seem like a dose of "tough love" (mixed with snark, of course.)

Join us for cocktails on Thursday!

If you enjoy our little snark fest of a newspaper, then come join us at our *BRC Weekly*

Meet-&Greet Cocktail Party, which is on Thursday from 4-7pm at our camp at 6:45 Rod's Road, aka the Bermuda Triangle of Black Rock City. Rod's Road gets a little confusing, so let's just say we're near 6:00 & D and look for the *BRC Weekly* dome!

If you want more reading material for your trips to the porta-potty, we also have BACK ISSUES. And don't forget to BRING US ALL THE STICKERS for the inside of our RV. Come say hi!

Just remember, despite all our bitching here in the *BRC Weekly*, we still love being here at Burning Man, in Black Rock City, the greatest city on Earth... this week. See you out on the playa, you dusty bishes! BRC

ADRIAN A



BRC: The pinnacle of pointlessness

by MALDEROR



So, the “default world” is kinda fucked up right now. Did you notice? That massive orange shit-gibbon has kids in cages, the ice caps are melting way faster than we thought, fascism is sweeping the globe, and bumblebees can’t find enough of each other to fuck. I can’t even open Twitter without a **chilled bottle of Royal Gate vodka within arm’s reach and an IV drip of Xanax.**

Wait, am I bringing you down? Did you come out here to **Big Larry’s Dusty Dirt Rave** to try to get away from it all? Did you plan to **snort a bunch of molly off some stranger’s tumescent wang** to help you forget about the horrors of modern American society? (Or, hey, maybe you’re **smoking DMT out of a rusty Mag-lite** to avoid thinking about Brexit? We’re international!) You’ve probably spent the last week riding around on toadstool art cars, eating **mayonnaise-and-meth sandwiches**, and looking for that **Orgy Dome** you read about one time in *Cosmo*. You’re having the time of your life, and you don’t want to have to think about the world being a **dystopian hellscape**. Or, god forbid, the upcoming year-end-change of the 2020 election cycle. Trust us, here at *Piss-Clear* the *BRC Weekly*, we get it! **We like to come to THIS dystopian hellscape for FUN!**

But what if this is all bullshit?

Of course, Burning Man is supposed to provide an outlet, an **artistic spark**, so you can go face the rest of your mundane work-year feeling refreshed and alive. We understand you want to go home and bring some of those fresh **playa-positive vibes** back to your humdrum day job writing code, so you can make some mega-rich white dude mega-richer. (I refer to my own visit to Black Rock City as **hitting the reset button on my positivity!** Can you tell?)

But, hear me out for a second... what if everything we’re doing out here, everything we’re building and making and setting ablaze... what if it’s all helping out **“the other side.”** This is a major “countercultural” event, and people spend millions of dollars, millions of gallons of fossil fuels, and god knows how many man-hours of labor, just to build some bullshit that we all set on fire. If George Bush (the first one) had to dream up something pointless for the

’90s hippies and punks of the **“alternative nation”** to go waste their lives on, he couldn’t have done much better than dreaming up Burning Man. **“Drive ten hours out into the desert, spend all your vacation time and disposable income, and set it all the fuck on fire. Then drive home.”**

Don’t we have better things to do?

I’ve personally spent tens of thousands of dollars on art projects and infrastructure for my village over the years. (And I’m glad I did. **Fandango village rocks! Come by for a beer bong!**) But having every burner work three jobs to cover their credit card payments is frickin’ IDEAL for our corporate overlords. You can’t be out at a workers rights protest if you have to cover your shift down at the Amazon Warehouse. You can’t make any headway on your student loan debts if you and your friends spend \$15,000 converting a smoke-belching ’60’s city bus into a **giant puffer-fish with LED lighting and a secret sparkle pony steam-room.**

And I’m not just talking about the financial frivolity. You can’t be smashing the state if you’re too busy power-washing your shade-cloth or **vajazzling your bike**. People with grand visions and grand ideas have been encouraged to cart them all out here, to this open canvas we call “the Playa”, and then to destroy them. The goal here is to literally **“leave no trace”** of whatever art they create. I used to think this was a beautiful, ephemeral thing. Now I’m wondering if it isn’t **the embodiment of consumer culture.**

What if all these artists built these “chapels” and “circuses” back in their podunk hometowns, and left them there for the kids to see? For the kids to play with, and be inspired by? What if instead of **transitory, flammable art**, we spent our energies on structures that lasted. What if we built our Temples

out of permanent brick, instead of temporary wood? Or, call me crazy, **what if we spent our energies on actual societal change?**

I know, I know, *BRC Weekly* is supposed to **bring the snark**. Our job is lightweight porta-potty reading and maybe a drug guide (*Editor’s note: Sorry, not this year!*). We’re not supposed to bring up **real shit back in the “default world.”**

Take this shit OFF the playa

But the time we spend pleasuring ourselves in the desert is time we could be organizing, inspiring, and creating change back in that ‘real’ world. **Temporary utopias don’t mean shit if they get (literally) ground into the dust by an outside bureaucracy and a mandatory police presence.**

So, without sounding like a frickin’ hippie, **take this spark**. Take whatever it is you came here for, and go home again with it. Go vol-

unteer at your local food bank. Talk to a stranger. Go support your local music scene instead of the latest Transformers movie. Go visit your local veteran’s hospital or an old folk’s home instead of your next speed-dating session. Build a sculpture of frick-in’ Baphomet on your courthouse lawn. Start your own local chapter of **“Handjobs for the Homeless.”** Support the art and theater in your own community that your normcore friends think is “weird” and “queer” and “underground.”

All this positivity and the good intention you have now? Take it OFF the playa. **Go make a difference in the actual real fucking world.** Otherwise, the greatest trick the devil ever played will have been convincing us, all of us, that Burning Man ever meant a goddamned thing.

But, you know, whatever. I hear this is the last year for the event anyway. BRC

Burning Man Bingo

compiled by ADRIAN A ROBERTS
illustrated by JUPITER GATLING

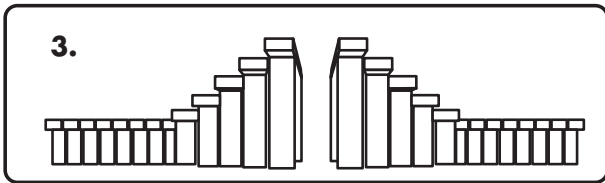
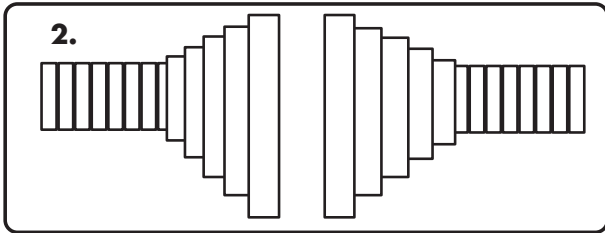
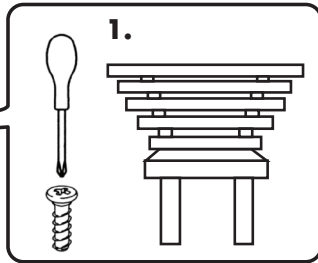
 Instagram Model Photo Shoot	 Ugly Homemade Burning Man Necklace	 Fire Spinning	 Clean Porta-Potty	 DJ Spinning For Zero People
 Noisy Generator	 Someone You Don't Want To See Naked	 Tutu Tuesday	 Asshole On A Megaphone	 Burning Art Piece
 2nd Degree Sunburn	 Water Bottle Covered in Stickers	 Shirtcocker	 Billionaire Turnkey Camp	 Cuddle Puddle
 Utilikilt with Actual Tools	 Total Whiteout	 Super Pimped-Out Bicycle	 Playa Wedding	 Fake Fur Boot Covers
 Sunrise Over The Mountains	 Sparkle Pony	 Skydiver Landing	 Native American Feather Headdress	 BRC Weekly Headquarters

Play Burning Man Bingo: Take a photo of each item you find. A complete line-up of 5 items creates a “Bingo!” Come to the *BRC Weekly* offices at 6:45 Rod’s Road between 10am-7pm with photo documentation (on your mobile phone or digital camera) to claim your prize! And if you find all 25 items, you can win a *Burning Man Live* book, signed by editor Adrian Roberts (while supplies last).



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BLACK ROCK CITY 2019



eggchairsteve 2019

SAN FRANCISCO · LOS ANGELES · SEATTLE · NEW YORK CITY
BLACK ROCK CITY'S MASHUP PARTY
OUR 14TH YEAR!



BOOTIE MASHUP DJs: ADRIAN A · TYME
JUPITER GATLING · AIRSUN · FAROFF · MALDEROR

MONDAY AUG 26

EGGS BAR MERRY EGGS MAS: HOLIDAY PARTY!
2:45 CENTER CAMP PLAZA · 4:20-8 PM

BAAHS BLACK SHEEP: GAY GOTH MASHUPS
GIANT SHEEP ART CAR ON THE PLAYA · 9 PM-12 MID

TUESDAY AUG 27

PARADISE MOTEL SUNSET DANCE PARTY
8:00 & DIANA · 5-7 PM

THUNDERDOME GOTH / INDUSTRIAL FIGHT SET
ESPLANADE & 4:15 · 9 PM-12 MID

WEDNESDAY AUG 28

SPANKY'S WINE BAR SPANK DAT BOOTIE
4:00 & DIANA · 9 PM-???

THURSDAY AUG 29

BAD ASSTRONAUTS BOOTIE TAKEOVER
7:30 & ECHO · 9 PM-2 AM

FRIDAY AUG 30

AUTOSUB THE BIG ONE! FROM DUSK TILL DAWN
ESPLANADE & 8:00 · 8 PM-7 AM

SATURDAY AUG 31

ALTITUDE LOUNGE BURN NIGHT VIEWING PARTY
8:45 & CUPID · 8-11 PM

FREE BOOTIE MASHUP CDS WILL *STILL* BE GIFTED!
BOOTIEMASHUP.COM

If you like the BRC WEEKLY, you'll love PISS CLEAR!

PISS CLEAR is a book!

"The alternative history of Burning Man, written as it was happening."



From 1995 to 2007, the alternative newspaper *Piss Clear* was a fixture at Nevada's annual Burning Man arts festival, its cheeky name deriving from the Black Rock Desert's #1 survival tip: "drink enough water so that you piss clear." For 13 years, editor **Adrian Roberts** and his staff of writers wrote about the colorful culture of Black Rock City, and their snarky and sarcastic tone gave *Piss Clear* its well-earned reputation as the "Vice magazine of the playa."

Having started off as a sort-of sassy survival guide, *Piss Clear* quickly evolved into Burning Man's snarky reality check, chock full of

hard-hitting articles, acerbic rants, witty commentaries, and funny lists. Along the way, it documented – as it was happening – the growing evolution of the Burning Man event.

Burning Man Live: 13 Years of Piss Clear, Black Rock City's Alternative Newspaper compiles all 34 issues of *Piss Clear*, and includes a brand-new essay from longtime columnist Malderor, as well as an introduction from Brian Doherty, author of *This Is Burning Man*. There are also yearly chapter introductions from Adrian Roberts. Telling it like it was, this is the alternative – and yes, opinionated – history of Burning Man.



BURNING MAN LIVE: Go to www.pissclear.org or get it at your local independent bookseller