Welcome to NoWhere

BY TECHNOHAD

Even after two decades, when you mention Burning Man in the default world, you’re quite likely to draw a response like “What is that?” Many Burners hesitate to say the name, wary of getting drawn into long explanations and knowing short ones seldom suffice. Others know not where to begin and repeat the standard, “It’s a big party in the desert.”

Burning Man is more than an event, a place, or a gathering. It’s more than a participatory arts festival, or the West’s largest theme park for large-scale, non-commercial installation art. It continues a tradition of seeking meaning by living in a subculture at society’s margin, from Freeks and Slackers, to Hippies and Beatniks, to Bohemians and Radical Yuppies.

Two hundred years ago, small communities founded by visionary thinkers and leaders and held together by belief in non-violence and by social bonds, sought to find new frontiers. Tired of a daily grind under social, economic, and religious rules they detested and sometimes resisted, they moved west from the established civilization founded yet 200 years before them in colonial America. They moved a day or two’s journey onto free or cheap land they could claim and settle. There they nurtured and that’s real enough to me because my parents were Duskwipers, the banks closed and made them paupers over night.

Harvey, 56, says that, in America at least, there is a whole generation—people his age and younger—“that cannot comprehend the Depression, the worst economic disaster the country has ever seen is stagflation,” he said, dismissively. Without understanding the totality of the mess, how can people fear a repeat? Yet, he said, “Whole chunks of the middle class are falling into the underclass.”

If you define the middle class as those who live comfortably by the fruits of their own labor, you don’t have to look far to see how many opportunities are being limited by economic disruptions: “The auto industry, airlines—but they are only the tip of the iceberg. We have been governed in a way where the division between the rich and the poor grows.”

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Growing up in the 1950s, Harvey enjoyed a childhood in the American Decade of the American Century that offered him quite a different prospect than the current reality. The future in his mind’s eye was the Lotus; what we got is the Flintstones with iPods. Since the beginning, he allows that “It’s more to this year’s theme than meets the eye.”

Happy and Fear. At first, they sound like antonyms. But think: despair is the opposite of hope; it is the flip side of fear. There is more to this year’s theme than meets the eye.

“Hope is the child of depression-era parents, and he is the grandson of the Depression founding father and creator of the annual theme.” Both imply an engagement with the future.

This year, it’s personal. Harvey allows that “One’s hopes beget one’s fears, and one’s fears beget one’s hopes.” By saying that about the world, he is the child of Depression-era parents, and he is the grandson of the Depression founding father and creator of the annual theme. “Both imply an engagement with the future.”

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International Burns: A Breed Apart

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LARGEST ‘PARTY’ - REGGAE ON THE RIVER, but is it a DISASTER or just ONE LOVE.

By RICK KANE, LEE REPUCHE, HUMBY,

21 NOW IN HABU CALIFORNIA'S MELINDA

LAMBEY YAM vs. BURG DARWIN,

On PUMMOLI, LITTLE, CALIFORNIA,

August, 7, 2006.

1. No Cops

2. Freely allowed public barter and sale of every drug known to man.

3. Free Samples.

4. On site ATM

5. UNE-Love.

Did Larry send spies to Reggae this year? A Black Rock Ranger pickup truck was spotted pulled over by the Sheriff’s K-9 patrol just north of Willits on Interstate 15 yesterday as the 13,000 or so festival fans streamed south.

If he did might have noted some disturbing trends, in addition to the $165 ticket price, they charge $300 for an RV site (with no hookups). Burners, the biggest difficulties are time and money. The cost for an international Burner is at least $2,000 to $3,000. Luckily, eBay often proves instrumental in averting a cash flow crisis, and there are never any shortage of help on hand from U.S. based Burners who just never stop giving.

So if you look in five years, the effects of the festival on international Burners will become clearer. Don’t be surprised if all of a sudden we all have green cards and have jumped ship to live in Reno. Once there, America will again have an immigration problem, albeit of a slightly fluffier and pinker kind.

“Why Reggae Fest Rips The Pants Off Burning Man.”

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“All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others”

G. Orwell, Animal Farm

Complete this sequence: 2,1,3,15,14,19,7,15,15,_

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