WELCOME TO NOWHERE

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IT'S NOT GREEN BEING EASY

By Deb Prothero (firefighter)

I T’S WHIMICAL or deeply philosophical? That is for you to choose. The Green Man theme for Black Rock City 2007 addresses the relationship between humans and nature. With a hint of pagan tradition, the Green Man calls us to examine how to be in the present and create change for our future on this planet.

In September 2006, a net was cast far and wide for participants to join the Burning Man’s Greeningman online discussion group, with telephone conference calls from BMorg headquarters beginning Dec. 4 held twice a month until early August. Among the attendees was a diverse Burning Man group, including Earth Guardians, Leave No Trace teams, Department of Public Works, BMorg staff, Lampighters, Alternate Energy Zone folks and interested individuals hashed out the elements of the theme that could have the biggest impact on the ecological footprint of the Burning Man event.

Even the annual questionnaires for artists who request mutant vehicles and are hauled to ask pertinent green questions: “Which alternative fuel or alternative energy will power your project?”

In response to the query, BMorg revealed that a partnership of Burners Without Borders, which provides disaster relief and other assistance to the burned, Coologians, which raises climatological concerns with artists, and BMorg’s Department of Public Works was able to offer completely the burning of the Man 2006 through the purchase of carbon offsets. This carbon-neutral success story jumpstarted the Green Man theme for 2007 with a jolt of excitement.

BRC participants are a demanding lot: they don’t want corporate involvement and bristle at the thought of a sell-out. Greeningman groups regularly hashed out the value of alternative-energy concerns on the Playa after an initial call for expertise to the Burning Man organization. Nevertheless, the Green Man theme but getting caught up in the Madison Avenue lingo of “branding.” With Google, meanwhile, Burning Man is developing an interactive, three-dimensional participatory virtual reality event called Burning Man Earth, which raises the question: Is Google welcome because its top brass are Burners, or is BMorg capitalizing on one of the most popular search engines to disseminate its message? Well, Harvey weighed in on the corporate kerfuffle over at Playa with a brilliantly reasoned rebuttal on july 30 soundly “sedating the church pentecost and mainstream media, whether desired or not, will still be offering karaoke and billiards. Meanwhile, after the corporate not-sponsor’s gone from the Playa, all the public power from under the Man will be reassembled to power the Great Lakes’ school and the hospital in Livermore. They will provide about 200 kilowatts of power for the next 20 years, saving about $1 million at the school alone.

Climate change has become of increasing concern to Burners, especially as a result of Hurricane Katrina, which devastated New Orleans during Black Rock City 2005. From the pagan past to a simpler and greener future, 2007’s Green Man theme could prove to be a big deal. The Burning Man organization sent some of their best and brightest for the future - both on the Playa and off.

"Let every man make known what kind of government would command his respect, and we're in the middle of a giant fight. Outside of the Man and a few hands-made structures – the rule along with the fantastical – the world in every direction is flat and featureless as blank newsprint, ending in a barely visible Trail Four, itself little more than a rut on the skyline. In getting here at all, you’ve likely endured adventure, with much more to come before it all ends in a blaze of flame and black ash. Over the two decades of its existence, Burning Man has grown from a few cultures and social hackers on a California beach to tens of thousands of freaks gathered on one of the least accessible and most inhospitable sites in North America. Every year, the art gets bigger, the parties louder and the fun and anarchy grows exponentially. In squashing this dry and dusty Germination at all, we have chosen to turn our back on the West Outside for a spell. Call what we’re doing Utopian dream, life as-art, radical social experiment or a quantum-leap in applied hedonics, this place is what we make it and each of us is a walking toolkit.

Whether this is your vacation, relocation or manifestation of a twisted dream you had in the Default World really doesn’t matter. This place has a way of making rules and creating circumstances independent of your efforts, so roll with them. Welcome to a temporary municipality governed by strange customs and exiguous circumstance, built on the sturdy ideal that some remnant of an American Dream can be found inside a hallucination in Nevada. This is a place where humans wear tails, crows fly past and the sun looks like the hash dreams of Big Daddy Roth. More people equals more shows equals more stimulation than ever before, so keep hydrated, leave no trace, illuminate yourself by night and lose at the very least your neighbor.

What Where When, Why?

By Nod Allen and Rod Miller

ANGER IS mounting among theme campers at this year’s redesign of the Whole Who Where Why guide handed out to Burners as they enter the Gate.

The publication is the only official guide to the whereabouts of theme camps and the timing of events in Black Rock City.

This year’s redesign means that the publicism would include in the publication, she said that not only was it left out but also that her listing had been rewritten to falsely allege that the Green Man would be offering karaoke and billiards.

"Moreover, the Green Man was listed under ‘The rather than ‘Green.’ "It’s a pile of s**t,” she said. "Whoever is responsible for it should be fired." At Media Mecca, a BMorg representative told the Beacon that ideas for improvement were always welcome.

Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell

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THEATRE OF MIND

WELCOME WHEREVER YOU ARE

By Rockstar

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Back and Mutaytor Than Ever

by R.J. Thomas

For default-world organizations are as intertwined with Burning Man as The Mutaytor. Born on the streets of Black Rock City in 1998, the 37-member band-cum-performance troupe considers itself the Burning Man house band, and it felt that shabbily treatment by the Burning Man organization. But things happen, and in a twist worthy of a soap opera — or at least a opera — the group is performing again this year.

The return to Black Rock City has in essence of one of the band’s darkest moments. On Jan. 30, an episode of the NBC Dateline sibling program “Catch a Predator” aired. It had been recorded in Long Beach, California. The show uses adults decoys who pose as minors in chat-room forums. The idea is to have potential predators to see what it’s like to be a prey. When suspects arrive, they are greeted by police and local radio. In this particular episode, Matty, The Mutaytor’s founder, got himself and the band some publicity they both could have done without.

It appeared on the show that Matty was arriving to meet a 13-year-old girl. He arrived, he then left. According to his wife, Crunchy, while making no excuses but her husband’s actions were required, the emotional state of the group did play here and there on the Playa, but nothing big, nothing official.

Along with Crunchy, Matty had taken care of most of the day-to-day operations of the group. His departure left a void as well as a shadow. In the aftermath of “Match a Predator,” appearances there was talk within the group of packing it in, but it didn’t last long. “For five minutes there was a feeling we could lose this,” Smith said. “Should we change the project, change the name of the group?”

“Crude Awakening,” it explores a world in which religion has been replaced with oil worship. The piece will be interactive with oil derrick and oil-related trivia. You line up in droves to buy our new projects. And you can help to turn the mood around.

The Mutaytor started nine years ago when Matty set up a drum set at Burning Man. Gradually it changed from one drummer to several with Buck as DJ and a few dancers spinning the to what it is now, a group of 37 who have built up over years of unchecked success. Down credited the support of Burners at that gig with an artistic success. Down credited the support of Burners at that gig with an artistic success.

But Friday night is the big one. “Think of it as a play with two acts,” said K.J., one of the group’s visual performers. “I didn’t want it end without fighting for it. Shoot, I’m a burner, I can stand dust storms,” and she could stand this. The group decided to reconnect with its fans, revok its show and play Burning Man again.

But Buck’s wife, said the emotional state of the group’s visual performers. “I didn’t want it end without fighting for it. Shoot, I’m a burner, I can stand dust storms,” and she could stand this. The group decided to reconnect with its fans, revok its show and play Burning Man again.

The Mutaytor is a threeme we as a burners, we live for that endurance, “we’re all burners. We live for that sunrise on the Playa.” The Mutaytor is planning to perform three times this year. On Tuesday, the group will offer a stripped show performed and claimed her husband, there away “every CD” and memorabilia we had from any Mutaytor show.” Others jumped in, some seemingly unable to separate The Mutaytor from Matty. But there was support for the group as well. Crunchy, arably the poorest hurt most Matty’s actions, given that there was no actual victim, understands the reaction and re- mains philosophical. “I have to believe happened for a reason,” she said.

Supporters came to outnumber the critics, encouraging The Mutaytor’s members. “Everyone equally rallied behind the band,” said Smith. “We understood that the actions of one person didn’t reflect on 37 others.” A decade after its formation, the show aired. Word traveled by phone. “It was the toughest phone call I’ve ever had,” he said.

Bouncing off of the group, posted a message on the official Burning Man bulletin board, E-Plays, looking for large sound camps that might be willing to host them. That’s what Dan Da Muz called.

And his wife, Karen Cassito, who had been responsible for some of the most amazing art Black Rock City has seen. Their installation this year promises nothing less. Titled “Crude Awakening,” it explores a world in which religion has been replaced with oil worship. The piece will be interactive with oil derrick and oil-related trivia.

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Burning Man gave The Mutaytor one day to set up a massive stage for its show, produced at a cost of nearly $25,000 — all unsubsidized. It was just too much for the band and it decided that it would be its last show at Burning Man. But, according to Crunchy, wound up at home after he failed to show up to meet a fictitious minor.

The rest of The Mutaytor found out about the incident when the episode aired. Word traveled by phone. “It was the toughest phone call I’ve ever had,” he said.

Matty, composer, along with Tim, most of the group’s music. Those of the visual performers, and Buck’s wife, said the emotional state of the group was horrible afterward. “There was a lot of shock,” she said.

It didn’t look promising. Matty stepped away from the group he founded nine years ago on the streets of Black Rock City, but the effect lingered.

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