Big Dreamer Is Watching

By DURCY

A t 1:00 and Bonneville behind the walls of the Checkpoint Dreamorama you’ll see your dreams  area. In the way of your passage, you’ll see a vast array of art, colors, life and Big Dreamer knows doubleplus better. Just as the artist put in some extra effort, entering the Dreamland compound will also take effort from participants in BRC. To truly appreciate Dreamland and to take part in the interactive element of the project you need to make an effort to get beyond the guard dogs, border control and the interrogators and anything else that stands in the way of your dreams. There is a fusion of the surreal and the official as you interact with the pink-brain camouflaged, fake back border guards (Mundos mother made the uniforms worn by the guards, making this truly a family project) and at the same time, you’ll fill out your visa application. Please try to stay within the lines. After the event Checkpoint Dreamorama will be packed up and taken on a world tour. Where and when? The crossing offices are generally in fixed places, this border between reality and dreams will be a traveling installation through the states and eventually back to Europe.

Transformus Muchos

By EDGE AND MATCH

When the 3,500 Mysteries who attended Transformus each year witnessed the torching of the Bamboozler last month, it burned but it was not a Burn. The annual affair, which takes place near Asheville, North Carolina, had its status as a Burning Man regional event revoked in June because, in the words of the Bmorg, it lacked “civic responsibility and transparency.” Tickets were the ticket out for Burning Man’s good graces. Transformus is held at Deepfields, a private campground in a mountainside, and lake setting that will allow only 1,500 attendees. The event, which began in 2004, quickly reached that level, and in 2006 and 2007, tickets sold out over the Internet in a matter of minutes.

For 2008, organizers tried to come up with a better ticketing solution, but the first one was a fiasco. They devised a worse one. Participants were given 10 days to request tickets and explain how they planned to participate. After the 10-day window ended there were 2,344 tickets requested of a total of 1,350 that had been made available. Of those, 94 were reserved for Rangers, medical personnel, workers on art projects that had received grants, and others deemed to hold “critical infrastructure roles.” Ultimately, 844 people were turned away, although some of them could have attended by purchasing tickets from those who were able to get them.

Many prospective residents of the city called Mystera were incensed, and there were allegations aired at a town-hall-style meeting that the distribution of tickets was the ticket out for the Burning Man Organization.

The Burning Man Organization found fault with clarity of the ticketing process, and, by implication, with the process itself. The Bmorg also criticized Transformus for a lack of timely public disclosure of its financial statements from past events. A letter to Transformus revealed that some participants had alleged inaccuracies in the event’s bookkeeping, which was by the accountant’s own admission, pretty sloppy.

The Bmorg also criticized Transformus and, by implication, with the process itself. Transformus Muchos was not in the listed location. A staff member of the Artery (Wheel and 10:30) pointed out an updated map listing the actual locations of art pieces, then quickly turned around and pointed out on the Playa and said, “Look over there. That giant truck-like thing? That’s the ‘Bummen’ over there.” On the wall behind the art placement listings, you can find listings for fire performances and art burns.

We visited Bummen, where the crew was putting the finishing touches on the piece. A member of the crew offered that event founder Larry Harvey had visited the installation on Saturday and commented that he looked forward to seeing the piece traveling around the Playa.

Construction Ergo Sum

By BRIAN HALMACE

W ith Black Rock City steadily springing up from the desert floor, the display of sheer human productivity is undeniable. Thousands of tents. Hundreds of camps. Poles, Ropes, Hammocks. Drills. Men and women build amidst the dust. Sweat equity is being poured out in such large amounts that it’s almost surprising that the tides of Lake Lahontan aren’t rising. Such an investment of time and energy could benefit us all for years to come, but it all comes back down next week.

Why? Why the expenditure of energy? Why the orders, shouted back and forth? Why the white of circular saws? And why in the world are we stirring up clouds of dust only to have to sleep in them later? Why? It could be because something happens in the building. There is a coming together that does not happen simply by milling around and talking, or even by checking out each others outfits and art, but by lifting a banner, rugging a rope, and building. Together.

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all people.” — 1 Corinthians 12:4-6.
Descent Into the Maelstrom

By Tecnomad

This isn’t Kansas. Black Rock City 2008 began with sunny weather and scattered traffic. Monday welcomed arrivals to a land where ominous walls, tin men, and a lion. Monday welcomed arrivals to a land where ominous walls, tin men, and a lion, but not from a scarecrow, a tin man and a lion, but from Bureau of Land Management Rangers and then help not from an ambulance, a tiki torch in Center Camp fell over and ignited a tent, shade structure, hay bales and thousands of dollars of audio and video equipment. Fortunately no one was hurt. Some wanderers in the whiteouts sought refuge in the 1:11 Sapphire Portal, a circular gallery with an open roof and surprising calm. Others found adventure 100 feet up, on the top floor of Babyolyn, a steel skeleton without walls. Like Dorothy in the tornado, Shizuru, a first-time visitor to a strange place, said she was unable to find refuge from a sandstorm. Crying and frustrated by a broken moped, she found help not from a scarecrow, a tin man and a lion, but from Bureau of Land Management Rangers and then ultimately from her own strength, uttering not “There’s no place like home,” but the wise words of a fellow Burner: “Be one with the dust.”

Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door.

- Inscription on Statue of Liberty from “The New Colossus” by Emma Lazarus

Come back soon, and I don’t mean wait for Burning Man 2009. During the week, so much is going on that you might not realize that the Black Rock Desert is truly amazing. But if you visit at another time, you’ll see that the expanse of totally flat terrain makes you feel that the whole world is stretched out before you. The silence is eerie and even when people are having a party a few miles away, you can hear your breathing and once in a while a distant train THUD. Because it’s so flat you’ll see mirages everyday, cars and tents floating on Lake Lahontan. Away, you can hear your breathing and once in a while a distant train whistle. Because it’s so flat you’ll see mirages everyday, cars and tents floating on Lake Lahontan.

The answer to yesterday’s puzzle is “American Dream.” Here’s how: A = M (thousand in Roman numerals) + r (mistake) + i (frozen water ice but without the end of it “ic”) + r (a drop of golden sun) + a (any time before noon is AM).

Have a Happy 4th of Julypalooza

By briBri

Bring lots of water! A GPS wouldn’t hurt either. Be aware of Playa conditions; it may be damp to pieces! You can watch people launch rockets and race (the world land speed record was set here in 1997), and you can help cleanup after the burn with the Earth Guardians.

The 4th of Julypalooza is a great event, or, more properly, non-event. It takes place over the 4th of July weekend, but not in an organized way — a bunch of Burners just show up to the desert. It feels a little like Burning Man was in the early years — no rides, no rules, no porta-potties, there are camp toilets and environmentally friendly bags to deal with waste disposal. Who knows, someone might bring fireworks and you light them! Bring lots of water! A GPS wouldn’t hurt either. Be aware of Playa conditions; it may be damp or even in July (it’s hard to tell from looking at the surface) and even four-wheel drive vehicles will become hopelessly stuck. Seriously! Two years ago, during the 4th of Julypalooza, some 30 or 40 trucks and cars got stuck. I don’t want to admit this, but we were mired in mud, and had to wait for fifteen hours for some cool guys to pull us out with a chain that was two-hundred feet long!

Check out Ian’s Black Rock Pages (lots of information about rocketry) — http://ian.kluft.com/blackrock/

Questions to ponder: Why are some given citations and others given warnings and tickets? And in the default world. You can’t escape it. The event has become known as the LLC that runs the organization and is firmly in the hands of the citizens. The extension of the default world is massive in BRG on Everywhere Street. BRAF, Regions, Burners Without Borders and Black Rock Solar are up and 6MP beyond the picket fence at 11:00 and Wheel Participate. Assemble.