

THE DUDESPAPER

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Movies that are Rated T for Tao

October 3, 2010 3:48 pm



So you thought The Big Lebowski was the only movie that successfully and slyly snuck Taoism onto the silver screen, didja? Well, you know, some smarter fellers than ourselves have pondered this very subject. One special lady we just came across named Ren Adams not only smartly points out some interesting examples (Fight Club!), but also is a whiz at Chinese brush painting, Zen philosophy and writes pretty darn good too.

She's raring to go write part 2, examining some other films as well and is asking for insights and suggestions. Let's see if the Dude community can lend her a hand. Check out Part 1: Taoist Movies[1] and then post in our comments section (below) to suggest ideas for the sequel article.



Of course, one of the main precepts of Dudeism is that it has existed throughout human civilization, and traces its earliest codified roots to Taoism, so it stands to reason that there will be

a Dudeist/Taoist thread running through the assembled corpus of human creative thought.

If you're innarested, why not expand on Ms. Adams' angle and see if you can come up with any other great Taoist works (books, poetry, theater, painting, what have you) that might not actually seem to be expressly of the Tao and put them in the comments section below.

Of course, the great Tao is always hidden:

The Tao is hidden, and has no name;
but it is the Tao which is skillful at imparting
(to all things what they need)
and making them complete.
- *Tao Te Ching, Chapter 41, Legge translation*

And evokes laughter when revealed:

If it were not laughed at, it would not be the Way.
- *Chapter 41, Beck translation*



It's no wonder that most of the movies that Ren points out happen to be comedies, parts anyway.

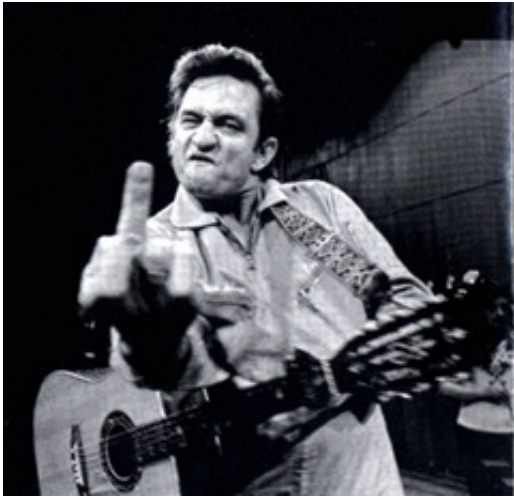
Of course, the Stranger doesn't call this "the whole darn human melodrama" or "the whole darn human soap opera" or the "whole darn human action adventure." Make no mistake. Life is of the Tao, and the Tao is a hoot and a holler (trans: yin and yang).

Links

[1] <http://tinyurl.com/33btmdw>

F**k It!

August 22, 2010 2:07 pm



By Rev. Hieronymous Moondog

So I guess you fellers are wonderin' why ol' Moondog placed asterisks in the mid section of one of Dudeism's holy passwords. Well, this is how it happened...

The usual suspects and I were trying to figure out what not to do next at the Duder the other day when this sympatico looking young lady saunters in, sits down at the bar and orders a double White Russian. Well, that got our attention, and as Louise sprang into action to mix up the requested beverage, this young lady flashes a bright smile all around, reaches into her bag and pulls out a book which she slides down the bar to me. The title of the book and the feller's na



me who wrote it



rang a bell... F**k It: The Ultimate Spiritual Way by John C. Parkin[1]. I inspected the tome, reminded myself that I had seen it before, thought it useful at the time, then said "fuck it" before taking proper note of its importance.

At this point...and I acknowledge the fortuitous intervention of our double White Russian drinking lady dude...I think it only fitting to pass the info regarding the book's[2] provenance along to fellow travelers who may not be aware of it or its slow steppin' author, who introduces his deep and profound take on things in this short video...

Not much more to report at this stage of the game...don't want to clutter up such a refined message with a lot of unnecessary strands and convolutions. I'll pass along more details about the double White Russian drinking lady philosopher dude and her inneresting concepts and pronouncements at a later date...



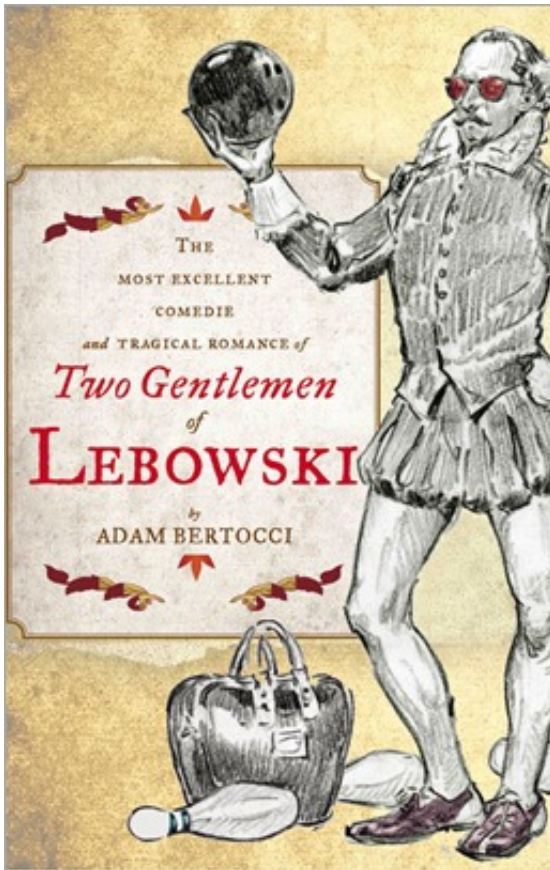
Links

[1] <http://tinyurl.com/yky9nrx>

[2] <http://tinyurl.com/3ydzfkx>

Interdude with 'Two Gentlemen of Lebowski' Author Adam Bertocci

August 21, 2010 11:08 am



[1] When Adam Bertocci's Shakespearean reworking of *The Big Lebowski* appeared on the Interwebs[2] in January of this year, Dudeists and Lebowskians alike were collectively stoked. Here was a masterful rendition of our holy movie as if the 16th century Bard Dude himself had written it! Sold out performances followed to rave reviews, and now it's about to be released in book form[3]. It hits the streets October 26, but you can pre-order[4] it now.

We sat down with Adam in the spacious rug-lined hallways of the (virtual) Dudespaper headquarters and asked him some probing questions about his "most excellent comedie and tragical romance."

Dudespaper: Have you been surprised by the reaction to your work? Before making such an impression with *Two Gentlemen of Lebowski*, what were your ambitions?

Adam Bertocci: I need to flip through the thesaurus and find a stronger word for "surprised". I designed it to be the kind of thing that would, hopefully, go viral, but so much of what happened went completely off my radar. I didn't expect it to go viral the first day, that's for certain, and I never accounted for the notion that it could have a life outside the Web site. Part of me entertained the fantasy that if it did go viral, some small college theatre troupe might do the show one weekend; a far cry from the theatrical run we had in New York. It certainly never once entered my mind that anyone would want a book, and if the publishing industry hadn't contacted me I frankly would have not have bothered to contact them.



The whole reason I did "Two Gentlemen" was as a shameless publicity stunt to further my screenwriting endeavors; I thought, gee, maybe if it goes viral, some young assistant in a Hollywood office will see it, laugh, show his boss, and they'll think, hey, this Adam guy's got something. I didn't see the potential of "Two Gentlemen" as a project in and of itself; it took the fans to clue me into that.

I think a lot of writers, filmmakers, artists of all sorts have reached moments where they realize that their audience views their work very differently than they do. I mean, I bet when "The Big Lebowski" itself hit theaters, all involved were assuming it would sell its tickets and go to video and that would be that, just like any other movie. But life had other plans.

Dudespaper: What is that you find most special or inspiring about *The Big Lebowski*?

Bertocci: I'm still discovering what's so special about "The Big Lebowski"! But, for me, it's the dialogue. I got into writing because I love to hear characters talk, and everyone in the movie has such a distinctive voice. Someone should do a count of how many times one character asks another, "What the fuck are you talking about?"-because in some ways, that's the central concern of the movie. The way that characters pick up on the phrases they hear from other people is a real hoot for me.

Dudespaper: What's your background in Shakespeare? You're clearly in thy element.



Bertocci: I'm in that strange no-man's-land with Shakespeare-I feel I earn major points as an enthusiast but still strictly an amateur in terms of scholarship. I took a few Shakespeare courses in college; indeed, they were the reason I did a minor in English lit. And I've read my share of books, seen a bunch of shows and movies.

But at the same time there's territory that I know is too highbrow for me. I think "Two Gentlemen" will educate people a bit about Shakespeare's work and his times. But what I'm really trying to communicate isn't facts about the Bard, it's enthusiasm. If "Two Gentlemen" inspires a few people to check out Shakespeare on stage or on film, then I've done a good thing, I think.

Dudespaper: In what ways does the published version of Two Gentlemen of Lebowski differ from the original version you posted on your site originally?

Bertocci: There's two answers to your question. The playtext itself has been revised; not deeply, but very thoroughly. It's still very much the thing that was posted online, no added or deleted scenes, no glaring tamperings-with. But everything's been given a spit-shine and polish. A couple of lazy translations have been reworked, scansion's been improved. A few lines that were sort of left unaddressed from the movie have been given the proper Shakespearean twist.

I learned the hard way that it's not a good idea to put something online that you're not 100% proud of, even if you tell yourself, oh, it's just a silly thing to amuse the Internet, no one's going to care. Well, people did care, and there's certain things in the online version I wish I'd done less lazily, and I have to live with that.



Most importantly (in my opinion, anyway), a much stronger effort has been made to stick only to words that existed in Shakespeare's England. I mean, sometimes I cheat; I'm not doing a Lebowski book without the word "nihilist", and if a word came up just shortly after Shakespeare's time I'm willing to fudge. And I know deep down that most readers aren't terribly concerned about that level of detail, but, some things you just gotta make right for yourself.

The second answer concerns things in the book that are not the playtext. I was initially a little skeptical when approached about a book, because I didn't think people would want to just buy something that they could get online for free. And even if they would, this was also my debut in the publishing industry and I wanted the chance to showcase a few of my talents beyond imitating Shakespeare. Fortunately, Simon & Schuster has been totally on board to make the book a quality project in and of itself, it stands on its own two feet independent of the project's past. There's 90-100 pages of historical illustrations, Shakespeare scholarship, etymology, Elizabethan bowling facts and an afterword shedding more light on the fundamental question of the text, the Shakespearean qualities of "The Big Lebowski". It's really my last chance to answer the question about the relationship between the Bard and the Dude and I hope I've made it count.

Dudespaper: Are you planning to attend any of the upcoming Lebowskifests?

Bertocci: Nothing is set in stone yet, but we are in contact with the Lebowski Fest guys, who have been very kind vis-a-vis this project, so who knows-and if you don't see me at one in my official capacity as the "Two Gentlemen" guy you just might see me as a private citizen enjoying his coffee, enjoying his coffee. I've actually always wanted to go to one, and now I have no excuse. I just hope no one will judge me on my bowling skills.

Dudespaper: What's your favorite scene in TBL? And what in your version are you most proud of? Is there a favorite scene in TGOL?



Bertocci: My favorite scene in the movie... do you know that no one's ever asked me that? It kind of shuffles around. Right now my answer would be the first scene between the Dude and Maude, partly because I'm on a Julianne Moore kick, and partly because I like the sense it conveys that the Dude is really getting out of his element, meeting all sorts of strange new people and going on tangents he can neither explain nor predict; that "anything can happen" feel.

As for "Two Gentlemen", my favorite scene is the epilogue. Something just came together very beautifully for me in that; Sam Elliott's words fit into iambic pentameter and rhyme without much effort, and I've always been fond of the Shakespearean epilogue, in the plays that have them.

I think that's what makes this project work. It began as a joke, an oh-wouldn't-it-be-funny-if idea, but when I sat down and actually did it, I was amazed at how well the film fits into certain Shakespearean molds. That all comes from the movie, I didn't have to stretch to find it. That was an amazingly lucky discovery on my part. If I'd thought to do this with any other film, I'd probably just have an amazingly unfunny pile of movie lines with thee's and thou's thrown in.



Dudespaper: What projects are you planning to work on in the future?

Bertocci: I'm one of those guys who tries to keep a lot of plates spinning. I think it's important to always have a project in the pipeline.

I shot a short film over the summer and that's going out to

festivals now. And I hope once the smoke clears from "Two Gentlemen" I can dust off the screenplays I was trying to promote to Hollywood, and make another run at that, now that I have achieved a little bit.

But "Two Gentlemen" gave me more than just a publicity boost, it opened my eyes to new markets. Books, for instance. I'd love to write some non-fiction about movies, criticism and analysis and the like (gotta use that film degree!) and maybe now that door is open to me.

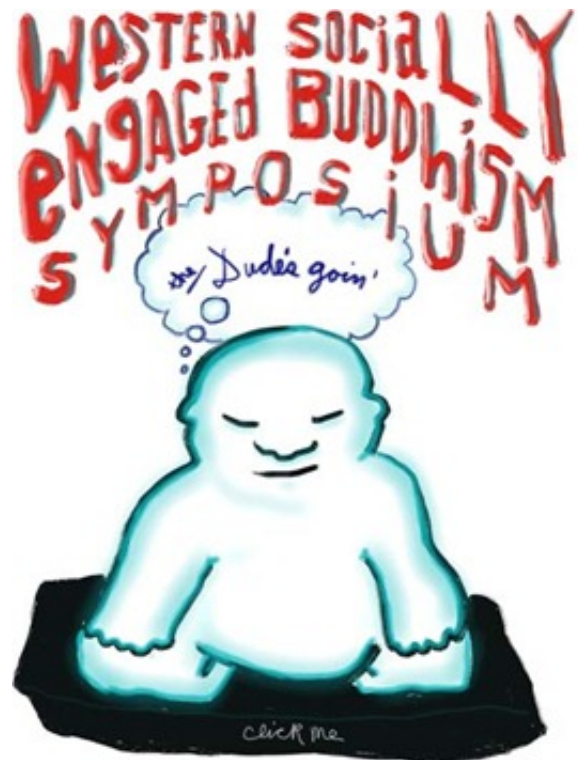
And plays. It never in my life occurred to me to write a play, and then "Two Gentlemen" happened pretty much by accident. Well, I am writing a new play-and Shakespeare is involved. But best to preserve a little mystery on that front...

Links

- [1] <http://tinyurl.com/34dje5c>
- [2] <http://tinyurl.com/y88lq4m>
- [3] <http://tinyurl.com/34dje5c>
- [4] <http://tinyurl.com/34dje5c>

Jeff Bridges Gives Head(s) for a Thousand Dollars

August 20, 2010 12:24 pm



[1] By Rev GMS

This last Friday the thirteenth Jeff Bridges took the stage at the Zen Peacemakers Symposium[2] and unabashedly announced, "I gave Bernie a little head," referring to Bernie Glassman founder of the The Zen Peacemakers. He said he likes to give all his friends a little head, saying that it deepens their personal connection. With abandon Jeff then went on to display his little head skills, in front of everybody. Not satisfied to stop there, he offered to give any member of the audience a little head, for

a thousand dollars. Now he says he will even give you a little head, but it'll cost you a thousand bucks. Where have I heard that before?

Sure getting a little head from the Duderino sounds costly, but it is for a good cause, and you gotta figure getting a little head from Jeff Bridges, star of so many awesome movies, has got to be worth something. Well all proceeds are



destined to help the Zen Peacemakers in their efforts, and mighty efforts they are. So while you bask in the after glow of getting a little head from the most famous Dude, but you can pat your self on the back for helping the world be a more compassionate peaceful place.

I want to tell you more about the Zen Peacemakers[3] first, so put your wallet away for now. Bernie Glassman and the Zen Peacemakers have been a potent source for social good. They run many programs and have helped lots of Dudes down on their luck. Part of the overall Socially engaged Buddhism movement, and an important bridge between east and west for positive change. They bring Zen and it's way of abiding into the American social arena, with an open and non judgmental way.

Their Bearing Witness[4] programs are examples of Dudeist abiding at work, they are guided by three tenets:

Not-knowing, thereby giving up fixed ideas about ourselves and the universe

Bearing witness to the joy and suffering of the world

Loving actions towards ourselves and others

Yeah mang, these dudes know how to chill for a better world.



[5] Socially Engaged Buddhism has been quietly spreading and becoming an international force for change. It's not necessarily restricted to Buddhists, though the movement is based on the Buddhist concepts of mindfulness and abiding. Both concepts are not exclusive to Buddhism, and in those traditions labels don't matter anyway. So you'll find many traditions, even completely secular non-traditions, mingling and working towards a shared goal of a world more abideful. Dudeism fits right in there, of course; the Nihilists are holding the world hostage, and no Dude can let that aggression stand.

I can wholeheartedly say this here Dudeist digs the Zen Peacemakers style, and I have it on good authority that they dig the Dudeist style as well.



So I bet you are just about bursting with the urge to get a little head from the Dude, and save the world, in one blissful explosion. Well I am privy to some inside information, and I have had to limber up my mind to keep all strands straight. But new shit has definitely come to light. Here's the skinny:

When (soon to be featured on American Masters) Mr. Bridges has left over ceramic from other projects, he likes to sculpt little heads with the balls of clay. They have a range of emotions, for instance: noble, pompous, frightened, singing, and masked. Bridges has long been giving these little dudes to his friends, but is now working on a book project featuring these heads. The proceeds will go to the Zen Peacemakers foundation. He will be leasing these sculptures out on a temporary basis and they come with documentation of your contribution. Here's the cool part - every so often, Jeff said, the current holders would get an invitation to "Bring your head, let's jam."



The lease will cost a thousand smackerooskis, but with the certificates, that warm fuzzy did something feeling and the possibility to go and “jam” with the Dude himself...well, yeah now I’ve go see if I can find a cash machine as well.

Watch for official announcements forth coming on “Head for Peace, Let All Eat” project from the crazy and wise mind of our favorite actor. This thing has Dudely coolness all over it. Our Zen compeers are doing the dude’s work in a way any Dudeist can admire and support. This idea has a life of it’s own, because the heads will be travelling the world changing hands, and having who knows what kind of adventures. I recommend burning a J and thinking about this while lying on your rug Dudes, it’ll blow your mind.

Even if you don’t have 1000 bones or clams or what have you laying around, check out the Zen Peacemakers[6] and dig their style. They are true Dudeist compeers.

Links

- [1] <http://tinyurl.com/yhopgnj>
- [2] <http://tinyurl.com/yhopgnj>
- [3] <http://tinyurl.com/35u3de2>
- [4] <http://tinyurl.com/2v6f32b>
- [5] <http://tinyurl.com/35u3de2>
- [6] <http://tinyurl.com/ydlzf5w>

Down Through the Generations

August 13, 2010 8:29 am



[1] A couple months ago when we released our Dudeism Church Sign Generator[2], people had so much fun with it that we realized we needed to come out with some more cool Dudeism image generators.

Now you can have fun and games with the following far-out designs, all of which can be easily shared on Facebook or what-have-you:

1) Ordination Certificate Generator[3]

Generate an image of your ordination certificate and show all your friends that you’re an ordained Dudeist Priest at the Church of the Latter-Day Dude. Don’t worry if you’ve forgotten when you were ordained[4] - our new tool[5] can help you find the date.

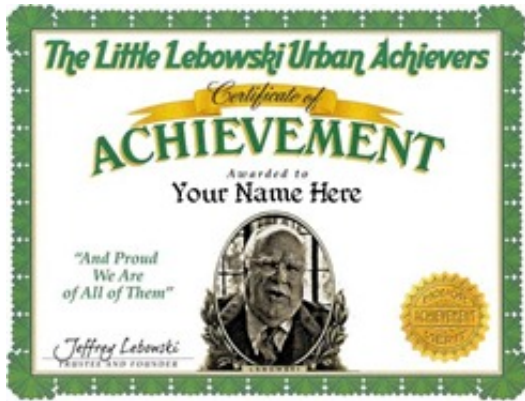


[6] 2) Little Lebowski Urban Achiever Achievement Certificate [7]

For those without the necessary means to the necessary means to make their own. Comes complete with a fine etching of the other Jeffrey Lebowski, the millionaire. Shit yeah, the Achievers. And proud we are of all of them.

3) Time Magazine Man of the Year Mirror[8]

Everyone loves the scene where the Dude looks into the other Lebowski’s Time Magazine Man of the Year mirror and sees “what he could have been” if he’d achieved the modest task which was his charge. Now you can too. Just



[9]upload your photo and find yourself the most celebrated man (or woman) of 1991.

So have fun and help spread the dude word by generating this funny shtuff and posting it on your facebook profile.

You can also make them for your friends and post it to their profiles - just 1) generate the image, then 2) copy the URL that appears in your browser's address bar and 3) post the link to their profile page. It's a sure cure for status update anxiety. Gotta *news feed* the monkey!



[10]

Links

- [1] <http://tinyurl.com/3xw7pj4>
- [2] <http://tinyurl.com/24yf4xo>
- [3] <http://tinyurl.com/36w9mku>
- [4] <http://tinyurl.com/l8ve6h>
- [5] <http://tinyurl.com/2v6982w>
- [6] <http://tinyurl.com/36w9mku>
- [7] <http://tinyurl.com/3y6a6kc>
- [8] <http://tinyurl.com/3xw7pj4>
- [9] <http://tinyurl.com/3y6a6kc>
- [10] <http://tinyurl.com/24yf4xo>

You Know, Drive Around...

August 6, 2010 12:32 pm



By Rev. Ryan Colt Weber

Well I've been out of the loop awhile my fellow Dudes. I had eye surgery and couldn't read my damn computer. But its good to be back. All that emotional stuff aside I have noticed one aspect of life that needs way more of the Take 'er Easy Manifesto applied to it... and that's driving. Since I don't partake in the automotive pastime myself I usually get rides from various people or I just walk. When I do get a ride I see even the tamest pussycat turn into a rabies infected lion:

"Get the hell outta my way!" "Move into the other lane dammit!" "Why the hell is this person going so slow?" "Why is this jerk riding my ass?"



Now does any of that sound like someone who is takin' er easy for all those sinners out there? I think not. A more interesting question is: What makes us lose our cool on the road? Is it the fast paced society we live in? Is it our inability to directly control what is happening around us? Maybe its the stress of knowing that cars kill more people every day than violence and drugs combined. Research has shown that males are generally more aggressive on the road especially those under the age of thirty five. They say this has to do with our hormones. Perhaps we need to spend more time with our special ladies...I mean our fuckin' lady friends. So the next time you get in your green and brown...uh...rust colored car consider these helpful hints to just take it easy man.



1. Leave yourself plenty of time to get where you are going. If it takes thirty minutes to get somewhere and you leave thirty minutes before you are supposed to be there then every slow driver, construction barrel, and accident is going to cause you stress. I'd advise leaving an extra fifteen minutes early depending on how long your trip is and whether or not you are going to hit any rush hour.

2. Ignore other rude drivers. You can't control what they do or say so just relax. If some other driver is being an asshole then pity them but don't react. Sadly, not everyone is going to be laid back but don't let others interrupt your peace of mind, on the road or otherwise.



3. Have something in the car to relax you. Of course open containers and Js are a no no in most US states so I wouldn't advise those. You can, however, have some Creedence or other music to listen too or download some Big Lebowski scenes on your iPod to listen to for good fun and peace of mind.

4. Check conditions for when you are going to be driving. Studies show that heat, noise, and traffic congestion are the three biggest environmental contributors to road rage. It is also said that the afternoon rush hour is by far the worst time of day to be driving around. Now some of us had to do what our parents did and get-



a-job-sir so we gotta get home somehow right? Well consider finding a back way home if possible. Not only can you avoid road rage but it will be way easier to spot a Brother Shamus in a VW Beetle who may be tailing you at the behest of a farmer family in Minnesota.

5. The number one thing nearly all experts agree on is to NOT confront a hostile driver. While this aggression will not stand you may not be standing long either if you decide to confront them. There have been stories of road rage where a lawyer and former state legislator belted a pregnant woman in the face! How messed up and verrry unDude is that?

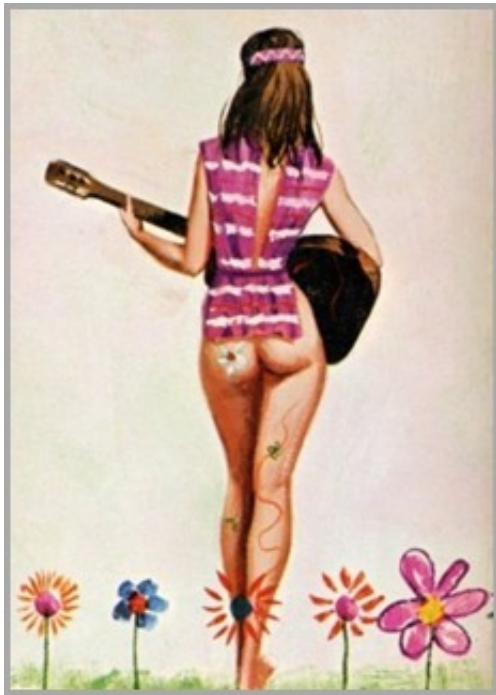


So keep calm dudes! Relax! I mean if the Dude himself can remain calm while watching Nihilists burn his car, then is the person riding your bumper on the highway THAT big of a deal? Dudeism is meant to be applied to all aspects of life and that includes the time you spend getting from one aspect to another.

Well that about wraps her up. Westward the wagons my fellow dudes but remember not to get too uptight in your wagon lest you crash your plane into the mountain, die face down in the muck, kill that poor woman, kill your fucking car, cross the center divider in the sand, or just generally be a cleft asshole. It's your roll, Dude. This is not 'Nam. Take er easy. This is especially important if you happen to have an occasional acid flashback while driving around.

Dudeism, a New Home for Lost Hippies

August 1, 2010 5:45 am



By Rev GMS

Dudeism bridges a gap that developed as the Hippie movement self destructed. When Dudes lost their spirituality, even as they lived it, they were unaware of “abiding” and how that connected them to this whole durned human drama. During the Hippie movement Eastern thought met western culture at a cross roads; human potential and freedom of expression were flourishing along with a drug counterculture. It all joined in a swirling mass of loving coolness. For several years things were going great, then troubles like the DNC riots of 68, and the Hells Angels roughing people up at a Rolling Stones gig, too many hippies became overcome with being achievers. Anger, aggression and addiction entered the movement which descended into the failed “me” generation.

After the traumatic events of the late sixties, the movement began to fracture, the squares took all the Zen with em’, the Hippies were left with only the drugs. Once they lost their



altruism and spirituality, Hippies just faded away from society. Some became disconnected solitary Dudes. With no spiritual

touchstone, they drifted like tumbleweeds across a landscape dominated by reactionary religions and nihilists plots. Maintaining a take it easy attitude, and adhering to a strict drug régime, Hippies/Dudes were seen as little more than lovable bums, or outright criminals.

Eastern things still were spreading and many people began to practice Zen, Buddhism and Taoism; Sanghas were set up and rituals from the old world were passed down. The peace movement regrouped and put on a more



legitimate face. Even though the happy slacker who abides is sage-like, the reactionaries would latch on to a Dudes preferred forms of herbal meditation and use it to deface the the overall culture of peaceful abiding. Squares would not attack a Dude, but in the face of this aggression they may need to distance themselves from the Dudes, to protect the spirit of abiding. And the rift separating Dudes from their spiritual ground widened.

So where did that leave the Dudes? Well, they became a target of the Drug War mentality, the “if you are not a square or an achiever, then you must be no better than a crackhead who leaves their offspring in the trash”. We almost started to believe them, the reactionaries; we allowed them to blame societies ills on the happy slacker, as if chillaxin’ with a doobie was going to leave America open to



economic failure and decay. Meanwhile, the paraquats were pushing the achiever lifestyle, promising sports cars and half naked women to whoever pursued greed and materialism. The rat race of greed lead to needing to defend those material gains, bringing more guns and war to our planet.

Now that science and archeology have confirmed that the Dudes choice of herbal sacrament is both harmless to the individual, society, and historically considered a spiritual enhancer, the attacks by reactionaries look foolish. Now it is understood that not all drugs and philosophies are created equal, leaving plenty of room to stand up with an abiding attitude and defend the Dude lifestyle. That abiding is not slacking in personal laziness; that living a life of acceptance is key to living in a peaceful world. I think one could even defend Dudeisms validity against some of the worst reactionary types, at least to the point where their head explodes with frustration, or they start throwing coffee cups.



Dudeism kind of brings the modern hippies, the slackers, hip, cool, counterculture, partier types back into the Tao fold. Demonstrating philosophy and spirituality don't mean you have to be a square or a reactionary, that complicated Zen rituals are not required. Candles, a warm bath and a J will do; they will do just fine as a personal ritual to find your Tao. Being rooted in ancient thought and beliefs, demonstrably peaceful and kind, yeah, man, Dudeism is the path of a sage.

With that this newly ordained Dudeist sees a long enduring future blossoming with Dudeism. There are so many Dudes wondering aimlessly thinking they don't fit with the other theological/philosophical types, and certainly not with the achiever types. They are still unaware that the Dude has risen. That slacker does not automatically equate with failure or decay. Abiding isn't just some Eastern thing; we



have been abiding for years. That waking up - the Dude can see where he fits in, and it turns out he fits right in there, with the other sages of old, and of the future Earth we are trying to find.

So welcome home Dudes. The Hippie movement may have died years ago, but its spirit is reborn, and with a brand new myth to boot. The Big Lebowski brought us the character of the Dude, and an archetype was born, a new hero for an ancient understanding, and the Hippie redefined. Today our western style of abiding is set to bring some much needed chillin' out to the world. The slacker sage has an abiding abode in Dudeism.

TheToiletPaper.com Dude De Ching Giveaway #2

July 27, 2010 6:10 am



[1] Win a free copy of *The Dude De Ching!*

Back in February we teamed up with [TheToiletPaper.com](#)[2] to give away 30 copies of our holy book, *The Dude De Ching*[3]. Well, we're doing it again - this time with 40 free copies.

All you have to do is subscribe[4] to their very funny and informative site and you'll be entered in the next round-robin. Even if you don't win, you'll surely find their site will make you a smarter dude in no time fast.

If you just want to go ahead and buy[5] *The Dude De Ching* anyway, it's most modestly priced and the proceeds go to a very dudely cause - our Little Lebowski Urban Achievers Fund[6] at [Kiva.org](#). Last week we disbursed the first \$1000 from the sales of the *Dude De Ching* and we hope to lend a lot more to people in need. You can help by buying the book or lending your own funds via our team.

Plus we're also setting up a special program with [TheToiletPaper.com](#) where Dudeist Priests pick the topic each Duder Shabbos (Friday). Each winning topic will also win a free copy of *The Dude De Ching*. We've got four detectives down at the lab working on it. Got em working in shifts.

Take er easy, dudes. We know that you will. Don't forget to enter the contest [here](#)[7]!

Links

- [1] <http://tinyurl.com/y1cbnev>
- [2] <http://tinyurl.com/2evuyn5>
- [3] <http://tinyurl.com/2738ea6>
- [4] <http://tinyurl.com/y1cbnev>
- [5] <http://tinyurl.com/26m3j7n>
- [6] <http://tinyurl.com/23t5yoz>
- [7] <http://tinyurl.com/y1cbnev>

Keep on the Sunny Side

July 25, 2010 5:41 am



By Rev. Ed Churchman

"Keep on the sunny side, always on the sunny side, keep on the sunny side of life."

Wise and Dudely words for our time, right? Of course, the message, much like the song, has been around for a good long while. You might be familiar with it from another Coen Brothers movie, by the name of *O Brother Where Art Thou*. Great song isn't it? If you're into the whole Ol' Timey music thing, which I very much am. But I, errr... digress, I think.

The prominent message of that great song is one of PMA, positive mental attitude. A very powerful force we have at our command that helps boost our confidence and keep our spirits up. Now I'm not here to tell you about the first part, because someone's already done that. If you want to know what can be achieved through the confidence of PMA I'd advise you to check out *Your Own Personal Genie*[1], a great article by His Italian Dudeship, the Rev. Andrea Favro. Which just leaves us with the spirit-boosting power of PMA to mull over right now...



So let's look at one of our greatest role models, The Dude. Why do you think he wears sunglasses most of the time? He even wears them indoors and at night sometimes, but for why? Because The Dude is blinded by his own positivity, that's why. His attitude is so far on the sunny side he's in a constant daze of

life-giving star-glow all day, every day. Of course, when someone pisses on your rug it's bound to blot out the sun a bit, but if there's enough sunlight in your life sometimes that can overcome the dark. "Aw man, the milk's gone bad. Oh well, at least it's a nice day outside. Fuck it, let's go take some deckchairs down to the beach." Gotta love the outdoor recliner, no matter what's befouling your rug. As I always say, "When life gives you stale bread, make croutons!"

Generally speaking, sunlight has a positive effect on human beings (in moderation that is, a lesson of which I already covered here[2]). It's a life-giving force that brings vitamins and nutrients to us and our greens. It brings warmth to the world and light to the natural darkness of the universe. It's the light of the moon and the stars, and that makes for a sight so awe-inspiring it captured the heart of the single-most soulful artist we all know of,



Vincent van Gogh. Starry starry night, sang Don McLean in tribute, probably with a tear in his eye for ol' Vin. Sadly, being Dutch, Van Gogh probably didn't get his own fair share of sunlight in life, which possibly lead to all sorts of depressive mind states. So it Goghs.

One of the biggest links to the state of happiness and depression of a nation is the amount of sunlight it gets. Let's look at Jamaica, a tropical island in the Caribbean with some of the most laid-back people in the world all lounging around on it, rocking slowly between the palm trees in hammocks, lapping up the sun. They're not an overly productive lot of people, but man are they chilled and happy. Conversely, let's look at Finland. One of the most utopian places to live in the world, good levels of socio-economic equality, great healthcare, no real political problems, and yet... one of the highest suicide rates in the world. Sad but true. And who gets the blame? Mr Helios, the sun, that's who. Why? Because Finland is a northern country that's seriously lacking in sunshine (an average annual rate of 4.9 hours of sunlight per day).



The tragic state of Finland's unhappiness is not localized and other places in the world in similar situations try to make the most of it as best they can, such as Siberia and Alaska, for example. Here in the UK there's a strong belief in SAD, seasonal affective disorder, where people suffer from depression in the autumn and winter months when the sun likes to hide on the other side of the globe. It's something that's never afflicted me, but I'm not much of a sun person, being of fair skin and high in heat-generation. But that doesn't explain why I don't get depressed in the winter through lack of sun. I guess I'm just always on the Sunnyside, sunshine or not. I mean, most of my favorite things are indoors anyway!



I'd say, apart from the scientific reasons the sun makes us feel better, the winter has always been painted in harsh colors. Back in the olden days, y'know, before central heating, the winter was a cruel mistress. No heat, no harvest, no horseplay of the external variety, unless you want to catch your death of a minor head cold that is. It's only in the most recent years of humanity we've developed ways to combat the killer season, so I guess it's been in our psyche since we first set out of Africa into the chilly parts of Eurasia, and deep down that's hard to fight... unless you keep yourself on the sunny side, that is.



Undoubtedly the sun cheers the soul of most folks, and lack of it dampens the spirit, which is why we need to make our own sunshine, just like The Dude does, or any other true Dude, for that matter. When you've made your own world so bright you need to wear shades in September you'll know you've hit upon the sort of self-made happiness we all strive for. Come rain or shine you can smile, smile like a man wearing sunglasses indoors at night with toilet water dripping off his face, I say!

Now, with all that in mind, is there now any doubt in your mind just what you can overcome when you're on the sunny side? If you can smile in the winter with an icicle hanging off your nose, after the sun set three weeks ago and you can hear the timber wolves a'howlin' just across the snowfield, you can tackle just about anything else. PMA is what keeps you going in those dark times, it's what stops you from giving up on things, holds your head above the waters of despair. Remember, nothing is fucked here, dudes, planes don't crash into mountains on sunny days; they land smoothly in Jamaica just in time for a beach party.

After all, don't you know you have to accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative? If you will it, it is no dream, dude.

Now, everybody, sing along!

There's a dark & a troubled side of life
 There's a bright, there's a sunny side, too
 Tho' we meet with the darkness and strife
 The sunny side we also may view

Keep on the sunny side, always on the sunny side,
 Keep on the sunny side of life
 It will help us every day, it will brighten all the way
 If we'll keep on the sunny side of life

The storm and its fury broke today,
 Crushing hopes that we cherish so dear;
 Clouds and storms will, in time, pass away,
 The sun again will shine bright and clear...

Links

[1] <http://tinyurl.com/37oecyl>

[2] <http://tinyurl.com/2fdytpl>

Lebowski Last Supper Giveaway

July 24, 2010 7:53 am



As we've just announced[1], we're now offering tee shirts and stuff[2] with the amazing Lebowski Last Supper[3] painting on them.

Well, we're also happy to announce that we're also compeers with those fellers on a new venture - to help encourage people to donate to our new Little Lebowski Urban Achievers Fund[4] at kiva.org, we'll be awarding **ten free copies** of this strongly commended artwork to the top ten donators to the fund over the next month or so. So please stand up (or sit, or lie down) and donate[5]. What's more fucking interesting than a charity where you can help people out, and still get the money back later? It is the most modestly priced receptacle for goodness.



But if you don't want to try to make it to the finals in this contest, we've got an exclusive coupon code which will get you \$3.00 off of the Lebowski Last Supper print right away[6]. Just enter the following coupon code when you check out:

DudenheimPosterSpecial072110

(Case-sensitive: copy it exactly for it to work)

Plus, even bigger discounts of up to \$30 can be had if you buy the more expensive versions of the painting.

Tie your room[7] together, help out[8] people less fortunate, and

look dude[9] doing it. We're happy to be at the table with the Lebowski Last Supper fellers. Another round of oat sodas, Gary!

Links

- [1] <http://tinyurl.com/2ehp6km>
- [2] <http://tinyurl.com/2e5bhfz>
- [3] <http://tinyurl.com/lneqnn>
- [4] <http://tinyurl.com/24dhs37>
- [5] <http://tinyurl.com/23t5yoz>
- [6] <http://tinyurl.com/lneqnn>
- [7] <http://tinyurl.com/lneqnn>
- [8] <http://tinyurl.com/23t5yoz>
- [9] <http://tinyurl.com/2ehp6km>

The Dudenheim Museum Tee Shirt Shop!

July 22, 2010 1:46 pm



[1] If you haven't checked out the Dudenheim Museum[2] yet, please do. There's some far out Lebowski-inspired art there and we've been adding to it. It's basically the Dudeist version of the Sistine Chapel in Rome.

Big news: We've teamed up with some of the artists to feature tee shirts with some of our favorite designs. If you like, please visit our **new shop at Printfection**[3] to buy stuff with these amazing, hilarious and eye-catching masterpieces. Tee shirts, hoodies, sweatshirts, mugs, oat-soda steins and more are available. Wear your Dudeism literally on your sleeve.

You can click on the images below to see them in greater detail. Also, there are some cool new designs at our original tee shirt shop[4] worth checking out. We hope you dig our style.



Lebowski Last Supper[5]

The famous internet sensation that even celebrities have been talking about. This masterful rendition of Da Vinci's "Last

Supper" is a fabulous work of strongly commended and detailed art. What's more, now you can **buy the painting at their site**[6] for \$3.00 off with our exclusive discount code:

DudenheimPosterSpecial072110

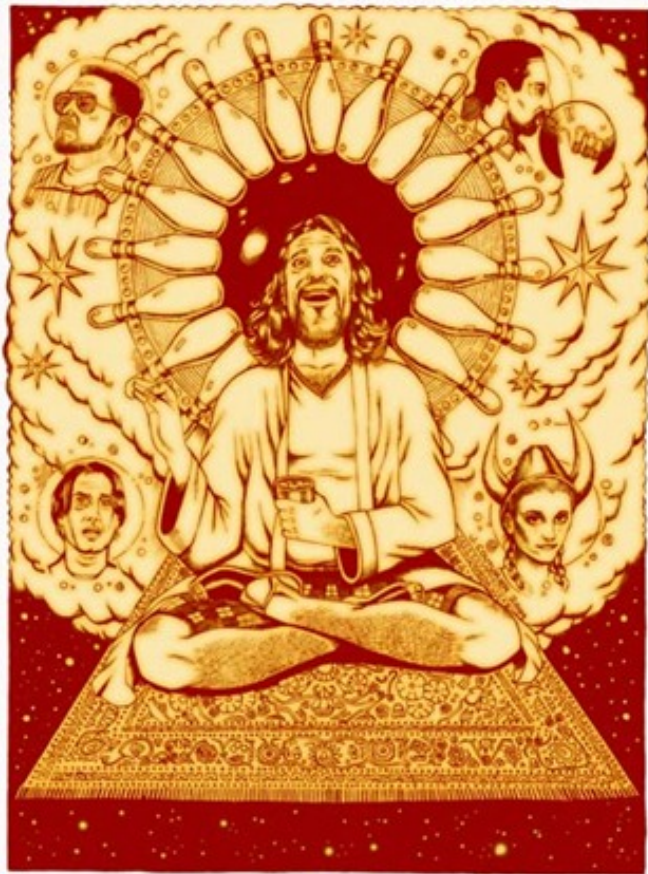


Lebowski Wars[7]

A parody of the original Star Wars poster but using characters and elements from The Big Lebowski.

This amazing image by Matt Plog combines two of the greatest cult films of all time into a timeless and galactic mashup.

May the Deuce be with you!



Dudervana[8]

Jeremy Couturier's far out rendition of Dudervana - Dudeist enlightenment. It captures the mystical essence of Dudeism in all its White-Russian soaked glory.

Enlighten up!



The Dawn of the Dude[9]

Cloxyboy's wild and weird imagining of The Dude, Walter and Donnie as flesh-eating zombies. Apparently adhering to a strict brains regimen helps keep your mind limber.



Treehorn's Pad[10]

Jeremy Rosenstein Kortez beautifully captures the world-class lounging skills of The Dude as he relaxes at Jackie Treehorn's unspoiled pad. We like the way he does business.

Links

- [1] <http://tinyurl.com/2e5bhfh>
- [2] <http://tinyurl.com/29xjazo>
- [3] <http://tinyurl.com/2e5bhfh>
- [4] <http://tinyurl.com/2cxk934>
- [5] <http://tinyurl.com/2e5bhfh>
- [6] <http://tinyurl.com/lneqnn>
- [7] <http://tinyurl.com/2e5bhfh>
- [8] <http://tinyurl.com/2e5bhfh>
- [9] <http://tinyurl.com/2e5bhfh>
- [10] <http://tinyurl.com/2e5bhfh>

Dude, Esquire

July 22, 2010 2:46 am



[1] *Esquire* may be a magazine which caters to the upwardly mobilized and sartorially superfluous, but it's also the best of the ad-and-cologne-sample-filled men's magazines out there. That may be just, like, our opinion, man. But why?

For one thing, they've mentioned Dudeism in one of their previous issues[2]. Also, our dudely friend in Thailand Martyn Goodacre[3] is their local correspondent. Furthermore, "Esquire" is in itself an term not too far from "dude."

According to Wikipedia[4], *Esquire* originally was "An unofficial title of respect, having no precise significance, it is used to denote a high but indeterminate social status." Sounds like something the Dude himself would self-apply. Am I wrong? Of course, "high" is up for interpretation here.

Anyway, aside from all our other reasons, they've again shown their proclivity towards things *dude* by posting an article called "Is 'Dude' the Most Important Word in the English Language?[5]"

While it might not have the depth of some of our Dude University [6] scholarship, it's a welcome addition to a semi-serious Ph.Dude program. We're hoping they'll stick in a cologne sample that smells like White Russian any day now.

[Thanks again to Jeffree Benet[7] for the heads up, dude.]

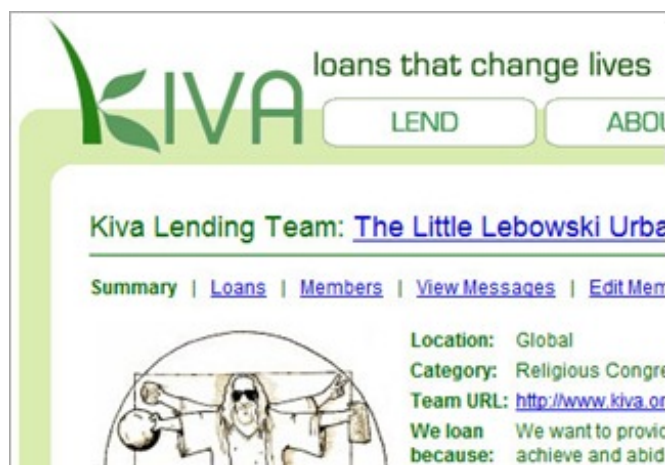
Links

- [1] <http://tinyurl.com/p72qbs>
- [2] <http://tinyurl.com/yaup4su>
- [3] <http://tinyurl.com/2dohkfn>
- [4] <http://tinyurl.com/2r9e3d>
- [5] <http://tinyurl.com/p72qbs>
- [6] <http://tinyurl.com/24oeth>
- [7] <http://tinyurl.com/2fxw5n5>

Dudeism.com's Real-Life 'Little Lebowski Urban Achievers' Fund

July 19, 2010 8:38 am

Dudeism just donated \$1000 to Kiva.org and set up a cool new lending team. Join us[1] now! There's practically no risk and you can help lighten up the whole darn human comedy.



[2]Because we here at The Church of the Latter-Day Dude[3] are keen to help those without the necessary means for a, necessary means for a higher standard of living (and perhaps a bit of hard-earned takin' er easy), we've started the Kiva "Little Lebowski Urban Achievers (Dudeism)" fund[4].

As promised[5], all of the proceeds from the sale of our holy book, *The Dude De Ching*[6] go to this "foundation". We've finally hit \$1000 (500 copies at \$2 royalty each) and have just disbursed it all. \$850 went to loans of \$50 each to 17 groups all

over the world and \$150 went to Kiva.org to help them keep on keeping on.



[7]Want to help? Purchase a printed copy of the *Dude De Ching* here[8] or make a donation yourself via the fund[9]. In fact some of our esteemed Dudeist Priests have already done just that. And proud we are of all of them.

Once the loan is repaid (almost 99 percent of all kiva.org loans are), you can either take the money back or you can loan it again, secure in the knowledge that you're helping the less fortunate and putting your bones or clams where your heart is.

Plus, Kiva loans are tax-deductible, which will help you get bumped into a lower tax bracket.

Makes you feel all warm inside. Don'tcha think?

[*Note: *The Dude De Ching* is now being published via Amazon.com's CreateSpace service. Up to twice as much money will be raised per book sold.]

Links

- [1] <http://tinyurl.com/23t5yoz>
- [2] <http://tinyurl.com/23t5yoz>
- [3] <http://tinyurl.com/2ft8ss4>
- [4] <http://tinyurl.com/23t5yoz>
- [5] <http://tinyurl.com/2bcnv2y>
- [6] <http://tinyurl.com/2738ea6>
- [7] <http://tinyurl.com/23t5yoz>
- [8] <http://tinyurl.com/26m3j7n>
- [9] <http://tinyurl.com/23t5yoz>

your compeers.

Links

[1] <http://tinyurl.com/25qqt2o>

The Day of the Dude – A Latter-Day Recap

July 15, 2010 6:02 am



Or: The Best Laid Plans of Mice and Mangs.

By Rev. Noah Hess

Fellow Dudes, please allow me to tell you... My Day of the Dude celebration back in March did not go quite as planned. Out of my two main friends, one had to work and the other was late to arrive and having a miserable day. Something about a puppy, a funeral, and some carpet-pissers' kids she had to care for. My secondary and tertiary friends called to say they could not make it to the pre-party party and that they would meet us at the bowling alley later on; no problem.

After pasta, a few caucasians and get-drunk-quick schemes, we sped off to the alleys where, in the parking lot, I attempted to whittle the story of The Big Lebowski into a 5 minute monologue for my friend who hadn't seen the movie in a few years. After failing this and ultimately trailing off onto some tangent while drinking heavily vodkaed fruit juice, we went into the bowling alley and were quickly denied our dudely destiny by the short-haired shopkeep. It appears some richer fellers than ourselves had rented out the entire place for a private (non-dude) party, and without a reservation, we were officially boned.



Disheartened, but not giving up, we went straight to the bar and ordered some white russians while waiting for the others. The barkeep handed me what looked like a normal drink, but was in fact the most delicious caucasian I've ever had. "I DEMAND you tell me why this is so great!" I scream after the first sip. Like all great magicians, she revealed her secret immediately. "Ice-cream milk."

[Insert dream sequence here]

...hanging with my entire body out of the window. I was so invigorated! I grabbed the "oh shit handle" and hoisted myself into a sitting position in the car window, waving and screaming at the passing cars in the other lanes of the highway. I then proceeded to dangle carelessly by one arm, legs kicking wildly, smiling insanity at 60 miles per hour. My friend screams "get in here, you're going to get us arrested!"



[Darkness warshes over]

...vomiting, yellow...

[What day is this? Is this a uh...?]

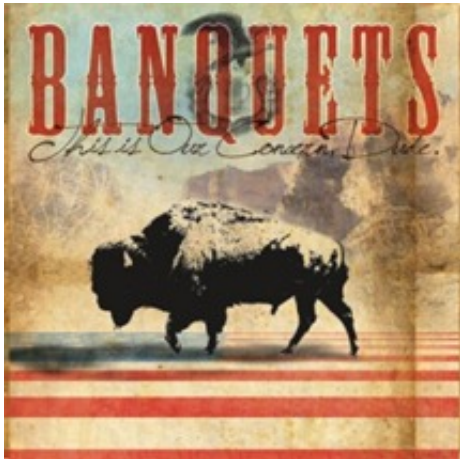
...the sand is cold and everywhere. In my pants, my hair, the pockets of my pin-striped suit jacket... I crawl like a confused alligator t'wards the fire and notice my other friend is here suddenly (even though in actuality he'd been there several hours). They talk like a broken tape player, slowing down and

speeding up, stopping all together at some points. Although I can't see it, the bosom of the Pacific Ocean is close enough to smell. I'm happy.

[Welp, that about wraps er up.]

This is Our Concern, Dude - The Album

July 14, 2010 5:18 am



[1] The friendly fellas in the band Banquets [2] have allowed us the exclusive (for now anyway) right to stream the songs from their new album "This Is Our Concern, Dude[3]." Check them out below!

Note that while the name of the album is taken from The Big Lebowski (they're all really big fans), the songs don't reference the film in any way. Still, it's a nice dose of punkish rock to help keep your mind limber. Interestingly they have another version of the album out called "Nothing is Fucked Here."

If you want to put them on your music player or what-have-you, you can purchase *This Is Our Concern, Dude* or individual songs from it here[4]. You can also purchase the physical 7" record at The Black Numbers[5].

Enjoy!



Lyndon B. Magic Johnson

Eleanor, I Need a Garden

What a Bunch of Aaron Burrs

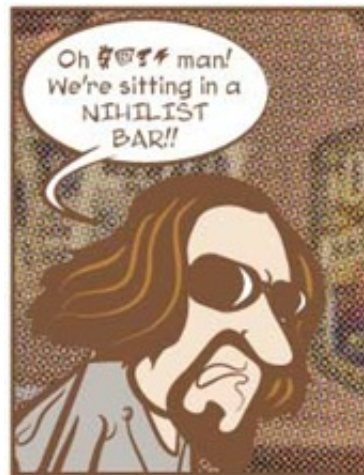
I Wish I Was a Little More Lou Diamond Phillips

Links

- [1] <http://tinyurl.com/264ex13>
- [2] <http://tinyurl.com/2b967hu>
- [3] <http://tinyurl.com/264ex13>
- [4] <http://tinyurl.com/264ex13>
- [5] <http://tinyurl.com/23wmp8m>

You Don't Draw Shit, Lebowski

July 9, 2010 5:04 am



Hey we were recently contacted by a Lebowski-loving cartoonist named James Duncan[1]. Not only did he write an episode of his strip[2] where he celebrates his new found Dudeism and ponders a Dudeist Children's Book (you know, for kids!)...



[3]

...But importantly, he's also got a far out series going called "Walter and Dude's Road Trip[4]." It's definitely trippy! Read them all[5] from the bottom of the page to the top for the full chronological effect...



It sure is fun to see all these new Lebowski-inspired artistic projects. On a related note, if you haven't already checked out the fabulous Little Lebowski[6] project over at our forum, please

do so.

Also, we've migrated The Dude De Ching[7] to Amazon.com's company CreateSpace[8]. More royalties will be raised for our Kiva.org lending team[9] this way and we'll get better distribution (if you like you can even order it from your local bookstore!). Order it online here[10]. We're almost ready to disburse the first \$1000 raised by sales from that book.

Plus, there's a play called "Much Ado About Lebrowski[11]" in San Francisco. What's more, our friend and contributor Rob King is working on a board game.

Any other projects we should know about? Make us privy to the new shit in the comments section below or via email[12].



[13] Some cool new stuff will be available at our gift shop[14] soon. We're even thinking of coming out with a line of Dudeism-inspired guitars. They'll be green with some rust coloration. Here's the headstock sticker (apologies to the Fender Stratocaster). Sounds exhausting. We might just stick to Duder Slackomaster tee shirts[15] and stickers.

You can see the Dudely Lama playing his prototype Slackomaster at a Fourth of July concert here:

Links

- [1] <http://tinyurl.com/27dszsz>
- [2] <http://tinyurl.com/25n95zk>
- [3] <http://tinyurl.com/25n95zk>
- [4] <http://tinyurl.com/2bg8lj5>
- [5] <http://tinyurl.com/2bg8lj5>
- [6] <http://tinyurl.com/25g6ohc>
- [7] <http://tinyurl.com/2738ea6>
- [8] <http://tinyurl.com/26m3j7n>
- [9] <http://tinyurl.com/23t5yoz>
- [10] <http://tinyurl.com/26m3j7n>
- [11] <http://tinyurl.com/2budgll>
- [12] <http://tinyurl.com/246p69u>
- [13] <http://tinyurl.com/25ubjjs>
- [14] <http://tinyurl.com/2cpn6qk>
- [15] <http://tinyurl.com/25ubjjs>

Dude Be Dude Be Dude

July 7, 2010 4:20 pm



By Rev. Hieronymous Moondog

Well...what can I say? Haven't been DOING...make that writing...much lately...a condition of which I am reminded repeatedly by my compatriots at the Duder Bar. Especially Louise as she mixes one after another...

Its one of those crazy, lazy, hazy days...nights...of summer hereabouts. 'Round Midnight on the sound system...the usual diehards at the bar...Letterman on the TV above the bar...sound turned off...

(Please let play while you read the rest of the piece.)

Ron wanders in and sits down next to me as Louise pushes a Caucasian across the bar to him. He looks around the room then over at me.



"What's doin' Moondog?"

"Well not much Ron...what would you have us DO? Are you aware of some situation that needs to be attended to that we here at the bar have somehow missed?"

"Little snarky Moondog? Too much pressure to demonstrate

a deep and profound chill all the time?"

I make a show of exuding a huffy demeanor.

"Yeah...right. Do I look like I am succumbing to the unrelenting coercion coming from..."

"This direction..."

Louise slides another one over then continues.



"...You know what the bumper sticker says...'What would Ernest Tubb have done?'..."

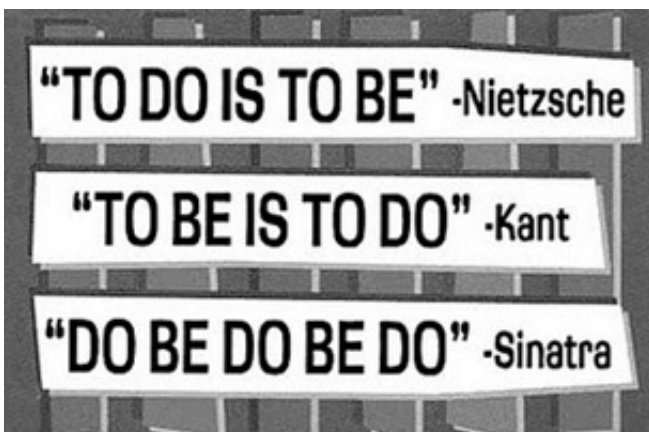
"I expect Ernest would have said, 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it'...sort of like the way things are around here most of the time...take now..."

Ron grins at my hackneyed axiom before he speaks.

"Yeah...guess if you're not DOING something you're just not worth a shit...huh?"

"Booo!"

Someone down the bar chimes in.



Louise fumbles under the bar and finally pulls out two wrinkled rolls of paper which she ceremoniously unrolls and holds up.

"Guess I'm going to have to put this back up...or maybe this..."

I genuinely relax as the obvious sinks in...as it always does eventually (usually).

"Yeah...good old Lao Tzu...and the good old Dude too, man.

Remember The Dude! We should make up a bumper sticker that says that. That's all you gotta do, man...Remember The Dude...when



things get really shitty...Remember The Dude. When things are great...Remember the Dude. Why that's what this whole thing we're doing here is all about, man. Not to get preachy on you, man...but..."

Everyone in the bar looks at me in silence for a long moment...then the normal buzz resumes.



I give some thought as to why I was a little out of sorts earlier. Too much conversation, too much thought...too much dissection sometimes of the whole philosophico, religio, psicologico, analytico...hey, man...you know what I'm trying to say. Too many strands and what-have-yous crisscrossing that way and this...too many idiotic questions about the meaning of it all...too much endless rationale for espousals regarding lazy wisdom, hazy wisdom,



the implications of the fathomless chill, etc., etc., etc...

...when all anybody really needs to do is Remember the Dude!...and the K.I.S.S. principle[1]...man...

The Dude: Yeah, well. The Dude abides.

The Stranger: The Dude abides. I don't know about you but I take comfort in that. It's good knowin' he's out there. The Dude. Takin' 'er easy for all us sinners. Shoosh. I sure hope he makes the finals.

Links

[1] <http://tinyurl.com/crpnt>

No Shirt, No Socks, No Stress

July 4, 2010 7:18 am



By Rev. Ed Churchman

Well Dudes, it's a hot one alright. Summer, huh? Seems to get hotter every year, and from what the scientific bigwigs are saying, it ain't gonna about-face in our lifetime. When I first got to thinking about writing this article it was early May and already starting to come to a boil, but to be honest the early heat-wave began to fry my brain, and so six weeks later here I am with free time on a night-shift in a nice cool room able to let my thoughts flow freely.

And that, fellow dudes, is what I want to talk about here. How we keep our flow going, in spite of Old Man Heat trying to piss on our rug. Heat is a major agitator, and comes from a variety of sources, some of which we can control. Our own worst enemy is often our own body, and the number one way people help it cook them is through clothing. Now your average Dude knows all about this and has himself decked out for maximum airflow, ventilation and breathing. It's just good sense!



Humankind has evolved to shed its body fur in favour of a more flexible option, one where we get to decide how warm we need to be by adding protective layers of our own design and choosing. Pretty nifty, huh? The trouble is, the world's not always the one big free-country we'd like and sometimes the fascists come in and tell us what to wear. And you know I'm talking about the 'W' word here. No, not the smokable W, the other W... the great put-out. As previously discussed in my article Dudeciples and the Pan-Dudian Nation, work is a necessary thing for the world, but what I never mentioned was that bosses weren't!

Is it any wonder that the most uptight people in the world are those in high-powered jobs, who, incidentally, wear suits and ties? There's a reason the necktie is nicknamed the noose, y'know. It's the number one biggest aid to overheating a man can have to put up with, keeping the torso fully insulated for maximum discomfort. And, even when you loosed up a bit, you get a blast of warm, musky air right in the face. You need the flow, the torsal tao, Dudes. But there you go, that's the man keeping you down again.



Fortunately, times are changing and most modern, forward-thinking offices don't have a policy for men wearing ties, just like they don't force women to wear skirts anymore. Now, if we can just get them to slacken up on the whole, y'know, tucking

in policy for shirts, we might be getting closer to a more Dudey office environment. Corporate policy is a hard thing to fight, but fight it we can, under the right circumstances. Now, I don't know who you might work for so don't go trying anything silly, you'll be the best judge of your employer, but there are two ways you can fight the noose.

1) **Religious Grounds.** As a Dudeist it's part of our ethos to stay cool at all times. A tie is simply out-and-out against our principles if it causes discomfort. It's an option, but if it's going to affect your flow and your cool, then that's a stresspass, my friend. You can argue that if Sikhs can carry the 5 Ks with them at all times, breaching laws on wearing crash helmets and carrying knives, surely a Dudeist not wearing a tie is a minor infraction on dress code. No one's going to tell a Sikh to take off his turban in the office and get a hair cut, and nor should they, so why take it out on an abiding Dudeist?



2) If this calling your boss up on religious discrimination doesn't go down too well (especially if they're the sort of mug-throwing reactionary that says Dudeism isn't a real religion) then plan B is **gender discrimination**. If you can find anywhere in the dress code that says men have to wear ties but women don't, I think that's a clear case of gender inequality.

There is, of course, a big chance you'll get nowhere with either of those arguments, in which case it's time to undo your top button and loosen the noose a little as a fair compromise, and hope your paraquat of a boss doesn't notice. Sometimes we just have to abide the crap for a while and take comfort in the fact that a little extra stress during the day can only enhance the enjoyment you get when you arrive home and unshackle your workaday bonds.

Is there truly anything better than unhitching the noose from your neck, untucking and unbuttoning that shirt and throwing the socks in the general direction of the wash basket? The freedom of airflow, the cutting loose, the trascendental state of shedding your clothing down to your comfort zone. That's why we humans, coolest of the great apes, left out fuzz back out in the jungle in favour of a pair of shorts and a string vest.



So, why do Dudes like open shirts and no socks (fashions by Jeff Spicoli)? Because you can't let the heat addle your brain and stifle your body, that's why. We know the secrets of walking comfort. We know the way evolution intended it. If it gets cold, throw in a robe before heading out to Ralph's, that's what The Dude would do. If it gets warm open some vents in your threads and slow yourself down, let your internal heater take a break.

We are Dudes, masters of our own cool. This summer, let us all celebrate either the weather you love, or if you're a pale-skin like me, celebrate that it could be worse, if I wasn't in tune with my own bodily flow. Keep 'er cool, Dudes.

As a last thought, seeing as we have some summer left, and the infamous summer holidays (vacation, break, etc) are nearly upon us, perhaps the following link, courtesy of The Grand old Dude of York, will help you. Wouldn't think about going to the beach without your jellies, would you? If you're not into the whole flip-flop or leather-footwear thing, and espadrilles make your feet itch, that is. Well, thankfully, there is a place where you can get your official imitation Jeff Bridges' Dudewear, at lameduse.com [1]. Thanks GODOY[2]!

Links

[1] <http://tinyurl.com/2eljmco>

[2] <http://tinyurl.com/4t993>