ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT tuesday, 16 january, 2007

WoW expansion: say /bye to sex



Lo! An ancient evil awakens, and the wicked shadows of the Burning Legion creep across the war-torn world of Azeroth once more! That's right, my friends, today is the day for which you've all been waiting. After months of grinding, raiding and enduring countless patches and delays, the Dark Portal is finally open and the Burning Crusade is being unleashed upon the World of Warcraft.

Great, now that we've scared off all the non-gamers ("haters" if you will), we can focus on the task at hand. I know that all of you brave little warriors and mages are squirming in your sabatons to get out there and create your fancy new Blood Elf Paladins and your Dranei Shamans

a few important matters we need to discuss first. I've been working for months to prepare my warrior for the expansion, and I'll be damned if I let some Undead Rogue with a chip on his bony shoulder /spit all over my

Most importantly, there's the issue of the new races. While legions of Horde players rejoiced over their hideous faction finally getting a "sexy" race in the Blood Elves, Alliance players were left baffled as they collectively exclaimed, "What in the name of Arthas' tears is a Dranei?" Before you abandon your pitiful Tier-0 priests and begin to accessorize your new alt, however, here are some things to consider.

For those such as myself who are dabbling for the first time into Horde territory, you should understand this: everyone, including their twinkedout warlock grandmothers, will be rolling a Blood Elf Paladin. Think about it. How many times have you found a helpless little dwarf wandering the deserts of Silithus with

to pwn some bitchez, but there are his laughable Lightforge set, thinking you've got yourself an easy gank, only to be stopped cold by his bubble hearth? It may seem like sweet vengeance, but a Belf Pally is just asking to be ignored for all the *good* instances. And a Dranei Shaman? Please, everyone knows that shammies got nerfed months ago.

I hope you've been stockpiling your gold, too. What's that? You blew it all at the Auction House on that Krol Blade? Bad news, Bronzebeard; it looks like you're going to be confined to the ground as I'm swooping above your head on my new flying mount. Remember the first time you hopped on to a gryphon and cried, "Holy fucking shit, I'm riding a lion-bird!" Guess what? Now you can own one, and tell it where to go, too. Too bad the luxury models will run you upwards of 5000 gold, and even the econo-class write-offs go for 1000. At least you can start getting your reputation up with Exodar and get yourself one of those fucking cool Snuffleupagus mammoths. Seriously,

who really wants to ride a gay Chocobo as a Blood Elf?

If you keep these important tips in mind as you're salivating over the installprogress bar today, you should survive just fine on your first journey to the Outlands. Anything else that hasn't already been learned from your time spent in WoW is beyond my aid, as even Blizzard's loading screen social tips can't help you now. Just do me a favour and don't Cheap Shot my warrior if you see him harmlessly harvesting a sheaf of Dreamfoil on the Hellfire Peninsula. If you absolutely must, then please, please have the courtesy not to /dance over my corpse in jubilant celebration in the aftermath. Don't make me call my guildies.







