



# BURNING MAN SINGED!

By Deb Prothero (firefighter)

**B**y the dark of the lunar eclipse early Tuesday, the Man burned. The unscheduled conflagration seems to have been the result of arson, and a man reportedly has been taken into custody, apparently caught by a Black Rock Ranger as he fled the scene.

Black Rock Rangers and federal Bureau of Land Management rangers, including two canine units, captured a suspect on the playa about 500 yards from the Pavilion. They refused to comment.

The Man was charred but still standing after being hosed down by Black Rock City firefighters.

## BMorg Statement

At approximately 2:58 a.m. local time, a fire ignited the Burning Man figure and the center Green Man Pavilion at the Burning Man event in Black Rock City, Nevada.

Black Rock City Emergency Services Department units responded from Stations Three and Nine and put the fire out within approximately 23 minutes. There were no reported injuries. The Man is still standing, and an assessment is underway to determine the structural integrity of The Man and the Green Man Pavilion. The event will continue as scheduled.

An arson investigation is currently under way, and is ongoing. There is no confirmed cause of the ignition at this time.

No further information is available at this time. More information will be released tomorrow morning after the investigation can safely be concluded.

We will hold a press briefing at 11 a.m. tomorrow morning.

--Andie Grace, Burning Man communications manager.

Although Burners have for years joked about burning the Man early -- or not at all -- this is the first time in Burning Man history that the figure has been prematurely torched. The development comes amid persistent criticism of the presence of corporate alternative-energy displays in the Pavilion under the Man. This is also the first time that such commercialism has been allowed, although the displays showcase only the technology and do not provide advertising.

Eyewitness accounts of the early Burn varied. According to Luke, a virgin Burner from Vancouver, Canada, who said he was on a bench directly underneath the Man, there was the sound of "a cluster of firecrackers" and somebody called out "what the heck are you doing?"

Other reports suggested that a man had scaled the Man, climbing up guy wires, and set fire to the figure with a torch.

Greg Eymundson, a well-known Playa photographer, was on the scene and immediately started taking photos of a person on the right lower leg of the Man. Eymundson delivered his photos to Media Mecca for use in the investigation.



GREGSANDMANEYMONDSON

Witnesses agreed that part of the Man was engulfed in flame.

A Department of Public Works employee said Ranger Krizzly apprehended the arsonist shortly after the fire was started. The DPW worker, who asked not to be identified, said the suspect said "please don't hurt me" to Ranger Krizzly.

Shortly after 3 a.m., the Man was cordoned off by Black Rock Rangers, who kept citizens 25 feet back from the ring of lights that surrounds the Man, itself about 100 feet away from the figure. Only Rangers were in evidence, suggesting that the federal and local

law enforcement authorities were not seeking any more suspects.

Other than the large number of Burning Man vehicles surrounding the Man, the scene was not much different from an average night on the Playa. Burners milled around, and several art cars drove by. Large numbers may have been up to experience the total eclipse of the Moon.

A press briefing was held in

Media Mecca at 5:20 a.m. where Communications Manager Andie Grace read a prepared statement, on behalf of Black Rock City LLC. Grace did not respond to questions.

Tom McCord of Media Mecca confirmed there was an arson investigation. 

## To Our Readers

Because of the extraordinary events of Monday night the Black Rock Beacon is pleased to offer you this special edition of our publication. We will resume our normal schedule on Wednesday and also publish Thursday, Friday, and Sunday.

AS DAWN BROKE ON TUESDAY THE MAN SHOWED HIS GOOD AND HIS NOT-SO-GOOD SIDES, THE RESULTS OF DAMAGE IN THE FIRE.



WEEGEE



WEEGEE

# Black Rock Beacon

## Question of the Day:

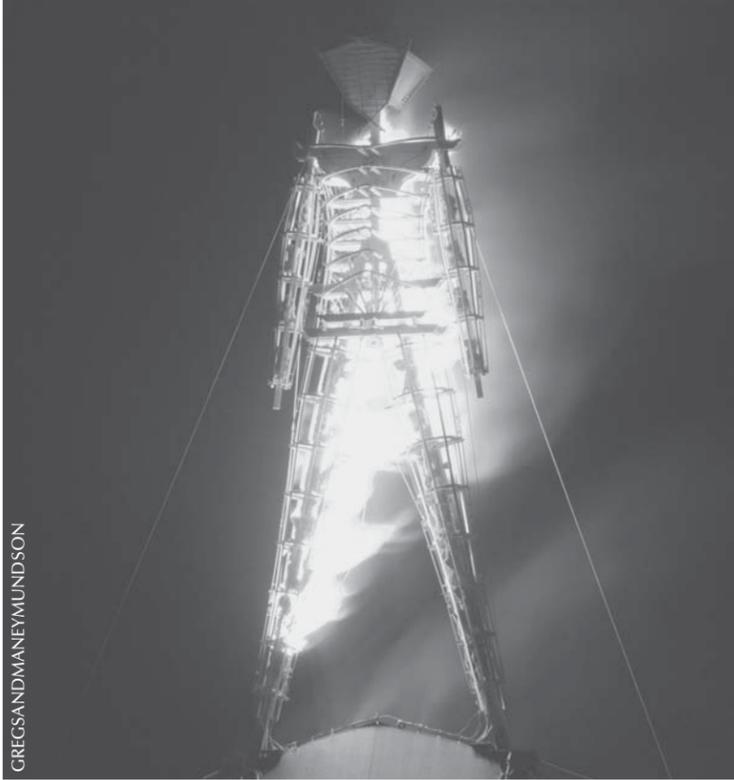
### Why did the Man burn?

Bring answers to the Black Rock Beacon @ 9:00 Plaza.



We're sleepy. We could use some help.

Anybody experienced in news reporting, editing, or production is cordially invited to join the Black Rock Beacon. We just put out two issues in one day. Ooof.



CIRECSANDMANEYMUNDSON

The Man burns early.



## Howeird's Positively Playa !

Well wasn't that a fine howdy doo? Here I am sitting out in front of Beacon HQ at 3 a.m., looking at the balloon-like moon eclipse when I noticed a glow to the East and a plume of smoke. My immediate reaction was that some fantastic flame effect was in action over at The Man but the billowing smoke and orange flames put the lie to that theory PDQ.

According to a well placed Burning Man organization source, Ranger Krizzly was the one to spot the alleged arsonist heading away from the scene who was then arrested the several hundred yards away from Man's perimeter in the direction of 9 o'clock.

Indeed this reporter saw a person in the center of a ring of a dozen Law Enforcement vehicles and a dog before being hauled away. He apparently gave up easily and pleaded "please don't hurt me," according to our source.

Krizzly reportedly was handed a medal for his efforts and was nauseous from either the fumes or the adrenalin. He was also the first to hug a very teary Crimson Rose whose darkest fears must surely have been realized. Condolences.

Returning from Andie Grace's press briefing the dawn's light showed the strong silhouette of a somewhat slender Man giving me hope that all was not lost. Ideas were already being bandied around about a couple of replacement limbs being inserted and Man being bathed in green light for Saturday's official burn assuming 'structural integrity' can be assured. See you there.

# The Burner in the Street

BY CITIZEN X

I interviewed some Burners out on the Playa an hour or two after the fire, to get their reactions.

Michael, a fourth-time Burner from Los Angeles, was returning from a ride out to 12:00 and the trash fence with some friends when someone said, "Holy shit, the Man's on fire!" Like everyone else at first, he was confused

- was it art? Was it a mistake? He feels that this is a tremendously disrespectful action against the community, and is disheartened that someone would do something like this. But it will not affect the good time he plans for this week. In his view, the point is that Burning Man is an experiment in voluntary and temporary community, and it will

continue whether its main symbol is intact or burned off schedule.

Albert and Amber, two Burners from Ashland, Oregon, agreed that "the Man burns every year, and it doesn't matter when." The Man is a beacon that draws people from all over the world together to build a community, and again, that is the point.

Amber, a first-time Burner, was not disappointed to miss a week of buildup to the scheduled burning of the Man - she was with friends when they saw the Man in flames and agreed that at least they all got to see him burn together. Both of them are going to spend the rest of their week as planned, interacting with the people and art found on the playa.

# The Eight Kinds of Burners You'll Find in BRC

BY JONATHAN GRUBB

## 1. Hippies

Sad but true, there are a lot of hippies at burning man. They eat terrible vegan food, do a lot of yoga, and spin fire. The good news is that you can easily keep them away by cooking bacon in front of your camp.

## 2. Yuppies

Just like regular life, the hippies and yuppies travel together. This is because they are the exact same people, one group is just 10 years older. I actually prefer the yuppies, which I guess makes me a yuppie. They're less self-righteous than the hippies, and they have good cheese.

## 3. Rednecks

A lot of first-timers are surprised by the number of real live rednecks. They drive trucks, hunt, drink cheap beer, fight wars, and vote republican (though they still dislike Bush). They also have way more fun than anyone else. Plus they have really nice generators that they keep around in case they need to go off the grid for a few years. Try to get to know the rednecks.

## 4. Software Engineers

These guys (they are almost all guys, like the rednecks) do a few good things for burning man.

1) They build all the cool techy stuff, like super LED flash walls and video feedback systems.

2) They pay for everything with their fat technology salaries.

I like these guys because I'm sorta one of them.

## 5. Retirees

Another underestimated group, these folks show up in their RV's and seem very prepared because they spend the whole year going from one event to the next, or hanging out in Slab City. They are generally great if you can get them drunk. A large subcategory of this group is the Shirtcockers.

## 6. Frat Boys

Frat boys are bad people who should be destroyed. My policy is to treat every frat boy as if he is a cop. We know you're a narc, narc.

## 7. Fetishists

These are seemingly normal people who usually keep their weird fetish private, but for one week a year they feel free to let it all hang out. I once saw a dude totally naked chained to a board next to the road with the words "caught masturbating" written on his chest in magic marker. He was having the time of his life. These people are great because they scare off the tourists.

## 8. Burners

These are the people who make the event happen, and who live the lifestyle year-round. They're easy to spot:

1) They have a funny name, like Dookie or Bloody Knuckles.

2) They seem to be doing exactly what they want to do.

I like to think that I'm at least half Burner, even though my name is just Jonathan and I have a steady software job. I honestly hope I'm more Yuppie than Hippie, which is pretty likely since I have a Schwab account. (And I opened it myself; a surprising number of dirty hippies have trust funds.) I'm not a Frat Boy or a Fetishist, unless snacks count as a fetish. I aspire to be a redneck retiree by Burning Man 25.

## Perpetrators of The Black Rock Beacon...

**Mitchell Martin**, managing editor. **Michael Durgavich**, major general counsel and director of foreign intelligence. **Francis Wenderlich**, graphics editor and co-camp manager. **Ali Baba**, co-camp manager and volunteer coordinator. **Angie Zmijewski**, production goddess. **John Lam**, news editor. **Larry Breed**, chef copy editor. **Edge**, webmaster. **Armadillo**, goddess of the underworld and circulation manager. **Howard Jones**, LNT manager and missing shack wrangler. **WeeGee**, minister of photography. **Brian Train** and **Lianne McClarty**, superior dupers. **Saint Everything**.

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