The dispute, being played out in the California legal system, is over ownership of the trademark of the Burning Man name. It might seem like an obscure point of law, but the Burning Man name may well be the most valuable asset connected with the event.

You might be surprised to learn that Harvey was “completely defeated and dejected” when police blocked the Man’s stick neck was still bare. “Who trip to Nevada. The Nevada Burn was successful, although Law claims Harvey “did not participate at all other than to arrive at the event as a spectator after it was completely set up.”

The event continued and grew in Nevada. Law described himself as the “technical and logistical leader,” while Mikel was the de facto accountant or controller, and Harvey was the artistic director. The three formed a partnership and registered the “Burning Man” service mark.

In his blog, Law says Harvey agreed to formalize the trio’s relationship in 1994. The reason was so that if Harvey was “completely defeated and dejected” when police blocked the event.

In 2004, according to Mikel, demand for arbitration, Black Rock City repudiated the license agreement and stopped paying the fee. Acting on behalf of Paper Man, Harvey granted Black Rock City a licensing fee that covered Paper Man’s minimal costs.

In 2006, Harvey and Mikel dissolved the partnership and registered the trademark “Burning Man” to the public. Harvey initially owned a third of that mark. Paper Man charged Black Rock City a licensing fee that covered Paper Man’s minimal costs.

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We’re taking a day off!

The Black Rock Beacon will not publish on Saturday so that we can see Burning Man. We’ll be back Sunday with our last paper of 2007. Happy Burning!