

FLIPSIDE FLAME

13 MYTHS AND REALITIES ABOUT THE FLIPSIDE COMMUNITY

compiled by Kristen

The Burning Flipside Community has grown speedily from a handful of people to over 2000 in just over 10 years. Wow! Our group is so large it's easy to generalize and forget how diverse people are as individuals within the community. Here's some common myths that several other longtime Flippers and I would like to clarify for newbies & non:

<p>MYTH: “Self-reliance” means that I have to do everything myself. Therefore, my needs and desires are the only ones that matter. I don't need to consider the impact of my actions on others, because others are responsible for their own experience. It's not my problem if it hasn't happened to me.</p>	<p>REALITY: Self-reliance means taking care of yourself, making your own preparations, and being responsible for your experience. However, it's absolutely OK to ask for help if you need a hand. Likewise, let's look out for each other with compassion and goodwill. Participate by helping your neighbor out, or telling a ranger if you see someone in need.</p>
<p>MYTH: All burners are good people who hold the same high values and standards, else they wouldn't be in the community. I can trust everyone because everyone knows each other.</p>	<p>REALITY: Over 2000 people come to Flipside, from various cultural communities and backgrounds, running the gamut of philosophy, behavior, and geography. Long gone are the days when everyone knew each other. As with any group, not everyone is equally honest, trustworthy or “walks their talk.” Diversity is wonderful but also means you can't really assume or generalize about individuals- or their values and standards- without getting to know them.</p>
<p>MYTH: “Radical inclusion” means I'm invited to every party. Anyone who doesn't invite me into their home is an elitist.</p>	<p>REALITY: Individuals choose to congregate based on their own rapport and history with each other, not out of social obligation. You don't have to include anyone simply because s/he is “in the community.” If you're being an a-hole at someone's event, home, or theme camp, people have the right to kick you out. If you're a big enough a-hole, the Community can kick you out of the event.</p>
<p>MYTH: There's no crime in the Flipside community, again because everyone has the same high standard of values.</p>	<p>REALITY: Flipside and community events are not immune to crime, and thefts and assaults can and do occur. Crime is NOT acceptable in our community. Local, county, state, and federal laws apply, and we cooperate fully with law enforcement. We will prosecute and hold people accountable for dangerous and harmful behavior. If you choose to disobey laws and policies, you take the consequences into your own hands. Keep your wits about you and your eyes open. If someone or something doesn't feel “right,” go with your instinct.</p>
<p>MYTH: The burn community at large is very “touchy feely” and I can touch anyone I want.</p>	<p>REALITY: NO. Some of us have known each other a long time and have rapports that include touch and affection. But this is not a free-for-all, and individuals have different physical boundaries that must be respected. If you are interested in someone, start with a conversation with him or her. Ask before touching others and get verbal consent.</p>
<p>MYTH: Everybody in the Flipside community is polyamorous. There's one standard “way” to practice polyamory (or monogamy) in the community.</p>	<p>REALITY: People's romantic and sexual preferences are all over the map, including monogamy, polyamory, and beyond. Relationship styles can be very individualized in that what works for one person or group may not work for another. Again, the diversity of our population is so great, you can't make any assumptions as to how “things are done” in various relationships. Communication and honesty are the keys to getting to know anyone.</p>

<p>MYTH: You're not a "real burner" if you don't have a burner name / smoke patchouli / drum naked / insert hippie or raver stereotype here.</p>	<p>REALITY: To be a "burner" has no technical requirement besides maybe having heard of Burning Man or Flipside, or knowing someone who has. Besides the basic rules of the event, and applicable local and federal laws, subcultural conformity is optional and the choice of each participant.</p>
<p>MYTH: Flipside is a big party thrown by a closed group of organizers. They have it all figured out and don't need help. All I have to do is show up and party.</p>	<p>REALITY: Flipside's planning team is an organic, flat organization of unpaid volunteers that thrives off of well thought out and constructive input. Help by offering ideas and action plans, not just criticism. Better yet, take the initiative yourself when something needs doing. Volunteering is what it's about. As with any experience, it's what you make of it. An active "participant" role will be more rewarding than a passive "spectator" role. This is an opportunity to contribute and create, and even small contributions can help. If everyone volunteered just one hour during the whole event, it'd be the best event ever.</p>
<p>MYTH: I disagree with how tickets are sold, camps are placed, effigies are burned, etc. I can come up with a better way to do it, and I'm stepping in and taking over with my way of doing things.</p>	<p>REALITY: Absorb ideas from the people already involved before pushing your own agenda. Check your ego and assumptions at the door. Decisions that you may disagree with are still there because involve people solved a problem with them. Of course there can be more than one solution to a problem. Start by suggesting alternatives, and be prepared to earn brownie points by following through on your ideas.</p>
<p>MYTH: Discussions and "flame wars" on our e-mail lists are reflective of the larger community culture and should be taken very seriously.</p>	<p>REALITY: People on Flipside mailing lists are individuals with different personalities, moods, and styles of communication. Online communications such as emails are good only for content, not intent; and one person's light, joking sarcasm can be another's insensitive insult. Read the lists with grains of salt. Take heated, personal discussions (a.k.a. "drama") offlist; this isn't high school.</p>
<p>MYTH: "Leave No Trace" is great for keeping the campsite clean, but back home in the city, I still throw my cigarette butts on the ground.</p>	<p>REALITY: "Leave No Trace" is not exclusive to Flipside. As inhabitants of Planet Earth we all continuously share the responsibility for maintaining our environment and managing scarce resources. Be mindful of how much trash you produce, and clean up after yourself.</p>
<p>MYTH: "The only rule is there are no rules." (I actually heard this at Burning Man 2002.)</p>	<p>REALITY: There most certainly are rules. They're outlined in the Survival Guide. http://www.burningflipside.com/survivalguide2009.pdf We aim to create a safe container for self-expression, but this is not a free-for-all, and consideration of others' experience is expected.</p>
<p>MYTH: It's just a party.</p>	<p>REALITY: The object of Flipside, besides fun, is to create a safe and respectful environment for self-expression and exploration, as well as art, performance, and spontaneity. Certainly, let your hair down, be yourself and have a great time, but know your limits and be respectful so that everyone can enjoy what they create.</p>

"We are all individuals." - The Life of Brian



ticket design art by Jim Caddell

WHAT'S THE RUMPUS?

What goes on at Church Night?

- a) anything
- b) everything
- c) whatever you bring
- d) all of the above

Yep, you guessed it. At Church Night: see what's going on at Flipside before Flipside. Wednesdays, [warehouse](#), eveningish. Be in on it.

IT'S ALL ABOUT ~~PORN~~ THEME CAMPS

Hello ALL!!! An e-mail went out to all the leads of every camp on the registry earlier this week to make sure that their Registration was checked as final. If this is not done, your camp may not be placed due to the fact that Placement doesn't see it until it goes final. If you have yet to register your camp, well, FORGET IT NOW!!!

Just kiddin', stop freakin' out man.....OK.....
Done?

You can still register your camp up to May 1st, but please realize that most of the prime camping spots (North Terrace, South Terrace, Mezzanine) are completely full. Please play nice, we volunteer for this (can you believe that?) You still get in, so don't worry.

It's not about the club ya bring to Flipside, it's about the community as a whole. WE ARE ALL TOGETHER!!! If you planned to stay at your camp all weekend, then get out there and stop being a SPECTATOR!!! Have some fun.

Meet some new people. Have some dip!!! Remember Citizens, it is a No Spectator policy in the spirit of TTITD (Burning Man). Thanks for being part of the best community since the Manson Family!!!

Flipside Theme Camp Registration closes on May 1st. You can go to <http://www.burningflipside.com>, log in to your account, then go to Theme Camps - Directory.

Click on "view camp profile" under your camp name.

Click "edit/review" by "clicking here".

At the bottom of your registration, check the "final" checkbox and Submit.

Then check the Camp Directory to ensure that your camp is seen.

Any problems from there, e-mail us at themecampplacement09@burningflipside.com

Hope this finds you smiling!!!

~PoRn

Burning
Flipside
Placement
Lead

GET YOUR GROVE ON

When you want to relax but already went to the creek, where do you go? When you want to meet new people but don't want to go stomping into someone's camp without invitation, where do you go? When you've made lemons into lemonade and want to share, where do you go? You go to *The Grove*.

The Grove is the deliciously shady spot on the upper field, by the Ranger station and that staircase. Like Center Camp at That Thing in The Desert, it's a great place to meet up or just get the sun off you. This year, The Grove will have a new look, courtesy of Systah Rabbit, Izzi, and a cadre of kickass artists - YOU. Wanna make this chill spot even cooler? Join the Grove party.

What: Get grove stuff done

Where: The warehouse, where else

When: May 5th, 7:30



TRAINWRECK!!!

On Saturday Night, *Also Known As* (A.K.A. Kamp) is presenting an event unlike most events you've been to, or got an invite to but didn't actually attend because you don't check that email account (it's your old one) much anymore. ...anyway.

Catastrophy in the wild! *TRAINWRECK!!!*

On Saturday night, the A.K.A. lunar lander sound system will be piloted by 20 randomly selected boys and girls who enter their names into the drawing. These 20 volunteers (no experience required! In fact, less experience encouraged!!!) will man the decks from 10 PM to 3 AM.

WHAT DO WE NEED FROM YOU?!

NAMES!!! GIVE UP YOUR CONTACTS ON THE INSIDE!!! WE KNOW YOU KNOW WHERE THE JADE MONKEY RESIDES, GIVE US THE NA-

Ahem. Sorry, it's late.

We need you to volunteer ahead of time to fill a spot. The first 8 spots will go to people randomly pulled before flipside, and their time slots will be emailed to them. The last three hours of DJ's will be announced at the show, so that people can sign up in person to get randomly selected!

Email entries not selected will be automatically put into the drawing for the final three hours.

To enter the drawing simply email your name, DJ name, burner name, and camp name to seansparks@gmail.com

-Sean

I caught a few words
drifting up
with the smoke
onto my balcony
voices
of my neighbors
laughing
drinking
smoking
a beautiful sound
on a cool
spring
evening
everything drifts

liam brooks

COME ON BE THE NOISE

We are looking to make a lot of noise this year for the procession. I mean ***a lot*** of noise.

This is a call out to anyone who plays an instrument of any kind to bring it to Flipside and join in the cacophony that will be the procession. I don't care if it's a pot or pan being hit with a stick or a \$0.25 kazoo. I want to hear it. Our noise and music shall echo across the flipside lands.

We will be heard!

We will be seen too.

You will not have seen a spectacle of animal types since dear old Noah loaded the wondrous pairs of critters on his lil boat and set sail for points unknown.

Bring you finest, furriest, outlandish, hellish creature getup you can find and join in the fun. This is a great way to participate in the magic and mayhem of burn night. I invite all of you to come out and take part in this magnificent spectacle.

Questions or suggestions?

Send me an email at zonkism@gmail.com

Zonk

Your procession lead

P.S. Stay tuned for work night opportunities for making various homemade instruments most likely out of bamboo.

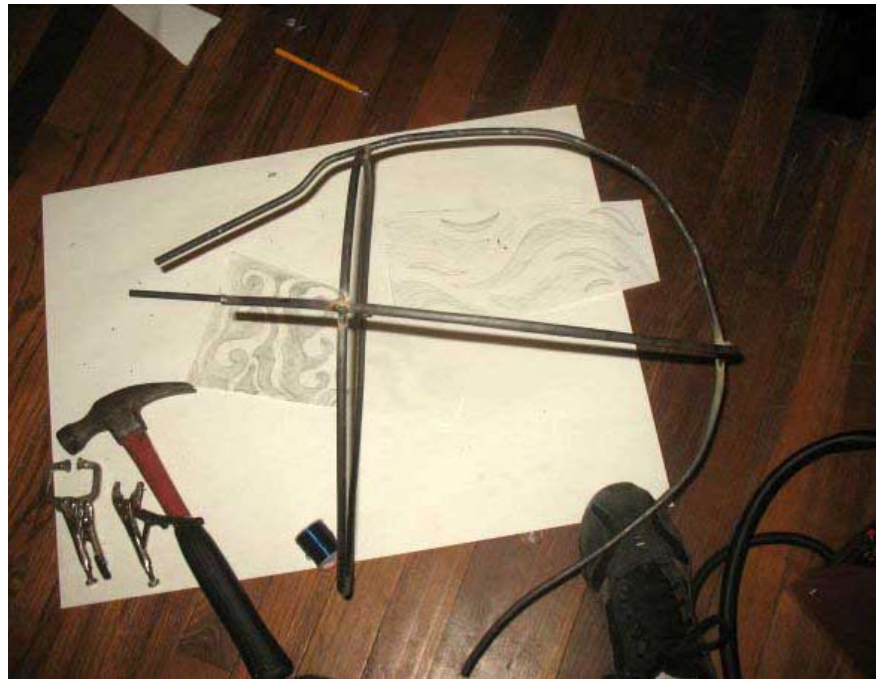


photo by Izzi Long

WORK IN PROGRESS

Action waiting to happen on *Cathartica* by Dotti Spearman and Izzi Long. To everyone working on something amazing to share at Flipside, I wish you a productive and stress-free month of May.