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**GRUE**


# GRUE

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**G**raydancer's

**R**opetastic

*This is the  
important part*



**U**nconference

**E**xtravaganza

# What's an Unconference?

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- "An unconference is a facilitated, participant-driven conference centered on a theme or purpose." -

[en.wikipedia.org—Unconference](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unconference)

- A fictional monster that dwells in the dark, "described as being part "ocular bat", part "unusual hoon" and part man" (Jack Vance).

*"It is getting very dark. You are likely to be eaten by a Grue." - Zork*

# GRUEnealogy

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- 1980's: Harrison Owen presents on "Organization Transformation"
  - *"Open Space works because it harnesses and acknowledges the power of self-organization, which he suggests is substantially aligned with the deepest process of life itself, as described by leading-edge complexity science as well as ancient spiritual teachings."*

# Open Space Works best when the following four factors are present:

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1. **complexity**, in term of the tasks to be done or outcomes achieved;
2. **diversity**, in terms of the people involved and/or needed to make any solution work;
3. **real or potential conflict**, meaning people really care about the central issue or purpose;
4. **urgency**, meaning that the time to act was "yesterday".



[en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org)—Open Space Technology

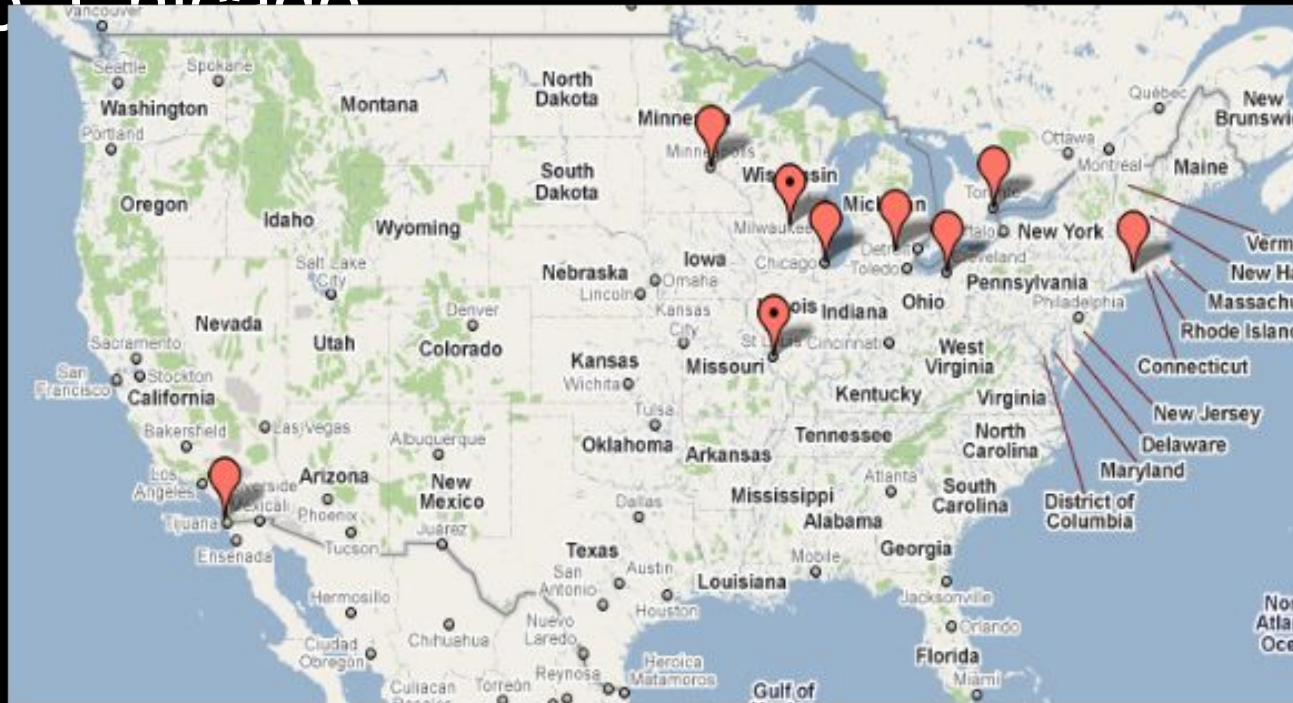
# GRUEnealogy

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- Conceived in a Cubicle, and born the weekend of August 17th, 2007 in Madison, WI.
- 30 Hand-Picked Participants
- FREE
- Chicago, Milwaukee, Madison, Minneapolis

# GRUE's I have known...

- Madison (2), West Michigan, Toronto, St. Louis (2), Connecticut, Cleveland, Minneapolis, San Diego, Chicago



# Siblings:

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- Sex 2.0: April, 2008 Atlanta
  - "loosely based on the unconference model"

[www.sex20con.com](http://www.sex20con.com)

- KinkforAll: March 2009 NYC
  - "inspired by and based upon the [BarCamp](#) community and unconference model."



[www.kinkforall.org](http://www.kinkforall.org)



# GRUE'S ANATOMY

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- Psychology: The Processes
- Physiognomy: The Elements
- Physiology: The Lifeblood of the GRUE

# Psychology of the GRUE

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- 4 Principles
  - Whoever shows up are the right people

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- However long it takes is exactly enough.

# Psychology of the GRUE

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- 4 Principles

- Whoever shows up are the right people
- Whatever happens is the only thing that could have
- However long it takes is exactly enough.
- When it's over, it's over.

# Psychology of the GRUE

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## The Law of Two Feet

*If you are neither contributing to  
nor benefiting from a presentation,  
take your two feet  
and go somewhere you can.*

# Physiognomy of the GRUE

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- Meet & Greet

# Physiognomy of the GRUE

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- Meet & Greet
- "Opening"



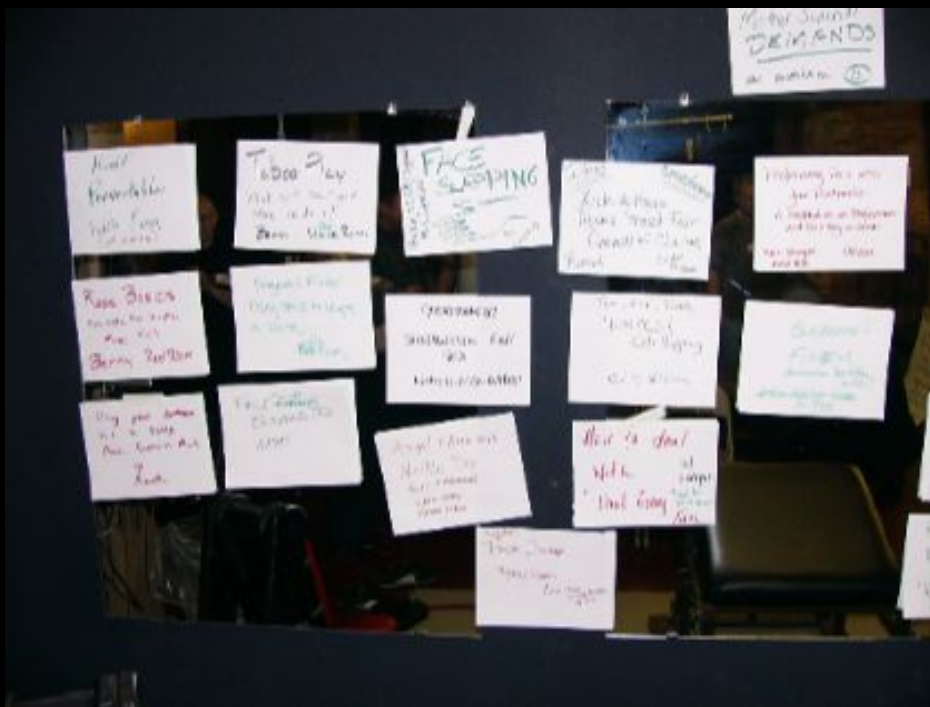
# Physiognomy of the GRUE

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- Meet & Greet
- "Opening"
- Agenda Creation

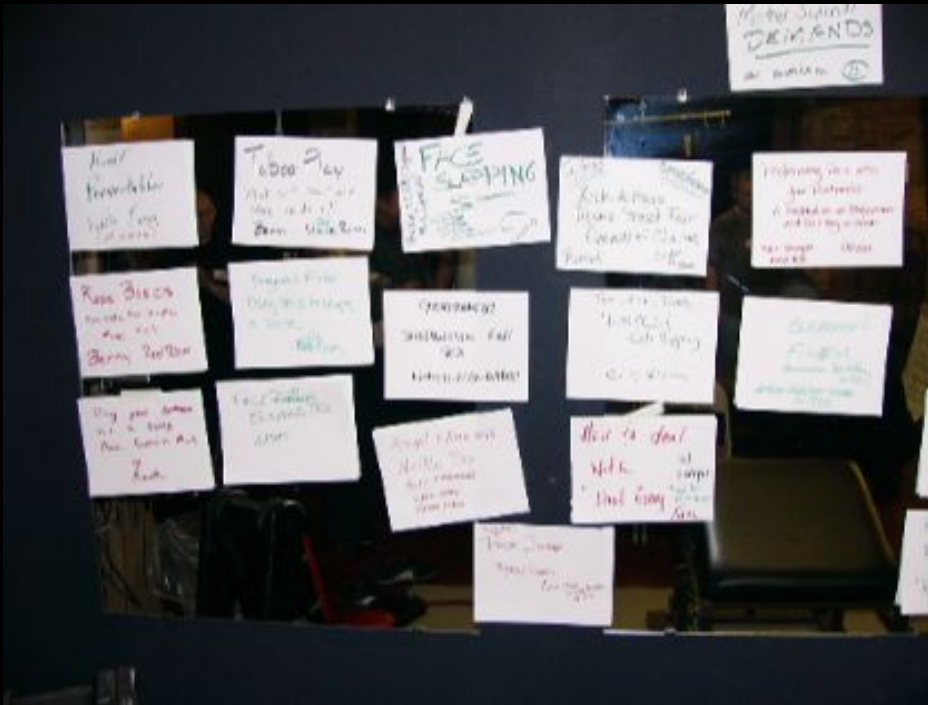
# What kind of classes?

- Single Tails - Top/Bottom Space: Before, During & After - Making It Hard\*-Naptime-One-handed Rope Techniques-Self-Suspension-Rope Bondage for Male Bodies-Intro to Chain Mail-Boobies!-Foot Bondage: Form, Function & Fantasies-Graydancer's Fishbowl-Needle Play 101-301-Gender & Kink-Kink & Self Esteem-SEXY: Walk the Walk & Talk the Talk-Engineering Stuff: Hard points, rope conditioning, etc.-Sensation Play: Only Skin Deep?-Pick Shaun's Handcuffs!-BDSM & Wrestling-What to Wear? Fetish Clothing for the Scene-Cock & Ball Torture & Bondage-Armbinders-Strap-Ons-2% Discussion with Instant Expert-Kink on a Budget-BUZZED! Violet Wand Play-Payback Through Volunteering-Play Spaces: What do you like?



# What kind of classes?

- Rope 101: Intro to Bondage
- Gender and sexuality in the kink scene
- Tying the male form
- Scene names & difficulty coming out as kinky
- DIY Projects: making your own kinky gear
- Bellydance
- Graydancer's Fishbowl (recorded, to be played on a near-future podcast)
- Substance use and BDSM
- Developing a Humiliation Play Scene
- Group therapy & aftercare for humiliation play scene
- Integrating poly relationships with BDSM
- Decorative long-term rope bondage
- Negotiating scenes across social barriers & taboos (cultural, class, race)
- Maintaining Scene Dynamics: the dance of **BDSM**



# What kind of classes?

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- \* Rope basics: one rope, two knots, three ties.
- \* Taboo play: what's NOT OK, and why we do it anyway
- \* Herpes & Cell Popping (some surprising and important stuff in that one)
- \* How to deal with "That" Guy (and how not to be him)
- \* Making a Rope Dildo (with kudos to Eiskoenigin)
- \* Knife Play
- \* Cock & all Bondage
- \* Rope for Decor (on the body)
- \* Kinkbusters! (a la Mythbusters)
- \* Kinky & Monogamous: a round-table discussion
- \* Using your Bottom as a Swing
- \* ~~Face Up Suspension~~
- \* Discussing Gender & Sexuality
- \* Face Slapping
- \* Suspension for Sex
- \* Brainstorming Games for Kinko de Mayo
- \* Foot bondage
- \* Performing for & with you partner (performance & roleplay in BDSM)
- \* Cheap Pervertibles
- \* Using Stories to Shape a Scene
- \* Needle Play
- \* Fire Play
- \* Graydancer's Fishbowl
- \* Mother Superior DEMANDS an Audience!

# Physiognomy of the GRUE

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- Meet & Greet
- "Opening"
- Agenda Creation
- Lunch appears

# Physiognomy of the GRUE

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- Meet & Greet
- "Opening"
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- Closing Circle

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- Party

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- Party
- Graydancer's World-Famous Cheap Ass Pancakes (made by a man in a kilt)



# Physiognomy of the GRUE

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- Meet & Greet
- "Opening"
- Agenda Creation
- Lunch appears
- Closing Circle
- Party
- Graydancer's World-Famous Cheap Ass Pancakes (made by a man in a kilt)
- GRUE CRUE

# The CLASSES

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- Size Doesn't Matter
- Time Doesn't Matter
- Flexible schedule  
& Agenda

# The Fishbowl

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- divide into 3 groups: Tops, Bottoms, Switches

# The Fishbowl

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- divide into 3 groups: Tops, Bottoms, Switches
- Each group comes up with 2-4 questions for the other groups

# The Fishbowl

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- divide into 3 groups: Tops, Bottoms, Switches
- Each group comes up with 2-4 questions for the other groups
- Go in order: switches, bottoms, tops.

# The Bottoms asked:

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For Tops:

1. Are you ok with silent sub space?
2. What aftercare do you want?
3. How obedient is too obedient?

For Switches

1. Is it a 50/50 Split?
2. What do we need to do to get you into Top Space?
3. Is it more difficult to play with another switch?

# The Tops asked:

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For Bottoms:

1. What is the most annoying thing I do to you?
2. What is often missing from a scene that you need to get where you need to go?
3. What thing do you wish we would carry in our toy bag?

For Switches

1. Since you have needs as both top & bottom, can any one scene fulfill you?
2. When you switch, do you go from one side to the other completely?
3. Do you feel persecuted?

# The Switches asked:

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For Tops:

1. Why don't you switch?
2. What bottoming experiences have you had?
3. Do you think switches are aliens?

For Bottoms:

1. Why don't you switch?
2. What topping experiences have you had?
3. Do you bottom for someone who bottoms for someone else?



# it's a GRUEtiful thing

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- CHEAP:

# Sample budget (Cleveland GRUE):

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- Attendees 50 @ \$30 each = \$1500 gross revenue
- Dungeon Rental for the Day - \$350
- Friday Night Reception - \$100
- Sat Lunch for 55 People - \$400
- Sun Breakfast for 40 People - \$200
- Graydancer's Travel \$200
- GRUE Giveaway 2 x \$100 \$200
- Misc \$ 50

feel free to contact XtraSpecial Tom directly [editor@ohiosmart.org](mailto:editor@ohiosmart.org)

# it's a GRUEtiful thing

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- CHEAP:
- Local
- Self-Organizing:

# it's a GRUEtiful thing

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- CHEAP:
- Local
- Self-Organizing:
  - *"I spent six months coming up with the schedule for Black Rose. You did it in 20 minutes...you bastard." - Evan*

# it's a GRUEtiful thing

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- CHEAP:
- Local
- Self-Organizing:
- Serendipitous and Synergistic

# it's a GRUEtiful thing

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- CHEAP:
- Local
- Self-Organizing:
- Serendipitous and Synergistic
- Class Incubator

# disaGRUEments

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- Who the fuck do you think you are?



# disaGRUEments

## ● Who the fuck do you think you are?

- Derek DaSilva
- Twisted Monk
- RiggerJay
- Sade
- Murphy Blue
- Orpheus Black
- Amanda Wyldefire
- Sir Dart
- DemonSix
- Lqqkout
- AvaAmnesia
- Feral Minette
- Leon von MonkeyFetish
- Cherries Jubalie
- Dov
- Benny Deviantouch
- Lady Octavia
- Eiskoeningin
- AtaVea
- The Control Enthusiast
- XtraSpecial Tom
- Graydancer

# disaGRUEments

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- Who the fuck do you think you are?
  - Relies on the Wisdom of Crowds
  - Also can be discussion,  
not presentation- or lecture-based

# disaGRUEments

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- Who the fuck do you think you are?
- Barriers to Entry
  - Age-related - usually due to local customs
  - Interest-related -

# disaGRUEments

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- Who the fuck do you think you are?
- Barriers to Entry
- Lack of schedule

# disaGRUEments

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- Who the fuck do you think you are?
- Barriers to Entry
- Lack of schedule
- Some presenters feel they have to teach anyway
  - *“as someone who knows stuff that others want to learn, I ended up teaching more than learning at StL #GRUE.”*

# disaGRUEments

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- Who the fuck do you think you are?
- Barriers to Entry
- Lack of schedule
- Some presenters feel they have to teach anyway
  - *“as someone who knows stuff that others want to learn, I ended up teaching more than learning at StL #GRUE...not sure what the answer is other than "stfu and don't take requests" ;)”*

# disaGRUEments

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- Who the fuck do you think you are?
- Barriers to Entry
- Lack of schedule
- Some presenters feel they have to teach anyway
- Ephemerality:

# disaGRUEments

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- Who the fuck do you think you are?
- Barriers to Entry
- Lack of schedule
- Some presenters feel they have to teach anyway
- Ephemerality
- Only as cheap as the organizers let it be.

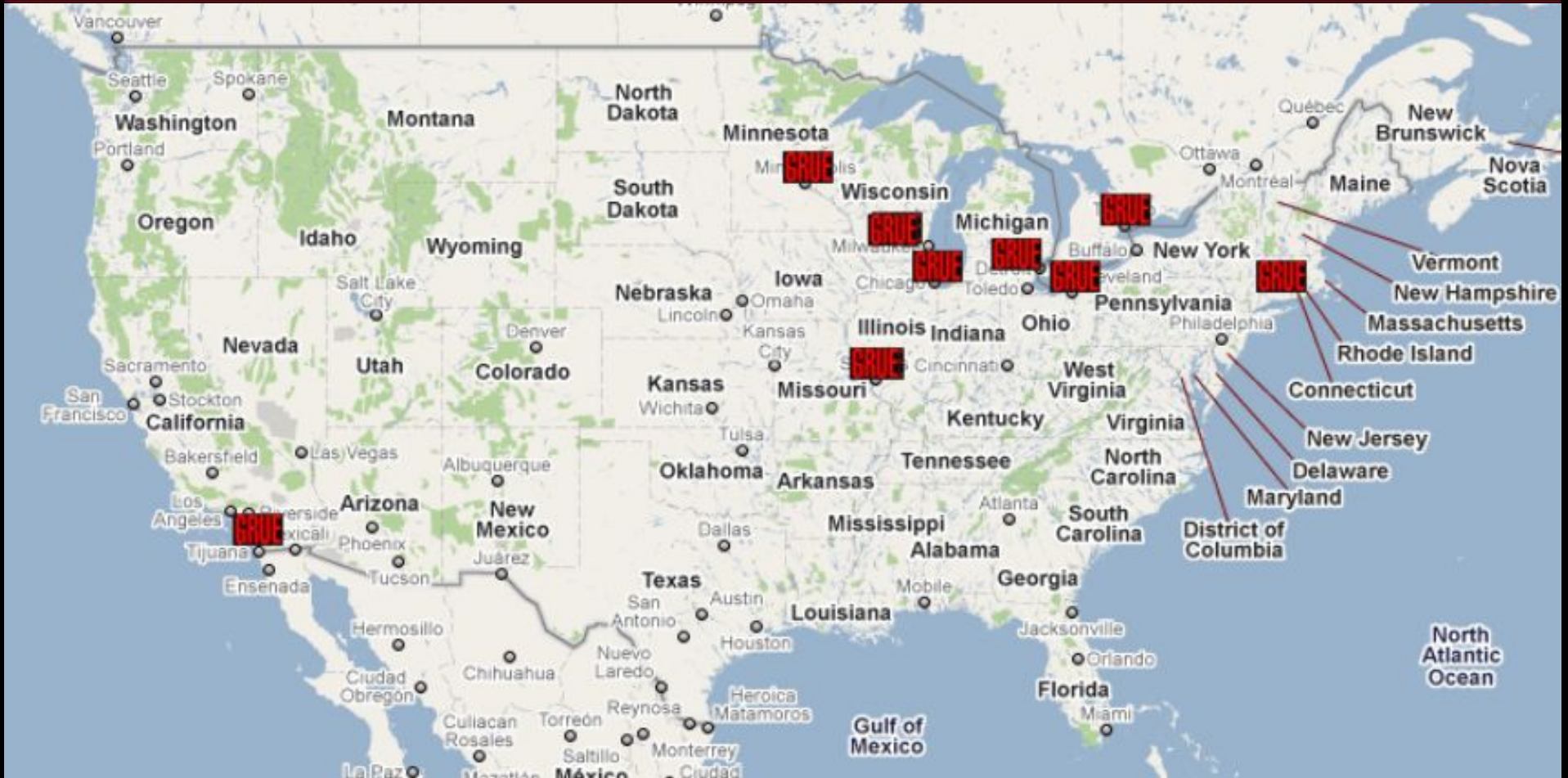


# disaGRUEments

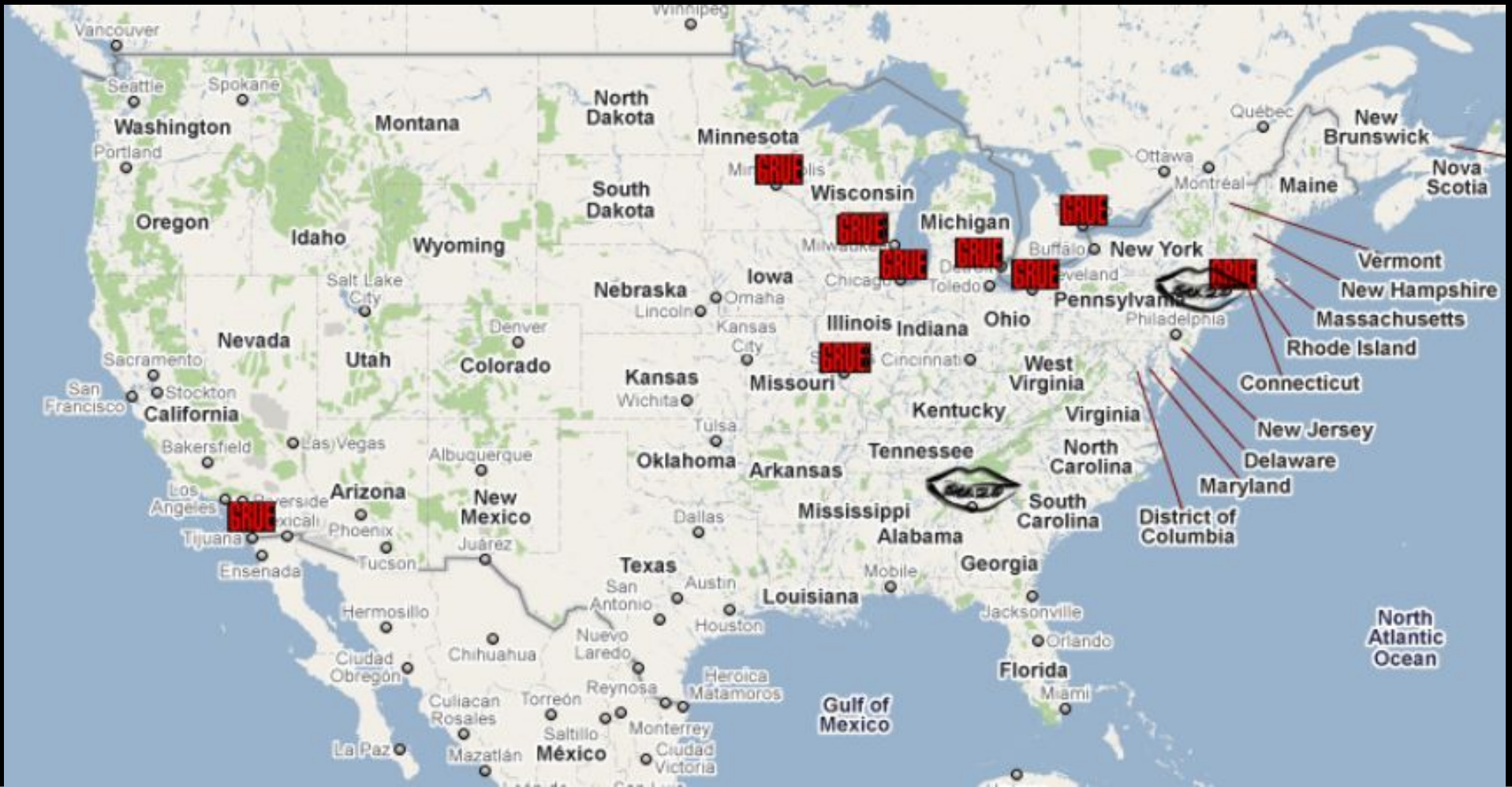
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- Who the fuck do you think you are?
- Barriers to Entry
- Lack of schedule
- Some presenters feel they have to teach anyway
- Ephemerality
- Only as cheap as the organizers let it be.
- Not as local as intended

# 11 GRUE's to Date

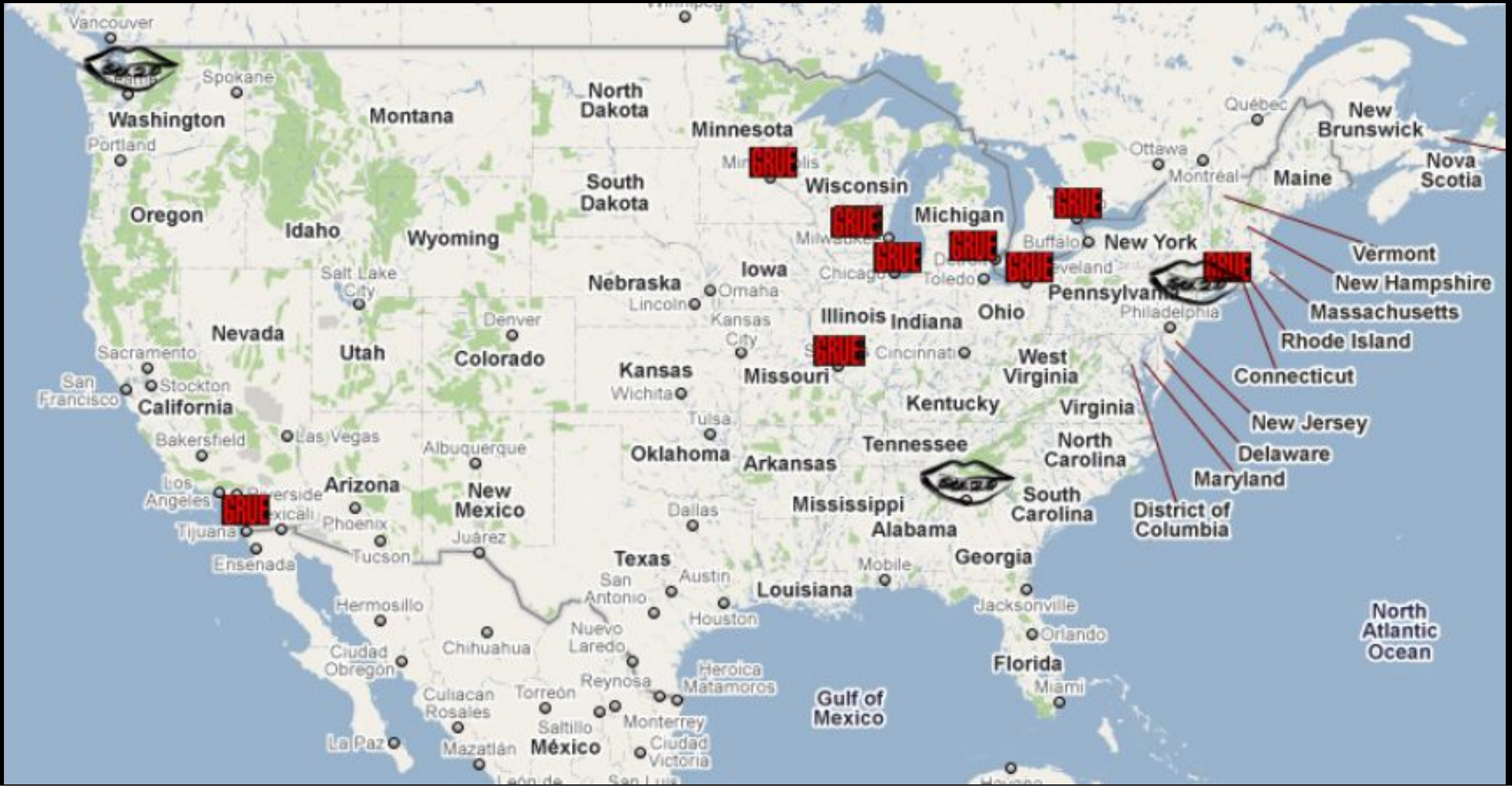


# 2 Sex 2.0 Conferences

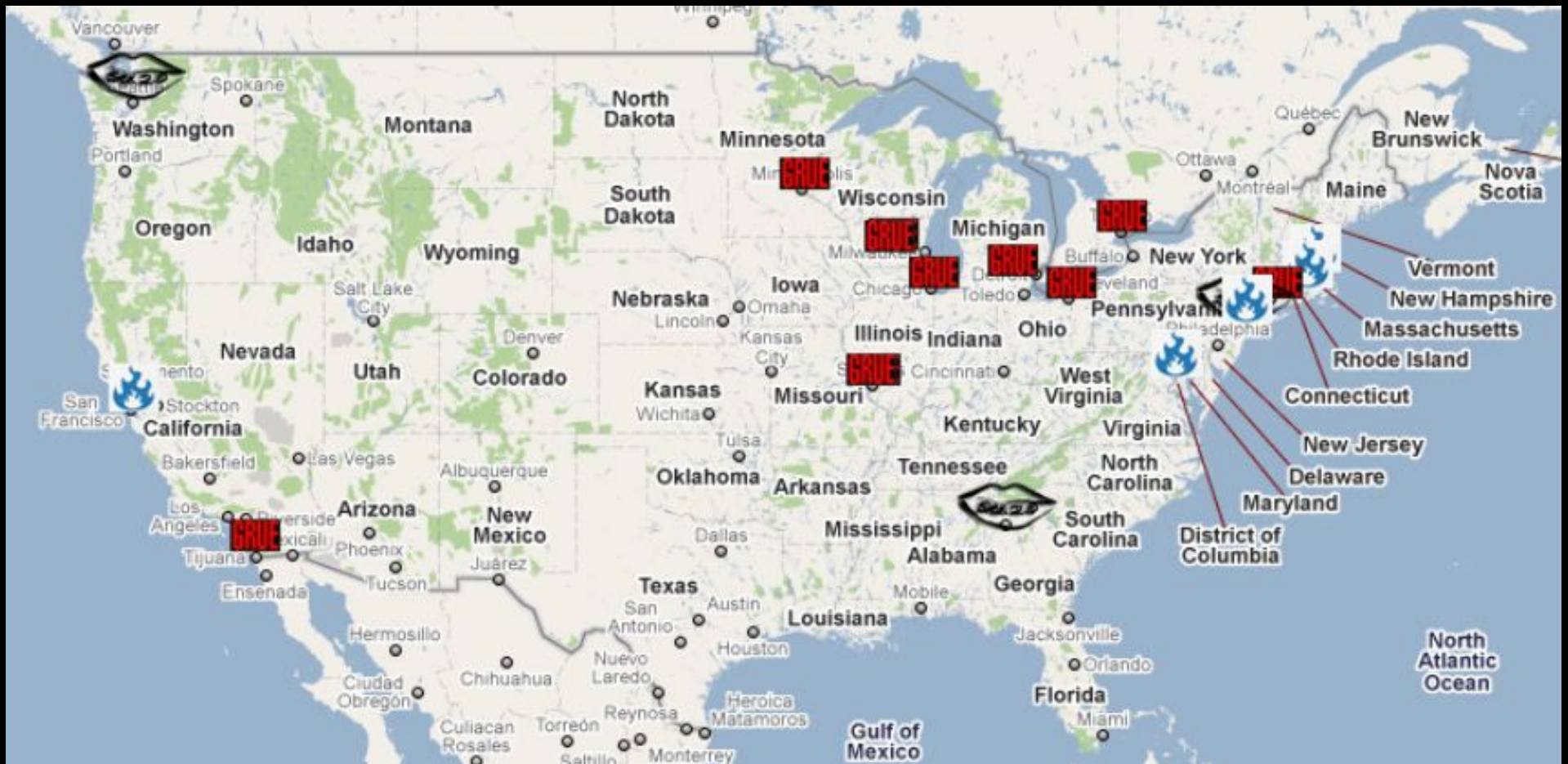




# 2 Sex 2.0 Conferences Next in Seattle in May

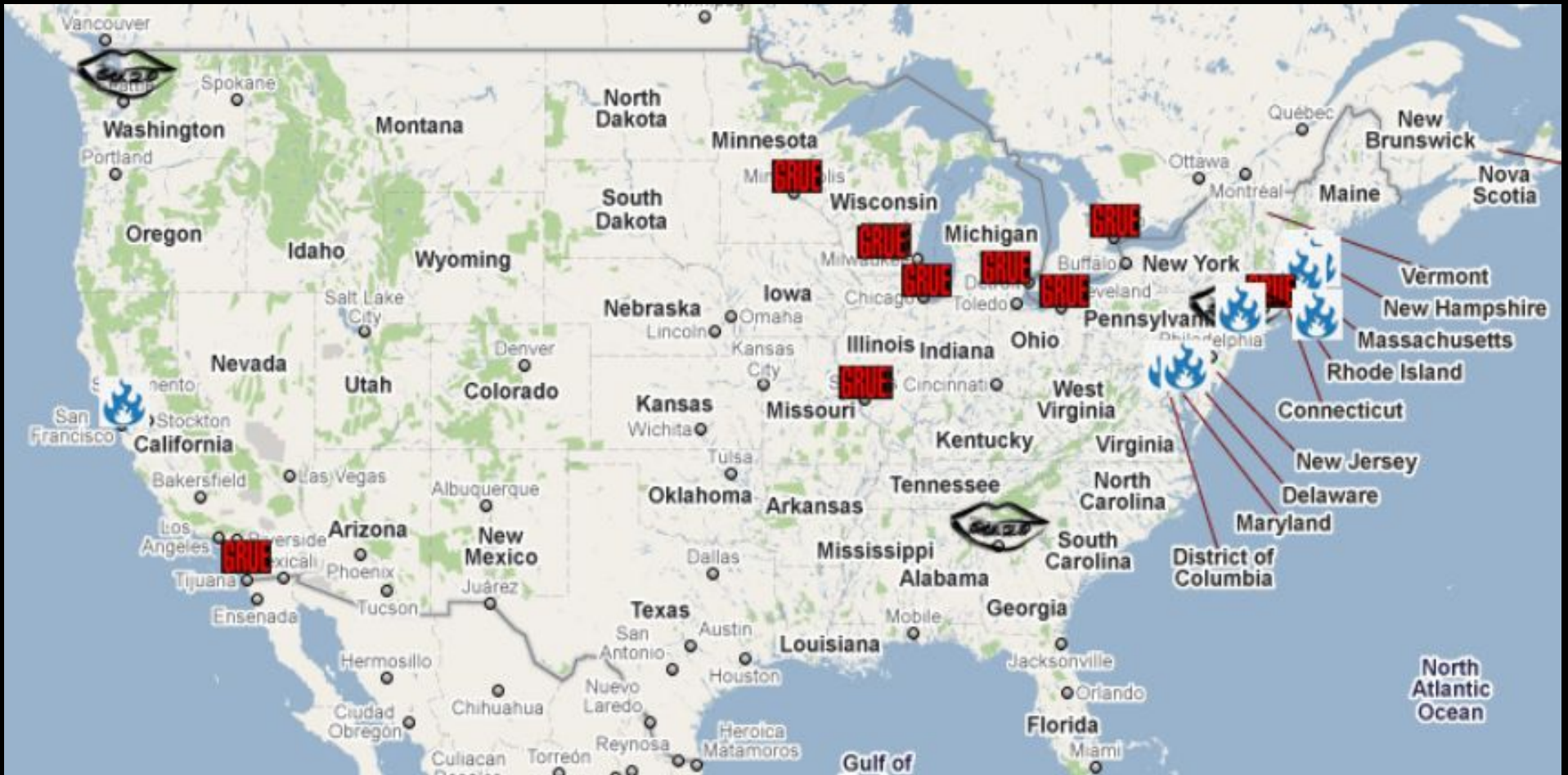


# 5 KinkforAll's to date

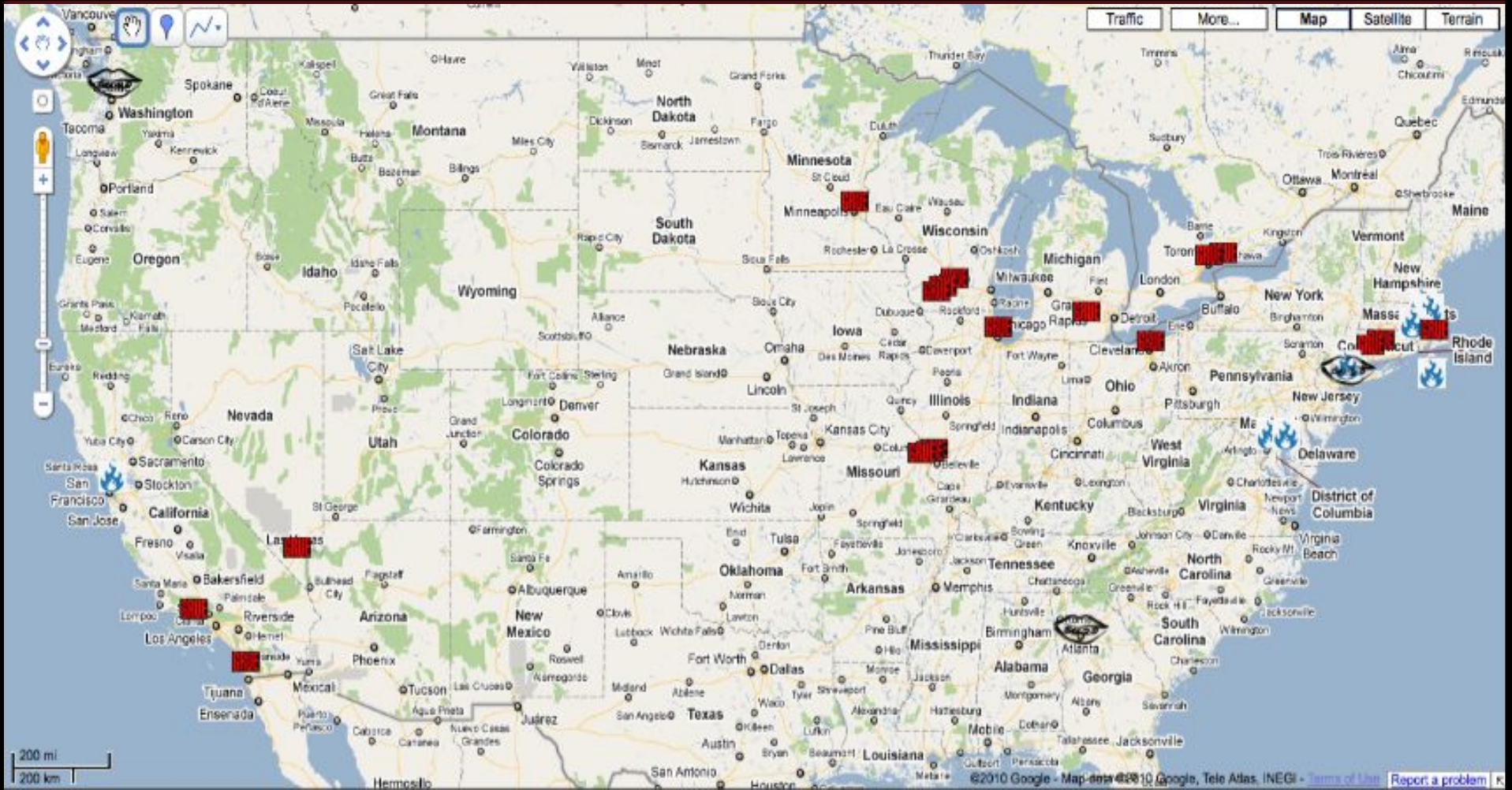




5 KinkforAll's to date  
3 more planned.



# Seven more GRUE's planned Thru December of 2010.





# disaGRUEments

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- Who the fuck do you think you are?
- Barriers to Entry
- Lack of schedule
- Some presenters feel they have to teach anyway
- Ephemerality
- Only as cheap as the organizers let it be.
- Not as local as intended
- "The Graydancer Personality Show"



**GRUE**

*“kink different”*

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People do things  
that they haven't done before  
in ways they haven't tried before  
with people they haven't known before.

# GRUE

*“kink different”*

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“(The) GRUE is not a how-to class. The Participant driven format presented me w/ choices... I found myself in intimate, experienced (both new and wise), visceral discussions about gender identity, jargon limitations, dialogues on submissive mindsets, and a rather intense exploration of cultural, racial, and tabooist prejudices (in and out of the scene) and the ethos surrounding exploring those fantasies.”

*- Toronto GRUE Participant*

# GRUE

*“kink different”*

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“I loved that it was an open format and everything goes. I loved the open discussions in the fishbowl towards the end, which gave Me a chance to open up like I've never opened up before. “

- *Teishu, San Diego GRUE*

# GRUE

*“kink different”*

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“...stuffed more good times and good conversation into one day than most professional seminars deliver in a week.”

*- Hrolf, Cleveland GRUE*

# GRUE

*“kink different”*

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“What a great time! My class was so well attended and the audience very attentive! I'll do it again anytime. It was all fun and informative. Good energy and a great flow of things despite the lack of planning. That was the really fun part. Just do it!”

*- Mother Superior, Cleveland GRUE*

# GRUE

*“kink different”*

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“i hadn't experienced such a sense of intimacy with so many strangers, ever before. there are many in my personal network that will feel the ripple effect, as i am strengthened, validated and further intrigued in the wake of this event.”

- *Stella SemiAuto, TOROGrue*

**GRUE**

*“kink different”*

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“I'm trying to figure a way to live in a GRUE. Methinks I was swallowed whole.”

*- oRuin, GRUE in the 'Lou 2*

**GRUE**

*“kink different”*

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”Awesome idea, wish I had thought of it.”

*-Twisted Monk, ConnGRUE*



# GRUE

*“kink different”*

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Monday came quickly  
I was exhausted and sad  
The GRUE ate my friends.

*- Lily the Rope ho, Organizer,  
GRUE in the LOU 1 & 2.*

# GRUE

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For more information:

[www.graydancer.com](http://www.graydancer.com)

Or contact Gray:

[graydancer@gmail.com](mailto:graydancer@gmail.com)