12 MYTHS OF FILE SHARING

1. "EVERYBODY DOES IT"
   Only about 20 percent of students share files.

2. "I CAN'T GET SUSPENDED OR DISMISSED FOR FILE SHARING."
   Suspension and dismissal are possible, especially for multiple offenses.

3. "I'LL NEVER GET CAUGHT."
   Big companies are hired by entertainment corporations to scour the internet for people sharing their stuff.

4. "I CAN'T FIND LEGAL VERSIONS OF WHAT I WANT."
   What this usually means is you can't find free versions of what you want, but the internet is filled with cheap movie and music sites.

5. "ONLY BIG COMPANIES ARE HURT BY FILE SHARING."
   The Music, Movie and Television industries provide 10's of thousands of jobs to people.

6. "I CAN PAY A FINE VERSUS GOING TO THE STUDENT CONDUCT OFFICE."
   This isn't 'Monopoly', you'll have to go to the Student Conduct Office but it's FREE.

7. "IF YOU BUY IT YOU CAN SHARE IT."
   Most students are caught due to making content available on the internet. Only the owner of the intellectual property has the right to distribute their material.

8. "I CAN'T GET SUED."
   Being sued is a definite possibility. Dozens of students each year have paid thousands of dollars in fines.

9. "I'LL BE FINE IF I JUST STEAL ONE TRACK."
   One small file (just one song) is all it takes.

10. "PEER TO PEER DOWNLOADING CAN'T HARM MY COMPUTER."
    File sharing is one of the easiest ways to infect your computer with adware, spyware, and numerous viruses.

11. "IF MY ROOMMATE DOWNLOADS IT DOESN'T AFFECT ME."
    Internet ports are assigned to specific students—so if your roommate uses the same connection to download, you can be liable.

12. "IT'S LEGAL IF I GET IT FROM A FOREIGN WEBSITE."
    Downloading from a foreign website is held to the same scrutiny.

LEGAL2SHARE.UCR.EDU