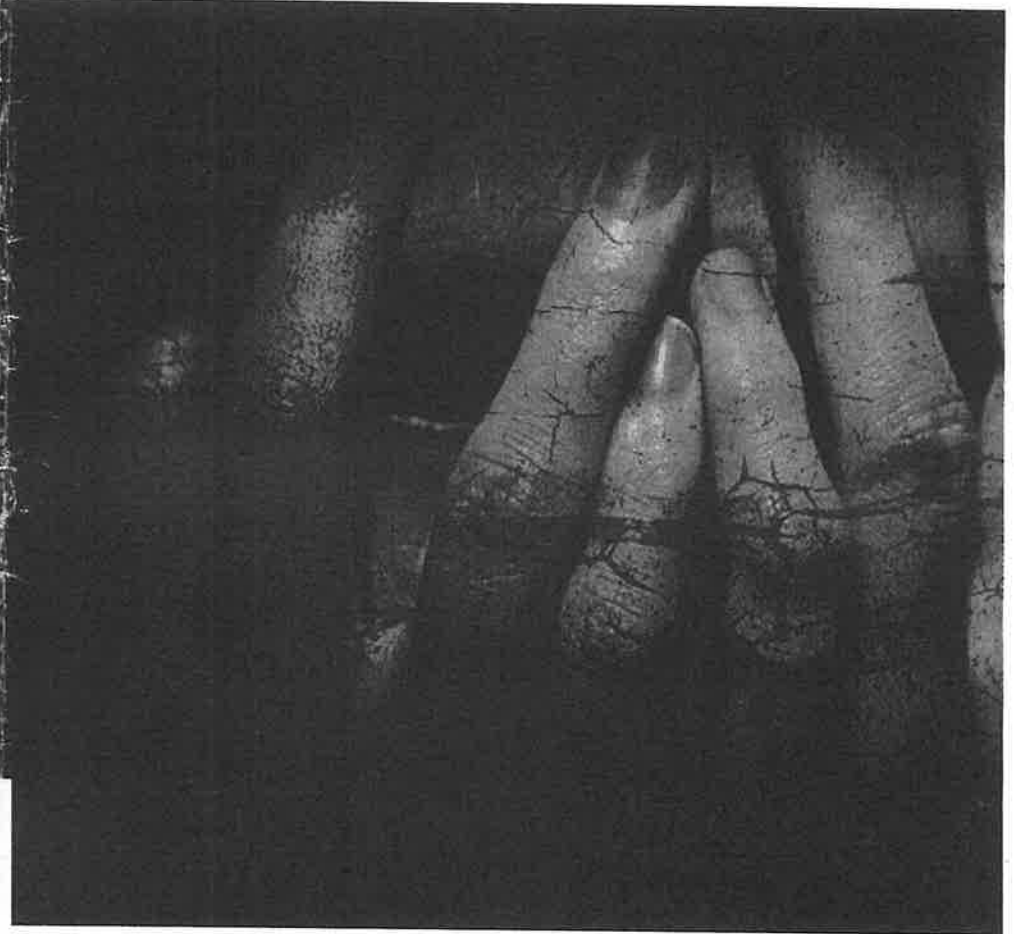


GROTESQUE LIE ZINE

OUR ACTS OF SUBJUGATION ARE BY NO MEANS ACCIDENTAL. YOU'RE MORALLY CULPABLE. **YOU'RE NOT THE FUCKING VICTIM.** CONTRADICTION, FALSE REPRESENTATION. INTROSPECTION, NO REALIZATION. BETRAYED BY YOUR MANIPULATION. MISLEADING YOUR COERCION. YOUR CRIMES REMAIN UNRECONCILED. YOU DEFLECT INQUIRY AT THE EXPENSE OF YOUR SURVIVOR(S). YOUR VIOLENCE IS UNCONSCIONABLE. YOUR BEHAVIOR IS UNACCEPTABLE. YOUR PRESENCE IS UNWANTED. YOUR EXISTENCE IS UNNECESSARY. **FUCK YOUR MARTYRDOM.** YOU'RE NOT THE VICTIM. YOU'RE THE PERPETRATOR. YOU CAN'T MANIPULATE YOUR WAY OUT OF THIS ONE, NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU DISPLACE BLAME, YOU'RE STILL THE PERPETRATOR. IT'S NOT A SECRET ANYMORE.

All proceeds will be donated to the King County
Sexual Assault Resource Center



COMBATting SEXUAL VIOLENCE
IN THE HARDCORE SCENE

My name is Chris. I sing in the band Wake of Humanity from Seattle, WA. We have a song called Living in the Shadow of a Grotesque Lie. It's the most difficult song I've had to write in my entire life. While at the same time, I feel as though it's the most important song I've had to write in my entire life. We live in an abysmal time, rife with toxic masculinity dictating our country's capitalist agenda which pours over to almost every other nation on this planet. Our small diy punk/hardcore/metal/whatever music scene is no exception to the fallout from such a construct. Everyday we learn of another cool guy, band member, shitty dude that is accused of sexual abuse. Some progress has been made in terms of awareness around these issues, but we have a long way to go. As a band, we feel as though we might not be the perfect mouthpiece to deliver messages about this topic, but we felt the need to bring it to the forefront of our agenda. We hope to have a positive impact one way or another with the message behind this song and the record that bares its name. And that brings me to my next point, after providing an interview for xclusive diy fanzine I started to feel like we still weren't doing enough. I had an idea of publishing a zine with the interview and our insights into what folks can do to be more aware, educated and engaged in combatting sexual violence. The pages herein are mostly the opinion of one person. Any missteps, misspeaks or generalizations are in no way intended to negatively affect the survivors of sexual assault. I would like to also recognize a few things that have surfaced since this song has been played live, the record released, and the interview took place. First, the imagery used on our Grotesque Lie record and merch is meant to represent the pure frustration and complexities of sexual violence and rape culture as perceived by me and it's my internalized artistic representation or statement about how frustrating these topics are. I want to gouge my fucking eyes out while trying to wrap my mind around how some survivors must feel. The imagery is not intended to depict a survivor, a

RESOURCES

No! to Rape Culture: <http://notorapeculture.bigcartel.com/>

King County Sexual Assault Resource Center:
<http://www.kcsarc.org/>

National Sexual Assault Telephone Hotline: 800.656.HOPE (4673)
www.rainn.org/about-national-sexual-assault-telephone-hotline

100 Conversations: <http://www.kcsarc.org/100conversations>

National Sexual Violence Resource Center: www.nsvrc.org

End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI):
<http://www.evawintl.org>

Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs:
www.wcsap.org/find-help

1 in 6: www.1in6.org/

XclusiveX Fanzine: <https://xclusivx.wordpress.com/>
<http://xclusivx.bigcartel.com/>

ACTIONS WE ALL CAN TAKE TO DISMANTLE RAPE CULTURE

Recognition - We need to recognize that rape culture exists, and that toxic masculinity/male privilege is one of the roots of the problem. Also, regardless of our "punkness" we are socialized in a capitalist society for the most part and that plays a huge role in how we act and treat others.

Accountability - We all need to be accountable for your actions and we need to hold others accountable for theirs.

Respect - We need to treat others with more respect.

Consent - Always practice proper consent. Learn about it and do it. All the time.

Care - We need to care when people speak up about abuse. No more dismissing accusations. No more mansplaining. No more bullshit. Care more about others and less about ourselves and getting what we want.

Shut up - I need to shut up. All men need to shut up and let marginalized individuals/survivors and groups speak, play music, do their thing etc.

Listen - We need to listen after we shut up. Actively listen and absorb what is being said to us.

Feel - We need to just feel more and be comfortable with expressing our emotions.

And overall, there just needs to be more genuine love for our fellow humans.

Also, we need to applaud and create more groups like No! to Rape Culture which started in Portland, OR. Participating in the activities and workshops provided by groups such as this can be a starting point in enlightening and educating people within our hardcore community.

perpetrator or any particular person. Just the sheer emotion I feel when thinking, writing or screaming about this topic. The song, as you will read is directed towards perpetrators who are not accountable for their horrible actions. It represents what we as band members have been exposed to when it comes to our friends, family members and loved ones who have dealt with such atrocities. The song is meant as a statement/commitment in support of the survivors of sexual violence and it's directed at perpetrators who fail to recognize the impact of their actions. Hopefully, this zine will prove useful, educational and transformative to those who read it. I intend on treating this zine as a work in progress where resources are added, contributions are added, and information is added as time goes on. All the proceeds will be donated to the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center in Washington State. Thank you for reading, caring and listening.

~ Chris



**King County
Sexual Assault
Resource Center**

King County Sexual Assault Resource Center's (KCSARC's) purpose is to alleviate, as much as possible, the trauma of sexual assault for victims and their families. Our mission is to give voice to victims, their families, and the community; create change in beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors about violence; and instill courage for people to speak out about sexual assault.

Look around you, look hard and look good. Amongst your friends and family are survivors. Amongst your friends and family are perpetrators. And why are most of them men, you ask? Patriarchy is the answer. Sounds simple, but it's so damn complex. A system letting us all grow up with toxic roles and expectations, especially for cis het male people. With 'jokes' that are not funny, with remarks that are not 'not serious', with actions which cannot be erased from the bodies they happen to. Sometimes their minds push those events so far back, it is only their bodies' memory which will remember it. Oftentimes they will not speak up, because it will not be loud enough, valid enough, enough 'enough' to be really heard. And if they do, why would you protect the ones who are being named? How can you ever vouch for anyone on this planet? These are deeds no perpetrator will share with people who are themselves not thrilled, amused or motivated by those anecdotes. Such things are shared in chat groups, snapchat and other tools that pro-long the instant kick of violating someone's rights, someone's body, someone's soul. And you are vocal about your support for them while you cannot really ever know the truth. While your support for an accused perpetrator is a slap in the face of this survivor, all survivors. All you have to do, is to do the math, really. Why on earth would someone come forward naming the person who overstepped their boundaries, if it weren't true? To get back at them, they say. To ruin their lives, they say. To become famous, they say.

Now do the math. People who speak up are usually doing it in order to prevent the things which happened to them from happening to others – if it's not too late. People who call out someone who hurt them, face hate and abuse as a consequence from the surroundings of the one accused. People who name their rapist, stalker, husband, boyfriend, first date, ex-lover, one night stand, relative, supervisor,

first or second step following the recognition that a huge problem exists in achieving a culture that calls out and holds its members accountable for their actions. It will require continued work and learning and action.

How do we all end rape culture in our everyday life?

I think it's going to be extremely difficult to achieve this because to me the phrase "everyday life" extends beyond the hardcore community and transcends to the society that formed these behaviors in the first place. I think rape culture is largely a byproduct of toxic masculinity and male privilege bred by the patriarchal capitalist construct under which we have all been socialized. I think if we all recognize why and how it exists we can work on dismantling it. I'm by no means an expert or the most appropriate spokesperson on this topic but I want to do something about it. I'm invested in making this world a better place, so I feel as though I should do all I can to help. Screaming at the top of my lungs about it in a band that plays hyper masculine music is highly paradoxical, but I see this as a starting point for us as individuals and collectively as Wake of Humanity to do something about rape culture. We are all on the same page in terms of making this scene and this world a better place, so we feel our stance, our words, our songs and our actions are merely a starting point for us to bring up these topics, educate people and provide resources such as "Learning Good Consent" zines at our shows.

Again, men becoming more comfortable with their emotions and feelings and recognizing and talking about these topics is very important. I feel weird every time I talk about this live or in interviews because I'm a straight white male with a ton of privilege and I'm basically part of the problem. That said, I've thought about this a great deal and have a few ideas about how we can dismantle rape culture or what me and Wake of Humanity have done as a band thus far. I've written down some words and actions that have been helpful for me to change the way I act. If more men can take these into account, we would be at a good starting point in ending rape culture.

and groups go unheard, undervalued and ignored. It's still a popularity show and dudes in bands and scene cool guys are getting away with sexual violence and emotional manipulation because of how we've been socialized in general. Even in the hardcore scene survivors are often afraid to come forward due to the way we've treated them in the past. Victim blaming, not listening/ignoring people when they come forward with an acquisition all need to cease. We saw this with the whole Champion/True Identity thing. One person had the incredible courage to come forward and call out sketchy abusive behavior. After that initial statement so many others came forward with similar stories. We can't take it for granted that someone is not capable of committing such atrocities if they are in a band, into radical politics or so called male feminists or feminist allies. This is all on the shoulders of the men in the scene. I believe it is our responsibility to recognize these issues, be accountable and take actions to remedy the situation(s). Further, men need to make space for others. Step aside and recognize this space in hardcore we have created is truly open to everyone. And when you are called out for shitty behavior, do your work to remedy the situation. So, I believe the reason there is no such consistent call out culture in the scene yet is because of our history and perhaps unwillingness to change.

What can be done to achieve this kind of culture?

First, we need to recognize the problem exists. Next, we need to listen to survivors and take every word they say very seriously. We need to have compassion for those abused and we need to turn that compassion into action and actually do something about it regardless of who the perpetrator is. Again, it's largely up to the men in the scene to realize they play the largest role in making this scene better by stepping aside, shutting up and listening. I was discussing this very concept recently with friends. We were talking about how to end rape culture, patriarchy, sexism, misogyny etc. in the hardcore scene. One of the conclusions that we came to is that men need to become more in touch with their emotions and they need to not be afraid to talk about their feelings. This could be a

colleague, boss, doctor, trainer, bandmate, fellow student, unknown attacker – will get nothing out of it apart from having said what they felt needed to be said. Now, next month, 10 years or half a life later.

So all your Cosbys, Weinsteins, Depps, Cumberbatches, Spaceys have multitudes of mirror images in your very surroundings. And from a joke about rape to rape it all goes down the slippery slope of toxic masculinity and rape culture. And if you don't believe it – go talk to the people who are close to you and find out, whether your unconditional support for your bro, drinking buddy, team mate or whomever is something they should receive instead of you doubting the facade they might have put up. And guess what – most of the time, you already knew about the things happening and you chose to look the other way instead of calling them out. And why didn't you, I ask.

~ Kat, xclusivx fanzine

XCLUSIVX

**For this question and the next several questions, I want to recognize that I'm using a binary gender construct in explaining my answers. I believe that historically, as I will explain, this gender construct is one of the main reasons behind the problems we face with rape culture today.*

You also wrote lyrics about sexual violence; can you please elaborate on your inspiration for doing this?

Yes, we do have a song addressing sexual violence, unfortunately. As I say every time we play it live, "Living in the Shadow of a Grotesque Lie" is the most difficult song we have had to write and it's difficult to play every single time. But it had to be done. The song is in response to a series of incidents that took place in the Seattle area where one individual, a friend at the time, was accused of multiple accounts of sexual violence, a ton of emotional abuse in relationships and the general manipulation of friends, family, co-workers and partners to get what he wants. I was involved with co-facilitating an accountability process with him and it was the most frustrating, emotionally challenging and eye-opening endeavor I've ever been involved with. Early on we realized we were way way way over our heads and this person is a very sick individual and there was close to nothing we could do to actually hold him accountable for his actions. We could not do that because he was unwilling to recognize his wrongdoings and be accountable for them. Sure, he paid back a little bit of money he owed people, admitted to being difficult in relationships, went to therapy, enrolled in a relationship class and basically did the bare minimum that was asked by his survivor(s) and the committee facilitating the process. Never once did he admit responsibility or act accountable or apologize to those he hurt and lied to. Instead, while in the midst of the process, he continued to abuse people and partners, engaged in sexual relations with intoxicated individuals, did not practice proper consent and would constantly manipulate the facilitators of the process. He never accepted responsibility for his actions and would deflect blame at all times. The one thing that really made me furious was how he acted as if he was THE victim through all this. It's appalling, and I hope our lyrics and that song articulate the emotion I feel towards his dismissal of survivors and the countless people he hurt.

So, this process went on for like a year and after 15+ meetings, we ended it with strict terms for him to disassociate with the hardcore scene and those he had abused. He was banned from several clubs in the area. I was so burned out and fucked up in the head and focused on a new job that I could not dedicate any more time and energy to a process by which the perpetrator of multiple crimes could not reconcile in the least and be accountable for his actions. I sadly missed the last meeting. I truly think he, like similar abusers, require extensive professional/psychiatric help far beyond what he was doing. On paper, this process might look like a failure but I maintain that regardless of the outcome all of us involved recognize that this person was wrong and he abused many people and now that is out in the open. At the end of the day I think we all tried our hardest to make a positive impact for those he harmed. He has left the hardcore scene and while I was in Europe I learned he moved from Seattle. Still, this is troubling because who is going to stop him from conducting himself in the same manner elsewhere?

If anything for me, this process opened my eyes to how much fucked up shit happens out there and to trust my instincts when I get a "creepy vibe" from someone. It exposed me to resources I could use as a man to learn about consent and practice that in my everyday life. It also brought me closer to a few of the folks facilitating the process. Overall, I learned a lot and hope I can help out more. Most of all, I think I learned to shut the fuck up and listen to survivors.

Why is there no real "call out culture" in the hardcore scene?

I think there are several reasons for that. I believe the main reason is due to toxic masculinity. The hardcore scene is still a male-dominated subculture mirroring society in general. We've made a little progress in terms of scene "diversity" in recent years but there are still marginalized individuals and groups of people who go underrepresented due to the current construct. That's created a very lopsided scene where all the cool guys in bands often get "passes" for very shitty behavior and the marginalized individuals