

# Rape Culture: What is it and what can we do about it?

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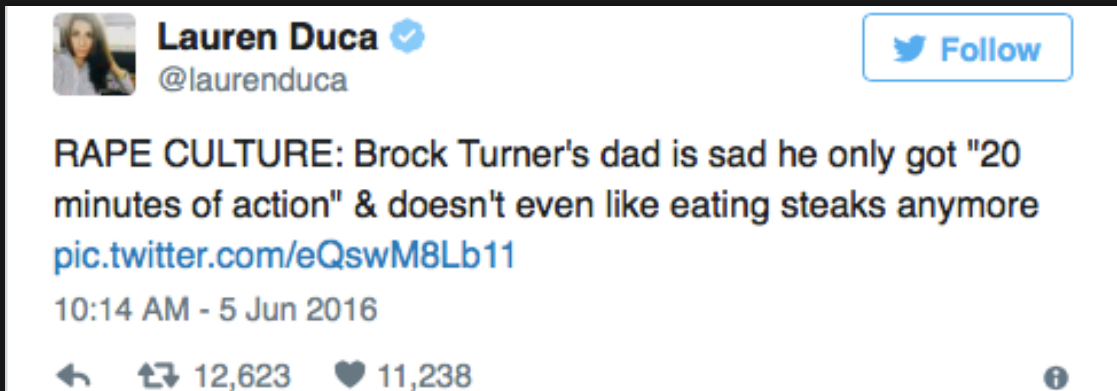
WA State Department of Corrections

# What is rape culture?

- Rape culture is defined as a culture that has normalized sexual violence because of its prevailing social attitudes about gender, sexuality, and violence.
- "a complex set of beliefs that encourage male sexual aggression and supports violence against women. It is a society where violence is seen as sexy and sexuality as violent. In a rape culture, women perceive a continuum of threatened violence that ranges from sexual remarks to sexual touching to rape itself. A rape culture condones physical and emotional terrorism against women as the norm...In a rape culture both men and women assume that sexual violence is a fact of life, inevitable...However...much of what we accept as inevitable is in fact the expression of values and attitudes that can change."

Buchwald, E., Fletcher, P., & Roth, M. (1993)

# Rape culture is...



"Rape culture is thinking women want fame for reporting their sexual assault"

"Rape culture is unrequested dick pics on snapchat"

"Rape culture is when people say, 'she was asking for it' "

"Rape culture is blaming the victim"

"Rape culture is when we teach women how not to get raped, instead of teaching men not to rape."

"Rape culture is when women who come forward are questioned about what they are wearing"

# How have we built a tolerance for rape?

- Culture that tolerates sexual violence through the normalization of violence

"They grab you, touch your butt and try to, like, touch you in the front, and run away, but it's okay, I mean...I never think it's a big thing because they do it to everyone"

Hlavka (2014)

"boys will be boys"

"that's not really rape"

"it just happens"

"they're boys-that's just what they do"

*"Put Molly all in her champagne, she ain't even know it  
I took her home and I enjoyed that, she ain't even know it"*  
Lyric from song U.O.E.N.O by Rocko, Rick Ross and Future

# How have we built a tolerance for rape?

- A culture that allows sexual violence through oppression and social inequality

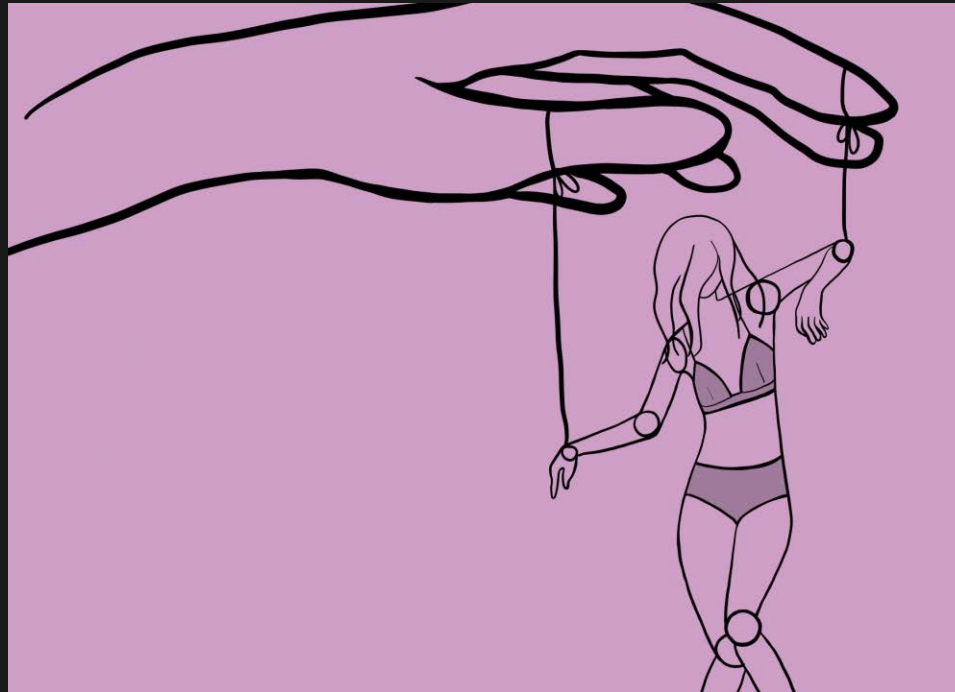
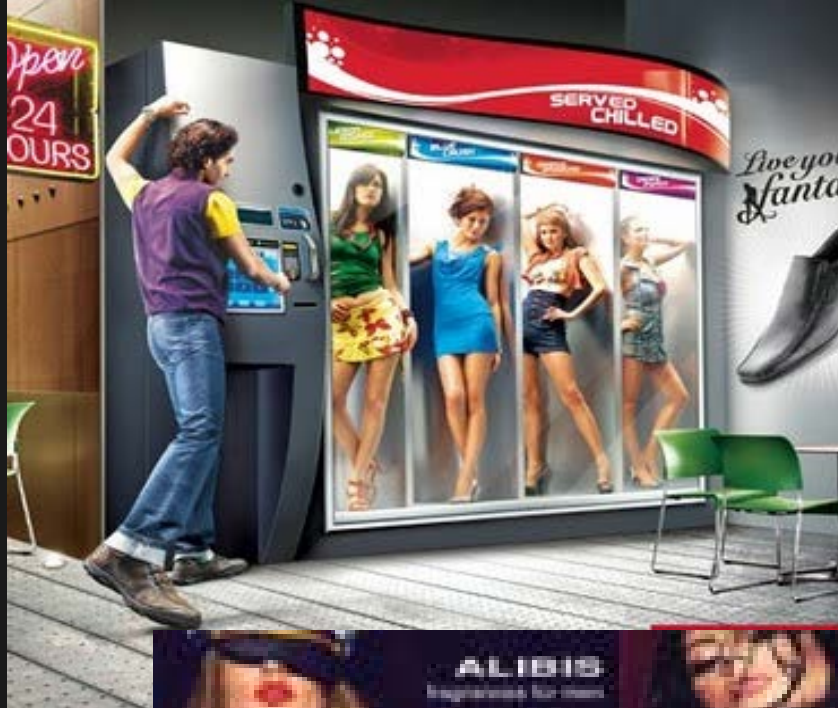


Photo by [Karen Ta](#) | [The State Press](#)

"Rape culture is prominent on college campuses." Illustration published Monday Feb. 27, 2017.

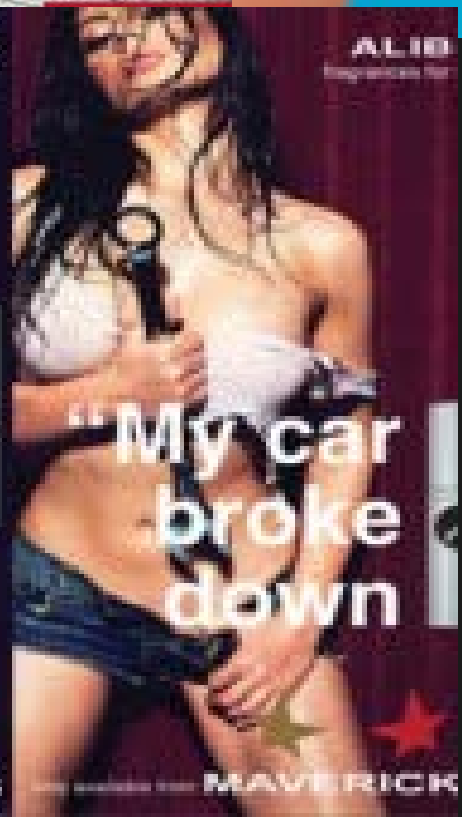




Nice Headlamps.  
What do you look for in a car?

[UlsterTrader.com](http://UlsterTrader.com) 

Northern Ireland's Fastest Growing Car Website



Can you think of other examples in the media that perpetuate rape culture?

# Music

- "Baby it's cold outside"
- "Blame it on the alcohol"
- "Blurred lines"



# How media influences views on consent

- "There's even a vignette you can find online where rape victims write down things their rapists said to them before or during the act of rape and they are astonishingly similar to the lyrics used so we're certainly not the first people to talk about this, we are just one of many, many people who are very concerned about this song promoting rape culture," said President of Humanists of Boston University Patrick Johnson.

"I know you want it  
I know you want it  
I know you want it  
You're a good girl  
Can't let it get past me  
You're far from plastic  
Talk about getting blasted

I hate these blurred lines  
I know you want it  
I know you want it  
I know you want it  
But you're a good girl  
The way you grab me  
Must wanna get nasty  
Go ahead, get at me"

# How have we built a tolerance for rape?

- A culture that normalizes sexual violence through perpetuated rape myths
- Burt (1980) defined rape myths as “prejudicial, stereotyped, or false beliefs about rape, rape victims, and rapists”

# MYTH: Rapists typically assault strangers.

- FACT: According to RAINN (Rape, Abuse and Incest National network), 28% of rapes are committed by a stranger. RAINN asserts 93% of child victims report they knew their rapist.

# MYTH: Men cannot be raped.

- Fact: People of all genders are victims of rape and sexual assault. According to the Bureau of Justice, 1 out of 10 rape victims are male


# MYTH: Many women falsify claims of rape to get guys into trouble.

- Fact: Research suggests false reporting occurs 2-8% of the time.
  - In a study of eight U.S. communities, Lonsway, Archambault, & Lisak (2009) found false reporting occurred 7.1%
  - Lisak et al., (2010) found a 5.9% rate of false reporting in a study of 136 sexual assault in Boston from 1998-2007



# MYTH: Perpetrators cannot control themselves.

- Fact: Perpetrators have the ability to make conscious choices to control their actions



She was drunk.  
What did she  
expect to happen?

A hangover. She  
expected a hangover.

Drinking isn't a crime. Rape is.  
Stop victim blaming.

# Victim Blaming

- "What were you wearing."
- "Well, that wasn't very smart."
- "What did you expect would happen?"
- "You should have been more careful."
- "Did you even fight back?"
- "You can't rape a prostitute, that's what she's there for."
- "Dressed like that, what were you expecting."
- "You fuck everyone, what is one more person."
- "You can't rape the willing."
- "What were you doing there in the first place?"

Disgusting outcome on [#Steubenville](#) trial. Remember kids, if you're drunk/slutty at a party, and embarrassed later, just say you got raped!

09:51 PM on 05/20/2013

This is awful. It's too bad she met with the boy at his home. Something she never should have done. A 12 year old girl shouldn't be associating with a 16 year old teenage boy. Some girls are advanced at this age and she could have known what he wanted her to do when he invited her to his home. No doubt she didn't expect his friends to be there. I hope she be ok and learn from this bad experience.

What can we do to address this?

# Addressing the systems

Judge accused of victim-blaming in comments on rape case

- The criminal justice system

**Italy sex case dropped because woman 'did not scream'**

**'Extraordinary, good man': A Utah judge's description of a former Mormon bishop convicted of rape**

# Addressing the systems

The education system



# The education system



# We teach girls and women how to not get raped

- Take a self defense class
- Carry pepper spray or a knife
- Don't wear provocative or revealing clothing
- Never walk alone at night
- Wear special nail polish to detect if there is a date rape drug in your drink
- If you think your being followed make three right turns
- If you are being chased, never run up the stairs because you'll get trapped
- Carry a key in between your knuckles while you are walking
- Have 911 on speed dial
- Never walk down a dark alley
- Don't stop if you see someone needing assistance on the side of the road

# The education system: Dress codes

- "All tops must have over the shoulder straps that have a minimum width of 1"
- "Shorts, skirts, and dresses must at least reach the fingertips when hands are extended at the sides"
- WA School System "Research has concluded that students are able to perform at their highest level in a safe and secure environment. Students are expected to dress in a manner that enhances academic learning. Any disruptive clothing or appearance that adversely impacts the educational process is not permitted."

# Interventions

- Training and education
  - To the individuals who handle the process after a survivor discloses
  - About consent
  - About gender stereotypes
  - About bystander interventions
- Activism

Consent

CONSENT

IT'S SIMPLE AS TEA



# Gender stereotypes



# Bystander interventions

- The goal is to raise awareness so men and women can identify situations that promote violence against women and provide bystanders with the skills necessary to intervene in a safe and effective manner.
- Green Dot Programs
  - [www.wa.greendot.org](http://www.wa.greendot.org)

What are some of the barriers  
to getting involved?

# What gets in the way

- Diffusion of responsibility
- Evaluation apprehension
- Pluralistic ignorance
- Confidence in skills
- Modeling

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Thank you.