

The **Philly Dudes Collective**



YEAR ONE (AND A HALF)

Men's Resource Center For Change
236 North Pleasant St.
Amherst, MA 01002
<http://www.mensresourcecenter.org>

Real Young Men (The Empower Program)
4420 Connecticut Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20008
<http://www.empowered.org/rymconference.htm>

Men Stopping Rape
306 North Brooks St.
Madison, WI 53715
<http://www.men-stopping-rape.org>

Men Against Sexual Violence
125 N. Enola Dr.
Enola, PA 17025
<http://www.menagainstsexualviolence.org>

Men's Health Network
P.O. Box 75972
Washington, DC 20013
<http://www.menshealthnetwork.org>

Communities Against Rape and Abuse (CARA)
801 23rd Ave S., Suite G-1
Seattle, WA 98144
<http://www.cara-seattle.org>

Introduction

We aren't experts. That's an important thing to know. Even after participating in numerous discussions over the past year and a half, the men in the Philly Dudes Collective aren't experts. We are just people who want to talk about the confusing, frustrating, and often unexamined ideas of masculinity. We figured that if we wanted to talk about all these things, then there had to be others who did too. We simply had to create a space for these discussions to happen.

The thing about not being an expert is that anyone can do it. You can do this. In fact, that's why I wanted to make this zine. To help out other folks who want to talk about these things with starting points, questions, maybe some lessons learned, and hopefully even a little inspiration. Whatever you choose to do with these notes, make sure that it works best for your particular situation.

In the course of things, I've come to realize quite simply that men have almost zero frame of reference for analyzing or even talking about these issues and that probably the most important step for many is simply to formulate the questions. We may have to ask hundreds of questions before we stumble on the one that will allow us to appropriately address an issue. So we better start asking!

And just like there are a million questions to ask, there might be more than one answer to many of them. So keep yourself open to different answers from different people, especially those who don't have male privilege.

Being part of the Philly Dudes Collective has been (and continues to be) an amazing experience, forcing me to examine myself and think hard about many things that have always been in the back of my mind. It has also been nice to have men and women around me that I know support me as I am struggling to ask questions and change myself.

This zine is coming out at a time when the Philly Dudes Collective is in the process of rethinking and rearranging ourselves. We were unsatisfied with the way that some things were going, and are reorganizing to hopefully make our collective stronger, more fulfilling and critical in terms of discussion, and also more effective at raising questions and awareness in the broader community.

We've said it at several of our workshops: this is a good starting point. This struggle is gonna be long and hard, keeping in mind that the struggle is even harder for those without male privilege. But you have to start from where you're at, and it looks like right here right now is as good as any.

-Cary / Philly Dudes Collective

Philly Dudes Collective Mission Statement

The Philly Dudes Collective aspires to create safe spaces for OPEN, CRITICAL, and HONEST discussion on the subject of masculinity (and privilege and oppression more broadly). We do not seek to create a consensus of ideas, but rather to open a dialogue. We want to acknowledge that patriarchy hurts men in ways that we cannot often put into words, but we also want to emphasize that while struggling to reshape masculinity, it is essential that we constantly stay aware of our privilege and remain accountable to those whose lives our privilege affects.

Everyone is welcome at our workshops; male-identified folks of all persuasions are highly encouraged.

Please feel free to get in touch with questions, comments, criticisms, or simply thoughts: philly_dudes@riseup.net

Inspirations

Shannon, Dan, Trevor, and Charlie, Philly's Pissed and Philly Stands Up, other collectives and individuals around the country organizing to support survivors and hold sexual assaulters accountable, the Different Kind of Dude Fest organizing committee, Steve4Change, Matt, Stevie, Chris (ATL), Naman (NC).

Deep deep thanks to those women, girls, trannies, genderqueers, and others who have generously offered support, wisdom, time, constructive criticism, and anything else to the Philly Dudes collectively and individually as we try to understand masculinity and patriarchy better and can hopefully work towards a world free of oppression.

Websites

The Men's Bibliography

<http://mensbiblio.xyonline.net>

Students Together Against Acquaintance Rape website

<http://dolphin.upenn.edu/~staar/>

Men's Movements, Groups, and Services

<http://mensbiblio.xyonline.net/mensmovement.html>

National Online Resource Center for Violence Against Women

<http://www.vaw.net>

Different Kind Of Dude Fest

<http://differentkindofdudefest.dead-city.org>

Anarcha-Feminism and Gender Anarchy Resource Page

<http://www.anarcha.org/sallydarity/index.php>

The Male Privilege Checklist (inspired by Peggy McIntosh)

<http://colours.mahost.org/org/maleprivilege.html>

And the following organizations' websites are also full of great information and other resources.

Organizations

National Organization for Men Against Sexism (NOMAS)

P.O. Box 455

Louisville, CO 80027-0455

<http://www.nomas.org>

National Organization on Male Sexual Victimization

PMB 103

5505 Connecticut Ave, NW

Washington, DC 20015-2601

1-800-738-4181

<http://www.malesurvivor.org>

Planting Seeds Community Awareness Project

P.O. Box 11452

Olympia, WA 98508

<http://www.pscap.org>

Men Can Stop Rape

P.O. Box 57144

Washington, DC 20037

<http://mencanstoprape.org>

Politics of Masculinities: Men in Movements by Michael Messner
Boys Will Be Boys: Breaking the Link Between Masculinity and Violence by Myriam Miedzian
Feminism and Masculinities, edited by Peter F. Murphy
Redefining Your Relationships by Wendy O-Matik
Wrestling With Love: How Men Struggle With Intimacy by Samuel Osterson
Sex On Your Terms by Elizabeth Powell
A Men's World? Changing Men's Practices in a Globalized World, edited by Pease and Pringle
Between Men and Feminism, edited by David Porter
I Don't Want To Talk About It: The Legacy of Male Depression by Terrence Reel
Gender Equality and Men: Learning From Practice by Sandy Ruxton
The Achilles Heel Reader, edited by Victor J. Seidler
For Men Against Sexism, edited by Jon Snodgrass
Refusing to be a Man by John Stoltenberg
The End of Manhood by John Stoltenberg
What Makes A Man, edited by Rebecca Walker
Pro-Feminism: Men's Nonviolent Approach to Feminism by War Resister's League
The Masculinities Reader, edited by Whitehead and Barrett

Different Kind Of Dude Fest zine
Supporting Someone Who Has Been Raped or Sexually Assaulted zine
Advice To Myself by Rich Mackin (a perspective from an accused assaulter)
Beginner's Guide To Responsible Sexuality (For Men) zine
Not Without My Consent! (Asshole!) zine
On The Road To Healing: A Booklet for Men Against Sexism #1 and 2 by Basil Elias (downloadable from <http://www.pscap.org>) **
Thoughts About Community Support Around Intimate Violence zine (<http://sfbay-anarchists.org/intimateviolencezine/IntViolzine.pdf>)
Deal With It zine
What Do We Do: A Zine About Community Response To Sexual Assault

*We haven't read all of these, many have been suggested by friends or allies. If you have other suggestions please get in touch. As always, the purpose is to generate discussion.

DKDF Notes (workshops, fishbowl)

It all started at the Different Kind Of Dude Fest in Washington DC in August 2004, which I'd heard about earlier in the summer. I contacted the organizers and helped out as best I could from three hours away, which mostly meant proofreading announcements and trying to get the word out in Philadelphia, where I live. The weekend came, and I had a great, inspiring time helping out at the shows on Friday and Saturday nights and participating in workshops during the day on Saturday. I went to workshops on Fighting Street Harassment (thanks Rod Codario) and Being An Ally To Sexual Assault Survivors (thanks Brad Perry), as well as a Fishbowl thing (thanks Katy Otto) where the men sat around and just listened to the three women in attendance discuss their perspectives on sexism and more. After a certain amount of time, the men were allowed to ask the women questions. It was interesting, my first experience with this type of workshop.

Overall, the weekend was pretty awesome and engaging. It was encouraging to be in the company of a group of men who were all really committed to struggling against sexism. It also brought up all kinds of thoughts and questions that there wasn't enough time to really follow-up on. A few of the thoughts and questions that I managed to write down were:

Would have liked to see a better link between the bands/show and the workshops – more band members at the workshops, more bands talking about issues at the shows.

Role-playing in the street harassment workshop was helpful. I usually squirm at the thought of “role-playing” but this exercise was a great chance to practice different approaches.

What does street harassment look like in the punk/activist community?

How has/can sexual assault be addressed in the scene?

What are creative alternatives to workshops?

How do we ensure accountability to women in the scene?

One reason I'm really interested in addressing it in the punk scene is because I feel much more powerful and much more likely to actually create visible change in the punk scene.

Post-DKDF Notes, PhillyDudes Collective Formation

Shannon, Dan and myself got together a few weeks after the DKDF to talk about where we wanted to go with our ideas. Even before we had left the fest, we had begun to discuss some areas of both inspiration and dissatisfaction, and our first meeting allowed us to talk about all the possibilities and where we were interested in directing our energies. Our biggest interest was starting with the discussions started at DKDF and taking them much deeper. We were interested in looking at patriarchy and at ourselves very radically and critically and honestly, as a step towards understanding the roots of sexism and thus effectively fighting it.

We basically started from the standpoint that none of us were experts, but that we had a lot of questions that we wanted to ask each other. And we assumed that maybe other folks did too. So we came up with a catchy name (and trust me we had some really ridiculous name ideas), wrote down some goals and decided to start out simple with a discussion at the nearby anarchist freespace, the A-Space. Got a time slot, thought of some questions, made up funny flyers, and we were off.

First Philly Dudes Discussion: Masculinity in Punk

Icebreaker/firestarter: What was the most brutal show you've ever seen?

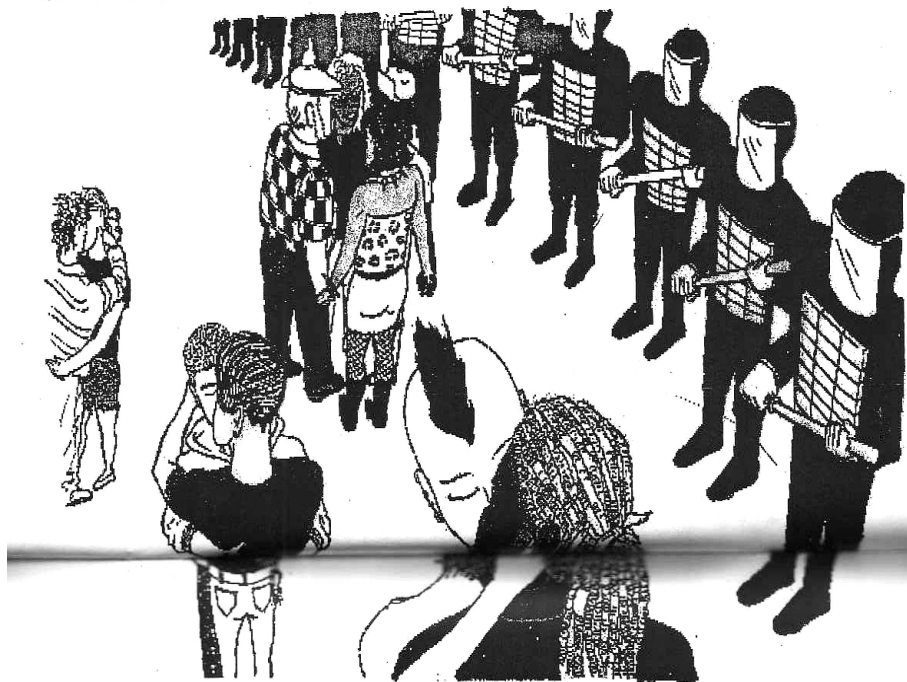
Other questions we asked: What was problematic about the show? What appealed to you about the show? What emotions do you normally see displayed at shows? Why are there (usually) more men at shows than women? Why did you come today? Is moshing sexist? Can men only express emotion through a microphone?

Books and zines

Men And Intimacy by Franklin Abbot
No Is Not Enough: Helping Teenagers Avoid Sexual Assault by Adams, Fay, and Loreen-Martin
The Sexual Politics of Meat by Carol Adams
How Men Feel: Response to Women's Demands for Equality and Power by Anthony Astrachan
Men On Rape by Timothy Beneke
The Cultural Myth of Masculinity by Chris Blazina
My Gender Workbook by Kate Bornstein
Masculinities and Violence, edited by Lee H. Bowker
Masculinities and Identities by David Buchbinder
Transforming A Rape Culture, edited by Buchwald, Fletcher, and Roth
Gender Shock: Exploding the myths of male and female by Phyllis Burke
Gender Trouble by Judith Butler
The Making of Anti-Sexist Men by Harry Christian
The Men and the Boys by R.W. Connell
Men Doing Feminism, edited by Tom Digby
The Hearts Of Men: American Dreams and the Flight From Commitment by Barbara Ehrenreich
Stone Butch Blues by Leslie Feinberg
Stopping Rape: A Challenge for Men by Rus Ervin Funk
Manhood In The Making: Cultural Concepts of Masculinity by David D. Gilmore
Women Respond to the Men's Movement, edited by Kay Leigh Hagan
The Gender of Oppression by Jeff Hearn
The Hite Report on Male Sexuality by Shere Hite
Feminism Is For Everybody by bell hooks
All About Love by bell hooks
The Will To Change by bell hooks
Men's Bodies, Men's Selves by Sam Julty
Beyond Patriarchy: Essays by Men on Pleasure, Power, and Change, edited by Michael Kaufman
Handbook of Studies on Men and Masculinities, edited by Kimmel, Hearn, Connell
Men's Lives, edited by Kimmel and Messner
Against The Tide: Pro-Feminism Men in the US 1776-1990, edited by Kimmel and Mosmiller
Men and Power, edited by Joseph Kuypers
Back Off: How to Confront and Stop Sexual Harassment and Harassers by Marty Langelan
Victims No Longer: Men Recovering from Incest and Child Sexual Abuse by Mike Lew

KISS AND TELL

A DISCUSSION ON RELATIONSHIPS & POWER



CAN MONOGAMY WORK? CAN OPEN RELATIONSHIPS WORK? WHAT'S AN EGALITARIAN RELATIONSHIP?

The Philly Dudes Collective (*ex-members of Sausage Party*) will be hosting a discussion on relationships and how they relate to power in our lives. This will be a skill-share of sorts with an opportunity to express ideas on how to maintain open relationships. This event is open to everybody. Male-identified folks encouraged. This is a potluck-discussion, so please bring some food.

Some questions we will be asking:
Can we subvert power dynamics by sleeping with whoever we want?
Why do I hear everyone preaching non-monogamy and so few people successfully practicing it?
How can we make consent sexy?
Deconstructing the "sensitive male."
Jealousy. What is it, where did I get it, and how do I get rid of it.

**A Dudes Collective Potluck-Discussion Sunday, Feb. 27th, 12noon
A-Space (4722 Baltimore Ave.) philly_dudes@riseup.net**

IS PUNK JUST ONE BIG SAUSAGE PARTY?

IS MOSHING SEXIST?

CAN MEN ONLY EXPRESS EMOTIONS THROUGH A MICROPHONE?

Join our discussion and potluck about **masculinity in the punk community**. Discuss your perspectives on the meaning of masculinity and its implications for the punk/anarchist community in West Philly and beyond. The organizers of the **Philly Dudes Collective** (hey, it could be worse) are self-identified men who are primarily interested

in getting **males talking honestly** with each other. We highly stress this discussion is **open to everybody**, regardless of gender identification, sexuality, or ethnicity. We acknowledge that white male punks dominate the scene but have been lacking in recognizing/discussing this as an urgent issue. We want to hear what you have to say and make sure to **bring lots of yummy food stuffs**. Contact: philly_dudes@riseup.net



Saturday, Oct. 9th A-Space (4722 Baltimore) 1pm

Second Philly Dudes Discussion: Men Becoming Better Allies to Sexual Assault Survivors

Icebreaker/Firestarter: Name go-around, then a moment of silence for survivors of sexual assault and a moment of hollerin' against sexual assault.

Questions we asked: How can men be better allies to survivors? How can men best deal with sexual assaulters? Should we act as counselors or parole officers? What is consent? What would you do if a current (or ex-) partner called you out for sexual assault?

Third Philly Dudes Discussion: Punk and Privilege

Icebreaker/Firestarter: Name go-around, collection of random items in middle of circle and everyone relates one of them to a privilege they have.

Questions we asked: Can I get rid of my privileges? Should I? Where'd I even get them? What if I use what I got to help the lesser privileged, will that work? Can't I just give someone money and not have to feel guilty anymore? How do I recognize when I'm throwing my privilege around?

A lesson learned: We try to make our flyers provocative but also relatable, to not only get people thinking but also make them feel welcome to come share their thoughts. Our first flyer for this workshop featured a picture of Minor Threat and lyrics to the song "Guilty of Being White." Honestly, we were counting on the fact that this song has a controversial history in punkland. Unfortunately, we didn't immediately realize that hanging a flyer like that in West Philly (which has large African-American, African, and other non-white communities) would be ignorant and downright shitty. We were able to change the flyer quickly before any really got put up, but this was a particularly appropriate lesson given the discussion topic. Extra special thanks to anyone who called us out on doing something stupid and Privileged.

Fourth Philly Dudes Discussion: Men Becoming Better Allies to Sexual Assault Survivors

We asked the same questions as our previous workshop on becoming better allies. The difference between this one and the earlier one is that this was limited to male-identified individuals only.

Things I've learned

-Setting the tone for the workshop is crucial! Be willing to talk, and talk about your own experiences, not just theory. Be honest, be respectful, be patient. Leave space for folks to absorb.

-Probably the best idea we've had was the intro and outro for the "Men becoming better allies..." workshop. The intro is a moment of silence for those who have been sexually assaulted followed by a moment of hollerin' (screaming) against sexual assault. This gives a sense of weight to the topic, but then loosens everyone up to talk about it. The outro is the reverse: hollerin', then silence. Which should (hopefully) leave folks in a positive but contemplative mood.

-Figure out a way to get notes from each discussion. Ideally, the note-taker(s) should NOT be the same person(s) facilitating the discussion. Trust me, you will want to look back over these notes later, so make them as detailed as you can.

-It's not just women who are oppressed by male privilege, its transgender folks, genderqueer folks, and all sorts of other people who can't or don't pass for male. Remember to include these people in your analysis of male privilege.

-Ask controversial questions. It's the best way to get people talking. Don't be afraid to ask the questions that are really on your mind, BUT also be mindful of how they will sound to other people.

-The thing about privilege is that we forget that we have it. And, unfortunately, males definitely have privilege in this world at the expense of those who aren't male. One of the most important things males can do is remember this at all times. Yes, patriarchy hurts us too, but others have an even harder struggle.

First Steps

A really good first step would be to go to <http://www.rainn.org/counseling-centers/index.html> and put in your zip code to find the nearest rape crisis centers. Know where it is, know how to get there. Be prepared for the sake of yourself and those around you.

Become self-aware, think about the words you use, your space and movement and actions. Imagine (or even ask about) how these affect the people around you. Try to not become defensive when instances of sexism are brought up, either in general or about your own actions. Really listen, and remember that in many cases people are bringing these issues up because they want to help you become less oppressive.

Ask questions to those around you, and encourage thoughtful answers. I guarantee that people will want to talk.

Ideas for other workshops

These are ideas for other workshops that have either been proposed by workshop attendees or have come out of our collective brains:

- Homophobia/heterosexism
- Developing communication skills (verbal AND non-verbal)
- Body image issues (male focus?)
- Stereotypes, archetypes
- Music as gendered
- Positive male sexuality
- Male health issues
- Chronology of "sensitive" dude in hardcore
- Fighting street harassment (and what does street harassment look like in punk/activist culture?)
- Positive male role models
- Gossip culture
- Ways to discuss things outside activist/punk circles
- Multiple masculinities – cultural and ethnic differences and similarities
- Bring your own questions – an idea for this was to have people bring as many questions as they want/can, write them down and toss them in a hat, then go around reading them, and only allowing 2 or 3 responses before moving on to the next one. The idea was to just get people thinking about questions that they've always wondered about, but maybe never verbalized.

Philly Dudes NCOR Workshop: Men Becoming Better Allies to Sexual Assault Survivors

As participants entered the room, we had large sheets of paper with the words SURVIVOR, ASSAULTER, SEXUAL ASSAULT, and CONSENT printed at the top. As people got settled, we invited them to come up and write their definition or impression or understanding of any of these words to start the discussion.

Icebreaker/Firestarter: Name go-around, then a moment of silence for survivors of sexual assault and a moment of hollerin' against sexual assault.

We took a few minutes to go over what was written on each of the large papers with Survivor, Assaulter, Sexual Assault, and Consent, as well as giving people a chance to add anything that might have been missed.

Then we asked our first three questions:

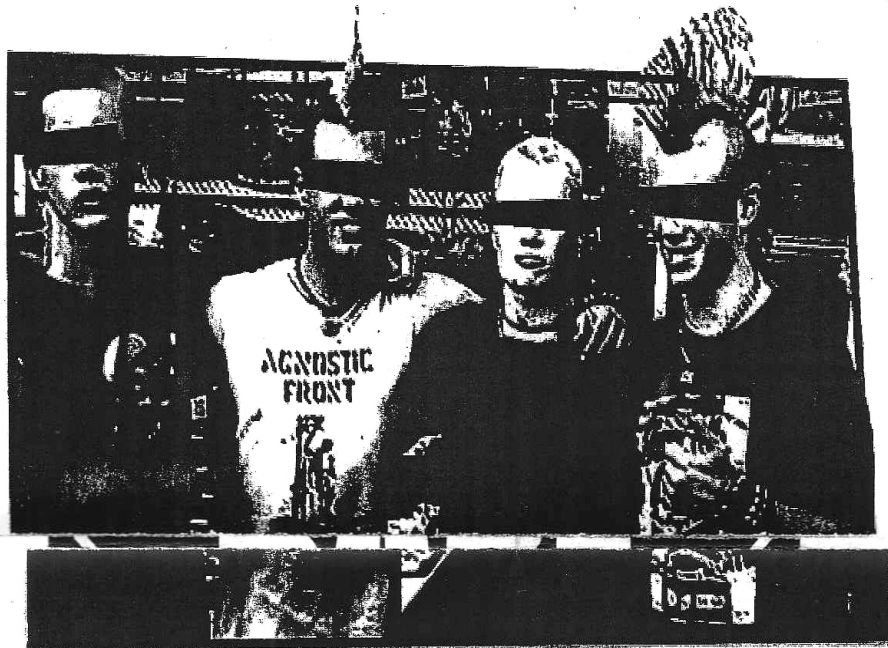
How can men be better allies to survivors? (with an understanding that not all survivors are female)

How can men best deal with sexual assaulters?

What is consent?

Then we split the participants into five smaller groups (which still weren't very small), and asked them to go around and reintroduce themselves and answer who they thought would win in a wrestling match between Chewbacca or Starscream. Then we gave each small group two scenarios, of which they were to pick one and discuss it with the goal of covering all possible perspectives. The idea is not to come up with a "proper response" but to look at all the factors and views that are at play in each scenario. Afterwards, we asked a representative from each group to explain the scenario and summarize the groups discussion.

1 in 4 women will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime.



How many men will become sexual assaulters in theirs?

The Philly Dudes Collective (ex-members of Sausage Party) will be hosting a discussion on "Men becoming better allies to sexual assault survivors." This is an opportunity to address sexual assault in the punk/anarchist community and how it's being dealt with (or not dealt with). **This event is open to everybody. Male-identified folks encouraged.** This is a potluck-discussion, so please bring some food.

Here are some questions we will ask:

- How can men be better allies to survivors?
- How can men best deal with sexual assaulters? Should we act as counselors or parole officers?
- What is consent?
- What would you do if a current (or ex-) partner called you out for sexual assault?

Saturday, Nov. 13th, 1PM at the A-Space, 4722 Baltimore Ave. philly_dudes@riseup



The Philly Dudes Collective (ex-members of Sausage Party) will be hosting a discussion on "Men becoming better allies to sexual assault survivors." This is an opportunity to address sexual assault in the punk/anarchist community and how it's being dealt with (or not dealt with). **This event is open to Male-identified folks only.** This is a potluck-discussion, so please bring some food.

Here are some questions we will ask:

- How can men be better allies to survivors?
- How can men be helpful to male survivors?
- How can men best deal with sexual assaulters? Should we act as counselors or parole officers?
- What is consent?
- What would you do if a current (or ex-) partner called you out for sexual assault?

Saturday, Jan. 15th, 4PM at the A-Space, 4722 Baltimore Ave. philly_dudes@riseup

Is simply doing the opposite of what is expected of modern males a useful or successful way of combating patriarchy?

What models of power dynamics, or types of interactions, are we used to as men? If these are oppressive, what alternatives are there?

Then we broke folks up into groups of 8-10 for smaller discussions, where they could talk about one of the previous questions or can discuss how to provide support to other males struggling against patriarchy and sexism.

Perhaps naively, we thought that we might end up having time to fill at the end, so we had a list of other questions that we could ask if that situation came up. These were perhaps less well thought out, but I'll offer them here for whatever value they might have:

How do I balance a need for self-esteem and self-worth with a recognition of male privilege? What can we be proud of?

How can we recognize our own privileges?

Compare and contrast the (admittedly nebulous) idea of "positive masculinity" with "womens liberation", especially in terms of redefining sexuality?

How can we be explicitly accountable to less-privileged individuals in our social justice work?

How can we be explicitly accountable to less-privileged individuals in our interpersonal relationships?

How can we recognize and communicate our own oppression under patriarchy?

How is/can we link this to other struggles against oppression?

How can we navigate culturally, ethnically, and racially different masculinities while still working against sexism?

Pros and cons of being an explicit/in-yr-face "positive" or anti-sexist male, in terms of relating to other males and changing behavior?

SCENARIOS

(Warning: Some of these may be triggering to survivors)

Scenario A1: You Fucked Up

To your surprise, you get a call from your ex-partner, Kris, out of the blue. He is clearly scared and nervous, but very angry. "I wanted to let you know," he tells you in a shaky but determined voice, "that I've spent a lot of time reflecting on this, and I feel that you have sexually assaulted me. I feel that on at least two occasions you coerced me into sex that I wasn't comfortable with. For the past three months I've been avoiding meetings and shows that I knew I'd see you at because I don't feel safe around you, but I'm not going to do that anymore. You should expect to hear from Stand Up and Resist soon." He hangs up. You are completely shocked. Stand Up and Resist is the local punk anarchist group that works with sexual assaulters. Although you thought of your relationship with Kris as messy and full of misunderstandings, it hadn't occurred to you that anything this serious had taken place. What do you do?

Scenario A2: Sexism Offends People

One of your best friends, Martin, is a very in-your-face and open person. He has a habit of telling sexist jokes, and feels that he is being ironic by doing so, because he thinks that everyone in your supposedly feminist anarchist scene understands that he doesn't really mean the things he says. One night at a punk show, he crosses a line and seriously offends someone. Neither you nor Martin discovers this until the next weekend, when Martin is asked to leave a party at a friend's house. You are told that this has to do with something Martin said the previous weekend, but aren't told who was hurt or what was said. Martin becomes outraged and takes every opportunity thereafter to tell people who were at both events how he would never hurt anyone on purpose, how he deserves to talk with the person he offended, and how he feels unjustly persecuted. He isn't asked to do anything else or leave any place else, but he insists that he'd been wronged and that someone owes him an explanation. What might you say to him?

Scenario B1: Collective Situation

Eli makes repeated violent threats about his former female partner, Jessica, who broke up with him a couple months ago and is dating Eli's friend Alison. All three are involved in the local anarchist infoshop. Eli is consistently asked to stop the threats by Alison. As they grow more severe, Jessica becomes fed up and scared, and demands to the infoshop at a monthly meeting that Eli not work any more shifts until he has stopped the threats and sought some sort of counseling. Eli is not at the meeting. The infoshop has no process for dealing with this sort of conflict, and several male members and a couple female members who are not close with Jessica immediately say that Jessica is on a witch hunt to get Eli banned from everything. You are all

members of the collective. How can you help the situation?

Scenario B2: Your Partner Has Been Assaulted

In the summer, you go traveling around for about a month. You have a good time out there. Every day or so you call your partner, Stacey, back home to see how she is doing. After getting back, you start to notice things seem kinda strange between the two of you. A week later, she finally tells you she was raped by one of your good friends, while you were away. You are absolutely shocked and don't know what to do next. She has not been able to tell any one else but you. Stacey has not confronted her assaulter yet and right now does not want to. Anytime you bring up the subject, it's really hard for her to talk about it. A fair few of your conversations end in tears (shed by both of you). You have not been sexually active together since you got back a week ago. What is the best way to help Stacey deal with this?

Background: You have been together with Stacey for 11 months. You have many friends and absolutely no idea who assaulted her. You "love" Stacey and do not want this relationship to end because of this.

Scenario C1: You Are The Survivor

You are at a party at your friend Roland's house. As the party starts to die down you decide that instead of heading home you will just crash at his place. You are well asleep in Roland's bed before he finishes cleaning up after the party and saying goodbye to friends. Somewhere in the middle of the night, you are having a heavily sexual dream when you start to be pulled out of sleep only to realize that the dream was a result of Roland stroking your genitals. At first you are very shocked and don't move because of the suddenness of it all. You are also still very tired and your brain is still waking up. After a few minutes of deciding what to do you make a slight movement and sound to pretend that you may be waking up. Roland quickly stops and goes back to sleep. You try to get back to sleep as quickly as possible and deal with this in the morning (this takes longer than expected since your brain is fully awake and racing over possible courses of action). In the morning, you wake up to find Roland is already awake downstairs, eating breakfast. What the hell do you do now?

Background: Roland is a good friend whom you have known now for 3 years. He identifies as bisexual. He currently does not have a primary partner, but usually goes on many dates a month with lots of different folks. This is the first time he has acted sexual to you.

Scenario C2: Mr. Popular Is An Assaulter

Your friend John is in a very popular East Coast hardcore band, xSausageDeathx. He is attractive, charming, and pretty universally liked. One day you discover that a woman he does Food Not Bombs with (who you don't really know) has publicly called him out for sexually assaulting him, in

Philly Dudes NCOR 2006 Workshop: What Does Positive Masculinity Look Like?

Icebreaker/Firestarter: Name go-around, and your favorite non-male writer, musician, or artist?

Before getting into the workshop, we read a short introduction including a history of our group and the basic context of our group, mentioning that we're not really sure what "positive masculinity" is or should be, that we're not experts, and that we're hoping to just open up a discussion space. An important paragraph was:

We weren't sure who would show up today. This workshop has been geared towards men, but hopefully it has something valuable for everyone. We welcome the participation and insights from folks who don't identify as men. However, we want to keep two things in mind. For those who aren't men, we ask that you accept that we want to talk about masculinity and to understand that oftentimes this is very hard for men. For those who are men, we want to remind you that men have a tendency to ignore or give less weight to non-male voices, so please make sure you are really listening when those folks are talking.

We offered definitions for the terms Sex, Gender, Masculine, and Feminine that were pulled straight off of <http://www.wiktionary>. Then asked for suggestions, changes, etc. The following points were made by attendees:

- sex is also socially constructed in response to biological characteristics
- we should add intersex as a gender category
- masculine/feminine are normative gender roles

We wanted to set up some ground rules for the discussion, and suggested the following:

- Listen deeply and allow space after each comment
- No one is perfect and we all have shit to work on personally
- Speak from personal experience, and use the word "I" instead of "we" or "you"

These were suggested by attendees:

- Using the phrase "In my opinion..." to avoid absolute truth
- Don't assume the gender of another speaker or workshop attendee

And finally we got down to our questions. We prefaced them with anecdotes or examples, thinking that this might help spark the discussion if people were somewhat hesitant.

an open letter to your city's punk and anarchist circles. John immediately begins denying that he sexually assaulted anyone, and denounces the woman as a liar and a "vicious drama queen." His male friends in other hardcore and punk bands defend him whenever the subject is brought up, and John uses the testimonies of his present female partner, Tara, and two of his close female friends to argue for his character. The survivor who called John out stops participating in Food Not Bombs and other activities, and seems to almost drop entirely out of sight. As John's friend, what can you do to help the situation?

Scenario D1: Friend In Denial

You are talking to your good friend EreK who you haven't seen in a few weeks. He seems somewhat depressed and when you ask him about it, he reveals that he is no longer dating his partner Nathaniel. You had never really liked Nathaniel yourself, and thought that he was too controlling and possessive of EreK in social situations. You ask EreK what happened, and he says that there was a weird night where Nathaniel was really aggressive and sexual and almost scary. It really freaked EreK out, so he kind of withdrew emotionally from Nathaniel, and then Nathaniel dumped him, ending the 5-month relationship. You mention to EreK that that sounds like it may have been sexual assault, but EreK immediately insists that "It wasn't like that. We were just having a bad night together." EreK is obviously mentally struggling with sadness over the incident and the breakup. You want to give him space to heal, and you don't know the specifics of the situation, but you still suspect that it was assault. What can you do?

Scenario D2: Questioning Your Past

You've been attending some workshops about feminism and sexual assault at your local infoshop, and have become really interested in helping women's struggle and improving yourself in this regard. This has led to a lot of self-reflection over your past relationships (both friends and girlfriends). Your mind keeps coming back to one relationship you had in high school with a girl who was a year younger than you, one of your first "punk rock" girlfriends. You never had intercourse, but you were both sexual with each other, and the more you think about it the more you realize that consent was never explicit or talked about in the relationship. The relationship ended on relatively good terms, and you have since grown apart as she has drifted out of the punk scene somewhat, but you still keep in touch occasionally and still hang out when you go home around the holidays. The more you think about it, the more the questions of consent gnaw away at you and you wonder whether you should ask her about it. But that was a long time ago, you're not sure it would be worth the trouble and you're also worried that it could freak her out a little bit. Not to mention that there's the miniscule possibility that she could say those dreaded words, "Yeah, you assaulted me." Is it worth it

to ask her about your old relationship?

Scenario E1: Housemate At Party

It's Friday night and you and your housemates are hosting a big party. Lots of friends and acquaintances, and even a few new faces. Throughout the evening, you notice one of your male housemates, Casey, talking to a girl you don't recognize. She seems only mildly interested in the conversation, often supplying one-word answers to his questions. Later as the party is winding down, you notice Casey helping the mildly intoxicated girl up the stairs. The bathroom is upstairs, and so is Casey's bedroom. You've known Casey for a few years, and he has had many different girlfriends, and often jokingly claims to be "irresistible." But to your knowledge, he has never been involved with questionable situations. Should you become active in this situation, and if so, how?

Scenario E2: You May Be An Assaulter

It's a good night for you. Tonight you are heading over to Madison's house to sleep over for the night. You have been seeing Madison for about two months and things are going very well. Both of you hang out, cook vegan pancakes, watch a movie and then head up to the bed. You start making out and clothes start coming off. No words spoken but you can tell that Madison wants to "get it on" by how passionately you are embracing each other. After the sex you are both lying on the bed and you comment on how good that felt. Madison does not respond to your comment so you ask what's wrong? Madison looks at you and says "Didn't you hear me say stop?" You are a bit shocked and say "No, I didn't hear that at all. I guess I was too into the moment." She says, "Yeah, that's the problem. I told you to stop and you kept going. I even said the word 'NO,' but you have your eyes closed and ignored me, or . . . I don't even know . . . what's going on?" You are speechless. You're pretty sure you didn't hear Madison say anything, since there usually is no speaking when you fool around. Madison is obviously mad at you and looking at you differently. All you can think about is whether or not you just raped Madison. You haven't said a word in three minutes and Madison is expecting something right now. What are you going to say to her?

Finally, we closed with a moment of hollerin' against sexual assault, and then a moment of silence for survivors of sexual assault. (The order is important!!)

Just cause they're Punks, doesn't mean they lost their "white male privilege" cards.



**Can I get rid of my privileges? Should I? Where'd I even get them?
What if I use what I got to help the lesser-privileged. Will that work?
Can't I just give someone money and not have to feel guilty anymore?
How do I recognize when I am throwing my privilege around?**

Please join the Philly Dudes Collective (feat. ex-the Sausage Party) for a discussion of privilege in punk in all forms—gender, race, class, sexuality, ability, age, etc. This discussion will be primarily focusing on Male Privilege and White Privilege since we, in the Dudes Collective, know these first-hand. This is an open discussion and everybody is welcome (privileged males encouraged!). As always, we like honesty & conversation, *NOT* ideology & lecturing. Don't forget to bring some food for the potluck.

5:00pm Sun. Dec. 19th, A-Space 4722 Baltimore Ave. philly_dudes@riseup.net