

THE (MOST) BRIEFORY HIS THE ZINE

FOR LIBRARIANS

A LOOK AT THE IMPORTANCE OF
CREATIVE MEDIA



Having their start in the 1930s, zines, also known as fanzines, were based on science fiction and the culture surrounding it (Arnold, 2016). By the 1960s, zines were all the rage, especially in communities that celebrated science fiction based media like Star Trek.



In later decades, zines shifted to become a pivotal element of underground counter-culture. Focusing primarily on social and political activism, zines are spaces for informal information sharing between like-minded individuals.

As we reached the 1970s, punk zines became all the rage in the underground scenes; famously, zines like *Ripped and Torn*, *Slash*, and *Sniffin' Glue and Other Rock n Roll Habits for Punks* focused on music, art, activism, and building solidarity and community.



The importance of having a space to express your views and thoughts as a young person has not diminished in the years since the punk scene was booming (*hello to new age punk!*).



By the 90s, famous zines such as riot grrrl were on the scene. Although riot grrrl has become its own cultural, socio-political movement and ideology, it began as a zine in the late 1980s.

they take the total freak aberration and play it on every channel, coz she has a special on women who beat up their husbands, coz there as just gotta be a reason why women are oppressed, coz guilty conscious are to go somewhere, coz we'd make themselves afraid of us enough to justify their violence AND there stupid ways of thinking (evil lying ones, you just can't trust 'em) coz without this propaganda it would be harder to not SEE what's really going on.

So, yes, some women have had to 'lie' about rape to save their own asses...like when it was illegal (thoughtful) to have sex with a black man and when an interracial affair got caught women would be put in the position of either saying it was rape or getting killed or like, sometimes white men would USE women to get Black guys lynched and FORCE them to all lies under threats to their own safety. And all this sucks so totally bad BUT these are the exceptions.

A woman or a girl might also 'lie', not about THE FACT that she was raped but about who did it coz it might be safer to say a stranger did it (the courts understand rape as an aberration where a big scary evil guy comes limping from the darkness to "take" a damsel, okay?) than to tell the truth that it was DAD or uncle henry or job bob captain the rich doctor who everyone loves and respects and no one can imagine being such a thing. (Evil lying where bitch)

So, yes, when you quote these exceptions to me as reasons why "maybe I've going a little overboard with this whole rape thing, after all women are really bad and fucked up too". ALAS I HAVE TO SAY TO YOU IS THAT WOMEN DON'T LIE ABOUT GETTING RAPED. WE DON'T CALL CRISIS LINES OUR SIS TER AND WE DON'T GET OUR JOLLIES BY BEING MANIPULATED BY THE COURT SYSTEM OR SCARY MISTACH OPS WHO WANN MAKE US FEEL LIKE HELPLESS LITTLE GIRLS OR SCARED WHORES ---- The only reason you would go talking about an exception as if it is the rule is coz you will look for any thing, anything, anything to support your misogyny and justify YOUR fear/hatred of me and the other girls.

COMPLAIN, COMPLAIN, COMPLAIN.....

AT LEAST YOU DON'T HAVE IT AS BAD AS

- a) women used to
- b) people of color
- c) women in other countries

I had this job for like 4 years at this liberal typy college and when I voiced some anger about getting treated like a lackey all the time and not shown any kind of respect or appreciation, ever...I was told, "well in the 80s, world you'd be treated much worse, so you should be thankful to even get treated this good."

and I was like "God thanks for totally not even listening to me," but all I was saying was "look you all are hurting my feelings and making me feel bad when I'm at work" and no one could address that, they just defended themselves and ignored what I was really saying.

to like I am trying to make my life better by sticking up for myself and it gets turned into this thing like, you are being completely self serving, and, at least you don't have a spinal cord injury, at least your not a Black Lesbian in a wheelchair, at least you even have a job, to like people think of oppression as a test you can either pass or fail. Okay, you get one point for being poor, one more for being female, ut oh no, you SCORE a negative one for being white and able bodied

and.....I'm sorry but it just doesn't work that way. I mean, add rice when you counting your fingers or toes but not when your trying to talk about what it feels like to be hungry or lied to or treated like shit or beat up. If organizing around my own issues is somehow wrong coz there are other people who are in situations that are even more life damaging then me, then I am wrong.

Coz, see, I talk/write about giristuff so much coz I am a whitegirl and I am not really into trying to speak for other people or species although I am becoming a better and better listener. I mean, me writin about this stuff in this site doesn't mean I think girl oppression is any more important or pressing than racial or species or sexual oppres. Its just that I need to organize around what I know and support other to do the same coz I can't speak for everyone but I do see all this shit as connected.



The central focus of the movement was creating and solidifying a space for women in music, as well as creating community across the readership. Riot grrrl is still a growing movement to this day, including the creation of zines in its honour. This in itself proves the longevity of the zine format.

And then we reach today; a time of zine dissemination like no other (thank you Internet). As we are now able to create zines entirely online, including publishing, marketing, and selling, the zine world is constantly expanding.

The great part about zines is the artistic freedom the medium allows: *zines can literally be about anything*. Zines allow for the creator to express themselves in various mediums, all wrapped up in one place.

Reference List and Further Readings:

Arnold, C. (2016). A brief history of the zine. Mental Floss. [https:// www.mentalfloss.com/article/88911/brief-history-zines](https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/88911/brief-history-zines)

Burke, S. (2018). A beginner's guide to making zines. Vice. [https:// www.vice.com/en/article/d3jxyj/how-to-make-a-zine-vgtl](https://www.vice.com/en/article/d3jxyj/how-to-make-a-zine-vgtl)

Lee, J., L. (2018). The forgotten zine of 1960s Asian-American radicals. Topic. [https:// www.topic.com/the-forgotten-zine-of](https://www.topic.com/the-forgotten-zine-of)