

Scrap Papers

Welcome to Scrap Papers. A new space in the journal for all things conflicted.

This issue's piece is an anonymous submission, with a call to submit stories, conundrums, commiserations, coping mechanisms, questions, and strategies.

We at the journal respect the anonymity of the author/person behind the email, but want to clarify that we don't know the author, and therefore encourage people to engage as they wish, but remember to use security culture, and make sure to keep from divulging specific information of the who and where of any stories shared with an anonymous source. We hope that sharing with each other can help people in real ways, in real time. Keep pushing in to the messy stuff, be safe, and stay dangerous.

COPING/NOT COPING

This is the opposite of an advice column. I need advice.

Many years ago my romantic partner violated my sexual consent. I took a drug to prevent pregnancy. I immediately experienced dizziness, fainting and nausea. For months afterwards I had migraines, dizzy spells, insomnia and fatigue. I lost my job. We broke up. The former partner is a beloved friend and community member, a widely respected organizer, a celebrated feminist. I see this former partner often. Others perceive us to have an amicable relationship. People interested in dating this person ask me about how it was. It seems inappropriate to tell the truth, which is that many years later I am angry. By not telling the truth I am covering up this person's history of violation and making life easier for myself.

Dear and beloved comrades, what do you do? When you get an invite to the rally in support of someone who sexually assaulted your friend? When asked to share the bail fund support info of someone who choked your friend?

These are not rhetorical questions for the semantics-and-debate-assholes. These are questions many of us are living daily. Fellow people in this position, how do you handle it? What are your strategies?

If you are willing to share, please email copingnotcoping@proton.me. Please use an anonymous email address. Please anonymize your story as much as possible or as much as you need to. I'm not here to give you a failed community accountability process and I'm not going to take any action against someone who violated you. I want to know, practically, the tools that

other individuals have developed to get through this rapey coercive violation-filled system. If you want to share more widely, let me know and I will compile a report back of strategies for the next issue of the EF! Journal. I don't want suggestions on "how" "to hold" "someone" "accountable." I want to know what people are actually doing to get through this fucking shit.

As I write this, a close comrade is out doing important lifesaving planet-saving hijinx with a committed organizer who is the most reliable person I know, someone who has showed up rain or shine for a long time who will do the worst thankless work that no one else wants to do. Who also sexually assaulted one of other my friends. My friend (the one who was assaulted) doesn't want to bring it up or be at the center of a community accountability process. My friend's coping mechanism is to withdraw completely from organizing and shrug it off when people ask "why don't you show up like you used to?" I also welcome thoughts from people who do work adjacent to creeps. Holding secrets and complication. Wanting to support friends and also work in spaces our friends have left. Anonymously share what you want to/tell me if you want me to share it widely.

Stories shared with consent. Dedicated to Lea.