



"Who is Daniel Holtzclaw" : on media taking responsibility for supporting rape culture

Today, we were sent a link to an article about convicted rapist Daniel Holtzclaw in SB Nation, which is an online sports media brand. The article had been removed owing to its appalling content. The [formal response](#) from SB Nation is as follows:

Earlier today, SB Nation posted a story called "Who is Daniel Holtzclaw?" that attempted to find out the backstory of convicted serial rapist Daniel Holtzclaw. The story focused on his football background in particular.

The publication of this story represents a complete breakdown of a part of the editorial process at SB Nation. There were objections by senior editorial staff that went unheeded. It was tone-deaf, insensitive to the victims of sexual assault and rape, and wrongheaded in approach and execution. There is no qualification: it was a complete failure.

In light of that failure, we've taken the story down. I take full responsibility for this as editorial director. It was not up to our standards as a website. It was not up to our standards as a part of Vox Media. It is not reflective of our ideals, or who we want to be as an organization in the future.

We're reviewing all of our processes in light of this failure. There are a lot of them, and I promise to talk in detail about them publicly while we work through all of them.

Spencer Hall

Editorial Director

SB Nation

We've seen media pull articles before but not a response quite so honest to the failures of the article, which we've since read as there is an archive version available [here](#). Clearly, there were some serious failures within the editorial board and the journalist involved, Jeff Arnold, clearly needs some immediate training or a formal ban on ever writing about sexual violence. That it was published is an absolute disgrace, but we are heartened to see a media brand take corporate responsibility for the ways in which they support rape culture - in this case by excusing Hoytzclaw's behaviour and erasing the victims.

We need more media to take responsibility.