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Who is MOXY?

The "F" Word: The Truth. Women Who Aspire to Succeed. The Sports Communities Blind Forgiving Nature. The True Meaning of Beauty

March 2015



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MOXY

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Dear Ms. **MOXY**,

“Everyone hates change, but everyone loves progress,” said a random fortune cookie paper.

It was kind of weird because usually you get bogus fortunes. If you think about it, the tiny paper speaks the truth. People hate change because they don't know what the consequences, whether good or bad, will be. So, they hide behind their comfort zones and never experience life. The only thing is, they just need a little push of inspiration. I for one am in a love, hate relationship with change, but I am going to promote it until death do us part.



Change is inevitable, the only thing you can do is jump on the train and ride, maybe even be the conductor. Personally, I would be the conductor. This is the reason why I created *MOXY*. I want to inspire young women...and men, to experience life and become more cultured. *MOXY*'s goal is to tell stories of adventures, excitement and brag about people doing extraordinary things. In turn, I feel this will push the younger generations to want to become the first woman president, to discover the cure to cancer, be the first African-American to win an Oscar for Best Director, etc.

In the future, *MOXY* is going to provide you with the tools you need to achieve these goals, such as links to websites for learning new technologies, reviews on books to read (for fun and education), photo essays of places to travel with links for the best deals and we created a way for you to provide instant feedback on what you want to be featured in the magazine.

MOXY is about having the confidence, leadership, creativity and so much more. The magazine was created for the readers. Feel free to share the magazine with friends, family, co-workers, etc. Enjoy and thanks for reading!

Sincerely,

Monique Freeman, aka the girl holding a random menu in a Czech restaurant

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“I think that topics that need more focus include: feminism, women and technology, body and mental issues. None of these topics are really covered in any current magazine that target people in the specified age group. I believe it would be beneficial for all women who read this, if they were included. Articles that focus on these issues would increase interests among young women, clear up any misinformation of the topic, act as a support and knowledge base. [It] may even lead to increases of women in certain fields of technology, business, and science.”

“Usually they look flawless, and it's almost depressing to see them.”

“We always come off as **ditzy** or **shallow**.”

Photo from Koiduholdings.com.

MOXY wants to listen to its readers.

We always appreciate MOXY readers and their opinions on our magazine. This section is a place where you can express your thoughts and what you want in the magazine. We won't be able to feature every comment, but we will read every thought.

*All comments are anonymous.

“I think in most magazines women are portrayed as strong not influential, but often depicted as over sexualized. [In] gossip magazines, everyone is over sexualized. Models are too, but magazines like *Glamour* do a good job of **empowering women** without sexualizing them.”



Photo by Ben Sharpa.

“I think women are so scrutinized and are held to so many **double standards** today. Those issues need to be addressed more often.”

“Certain magazines portray **different things**. [For example], *Cosmo* has a section called sexy or trashy. Sometimes they claim short shorts or low-cut shirts are trashy. Why? Why aren't women allowed to wear what they want? If that makes the person feel good then have at it! Modest is the hottest is so silly if you think about it. You mean you don't want me to wear my [favorite] shorts because someone might think they're too revealing? **OH WELL!** It is my body. I don't control what others think. I shouldn't be told not to wear a low-cut shirt because I would look slutt or trashy. I'm not responsible for what others think. What if the shirt just makes me feel my best? Other aspects of the magazine do show that **women are strong**. It really depends on the magazine or what is featured that month.”

“[Women are portrayed as] beautiful. It's almost too much because it puts a lot of **pressure** on other woman or younger girls.”



Photo by Richard Eriksson.

So....we're asking: **What do you want from us?**

They're overly sexualized, submissive, and encouraged to cater to boy's needs and desires. We need girls' magazines to focus less on what boys like or how to drop 15 pounds, and more on how to be a strong, independent woman capable of taking on leadership roles.



Photo from Photo Editing Services Tucia.com.

“I think the image of femininity is **stronger now**, but this is usually shown by 'embracing sexuality,' which really just sexualizes women further.”



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-Oscar de la Renta, late fashion designer

FASHION

HEALTH





A HISTORY ON THE CANON OF BEAUTY

story and photos by Agnieszka Miller
artwork by Monique Freemon

Humans are aware of their senses to understand and answer the outside world, which makes them unique. At the same time, they are the only creatures on Earth to use this awareness for his or her pleasure. As a result, humans developed the concept of beauty to distinguish the appealing from the unappealing.

“Media base [their] promotional products on the beauty canon that they created,” said Mahes Guru, 28, a student at Mid Sweden University in Sundsvall, Sweden.

As we all know, the ideals of beauty are not the same. As humans change their perspectives, eras, lifestyles, society and the criteria of beauty change too. The canon of beauty changes, particularly among women.

In theory, the change may be due to the fact men are too conscious about their image. They are considered effeminate if they demonstrate the mannerisms of a woman. In terms of social norm, feminine behaviors are reserved for women. Men may have created this concept to distinguish the masculine from feminine. As time

progressed, women were presented in artwork as men's interest increased in the opposite sex. Overtime, the concept of beauty changed with artworks and time periods such as: the bountiful shapes of the Venus of Willendorf, the athletic figures of Greek statues, the thin and frail women of the Middle Ages, feminine ideals in oil paintings of the Renaissance, the Baroque period's plump women and ended with anorexic tales in modern society. The criteria of the ideal look changed over the centuries, which shaped the face of the beauty in the present.

Today, the line between what is feminine and what is not is blurred. There are a handful of taboos in the world shifting from stereotypes such as: men do not wear pink, fall in love with other men, wear makeup or hold a profession that use to be dominated by women, i.e. nurses, teachers, cheerleaders, stay-at-home dads, etc.

The 21st century challenged women with the requirements of being thin, young and attractive. The world witnessed a mania for thinness promoted by fashion outlets, pop culture and the media. The catwalks are dominated by models sizes zero to six (32 to 38 in European sizes). Newspapers are cluttered with articles about diets, measured calories, Botoxing, cosmetic enhancements (surgery, creams, oils, other chemicals) and more. Not only fashion designers want slim girls but women themselves seem to prefer to look at skinny models. They believe it boosts their self-esteem. They do not want to look like a full-figured woman, because they will think about their own weight.

"First thing is that they sell products by using the sexual appearance of girls and second thing is that they promote only one type: slim, usually blond, [a] perfectly smiling girl. By doing this, they influence people's minds by saying, 'That is how [a] beautiful girl looks like'.


It is not good for women at all," said Guru.

The media's idea of beauty is a slim, young and toned. However, she cannot be too muscular, strong and curvy. The contours of the body must be soft, smooth and proportional. In addition to being thin, women are required to saddle with a big dose of other unspoken requirements for their appearance such as what they wear, hairstyles, make-up, etc. This happens in the media often, whether intentional or unintentional. For example, *ELLE* magazine's November 2013 cover of Melissa McCarthy was in the headlines for the controversial cover. The film star wore a large peacoat, which covered her figure compared to the other covers with actress showing off their figures, except for Penelope Cruz.

"We [are] use to the image of [the] perfect, extremely slim, beautiful and flawless woman. I think the media went to the extreme and by this they caused an underestimated self-esteem among women in every age," said Iga Rudnik, 21, a student at Wroclaw University of Economics in Wroclaw, Poland.

Unfortunately, it seems the





ideal of beauty in a woman is what she could never be or want to be. The media shows women they consider beautiful, slim and young. These women seem to be ready to show up in full glamour mode and to entertain the masses. Also, she has to have an extrovert personality to be loved by all. They are told to have a polite smile and exhibit an effortless essence. A good example is beauty queens and the constant pressure to look flawless becomes so great, it is depressing.

In March 2012, *CNN* featured an article on Kristen Hagland, Miss America 2008. The article was part of the news outlet's six-week Friday series on the perceptions of beauty.

The article was about her journey from a professional ballerina to a beauty queen. Eventually, she became unhappy with the pressures to achieve perfection and being thin as a ballerina. She turned to beauty pageants as a form of therapy, where she could be herself and inspire young girls. During the pageant, Hagland worried about the swimsuit portion of the competition. She felt pressured to look good in a swimsuit in front of 12 million people and seven judges. Eventually,

she found happiness in her own skin, which is the best path to success.

"Women try to become [the] perfection that they see in TV [shows], newspapers and the Internet, sometimes even causing harm to their health. But we should also notice the positive signs that come from the media; a healthy lifestyle is enjoying a huge popularity recently. I hope that this will help and women will start to realize that a beautiful woman is not the skinny one, but the healthy one who accepts herself," said Rudnik.

Fortunately, in the past few years, there are signs, which indicate the fashion industry is becoming more accepting. There is an increase of stories reported in the media on scandals about the deaths among self-starving young girls, especially professional and upcoming models. More and more designers do not hire too thin models on the catwalks. Coco Roca, a world-renowned model, campaigns for healthy and larger women to be on the runways.

In business, advertising campaigns and fashion cosmetic companies promote plump shapes, for example Dove's 2013 campaign called, "Real Beauty Sketches" and their viral campaigns featured women of all sizes. We are witnessing a turning point in the history of beauty. The new era of normalcy for women is no longer taboo. This means the world will notice the natural beauties of women. The era of internal beauty in women and men are appreciated more than external beauty.

It is time for all of us, both men and women to change. Our body is the only home of our soul. Treat them with respect and love it. Keep a healthy lifestyle and diet for health reasons, but without going to extremes. The main thing is to feel comfortable in your own body and be convinced of its value. Therefore, smile to yourself in the mirror and say hello to a healthy, natural and happy body. Show your inner beauty.

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Yum Time:

with Zucchini Chips

by Carissa Brown

Loving your body is the one of many first steps to be comfortable in your own skin. The second step, taking care of your body. For those who are losing weight or trying to live a healthier lifestyle, zucchini chips are a healthy and delicious snack. They are only 99 calories and can be eaten at anytime of the day with multiple sauces, dishes and other food.

INGREDIENTS:

- Olive oil cooking spray or regular cooking spray
 - 2 zucchini, thinly sliced
 - 1 teaspoon of seasoned salt
 - ½ teaspoon pepper

Note: You can be creative and add other seasoning of your liking.

DIRECTIONS:

- 1.) Preheat Oven to 425
- 2.) Use a cookie sheet with parchment paper and spray paper with olive oil cooking spray.
- 3.) Put zucchini slices on the cookie sheet in a single layer.
- 4.) Spray top of slices with cooking spray
- 5.) Sprinkle evenly with seasoned salt and pepper (or other desired spices)
- 6.) Cook 2 hours and rotate cookie sheet after 1 hour.
- 7.) After 1 hour 30 minutes, check zucchini every 10 minutes to avoid burning.
- 8.) Remove from oven to cool down to be served cool by itself (can be served with lemon or marinara sauce).
- 9.) Store leftovers in an airtight container for a snack.



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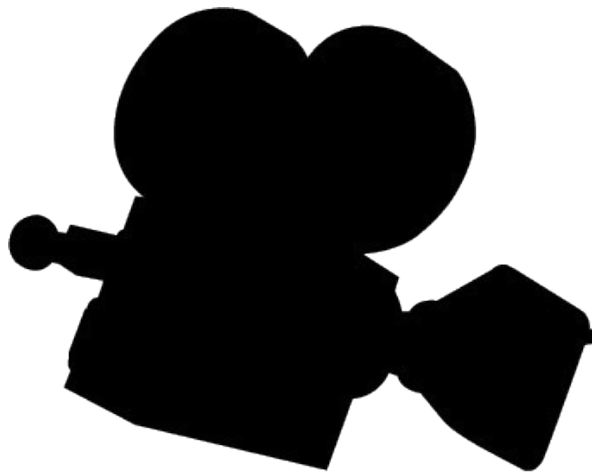
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"Security is mostly a superstition. It does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing."

-Helen Keller, American author and political activist





A CONTROVERSIAL CONNECTION

A first-hand look into the effects of breast-feeding and the controversies surround it

story and photos by Talia Lewis

artwork by Monique Freeman

IMAGINE YOU ARE IN A RESTAURANT AND SUDDENLY your baby starts to cry because he or she is hungry. You pull your shirt a little to the side and start breast-feeding with a blanket over your child's head. You use a blanket because you want to be respectful of the people around you. The baby starts to cry because of the blanket, so you take it off, thinking it is not a big deal. Next thing that happens is people start to stare and whisper at you in disgust. The owner notices and asks you to either go to the bathroom or leave the restaurant. Feelings of embarrassment, discomfort, shaming and anger flood over you due to the fact you are doing something natural.

"Breast-feeding is great, it provides immunity that is not provided in formula," said Jacqueline Lewis, assistant professor at Tennessee State University in the College of Nursing.

Some might say it is a deep intimate bond, others might say it is indecency and exposure. Many people rely on baby formula to supply their infant's main source of nutrition, while others rely solely on their own

bodies. Breast-feeding and formula feeding are a big debate, because of positives and negatives to both. Everyone has an opinion but not everyone has all the facts.

Breast-milk is natural and free. It is often called "liquid gold" according to La Leche League members. It contains what you consume and what your body produces. These include a long list of peptides, fats, growth factors and much more. These ingredients to make breast-milk are the prime choice for feeding an infant. By knowing how breast milk changes, breast-feeding is an even better choice because babies nutritional needs change. One might wonder why anyone would

give her child anything else.

Breast-feeding means a mother is at her child's beck and call. Some mothers might decide to bottle-feed their child. The only problem is they have to pump the milk first then feed the infant, which is time consuming. I feed on demand. While the closeness is wonderful, being woken multiple times through the night to carry a latched infant puts a damper on activities. Milk storage is another discussion for another day; just know it can be expensive. Storing milk includes pumping the milk regularly, and keeping it at a specific temperature and environment. The benefit of storage is other people can care for your child when you are not around. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), there are specific room temperatures, bottles and bags need to be stored. Breast-feeding is a commitment, which causes one to stay on a strict schedule.

For the past few years, breast-feeding has become a controversial subject. The number of women who were harassed in public simply because

they are nursing their child uncovered have risen. According to National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), before formula became popular in the late 1880s and early 1900s, doctors recommended wet nurses, who are lactating women who breast-feed infants not their own. Now breast-feeding can lead to a woman being asked to leave public places and kicked off social media (i.e. restaurants, shopping malls, Twitter and Facebook) or worse, getting arrested. It can lead to humiliation. These harsh reactions led women to participate in nurse-ins, which are organized public displays of breast-feeding. According to *Today.com*, various business chains such as Ap-



Malcolm Lewis, 3 months, is breastfed and supplemented as Lucifer "Luc" Lewis, 5 Months, who is breastfed only watches.

plebee's, Target, Hollister, Delta Airlines and Whole foods were targets for the protests. The problem though, is not the establishments themselves but rather our government and our mindset as a country. According to La Leche League, most states have a law to allow mothers to breast-feed in public without fear of charges or harassment. The country as a whole does not have any laws that enforce a mother's right to feed her child. Breastfeedinglaw.com quotes federal law stating, "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a woman may breastfeed her child at any location in a Federal building or on Federal property, if the woman and her child are otherwise authorized to be present at the location." This means breast-feeding mothers are protected but it looks like only in Federal buildings and locations. Yet there are stories of parents charged with lewd conduct with a minor, if validated that is 20-year imprisonment). However, the more common charge is trespassing.

Formula on the other hand can be a handy substitute. It stores dry, i.e. in powder form, and can be easily made anywhere. One could wonder why anyone would bother breast-feeding, if formula were so easy to make. Well, the formula can nourish a baby but only has one kind from birth to twelve months. Also, it is harder for babies to digest formula than breast milk. It is expensive; therefore it may be harder for one to afford it on top of other baby needs such as diapers, clothes, blankets, etc. The ingredients in formula are one-fifth of the ingredients in breast milk. The ingredients are not comparable and lack the key elements such as hormones and anti-microbial factors. Depending on your life style, the choice may not be up to you. For instances, some prescribed medications keep a woman from being able to breast-feed.

While formula can extend the amount of time a mother can have to herself, it is up to her to choose the best method. While the debate is ongoing, I will continue to share my "liquid gold" with my son, Luc (5 months), for as long as he wants it.




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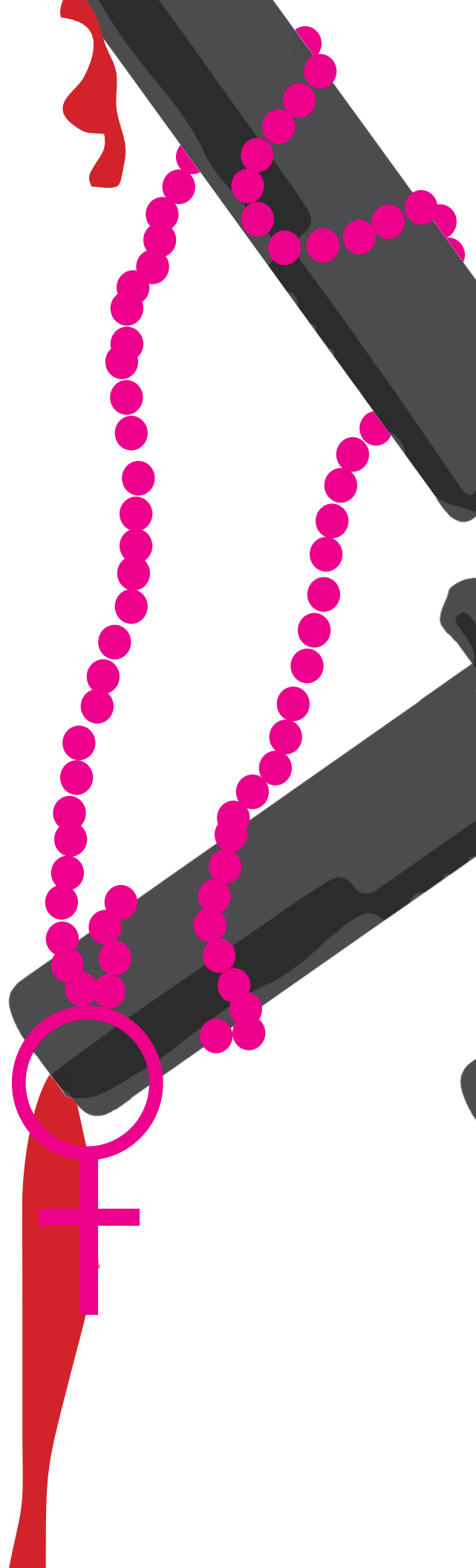
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



Anti-Feminism in Cult Film

by Nichole Stevens | artwork by Monique Freemon

The roles of female characters in *The Boondock Saints*: "Well, that certainly illustrates the diversity of the word."





I'm a woman and I like what some consider "macho" films. I like movies with fights, spunk and a killing rampage or two. I gravitate towards movies and shows, which tastefully depict gore, violence and sexual intensity. It makes sense that I am a fan of Troy Duffy's, *The Boondock Saints* (1999). I love it, but it is not without its critiques. I'm not referring to its low budget cinematography or less than spectacular script. I'm looking at how genders are represented in the film.

The New York Film Academy created a widely shared infographic that examines, "Gender Inequality in Film from 2007-2012." They found 30.8 percent of speaking characters in the films analyzed were women and the average ratio of male actors to female actors were a 2.25-to-1 ratio. Other staggering statistics include, only 10.7 percent of films featured a balanced cast of half-male actors and half-female actresses on screen. Also, one-third of females on screen were shown in sexually revealing clothing or partially naked.

First, some background information on the film. It stars Sean Patrick Flannery and Norman Reedus (known for his role as Daryl Dixon in *AMC's The Walking Dead*) as the MacManus twins; Willem DaFoe, who plays a quasi-effeminate federal agent and David Della Roccoa, friend to the brothers, who primarily acts as comic relief, and later, tragic loss. In a nutshell, the brothers received permission from God to expunge the Earth, or South Boston of evil men. Although violent and unnecessary, they are guided by God's will to take out men (and only men) who are free-roaming murderers, rapists, drug dealers and mob leaders. The MacManus brothers took out entire rooms

of mafia bosses and syndicates in a cool, "it all just kind of worked out" way. The brothers drink, smoke, pray and kill. If ever there were two respectable badasses in a movie, these two are it.

Recently, after I watched it again on a Skype movie date, a few things stood out to me that hadn't before. When the women did have screen time, I looked at how they were framed and featured. I noted ten individuals and groupings of women, and two honorable mentions. The honorable ones had no screen time but were mentioned in the story.

First on the list is Rosengurtle Baumgartener, the lesbian new hire at the meatpacking factory where the MacManus brothers worked. She had no purpose except to object to Connor's (played by Flannery) comment about the phrase, "rule of thumb." Historically, it relates to the acceptable width of an object, no item thicker than his thumb, permitted for a man to beat his wife. She kicks Connor in the nether regions and then gets sucker punched by Murphy (played by Reedus). Her scene ends and her character never reappeared. A few questions come up such as: is Baumgartener's character necessary to the storyline or character set up, why was the "rule of thumb" dialogue included and was there a purposeful juxtaposition between Baumgartener being a lesbian working at a meat-packing plant. Let's move on to our other less-than supporting female characters.

As mentioned earlier, there are two honorable mentions of women in the film. First is Kitty, a murder victim, and Mother MacManus. At the start of the film, the brothers attend mass and give praise to the Virgin Mary, but left before the sermon ends. The priest discussed the murder of Kitty, who

was killed in broad daylight with multiple witnesses around, yet no one called the police. Kitty's character is based on Kitty Genovese, a murder victim with a similar death. Her murder is a set-up to represent a violent world and a need for a rise in justice. The second is Mother MacManus. Briefly, she is mentioned when the brothers tell Agent Smecker they are fluent in six languages as insisted upon by their mother. She remained not only faceless but also nameless in the film. Then her role is over and purpose served.

Questions arose such as: why did Duffy not open a scene of Kitty's murder or show a picture of her at the church, why bring up the MacManus' mother if she has no screen time and reference

beyond the one comment, is Duffy making a statement that a woman's true purpose is to properly raise her children. We find out later in the film [spoiler alert] the assassin sent by the Italian mafia to kill the brothers, was their long-lost father, Il Duce, who passed down the brother's infamous family prayer. Was the mother mentioned so Duffy could give the impression that the brothers' father was not involved in their upbringing? Why not elaborate on the family unit background and give the mother screen time? Only Duffy knows the answers to these questions.

Speaking of mothers, in the movie we see Giuseppe "Papa Joe" Yakavetta, Italian mafia Don for the Yakavetta crime family, mother as she blew him kisse during his trial. She does not speak. Perhaps she may only speak

Italian. Even so, she had less than a minute of screen time, which is more than Kitty and Mother MacManus. Was the kiss-blowing scene included to show motherly support, despite the family's crime history? Are women supposed to support "their men" no matter what? Was mamma Yakavetta aware of the family's criminal history? Again, only Duffy knows.

Three women are important enough in the film to be bestowed with actual names.

They are Donna and Rayvie, "the druggie bitches", as Rocco puts it; and Sally McBride, the reporter we see on and off following "The Saints" story. The brothers are dubbed "The Saints" by the media. There's not much to tell about Donna and Rayvie, other than

they stumbled into Rocco's apartment, Donna being his girlfriend and they're drugged up. Rocco and Donna get in a heated argument. Rayvie does not like Rocco when he yelled at Donna, Rocco responds by pointing out Rayvie is promiscuous. The two drugged and scantily clad dressed women, are representatives to the "Whores of Babylon." They lack moral fiber and possessed poor judgment. Donna is Rocco's girlfriend, not his wife. It is safe to presume neither of the women are mothers. The two women shown coming in together tells the audience those women make poor decisions when separated from male influence.

If Donna were Rocco's wife, would she be portrayed as a drug addict? Was Rayvie's purpose in the script to give Rocco the line of accusing her to be a whore? Why were

I might love Boondock Saints, but it doesn't love me back. Or, specifically, it doesn't love my gender.



Norman Reedus and Sean Patrick Flanery characters Connor and Murphy MacManus play fraternal, Christian vigilante twins but treat their women poorly. Photo from *Mxdwn.com*.

their characters included and why did they have the most screen time? In regards to religious references to marriage, the movie includes a wife and some nuns. The wife is married to a character called, “Sick Mob Guy,” and is shown looking very suburban and wore a pastel sweater, which is the opposite of Donna. She is only on screen long enough to enter a gate code and get tased. What was her purpose, other than to open the gate? Was portraying her as a housewife significant in comparison to Donna and Rayvie?

Earlier in the movie, the audience sees a group of nuns in the hospital. Of course nuns are not married, because they’re devoted to God. Does the film look poorly to women who are unmarried and not mothers? The only female character that may defy this is Sally McBride, who is a career woman by design, but the audience never sees more than a few seconds from her TV package.

Other women in the movie include a

silhouette of a teenage girl on the phone before “Sick Mob Guy” shoots her. Does her appearance reinforce a stereotype that all teenage girls talk on the phone too much? Was she so dense that she didn’t see a stranger enter her home? Speaking of dense, a team of forensic scientists are at the “Sick Mob Guy’s” home after a huge firefight, aka gunfight, as Agent Smecker puts it. This brings us to the female blood pathologist. She collected samples but couldn’t trace a variable that gave her poor results. Smecker swiped the blood with his fingers, gave it a whiff. He discovered that the brothers (and Rocco, who joins their crusade) sprayed the blood with ammonia to offset any DNA analysis in the lab. However, the trained pathologist couldn’t detect a scent as strong as ammonia. She is framed as being incompetent and incapable to perform her duties. Does this say that women don’t do well in the workforce? Specifically, does this say women don’t belong in science or investigative fields? Are they more

suiting for television production like Sally McBride?

We now have two more: the stripper and the virgin. In the movie, Connor, Murphy and Rocco go to a strip club-like facility. While there, they take out some more evil men for their perversions. A stripper indicates which booth their targets are in and she passes out. At some point, when she hits a deep unconsciousness, her bra slips and exposes a breast. Her upper half nakedness tantalized Rocco and he goes for a feel, but not without getting scolded by the morally superior brothers. Yes, the stripper is necessary for the scene, in which the purge took place. Yes Rocco's showed that he lacked moral fiber when he groped the unconscious woman. Also, it says he can't control himself when a woman's top is exposed and all he gets is scolded. The way the strip club operates, as explained by Agent Smecker, the men tip the dancers through a money slot and she exposes herself to them. There is a partition between them and her. So why is Rocco's behavior acceptable? Is it acceptable in film for a man to touch an unconscious woman simply because her breasts is shown? What does this relay to the audience?

The last woman with memorable screen time is the young, redheaded virginal girl in white. She is present at the Yakavetta trial as a witness and is told by the broth-

ers' long-lost father and would-be killer, she must witness another murder, but of "Papa Joe" by the hands of the heavenly father's conduits—the MacManus men. After she and others rush out of the courthouse, her speaking role is to tell reporters she was there at "Papa Joe's" execution, so that they may tell the world of their existence as a warning to evil men. She is framed as being innocent, but weak and in need of protection.

So, what are the implications to how *The Boondock Saints* frame women? Did Duffy knowingly chose to pigeonhole his female characters? If so, why? Is that irresponsible as a filmmaker?

Writer Deborah Pless, blogger for *Kiss My Wonder Woman*, wrote an opinion piece also analyzing gender inequality in *The Boondock Saints* for the website B!@#Flicks.com, titled "In 'Boondock Saints,' the Men Shoot Gangsters, and the Women Don't Exist

(2013)."

She says, "I might love *Boondock Saints*, but it doesn't love me back. Or, specifically, it doesn't love my gender."

I will watch it again—sure. However, I learned to pay closer attention to selectivity and framing. I, like Pless, still like the film, but after I realized how much gender inequality existed in one of my once most highly recommended movies; I simply cannot tune out that knowledge and look away.

Is it acceptable
in film for a man
to touch an un-
conscious woman
simply because
her breast is
showing?

DON'T JUDGE BY THE COVER

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon

Reviewed by Heather Lowery

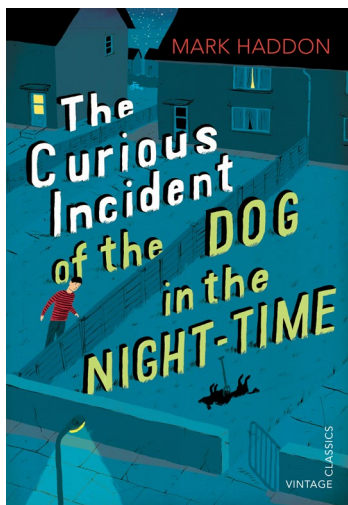


Photo from Amazon.com.

Have you ever felt that people do not understand you? Was there a situation where you were in pain or that you could not communicate when someone is talking to you? This is what people with autism have to go through every day. The book *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* by Mark Haddon introduces the main character named Christopher who has autism and the story is told from his point of view.

Christopher is a fifteen-year-old teenager with autism. He is very gifted and talented, especially in math and physics, but he has trouble with communicating with others. He has trouble showing emotions and reading other people's emotions. He does not like to be touched so he shows his affection by spreading his fingers and placing his hand on someone else's. He has a pet rat named Toby that he cares about. Christopher lives with his father and he is under the notion that his mother is dead. Christopher found his neighbor's, Mrs. Shears' dog dead with a fork stuck in him. When Mrs. Shears finds him, she thinks that Christopher killed her dog, named Wellington, but he did not. Christopher makes it his mission to find out who killed Wellington.

Throughout the book, Christopher finds out secrets that change how he views his father. This sends him on a journey to another country to find his mother.

According to The British Council of Literature, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*, which was published in 2003, is the first novel by Haddon where he received a bestseller status. The British Council states *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* has won numerous awards such as: 2003 Whitebread Book of the Year. In 2012, the novel was adapted into a stage play, which premiered at the National Theatre in London.

He was born in 1962 in Northampton in the East Midlands of England. He received his bachelor's degree from Oxford University and his master's in Edinburgh University in English Literature.

I would definitely recommend this book for anyone to read because it puts you in the eyes of someone who has autism and what he or she goes through on a daily basis. If you are looking to read a good drama, this book is for you.

Flyy Girl by Omar Tyree

Reviewed by Heather Lowery

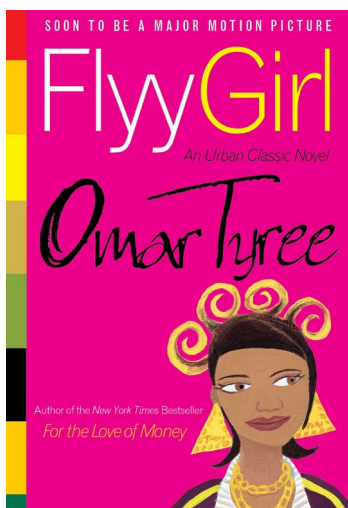


Photo from Amazon.com.

Are you a teenager or do you remember being a teenager and trying to look good? What would you go through to be the best or look the best out of all of the other teenage girls? Imagine living as a teenage girl trying to be a part of the fast life in the streets. Do you think you could survive trying to be involved in the streets?

Tracy Ellis is the sexiest thing around. She is spoiled, pretty and at times can be conceited. She plays with people's emotions, lies, has sex at an early age and occasionally gets beaten up by her mother. Other main characters that appear throughout the book are Tracy's mother and father who are struggling with a separation. Due to her parent's marital problems, Tracy has to go through not having her father around all of the time and this affects her in negative ways. She has two sisters, Mercedes and Raheema, but they are complete opposites of one another. Mercedes is the rebel while Raheema makes the straight A's in school. While Tracy sees Mercedes as her role model, Raheema is Tracy's age and they are

friends. As for love, Tracy is interested in a boy name Victor. He is the guy that every girl wants to have. He's a drug dealer who has a different side to him that only Tracy can pull out. She matures early in age, her admiration for men gowns. She falls for the bad boys and gets involved with the wrong ones from drug dealers to those who sleep around with other women. But when she sees her role model Mercedes as shameful, drug addicted and prostituting, she realizes that she must make a change for the better.

The author, Omar Tyree is an African American author who has published sixteen books that have sold nearly 2 million copies worldwide. He has written books such as *Just Say No* and *A Do Right Man*. He has also written the sequels to *Flyy Girl*, which are *For the Love of Money* and *Boss Lady*. The book *Flyy Girl* describes the main character Tracy who grows up during the 1980s and 90s on the fast track. The book is a true tale about the pressures and obstacles women go through during those times and today.

This would be a good book for young adult women to read because it describes how teenage girls grow up and how they feel, especially trying to look fly.

An Unfortunate Fairy Tale Series by Chanda Hahn Reviewed by Monique Freemon

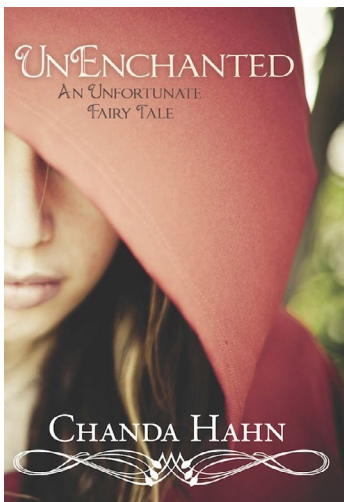


Photo from Amazon.com.

Many know the classic fairytales of *Cinderella*, *Princess and the Pea*, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, *Little Red Riding Hood* and many more. While many children and adults around the world know the Sunday school versions, the original fairytale are not very happily ever after.

Most of the tales having disturbing ends. According to a *Huffington Post* article by Valeria Ogden, "The True Stories Behind Classic Fairy Tales," she picked a handful of stories and explained the meaning of each. The original *Rapunzel* (based on an early Christian story) was behead because she did not give up Christianity, *Little Red Riding Hood* deals with a young girl loosing her virginity, The Brother's Grimm version of *Snow White* had the Evil Queen dance to her death in hot iron boots and that is just the tip of the iceberg.

An Unfortunate Fairy Tale Series by Chanda Hahn combines the best of both worlds on The Brothers Grimm fairytales with an unfortunate twist, the heroine of the series, Mina Grime never gets the perfect happily ever after. She goes deals with losing her brother; best friend, godmother, bombings, ceasing to exist, betrayals, and love lose. Also (SPOILER ALERT), at the end of each book everyone forgets how she rescued him or her from harms way and everything goes back to normal.

It all starts with her ancestors, Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, a.k.a. the famous folklore writers. Hahn has a different take on how the brothers came up with so many fairytales. At the beginning, the brothers made a deal with the Fates, fae royalty, to protect the human world from creatures from the fae world. Fae are fairytale creatures such as: pixies, fairies, gnomes, witches, warlocks, sprites, trolls, nixies, sea witches, etc. The deadliest fae creatures and called the Reapers, they look exactly like the Grimm Reapers but with yellow eyes. The deal is more like a curse, which passes down from generation to generation of Grimms'. Unfortunately, not all of the brother's descents were destine to complete their mission, to survive through 100 stories (called quests) with the help from her grimoire (a book which traps fae within the stories). If she does, then the deal is completed.

While going through this she is, after all a teenage girl, which means high school crushes, boyfriend and best friend drama, Queen B's and teen embarrassment. Throughout the series Mina, is torn between two

boys, Brody Carmichael, the popular, jock, all around nice guy; and Jared (who has a very big secret), a bad boy fae who is protecting Mina and always turns up for her aid if she needs it. Both relationships have their own characteristics. Brody is sensitive to Mina's needs and wants, while Jared tries to bring out the fighter in her. Luckily, she has a best friend; Nan to help her through her teenage drama filled life. Last, but not least are her mother and brother, Charlie. They are the only reason why she continues to fight fae. If Mina fails and dies during one of her quests, everything will be passed to Charlie, who is nine and does not speak (for reasons unknown but he can communicate in his own way).

As the series progresses, Mina starts as a shy, quiet, insecure girl who thinks the world is against her to a young girl who is a protector, a fighter with a quiet confidence. She is fearful of her life but she overcomes this fear multiple times in the series. Due of the delicacy of her family lineage and the unwanted family legacy (her father was killed because of it) she cannot tell anyone and has to keep it in the family. Her mother always knew about the fairytale quests but like Mina, she tried to protect her children by moving constantly and changing their name from Grimm to Grime. Obviously, Mina finds out in the most unfortunate way.

The series is an easy but fun read. Anyone who is into fairytales or fantasy will enjoy it. It has very strong female heroines and villains who are both willing to march into the fight. For example, Mina saves Brody countless times from dark fae creatures like the werewolf in *Reign*.

The author was born in Seattle, Wa., Hahn's website states, she is a *New York Times* and *USA Today* best-selling author. Before becoming an author she was a children's pastor, children's librarian and bookseller.

The series order is as followed: *Unenchanted*, *Fairest*, *Fable*, *Reign* and *Forever* (coming out on June 6, 2015). Readers do not know what is in store for Mina, but remember as Hahn posted on her website, "This is a Unfortunate series."

Subterranean by James Rollins Reviewed by Monique Freemon

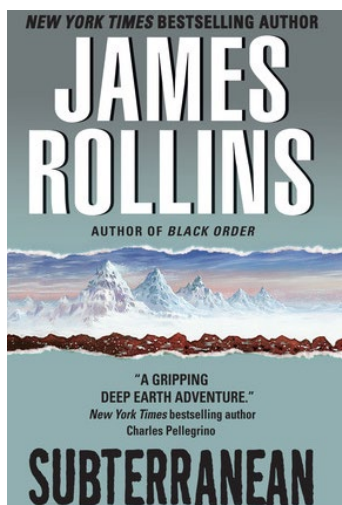


Photo from Goodreads.com.

If you want to get lost in an epic, prehistoric adventure; this is the book for you. Rollins novel is about a world long forgotten beneath Antarctica ice. After a team of specialists goes missing on an exploratory expedition, Ashley Carter, an archeologist and the best in her field, is asked to lead a rescue team to recover any missing survivors. Her team includes Linda, a biologist; Ben, a cave diver, Khalid, a geologist, Michelson, military personnel and two other army personnel.

As they go deeper in the caves, they discover things go from bad to worse to down right insane. While they are searching for the missing, her team discovers dinosaur like creatures, glowing rocks, skulls, killer sharks, deadly small animals, poisonous plants and one discovery which will change the concept of human and mammalian evolution and civilization.

The creatures are not their biggest worry. The team faces a betrayal, which affects everyone even everyone who is stationed on the base above ground, especially Ashley's son, Jason. Jason plays an important role in the novel. Her son is her motivation for rescuing the survivors and getting back home.

On their final obstacle, the team is captured by an ancient civilization called the mimi'swee (will not spoil it for you). They must find a way to mend a frayed bond between the humans and their people to save them and the team.

The longer they are in captivity, one of her team members, Ben, makes an odd discovery about his family heritage while journeying through caves, which he taps into that saves the rest of his team from a

gruesome death. On this journey, he and Ashley slowly develop an attraction, which has a happy ending for all.

Many science lovers will enjoy this book. While the novel starts off a little slow, right after Part 3: Chutes and Ladders, the story dives right into the team's journey to recuse. Many young women will like Ashley Carter because she is a strong-willed, educated woman who continuously makes sure the team sticks together and gets everyone through the journey and pushing her own needs aside. Also, she saves a lot of lives by going head first into battle with the creature below the surface.

The author, James Rollins is known for his adventure filled tales of science, adventure and peril. He is a *New York Times* best-selling author and an avid traveler too. Some of his more famous stories are: *The Last Oracle*, *Map of Bones* and *The Judas Strain*. Before becoming an author, he was a veterinary with a successful practice, which helps with his novels.

The Awakening by Kate Chopin **Reviewed by Monique Freemon**

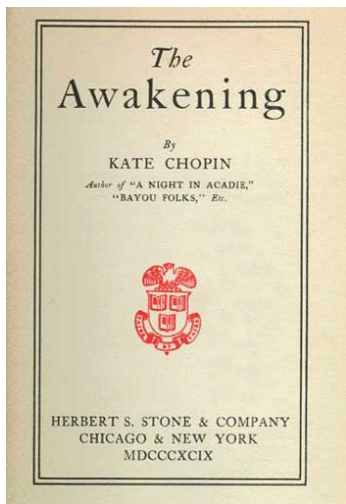


Photo from KateChopin.org.

with her life and needs a change. She does not realize this until she sees her friend, Adèle Ratignolle, shows her the way of expression. Edna goes through a number of "awakenings" in a sexual, emotional and personal way.

During her journey, Edna falls for two men, Robert Lebrun and Alcée Arobin, who both fulfill different desires and passions she has not experience with her husband. Within lust and love she rekindles her passion for painting. While this is happening she leaves her family to take care of themselves.

Toward the end of her "awakening" Edna comes to the realization that she has turned her back on her family for a life she has never known. This causes a rollercoaster of regret, sadness, desperation, which puts her at a crossroads. Ultimately, she finds herself in isolation after being rejected by her peers. Eventually she does find an escape from the pressures of society, her family and peers.

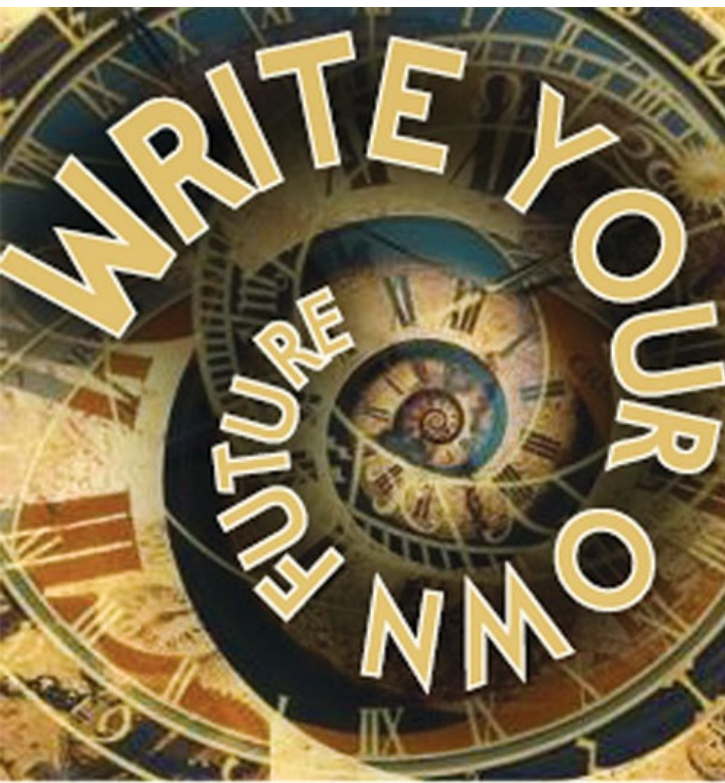
The Awakening is a good book for young women to read because it relates to modern day society. Chopin's book shows how social taboos and feminism was gaining momentum in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Women were starting realize that they were not put on this Earth to reproduce and care for their families. They were able to have options on how they want to live their life, not how society tells them to live. This is relatable to men too. In the novel, men were portrayed as caregivers, playboys and masculine. It demonstrates an unequal balance on gender roles in society.

The novel was published in 1899. It is one of her most controversial novels due to the themes and the ending of the novel. According to Chopin's website, while it caused a stir, the novel was an entry point

for authors such as: Tennessee Williams and Virginia Woolf to write more provocative novels and female characters. Chopin was born in St. Louis, Mo. but frequently based her novels in Louisiana. Many her themes, like the ones in *The Awakening*, focused on conformity, women, feminism, self-discovery, sexuality, gender inequality, and self-identity.

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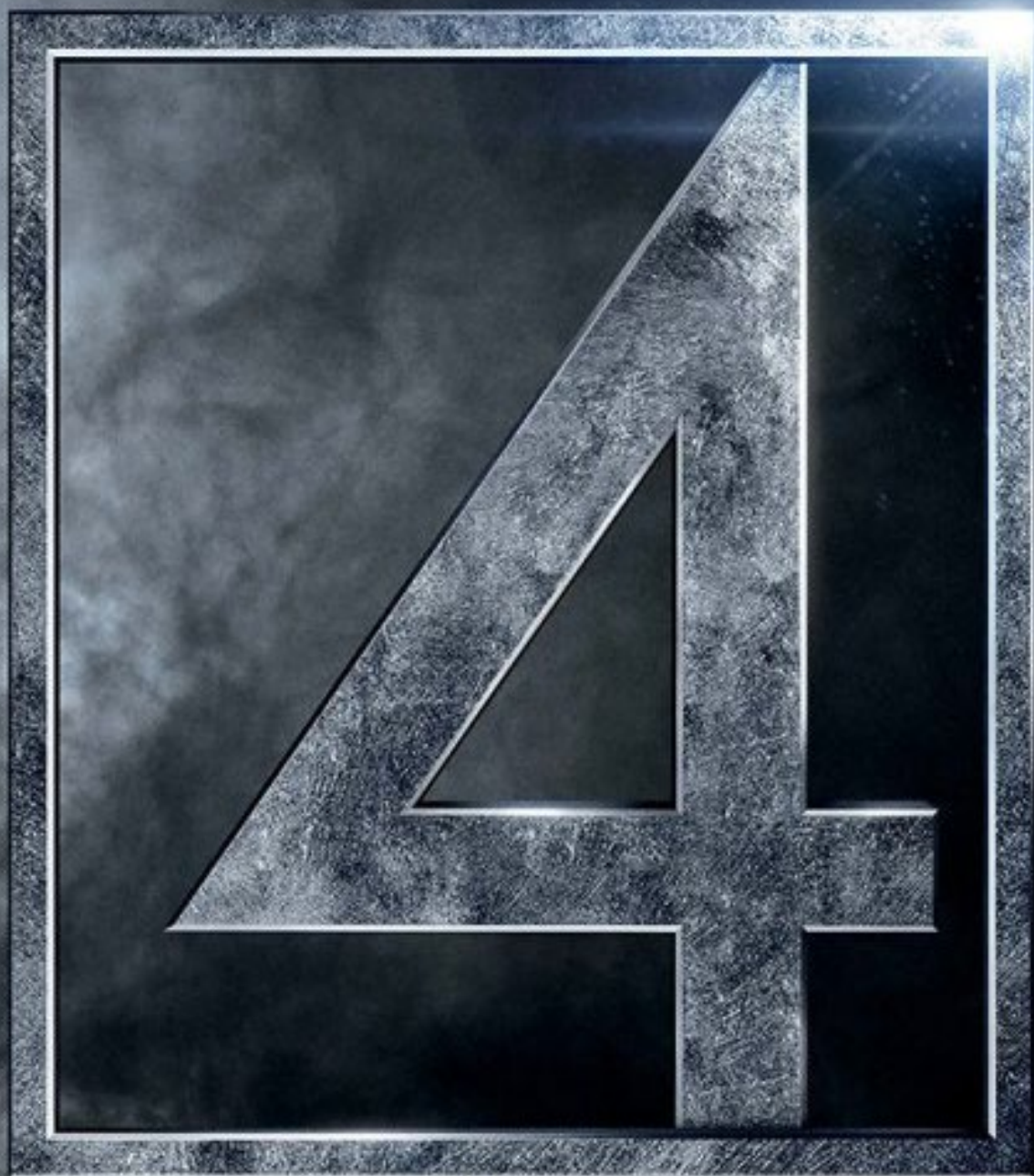
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HAVE MEANS WILL TRAVEL

Visiting a foreign country is exciting and overwhelming because of the new experiences
story and photos by Monique Freemon

1.) Research:

Before you visit a foreign country, research the customs, places, people, food and weather. Make a list of a few things you want to do such as, eating at a special restaurant or to visit a castle. In order to pack the proper clothing for your stay, check to see what the weather is like during your time in that country. Also, if you learn about the customs of the country, it will lessen the amount of culture shock, i.e. couples are heavy on public displays of affection, aka PDA, in Europe compared to the United States.

2.) Apply for a passport two to three months early:

The most important document an international traveler needs is a passport, which certifies you as a citizen of your country. Without one, you cannot get in or out of a country. It takes about a month for the passport process to be completed and an extra week for shipping. The fee is \$135 (\$110 for application fee plus \$25 for execution fee). Applications can be picked up at your local post office and your photo can be taken at any Walgreens. Apply early to give you more time if the passport agency did any discrepancies.

3.) Make copies of everything before you leave your country:

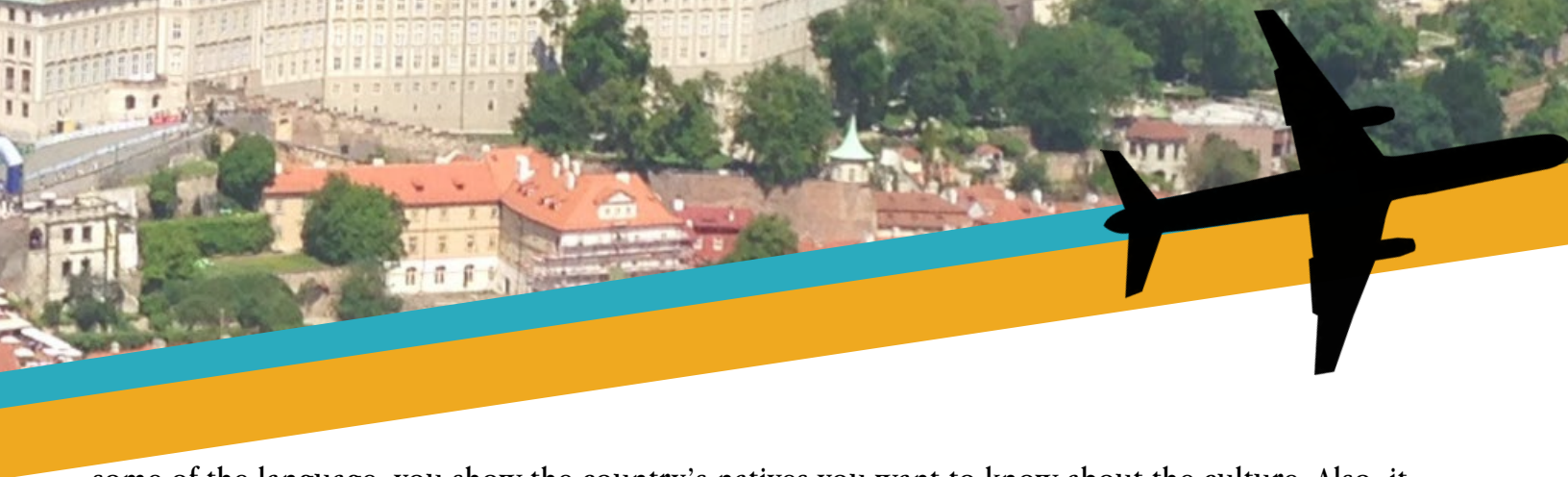
Make copies of your passport, birth certificate, insurance cards, driver's license, student IDs or anything documents which can help identify who you are. Make multiples of each document and put them in random places in your suitcase. If you lose your original passport, a copy will make it easier for the U.S. Embassy to get ahold of a new one.

4.) Learn the language:

Learn how to say "hello", "goodbye", "thank you", "where is...", "how much is...", etc. By learning



A Czech band performing in the Old Town Square in Prague, Czech Republic.



some of the language, you show the country's natives you want to know about the culture. Also, it shows common courtesy and respect, they know you are trying to put in an effort.

5.) Always tip:

In different countries, tipping is more of an unspoken requirement and common courtesy. Unlike U.S. restaurants, foreign countries do not care how long you stay, just as long as you are have fun and socialize.

6.) Be a wanderer:

The best way to explore a foreign place is to wander, but be cautious. Being a wanderer can lead to a local eatery or a beautiful spot to view the city, you never know what surprises await for you. Be warned: Don't wander late at night and if you do go with a buddy.

7.) The buddy system:

Have a buddy or be safe if you are alone at night. If you are alone, make sure you have some way to protect yourself such as a Taser or pepper spray. There are creepers in this world that will try to attack you for your belongings or you. Make sure your bag is secured between your arms or in front of you. Above all make sure someone knows where you are at all times.

8.) Communication:

Make sure you can communicate with your family to assure them you are safe. There are a few options to contact family which won't cost an arm and a leg such as: an international service plan, FaceBook, FaceTime, Skype, Snapchat or purchase an international phone. If anything happens, your family can get to you or send money if needed.

9.) Learn the transportation system:

Many foreign countries have excellent transportations systems. Many have buses, trolleys, subways, taxis and trams. This saves a lot of money if you don't want to take a taxi or have to walk to far places. At first, learning the system can be tricky but after a few rides you will be a pro. Make sure to always check times because the subways leave and arrive exactly on time.

10.) Learn where the embassy is located:

If anything happens: war, lost passport or lost contact with the group, the U.S. embassy will help you get back to your group. The embassy can warn or help you evacuate the country for your safety.

11.) Laundry:

When booking a hotel make sure there is free or inexpensive laundry service at the hotel or near by. Yuo don't want to wash your clothes in the sink.

12.) Stop taking photos and enjoy the view.

MOST IMPORTANTLY: Have FUN! This is an adventure. Don't forget to get your passport stamp!

THE ART OF WRITING A BUCKET LIST

story by Monique Freeman

Almost everyone has attempted to write, has written, thought about writing one or you have a mental list of something extraordinary you want to do. Everyone has a dream, a goal or an adventure he or she wants to achieve. Unfortunately, bucket lists can easily turn into just ink on paper because life happens and people get sidetracked. It is okay if life situations do distract you just as long as you complete something on your list, no matter if it is big or small. It is not to show the world you completed something extraordinary, but to show yourself you can do anything you want to do.

What people do not realize is sometimes they have achieved goals and dreams already, they just have not crossed it off their list yet, forgot about it or did not think to write it down. A bucket list reflects goals achieved in the past, present and future. Here are some tips:

1.) First 10 lines are the most important.
The first ten lines should consist of ten things you have done or are doing. You could write down graduated high school or college, lived by yourself, met a celebrity, earned an important award and even baked a dessert item, i.e. crème brûlée. The first ten gets you pumped for what is next.

2.) Next 10: Name goals, dreams or achievements you want to do.

This could range from going zip lining to swimming in the Atlantic Ocean. The next ten are just as inspiring as the first because they get you excited about what the future holds.

3.) Highlight the first 10 lines.

Highlight, DO NOT cross off. If you cross off something, sometimes it is hard to read what you accomplished. These are not just items to cross off they are memories that you can tell people someday. Also, it gives your list a little color.

4.) Write dates and memories down.

Next to the item write down the date it happen and a memory or even put a picture in the fold. Eventually, it will look like a scrapbook. It is hard to remember every single detail that happens in our lives but if you go back to that item the extra info, it might jog your memory. It is better to write one sentence down and it can be a long sentence too (whatever floats your boat). You do not have to write down a memory or date for everyone, for example, your child's birth, your wedding day or the day you graduated. Those dates should be easy to remember.

5.) Repeat Steps 1 through 4 and then keep on repeating.



Red Rock hot air balloons flying over the Valley of the Gods in Utah. Photo by Bureau of Land Management via Flickr.



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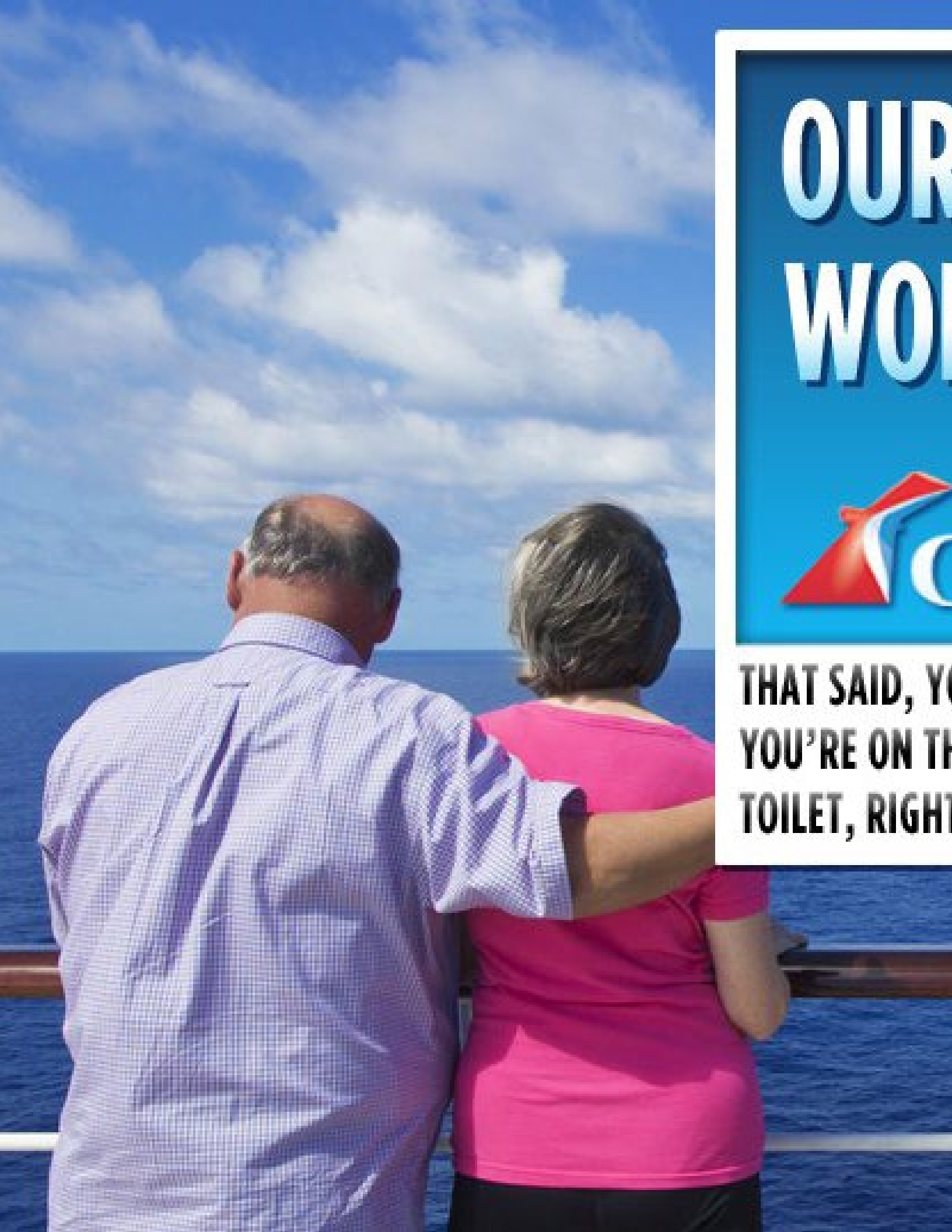
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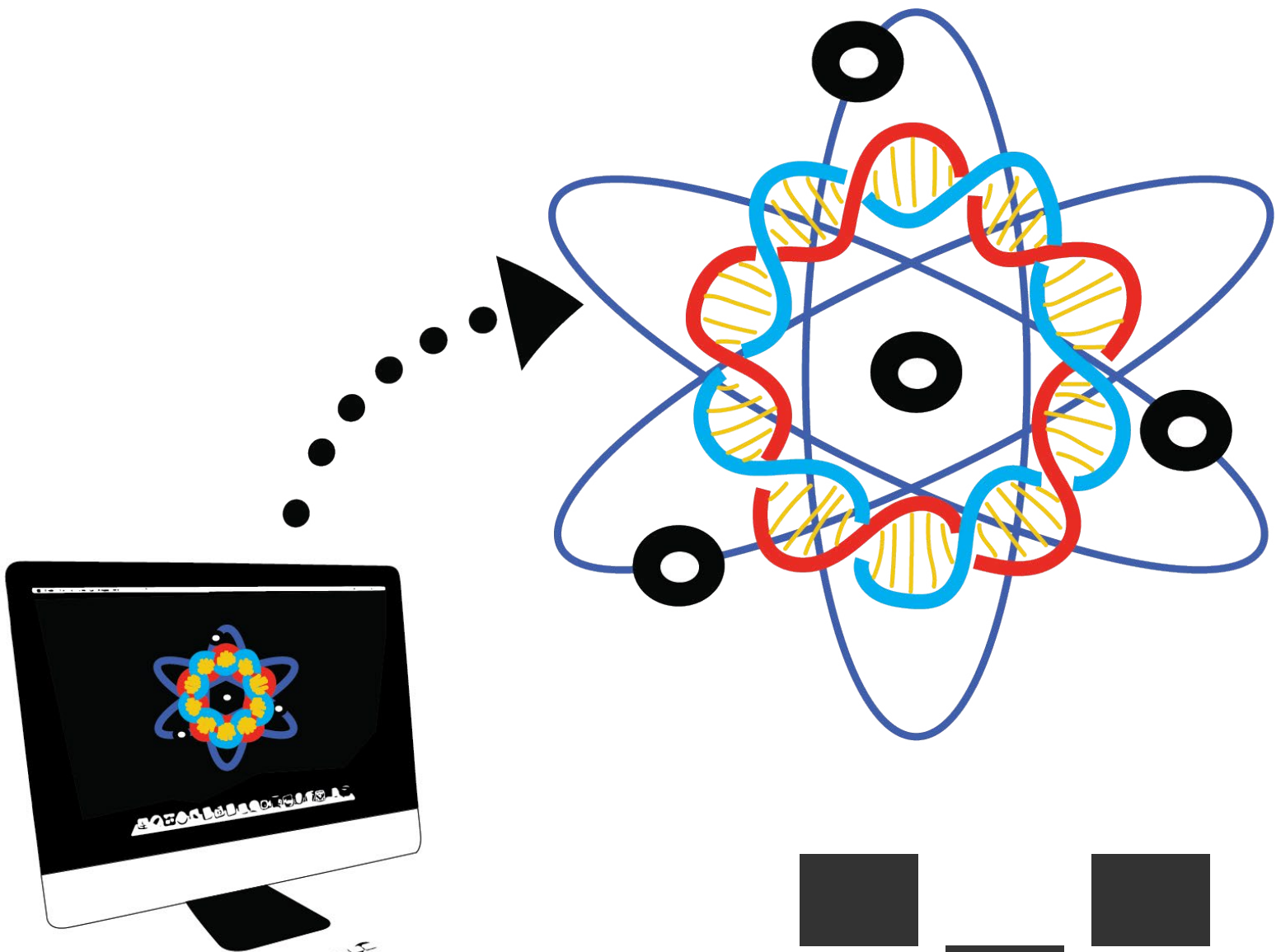
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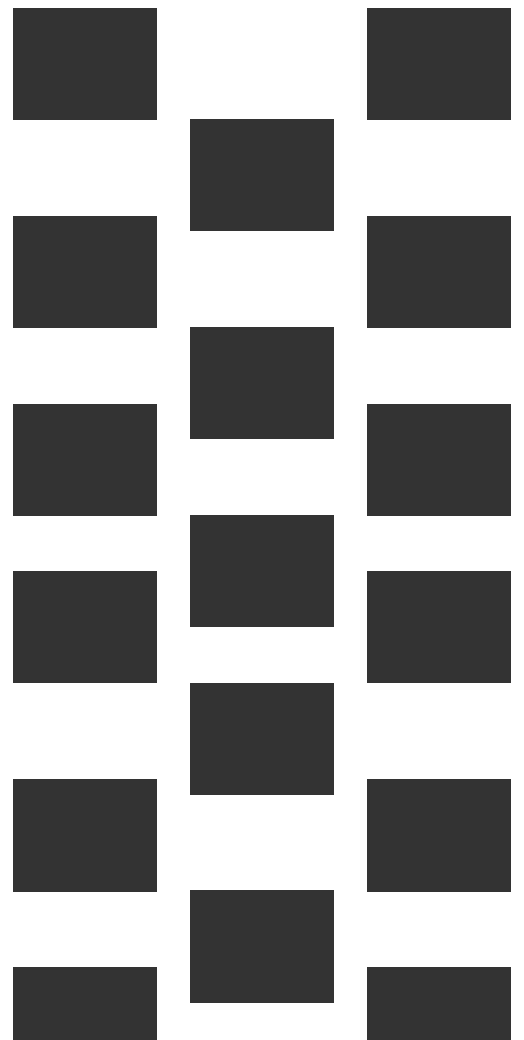
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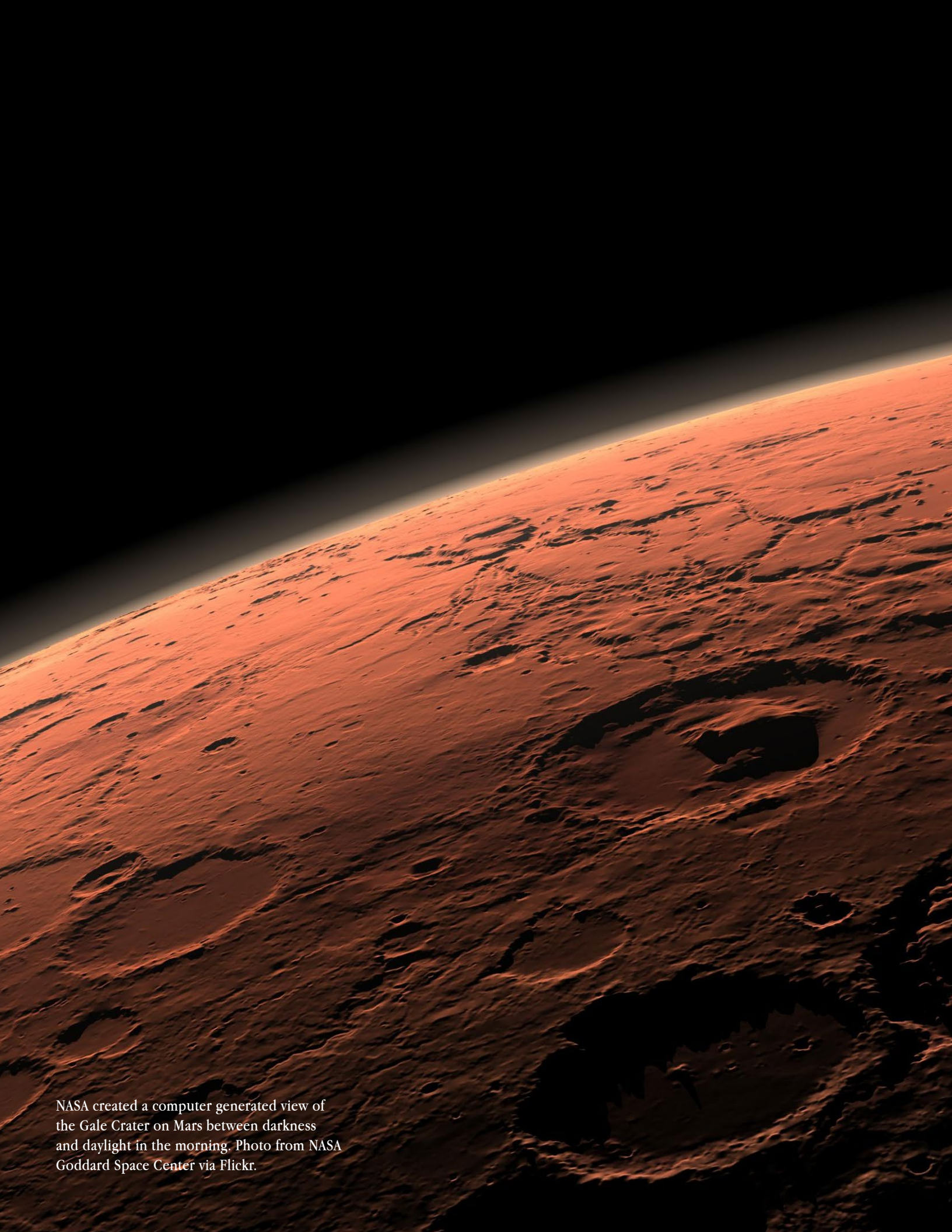


SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY

“The number one benefit of information technology is that it empowers people to do what they want to do. It lets people be creative. It lets people be productive. It lets people learn things they didn’t think they could learn before, and so in a sense it is all about potential.”

-Steve Ballmer, former CEO of Mircosoft





NASA created a computer generated view of the Gale Crater on Mars between darkness and daylight in the morning. Photo from NASA Goddard Space Center via Flickr.



THE BEEMER DREAM

An 8-year-old's dream becomes a reality,
igniting a younger generation's passion
for science, adventure and curiosity

by Monique Freeman

For centuries, people have looked up to the sky and wondered. They are curious if they are alone in this universe, if there is life beyond the stars, how the world was created, where we came from, what is it like to live on another planet, etc. They have wondered if there is a possibility of leaving this Earth. Army 1st Lt. Heidi Beemer had this same curiosity and wonder from a young age.

“For me, my curiosity came from my dad. Always giving my rocks, telling me stories of the stars or just bring me outside and walking me around, telling me stories about science, space and the Earth we live on.”

She became interested with Mars, the “Red Planet.” As Beemer grew older, her fascination skyrocketed on to a path, which led her to the Mars One Project, a Dutch non-profit organization. The company's goal is to establish a permanent human colony on Mars by 2025. Beemer would have told her eight-year-old self, who dreamed of being a cosmonaut, she would have never imagined having this life.



Army 1st Lt. Heidi Beemer at the Mars Society's Mars Desert Research Station in Utah for the Mars Arctic 365 program. Photo from Beemer2Mars Facebook.

"Pretty much everything I [did] to get to this point, none of it was planned. None of it was, 'Oh yeah I am going to go to military school, I am going to join the army,' I had no idea that stuff was going to happen," said Beemer.

As for her family, they supported her decision, but like all parents, they worried. Due to the lack of technology, the first four people to land will spend the rest of their lives on Mars, never to return again to Earth. In order to return to Earth, there needs to be a launchpad built on the surface. Since Earth's gravity is not like the moon's, the fu-

ture Martians cannot use the gravity to jump off the surface.

"The family is very supportive. My dad is right along with me. He is sending articles to me all the time, trying to get me to learn as much as I can. He is very supportive, very excited and a little jealous. My mom is very supportive and very scared. She actually thinks it is going to happen, so as any mother should be, she is pretty nervous," said Beemer

While she was excited to go to Mars, she would have missed a lot of things on Earth. When asked what she would miss, she said one word, "Everything." From snowboarding in Salt Lake City to rock climbing to hanging out with friends in Nashville, she would miss out on these experiences. Beemer is an adventurous person, but she is positive that the activities on Mars would had made up for these epic adventures. Also, from the time the team trains to launch day, they have plenty of time left to enjoy this planet.

Born in Hawaii but raise in Virginia Beach, Va., Beemer had always been an active individual. In 2011, she graduated from the Virginia Military Institute with a bachelor's degree in chemistry and a minor in astronomy.

Currently, she is stationed at the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky. At the base, she is the Decontamination Platoon Leader at 63rd CBRN (Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear) Company, 83rd CBRN Battalion and 48th CBRN Brigade.

Beemer has plenty of experience and training. According to *The Eagle Post*, Beemer interned at the NASA Space Exploration Academy. She conducted research with Nathalie Cabrol, Ph.D., a senior research scientist at the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence Institute (SETI). She spent two weeks in Utah at the Mars Desert Research Station as a chef geologist and executive officer. There she lived and worked in spacesuits, explored a canyon and tested the suitability of the rock for digging

tunnels. *Armytimes.com* states Beemer is pursuing her master's degree in aerospace science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

LIFE ON THE "RED PLANET"

Mars is the fourth planet of the Sun and right next to Earth. According to Mars One's website, the trip from Earth to the "Red Planet" takes about six to eight months. Time can change because of different orbital circular patterns between the planets.

Mars is different from Earth in years, atmosphere, days and gravity. If humans were to live on Mars they would experience 62.5 percent less gravity (more bounce in your step) and would weigh about half your weight. For example, NASA states if someone were 100 pounds on Earth, they would weigh 38 pounds on Mars. The atmosphere is not breathable because carbon dioxide makes up 96 percent of it. As for days and years, a day on Earth lasts about 24-hours, on Mars it is 24-hours and 40 minutes. The number of days on Mars is 687 Earth days compared to the 365 days humans' experience. Also, the planet has two moons, Phobos and Deimos (NASA.gov).

While living on Mars is different and more fascinating than living on Earth, it is a huge risk. Beemer said future technology and testing will ease the adaptations for humans to colonize on the planet.

"I understand that there is obviously a great risk. This is extremely dangerous anytime you leave Earth in a rocket. It is extremely dangerous, but [they] will have the training and the ability to test the equipment before we go. I am pretty confident [they] will be able to workout the kinks before [they] endanger anyone," said Beemer.

MICRO-FAME

Since Beemer's announcement as a candidate for the mission, she gained some fame with it. On *National Public Radio's* (NPR) interview, Beemer stated, "I've kind of gained a little bit of micro-fame within my community." She used this

fame as a tool to educate the younger generation; especially young girls to be involved in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields and education. According to the National Math and Science Initiative, 23 percent of STEM workers are women but make up 48 percent of workers in all occupations. Beemer enjoyed inspiring young people to get interested in the STEM fields. She Skyped many high schools, including hers, to talk about space. The advice she gave to the younger crowd is not to let anyone tell them they cannot do something and to plan for the future.

"Don't listen to people that tell you that it is too crazy or too ridiculous or that's too hard or not possible. Just come up with your own strategy and come up with the way you are going to accomplish it, by making your goals early and stick to it. Know that it is okay to change your mind but don't let other people influence your decision ultimately," said Beemer.

There is a gender gap in the STEM fields, but it is slowly becoming smaller. By 2017, STEM Advantage's website predicted women, African-Americans and Latinos will make up the STEM workforce from 20 percent to 70 percent. Schools, STEM programs, teachers and government officials have realized now is the best time to persuade young girls and boys to enter the field of science and technologies. To gather interest, the system needs to talk to the next generation about STEM careers at a young age and continue to encourage them to pursue those careers throughout their education.

"I think starting when you are young and really giving these kids—kind of opening the door to what is out there, and showing them that it is okay and cool for girls to be in science. It is okay for them to be doctors. Then once they get older, in middle school, you can kind of reach out to them like, 'What do you want to do,' 'If you could do anything, what would it be,' said Beemer.

'Introducing them to women that are in the STEM fields and kind of interact with them

Army 1st Lt. Heidi Beemer had to wear a space suit at San Rafael Swell in Hanksville, Utah while training at the Mars Desert Research Station. Photo from Beemer2Mars Facebook.



throughout [their schooling]. The common problem is once they get to middle school and high school, they already are being told that science isn't cool for women. The field isn't for them or boys do it, whatever it is.”

The more we empower young women, the more they will be able to be impassioned about STEM fields when they seek out careers. While there are not many women in the science fields, some even by themselves, they are doing great things that change lives.

THE BEGINNING OF SPACE EXPLORATION

Curiosity, knowledge, acceptance and determi-

nation are the key factors to change a world. Space is the final frontier that governments and their citizens want to explore. The signs are everywhere that humans are itching to go up in space. There is Space X, who designs, manufactures and launches advance rockets and spacecraft. Recently, they launched a satellite into deep space. Then there is Virgin Galactic, which is the first commercial spaceline, but they are still in the beta test phase. According to their site, the goal is have humans live on other planets. Even the film industry has caught on to the trend. The industry has produced a handful of movies about space travel and exploration in the last few years such as: *Interstellar* (2014), *Gravity* (2013), the new *Star Trek* series (2009 and 2013), *Elysium* (2013), *Europa Report* (2013),



Avatar (2009), etc.

“I am getting excited for this because this is going to be big. It is not just Mars One, it is Space X, it is NASA, it is all things they’re spending out to do. A lot of people don’t realize how drastically our world is going to change here very shortly in the next ten to 20 years. As soon as Space X and other organizations are able to privately send humans into space, we’re going to have access like we never had before,” said Beemer.

The first was demonstrated with sending humans to the moon and into lower Earth orbit, according to Beemer. These private entities are advancing the early developments of human space colonization and space exploration. The only problem now is the technology needed to achieve

theses milestones. This will give the push the government needs to dive deeper into our solar system, which will pave the way for future space exploration by private entities.

MORE POSSIBILITES AHEAD

According to Mars One, over 200,000 people registered for the first selection in April 2013. Afterwards, they cut the pool to 1,058. For that round, Beemer had to go through a medical screening and get cleared to continue. Also, participants had to change their website profiles from private to public, and stated they are in the competition to be one of the lucky four. After the first selection, they cut it down to 703, those chosen ones had to do an interview with a head psychologist of the program

during December 2014 to January 2015. After the interviews, the selection was cut down to 633.

On February 16, 2015, Mars One announced the chosen 100. Unfortunately, Beemer was not selected in the pool of candidates but that has not strayed her off the path to learn about Mars.

While Beemer did not make it to the next round, she was honored to be included in the process. She wrote on her Facebook Page:

“On Friday, I was notified that I would not be moving forward with Mars One as an Astronaut Candidate. The list of the remaining 100 was posted this morning. I am so grateful for the opportunity to get as far as I did in the process. I will never forget the experiences and relationships I created along the way. There are so many people I have to thank for making this an amazing experience and believing in me and my dreams. I am so happy to have inspired so many youth and I just hope that I was able to inspire those around me to go for their dreams.

My outlook on life during the last several months has changed a lot. I will continue to pur-

sue my dreams through NASA and other opportunities that present themselves in the future. I truly believe all things happen for a reason. Being a Mars One candidate did not define who I am, but one day going to Mars does! Thank you all! And good luck to the remaining candidates.”

Beemer does have a Plan B. She is a finalist for the Mars Arctic 365 Mission. The mission is a one-year Mars surface simulation expedition in the Arctic on Devon Island. According to The Mars Society’s website, it is about 900 miles from the North Pole.

She might not be the first four on Mars, but she could possibly one day live on Mars, there is still hope. After 2025, Mars will continue to send groups of four every two years. Either way, not many 25-year-old people can say they have accomplished the things Beemer has done.

She shows what persistence, discipline, curiosity and a dream can accomplish. Beemer has a bright future ahead and many more milestones to accomplish. We all should strive to live “The Beemer Dream.”



Army 1st Lt. Heidi Beemer talked to 400 freshmen about Mars-One at West Creek High School in Clarksville, Tenn. Photo from Beemer2Mars Facebook.



iWatch

Time for a change.

iWatch concept by Martin Hajek & Adem Banks, Mac/ber magazine | www.martinhajek.com | martinhajek@outlook.com | ideglatjesmaker.com
iWatch UI design by Dámaso Benítez | www.damasobenitez.com | damasobenitez@gmail.com | [@damasobenitez](https://twitter.com/damasobenitez)

Actual Google search of 10/22/2013

women need to |

women need to **be put in their place**

women need to **know their place**

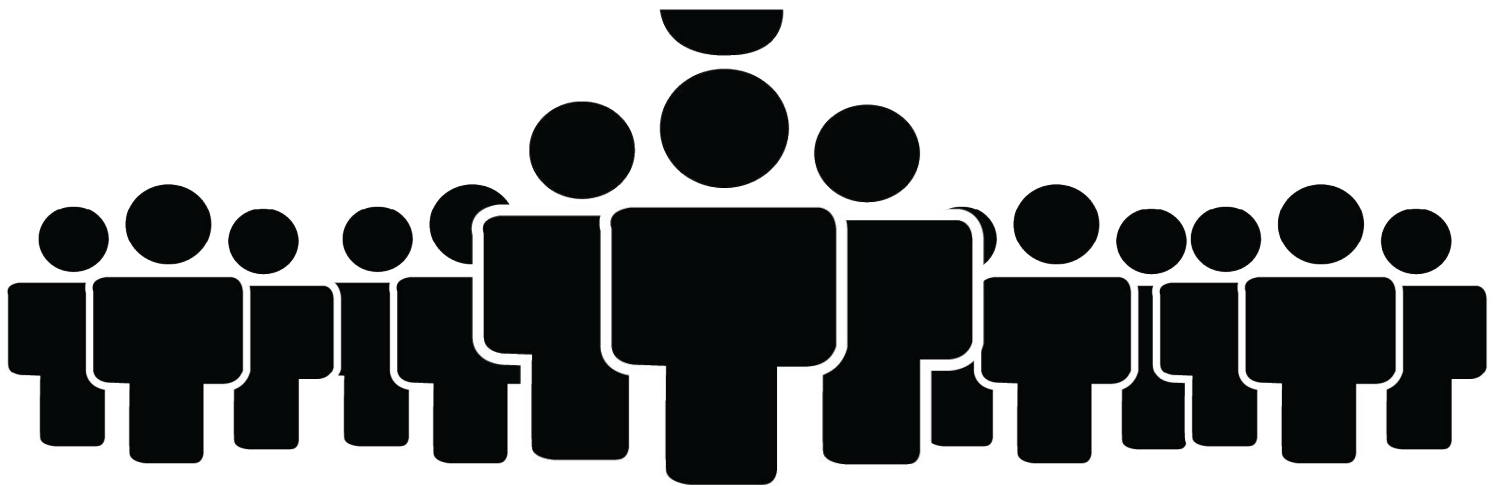
women need to **be controlled**

women need to **be disciplined**

women need to **be seen as equal**

@UN
WOMEN

unwomen.org

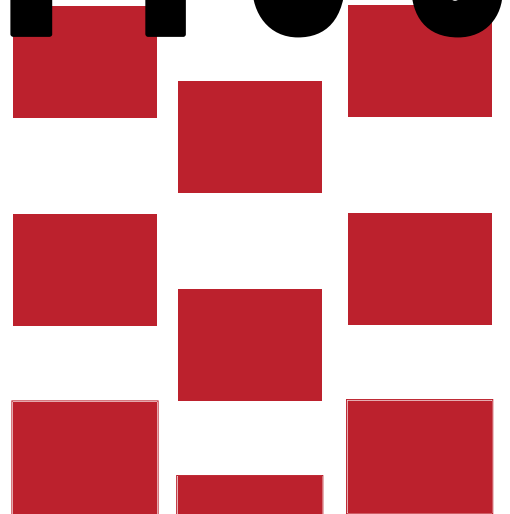


B U S I N E S S

P O L I T I C S

*“Vision without action is merely a dream.
Action without vision just passes the time.
Vision with action can change the world.”*

-Joel A. Barker, author





Mayor Madeline Rogero visited the Air National Guard Base and toured a refueling plane. Photo by Eric Vreeland.



MAYOR MADELINE ROGERO:

Teaching young women about equality,
equity, justice and balance

by Monique Freemon

Politics is not just about winning the race; it is about serving your community with dignity and balance, according to the Mayor of Knoxville.

“Everywhere you go, there will be politics in school, church, with families and friends. There was a former State Sen. Anna Belle Clement O’Brien who said, ‘Politics is a beautiful word. Politics is what build hospitals, sidewalks and schools. It is about that balancing of interest,’” said Mayor of Knoxville, Madeline Rogero.

People face politics everyday in their jobs, at home, school and church. It is not a battle between the Democrats and Republicans; it is a battle of what is best for the community as a whole.

There are many people around the world who avoid politics like taxes, which means it is very unavoidable but hopefully beneficial. Some give a handful of reasons to avoid politics such as: it is too complex, everyone lies, it is all about money, negative campaigns, it causes too many arguments, divides houses, etc. What people may not realize is, they face politics everyday in every part of their life. Politics affects practically everything they do constantly.

“Some people make politics bad because they do it for their own self-interest, rather than for the good of the community. There are still a lot of good folks out there who want to make a better community. We always will disagree what the better community is, but I always like to say that good and reasonable people can disagree,” said Rogero.

Rogero understood this concept. She said politics is, “all about equality, equity, justice and balance.” Politics lives off a delicate balance. She found the perfect amount of each

trait after years of being in various political positions, from community development to better workers living conditions. She served on the Knox County Commission, worked for Gov. Bill Haslam and served on many non-prof-

it boards such as: Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library and Knoxville’s Promise Alliance for Youth, which was headed by former United States Secretary of State, Colin Powell.

Rogero was highly involved in politics since high school, after being aware and involved with her community on a local and national level. According to the Cityofknoxville.com, after three years of college at Furman University in Greenville, N.C.; she halted her undergraduate studies to work with Cesar Chavez, the famed civil rights activist and labor leader, to aid farmworkers and better their working conditions.

“I certainly got to learn about campaigning and organizing and about the plight of farmer workers. They were disenfranchised workers and underpaid emity in our country.”

The website states, she earned her master’s degree in Urban and Regional Planning from The University of Tennessee in 1987. Her thesis titled, *A Proposal to Foster Civic Leadership and Participation in Knoxville*, was on fostering civic leadership and participation in Knoxville, Tenn. During her time in the city, she learned a lot about how cities and communities functioned as a unit.

“When I first moved to Knoxville, I worked with a foundation that focused on non-profits that worked with emerging groups addressing

issues of social inequality or economic justice.”

In 2003, she decided to run for Mayor of Knoxville. During that time, the community heavily discussed if Knoxville was ready for a female mayor. Her opponent, Haslam,

won but only by a six percent margin, which showed the city she gave him a run for his money.

Later in 2011, Rogero would become the first female mayor of Knoxville, which demonstrated the community accepted change for the better. Rogero remembered when she first ran for county commissioner. Her opponent underestimated her, which was an advantage for her. When she saw him out campaigning or at an event, he would introduce her as the “pretty little girl.” Rogero said she would just smile and look pretty, which was a good tactic. People who underestimate their opponents, tend to not campaign as hard, which he did. As a result, Rogero won in a landslide, showing him this “pretty little girl” is a fierce opponent who can run a clean race. He was not the only male

“...Not too thick were you don't listen and feel when it is actually something you need to change.”

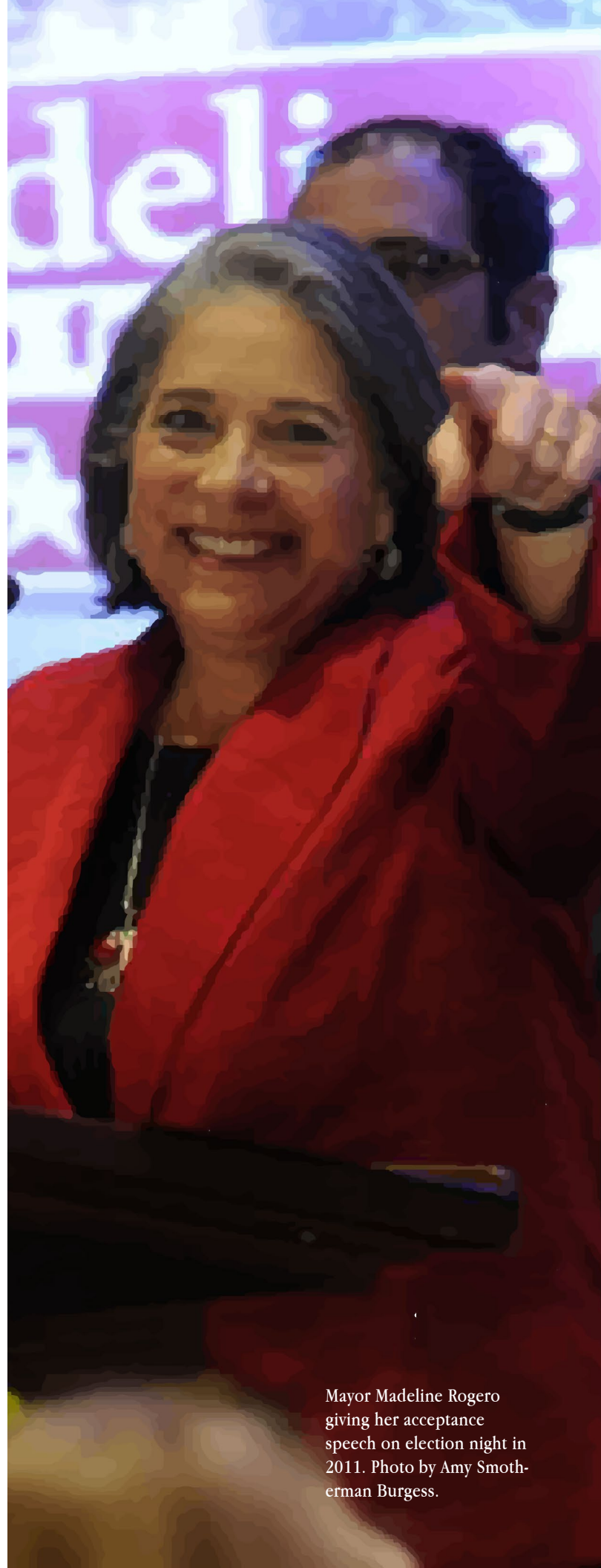
who thought she did not belong in politics.

“When I met him [another political ward boss] he said, ‘Oh, your that little girl we have been hearing about.’ He said, ‘You need to take that money you have been raising and go buy yourself something with it. Then the next time you decide to run for office, you come and ask for permission.’ I just smiled again and said, ‘Nice to meet you but I am planning on staying in the race.’”

Rogero represents the first of many milestones women in politics achieved and will achieve. According to State.gov, the highest position held by a woman in the United States government is the secretary of state, which has been held respectively by: Madeleine Korbel, Condoleezza Rice (first African-American woman) and Hilary Rodham Clinton. In a January 2013 statistical report by the National Women’s Political Caucus, they found there were 99 female members out of 535 members in the U.S. Congress (18.5 percent), 20 female senators (20 percent), 79 female representatives (18.6 percent) and only 3 female delegates (Guam, the Virgin Islands, and Washington, D.C.). In the U.S., we have never had a female president. However, there are whispers of former U.S. Secretary of State Hilary Rodham Clinton running for the 2016 Presidential Elections.

Rogero herself did not consider running for a political office until someone encouraged her and said she would be great in the county commission. Later in 2003, two men suggested she run for mayor. One of the biggest factors to increase women to run for office is to encourage and educate one another. Rogero thinks women can run and win. While they might not win all the time, they are putting their name out there; making it known they will be heard.

She suggested women need to understand the media might criticize you more because of your gender, race, age and background, espe-



Mayor Madeline Rogero giving her acceptance speech on election night in 2011. Photo by Amy Smotherman Burgess.



Mayor Madeline Rogero spoke at the grand opening of REI outfitter in West Knoxville. Photo by Eric Vreeland.

cially in a public figure position. She remembered when she ran for mayor the first time and how she was constantly worried about what the papers said about her. At times, the women in the salon would comment on how Rogero dressed, her style and hair, but that should not matter. Her political platform and ideas should have been the hot topic of conversations. As she got older, she became wiser. She realized if she worried about what people said about her, that would take up all of her time. While she was brave enough to step out and expose herself, she is still human and still has feelings.

She quoted Martin Luther King, Jr., who said, “If I let every criticism that crossed my desk in the course of a day bothering me, if I paid attention to it, then I and my secretaries would have little else to do.” King wrote this after his peers criticized him for his tactics during the civil rights movement. This letter was written when he was in the Birmingham, Ala. city jail.

“I always say that we have to have thick

enough skin to were you don’t let that bother you but not too thick were you don’t listen and feel when it is actually something you need to change. We all make mistakes,’ said Rogero.

‘I think sometimes today—you always get criticize when you’re out there as a public leader or whether the dean of a college or the head of a company or the chair of the committee at church—whenever you take a leadership role, you are always subject to being criticized. I think sometimes women are more sensitive to that. I know I was when I started. I was so worried about everything that was written about me, this was before the Internet. When I did it there was no social media or email in 1990.’

In the early 2000s, social media became the best alternative to reach people who did not necessarily use mainstream media, i.e. newspaper, radio and television, anymore. While they are still the go to place for politicians to get their platforms across, there is a negative to social media. Politicians have the potential to open themselves up to unfavorable criticism on their platforms, personalities, looks and

ideas. It can be daunting by the numbers of comments, but most of the time the amount of people who have unpleasant things to say, is smaller than what appears. As for mistreatment from the media, Rogero feels she has been treated very fairly with them throughout her campaigns.

“I have found that those who are the backstabbers and the naysayers, they are really the minority. Most people are much more balanced and fairer than that. We have got to take some risks and have

to be willing to take the heat.

The pay off is that you get to help build the community that you want to live in and that you want your kids and grand kids to live in.”

Other advice Rogero said in order

to run for any political office, learn about the position you want to serve in on a local and national level. Figure out what makes the community tick, what makes it run. Running for office is one thing but when knowing the community on an intimate level, it makes running much easier and sweeter.

She highly encourages networking, especially via social media and email. Social media has redefined the terms of communication, particularly in politics. Political candidates have increased their budgets and time on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Twitter to reach more voters. With the advancement of the Internet, political candidates can communicate with their voters and connect in real-time. President Barack Obama demonstrated this in his

2008 and 2012 Presidential Elections when he reached younger voters.

“Obama did take us light-years ahead on how to use social media. He really made a concerted effort to reach out to the younger generation, who routinely do not pay attention or doesn’t vote.”

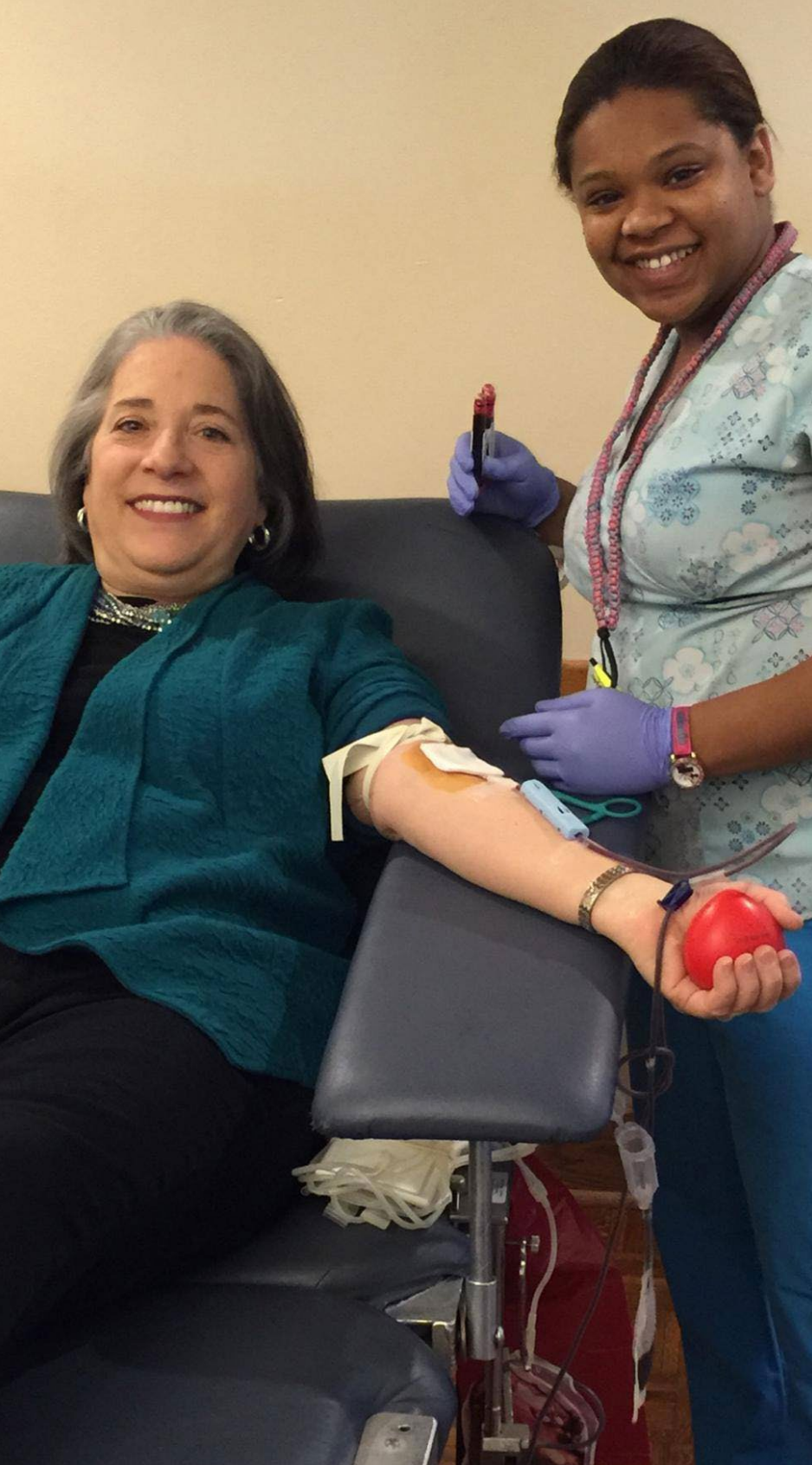
According to 270towin.com, Obama received more votes than any candidate in history, a record previously held by former President George W. Bush in 2004. In 2009, the U.S.

Census Bureau released a statistical report from the 2008 President Election, stating 131 million people voted. There was a 5 million increase of voters including: 2 million more Black voters, 2 million more

Hispanic and 600,000 Asian voters. As for the 18-24 crowds, they were the only age group to increase from 47 percent (2004 election) to 49 percent (2008 election). Women had a higher voting rate at 66 percent compared to males at 62 percent.

On an international level, the U.S. is fairing better than most countries. According to UNWomen.org, as of January 2015, ten women serve as heads of state and 15 serve as heads of government. As of December 2014, women account for less than 10 percent of parliamentarians in a single or lower house in 37 countries. The only country that has the highest number of women in parliament is Rwanda, which is 63.8 percent in the lower house. The U.S. wants to support this movement and last

“Politics has been a part of my life but it has not been the drive in my career throughout my life.”



Mayor Madeline Rogero (pictured with phlebotomist Tynetta Brewster) gives blood during a drive in support of KPD Captain Jeff Stiles, who is battling cancer.

year invited Rogero to Turkey to discuss women in politics.

From Jan. 27th to Feb. 2nd, Rogero visited

Turkey last year as a guest of the U.S. Department's International Information Programs (IIP). According to the site, IIP supports people-to-people conversations with foreign publics on U.S. policy priorities.

She listened to Turkish women's questions, concerns and opinions on their treatment in their country compared to the treatment of women in the U.S.

Turkey is known for their vast and ancient culture. Like many Middle Eastern countries, Turkey has a problem with women's issues such as domestic violence and getting women involved in politics. During group meetings and a few forums, Rogero said the main topic of discussion was domestic violence (verbally, emotionally and sexually) and how do Americans address this issue. In the U.S., we do face domestic violence issues but we do try to address them swiftly and thoroughly. We have non-profits such as REACH, Becky's Fund, No More Tears and The National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma and Health.

This was a good point for Rogero to talk about the Knoxville Family Justice Center where all the different agencies are in one spot to help people and families with domestic violence issues. Instead of going to separate agencies, they can report to the police, get counseling, talk to the district attorney, receive support and information on shelters or homes all in one place. They understand dealing with these issues at home can be stressful, painful, and mentally and physically tiresome.

"I think it [domestic violence] is more of an issue in Turkey even though we have it here in

the U.S. We have issues of it across economic boundaries but it is not something that is really raised so much on a regular basis than politics. Something we know as a problem we are addressing it but I think [in Turkey] it is much more of an issue in women's minds on a daily basis," said Rogero.

According to Libcom.org, Turkey's feminism movement did not start until the early 1980s and is continuing today. The feminist movements that happened in the 1950s to the 1970s in the U.S. are happening now in Turkey. Rogero does label herself a feminist ever since she read *Feminine Mystique* by Betty Friedan in high school. She received a round of applause after telling them this fact. During one of Rogero's speaking events, she was asked since she is the first female mayor does she show preference to women in her position.

"To me a feminist doesn't mean that I give preference to women. It means equality. So as a feminist, when I make board appointments, I make sure there are men and women on those boards who are Black, White, Hispanic, etc. I want the board to be reflective of our community. I look for age differences and geographical balance. To me that is what a feminist is about, bring people to the table and not about trying to give total preference. Total equality is about equity and balance."

WBIR stated Rogero had increased diversity among city employees during her tenure.

Not only was Rogero interviewed on the trip but also her granddaughter, who was a 17-year-old high school student at the time. She was asked if she would go into politics. Like Rogero said, politics is about serving the community for the better. Her granddaughter said she wanted to go into nursing and considered that helping people. Rogero still encourages her that there is always time to change careers later in life. In the past, many of our parents, grandparents and great grandparents

had one job for years until retirement or until they could not handle the physical or emotionally demands for his or her job compared to today. In today's society, many young people understand that they do not have to stick to one career and there is an infinite amount of options for careers during a lifetime. After the trip, Rogero stated her granddaughter's interest in politics did increase but she still wants to be a nurse.

"Politics is something that you can do part time. While you are having your other career, if you are in legislature or county commission, school board of city council, that can be a part time service. If you want to be a governor, mayor, senator or that type of thing, that is a full time job; but throughout the course of our careers many of us will change jobs anyways."

Rogero still challenges her children and grandchildren to be active voters, be active in their communities and to understand the issues both locally and nationally.

As for Rogero's future, she is not sure if she will run for a higher political office. She is sure of one thing, to be involved in some form of community development and encouraging women to run. She sees more women are running for office and getting involved in community development but it is not enough.

"I am running for reelection [this year] and hope to be reelected in September, to serve four more years. When I am finished with this, I will be 67-years-old and I may want to do something else that is not in politics at that time or retire. I really don't know. I have got a lot of interests. Politics has been apart of my life but it has not been the drive in my career throughout my life. We'll see when the time comes but at this point I don't have any intention too," said Rogero.

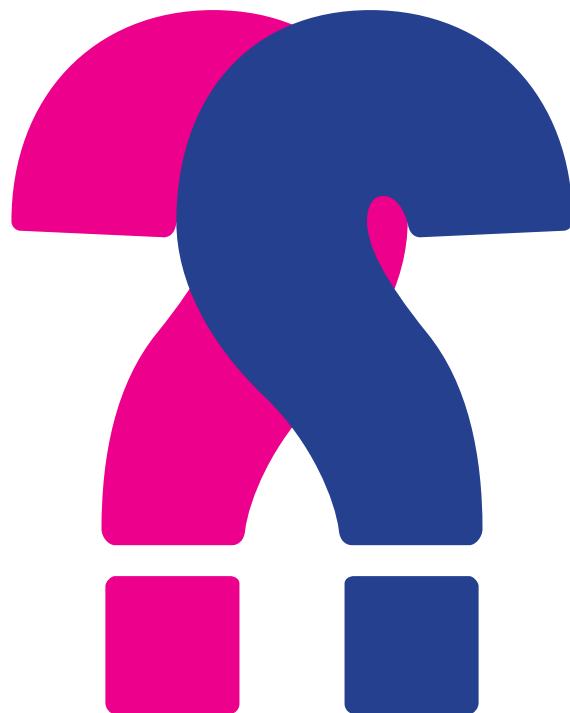
At some point she will retire but not just yet, she still has a lot of work to be done.



**Has curves too.
But gets the hearing it deserves.**

JOHNSON & JOHNSON Women's Day '98

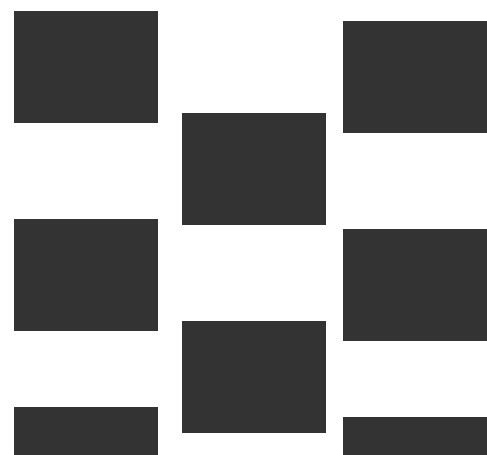
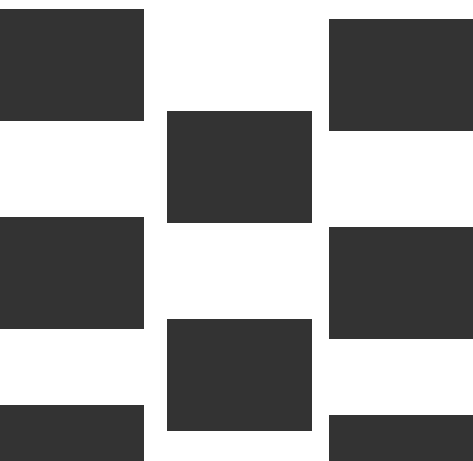
Listen to her world



THE MOVEMENT

Who is MOXY?

MOXY is you and the stories put in this magazine. Every time you voice your opinion or do something to help better yourself or the people around you. It is about having the courage to go out into the world and making it a better place for all generations and genders.



 **Caitlin Kelly** @atotalmonet · Nov 19

All guys want wallets, it's just in their nature. Maybe you shouldn't have had a wallet in the first place.

← ↻ 88 ★ 103 ⋮

[View conversation](#)

 **Caitlin Kelly** @atotalmonet · Nov 19

Nobody is going to want to hang out with the girl who cried stolen wallet. You should really think hard about what you're saying here.

← ↻ 92 ★ 85 ⋮

[View conversation](#)

 **Caitlin Kelly** @atotalmonet · Nov 19

You know, there are other ways of giving people money besides having them steal your wallet. Did you think about that?

← ↻ 67 ★ 68 ⋮

[View conversation](#)

 **Caitlin Kelly** @atotalmonet · Nov 19

Have you lost wallets before? Just look at what's going on here. He has

← ↻ 93 ★ 87 ⋮



Todd Kincannon
@Todd_Kincannon

I hope the dumb bitch who initiated physical violence with her NFL player fiance learned a good lesson when he justifiably beat her ass.

atotalmonet/Twitter

 **Space Cowboy**
@romano_santino

Follow

So you got drunk at a party and two people take advantage of you, that's not rape you're just a loose drunk slut #BiasedResults #Steubenville

Reply Retweet Favorite More

5:16 PM - 17 Mar 13

 @TheDianaLe

@TIME I don't believe in "sexual assault is never your fault" in every situation. The 17-year-old girl wasn't forced to drink. Get it up.

story by Brian Canevar | art

Rape is the only... victims are unde... where she was... things should no... to do with the crim... bearing on her c...

Reply · Like · 

DOMESTIC

If only some stupid whore wouldn't have filed rape against AJ Johnson.



Zachariahs
@ZachKarshenas

Follow

The girl who accused AJ Johnson of raping her needs to chill if it did happen at least learn how to take one for the team I mean C'mon man

Maryanne Dyer · Top Commenter · Chicago, Illinois

"The alleged victim has begun her senior year of classes." Assuming what happened is true (which it unfortunately looks that way if there is a video of the act) then I just wanted to say this woman is my hero for continuing on with her classes in the same city and school where her rape took place. I hope she's receiving counseling and any help she needs during this time. Sending my support as another woman in Nashville.

Reply · Like · 232 · September 7, 2013 at 1:26pm



Kenni Shane ;-B
@TheScottyNavy



Follow

Bonnie Rus

Ditto.

Reply · Like

I honesty feel sorry for the boys in that Steubenville trial. That whore was asking for it.

Top Commenter · Los Angeles, California

crime I can think of where the general public (not just the defence team) where the r more scrutiny than the defendants. We judge her by what she was wearing, if she knew the person how much she'd drank, and general sexual history. These t be allowed to even be brought up in court. NONE of these things have anything e and are used to discredit a victim/accuser. None of these things have any credibility as someone whose body was violated.

57 · September 7, 2013 at 12:18pm

DEFENSE

A sea of orange fills Neyland Stadium at the UT vs Montana game. Photo by Nolan Williamson via Flickr Creative Commons.



THE NEWS REVERBERATED AROUND A CITY AND a campus still awakening from the late-night celebration of the Tennessee Volunteers 50-16 victory over the Kentucky Wildcats.

On Nov. 17, 2014 at 7:30 a.m., local Knoxville television station, *WBIR*, reported A.J. Johnson, a pre-season All-American First Team selection and Volunteers captain, was accused of rape and sexual assault. Hours later the University of Tennessee suspended Johnson indefinitely from the football team.

The action ignited a firestorm on social media. Students asked why the accuser could not have just “taken one for the team” because of the Vols desperate need for Johnson’s skills to finish out the season. Others attempted to silence her with shouts of “whore” and “gold digger.”

Situations of rape, sexual assault and domestic violence are neither few nor far between

in the sports world, especially football. In December 2012, Jameis Winston, a Florida State University’s quarterback and Heisman trophy winner, was accused of rape and the repercussions (or lack thereof) continued to echo around college football. In Nashville, four Vanderbilt University football players were charged with aggravated rape in August 2013. *USA Today* reported, Brandon Vandenburg and Cory Batey were found guilty in the rape of an unconscious woman in a dorm on June 23, 2013. The sentence hearing was delayed until April 29th.

Over the summer and into the fall 2014, there were highly publicized cases of domestic abuse involving NFL players Ray Rice, former Baltimore Ravens running back turned free agent, and Adrian Peterson, Minnesota Vikings running back. Rice, a Super Bowl champion and three-time Pro Bowl selection, knocked out his wife, Janay Palmer, in an Atlantic City elevator. *TMZ*



Sports, released the video. As consequence, the NFL banned him and then reinstated after an appeal by the player's union. Peterson, a six-time Pro Bowl selection, beat his four-year-old son with a switch and pleaded no contest to child abuse. The league banned him too.

The limited research out there does not clearly show whether athletes are less inclined toward physical or sexual assault than the average person. However, Benjamin Morris

of *Grantland*, found statistics to show domestic violence, gun-related crimes and sexual offenses are the top three reasons for these players arrest. The Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) statistics are damning

enough, regardless of the occupation of the person committing the crime. One in five women and 19 percent of female college students in the United States were victims of sexual violence. More than 50 percent of victims reported assault by intimate partners as opposed to strangers (13 percent). More than a quarter of all U.S. women encountered some form of domestic violence (physical or sexual) from an intimate partner.

With the high-rate of these crimes occurring across the population, some will argue there is no need to point the microscope at athletes. *ESPN's* Steven A. Smith shared portions of this sentiment when he commented on the Rice situation. He suggested women should do their part to avoid assault. He was suspended by the network for his insensitivity. Fans can be quick to defend their favorite athletes. They claim the athlete's job is not to be a role model or perfect

citizen, but to perform their athletic function. They bring their teams' and cities' money and trophies.

"In our society, our football and basketball players are held in extraordinarily high regard and star athletes are constructed as heroes. They are the icons of our time," said Erin Whiteside, a journalism professor at the UT whose research focuses on gender issues in sports.

"When women do accuse someone they know

**Fans can be fickle;
forgive and forget
as the saying goes.**

or a partner of domestic violence or sexual assault, there tends to be a real backlash because you're exposing a flaw in a cultural hero and encroaching in a space that is guard-

ed very tightly by men."

Johnson was one of the few bright spots on the Tennessee team, which is one of the weakest in the SEC over the past five years. Frequently, Johnson is interviewed by local media and profiled by *UTSports.com*. Two days after his rape allegations became public, Tommy Thigpen, assistant football coach, said Johnson's was "a great player, great kid, and great ambassador."

Winston, Rice and Peterson have their defenders too, though the few who stand for all three of these men make their cases from anonymous corners of the Internet or bar stools in fan sections of their local pubs.

"Students tend to forget that sexual assault is about power and control and not about sex at all," said Nickie Hackenbrack, a UT student and president of Sexual Assault and Awareness at Tennessee (SEAT).

"When they try to defend [Johnson], they use



his football career and stats to say he would never do that when that's totally irrelevant."

Hackenbrack, a member of UT's Sexual Assault and Misconduct Task Force, does not see why the accuser in Johnson's case suspected reason to lie. When accusers are university students, names are often kept private. Many decide to not pursue charges at all as with Michael Williams, a Tennessee cornerback. His accuser, an out-of-state student who alleged sexual assault on the same night as Johnson, chose to return her to school.

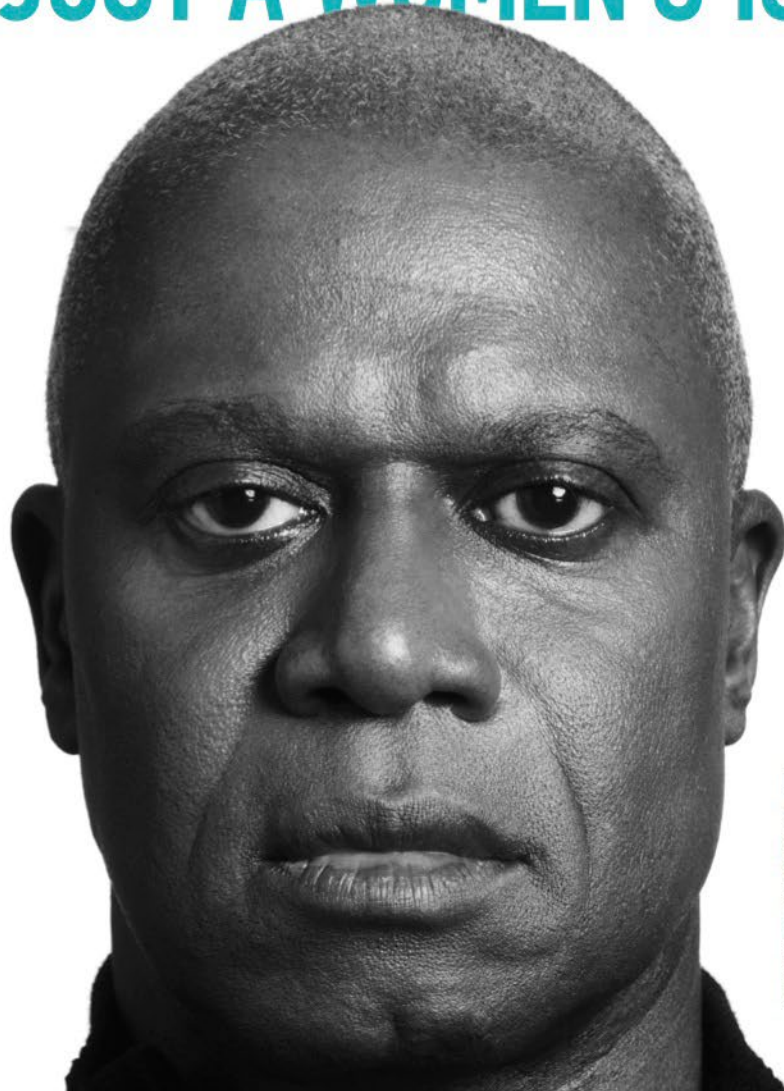
"Can you imagine reporting [being raped] and then having to go through an invasive examination, tell your story repeatedly and have people say you're doing it for attention? It almost sounds like conspiracy theories that anyone would be doing this for money. Who's paying," said Hackenbrack.

Jonathan Little, an Indiana-based attorney, who has presented more than two-dozen sexual assault cases against USA Swimming nationally, saw beloved coaches defended to the very end after accusations of rape made against them. He said the only way to settle these cases is solid evidence like security camera footage, multiple semen samples and cooperation from the accuser.

There is still minimal movement in the Johnson case. Media attention fizzled after the Tennessee football team finished 7-6 and won its first bowl game since 2008. Outside of Knoxville, Winston looks certain to be an early pick in the NFL Draft and may be joined in the league next season by Rice and Peterson. Fans can be fickle. As the saying goes they, "forgive and forget." After all, Michael Vick returned to the NFL after 21 months in jail from dog fighting crimes and Ray Lewis beat murder charges to win a Super Bowl and an anchor role on *ESPN*.

NO MORE

"IT'S JUST A WOMEN'S ISSUE"



Domestic violence and sexual assault are everyone's issue. It's time we all speak out to stop the violence.

No more excuses.
No more silence.
No more violence.



NO MORE

TOGETHER WE CAN END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT

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Andre Braugher

“A man walks in to a bar...”



Usually it's a frying pan.
Sometimes it's a golf club,
or a fist.

Approximately 4 million men are victims of domestic violence every year. The majority of these men will never report it because they are ashamed or embarrassed.

Domestic abuse is no joke.

Take violence seriously.
Report it.



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PRESENTS

WOMEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT FILM FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2015

LIU Brooklyn

(Flatbush and Dekalb Avenues)

Media Arts Department, Spike Lee Screening Room

**FILMS TO BE
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FREE**

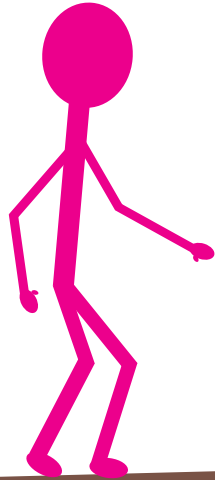


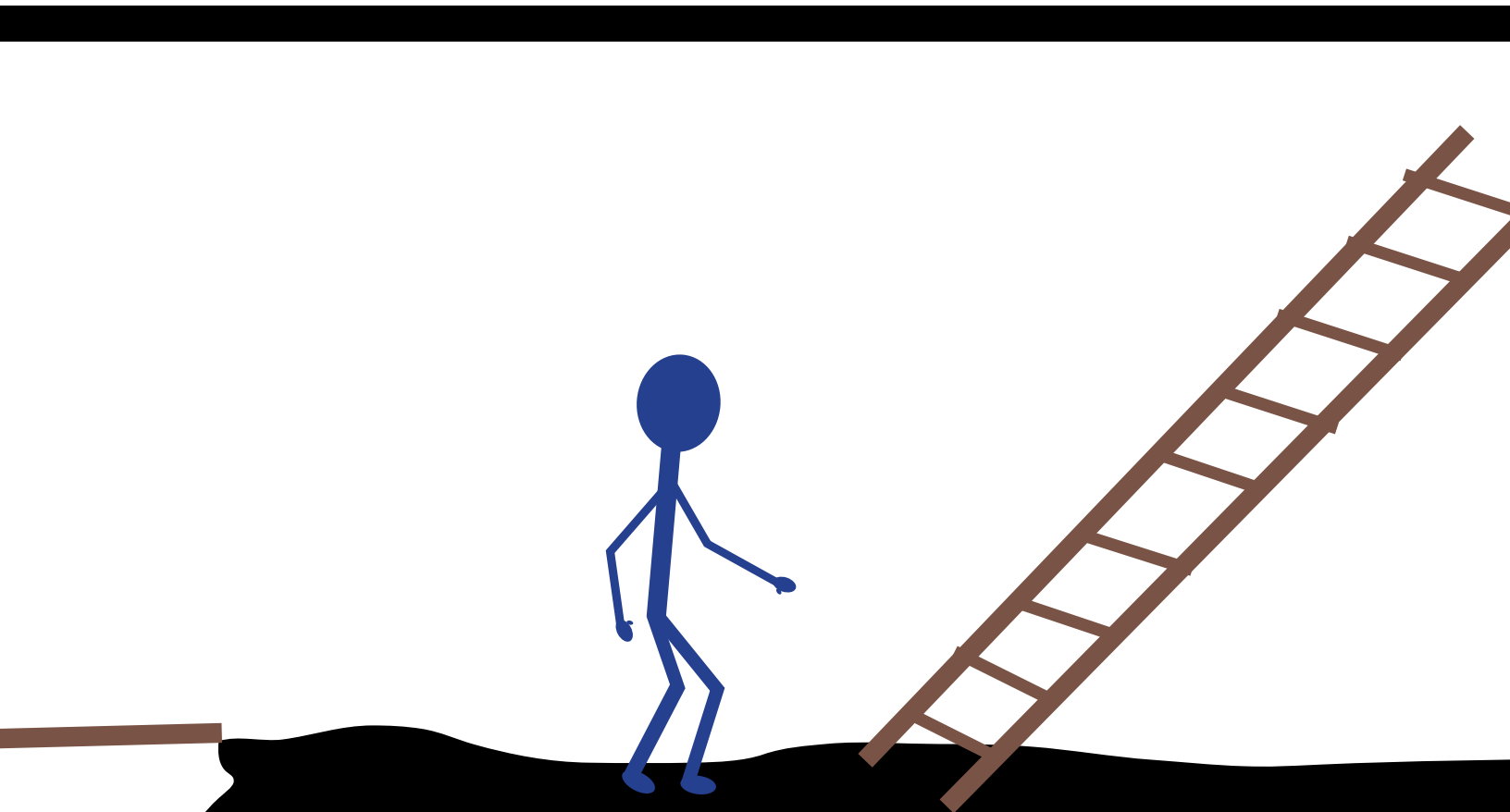
Gender Discrepancies in the Media:

What do the interns think?

story by Nichole Stevens

artwork by Monique Freeman





Gender pay gaps are a hot topic in various industries. Many women in Hollywood, like recent Oscar winning actress, Patricia Arquette, have voiced their opinions on this issue. Other famous gender equality advocates, like comedian Sarah Silverman, have spoken out about existing pay gaps between working men and women.

In an interview with two University of Tennessee, Knoxville undergraduate students, Annie Carr and Maggie Jones talk about their experiences interning for local professional media organizations, as well as working in student media as editors and producers. Carr and Jones were asked a series of questions related to gender discrepancies in media settings, and whether their personal experience reflected Pew Research of gender inequality. Only a few of the responses were chosen because they are related to the research. As UT undergraduates majoring in journalism, they are required to take a journalism course focusing on media diversity and ethics, including discourse in gender inequality in the workplace.

Maggie Jones is the editor-in-chief of *The Tennessee Journalist (TNJN.com)*, which is the university's student online news magazine. Also, she is an intern for the local newspaper, the *Knoxville News Sentinel*, where she works in the editorial reporting and entertainment feature writing department. She has multiple years of experience at both institutions.

Annie Carr is an executive producer for UT's student broadcasting channel, *The*

Volunteer Channel (TVC) and interned with *WJHL News* in Johnson City, Tenn. Currently, she is an editor and video journalist at *WBIR Channel 10* in Knoxville.

After being informed of the Pew Research Center data, that indicated employment for communication graduates with a four-year degree is up, with full-time employees at less than 70 percent in 2011 and less than 20 percent for part-timers, both girls said they are concerned about post-graduation full-time employment but indicated a sense of hope.

“The job market for me is terrifying . . . I'm also very fortunate to already be employed in a part-time capacity, so that makes it seem a little less frightening,” said Carr.

“Well I'd be lying if I said I wasn't worried about the job market,” said Jones.

“That's why it's important in school to learn as many skills as you can, to make yourself more marketable, and so you can be more comfortable in a variety of jobs.”

An August 2012 Pew Research survey, indicated that, “Among those earning a bachelor's degree in journalism and mass communication in 2011, 62.2 percent reported finding full-time employment within six to eight months after graduation, an increase from 58.2 percent one year earlier.”

In 2005, a study by The Project, a research institute affiliated with the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, examined the gender gap in media organizations. Although many more women had entered into professional journalism careers, news was still told from a male perspective. For online news, 89 percent of stories published predominantly used male sources. Only 19 percent of cable news stories used female sources in their stories. Another study published by Media Matters for America's website shows disparities of gender representations between *CNN*, *FNC (Fox News Channel)* and *MSNBC*. *CNN* and *FNC* were both 65 percent male to 35 percent female on the graph. *MSNBC* was 70 percent male and 30 percent female in their representation.

“I don't think that news is mainly told from the male perspective anymore. There are so many female journalists and news sources that specifically produce content for a female audience,” said Jones, when asked if she thinks having more women in the workforce could change the heavy male perspective in news reporting.

On the other hand, Carr said “We tell stories from a male perspective because, in broadcast television, most of the people actually reading the stories are male. On all the major networks, Brian Williams, Scott Pelley and David Muir tell a lot of stories and give a lot of news every night. I guarantee that they have female writers and producers, but at the end of the day, producers write for their anchors.”

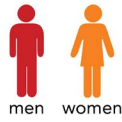
Even if journalists actively pursued a female perspective for more stories or featured more women anchors, there still exists the gender pay gap within media organizations. Comedian Sarah Silverman spoke out against the wage gap through an ad for the Equal Payback Project. In the ad, Silverman says women earn 78 cents to every dollar earned by a man. The Equal Payback Project will crowd-source funding to raise \$30 trillion, the amount she says is owed back to all workingwomen. Donated funds will go to the National Women's Law Center, a non-profit group that fights for equal pay legislation.

Research shows that women outpace men in educational attainment, but according to gender-based pay data, women's hourly earnings in 2012 were 93 percent to that of men.

“If I found out that I made less money than a man who had the same job, I would be personally and professionally offended and I can guarantee I would try to do something about it,” said Carr.

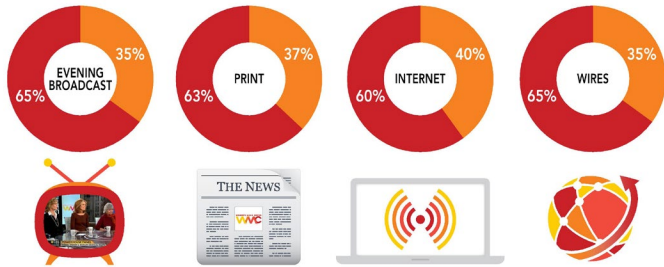
“I think women and men should be paid the same for doing the same job,” Jones said. “The same amount of work should be rewarded equally no matter who is doing the job.”

In a study on pay gap and millennial women, a 2013 Pew Research study found 75 percent of millennial female respondents indicated a need for



men women

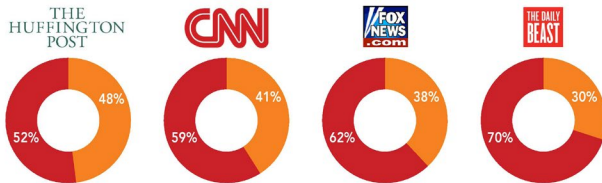
THE MEDIA LANDSCAPE



INTERNET



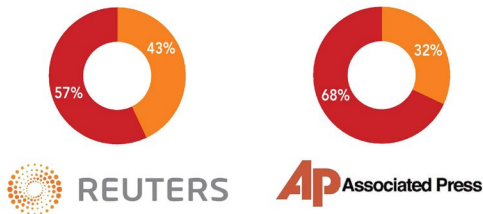
Huffington Post almost achieves parity, while FOXNews.com and Daily Beast are far from equal.



WIRES



There was a big difference in gender ratios between the wire services. Reuters was closer to parity than AP, but male bylines still outnumbered women's by 14%.



change towards equality among men and women in the workplace, while 57 percent of millennial male respondents agreed with a need for change. Of those same respondents polled, 60 percent of the women said men generally earn more while 48 percent of the men agreed with the same statement. When asked if they experienced any gender-related inequality while interning at their media organizations,, both respondents said no.

"I've never felt like I wasn't equal to my male coworkers, and for that, I'm thankful," said Jones.

PRINT



The New York Times had the widest gender gap in male-female bylines. Chicago Sun-Times had the smallest, but men outnumbered women at all 10 newspapers.

Publications listed from widest to most narrow gender gap

Each icon equals 100 articles.

The New York Times
2454 1102

USA TODAY
516 331

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
1861 1415

THE DENVER POST
545 301

San Jose Mercury News
1546 842

DAILY NEWS
320 187

The Washington Post
1273 894

NEWYORKPOST
250 125

Los Angeles Times
865 478

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES
190 164

BOTTOM LINE: MEN DOMINATE MEDIA

Gender inequality exists in print, on television, and online across all media outlets and in all news topics.



63.4%

36.1%

unknown
0.5%

The Women's Media Center did a infographic on the gender gap in the media. They analyzed 27,000 pieces of content from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 2013. Photo by the Women's Media Center.

"I've never encountered any issue with feeling discriminated against. I think having several female managers lends itself to the feeling of inclusiveness in our newsroom," said Carr.

There is much data indicative of gender discrepancies in the workforce and in news production and presentation. Although millennial journalists are entering a transforming work environment, it seems that some things have not changed much. And who should better voice this concern than those earning 78 cents to the dollar?

THE "F" WO



WORD

story and photos by Dawn Reeves
artwork by Monique Freeman

The truth behind post-feminism and racial mythologies from a Preschooler's eyes

“**M**ommy, my brown skin is ugly. Only girls with peach skin like you are pretty.” Each and every one of those words coming out of my beautiful, brilliant, biracial 4-year-old daughter’s mouth were like knives in my heart. As a scholar of racial and gender politics and a single mother, a white single mother, I had to seriously reflect on how I addressed this subject. I knew this situation would happen the moment I found out I was pregnant. But this soon?

My mind raced to pinpoint the root of her comments. Where did she ever get the idea that brown skin was ugly? Did another child or teacher say something at preschool? I convinced myself in those first few moments that something racist was said to her. I was ready for war. But then I checked myself. I caught myself. I was falling into “the trap.” The very thing my black feminist mentor told me dozens of times over the years to beware of as a white female scholar critiquing racial and gender politics. The impulse to say, “Oh no honey, everyone is treated equally in this country regardless of color or gender.” That tendency to regurgitate the post-feminist, post-racial myth I spent my entire academic career critiquing and criticizing loomed large on my mental horizon. But I caught myself just in time.

I realized nobody said anything to my daughter. Nobody told her that her brown skin was ugly. She came to this conclusion by herself after she observed the scenery around her. She does not see herself in the images of femininity and normative whiteness that are held up as ideals of beauty in our society. In particular, children’s feature film selections are still overwhelmingly white and traditional. There are few characters reflected in racial or gender role diversity. It made me wonder: what about films for teenage girls? Those films must communicate more empowerment and inclusive messages for our adolescent girls transitioning into sophisticated young women...right?



Left to Right: 1) *Fifty Shades of Grey* (2015) has received negative and positive criticism for consensual BDSM practices and abuse. Photo from Fandango.com. 2.) In *New Moon* (2009), the second film in the *Twilight* franchise, Bella becomes involved in dangerous activities to force Edward Cullen, a vampire, to return to Forks to return her love and affection.

THE WORLDWIDE
FIFTY
OF



Not quite.

IT STARTED WITH TWILIGHT

The Twilight Saga books and films, given their widespread popularity among teen girls and even grown women, provide a great example of the masked messages our teenage girls are internalizing in their formative years. The protagonist, Bella Swan, played by actress Kristen Stewart, was a 17-year-old girl at the start of the film series. She moved to a new town and was the new girl at the local high school. At first, she was positioned in the narrative as an outsider. However, this lower social status did not last long. Once Bella garnered the romantic attention of Edward Cullen, a vampire, her social status elevated. From that point on, the narrative centered on Bella's romantic relationship with Edward and in later films, Jacob Black, a werewolf. On the surface, Bella seemed to be in control of her own life and her own choices. However, as the love story unfolded her dependence on Edward's love and protection became the invisible dictator of her choices.

Bella's happiness has a strong link to Edward's love and protection. There are many moments in the earlier films when Bella engaged in risky behavior when separated from Edward. At one point, she even threatened suicide. Again, the superficial message is that Bella exercised autonomy and individual agency, but the latent message is different. The message was that male love and protection equaled happiness. Without the influence of male attention Bella became unpredictable, irrational and even dangerous. As the film series progressed, Bella willingly surrendered her identity to wed Edward and then sacrificed her humanity to spend the rest of her immortal life with him. The films culminated in the birth of Edward and Bella's child, Renesmee, which placed her firmly in the traditional role of wife and mother. In *That Teenage Feeling: Twilight, Fantasy, and Feminist*

Readers (2012), Anne Helen Petersen states, "At seventeen, Bella is already figured as an adult, ready to participate in the rituals of traditional female adulthood, including marriage and motherhood. Bella's very lack of distinguishing characteristics facilitates reader identification; through this identification, the reader is effectively encouraged to feel Bella's overwhelming desire to sacrifice all for a man. In this way, *Twilight* offers what Elena Levine terms a 'post-feminism fantasy', 'bend[ing] the notion of feminist empowerment so that it becomes feminine devotion.'"

The *Twilight Saga* and the masked messages within are symptomatic of contemporary films aimed at younger female audiences. Films like *The Twilight Saga* (2008-2012), *The Fault in Our Stars* (2014) and *Fifty Shades of Grey* (2015) are problematic to proponents of progressive racial and gender politics in a variety of ways. First, these films embody post-feminist ideology, an idea that the feminist fight is over because women achieved equality and are now the deciders of their own fates. We are presented with female character portrayals of superficially strong women who appear to exercise individual agency. But their validation and legitimization in the narrative depend on their unhealthy attachments to men. Second, the films present the reliance on male attachment and attention as an empowered female choice. Feminist ideology is, in effect, co-opted by these portrayals as the very reason for the reliance on male attention and attachment. The message we send to young girls now, compared to the messages presented to young girls a generation or two ago, is women are equal and free to choose what they want and need. Also, what they want and need is male validation. However, this idea of "commodity feminism" is not new. Rosalind Gill, in her groundbreaking 2007 article, "Supersexualize Me! Advertising and the Midriffs", presented an insightful critique of the

commodification of feminist ideology:

“Increasingly, young women are presented not as passive sex objects, but as active, desiring sexual subjects, who seem to participate enthusiastically in practices and forms of self-presentation that earlier generations regarded as connected to subordination. Advertiser’s response was to develop ‘commodity feminism’—an attempt to incorporate the cultural power and energy of feminism whilst simultaneously domesticating its critique of advertising and the media. It is found in adverts that attempt to articulate a rapprochement between traditional femininity and what are coded as feminist goals: independence, career success, financial autonomy.”

I would argue commodity feminism is alive and well in contemporary film portrayals of women like those found in *The Twilight Saga*, *The Fault in Our Stars* and *Fifty Shades of Grey*. Most concerning is the ease with which these messages are internalized as female empowerment but are just as problematic as the messages of traditional gender roles, subordinated female social status, and deference to patriarchal values that characterized media representations of women in the past. The key difference in these between messages in the past and present is that women were portrayed as unwilling participants in their social subordination and are now portrayed as complicit in it through the power of female choice.

To gauge the effect of these films’ messages on young girls and women I asked Cassie Mellon, a fellow female graduate student at the University of Tennessee’s College of Communication and Information, what she thought of the female characters and corresponding messages in the *Twilight Saga* and *Fifty Shades of Grey*.

“*Twilight* seems to be telling us that happiness and marriage can be achieved by going against the boundaries of social norms in regards to love. *Fifty Shades of Grey* is communi-

cating the message that challenging your own social cognitions or personal values, beliefs and perceptions can lead to achieving the goal of obtaining satisfying marriage, partnership and romantic relationships,” said Cassie.

Those comments highlight an undeniable connection between female empowerment (challenging norms) and the validation of femininity through relationships with men. Cassie’s comments reveal how commodity feminist ideology can embed itself in the female psyche with ease, even for a graduate student who is better prepared to guard herself against these subliminal traps. It is not hard to imagine what our impressionable adolescent girls are taking away from these types of films given, their lack of adequate knowledge of these salient issues.

RACIAL REPRESENTATIONS

It is immensely important to critique these films in terms of racial representations. Contemporary film selections, which target teenage girls, are overwhelmed with white characters. Very few feature films portray women of color in leading roles. Those that appear in supporting roles are often generic and without agency in the narrative. The recent controversy over the omission of African-American actors in this year’s Oscar nominations confirms this fact. The effect of this underrepresentation and omission of diverse female characters can be seen in my daughter’s comments about her own feminine beauty. Images of normative white beauty are damaging to all women, especially to girls and women of color. In addition to negotiating general female stereotypes and discrimination, they must negotiate the racial politics of femininity and beauty. The result is often tragic. Beautiful young girls like my 4-year-old daughter already define their feminine inferiority in terms of skin color, hair texture and facial features.

“Black girls and women’s unique and intersecting race, gender and class subjectivities



Jamie Foxx, Christoph Waltz and Kerry Washington starred in *Django Unchained* (2012) directed by Quentin Tarantino. The film is about Foxx's character, Django, gaining his freedom and saving his wife Broomhilda (played by Washington) from her evil plantation owner. Photo from NanoPressCinema.com.

mean that they must not only contend with the debilitating and patriarchal images of ideal femininity that negatively affect all women, but also with a white male hegemonic discourse that tethers ideal beauty and femininity to whiteness", said David Ikard, Ph.D., a prominent black feminist scholar, activist, accomplished author and professor of English at the University of Miami.

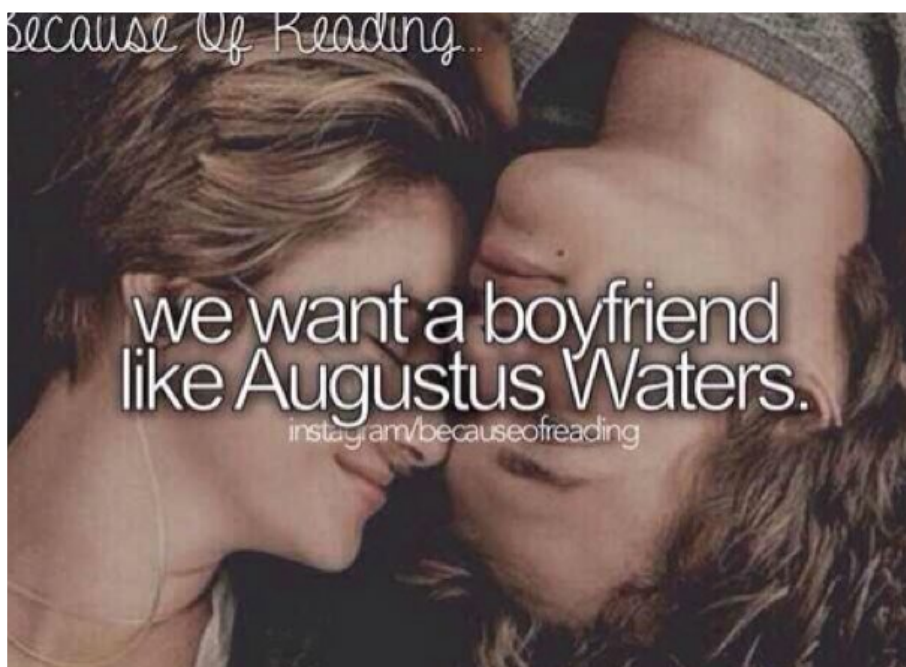
Films like *The Twilight Saga*, *The Fault in Our Stars* and *Fifty Shades of Grey* are examples not just of masked traditional gender roles. They are examples of a white hegemonic discourse that values normative white beauty and heteronormativity. When these images are viewed by young girls of color, it deeply affects their self-concept and self-esteem because of

their inability to replicate the representations they see branded as normal.

However, there are rare examples of black female empowerment in contemporary feature films. In *Django Unchained* (2012), written by Quentin Tarantino and starring Kerry Washington as Broomhilda von Shaft, Washington plays a slave woman imprisoned in a tower who dreams of the day her husband, Django (played by Jamie Foxx), a slave, to gain his freedom and rescue her from her oppressive and violent master. This is an innovative take on the classic slave narrative. Historically, black men were robbed of any masculine power, authority or agency over themselves or their wives and children. White masters emasculated black men in innumerable ways such as: stripping them



**where is
the line
between
owning our
sexuality
and letting
others
exploit it?**



Top to Bottom: 1) Question representing the foundational tension between commodity feminist ideology and post-feminist rhetoric. Photo from *Jezebel.com*. 2.) Advertisement for the film adaptation of the best-selling novel *The Fault in Our Stars* appearing on an Instagram website dedicated to reading, "because of reading". The message explicitly links the reading of texts like this one with patriarchal notions of femininity and romantic love. Photo from Tumblr.com.

of any ability to provide, care for and protect their loved ones, but particularly their wives, who were often subject to ritualized and violent sexual and physical assaults such as *The Butler* (2013), directed by Lee Daniels. However, in the film, Broomhilda's endurance and perseverance is linked to her fairytale-like dream to be rescued by her husband. This gives him not only masculine authority, power and agency, but offers an historical African-American romantic ideal, in essence, a black fairytale.

In a December 2012 interview with *The Los Angeles Times*, Washington, who considers herself a black feminist, said, "I know it's not the most feminist idea to be a woman in a tower wanting to be rescued, but for a woman of color in this country, we've never been afforded that fairytale because of how the black family was ripped apart [during slavery]. I really saw the value of having a story that empowers the African-American man to do something chivalrous for the African-American woman, because that hasn't been an idea that has held women back in the culture—it's something we've never been allowed to dream about".

This is not to say there are not troublesome racial and gender politics in *Django Unchained*. Nor is the historical depiction of black female empowerment a solution to the lack of contemporary portrayals of empowered black females in film. The historical fairytale presented in the film is not transferable to modern racial and gender politics. In fact, in Ikard's third book, *Blinded by the Whites* (2013), he said, "The patriarchal thinking that still reigns supreme in black spaces is that the fates of black girls and women hinge on black men's success, or lack thereof, in acquiring traditional (read: white) masculine status, power, and agency. Thus black girl and women's issues are always subordinated to the concerns of 'masculinizing' and empowering black men".

The portrayal of strong, empowered black

women whose success and social acceptance is not tied to their black male partner's approximation of white masculine ideals is severely lacking in modern films. This is a desperate need to counteract the racial and gender politics of prevalent white film discourses.

WHAT CAN WE DO

What more do I know now that I have engaged this material in this way? What I know beyond any doubt is that the messages embedded in most contemporary films targeted at young girls are masked underneath a veil of female empowerment. In truth, they advocate for traditional gender roles, and these portrayals of mostly white female characters are particularly problematic for young girls of color. These young girls begin to define themselves against impossible standards of normative white beauty, damaging their self-esteem and handicapping their healthy identity development.

So what do I say to my 4-year-old daughter? As a white woman, I need to acknowledge that I cannot speak from experience nor can I ever know from any amount of scholarly study what it is like to be a woman of color in this country. All any of us can do as mothers, sisters, daughters, wives, friends, as women is to speak from experience in an open, truthful dialogue with our daughters and each other. Answer their questions honestly, even if it might hurt them right now.

Pretending, and that is what it is, that sexism and racism are a thing of the past is doing a disservice to our girls. They are smarter than that, and more perceptive than that, as my 4-year-old daughter showed me with her heartbreaking comments on feminine beauty. Honestly, we owe it to them not to fall into the trap of the post-feminist, post-racial mythology. We owe it to the future versions of them, to prepare them for their individual experiences as young girls and women in this country.



Left to Right: 1.) Toi Dennis, Ph.D., is a professor at Nashville State in Clarksville, Tenn.2.) Dennis' non-profit, Serenity House Women's Shelter, Inc. hosts various events such as Operation Warm-Up to provide winter clothing for women, children and men.



Dr. Toi Dennis, CEO and Founder of Serenity House Women's Shelter and Nashville State professor

DR. TOI DENNIS:

Growing up in poverty did not define who she was but helped with who she became to be

story by Monique Freemon

To keep the family together and stay afloat is hard, doing it while growing up in poverty is harder. Toi Dennis, Ph.D., is the CEO of Serenity House Women's Shelter, Inc. and a professor at Nashville State Community College, experienced struggles nobody should face. While growing up in poverty, she kept her head-up and worked hard to make sure her family and others did not experience these battles in the future. This is the main reason why she started Serenity House.

The non-profit organization provides services such as: education; health and nutrition; computer training, i.e. teach women how to apply for jobs online; financial planning and budgeting, life skills outreach and more. The goal is to provide transitional services for homeless mothers and children to achieve independent living.

Dennis' non-profit hosts many events in the Clarksville and Nashville, Tenn. areas to help the homeless such as Operation Warm-Up. It is an annual clothing drive to provide various items for the winter such as: coats, hats, scarves, gloves, tents and blankets for all ages, races and genders. Currently, Dennis is looking for a build as an official location for Serenity House.

Dennis holds a doctorate degree in human services specialization social work and community services from Capella University. She has two master's degrees, one in higher education and administration and the other in family and consumer science. She earned a bachelor's degree in family consumer science from Eastern Illinois University. Dennis is a human service certified board practitioner too. To view the video, click on the screenshot.

World



's First



VOICES MOXY



MOXY appreciates you for reading our magazine. We worked hard, because we care about our readers. This magazine is not about the profits. Our main goal, is to teach and encourage young women to get involved in science, technology, fashion, health, business and politics. Tell us your opinions. Feel free to take our survey and express them. We DO NOT want to force it on you, so this survey is optional. You can [click here](#) or scan the QR code. If you want to share the survey with friends, have them scan it on their phones and give us feedback instantly. Also, you can copy and share the link. It only takes a few minutes. Much love!

XOXO,
Monique & the MOXY
Team



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What will the next issue be?

Here's a hint:



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