

GIRL TALK



from
ACTIVISM
to **ACTION**

DECEMBER 2019
ISSUE 14

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LETTERS *from the* EDITORS

Dear Readers,

We are so excited to share our 14th issue with you. For this magazine, we cover a variety of subjects which largely center around female pioneers and activists. As always, we are reporting honestly and with integrity about issues we see in our community. By community, we don't necessarily mean the schools or friend groups we belong to, but rather a larger, global community: the female community. We understand that still being in high school (middle school, for some of our writers) and living in a fairly liberal and inclusive state like California, we may not always be the direct targets of sexism. However, feeling a part of the larger gender community, we want to do our part to shed light on the issues plaguing our community. Especially right now in the thick of election campaigning, we want to emphasize the incredible female pioneers who defend our liberties and speak out against unjust actions. From climate change to maternity leave to campaign trails, we're voicing our opinions on issues that matter to us, and are changing the world as we know it. Please enjoy issue 14.

Charlotte Kramon, Sierra Stern, and Sophie Friedberg

MAMA DRAMA

The Case for Maternity Leave in the U.S.

BY OLIVIA WEINER

OAKWOOD SECONDARY SCHOOL

Is the ability to take time off to care for a newborn baby a right or a luxury? Unfortunately, for new mothers in the United States, it is a luxury that only the richest can afford. Today, the US remains the only country in the developed world that does not require its employers to give paid family leave. In a nation that loudly touts “family values,” it turns out that we are one of the least family-friendly. Most Americans can agree that this needs to change, but progress has been tragically slow. The President’s Commission on the Status of Women recommended that “paid maternity leave or comparable insurance benefits should be provided for women workers.” That was in 1963. Over fifty years later we still have no policy giving new parents leave to care for, and bond with, their newborns.

Meanwhile, new mothers in Finland receive three years of paid leave. Norwegian and Canadian mothers get up to one year, while the U.K. and Japan are in the 30-40 week range. Korea offers 25 weeks, Belgium offers a minimum of 13, and the list goes on and on... America landing squarely at the bottom of the pack globally on this issue with zero time mandated. Clearly, we have not caught up with the rest of the world despite the fact that we are one of the richest, most developed countries on earth.

Unpaid maternity leave sets women up for failure, and with anti-abortion laws on the rise, women will also have to contend with the fact that there is no assistance or compassion on the other side of that equation once they give birth. How can we expect working women, especially young single mothers, to successfully support themselves and their children?

Childbirth can be both physically and mentally traumatic, and with twenty-five percent of women now forced to return to work within two weeks of giving birth, there is a slim chance of full recovery or the necessary bonding time that they need with their newborn.

Our lack of protective policy for new families is unethical for children as well. The first few months of a child’s life are critical. They need extra attention and care from a parent in order to flourish and thrive. For employers to save money on the backs of new moms isn’t just immoral, it’s also bad for the economy. Studies have shown that paid maternity leave directly correlates with more favorable job performance and retention among working mothers, as well as increased economic growth.

That only twelve percent of women in the private sector in this country have access to any sort of paid maternity leave is a staggering statistic. If we ever hope to have true gender equity in the workplace, restrictions like this, ones targeted toward young mothers struggling to make ends meet, need to be broken down. We must enforce the destigmatization of working mothers in this country, once and for all. The message is clear... it’s time for America to join the rest of the modern world and embrace the idea that paid leave for new parents isn’t just a luxury, it is a human right. ✱

We Depend On Her

BY MONIE CHOI

OAKWOOD SECONDARY SCHOOL

For new mothers, especially single mothers, returning to work can seem incredibly daunting, and something in the far future. For American mothers, however, there doesn't seem to be a choice. The United States is one of the richest nations in the world, but is far behind the rest of the developed world in the practices of maternity leave. In fact, the U.S. does not have any federal laws that guarantee new mothers paid maternity leave. Compared to countries like Finland, which guarantees up to 3 years' worth of paid leave, the United Kingdom, which grants up to 39 weeks, or Canada, which grants 1 year, the United States seems decades behind gender equality in the workplace. In fact, one in four American mothers return to work just 10 days after giving birth. Even more importantly, over a third of American mothers don't return to work at all.



These statistics are proof that the lack of protections granted to American mothers perpetuates gender inequality. Mothers are forced to choose between caring for their families and keeping their jobs - two things that, for the majority of the American families, are inextricably tied. When mothers quit their jobs, they sacrifice their family's financial security. It is not uncommon for this to lead to children living in impoverished households where families live paycheck to paycheck, unable to guarantee basic living necessities. Not surprisingly, children living in poverty are more likely to drop out of high school, or forfeit attending college, to take up a job to support their family. This chain of events is what keeps millions of Americans in the cycle of poverty and will continue doing so until mothers are given more support to raise children while being able to keep their jobs. This all starts with paid maternity leave.

According to ranking Democrat Carolyn B. Maloney, paid leave improves financial security for disadvantaged groups that can't afford to take unpaid leave. Research has shown that paid leave especially impacts minority women, those with less education, and unmarried women. Additionally, paid leave will help to alleviate the financial burden of illnesses which are the cause of 25% of dual-income family bankruptcies.

What we are seeing now is that more than ever, families depend on women's earnings. In fact, nearly 66% of families in 2013 relied entirely or in part on the woman's income. This means that by supporting women, we help to improve the lives of entire families. ✱

An Interview with AMY CHOZICK

The Journalist Who Trailed Hilary

BY
CHARLOTTE
KRAMON

OAKWOOD
SECONDARY
SCHOOL



Amy Chozick is a New York Times writer at large who previously served as a national political reporter covering Barack Obama and Hilary Clinton along their campaign trails. In her Memoir, "Chasing Hillary," Chozick writes about the 10 years she spent covering Clinton. In Chozick's conversation with GirlTalk Co-Editor-In-Chief Charlotte Kramon, she talks about pursuing journalism despite having very few resources and sexism she's encountered on the campaign trail and as a writer.

GT: Tell us about yourself. How did you start your career as a journalist?

I moved to NYC after graduation with no job, no apartment and a stack of clips from *The Daily Texan*. I didn't have any contacts and ran around the city like Working Girl dropping off packs of my clips and resumés in the mailroom. (I do not recommend this.) Eventually, I got a job at Conde Nast, the magazine publisher, and a couple of years later I got my foot in the door at *The Wall Street Journal* as the news assistant on the foreign desk. I wrote a ton of stories on the side and was promoted to a foreign correspondent based in Tokyo - my first

real reporting job! This *Cosmo* piece explains my professional journey: <https://www.cosmopolitan.com/career/news/a42193/get-that-life-amy-chozick-new-york-times/>

GT: What or who made you want to write a book?

I always wanted to write a book. I'd been covering Hillary for so long that I had this idea of a female-focused campaign book - sort of like "Julie & Julia" but politics instead of cooking! All the great campaign books were written about men, by men, so this felt like an opportunity to flip the script.

GT: What is your book about?

My book "Chasing Hillary" is a deeply personal memoir of the 10 years I spent on the trail of the woman who was supposed to be the first woman president. Here's the NYT review that

called it *The Boys on the Bus meets The Devil Wears Prada* - <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/24/books/review/amy-chozick-chasing-hillary.html>

GT: How open were politicians like the Clintons to talking to you and other people from the press? Did you use particular strategies to earn their trust?

Hillary almost never talked to the press! This was a major point of stress in my book (also referenced) in the review.

GT: What were some of the most apparent gender-based discrimination you've encountered as a journalist and author? Was there pushback against your book?

Sexism comes out in subtle and more obvious ways. One of Hillary's male press aides said on a conference call "I didn't know I had to say it was off the record when I was inside you." It was a reference to a line from the movie "Thank you for Smoking," but hello! Gross. Other times, I'd just see men get

to write the big historic stories that the women busting our asses to cover the day-to-day really should have written.

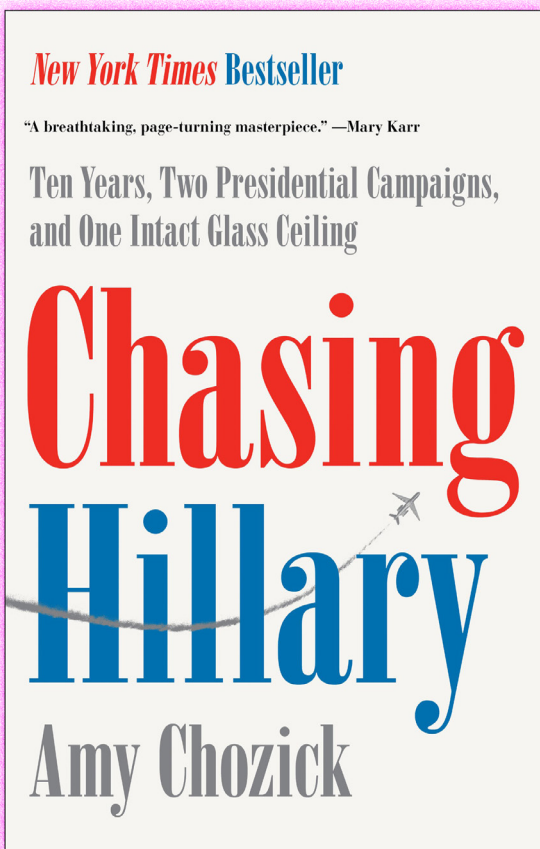
GT: People love to talk about whether a candidate has a winning demeanor. How do these conversations differ when they are only about men as opposed to now, when women are running, too?

We've never had a woman president so we don't know what a "winning" demeanor looks like. I explored this topic a lot in this *Vogue* piece in which I interviewed five of the female candidates in 2020. I think as soon as we have a frame of reference - and a first woman president! - we'll stop talking about "electability" just in terms of male politicians.

<https://www.vogue.com/article/democratic-women-female-candidates-interview?verso=true>

GT: What advice would you give aspiring teenage journalists and authors?

Don't let anybody tell you you can't have a thriving career as a journalist. I remember people telling me that the industry was dying - and that was 20 years ago! There are good jobs for good writers. But also don't think you are above any beat. I hear from young people all the time who say "well, I don't want to cover that because I'm not interested in it..." My first clips were in *House & Garden* magazine! I didn't have a house or a garden. There are no boring beats, just boring reporters. Also, do NOT go into PR and think it's the same thing. It's not. Plenty of good publicists out there but they aren't journalists. If you want to be a journalist, you need to write.



WOMEN WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR

BY EUNICE PARK

YALE UNIVERSITY



"I'm grateful for Toni Morrison. Her writing was beautiful and empowering, and she taught me for the first time to love who I am unapologetically."

India, 20



"I have so much respect and gratitude towards Chanel Miller, a sexual assault survivor (Brock Turner crime). She is so incredibly courageous to have come out to share her story and inspire other survivors to speak out."

USA, 19

"I'm grateful for Elizabeth Warren. Even if you don't agree with her political ideas, it's hard not to be inspired by her fearlessness and strength."

USA, 18

"I'm grateful for my mother. She's a single mother and takes the best care of me and my siblings, and always makes time for us whenever we need. She makes me want to work harder and makes me feel like anything is possible."

Mexico, 15

"I'm grateful for my grandmother, who is a survivor of the Korean war. She always makes sure to remind me to take pride in my heritage and be selflessly kind to others."

South Korea, 17 ✨

What Intersectionality Means to Me- and What it Doesn't

BY
CHARLOTTE
KRAMON

OAKWOOD
SECONDARY
SCHOOL

I heard the term “intersectional feminism” for the first time at a Gender Equality Club meeting at school. It was a week after the first Women’s March in 2017, and women of color at the meeting—particularly Latinx women—couldn’t bring themselves to stand alongside people mostly there for reasons that didn’t apply to them or their culture. The way men verbally objectify women in her culture, said a Latina female, is problematic but different from the way Donald Trump bragged about how easy it is for him to get white women’s “pussies.”

If you’ve heard me talk about feminism, you’ve probably heard me talk about Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. She was the first feminist I followed, and I read and watched her lectures before the word “intersectional” began to disperse throughout the feminist movement. Adichie is a woman of color who and she was the first person to enlighten me about casual sexism through her experiences in both Nigeria and the United States. Some of Adichie’s encounters with sexism were unique to women to women of color, but I found myself able to relate to most of what she was describing, even as a

white woman. Nevertheless, I didn’t categorize prejudice specifically against women of color outside the realm of feminism. She mobilized my search for long-term solutions to oppressive perceptions of marginalized people that have been around since the beginning of humankind, not just white women like myself.

I had yet to learn about the history and modern-day prevalence of white feminism. I had yet to learn about instances such as black women attending feminist meetings but being forced to leave due to their supposedly abnormal scent. But, most importantly, I had yet to hear directly from women of color that they felt excluded by feminists because they weren’t white. Middle-class white women call themselves the greatest victims of sexist oppression and forget that there’s an entire cohort of women who experience what they do, but in amplified, or just different, ways. We aren’t all the same, and by not realizing this, white feminists have a somewhat self-centered history.

I am in no way trying to downplay feminist’s historical accomplishments. Women would not have the freedom we do now without first

and second feminist movements. But as socially active demographics change, the feminist movement won’t succeed without inclusion.

Along with inclusion, though, we need balance. Otherwise, inclusion will lead to exclusion. It already has. Look at Women’s March, an organization that has progressively lost participants (including myself) because the woman who started it was kicked out due to anti-semitism. A much-needed effort to include women of color lead to the exclusion of a white woman on the basis of her religion.

We also need to be cautious of grouping other social issues and forcing them under the umbrella of intersectional feminism. If you tell someone that in order to be a feminist, they have to agree with every single liberal or left-wing issue, feminism will immediately disintegrate. Intersectionality is about diversity—and that includes diversity of opinion.

I’m excited to see our generation and the next wave feminists. Having grown up watching endless political turmoil, I think we will do intersectional feminism the right way: inclusively, not exclusively. ✨

Music Videos and Song Lyrics Are Ruining How We Think

BY
SOPHIE
FRIEDBERG

Think back to the first time you heard a song that had lyrics you thought sounded derogatory toward women. Maybe it was graphic details about a woman's body? Maybe it was the overused and oh-so-comforting "baby girl" or "lil' mama." Maybe some playfully disguised sexual innuendos?

Whatever your first experience was, it most likely left you thinking, "are they allowed to say that on the radio?" Whether it's 11 a.m. or 11 p.m., songs with sexually explicit and obnoxiously derogatory lyrics can be heard on thousands of radio stations worldwide. People of all ages, from middle schoolers to retired grandparents have access to these vulgar songs, including their vulgar portrayal of women.

After the eighth, ninth or tenth time you hear this song,

you become immune to the degree of sexism that it contains. Chris Brown, Drake, Travis Scott, Kid Cudi, Lil Yachty and hundreds more A-list singers and rappers sing lyrics that in no way align with the 2019 feminist ideal — or any feminist ideal (from any time period) for that matter.

The most popular music videos always seem to be the ones with curvy, busty and half-naked women dancing and posing for the pleasure of men. Coincidence?

I don't think so. I mean, after all, we're just eye candy to them, right?

It's been like this since the beginning of time.

It's easy to sing about your darkest fantasies about women when they're behind the screen of Apple Music or Spotify.

But we're not just users behind screens.

We are real, live women who hear the lyrics that send chills up our spines and shake our cores.

They make us question our worth and our purpose, our relationships with the men in our lives, the men that we trust.

The next generation of women shouldn't have to hear powerful male artists singing about them on national platforms like they're pieces of meat, like they're objects; powerless.

The time for vulgar, demeaning lyrics is over. ✨





hair

BY ANONYMOUS

Hair has always been something that seemed to have more weight in my life than in the lives of others around me. It's something that I have always been more conscious of. Others used to mistake preoccupation with my hair as vanity or an obsession with appearance. My hair used to be a center for constant deep-set self-consciousness.

When I was younger I had no issue with my hair and, in fact, I thought it was beautiful. It made me feel unique and the thought of it being like the rest of those around me (straight) was not appealing. I loved my pigtails, braids, buns and the occasional fro. I loved it when my mom would take me to my best friend's house so her mom could braid my hair into cornrows. I would ecstatically choose a color from a big bag of beads to decorate the ends of my hair. I'd walk into school proud of my hair and I thought it looked wonderful.

As I grew older, I inevitably became much more conscious of popular media. I became rather infatuated with magazines and the models that appeared in them.

To my dismay, no matter what page I turned to, I looked nothing like them. Movies, TV, and magazines were all perpetuating the same standards but none of these standards looked

like me or anything I could achieve. Over the years, I progressively internalized this predicament and, soon enough, my hair was not pretty to me anymore. The only qualities of my hair that I saw were that it was coarse, difficult, and unkempt.

Of course, nothing about my hair had changed, but my own beliefs had. My greatest wish became to have long perfectly straight hair. I began to straighten my hair two or three times a year and slowly but surely it became my primary way of wearing my hair. Cornrows, to me, became an embarrassing phase of the past.

As high school carried on I realized that I needed to make a change. My hair is not something to be ashamed of. It is unique and versatile and something that I should have taken pride in.

The time and care that it requires to be maintained are worth it. I invest more time into managing my hair and wear it in new natural styles that I've never tried before. I've learned that often, it's best to look inward to retain a positive self-image. ✱



"down with the diet industry," Says Jameela Jamil

BY
NATALIE
CUTFORTH

OAKWOOD SECONDARY SCHOOL

The multi-billion dollar diet industry is constantly expanding, but this past September, *The Good Place* star and prominent activist Jameela Jamil made major headway towards taking it down. After collecting over 500,000 signatures on a petition to stop the promotion of diet products on social media, she was able to work closely with Instagram to change its policies surrounding the matter.

Jamil's impressive work to destroy diet culture began in March of 2018 when she created an Instagram account called "I Weigh." It encourages women and all people to put value in their intellectual attributes and personality traits, rather than their weight or physical appearance. As social media perpetuates unrealistic, one-sided beauty ideals, Jamil started "I Weigh" to create a more empowering, all-inclusive space online. It has sparked a social media-wide movement.

While she has come to be respected as a leading figure of the body positivity movement, Jamil says she instead promotes "life positivity" and body neutrality, the idea of not thinking about your body and appearance at all. Having said this, she is not at all dismissive of the body positivity movement. As a slim and conventionally beautiful woman, she acknowledges in a twitter post that it "is not for slim/societally acceptably sized people, it's for those who spearheaded the movement, those who are the most marginalized. The rest of us need to find a new term."



Jamil has also been a fierce and unflagging critic of diet, weight loss, and detox products. She has censured celebrities including the Kardashians and Cardi B, who have promoted these products on Instagram, up where young people can see them. In her own experience as a teenage girl, the pressure to meet societal beauty standards was extremely detrimental to her own mental health and relationship with food. Writing for *Stylist Magazine*, she says, "As someone who struggled with an eating disorder for most of my youth, I've personally known and suffered the perils of the devious side of the diet/detox industry.". Undoubtedly, she is the diet industry's most formidable opponent, as she has experienced its dangers for herself and wants to protect others from falling victim to it.

Single-handedly tackling this issue is no easy feat. So, what is the fruition of her tireless advocacy? Firstly, as of September 18, Instagram's new policy blocks all posts advertising diet, detox, and weight loss products from any viewers under the age of 18. Another policy will prohibit fabricated or false claims in posts about the effects of such products. This means influencers or celebrities cannot state in their posts that the consumption of a diet pill, for instance, caused them to lose 5 pounds in one

day, or some other blatant lie. These types of posts will also be blocked from minors.

Recently, Jamil has been very vocal about the effects on health of diet pills, detox teas, and other similar products. They can often act as unwanted laxatives that compromise people's health. Additionally, the people who promote diet products are often celebrities who are revered and idolized figures of society, probably with sizable fanbases looking up to them. When celebrities use their platform to promote weight loss,

their followers, particularly those who are young and impressionable, are then made to feel as though they need to change themselves to follow their example. Why not use their platform and immense influence for something much more admirable and substantial?

Luckily, Jamil is doing exactly that, and believes people "deserve respect and protection from the celebrities and influencers they follow." Unfortunately, we live in an age in which people of all ages are constantly bombarded with messages

on social media telling them they are not beautiful enough, not skinny enough, not good enough. It has created a culture of obsession over appearances. In light of this, is very comforting to know that good forces are at work to help people realize they are so much more interesting than the way they look. If these new policies are any indication of what is to come for the diet industry, we can all look forward to living in a world that values one's character and contributions to society, rather than their external beauty. ✖

Sexual Assault On Skid Row

BY LILY KRAMON
OAKWOOD SECONDARY SCHOOL



For a long time, homeless women on Skid Row have been looking for a safe place to settle away from dangers. Most women living in Skid Row have already experienced domestic violence or sexual assault or will be victims in the future.

According to the Downtown Women's Center, 40 percent of women on Skid Row are survivors of sexual assault, 55 percent of them are victims of domestic abuse, and 91 percent of these homeless women have experienced domestic or sexual abuse in their lifetime.

Usually, women on Skid Row don't just experience sexual or domestic abuse once; they go experience this assault for a long period of time until they can get help and find shelter with safe surroundings.

However, recovering women who seek comfort in homeless shelters often report experiences of sexual

violence, which make them feel very unsafe and uncomfortable.

Big Mama is a woman who has lived on Skid Row for over a decade. Big Mama and her friends say "Trust No Man," and they keep golf clubs near them every night because of the increasing amount of sexual violence around them.

Many women like Big Mama live in fear of sexual assault and try to help and protect each other every night in order to prevent it.

Most women who suffer from sexual assault on Skid Row are single and do not live with men or other partners. Many people think that once women have found a shelter, they are safe. However, that is not the full truth.

The majority of single women in homeless shelters don't feel completely safe because men still target them even when they have escaped

the streets. Many organizations and reporters are trying to focus more on this problem.

For example, the Downtown Women's Center is in the process of building a shelter for women suffering from domestic and sexual violence.

This is a great first step for many shelters that should be built for this specific group of people. Many articles and reports are only done on the homeless population as a whole, but when one focuses on women on Skid Row, there is a lot to uncover.

Women on Skid Row are suffering from trauma due to domestic and sexual violence. These women need our help. If you want to reach out or get involved, you can look at the Downtown Women's Center website, and you can hear from different homeless women from NPR podcasts. ✖

Growing Up Quick: MY MOTHER'S IMMIGRATION STORY

BY NADIA RIVERA

Hi! I'm Nadia Rivera. Your 13-year-old-Latina-Girl. What that's like might be surprising to you.

Both of my parents came to America when they were around seven. My dad is from Guatemala, and my mom is from Nicaragua. Both of my parents worked very hard to get where they are today, as neither grew up privileged. I was fortunate enough to be growing up with a much better lifestyle than they had.

My mother worked very hard growing up, especially being the oldest of six children. She and my tia were looked at as the "Mother" of the children, aside from their actual mother. She learned to cook and clean at a very young age, and learned how to deal with her siblings. This was very common for many women in that time, and even now. Many people had to learn to grow up quickly in order to take care of these things.

The way that I see it is, without women like my mom and my tia, many people would have grown up differently. In large families like my mom's, not all of the kids would get the attention needed to be raised the right way.

My mom also had to adapt to living in America, because at the age of eight, Nicaragua is all she had ever known. School was especially hard for her as the language barrier played a big role in her education. Since she didn't know the language, learning in school was 10 times harder. Even with things as simple as measurement could be difficult since America is the only country to measure with feet, or ounces, etc.

The way that I've interpreted this information is by

appreciating what I have now. My parents worked hard to put up with many pressures in order to get to the state of mind that they are currently in.

I am grateful to have the things that my parents could have only dreamed of as children. My advice to you is to also be grateful for what you have, no matter where you come from. ✨

Who Says

"She looks so soft.
She can't do anything
even if her life depends on it,"
says no one.

No one can tell you who to be
without you letting them.
No one can make you feel less of yourself
if you do not allow them to.

You are strong,
You are beautiful and
You can be the world if you allow yourself to.

BY HALI HUA
MARK KEPPLER HS '21



GRETA THUNBERG:

The Loudest Voice in Environmentalism

BY SIERRA STERN
OAKWOOD SECONDARY SCHOOL

The biggest voice in modern environmentalism belongs to Swedish sixteen year-old Greta Thunberg. You may have seen videos of the teenage activist who has devoted the past year to raising awareness for climate change and delivering impassioned speeches at eco-rallies. Though Thunberg is the daughter of entertainers, her public speaking is far from performative. “How dare you?” she famously accused this generation of adults and world leaders at the 2019 UN climate action summit, “You have stolen my dreams and my childhood.” To spread her message, Thunberg has forgone school in hopes that the awareness she raises will translate into palpable change. In addition, the activist and her family have converted to vegetarianism and refuse to travel by plane.

Thunberg is a role model and inspiration for anybody who desires to create change at a young age. During a November 2018 TedX talk she stated, “I was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome, OCD and selective mutism. That basically means I only speak when I think it's

necessary. Now is one of those moments.” Though Thunberg is widely supported, bigotry and hate prevail online in response to her strong stance and bluntly moving delivery. Comments from her climate action summit speech read, “When you try to be like Hitler but fail miserably,” and “I thought Swedish girls were “hot”, oops sorry.” When commenters can't disprove Thunberg's arguments and the blame she places on the apathetic older generations, they look instead to her sixteen-year-old appearance and barely tangentially related xenophobic remarks. Thinly-veiled existential fear and guilt spur these harmful messages, and opposition towards the teenager can be considerably hope-shattering for anybody who fears the depletion of the earth's stability and resources.

Thunberg has also been criticized for her wealthy background, and many of her critics deflect her environmental arguments by asserting that there are greater problems in the world such as poverty and hunger. This perspective is uninformed. Well-off citizens in

developed countries will be least impacted by the effects of climate change in the long-run, likely the last to find themselves in any real, mortal danger. Citizens of developing countries or even members of lower socioeconomic classes in the West will be the first to suffer due to a lack of temperature-controlled spaces and the skyrocketing prices of what little resources we have left. Climate change feeds poverty and hunger, and obstructing its path of destruction would be universally beneficial.

Though Thunberg has taken it upon herself to be a leader in the conversation of climate change, it shouldn't be up to the world's youth to fix the mistakes of our elders. Saving the planet is a collective effort, and change starts with informing ourselves of the truth of the matter—climate change is real, and it's deadly. Once we, as a united world, stare this fact in the face, we can sit down and talk seriously about climate change, but until then, Greta Thunberg and millions of children all over the planet will have to keep standing up. ✨

The Ultimate Feminist Podcasts: A Review

BY GIA FRANK
OAKWOOD SECONDARY SCHOOL

In March 2019, the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media conducted a study to estimate the ratio between the number of women in media compared to that of men. The results concluded that, for every female film character, there are 2.24 male film characters. This statistic got me thinking: what is the role of feminism in the media? Specifically, I was concerned about the feminist message present in podcasting. As a feminist, I listen to two feminist podcasts regularly. One, titled, *Your Angry Neighborhood Feminist*, uses humor to tackle the challenging issues women face daily. Throughout 185 podcast episodes, feminist friends Keegan Winfield and Madigan discuss the characteristics of an active feminist, and how you can be an intersectional feminist present in society. Some of the topics they



discuss include the importance of marching, depression and anxiety, motherhood, and black heritage. In the very first episode of their podcast, Keegan and Madigan discussed the #MeToo movement, the Silence Breakers, and TIME magazine's 2017 Person of the Year. When talking about the #MeToo movement, and the impact of women raising their voices against sexual harassment and assault, Keegan and Madigan explain the value of sharing your experiences, and also the importance of peaceful protest. Available on both Spotify and Apple Music, *Your Angry Neighborhood Feminist* has a 4.8 rating. Another feminist podcast, titled *Going Through It*, hosted by Ann Friedman, answers a series of questions regarding feminism with guests such as Hillary Clinton, Samin Nosrat, and Rebecca Traister. All episodes aim to pose and solve the same question of 'Should I quit or should I keep going?' Focusing on pivotal moments in women's careers when they had to decide whether to quit or

Going Through It



keep going, Ann Friedman explains the adversities women face in the workplace, relationships, and life in general. Focusing predominantly on benevolent sexism, or less apparent sexism, *Going Through It* shares real-life experiences that have shaped women into the successful people they are today. Similarly to *Your Angry Neighborhood Feminist*, *Going Through It* has a podcast rating of 4.7 stars and is available on both Apple Music and Spotify. If you are interested becoming better immersed in and informed on the feminist movement, I strongly recommend listening to any of the podcasts I have discussed. Other feminist podcasts I recommend include *The Guilty Feminist*, *The Real-World Feminist*, and *What Would A Feminist Do?*, all available on your local listening services.