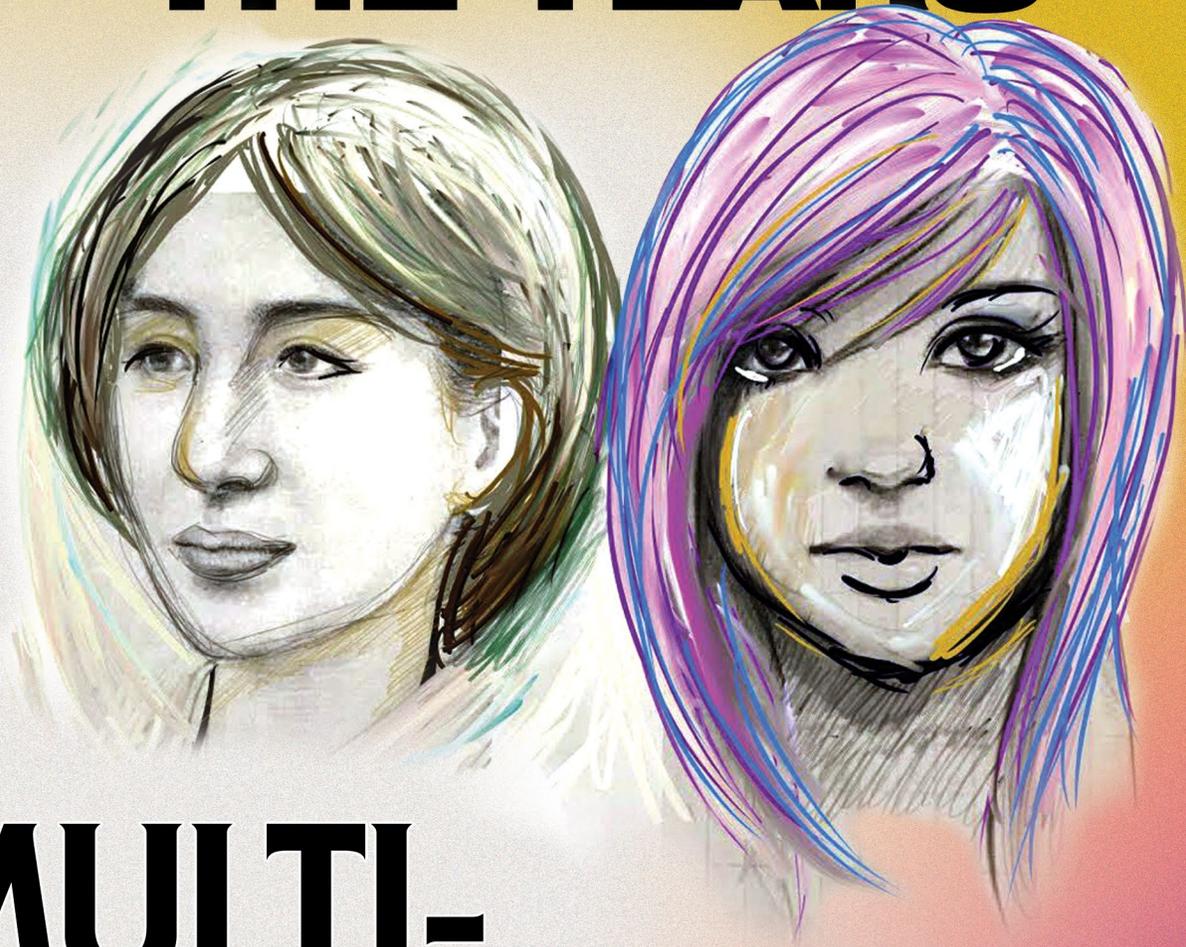


GIRLTALK

MAY 2018

WOMEN THROUGHOUT THE YEARS



A
MULTI-
GENERATIONAL
ISSUE

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WELCOME TO GIRLTALK

Welcome to *Women Throughout the Years: A MultiGenerational Issue*, the sixth issue of Girl Talk Magazine!

Dear Readers,

Young girls often hear the phrase “the future is female”, echoing inspiration for a future that is more gender equitable with female leaders. However, it is also important to recognize that different generations have experienced distinct obstacles in regards to gender. This issue, we wished to highlight the voices of females from all generations - younger teens, adolescents, adults, and seniors - to start a conversation about the different experiences of women across the globe throughout history.

The May Issue of The GIRLTALK Magazine, *Women Throughout the Years: A MultiGenerational Issue*, begins with a seventh grade girl’s reflections on the current atmosphere of name calling in her grade following reporting on objectification in youth from the Summer issue. We hear the voices of current high school teens around the globe discuss their experiences as an adolescent navigating love, feminism and politics, and an in depth analysis is featured about the presence of feminism in Greek life on college campuses. In an interview, Meiko Takayama, CEO of Advancing Women Executives, gives advice to young girls on how to unlock their potential as future high powered executives. Our issue concludes with touching personal reflections of our grandparents’ opinion of the feminist movement throughout history and the contributions of late female activists.

Watching the rise of advocacy for gender equity has been beyond inspiring for us as feminists, editors, and teen girls in high school. Women at the forefront of these movements have all seen gender roles evolve in different ways, and this issue shines light on the individuality of each generation. As we navigate adolescence, mold our identities, and pursue different goals for future career fields, it’s important to realize that our quest for building a future of female leaders will only be strengthened by the diverse and importance voices of female activists, executives, and seniors throughout the generation.

- Charlotte and Eunice

AN UPDATE ON NAME CALLING

by Anonymous

In the Girl Talk summer issue of 2017, there was an article written by Charlotte Kramon about name calling. 11-12 year old girls were interviewed about name calling in sixth grade. I was one of those girls being interviewed.

When I was interviewed, I was 12 years old and in sixth grade. Now I am a 13-year-old seventh grader. This article is an update on the previous summer article that was written about this topic.

One of the girls in the interviewed talked about how the word “slut” was being thrown around carelessly. Today, girls have realized that the word “slut” is rude and could deeply hurt someone. The girls in my class have veered away from using that word.

However, other disrespectful words are starting to be used. One of those is the word B***. Girls in my class and at other schools are starting to use it far more than they used to.

It has gotten to a point where when one girl makes a mistake, other girls are all of a sudden calling her a b*** behind her back. Girls aren’t giving each other the benefit of the doubt. One small mistake, and people see you only as a harsh, insulting and rude word.

I have not seen any boys my age use the word b*** but I have seen it in high school boys that I go to school with. I have never heard a full conversation where the word is used but I have walked by high school boys and heard them using

the word to describe other people.

Another word that people aren’t being careful with is the word “hoe.” It’s mostly being used to judge what people are wearing. My friend told me that some of her friends will come up to her and point to another girl, saying, “Ew! Look at what that hoe is wearing.” It makes her feel uncomfortable and upset.

It is disappointing that girls are giving other girls labels based on the clothes that they are wearing. People are more than the clothes that they put on.

When I was in sixth grade, I wondered how all of the chaos would play out. It turned out that when one word stopped being used, another word replaced it. It is extremely hard to get all girls and boys to stop using bad words and calling each other names, but there is a way to stay out of judgmental conversations, and to stop many people from calling each other names.

By being an allie in this issue, we can show people that we are all more than a label. Demonstrate kindness, not hatred, and show people that gossiping doesn’t do any good. School is not a place to point fingers; it is a place to learn and have a wonderful experience.

Once we engrave this message into everyone’s minds, the name calling and gossiping will turn into schools full of smiles.





QUESTIONNAIRE:
What is a Feminist?

Answers collected by
Cece Sturman, Oakwood School

The definition of feminism is the theory of political, economic, and social equality of the sexes. However, the word “feminist” has become associated with negative connotations from those who are both educated and uneducated about the movement. Cece Sturman, a GIRLTALK staff member and writer, decided to collect different ideas about what people think feminism is. She asked people of all genders and perspectives. Many people agreed it was simply the quest for equal rights, while some thought the movement unnecessarily radical. This compilation of perspectives is thought-provoking and sheds light on the teenage generation’s ideas about gender. Some of the answers may (or will, I should say,) be deeply frustrating to people. Nevertheless, it’s important to be educated about what our peers are thinking about issues important to us.

continued on page 5

(Male, Connecticut)
Like modern day feminism is with the people dressed up like vaginas or the real feminism with like trying to get women to vote and all the real sh*t?

(Female, tenth grade)
They’re people, they’re woman, it can be anyone who supports equal rights for everybody; not just men and women but every gender and sexual orientation.

(Male, eleventh grade, Los Angeles)
Feminism is a movement that focuses on bringing economical, social, and political equality to every woman. It is also the movement which attempts to end the physical oppression of women who are unable to protect themselves.

(Female, Connecticut, 14)
Feminism means to me that both men and women being equal, and having sentences like “you hit like a girl” or “you run like a girl” be a good thing, not an insult.

(Male, New York, 15)
Feminism is, simply, put like this:
men and women are equal in all ways.

(Male, ninth grade)
A feminist is someone who supports feminism, but not necessarily a specific gender or sex. It’s a movement for equality of the sexes.

(Male, Connecticut, 14)
The belief that women are equal to men;
I think the movement wants women to be respected and given the opportunities that men have.

(Male, tenth grade, Los Angeles)
They are looking for equal rights to the man as a woman because they feel the whole world is against them. Yeah.

(Male)
Feminism is just a word for women who want to make themselves feel better by saying they are better than men.

(Female, 15, Los Angeles)
Feminism means gender doesn’t define who you are as a person or the things that you are capable of.

(Female, 16, Los Angeles)
I define feminism not just as women overruling men, but more of equality. It’s also learning how to be independent and strong, and standing up for what you believe in as a female.

(Male, Connecticut, 16)
I’d say feminism stands for the belief that women have an equal say in society in relation to man’s. In addition, feminism expresses the power and identity which women hold in our community, culture, and society.

Fostering
FEMINISTS IN
SAME-GENDER
SCHOOLS

by Sophie
Dorf-Kamienny

MARLBOROUGH
SCHOOL

The advantages and disadvantages of same-gender schools regarding feminism and equality have and continue to be debated by educators, activists, and students. The verdict will never be black and white, as such schools have a variety of approaches and motives for educating young women, and sometimes men, in a more isolated setting. However, as a student of an academically rigorous and outspokenly feminist institution, I would like to offer my opinion on why women’s schools are worth the separation from male students.

Established centuries ago, many historical all-women schools were created with the goal of teaching women how to be proper, and how to do what society expected of them, in an environment separate from their more highly-celebrated male counterparts. Obviously, these motivations were not in the name of gender equality, and were at the expense of academic rigour and opportunities for female scholars.

However, in modern society, the concept of an all-women school often aims rather to eliminate romantic distractions (although such distractions may persist for students who are attracted to the same gender) and make the academic environment

as comfortable and engaging for young women as possible. They are also not mandatory, or the only viable option, as they may have been historically for women who were prevented from studying in esteemed schools and universities with men.

Now that almost four years have gone by, I must admit that I do, from time to time, consider whether or not I am missing out in any way.

Many question whether women's schools can prepare one for a life post-graduation, when the challenges of working with men will be inevitable.

Although it is sometimes difficult to know that my high school experiences will always be lacking something that may be so prominent in that of my peers, I can sense

the positive effects of my decision to attend an all-women school.

For example, in a world that discourages women at every turn, and tries to make them think that they are less than, my self-confidence is also evidently advantaged by spending my teenage years in a place where almost every leader and achiever is a woman that I can learn from, be inspired by, and see myself in.

On that note, female students at schools like my own never have to fear being overshadowed by men within their school environment.

Athletics is a key example of this: many people tend to stereotype intense sports as a masculine activity, despite the vast network of strong female athletes who can be just as (if not more) successful than

men in their athletic pursuits. In a women's school, the "big games" are not just the boys' football games where the girls come to cheer them on, but instead they are the girls' volleyball and basketball games.

Additionally, some may think that same-gender schools perpetuate stereotypes inside the classroom by adjusting one's teaching style to fit their perception of women, but I believe they can also decrease the prevalence of stereotypes by giving girls opportunities that they may have been discouraged to participate in when in a co-ed environment.

For example, students may feel more comfortable enrolling in a typically male-dominated class such as computer programming when they are surrounded by

other women who show interest in the subject.

Similarly, the hate exhibited towards female candidate Hillary Clinton in the 2016 election provided a shocking contrast when compared to my immediate environment, in which every student council president and representative is an empowered woman, who is encouraged and supported by her classmates. In a co-ed school, on the other hand, such female representation and confidence might not be so prominent.

Every student and parent has the right to decide respectively whether they crave an all-girls education.

However, I encourage you not to discount the benefits of what such an institution has to offer in fostering a feminist identity.



FEMINISM IN GREEK LIFE

by Sophie Friedberg PALISADES CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Dumb. Vapid. Wild. Promiscuous.

All too often, these are the adjectives that are used to describe a "sorority girl." Not exactly a pro-feminist image. In countless cases, such as the movies "Neighbors 2", "House Bunny", and "So Undercover", these stereotypes have been majorly reinforced.

However, today's sororities shatter those stereotypes, and are the epitome of mod-

ern-day feminism. The whole idea of a sorority is to create a strong sisterhood; one that lifts each other up and reminds one another of their power. The main reason why women join sororities is to find a family within the new and unfamiliar setting of

college. They look for strength amongst their peers and companionship that lasts a lifetime. The girls in a sorority look out for one another, take care of each other, and help guide their sister's path for success. They are each other's ultimate fan club, and give each other strength, when strength seems hard to find.

Surely, this is the root of all feminism/sisterhood. In 1913, the sorority Delta Sigma

Theta, an all African-American sorority marched on their campus for the right to vote. Although oppressed, they understood that with their sisters by their sides, they contained the strength needed to ignite change. In 2013, one hundred years later, the current members of Delta Sigma Theta lead the Suffrage Centennial Celebration at Howard University. The empowerment that runs through the bones of Delta Sigma Theta is what made their sorority powerful and revolutionary.

Similarly, Omega Phi Beta is one of the world's leading sorority activists. Each year, the sorority holds a Ray of Hope Walk across countless cities, to help end violence against women. Their contribution to this cause has raised over \$45,000 to organizations that impact the lives of women in need worldwide.

According to Kimberly Sutherland of Stetson University, "The history of sororities is undeniably founded in feminist thought. Women wanted equal

access to education and networks, they wanted to build safe environments where they could strive socially and academically, and they wanted opportunities to connect to other driven women like themselves."

Throughout history of Greek Life on college campuses, sororities have been described using misogynistic and short sided adjectives. However, the true and feminist view of sororities would use words such as intelligent, impactful, powerful, and equal.

ALL GROWN UP:
THE FUTURE
IS FEMALE

WOMEN IN STEM

by Nicole Park
LOS ALAMITOS HIGH SCHOOL

According to the Office of the Chief Economist in 2017, women made up 47 percent of all U.S. jobs in 2015 but held only 24 percent of STEM jobs. These statistic applies to the United States, the country that revolves around how “girls can be anything they want to be.”

One time, my girl friends and I discussed what college major we are choosing. There were many answers from “nursing” to “English” to “history.” But, none of them involved STEM.

When it was my turn to share, I said “mathematics and economics.” All of them stared dead into my eyes, and one said, “wow! You’re a minority in that field.” Out of every ways to phrase

her words, she had to add that I am a “minority.” I stared at her back and said, “I know,” and shifted our topic to our weekend plans.

I was aware, very aware, that there are not many female representation in the STEM field. From that day for a week, I have been pondering constantly about our conversation.

I do not understand why women do not make up a decent portion of the STEM field. I, a female high school student and a future mathematician, have been part of many school involvements relating to math.

I received the highest score for the AMC 10 and 12 out of approximately

800 students for three consecutive years. I was one of the six students to be selected to represent Los Alamitos High School for Math Day at the Beach. I was one of the five students to be chosen to participate in the Orange Coast College Math Meet. These achievements make me, a female mathematician, to be fully eligible to partake in math involvements.

There are many intelligent, powerful women who are able to partake in the STEM field.

With females like me, we are able to make up for the lack of representation. If only it were to be more open to female involvements, STEM would be a much stronger field.

Because of her fascinating speech at Women’s Space, Girl Talk reached out to Meiko to interview her more on her job as the founder & CEO of Advancing Women Executives and her advice for young girls navigating their ambitions. We had the privilege to interview her in AWE’s Studio City Office. Below is a summary of our interview.

The moment we walk into AWE’s office, we were enthusiastically greeted by two friendly employees who were excited to speak to us about women’s empowerment and the work of AWE to advocate for it. They encouraged us to keep being involved in activism work, and are inspired by the work of high schoolers who passionately advocate for the causes they care about.

Soon Meiko arrives, and our interview begins.

Ali & Eunice: *Hi Meiko, can you tell us a bit about your company AWE?*

AWE, or advancing women executives, supports the rise of female leaders in executive positions. Through helping women throughout the process of finding, interviewing for, and being chosen for executive positions, we accelerate the careers of women while improving the global economy. We work with both men and women in different career fields to support the advancement of women. After growing up with inspiring female role models and going to an all girls college at Bryn Mawr, I’ve always been empowered by the women around me and I want to make sure all opportunities are unlocked for them. In

fact, many women are not being considered for executive positions because at the very first step, they do not apply. When a job position asks for a number of traits, compared to men who will apply if they fit the majority of the criteria, women often feel as if they need to 100% embody every trait on the job application.

Ali: *With our experience from secondary schools, we were wondering if you have any opinions on whether girls are less inclined to be as vocal and take on leadership roles in the classroom? How would you encourage more girls to gain that confidence in speaking their opinions without fear of rejection?*

Meiko: I feel that no girl should ever feel the need to be silent about their opinions and beliefs. However, in order to encourage an environment where more girls feel comfortable taking on leadership roles in the classroom, more girls should support one another.

There is such a good “bro culture” amongst boys and men who will support each other throughout every circumstance, but that level of support amongst girls is often missing. Therefore, girls need to “amplify” each other’s voices. They can reference each other girl’s opinions and thoughts in previous statements, and acknowledge good ideas shared amongst them.

We need to also break down gender roles so that we can see leadership in different ways. Rather than only seeing leadership as dominant speaking conversations, leadership should also be seen in the questions of clarification and organization women are more likely to ask than men. Deborah Tannen at Georgetown actually did a study in which she found that statistically women ask more questions than men do, as society tells boys that they are not allowed to be insecure in their intellectual abilities and often force them to present a facade of confidence.

Eunice: *In what ways are companies structuring their work settings and organi-*

zation to encourage female leaders?

Meiko: I think it’s extremely important for all companies, regardless of the gender composition of such companies, to embrace women’s empowerment and encourage the advancement of women’s careers. The only way for us to affect real change is if we mobilize everyone- men included- behind the movement for women’s empowerment.

One company I find particularly inspiring is Patagonia, which has established creative policies to support the advancement of women in careers. For example, they provide on site daycare facilities until 2nd grade for children of their employees. If a Patagonia employee needs to travel for work and also has a newborn, Patagonia covers the expenses for the infant and a caregiver to travel with the employee. These policies support the rise of female executives through providing an inclusive environment for women to not have to choose between family and work responsibilities.



Other companies like Sephora continue to support their female employees through empowerment training opportunities and networking events. Although more than 75% of Sephora’s employees are women, Sephora has importantly recognized that women’s empowerment is an ongoing initiative companies should pursue.

Ali: *To bring into light intersectional feminist experiences of women of color,*

with your personal experience as a Japanese woman, how did you respond to “cultural flack” when you chose to pursue a more “masculine” career field as a CEO?

Personally for me, I didn’t experience too much of asian cultural flack as I grew up in an upper middle class Chicago suburb, which caused me to identify more as a woman than I identify as being an Asian.

However, after I came to Los Angeles, I realized how much diversity existed within our population.

Although there are very real and prevalent cultural obstacles that discourage women from more traditionally “masculine” career fields such as business executives, I encourage all women to step outside the lines to pursue their passions as a leader - whether that means founding your own company or leading a startup.

My peers have told me that just the way I walk down the street makes me not appear Japanese, as if my confidence as a woman detracts from my Asian heritage. However, women’s empowerment and cultural pride are two different values that can be equally embraced.

Eunice: *What advice would you give to young teenage girls? What hope do you see for the next generation of female leaders?*

Meiko: My advice I would give to young teenage girls is to always continue raising their hands, support one another unconditionally, and appreciating their own value. This can be manifested in giving out the names of female peers when there are job openings available, or negotiating your first salary out of college.

Although I don’t personally believe enough has changed, I have faith in the this generation of young leaders to be the agents of substantial, lasting change for gender equality.

With movements like #metoo shedding a light on important issues of consent and sexual assault, and more women becoming executives and graduating with STEM career fields, I’m hopeful for the future for women everywhere.

An Interview WITH MEIKO TAKAYAMA

by Ali Wood &
Eunice Park

OAKWOOD SECONDARY SCHOOL

We first met Meiko Takayama when we had the pleasure to hear her speak at our school’s biennial feminist conference called Women’s Space. She spoke about the company she started, Advancing Women Executives, and the work she does on a day to day basis. As well as her job, Meiko advised us with tips on how to assert yourself in the workplace or classroom with tools on how to present ideas confidently and empower other female peers. We were inspired by Meiko not only because she embodies a strong, independent women leader, but also because she is an Asian American- an intersection that all three of us share.

OLDER AND WISER ... BUT NOT HIRED

by Charlotte Kramon
OAKWOOD SECONDARY SCHOOL

When does “old” become too old? At a first glance, the answer shouldn't vary based on gender.

In TV, however, it does. While men are allowed to gray on screen, the slightest trace of wrinkles on countless women's faces lead to their unemployment.

Miriam O'Reilly joined countless women who faced unemployment due to old age in 2008. After working at the BBC for 25 years, she and three female colleagues in their 40's and 50's learned that they looked too old for the “revamp” of their news show, “Countryfile.” They were let go, and young women in their 20's and 30's replaced them. O'Reilly sued the BBC for ageism and sexism and won-for ageism, not sexism. (Ageism refers to [negative views towards aging and older people.](#)) The BBC responded with an apology in which they reinforced their commitment to “[fair selection in every aspect of our work](#)” and reassured the public that they would be more cautious in selecting programmers.

In their statement, the BBC said that ageism and sexism was an issue that needed to be addressed by the broadcasting industry as a whole. Nine years later, have we progressed?

O'Reilly has continued to advocate for gender issues and exposing the inequality within the BBC and other newsrooms. For example, during an interview about the January 2018 controversy over her cancelled appearance on the Today Show, she told Channel 4 News, “[There is one rule for male presenters at the BBC, and another for female presenters.](#)” O'Reilly was refer-

ring to controversy regarding British broadcaster John Humphrys. She was dropped from the Today Show from a conversation about the gender pay gap minutes after she began tweeting sneering remarks she heard from a recording of Humphrys talking about the pay gap.

There is certainly bias against aging of all genders in mainstream media. However, [research](#) shows age bias tends to be more prominent among women. In global news, women over 65 years old tend to represent ordinary, unimportant roles, whereas men seem to increasingly act as experts and spokespeople as they grow older.

Patterns of ageism and sexism that the BBC said needed improvement in 2008 haven't appeared to change much. An anonymous source told GIRLTALK that while the news industry in general has become much tougher over the last decade, “men are still valued more.” She points to wage inequality despite stellar resumés, something Miriam O'Reilly still fights for.

She also witnessed undeniable ageism that reflects the higher value of men. “Men can stay in Television broadcasting until retirement age, even if they go bald and gain a lot of weights. Women, however, are scrutinized for their weight and looks and are usually replaced by younger females when they get to their 40's,” she said.

If women are *too* young in the news industry, that's a problem, too. A former news producer describes to GIRLTALK being “young enough to be a “rising star” but too young to be taken seriously for that next big promotion and 9 out of 10 times it goes to a man.” Whether

or not there's some sort of “golden age” is questionable, especially since news and programming directors rarely give reasons for not hiring people.

In television, the ideal age for women is *very* clear. [WAM \(Centre for Women Ageing and Media\)](#) report that when in media, older women portray the stereotypical horrors of growing older and play roles such as maids. Films “concentrate either on images of successful/youthful ageing or on narratives of decline and decay where older women's bodies are abject, scary and ‘leaky.’” Filmmakers get away with this because the fear of aging as a female is already integrated into the social order, and all they do is “manipulate” this fear.

While there are networks such as the CW that are specifically targeted towards youth, Annie*, a female TV producer, agreed that many films and TV shows that depict old age do so with gender stereotypes. It's difficult to find roles for older women, and those that do exist are “definitely not leaders.”

“It's a challenge for women on screen as they age because youth and beauty is the standard,” Annie told GIRLTALK. “The natural ageing process is not embraced in Hollywood.”

Age plays a different role for women working behind the screen. Annie*, explained that she's been in situations where her opinions are less valued if content such as action scenes skews “male.” Instead, she'll be asked to do hair and makeup even when she holds a higher position.

“As I've gotten older, more experienced and confident, my age has helped me because I've been more vocal about

asking and demanding my place at the table,” she said.

Not every woman has been able to gain such confidence, though. When women continuously take time off for maternity leave, missed opportunities are given to men. Annie* didn't take time off when she had her first child. Instead, she went straight back to producing her pilot and brought her child with her because she couldn't miss out on production. For those who have taken leave, though, “insecurity” rather than confidence builds up as they age. Women fear being “viewed as ‘stepping out’ of the job and not taking their careers as seriously as men.”

I've written before about the consequences of visual representation portraying certain standards of appearance. Ever since the media obtained a frame and a screen, it has taken advantage of its power. [Studies](#) show how the media frames content to overemphasize the ideal situation, whether that be a certain appearance or dramatic element of news, making it a “perceived reality.” The media has enforced the message that women must be beautiful, and beautiful means young. If you're too young, however, you're ideas are invalid due to a lack of experience that is unique to women.

Older (and incredible) female show

hosts like Diane Rehm and actresses such as Meryl Streep are representing that aging as a woman is a reality, and it's really not that bad. The news industry is lucky to have Miriam O'Reilly fighting for equal representation. Study after study stresses the relevance of visual representation in this new thing called TV.

As the people reading these studies grow older, we can only be optimistic about the future of combating ageism towards women on screen. If the talented and beloved Larry King began “Larry King Now” while he was nearly 80, who knows how long Oprah will be around for?

REFLECTING ON
HISTORY
WITH SENIORS

THE BREADWINNERS AND THEIR WIVES:

Then vs Now

by Charlotte Kramon
OAKWOOD SECONDARY SCHOOL

One of my favorite teachers was my sixth grade history teacher. I was not the only student who admired her; she was especially well-regarded and loved by the entire school. She told history as a nuanced yet valuable story that carved endless paths to explore. While teaching about the 20th century, she only told us the world's stories, but her stories as well. She lived through most of the events she was teaching about, and showed us her videos of Ginger Rodgers or revealed her relationship to the nurse being kissed by her lover in the famous WWII picture. Along with being equipped with the factual details of the history of feminism and gender equity, it's essential to hear the actual stories and experiences from people who have seen gender roles evolve.

My grandmother grew up in a small, midwestern town, and describes how she grappled with what was expected of her vs the male "breadwinners." My grandfather grew up in Los Angeles watched women go from working in "dress shops" during the times of Women's Liberation to becoming prominent business women or news anchors with the rise of activist initiatives.

In what ways were the tactics and goals of activist movements different when you were young adults compared to now?

Dan: To me the concept of "feminist" currently represents an emphasis on political, economic, social, sexual equality for women. Whereas there are still "demonstrations," the current "tactic" involves much more use of the media in

contrast to previous times and of course the advent of the internet has been an extraordinary facilitator of necessary communication. As in the past, there is no single leader of this movement.

Regarding the term "feminist," it currently appears to be less emotionally driven than in the past and more oriented towards pragmatic and constructive steps. However, like in so many movements, there is a minority of those who are primarily motivated by emotional narcissism, that runs the risk of alienating those who would otherwise be supportive.

What were some common jobs your female friends had when you were younger as opposed to your male friends? Has that changed?

Kay: Growing up in a small midwestern town and becoming a teenager in the 50's, "feminism" was not a word that was familiar to my generation. A women's choices in life were very limited. Employment offered women was either nursing, teaching or secretarial with expectations to marry young, start a family and "stay put." It was a completely different experience for young men. They were encouraged to go to college and eventually become the "breadwinners" for their future families.

Dan: As time moved on, women became more prevalent in the workplace, primarily in the area of social services and female oriented retail business. As I became older, women in western societies are clearly more prevalent in what has been traditionally male oriented vocational areas (as I referred to). There is still a very long way to go, as for millions of years the concept of "feminist" did not

exist.

Has the role of women in marriages and households changed since you were young? What did your household look like when you were the "adults" of the house as opposed to when you were kids?

Kay: If [the world of "staying put" and marrying young] was a world you did not want to be a part of, like myself, you were not looked upon kindly by society. It took many years for my family and friends from those early years to understand and accept the choices I've made in my life.

Dan: As a child, my perception of a woman, as indicated above was primarily that of a homemaker, and maybe having a part time job at a "dress shop" or something similar. Newscasters, doctors, lawyers, athletes, etc. we're men. The term "businesswoman" or "businessperson," in contrast to "businessman" was hardly ever heard. The psychological concept of success and achievement was male oriented and there was a perception, conscious and unconscious, of women being subservient to men.

GT: How would you define the word "feminist" today? How would you define it when you were a teenager and young adult?

Dan: For me the concept of "feminism" has evolved over the decades. As a teen and young adult, the connotation of the term "feminist" appeared to many to be about a woman being perceived as more than a "housewife," or a full time mother who married in her early 20s. In the 60s and 70s, the term "Women's Liberation" was often used.

This movement appeared to be si-

multaneous and philosophically similar to the Civil Rights movement and focused on women having equal rights and opportunities. There clearly was not as much media coverage on the issue of sexual exploitation of women as there is currently.

Kay: Not until Betty Friedan's "The Feminine Mystique" was published in 1963 did I become aware of feminism,

and in later years, feminism according to Gloria Steinem, Germaine Greer and others with more modern ideas and urging women to join together and become activists.

It was a great time to be a young woman and to be part of this exciting movement. It gave validation to women who didn't conform and chose alternative lifestyles.

Today feminism to me means in a word "freedom."

Freedom to express my opinions without being silenced, to live the life I chose without being judged and, most importantly, to have these opportunities and choices available and to make sure that they remain choices for my granddaughters and future generations of women.



REST
IN
PEACE
BARBARA BUSH



1925-2018

by Eunice Park
OAKWOOD SECONDARY
SCHOOL

Barbara Bush died at the age of 92. Former first lady, the wife of George H.W. Bush, and the mother of George W. and Jeb, Barbara Bush lived a long life as a wise political force, loving family member, and formidable leader for change.

Throughout her lifetime, Barbara Bush selflessly spent countless hours campaigning for her husband and two sons' political campaigns, who later enjoyed great political success as President and two term governors. However, Barbara was adamant that she "won't dye (her) hair, change (her) wardrobe, or lose weight" to support her family's campaigns, as she did not want to sacrifice her strong identity for the sake of political approval. Sharp witted and outspoken, Barbara Bush was quick to chastise reporters and point out inconsistencies during her interviews to uphold a moral truth.

She was extremely passionate about various social justice issues throughout her lifetime, with a special focus on advancing literacy and civil rights. A lifelong volunteer for charitable causes, Barbara Bush established the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, raised money for black college funds, and volunteered in nursing homes and hospitals. As the first lady, she was insistent on hiring more White House staff members of color, such that her press secretary during her husband's presidency was black- a first for that position.

In the words of Barbara Bush, "I want to be known as a wife, a mother, a grandmother. That's what I am. And I'd like to be known as someone who really cared about people and worked very, very hard to make America more literate."

REDISCOVERING WOMEN'S HISTORY

by Charlotte Kramon
OAKWOOD SECONDARY SCHOOL



We are proud to publish an issue dedicated to examining the unique experiences of females throughout previous decades. Girls, teens, and women of all ages and backgrounds carry their own stories that have been shaped by different aspects of history. We cannot discuss these stories without acknowledging the historical buildup behind them. Social Studies instructor Dr. Carolyn Purnell told the GIRLTALK Magazine some of the ways women's roles in history, such as editors of philosophical texts, have been neglected, and what we can do to change that.

In what ways has the connotation and perception of the word "feminist" changed throughout history?

"Feminism" defines a range of political movements more than it describes one, specific thing. The term "feminist," like any politically charged term, has undergone many changes and shifts in connotation since its introduction in the late nineteenth century. In academic circles, feminism has gone through at least four waves, and the concept of post-feminism. In broader pop culture, it has been applied so broadly and has been so hotly debated that the same actions (e.g., wearing makeup) can be seen as both feminist and anti-feminist, depending on one's perspective. And, again, as with any political term, it has been used with every possible undertone, from glowingly positive to damningly negative. Feminism refuses a single definition, which, in many ways, is a good thing, since there is no singular way to be a woman. But despite its many meanings, applications, and valences, feminism is still a useful

term and a useful concept. Debates over its nature highlight the ways that women (and society at large) still disagree over the fundamental notions of femininity and women's power. Those discrepancies often signal where there can be improvement or where women can advocate for themselves.

People argue that women aren't represented in museums, monuments, etc, because factually males have played more important roles in history. Is this true? What can be done to overcome this rhetoric?

It is not true that men have played more important roles in history. Exceptional women have existed in all ages, and they have played crucial roles in the development of the world as we know it. That said, traditional descriptions of history tend to neglect the fact that women often worked within systems of power that kept them out of the public eye. In eighteenth-century Europe, for instance, women frequently edited philosophical texts, performed scientific experiments, and wrote moving literary masterpieces, but these achievements, if they were publicized at all, were often credited to the male members of their families.

There are a couple of ways that we can correct the underrepresentation of women in museums and monuments:

1) Recognize the ways that women often worked within patriarchal social structures to innovate, rather than rebelling against social norms outright, but they still managed to achieve remarkable things within those boundaries.

2) We need to alter our notion of what constitutes an "important" mo-

ment in history, which is worthy of commemoration. Women have accomplished amazing intellectual, social, and cultural feats, but many current memorials are dedicated to more traditionally male roles or occupations, like military involvement, or to achievements accomplished under the aegis of institutions, like those of scientific academies, from which women were excluded.

Studies show that visual representation, such as monuments, have a significant effect on girls' motivation and beliefs in their abilities. That is why there is growing effort for things like increasing representation of monuments representing females who made a historical impact. As an educator, can teachers do to show girls the profound effects women have had on society?

I think that we can start to show girls the profound effects that women have had on society by including a much more diverse array of samples. There are many ways to be remarkable, and curriculum should tell stories about women's power in a variety of different contexts, instead of just limiting the idea of a powerful woman to rare, canonical figures like Cleopatra and Elizabeth I (who, don't get me wrong, are fantastic!). I also think it is important to have frank conversations about how history has been written.

In a male-dominated society, it is likely that women's stories will be preserved and handed down less. That doesn't mean that women had no impact, nor does it mean that we have to overlook women.

Instead, we have to look at how they managed to construct meaningful, significant lives even in the face of adversity.

My Grandmother (a personal reflection + a poem)

by Eunice Park
OAKWOOD SECONDARY SCHOOL

My grandmother died when she was 86 years old after fighting a long raging battle of Alzheimer's. I was 16 years old then, and when I finally pieced together the news from a disconnected phone call, shards of words interrupted with violent cries, I felt an explosion of emotions I still can't quite describe.

It was the feeling you get when you flip to the last page of a cliffhanger, an emotional leash tugging at your heartstrings, begging you to read more to ease your anxiety. It's the feeling you get right when you're at the very top of a rollercoaster, and you see the looming vertical drop below you, and your stomach clenches in preparation. It was disbelief, mixed with anxiety and grief, but most prominently, anticipation.

Even at the young teenage age of 16, I was always obsessed with the future. From the next school event to the next episode drop of Netflix, I was so focused on the future, dangerously blinded by my own anticipation. So when my grandmother passed away, my first reaction was one of disbelief. I desperately wanted to believe that her death was not permanent, as if there was something more I could look forward to.

But quickly I realized there was nothing more to anticipate, and my confusing mixture of feelings dissolved into regret. I regret not remembering more of my grandmother's stories. I wish I could have spent more time with her as she cheerfully reminisced about her childhood in Korea, and I wish I could have listened more intently to the grand stories she told about her heroic actions during the Korean War. I regret not eating more of her traditional cooking, packed with fireworks of flavor and fermented with centuries of culture.

Because of her Alzheimer's disease, there were a lot of things my grandmother couldn't remember as she approached the last years of her life. It was little things, like what she had for breakfast that day, but also bigger things, so that there were so many days in which my grandmother could not remember who I was.

But my grandmother never forgot the stories of her childhood and young adult past. She never forgot the precious stories dripping with culture, morals, and wise advice that she never failed to impart on me whenever she got the chance.

My grandmother was a powerful woman. I wish I could have treasured the past more in the present with her. I'm learning to treasure women from all ages and all walks of life. We are powerful not only because we are the future leaders of tomorrow, but also because we are the living, breathing survivors of history with stories to tell and lessons to impart.

Sticky Sweet Illusions

cotton candy clouds
dissolved into an endless blue horizon
Nature's Sticky Sweet Illusion
lured her outside
for just one taste

kissing her husband's ghost goodbye
she shimmied into a sundress
salvaging the last of her spirit,
she stepped out to embrace
the Unforgiving Desert Sun

her wrinkles glistened in the sunlight
her battlescars
and beauty marks
protected by her sundress, a mirage of youth
basking in the loneliness of the Desert Sands

she reached the Oasis of the pure blue sky
pleasantly suffocated by her sugar rush of thoughts,
she floated down the endless horizon
only stopping momentarily
at Nature's Gentle Reminder

her musing was interrupted by the collusion of colors
Golden Yellows & Rusted Oranges
seeping into her calm blue waters
as rosy illusions lingered in the sky,
her thoughts melted into sweet forget

the pitch black sky blurred all evidence
till what only remained was her faded sundress,
clinging unto her frail body
sprinkles of sand of Living History
hinted at her only secret

tomorrow is a new day
with cotton candy clouds
dissolving into an endless blue horizon,
Nature's Sticky Sweet Illusion
beckons alzheimer's curse and blessing

