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Women in Media

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by:
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&

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Bubblegum
Bitch!



Women  in Media



When was the last time a teacher yelled in your face and told you to fuck off?

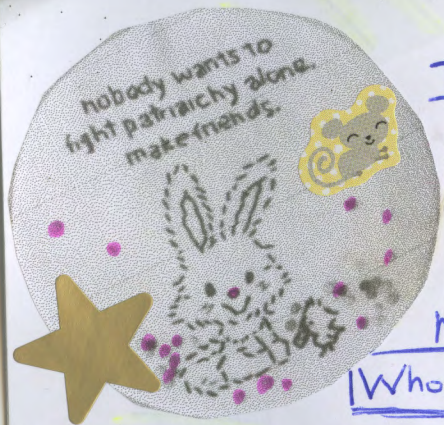


Since the First Wave, feminism has been a fractured figure, which hinders her in the field of battle against the patriarchy. How can we dismantle the larger forces that work against us, when we cannot even work in solidarity? This war has waged so savagely thanks to the Age of Technology. The internet allows for us to criticize one another ad infinitum, which doesn't lead to progress. tumblr in particular has become a bloodied battle field where women do not engage in friendly debate, but instead use the most vitriolic language to tear each other down. tumblr is exactly the kind of platform needed to combat ignorance, but it is not used in an educational manner. Debates rage between people who are ignorant, and those who hate them for their bigotry. **No one is born bigoted, so which means they can be educated to overcome their prejudices.** Yet, no education takes place on the internet, only Ignoramus-Shaming. In schools, teachers do antagonize those who do not understand, but calmly use facts and logic to enlighten the student. The same tactics must be used to placate opposing sides of the divided feminism community. Some issues, particularly those regarding sexuality and empowerment, are divisive. Solidarity is needed now more than ever as women struggle to find a balance between what the media sells them and what they truly want.



MY GODDESS. I DON'T BELIEVE IN THE IDOLIZATION OF CELEBRITIES - THEY REALLY ARE JUST PEOPLE. BUT I DO BELIEVE IN BEING INSPIRED AND THIS IS WHY I'LL ALWAYS LOOK TO TINA FEY. IN A SOCIETY WHERE WOMEN ARE CONSTANTLY OBJECTIFIED AND DEGRADED - WHERE WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE SPEECHLESS - TINA FEY HAS A VOICE AND SHE ISN'T AFRAID TO USE IT. SHE WEARS HER CURVES COMFORTABLY AND NEVER CONCEALS HER INTELLIGENCE. ON 30 ROCK SHE JOKES ABOUT HER CHARACTER, LIZ LEMON, HATING SEX OR BEING IMPERFECT YET NEVER FEELS THE NEED TO EXPLAIN WHY VARIOUS MEN, PLAYED BY HOTTIES LIKE JON HAMM, MATT DAMON, AND JAMES MARSDEN WOULD FALL FOR HER. WHY WOULD SHE EXPLAIN? NOTHING IS WRONG WITH LIZ LEMON. SHE'S NOT A PHOTO SHOPPED MODEL OR CUTESY YOUNG GIRL BUT A REAL, INTELLIGENT, WORKING WOMAN. THIS CHARACTER BEING LOOSELY BASED ON FEY HERSELF IS UNAPOLOGETIC FOR WANTING WHAT SHE WANTS AND BEING HERSELF. FEY, WITH A RESUME THAT INCLUDES WRITING AND BEING A WEEKEND UPDATE ANCHOR ON SNL, WRITING AND STARRING IN MEAN GIRLS, AND CREATING AND STARRING IN 30 ROCK WILL ALWAYS BE AN INSPIRATION FOR ME. SHE BECAME SUCCESSFUL, NOT BY SELLING OUT OR OBJECTIFYING HERSELF BUT BY USING HER INTELLIGENCE AND WIT TO MAKE IT TO THE TOP. AND FOR THIS I THANK MY GODDESS.

-Hadley Dion



If I'm quiet and smile will boys like me?

Who gives a fuck?



Was it eighth grade when I discovered being bossy wasn't going to get me anywhere with the boys? One of my friends, let's call her Ann, had every single boy in love with her. She giggled at what they said and said simple things when she spoke. On the other hand, I spoke my mind and didn't laugh at bad jokes. And I wondered why boys wouldn't want a girl they could have a real conversation with? But now I see why certain boys want childlike girls - it's what they're told to want. Pick up a magazine - you will find ad after ad with women, submissive and silent. Others dressed to look as if they are five - with stuffed animals and glitter. Models used to sell something seem to either portray sexpots or children. A very popular example of this is a show that I watch and love - New Girl. Do not get me wrong I love that this show promotes being unique and that the show runner is a woman - a position still unequally held by men. There are many feminist themes to be had here. My biggest problem with the show is that the two main female characters - Jess (Zooey Deschanel) and her friend Cece (Hannah Simone) fit these two stereotypes. Jess is the quirky, "adorkable" woman that despite being thirty with a career still gets in strange situations because of her (and her roommates') childlike behavior. But her best friend, Cece, is the sexy model that seems to be above all of the shenanigans. They maintain the categories - if you're not the beautiful model type then you can be the quirky, bubbly, and cute girl. But what if I'm neither? I'm imperfect, opinionated, and I will never look like Deschanel or Simone. So what category do I fit into? Though media does not necessarily reflect true life (I know I'm loved), it seems that it's rare for me to find a woman in the media who is "lovable" and also like me.



sex sells.

by Shelley DeHecker



WHY CAN'T WE BUY SOMETHING ELSE FOR A CHANGE?

In the music world, artists are inundated with demands from a world hungry for one thing: sex. To make it in the Billboard Hot 100 charts, or to see one's music video at the top of the iTunes sales, it seems as if you'll have to include elements of intimacy - the sexier, the better. You're a female? You'd best prepare yourself to douse any and all material with blatant and dramatic representations of your sexuality for the world to devour.

If we're talking pop music in terms of the songs themselves, most female artists have to mention sex at least once to snag a coveted spot in Billboard royalty. In the event that sex is *not* mentioned, its lack will be made up for in the music video, where less clothes means better success and the award for most views goes to the girl with the most provocative expression and the extra-suggestive moves.

Music is the language of the soul; it expresses what simple spoken words cannot. While sex is a vital and enjoyable part of life, surely it's not the only thing our souls are yearning to express. There are so many songs with substance to them that have the potential to move the world - so why is it that the songs that achieve the highest success on the charts and at the bank revolve so rigidly around sex? Why is it that for a music video to break records, female artists must present themselves in an overly-sexual, writhing-on-objects, dependent-on-male-approval manner? Pop music is often renowned for its shallow material, but why is it that such shallowness is so popular? Why are we so easily enthralled by Katy Perry bathing naked in a river as an elephant sprays water over her body? Why do we find Ke\$ha writhing against a car appealing enough to throw money at? *Why is it that encouraging women to sell themselves in a degrading manner is what comprises the popular music genre?*

LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT JUST HOW SEXY THE MUSIC CHARTS ARE...



BILLBOARD HOT 100 TOP 10 - December 7th, 2013

1. Royals - Lorde
2. The Monster - Eminem feat. Rihanna
3. **Wrecking Ball - Miley Cyrus** - The song doesn't *really* revolve around sex at all, yet the music video is shockingly sexual. The lyrics are substantial and have the potential to win over audiences, yet she relies on exploitation of her body to sell its visual counterpart. What the hell does her swinging naked on a giant wrecking ball and making out with a hammer have to do with someone breaking her heart?
4. Counting Stars - OneRepublic
5. Wake Me Up! - Avicii
6. Demons - Imagine Dragons
7. **Roar - Katy Perry** - Despite the message of the song, and the fact that it doesn't mention or center around sex (and instead functions as a triumphant declaration of independence), the accompanying music video features sexual implications - skimpy outfits, a scene in which Perry is presumed to be bathing naked in the river as an elephant sprays water on her, several moments where she sits provocatively atop a jungle throne, all intermingled with a plethora of "sexy" gazes.
8. **Timber - Pitbull feat. Ke\$ha** - Both the lyrics of the song and the video are incredibly sexual, and undeniably work to objectify women. The video features girls dancing in a bar and twerking in very little clothing. Ke\$ha is shown writhing against a car and gazing provocatively into the camera in a number of overly sexualized outfits. Pitbull presides as a kind of pimp, the male figure that presides over a herd of women from which he can choose at leisure.
9. Hold On, We're Going Home - Drake feat. Majid Jordan
10. Let Her Go - Passenger



all of the female artists but one use sex to sell their song



Beyoncé just here because she's fierce

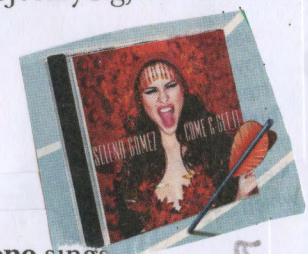


Ke\$ha



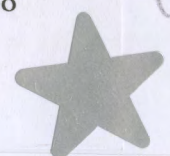
SONGS OF THE SUMMER - 2013

1. **Blurred Lines - Robin Thicke feat. T.I. and Pharrell**
2. Radioactive - Imagine Dragons
3. **Get Lucky - Daft Punk feat. Pharrell Williams**
4. **We Can't Stop - Miley Cyrus**
5. Can't Hold Us - Macklemore and Ryan Lewis feat. Dalton
6. **Cruise - Florida Georgia Line feat. Nelly**
7. **Mirrors - Justin Timberlake** - not objectifying, but there's sex in the video
8. **Treasure - Bruno Mars**
9. Cups - Anna Kendrick
10. **Come & Get It - Selena Gomez**



Selena Gomez

In this chart, every female artist but **one** sings about sex and performs in provocative ways in the accompanying music video. Additionally, the music video for every song in the chart but **three** involves women being expressed in overly sexual manners. **Four** of the songs are blatantly about sex.



NO. THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH INCORPORATING SEX INTO ONE'S WORK. but surely there's something else that can validate an artist's credibility?

BASED ON THE ITUNES TOP CHARTS THIS WEEK FOR SONGS AND MUSIC VIDEOS, LET'S LOOK AT TODAY'S HOTTEST MUSIC STARS AND WHAT THEY RELY ON TO MAKE MONEY AND CREDIBILITY AS ARTISTS.



Pitbull - sex. all the time. everywhere. anyone. mr. worldwide isn't afraid to spread his company anywhere. (have you HEARD "international love"?)

Justin Bieber - sex. especially now that he's trying to be taken seriously. in his latest music video, "all that matters", he moans about how the subject of his song is "all that matters" to him, yet he grinds on at least 3 different girls - and makes out with them, too.

Katy Perry - sex. we all remember the cupcake bra she sported for "california gurls". she's known for it and proud of it. work it, girl, but remember you're worth more than just your sexuality, too.

One Direction - sex. despite being one of the few major male artists that doesn't rely on scantily-clad females writhing on them in music videos to gain views...they're five boys, they're young, and they're good-looking. sex still manages to sell records for them - both through their appeal, and through implications in their lyrics

Miley Cyrus - sex. if the title of her new album isn't enough to convince you, then her slew of recent music videos will

Robin Thicke - sex. "blurred lines". enough said.

Lady Gaga - sex. she's not afraid to get weird with it, either. (but okay, she still kicks ass)

Britney Spears - sex. we still haven't forgotten the whole "if u seek amy" thing.



"I was always the Queen. It was you who added 'Evil' to my name."

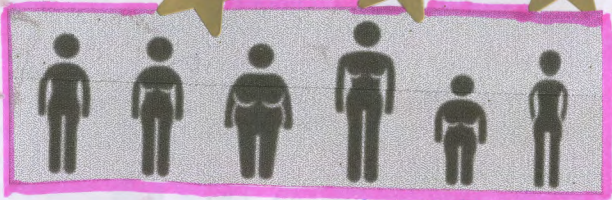
- Regina (Lana Parrilla), to Snow White (Ginnifer Goodwin), on *Once Upon a Time*

Miley Cyrus is not a slut. No one is a slut. Women are allowed to be as sexually active and expressive as they want. But that doesn't mean they are good role models, or displaying healthy behavior. Unfortunately, we are not yet in the *post-feminism utopia* where women are at liberty to display their varying degrees of sexuality free from context. Every lap dance, strip tease, and pole dancing class undermines centuries of women's liberation -- all in the name of sex positivity. Sex positivity is an essential lesson for every young woman, but it does not spare her from the consequences. Each woman bears the burden to be aware of the connotations of her actions in the **larger context of overall gender relations.** Unfortunately, many girls, eager to either defend their favorite pop singer, champion the anti-slut shaming squad, or even join the ranks of the female chauvinist pigs, fail to see the importance of a feminist critique on women in the media. Just because I support Miley's right to explore nudity and provocative scenes in her performances, doesn't mean I am barred from criticizing the message this sends to the *young girls who idolize her.* What is Miley telling aspiring female singers? That the only way to get attention for your songs is to get naked? That controversy is more important than content?



A few months ago, Amanda Palmer responded to an open letter that Sinead O'Connor wrote, and defended Miley Cyrus. She noted how she liked to "play" with nudity herself; it grabs attention. Although Amanda said a lot of great things in her response, this was one part I took issue with. Isn't Amanda missing the bigger of issue here? What worries me is not that people are criticizing Miley's nudity, but the fact that nudity is still being used to get attention in the first place. Wouldn't a talented musician prefer that people recognize the music being produced, and not the appearance of the artist?

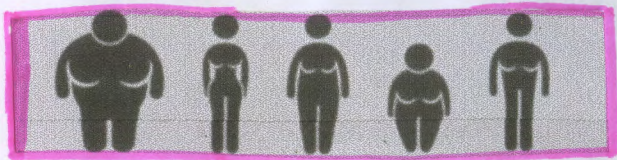
Work
What
mama
gave you



By Hadley Dion

"That model is my favorite."
"How can you tell them apart?"

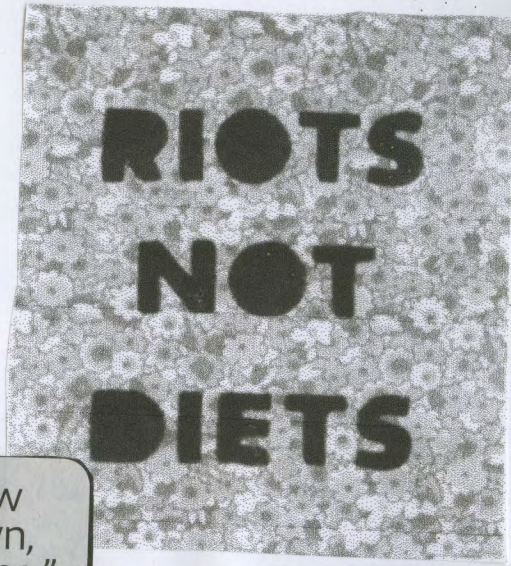
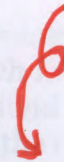
The Victoria's Secret Fashion show has always intrigued me. Not the actual program. But the number of people I know that watch and love it. And I'm not talking about guys watching it to get off. I'm talking about my fellow feminist friends. They eat this shit up. But I've never been able to... I watched the show once in high school and I spent the rest of the week in a body loathing state. Instead of angry I got sad. I'll never look like any of those girls. But the thing is most of us won't - only a small percent of women are born with a body even capable of looking like a Victoria's Secret Angel. And though some of my friends seem to think of this program as a way women express their sexuality - it's really just a prolonged commercial. Here is what would actually be empowering: A catwalk with not only different body types but also different races. Just take a minute and do a google image search of Victoria's Secret Fashion Show. TONS of diversity, right? Nope. I want to see a televised show that celebrates all types of women - not just one body type and face. But the truth is something like this would never be televised - at least not on a network like CBS. We are conditioned to objectify women - not celebrate them and a catwalk with diversity... well that would just fuck with everything we know.



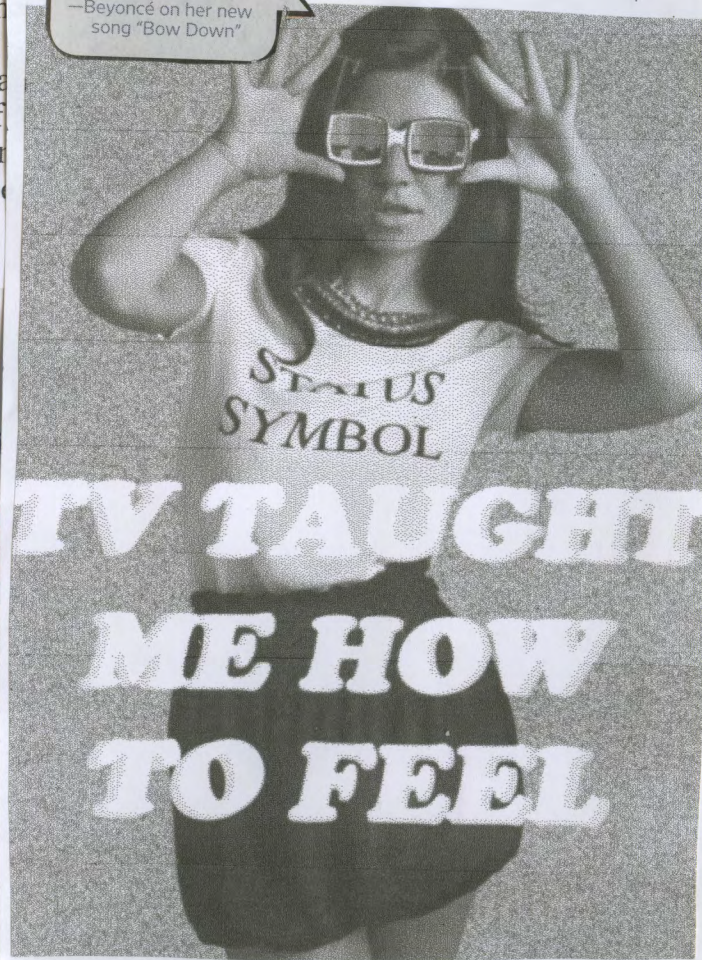
FUCK YEAH!

"At first, make up did to fit in. As much have been more into just trying to avoid combination of self laziness led me to spend make up consistently years. These days, I wear it's fun. There's something distinctly satisfying your eyes gold or lead stain on your cup of artistic expression just so happens to be

flip



"Bow down, bitches."
—Beyoncé on her new song "Bow Down"



👑 THE MAKE-UP DEBATE 👑

FUCK YEAH!

"At first, make up was something I did to fit in. As much I wish I could have been more individualist, I was just trying to avoid the teasing. A combination of self confidence and laziness led me to stop wearing makeup consistently for a couple years.

These days, I wear makeup because it's fun. There's something distinctly satisfying about painting your eyes gold or leaving a lipstick stain on your cup of tea. It's a kind of artistic expression where my face just so happens to be the canvas."

-- AH, age 19

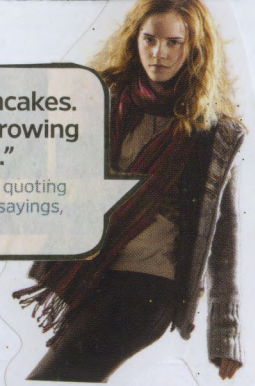


"The majority of girls at my high school never wore makeup and would make fun of girls who did, so I exclusively wore a very small amount to dances. I didn't start seriously wearing makeup until freshman year of college. I started dressing up and felt that wearing makeup was part of that style choice. There are still days when I go without wearing makeup at all. I don't find myself unattractive without it, but I definitely feel more confident with it on. I get to draw on my face and feel like a babe - what's not to love?"

--AL, age 20

"Husbands are like pancakes. There's no shame in throwing the first one out."

—Riley (Jennifer Love Hewitt), quoting one of her mother's favorite sayings, on *The Client List*



HELL NO!

"I don't wear make-up because I don't see the point. It's expensive, and I would rather sleep in than spend the extra time in the morning applying eye-liner. Sometimes I feel left out, and I think I should put in the effort, but then I remember what I'd be sacrificing in order to sustain the illusion of smooth skin and eyes that pop. I used to hate my face. Like *really* hate it. It took me a long time to like the way it looks, so why would I want to cover that up? Fashion (in its hypothetical, idyllic state) allows women to rejoice in the beauty of their bodies. But cosmetics operates on a different level. It purports the idea that a woman's face needs to be covered up. Hide your acne scars. Hide your true tone. Hide the color of your lips. I don't want to hide who I am after I have worked so hard just to like it."

-- LT, age 20

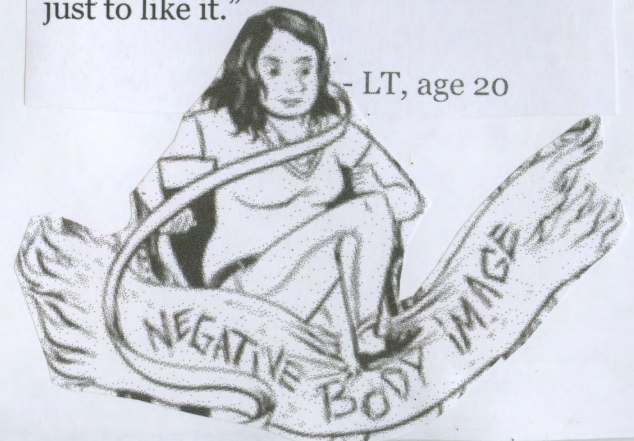




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