


2013

The Va-Jay-Jay Revolution

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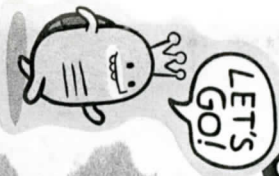
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CONFIDENCE

TAKE ON
THE WORLD



Va-jay-jay REVOL UTION love

making the case
for equality



Q: "How do you respond when a man asks you to 'smile for me, honey?'"
A: "I always snap 'Why don't you dance for me, monkey-boy?'" Ironically, their stunned faces usually make my smile. Oh well. J—" -Jesl_Oh, tressugar.com



100 Bitch Bitch BITCH

What's up with the word "**Bitch**"? Urban Dictionary explains: 1. Bitch ... the act of whining excessively; modern-day servant... usually degrading in status; term used to explain hardship (i.e. "Ain't that a bitch!"); 2. An exceedingly whipped guy who does/wears/thinks/says whatever his girlfriend tells him to (i.e. "He is so her bitch... He's wearing plaid."); 3. Annoying and whining female; female dog; a woman who says things that, if she were a man, she would get assaulted for or using her position as a woman as a shield (i.e. "I can't believe what that bitch gets away with saying.")

To tell you the truth, I'm a little **SICK** of it. I mean, getting down to the origin of the word itself, bitch simply means "female dog," or if you go back really far, it might refer to other "beasts." Of course there is the occasional reclamation of the word (as Urban Dictionary also includes, "A woman that doesn't give a flying f*ck anymore and that can and will be cruel to men") but I'm not too crazy about the man-hater association. Aside from the idea that the word feminizes anything that is annoying or

abrasive, it's use in relation to **violence** is what is particularly alarming. For example, an Urban Dictionary user eloquently states: "Woman who for one reason or another **deserves a good bitch-slap.**" The ^{SAME} user's next definition? "**To talk or act such as a woman.**" So, if you talk or act like a woman, you deserve a "good bitch-slap"?"

in essence to be a bitch
Be a bitch
WOMAN
act such as a woman...
act such as a woman...



"When it's being used as an insult, 'bitch' is an epithet hurled at women who speak their minds, who have opinions and don't shy away from expressing them... If being an outspoken woman means being a bitch we'll take that as a compliment. I choose to reappropriate the word... If we're gonna reappropriate the word, let's use it correctly. But please just let's not forget about its relevance against women. ^{let's} speak up when it's not used 'correctly.'

- Bitch Magazine

OK, good. So if we're reappropriating the word, let's not use it as a positive + use it correctly. But please just let's not forget about its relevance against women. ^{let's} speak up when it's not used 'correctly.'

♀

How to Be Just Bitchy Enough

Too hot! Too Bitchy

Just right Just Bitchy Enough

Too cold! Not Bitchy Enough

Persuade, but Not Too Powerfully

another charming issue

f COSIMO

BACKS BITCH

bitch.

BITCH

Bitch

A QUICK FEMINIST Review

GOLDEN AGE [1930-40s]

Women who were not superheroes were primarily portrayed three ways:

1. **Career-oriented girls:** Nellie the Nurse, Tessie the Typist, and Millie the Model, each of whom appeared in comic books geared toward female readers using the types of jobs that non-wartime women of the era typically worked.



2. **Romance stories:** could be the **Good Girl** or the **Bad Girl**. A good girl gets her heart broken; the bad girl breaks all the boys' hearts.

3. **Perky Teenager.** Not much more description needed.



SILVER AGE [1950-60s]

Trina Robbins, *The Great Women Superheroes:*

"[M]ost pulp-style action stories either starred or **featured strong, beautiful, competent heroines**. They were war nurses, aviatrixes, girl detectives, counterspies, and animal skin-clad jungle queens, and **they were in command**. Guns blazing, daggers unsheathed, sword in hand, they leaped across the pages, ready to take on any villain. And **they did not need rescuing**."



1963- 1st yr romance comics were surpassed by superhero comics in popularity

William Marston (creator of Wonder Woman):

"**Not even girls want to be girls so long as our feminine archetype lacks force, strength, and power.** ... Women's strong qualities have become despised because of their "weakness". The obvious remedy is to create a feminine character with all the strength of Superman plus all the allure of a good and beautiful woman."

After WWII & the Comics Code, DC sent a memo:

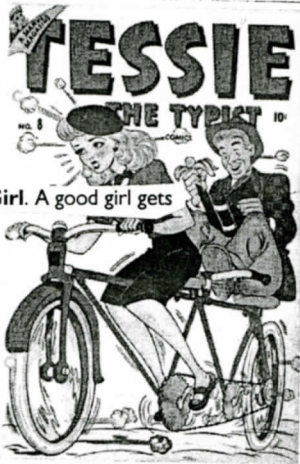
"The inclusion of females in stories is specifically discouraged. Women, when used in plot structure, should be secondary in importance, and should be drawn realistically, without exaggeration of feminine physical qualities"

What was it that John Lennon said? 'Love is the flower you've got to let grow.' Let it grow already, and quit trying to legislate it!

Wonder Woman #200

Little Lotta 1953-72

An interesting representation of a usually taunted character: the tubby girl. But Lotta's no loser- she's the loud, fun, life of the party, & she'll eat everything in sight (before fighting bullies who pick on her friends, of course)



of ♀ in American Comics

BRONZE AGE [1970-85]

Fighting crime!

During the 70s, **comics reflected many of the feminist tensions of the era**. The number of female characters, both heroes and villains, increased substantially. However, they were often stereotypical, like the angry-feminist parody, Man-killer. Marvel's 1st female superhero, Invisible Girl, debuted, & by 80s she is Invisible Woman, (& is more assertive/powerful) Ms. Marvel debuted with the honorific 'Ms' and her alter ego was the editor for 'Woman Magazine'.



in Hands!

MODERN AGE [1985-90s]

In '94, 92.9% of DC comic book readers were men (Robbins Superheroes 207).

The comic industry & readership became **extremely male-dominated**, & the portrayal of women suffered; **violence and sex** saturated the medium.



Women in Refrigerators Syndrome* "describes the use of the death or injury of a female comic book character as a plot device in a story starring a male comic book character. It is also used to note the de-powering or elimination of a female comic book character within a comic book universe." WiR is an online archive that lists deaths of women in comics, created by comic author Gail Simone, who wrote "simple point has always been: if you demolish most of the characters girls like, then girls won't read comics. That's it!" - unheardtaunts.com/wir



*refers to a '94 Green Lantern issue in which he finds his girlfriend murdered, & stuffed in a fridge



TODAY

Slowly, comics are becoming more inclusive than ever, with more female writers & (some) artists creating top titles. **Batwoman** just received her own series, becoming the 1st **gay superhero** to do so. Many female creators are rising stars in the independent publishing world, & are breaking in to the mainstream, challenging the stereotypes about women in comics.



Why does this all matter? Because the characters in comics are presented as heroes, and young readers look up to & emulate them. Also the comic industry is well-known for its communication with its consumers. What the readers demand, the creators work into the stories. The books end up very reflective of who reads them, and their opinions and views. In a medium used to tell stories that are **driven by power- traditionally male power-** it's important to see **women characters as equally powerful and heroic as their male counterparts**.



MAN-KILLER

POWER... why are we still playing dress up for money

"In 2007... women attending grad school in record numbers, when the first female speaker of the house is in contemporary culture... no attention to women's rights, but focus on how good women look in a bathing suit..."

Jill Filipovic

There is such pressure in beauty pageants to fit a stereotypical, societal and MEDIA-based depiction of "BEAUTIFUL". Not surprisingly, several contestants end up with eating disorders, or suffering depression. Lacking self-esteem, this concern of their body image literally becomes an obsession. This depressing and competitive streak in beauty pageants negates from the true beauty in a woman, in any person- intelligence, wisdom, personality. The media's portrayal of this "perfect" woman, that appearance is of utmost importance, is quite distressing.

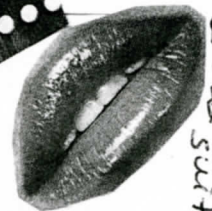
Advance beauty...

A woman's worth and status should be judged by her intelligence and CHARACTER... NOT BY her BODY.

BEAUTY

Hold

Speaker of the house is in



women look in a bathing suit



we often fail to recognize how [beauty pageants] operate within a greater context of generalized and WIDELY ACCEPTED MISOGYNY"

-Jill Filipovic

FABULOUS POWER



Think
People call you "different." We call that a great start.



Ethics ???

"We're on the path to = equality, but there's still a long road ahead. And since I'm pretty sure we aren't going to get there by tonight, I'll be spending this evening reading a book."

-Jill Filipovic

beauty pageant - n. competition based on the PHYSICAL beauty of its contestants.

We're looking for the next STAR and it could be

20-9-11-07

Disasters

+ feminism = ?

When looking at the correlation between religion and women's rights, or lack thereof, we see that religion is one of the "basic causes of the violation of women's rights" (Jimmy Carter)

"Women are inferior human beings in the eyes of God"

OPPRESSION

H.H. 14th Dalai Lama calls himself a feminist

Humanism

the New Testament St. Paul -- women "must be silent"

This New Year, make some changes for the better.

CAN I HELP YOU?

[Transform] cosmetic surgery group a more confident you

Breast-Size Solutions

... Changes for the "better"... In 2008, more than 160,000 individuals in the United States underwent cosmetic surgery. The saddest part about this, to me, is that each of the 160,000+ was under 19 years old. How depressing it is to think that each young adult, or child even, is so unhappy with their natural selves, ~~what they~~ can't accept their natural beauty, their imperfections. Even more depressing is to think of what kind of parenting is going on here.

...wake up happy.



Money being poured into breast augmentation, birthmark removal, Asian eye surgery, etc... As it all becomes increasingly popular in this generation, it's so normalized to these parents that they don't realize the psychological harm that they're causing to their children? Because this is what a large majority of the 160,000 are experiencing- these children, who have yet to mature and form their own opinions and take their own stance on the issue.

EYE TRANSFORMATION

FREE consultation today.

YOUR SKIN CAN BE BEAUTIFUL

CHANGE



Absolutely no one will be turned down.

ROADMAP

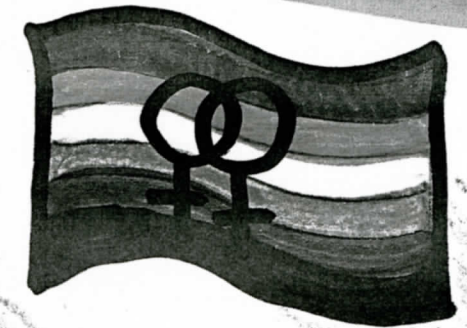


where ever you're going (somewhere great!)
to your fault... bring value yourself for what the media doesn't think about satisfaction that come with violence against women, overall questions
your fault... bring value yourself for what the media doesn't think about satisfaction that come with violence against women, overall questions
to your fault... bring value yourself for what the media doesn't think about satisfaction that come with violence against women, overall questions

http://ausiellofiles.ew.com/2009/11/03/90

90210

What's the big deal?



"This isn't a film."

"Now that the initial shock and awe surrounding 90210's upcoming lesbian love story has worn off..." Shock and awe? **Worn off?** Okay, so I WAS shocked and awed by this. Ew. Is that really how weird it is for me to see two girls kiss, even though I consider myself pretty in touch with the LGBT community? Even though I've done it myself? I guess **it's about time** someone decided to portray a **somewhat accurate** ♀-♀ relationship. Rebecca Sinclair claims that she wanted to "find the right way to tell a modern story about being a...**non-entirely straight**" teenager. I've been relieved to see it's not the stereotypical queer relationship you usually see on TV. My favorite part? Adrianna has a **WHOLE CONVERSATION** on-screen about **not falling under any specific label**, but perhaps **somewhere in the middle**. I love Silver (the one who first suggests the non-categorizing concept)—a **proud feminist** on the show! My guilty pleasure just got a **little less guilty** 😊

but once we get past the

Adrianna + Gianna

gayness, it all, it's really just a story about two people connecting.

AIN'T NO HOLLBACK GRRRL?

Most women, especially in urban areas, have had to deal with the routine of street harassment. But instead of stewing in silent anger, New York blogger Emily May offers an alternative revenge: iHollaback.org. The tagline on the homepage puts it nicely: "If you Can't Slap 'Em, Snap 'Em!" The site allows women and LGBT people who have been harassed on the streets of NY to post photos of their harassers, along with the story of the incident (detailing time and location, among other details). The site has spawned similar sites in other US cities, and now other countries (even the African island Mauritius)! There's also a linked YouTube account with videos of real women telling their stories.

How Semester Made Me REALIZE @ Sea I'M A FEMINIST



On my Semester abroad, my class visited 13 countries & circumnavigated the globe. In every country, we saw people struggling to survive, but I was shocked to realize 1 common denominator: those who lived in the worst conditions, with the least rights & opportunities, were all WOMEN. I'd never before connected the dots to see how truly desperate the situation of women's rights was, & how it impacted EVERY other oppressed group. It was at the core of so much discrimination, I understood what my professor meant when she said "Every issue is a women's issue."

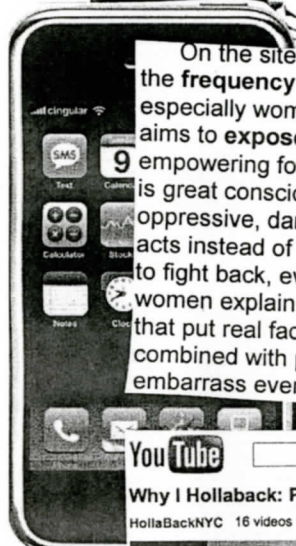


Due to abuse of dowry, & sex-selective abortions, INDIA now faces a gender infanticide. In Kancheepuram, a rural village, we visited a daycare w/ 4♀, 13♂. CHINA's birth ratio is 117♂ to 110♀. By 2020, there will be 30 million more♂. Kidnapping ♀ to be sold as wives is a growing problem in rural areas.

SOUTH AFRICA reports over 30% of pregnant ♀ test HIV+; we visited an orphanage for HIV+ children. For a day in Mauritius, an African island, we visited a ♀'s prison, a rehab for addict mothers & their kids, a ♀'s marketplace, & a refuge center for pregnant teens. ♀ in Mauritius are so uneducated, prostitution & drugs affect 1 in 4 ♀. Karaoke in Japan is AWESOME!



On the site May explains, "Many people, particularly men, are unaware of the frequency and severity of disrespect and intimidation that numerous folks, especially women, experience in public spaces on a daily basis. HollaBackNYC aims to expose and combat street harassment as well as provide an empowering forum in this struggle." Spotlighting this behavior in such a context is great consciousness-raising, as it frames the 'ritual' of catcalls as an oppressive, damaging practice. Once it's widely understood to be offensive acts instead of 'humorous' joking, those who witness it will also feel empowered to fight back, even if they're not the harassed. The Youtube videos, where women explain why they choose to holla back, are powerful firsthand accounts that put real faces, stories, and emotions to the problem. Hopefully this, combined with posting the faces (however blurred or blatant) of harassers, will embarrass everyone into doing their part to end this juvenile behavior.



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Why I Hollaback: Polina's Story interview w/ May @ Prospect.org
HollaBackNYC 16 videos Subscribe

How exactly should we define street harassment?
It's a sticky question, and I know that everyone wants an easy answer on that. Street harassment is really up to the women themselves. It's not my job to decide what hurts a woman when she walks down the street.
So the line is where it creeps someone out?
I've decided [it's harassment] if it's not just annoying, if it's scary -- but where that line between annoying and scary is depends on what your life experience is. We have a lot of women who are extremely affected by street harassment because they are survivors of some other form of violence against women. Street harassment, to them, feels like ripping a scab off.
And why does anyone have to push that line in the first place, right?
Exactly, and you know, for some women, even something like "Good morning" is too much. The world I want to create is a world where people can say, "Good morning" and the implication isn't that it's sexual

- Why I Hollaback: Samantha's Story 883 views HollaBackNYC 1:45
- Why I Hollaback: Jerin's Story 722 views HollaBackNYC 1:24
- Why I Hollaback: Selam's Story 488 views HollaBackNYC 1:54
- Why I Hollaback: Justine's Story 145 views HollaBackNYC 0:46
- Sheamus Titantron in G MAJOR 245 views TheThinChamp 3:34
- Why I Hollaback: Melissa's Story 540 views HollaBackNYC 1:35
- Why I Hollaback: Megan's Story 445 views HollaBackNYC 1:04
- Why I Hollaback: Talia's Story 128 views HollaBackNYC 1:31