The Gender Justice Zine

Vol. 1 No. 1
Fall, 2015

"Feminism at its butt-kicking best"
The Gender Justice League
The GJL is a student-run, program-affiliated WGST practicum “committed to bringing positive social change to our community, on and beyond the CU campus.” Members plan and host academic and philanthropic events, and write this newsletter! Membership is open to all majors and minors, and applications are accepted in the Fall and Spring.
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People seem to have different ideas of what it means to be a feminist. Here are a FEW types of feminisms to help direct thinking and validate that everyone can be a different type of feminist. Keep in mind this list is a small compilation and that there are many more types and it is all how one defines themselves!

Cultural Feminism – emphasis on equality for genders while promoting differences in genders
“Emphasizes essential differences (belief that gender differences are part of the essence of females or males, that the differences are not chosen but are part of the nature of a woman or man) between men and women, based on biological differences in reproductive capacity…attributes to those differences distinctive and superior virtues in women”

Liberal Feminism – emphasis on equality for genders while promoting similarities in genders
“Primary goal is gender equality in the public sphere – equal access to education, equal pay, ending job sex segregation, better working conditions – won primarily through legal changes”
Socialist Feminism – emphasis on equal opportunities for all people based on multiple identifying factors that intersect with gender to create oppression for people

“Analyzed the connection between oppression of women and other oppression in society, such as racism and economic justice...fought for decades to create a more equal society that did not exploit the poor and powerless in the ways capitalism did...recognized the fundamental oppression of women in patriarchal society. However, [it] did not recognize gender and only gender as the exclusive basis of all oppression...integrate the recognition of sex discrimination with their work to achieve justice and equality for women, working classes, the poor and all humanity”

Radical Feminism – emphasis equal opportunities for women in comparison to men based on patriarchal structures, not men specifically, that create oppression for people

“Philosophy emphasizing the patriarchal roots of inequality between men and women, or, more specifically, social dominance of women by men...views patriarchy as dividing rights, privileges and power primarily by gender, and as a result oppressing women and privileging men...opposes patriarchy, not men”

"Oh, you’re gay? My friend is gay. Do you know him?"

If you ask most queer identified people you know, most will agree something like this has happened to them in their lifetime. But why is this that people who identify as heterosexual assume that all people with a homosexual orientation know each other?

Sometimes the people asking these questions are good intentioned, but not always. It may be their way of showing you that they know another person who is queer identified, so they are okay with it, although it doesn’t come off this way. It may not be their intent, but this question comes off as outlandish and insensitive. Not all queers know each other, just like not all straight people know each other, or all people of color know each other. It would be of similar caliber if the next heterosexual person you met you asked them if they knew your straight friend. It just is not plausible, and frankly it is extremely offensive. Just because we are a minority in this country doesn’t mean that there are so little of us that we all connect on an intimate level. It isn’t like finding a unicorn in our country, where the chances of finding another are slim to none. As of 2014 our population was around 318.9 million people and statistics show that roughly ten percent of the population is not heterosexual, so that means that there are over 3 million people in our population who are queer identified. Not counting the people who stay closeted or don’t know yet that they are gay. There are probably more queer people out in this country than ten percent, just a lot of people are afraid to admit it to themselves or others for fear of being out casted. So the chances of you never coming across a queer identified person in your lifetime are slim to none, even if you don’t know that that identify that way at first. So don’t ask these questions they are not appreciated by the queer community. I am not so naïve to think that I speak for the queer community, but I am queer identified and I don’t appreciate comments like this and neither do the other people I have consulted with. So next time you go to ask a question like this, think about getting asked this yourself, and how foolish this sounds.
Women who should be trending:

#Obiageli Ezekwesili

Champion of the #BringBackOurGirls Campaign

#Tamara Adrian

First openly transgender woman elected to the Venezuelan National Assembly

#Maryam Mirzakhani

First female medal recipient
Try As They Might, Women Are Unable to Hide Their Vapid, Slutty, Westernized Ways.

WE WILL NO LONGER BE SEEN AND NOT HEARD
SPOTLIGHT: WOMEN IN MUSIC

Savages
This London-based post-punk revival group started making music together in 2011. With their uniquely spooky and eerie, yet still hard-hitting, noise rock sound, this all female quartet has emerged as a force to be reckoned with. Comprised of members Jehnny Beth, Gemma Thompson, Ayse Hassan, and UK garage music veteran Fay Milton, Savages released their first album, Silence Yourself, in May 2013 through Beth’s label, Pop Noire and Matador Records. Nominated for the 2013 Mercury Prize, their debut album received high regards from such musical pundits as The Guardian, Pitchfork, and Rolling Stone Magazine. Through a vocal styling reminiscent of Siouxsie and the Banshees, and a lyrical discussion of oppositional politics and anxiety on tracks like “Shut Up”, “Hit Me”, “No Face”, and “She Will”, Savages urges it’s fans and viewers to put down their phones and stop living through screens. Their new album was just released on January 22, 2016. You’re gonna want to hear it.

Courtney Barnett
Through a perfectly distinct, lyrically dominant and guitar heavy composition style, this Australian singer-songwriter has created a sound that is truly all her own. Barnett’s music is layered with cleverly timed, witty, and long-winded lyrics over simple, yet compelling chord progressions and a brassy guitar sound. One of her first musical appearances, The Double Ep: A Sea of Split Peas, was released in 2014 on Milk! Records and features excellent and revealing tracks like “History Eraser” and “Avant Gardener” that are absolute must hears. In March, 2015 Barnett released her phenomenal full-length debut album, Sometimes I Sit and Think, and Sometimes I Just Sit. Through, but not limited to, tracks such as “Elevator Operator”, “Depreston”, and “Pedestrian at Best”, Barnett’s debut album discusses love, relationships, and mortality in a way that will make you bang your head and cry at the same time.

Tacocat
Comprised of vocalist Emily Nokes, bassist Bree McKenna, drummer Leelah Maupin, and guitarist Eric Randall, this quartet, out of Seattle, WA, has created a one-of-a-kind sound combination of surf-pop and pop-punk themes. They released their first and second albums, Shame Spiral
and NVM, in 2010 and 2014 respectively, first with Don’t Stop Believin’ Records and then, later, with their current label Hardly Art. In the not so distant future the group is planning to release their newest album, Lost Time - their first with producer Erik Blood. This album is not only an X-Files reference, but an homage to science fiction nerds, women who’ve had horrible experiences with men, the glory of being socially awkward, and the importance of individual social identity. Look for the albums’ release on April 1, 2016. Hopefully it’s not a prank. That would just be cruel. But, if you don’t want to risk it, you can pre-order the album online at...
http://www.hardlyart.com/shop/tacocat.html
how to cultivate a GLOWING COMPLEXION
MOHAIR AFGHANS with complete knitting instructions
THE CASUAL LOOK FOR SPRING plus a sewing lesson by Mary Johnson
recipes from many lands CHICKEN COOK BOOK GARDEN TALK main dishes: perfect desserts SUPERB SOUFFLÉS the wonderful world of the CIRCUS
Favorite Dishes from BRITTANY
CREATIVE STITCHERY

Look what you can do with LINEN
Five high-fashion ideas

MAGIC MAKE-UP
to complement your coloring
Fine Antique Furniture
Small Walled Gardens
SHELLS—
to Knit or Crochet

SUGAR AND SPICE
A celebration of Spring

Summer Organization
ieri to do it

More Regional Recipes

Brunche
Barbecues
“My mouth is a fire escape. The words coming out don’t care that they are naked. There is something burning in there.”

- Andrea Gibson
I am an angry woman because
I refuse to accept my subordinated place as inferior

based on the circumstances of phytophobia
I refuse to turn my back on humanity
I am an angry woman because
a choice to believe the world exists within its own singularity
because I live with amnesia

because we subscribe to the parading of this paradigm

I am an angry woman for refusing to smile at my own degradation
I am an angry woman for refusing to subscribe to the prescription

why am I an angry woman?

Oh, I see, I am one of those angry women.

"You're a pretty girl, don't get angry."
"Give me a smile, sweetheart."

"Why am I an angry woman?"

I am an angry woman because
I believe in the direction of rationality
I am not a passive observer in the direction it he

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Feminists of the Front Range Marley Jeranko

Last Spring, seniors of the Women and Gender Studies department collaborated on a new project called “Feminists of the Front Range.” Though the project was only active a couple of months during the semester, it received over 350 likes on Facebook and was published into a book. Paige Keller, one of the brains behind, talks with us about what it was like talking feminism and inspiring social justice to the Boulder community:

“The first thing that I want to know is how did this project come to be? What were some of your goals going into this?”

“We had to do a class project last year for Senior Colloquium and it at the same time as the 40th anniversary of the Women’s Studies program here at CU, so we wanted to represent that and show the history of the department. We also wanted to do something that would reach everyone, and social media seemed like the best way to do that. We were all familiar with Humans of New York so we decided to use that as our inspiration for what we wanted to do. We just really wanted to show the diversity in feminism—how it’s changed over the years, over generations.

“What was the process of interviewing people like? How does that work?”

“It was good! I did mine at more public events, I would say. I went to the Transforming Gender Symposium and that was a really interesting experience—we set up a table with a poster that said “what does feminism mean to you?” and people would just come up to us and talk to us about their experience, so I got to talk to a lot of different people—a completely different background of people than I ever would have gotten otherwise. We also went down to Pearl Street and that was also a really interesting experience. It was this really nice day, really crowded, and it was ironic because I was standing—you know where Lush is?—I was standing there—which is usually where there’s not a lot of performers—and I was there at like 9 AM, like claiming my spot, and we’d been there for an hour, already talked to a couple people, and this one performer who’s always down there—and I don’t want to like bad talk him or anything, even though I should cause he’s a jerk!—but he sets up right next to us and he’s like “I don’t agree with what you guys are doing, you need to move” and all this stuff and I was like, are you kidding me? I’m not moving! This is the patriarchy right here! So we stayed and he would publicly say to the people “I’m not with them, I don’t agree with what they’re doing” and then we were just standing there like “is this really happening?”

“Yeah, how do you even respond to that?”

“It was hard because you know as women we’re taught to be passive and nice, but I was just not for that. I don’t know, it kind of tested us.”
“Yeah, it almost proves your point that this is why we need feminism.”

“Totally, and some people would walk by and call out to us and be like “feminazi” or “bitch” or “dyke”—it was really eye opening that’s for sure. But we also had people come up and say “wow, thank you. I’m so glad this is going on.” Like even older men would come up and be like “you guys rule!” It was cool to see both aspects of the spectrum.”

“So you obviously had mixed reactions to this project—what was the best, most meaningful response you got? Is there anything that stands out to you in particular?”

“Not really specifically—for me, the best thing was mostly just being able to explore the diversity of feminism and how so many people came to terms with feminism in different ways. And just their experiences behind it. You think you’ve heard the craziest stories, but you realize you haven’t. This summer I actually went to this women’s group in Lafayette of like 20 women, from like 40 years old to like 95—women that have been in this group since they were teenagers—and I did a presentation for them on feminism and they were just shocked that it’s still around and how much it applies to everyday life. But then hearing their stories of growing up, just really opened up my experience, too. Like this one woman talked to me about her bosses and how they would sexually harass her—just really awful things.”

“It reminds you how powerful story telling can be and why we all need to speak up about our experiences. A lot of times people just don’t talk about those things and I’m sure for a lot of the people it was the first time they’ve really had to think about their relationship to feminism.”

“Definitely. And it was important that we had that safe space, being in a small group with these women who already know each other. It allowed them to share these experiences and realize how similar each individual’s story was and how necessary feminism is for us still today.”

“I’m curious to hear what it was like interviewing men. I know in my personal experience talking to men about feminism, if I don’t already know they identify as feminists, it can be a really awkward situation because they don’t think they’re allowed to claim that word or they think it’s something that is against them.”

“Absolutely, almost every guy I talked to it was a similar experience. Just them being like, not standoffish, but just not understanding themselves as a feminist. Some people were definitely more hesitant, it’s just about making them feel comfortable. If they didn’t want to talk, that was fine—we weren’t trying to make anyone talk or anything—but we had to learn how to read people and figure out where the boundary is. Sometimes you just kind of have to talk them through—help them realize that what they do stand for is what we stand for and that they can identify with this movement, there’s nothing wrong with that. In fact, it’s actually supporting.”

“Were you ever surprised by things that were said—in a good way that is?”
“Yeah definitely! It was fun to see them reflect on their own experiences and see how feminism is impacting them and how they play a role in gendered power dynamics. Like right now, after taking “Masculinities” with Sam Bullington, I’ve thought a lot about the crisis in masculinity and how patriarchy affects everyone.”

“Can you tell me more about the pictures you took for this project?”

“For the pictures it was important to us to acknowledge if someone was telling a really personal story, maybe it was about an experiences with sexual violence, to not take a picture of them that would represent them in a bad way—like as a victim or playing into certain stereotypes or in a way that would potentially put them at risk for shaming. We knew that we would be publishing them online and in a book so we didn’t want to do that in a way that would actually cause more harm than good. So I mean, consent was a big thing. We had to be conscious of what they just told us throughout the whole process. I feel like I did everything I could to protect the person’s identity. It’s so important to acknowledge the power someone has when making a book or a Facebook post, because you’re listening to all these intimate stories and you’re selecting a specific part to create an experience for the viewer, you don’t know how other people are going to interpret it.”

“Where do you see this project going in the future, if it were to continue?”

“I just really hope that it’s easy enough for people to take on as a class project and be used as a guide for people who are new to feminism and what it means and all the different faces of it.”
Boulder, Say NO! to Sexual Violence
March & Rally

Thursday, Nov. 12, 2015
4:30PM - UMC Fountain

Our goals are to raise awareness of sexual violence in all forms and to promote ally-ship. This component is especially important to us as we believe survivors of sexual violence should not stand alone. This march will provide a peaceful vessel for our community to unite and stand in solidarity.

Women and Gender Studies
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Zonta International
Empowering Women Through Service & Advocacy
Sexists, Racist, Anti-Gay, Don't You Take Our Night Away

Boulder, Say No to Sexual Violence!

Claim our bodies, claim our right

Hey Hey Ho Ho The Patriarchy Has Got To Go
Free Confidential Information, Counseling, Advocacy & Support
8:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday - Friday

Office of Victim Assistance Services are free and available to all CU-Boulder Students, Staff and Faculty

Center for Community
Fourth Floor, S440
303.492.8855
http://cuvictimassistance.com

Counseling and Psychological Services
http://counseling.colorado.edu/

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