This personally has been one of my favorite issues. We have been talking about doing a gender issue for a while now. We hoped through this we would explore the struggles by both women and men. The struggle was being professional and unbiased. We tried extremely hard to remain mature, unbiased, and unpredjudiced when we chose the content for this issue. Although many of these topics are sensitive and controversial, they’re topics that need to be discussed and adressed. I really hope you enjoy it!

Erin Casey Lee,
Editor-in-chief
MEET THE STAFF

EDITOR IN-CHIEF
CASEY LEE

MANAGING EDITOR
GRACYN REED

COPY EDITOR
ZACH MIZE

SPORTS EDITOR
NIC YONTER

INTERACTIVE EDITOR
AARON ARNZEN

ADVISOR
DR. J ANTHONY SNORGRASS

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LEXI YANEZ
KYLE GROSS
CHRIS GRISSOM
RYAN MEYER
JESSICA ALBINA

If you’d like to become a contributor, we’d love to hear from you! (Photos, articles, poems, etc. we accept it all!)
talon@avilau.email

ON THE COVER:
Jaymie Collins

ON THE BACK:
Duke Ezeamii

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The Talon Team

We wanted to do a gender issue to explore the many struggles and obstacles each gender faces. We wanted everyone to feel comfortable to share their opinions and thoughts in a safe setting. While many of these topics are sensitive and controversial, our intent was by no means to offend, or misrepresent either sex. We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed writing it.

she belongs in the kitchen
take it like a man
you throw like a girl
WHO RUN THE WORLD?
stand there and look pretty
is she on her period?
MAN UP  BOYS DON’T CRY
know your place
boys will be boys
What is masculinity? Is it being able to say whatever you want and not care about how it affects people? Is it being able to beat up the guy next to you because he looked at your girlfriend the wrong way? Is it getting girls, having “big brass balls,” being a man’s man and a ladies man at the same time?

Masculinity is defined as “possession of the qualities traditionally associated with men: ruggedness, strength, rough, handsome, robustness....” Our society is always constructing social models for how we should or shouldn’t interact. There is conflict when people are not like-minded and don’t agree on these social models. Social models are created by different cultures; and as we know in the U.S., there are many different cultures. How do you possess masculinity wherever you’re at? A city boy will not be seen as very manly to a country boy if he is scared of snakes, wildlife, and doesn’t know how to drive a combine or hunt. Likewise, a country boy will not like fast-paced city life. In other words, men may find out how to act masculine in their own culture and find acceptance, but they won’t always get acceptance cross-culturally. Maybe masculinity is a mold for how a male should act and if he does then he will be accepted.

Not all of what social construction has created about masculinity is bad. It’s always good for a man to be strong, tough, driven, loving and courageous but is it not the same for females? Guys, who wants to be around or date a woman who is not strong, tough, driven, loving and courageous? That is part of the makeup of an influential and interesting person. So, should we strive to be just manly or should we strive to have character traits that are the same in every culture: integrity, honor, patience, love, understanding, steadiness, slow to anger, wisdom, and discernment. It seems to me that character is a lot more important throughout the history books than being the strongest physically or having really calloused hands and a great mustache. The people who go down in history and are the most remembered are the people who figured out that good character is the most important thing anyone can possess.

What is masculinity? Does it really matter all that much? Men, don’t forsake the good character traits like love, integrity, and loyalty just to get the high five and acceptance from the dudes next to you.
Breaking Barriers
How whistles all sound the same

Jordan Epps

The barriers with sports are continuing to change. Male coaches have dominated all the men’s professional teams. That is all changing now though. There are four female coaches that are breaking the barrier and getting women one step closer to having the first female head coach in men’s professional sports. With Jen Welters, Nancy Lieberman, Becky Hammon, and Justine Siegal, the games that we have come to know and love, are about to change.

Jen Welters has become the first female coach to be hired in NFL history. She was hired as an intern linebacker coach for the Arizona Cardinals. Before that, she made history for being the first female player signed to a professional men’s indoor football team and to play a down of football at a non-kicking position.

Becky Hammon has made an impact in the basketball world. She spent her time in the WNBA and became the first female coach to be hired to a NBA team. She was first hired by the Dallas Mavericks to coach their D-League team, and then she was hired by the San Antonio Spurs. Becky was assigned to coach the Spurs summer league team: full of rookies. She led the team to a summer league championship in her first year of coaching.

Nancy Lieberman or “Lady Magic” was also a big time player in her career in the WNBA. She pursued a career in coaching starting at the WNBA level but quickly made her way to the NBA D-League. She was appointed the head coach of the Texas Legends and had a successful coaching career there. On July 30th, 2015 Nancy was signed as the assistant coach of the Sacramento Kings. She is only the second female coach to be appointed a spot on a coaching staff of an NBA organization.

Justine Siegal has still made major steps for women in baseball. She was the only female to coach a men’s college baseball team. After that, she went on to be the first female to throw batting practice in the MLB. After being a batting practice pitcher for the Indians, A’s, Rays, and a couple of minor league organizations, she became the head chair of International Baseball Federation. She was also named 1st base coach to a men’s minor league team.

With all these influential women there is hope for females to continue making change in the sports world. With the growth of women coaching in a man’s world, the day when a woman is appointed head coach might not be far away.
Validating Victory - This is no fluke

Nic Yontner

It is Game Six of the American League Championship Series. There are runners on second and third with one out. The opportunity is there for these “fluke” Royals, who once again came back from behind in the late innings, to perhaps nab another game in the playoffs. The Kansas City Royals have a chance to do something that even the most dedicated fans wouldn’t have seen coming just a short, few years ago: make it to the World Series. Twice. In consecutive years. As Wade Davis stared down Josh Donaldson, he showed exactly what the Kansas City faithful have come to realize: Their Royals are damn good.

As much as I love many other things in life, I feel that sports take the cake for the best thing in the world. The way that it allows fans to believe, cheer, and heal is something that cannot be done anywhere else. World tragedies are helped by sports and the tight-knit relationships that sports allow for is unreal.

I was unbelievably blessed to land a job with the Royals last year, and because of this, I have become a bit of a Royals fan. I’ve been a bit spoiled in my two years there, but let me tell you about how amazing it is to see an entire city behind a baseball team.

Last year I was able to witness the finest sporting event I have ever seen, and it might be the finest I ever will see. This was the Wild Card game between the Royals and the Oakland Athletics. After the unprecedented comeback that the Royals were able to accomplish,
the Royals went on a run that made their fans feel that the 29 year wait was worth it as they landed all the way to Game Seven of the World Series. The World Series! With a team that hadn’t made the playoffs in almost three decades.

With this run, the entire city was behind this young team that played the game with a great deal of enthusiasm. Between the blue fountains at the stadium, the blue fountains on the Plaza, and the Royal Blue logo absolutely everywhere in the city, Kansas City believed in this team.

The most impressive part of this run was the class that the city showed. I was told by multiple San Francisco Giants fans that we were the nicest fans that they had seen. October was a month that was new to most of the people in Kansas City, and they loved it so much that they decided to have it for a second year when they won the division this year.

Not only were the Royals playing for another chance in the World Series, they were looking to validate their run that deemed this young team as a team that “got hot at the right time.” This year showed that the Royals were not just a good team, they are on the verge of becoming a great team.

It’s Game Six of the ALCS. Wade Davis, who was a middle-of-the-road starter that was traded for top prospect Jake Odorizzi, has blossomed into one of the greatest bullpen pitchers in the game. He gets Josh Donaldson to groundout to third baseman Mike Moustakas, who started to fulfill his tremendous potential this year, and throws to first baseman Eric Hosmer, who told Kansas City to take all of October off. Boy, was he right. The crowd erupts into a roar that cannot be described with words and the team celebrates on the field with almost every single seat still occupied. They are there to soak in this young team that received two ALCS MVPs (Lorenzo Cain and Alcides Escobar) for another prized prospect in Zack Greinke. A franchise that is on a mission to prove that last year was no fluke. A franchise that flourishes in the spotlight and is on a journey to validate their run last October and bring the city of Kansas City something that they have yearned for: a contender.

If you have the pleasure of attending a game or watching it on TV, cherish it. The team on the field has the time of their lives and it is a joy to get behind a team like that. I hope that the great people of Kansas City continue to have the spirit that they had last year. No matter where the run ends this year, KC will be behind their team showing the same thing that their boys in blue show on the field: passion.
RAPE

IT’S TIME TO TALK
No one in America is more at risk of being raped or assaulted than college women

Yessica Ramirez

Have you ever wondered if the girl sitting behind you in the Learning Commons has been the victim of assault or rape? Or how much the percentage is of incoming freshmen who have been sexually assaulted on campus?

A new study, published in Journal of Adolescent Health, was conducted at an unnamed private university in New York. They found that 19% of women stated that they have been a victim of rape during their first year of college. It’s insane to imagine yourself being in a room with five women, not knowing that one of them has been a victim of rape.

About 15% of women said they were sexually assaulted while under the influence of drugs/alcohol, while 9% said it was all force. The “one in five” statistic comes from a study made in 2007 claiming that one in five women were sexually assaulted on college campuses (Kelly Wallace).

We are all aware of this topic, but some feel like not many people take it seriously when it comes to sexual assault on college campuses. We have talked about this issue and have shown our concern for it, but then we go on about our day as usual and don’t put much thought into it. Why? Do we need more stories on it? Do we need to read more articles to provide us with more information about it?

Many studies have been completed regarding incidents of rape on campuses providing us with information about it yet there are still so many unanswered questions. It’s quite sad that we live in a time where we, women (and men), have to be informed on ways to protect ourselves and prevent sexual assault. One in five women have been raped on college campuses. Think about that.
**RAPE CULTURE IS REAL**

What it is and why it needs to stop

▶ Casey Lee

What is rape culture? It’s the way that we collectively think about rape. More often than not, it’s situations in which sexual assault, rape, and general violence are ignored, trivialized, normalized, or made into jokes. Rape culture is when sexual violence is the norm and victims are blamed for their own assaults. To put it more simply, people aren’t taught not to rape, but are taught not to be raped.

We have this idea that women who dress provocatively are the same as homeowners who don’t lock their doors at night. This goes along the lines of “she was asking for it.” By definition, rape cannot be asked for. When people get robbed we don’t say that they deserve it for not locking their doors. When we do this we’re only blaming the victim. Because of this, we tell women what not do to, what not to wear, and when not to go out.

When women are assaulted and choose to report it they’re only met with questions. Questions like, “What were you wearing?” and, “Were you drinking?” Questioning women about their choices the night of their assault, as opposed to the choices made by the rapist is outlandish. Nobody asks what the rapist was wearing. And why does alcohol excuse his actions but condemn hers?

One out of five American women has been the victim of attempted rape or rape. In the military, one in three women are assaulted by their fellow service members. On college campuses, one in five women are assaulted, but only one in eight report it. Campus rape rates haven’t changed in the last twenty years. Even for victims that decide to report their assault to the police, there’s no guarantee their attackers will be convicted. Rape kits are backlogged by the thousands across the United States. Only about 3% of rapists are ever sentenced to prison. In the military, only 2% are convicted.

In 31 states, if a woman has a child as a result of rape, her rapist can sue for custody and visitation rights. 32,000 women get pregnant from rape in the United States each year.

Rape needs to stop. Rape culture needs to stop. Did you know it’s more effective to yell fire than it is to yell rape?
“‘Consentual’ sex is just sex. To say that implies that there is such a thing as ‘non-consentual sex’, which there isn’t. That’s called rape.”
Yessica Ramirez

October can only mean one thing: Breast Cancer Awareness Month! This month is about raising awareness of the disease. Although many people are informed about it, not many women go through the process of getting checked and detected. According to the U.S. Breast Cancer Statistics, about 1 in 8 women, in the United States, will get breast cancer during any point of her life. It is estimated there will be 231,980 new cases of breast cancer found in American women in 2015. Breast cancer has higher death rates for women than any other cancer. This is why it is vital to get tested. A mammogram is a breast-screening test that can help early detection of breast cancer and can benefit in decreasing the number of deaths. When women are tested, it can aid in finding the cancer, and makes it easier to treat when found early. Breast Cancer Awareness Month is not only to raise the awareness but most importantly, to inform women on how vital it is to get a mammogram. Mammograms play a key role in detecting the disease. Help make a difference and inform others about breast cancer and getting mammograms!

Let’s not forget to mention Avila’s involvement in raising awareness. One of the many ways that Avila contributes is by holding its annual Breast Cancer Awareness Day. Over the past several years, Avila has honored those who’ve battled or are currently battling breast cancer. Though, this year, Avila has changed it up by raising awareness on not just breast cancer, but all other types of cancer.

NFL WEARS PINK IN SUPPORT OF BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

“A Crucial Catch”

Their campaign, “A Crucial Catch,” in partnership with the American Cancer Society, is focused on the importance of regular breast cancer screenings. Throughout October, NFL games will feature players, coaches, and referees wearing pink game apparel, as well as additional on-field and in-stadium branding - all to help raise awareness for this important campaign.
Breast cancer awareness is so closely linked to October, that few know that it’s also Domestic Violence Awareness month as well. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), every nine seconds in the United States a woman is assaulted or beaten. One in three women, and one in four men have been victims of physical violence in their lifetime. On a typical day, there are more than 20,000 phone calls placed to domestic violence hotlines nationwide.

3
The number of women murdered every day by a current or former male partner in the U.S.

38,028,000
The number of women who have experienced physical intimate partner violence in their lifetimes.

1 IN 4
The number of women who will be victims of severe violence by an intimate partner in their lifetimes.

1 IN 7
The number of men who will be victims of severe violence by an intimate partner in their lifetimes.

25
The percentage of physical assaults perpetrated against women that are reported to the police annually.

70
The percentage of women worldwide who will experience physical and/or sexual abuse by an intimate partner during their lifetimes.
We have built a culture that loves sports teams in the United States. However, there are few teams that represent our entire nation the way that the Women’s National Soccer Team did this summer, and has been for the past two decades. This July, our Women’s National Team collected its third FIFA Women’s World Cup title by routing Japan 5-2. This victory gave the U.S. more Women’s World Cup titles than any other nation. However, these ladies are not compensated even close to the amount that their male counterparts are.

In this country soccer is put on the back burner of our sports landscape as the television ratings and salaries for players in MLS (Major League Soccer) is dwarfed by those of the four major professional sports leagues. However, we have found a new interest in soccer over the past two decades beginning with the U.S. hosting the 1994 World Cup. That newfound interest has yet to produce a men’s national team that has advanced past the Quarterfinals in any World Cup event since. In this same time span, the Women’s National team has captured two world cup titles, as well as, Olympic Titles.

Despite the unprecedented run of success, the Women’s National team made eleven times less than their male counterparts. People have made the argument that the Men’s National Team draws a greater audience and generates more exposure than the Women’s. Regardless, the Women’s World Cup drew record-breaking television audiences. In fact, more viewed the semi-final and final games of the Women’s World Cup than the final games of this year’s NBA Finals, Stanley Cup Finals, and last year’s World Series. This event, as well as the previous Women’s World Cup in 2011, proved that women’s soccer can capture the interest of a nation. These women should be compensated accordingly.

It really doesn’t make any logical sense as to why these women receive far less compensation than their male counterparts because in reality the members of the Women’s National Team are far more recognizable than the members of the men’s team due to the simple fact that these ladies win and America loves a winner.
Soccer is a distinctively diverse game. It is so diverse that men and women play the exact same game, but it looks very different. FIFA has decided to take a crack at adding women to their thriving franchise. From personal experience, I can say that they did a fantastic job.

In this year’s edition of the game, twelve women’s teams were added to arguably the best sports franchise out there. Between soccer players and non-soccer players, FIFA is a language in itself. EA Sports allows gamers to play with Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, England, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Spain, Sweden, and the USA on the women’s side.

As can be expected, the USA team is stacked. Whenever you win the World Cup, that can be expected. Germany is the other five-star team and they have quite the squad as well. The top three rated women in the game are all a part of the USA team. Carli Lloyd, Megan Rapinoe, and Abby Wambach. These became household names in the great run the US had in the last World Cup. The excitement was a spectacle to see, as women’s soccer has been growing over the last few years and this helped grow the sport even more here in the US.

FIFA 16 in general is a very well-done game (even though passing is much more difficult than in years past) and adding the women to the game lets fans get a more widespread experience. As FIFA has been known to do over the years, they get better with each and every edition. So the kinks with the women’s side will surely be worked out in the future.
Having a conversation about gender roles can be difficult. Put men and women in the same room and have a conversation about gender, things get heated. Issues women face include a wage gap, job and educational discrimination, and societal inferiority through sexualization.

We can’t seem to agree. It seems that often both parties don’t acknowledge the others struggles. We label each others issues as insignificant while trying to prove that one gender is above the other.

The issue is there’s a stigma connected with feminism. Feminists are often labeled as “man-haters.” This is a false explanation of what feminism is and what it stands for. Feminism is often mistaken. If you look in the dictionary, this is the definition of feminism:

“The belief that women should be allowed the same rights, power, and opportunities as men and be treated in the same way, or the set of activities intended to achieve this state.”

Women should receive the wage value as men for the same job. Women should be able to choose whether and when to become mothers. Women should be free to manage their own property. Women should receive the same education as men.

Feminism is about practicing its values and ideals, which are gender neutral, and fight for liberating all genders and people from restrictions.

Women have been fighting for equal rights for decades. How much harder do we have to fight to stop the oppression?
64% of illiterate adults are women. Globally, women make up 24% of council members. The United States, unlike many other countries, have no paid maternity leave. Women make 77 cents to every man’s dollar. 1 in 3 women is beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused over the course of her lifetime. They earn 10% of the world’s income, and own less than 1% of the world’s property. 10 million girls in developing countries are coaxed, coerced, or forced into marriage under the age of 18 every year. 1 in 7 are under 15.
Men and women: what is the norm?
Ever since I was a little girl, I wanted to be heard. I wanted to be treated fairly, respected, and most importantly, loved. But society gave me these so-called “norms”, that build a boulder in what they think I am capable of doing. The people of today do not understand how “minorities” are given limited options because of what we are told to be, how to act, and what is right. Today, people are defined or stereotyped based on their looks. Since birth, we are categorized by our gender. We should be seen for what is inside rather than the physicalities. One should look for the ambition, the goals, the standards, and the drive one has to get through situations in which they are categorized and assumed to be something less than what they can be. Feminism is defined as “the belief that women are and should be treated as potential intellectual equals and social equals to men.”

Society demands that gender roles that pressure men and women to meet these expectations, when if times have changed how people believe they have, would not be accepted. They expect women to take care of the family, bare children, please their husbands, clean, cook, and do laundry, while having a job that does not go above her husband’s. Women are expected to not have a voice, nor speak up, or even stand out. They are not supposed to be the breadwinners of the family and cannot be head of the house. The male images we are given are the complete opposite of the duties of women: no cooking, cleaning, caring or family responsibility or being expected to have a well-paying job that supplies family needs. And why do we see these gender expectations?

It’s because of the fear of equality.

Granted, some things have eased up as we are trying to change society. Today, many are stepping over barriers. Women can now be CEO’s of a company, and a large percentage of women even raise and supply for their family. However, we as a society are surrounded by the normalities that one cannot help but search for the “normal” gender roles when looking for a partner.

Women want a man that can climb the social ladder, a man that can make a livable income for his family, a man to play with his children and a man that loves his wife. Just as males looks for the “womanly” qualities in his wife or partner: a woman that cooks, cleans, provides for him in every way, is a loving mother and works to contribute to her family. The part where gender becomes an issue is when one challenges or exceeds boundaries. Someone with the same education, same story, and same lifestyle can be presented an opportunity that you know is within your personal ability. This means that you want more and push yourself to bring a chain reaction to those once craved qualities. We are all human and want to be seen and treated as equals, but we are so corrupt as men and women that we often confuse what we want with what is expected.
Lauren Lundburg

You may have been told the signs of domestic violence and what to do if you see someone going through it. You may think, “Oh, it’ll never happen to me or someone I know.” Well, you could be wrong. Your best friend’s sister might be in an abusive relationship and you don’t even know because she is able to hide it well. I was a victim of domestic violence when I was a senior in high school. I was one of those people who thought that could never happen to me.

I thought I had a nice, kind guy whom I would always have a great time with. The first few months seemed OK. I was seeing him a lot and didn’t really notice any signs of abuse or violence. I noticed he had a little bit of a temper, but never thought much of it. After three or four months I noticed that I hadn’t seen my friends in a long time. I started to reach out to them and make the effort to reconnect with them; however Chase* didn’t like that I was seeing my friends. It’s normal for a guy to have a little jealousy, but not to the point that he did. Everyday he started asking to go through my phone, and I felt very invaded of my privacy.

When it came time for him to leave for a trip on winter break, he became very controlling. Chase wanted me to stay home for the entire 10 days that he was gone. I wanted to spend time with my friends that I hadn’t seen in awhile, but he didn’t like that idea whatsoever. When he got back from his trip, he was happy to see me, but was still angry with me that I had spent time with friends. A few days had passed and I thought things had calmed down. The next thing I know, I was at his house, him screaming.
at me and breaking things right in front of me, crushing a whole CD and a case with his bare hands. He wrestled me to the ground a few times, held my hands down while I was crying, as I was begging him to let me go. I couldn’t move. I was afraid of what he was going to do to me. The worst part was, his dad had been downstairs, and he could hear everything. It blows my mind, to this day, that his dad never came up to help me. I think his own parents were afraid of him and his anger. I tried to end things with him over the phone, but he was upset and driving around trying to find me. He eventually broke down crying, begging me to not end things. I said I couldn’t do it anymore. It wasn’t right to be together any longer. He said if he couldn’t have me, he was going to kill himself. He told me goodbye, and hung up. I frantically kept trying to call him to make sure he didn’t harm himself. He finally returned my phone calls after 10 minutes. I expressed how angry I was that he would ever put that on me just because we would break up. I was stupid and decided to stay with him.

The night before graduation I was with him. We somehow ended up in a huge argument that caused us to break up. I was driving him back to his car and exchanging some not-so-kind words. When I was at a stoplight, I had said something to him, he held my right arm down, and punched it so hard that it took me a minute to process what happened. I became the domestic violence victim right there. I was crying and dropped him off at his car and left. I went straight to a friends house. The spot on my arm had started slowly changing colors. My friend had to calm me down. Chase all of a sudden started blowing up my phone, wanting to see me and apologize and get back together. My friend had to take my phone to tell him to stop contacting me. Next thing we knew, he showed up at her house, and was banging on the door. All I wanted was for him to leave. He wasn’t happy that I wouldn’t leave with him. My friend’s dad came outside and asked him to leave. He got in his car, backed up, and hit the stop sign at the top of their street.

The next morning was graduation day. He called me, asking if he still was coming over to ride with my family to the ceremony. I said, “You are no longer invited to this special occasion that I only get one chance to enjoy.” For a few weeks after that, Chase tried to contact me daily, begging for me to get back with him. I said no, this isn’t working, and obviously we aren’t supposed to be together after everything that happened.

I never thought I would go so public with this experience. Over the past few years I have heard stories of others being in abusive relationships. If someone is trying to control you, go through your phone constantly, gets mad for talking to other people, and not wanting you to see your friends, get out of that relationship now. It’s not a healthy relationship; it’s an abusive one. It’s never too late to get help.

*Names have been changed for privacy
How women are being portrayed in the media has been an ongoing discussion for as long as I can remember. It’s no secret that women have been objectified, degraded, manipulated, and used to sell ideas and products. People are finally starting to wonder, “when will it end?” When will our society finally say, “Enough is enough?” Children as young as 8 years old are being exposed to derogatory material and unrealistic body images. Due to technology nowadays there’s virtually no way to control what children and young adults do or don’t see. The documentary Miss Representation, a film referenced throughout this piece, was released in 2011 and was written, directed, and produced by Jennifer Siebel Newsom. It focuses on exposing how our culture and media misrepresents women and how that leads to added flaws in our society. It’s proved to be a very informative and eye opening documentary that provides viewers with information they may have been unaware of before.

According to Miss Representation, children and young adults spend about 10 hours and 45 minutes a day consuming media. A study done by sociologists at the University at Buffalo found that, over the last several decades, the media has portrayed women in an increasingly sexualized way. The same can’t be said about men. There is one specific body type that popular media shows as “desirable” or “beautiful.” On almost every magazine there’s a female celebrity on the cover who appears flawless, skinny, and happy. A feature about how they got their body, their beauty secrets, almost always accompanies them. When thinking about the amount of media children and young adults consume everyday, I can’t help but think, “What are the ramifications of them being exposed to such unattainable and subjective body images?”

The documentary tells us that 53% of 13-year-old girls are unhappy with their bodies; and by the age of 17, that number increases to 78%. There are numerous factors that lead to a negative body image. Research has began to show, according to the National Eating Disorders Association website, “The effect of media on women’s body dissatisfaction, thin ideal internalization,
and disordered eating appears to be stronger among young adults than children and adolescents. This may suggest that long-term exposure during childhood and adolescence lays the foundation for the negative effects of media during early adulthood. Along with negative body image, the American Psychology Association has identified another phenomenon called self-objectification. This is when a female begins to see herself as an outside observer of her own body. This also connects with eating disorders and depression. So how has nothing changed? The answer is simple. Men hold all the power.

“WHEN WILL OUR SOCIETY FINALLY SAY, ‘ENOUGH IS ENOUGH?’”

Hollywood and popular media have the most influence on society. Hollywood especially has the power and opportunity to show the public what a strong, empowered, confident woman looks like. Unfortunately, according to Miss Representation, only 16% of protagonists in films are women. This all leads back to the fact that men are in power. On top of that, women make up only 7% of directors and 13% of film writers in the top 250 grossing films. That means that 97% of what we see and learn through mainstream media is from a male perspective. Half of the total population is hugely misrepresented as we’re basically only getting a one-sided view of every idea and “lesson” blasted to anyone who pays attention to media. Surely I’m not the only one who sees a major problem here.

The lack of women in positions of power is a part of a vicious cycle. More recently women have become fed up with how they’re being portrayed by the media and have been working extremely hard to prove themselves as powerful and adequate in both the workplace and society. How is it that women can work so hard to finally break down barriers yet still fight such a battle when attempting to fill powerful positions? That’s where the vicious cycle comes full circle. Miss Representation points out that the U.S., when compared to other countries, lacks equal representation where it matters most - politics. Though it’s not proven to be the media’s fault, it can almost be assumed that the constant scrutiny of women in politics, and women in general, plays a large part. The media is especially hard on women with power; they use their influence to portray to their audiences that these women are emotional and irrational, painting them as incapable of handling an important position of power. The hold that media has on our society is frightening, and one thing society needs to realize is that with such a drastic misrepresentation in politics, important decisions are being made while women’s opinions are, in a way, silenced.
What in the Buc were they thinking?

Kyle Gross

“The Tampa Bay Buccaneers’ attempt to try to improve women’s knowledge of football, as well as spark women’s interest in the sport and their team has immediately backfired. While the overall intention of the “Tampa Bay Buccaneers RED Women’s Movement” may have been a beneficial idea for the Buccaneers franchise, the Buccaneers completely fumbled with the execution of this program. Almost immediately, the program received public backlash.”

On Thursday August 6, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers released what they named the “RED Women’s Movement”. The purpose of this program was to engage and include the female fan base of the Buccaneers. The following description of the program is from the Buccaneers’ website:

“RED will provide female Buccaneers fans with year-round educational experiences focused on providing a better understanding of the game, along with unprecedented access to their favorite team. In addition, RED will re-invent the female fan experience by providing insight into topics such as: what goes on behind the scenes on game days at Raymond James Stadium; how to maximize their game day experience; how to blend personal Buccaneer pride with the latest NFL fashions; as well as tips on sharing their experiences and ideas via social media platforms such as Pinterest.

RED members will also have access to exclusive networking events throughout the year designed to encourage interaction while providing practical advice on how to express their love for the Bucs into original design projects, fashion-forward team apparel and creative culinary creations.”

What a relief for the female fans of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers! For all women fretting over how to stay up with the newest fashion trends of the NFL, and which recipes will keep your husband’s friends satisfied during your watching party, this program seems to be exactly what you have been looking for!

The topics discussed on RED have been the definition of a play clock, the
basic responsibilities of a running back, and other blatantly simple aspects of football. In a disturbing contrast, there will also be the newest and most delicious tailgating treats. It doesn’t take much for one to make the observation that these completely different facets of football don’t seem to go together.

I understand the overall motive of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in the establishment of the RED program. Its purpose is simply to educate and engage its fan base to eventually generate more revenue for the franchise. Let’s face it; the NFL is a business. Whether fans want to believe it or not, the purpose of the National Football League has always been, and always will be, to make money. As much as fans want to believe that the players of their favorite sports teams care most about on-field results and play for “the love of the game”, it is simply not the case. More so, there is absolutely nothing wrong with that. This program is simply a marketing maneuver. While the intention is completely understandable, the execution was far from acceptable. Maybe it is beneficial to have a program that teaches fans some very basic rules and strategies of football. Maybe it is also advantageous to have a program that broadcasts current NFL fashions, as well as recipes for tailgating and watch parties. However, these aspects of football should not all be blended together and labeled as a “women’s movement”. One would think that society was past this notion that women don’t know football. They do. Of course, not all women know football. On the other hand, not all men know football. So instead of implying that it is the women’s demographic that needs to be educated on the sport of football, both men and women should be addressed. Have a program titled “Football 101” or “Football Basics: Getting to Know the Game”. Have an entirely different group for “culinary creations”, “NFL fashions”, and “social media aspects”. However, do not label any of these groups as programs solely for women or men.

Combining these unrelated concepts and labeling it as a “women’s movement” is demeaning to the large and constant growing demographic that is the female fan base of the NFL. It seems almost ironic to label the Tampa Bay Buccaneers RED Women’s Movement as a “movement”. The release of the program came just days after the Arizona Cardinals hired the first female coach in the history of the NFL. After all, it’s not like the female fan base is severely outnumbered by the male fan base. According to a league-endorsed study of the NFL in 2013, women account for roughly 46 percent of the NFL fan base. That same study also found that 72 percent of women felt that, as a female, they are a valued participant of the NFL. That percentile might just decrease following the release of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers RED Women’s Movement.
In a world driven by media, the most powerful way to influence society is through media itself. Kids and adults spend 11-15 hours a day, on average, consuming all spectrum’s of media. Many problems arise for both boys and girls absorbing this much media at such a young age.

One problem that arises is body image. Media places “ideal” images of what your body should look like in the minds of men and women daily. Skinny, big breasts, and flawless skin is the “normal woman” in girls’ eyes because of how the media portrays them. This can cause girls to fall into bad health habits, coupled with unhealthy mental states, if they do not replicate these Barbie-like physiques. As for boys, the misuse of dietary supplements, and in some cases, steroid use, can also lead to unstable mental and physical health.

Though body image is a major concern of ill influences brought on by media, perhaps the mentality regarding sex is the biggest epidemic of them all. A girl willing to display her body openly will entice boys to pursue her through sexual desires. This causes distractions to them both. The way the media influences people through sex also creates an improper sense of entitlement. Boys see these things through media and think they have control and power over girls because of the submissive actions that girls are portrayed with.

Morals and values are at question with the growing popularity of media use from adults now down to ages younger than ever before. Without changes to the way men and women are portrayed through media, the youth will continue to grow up with these perceptions of how they should look, feel, and act. This will cause them to be misguided and confused when they are forced to face reality.
Porn Kills Love

A brief look at the new drug

Logan Sterling

There is a new anti-drug movement in town! It’s the fight against Pornography and those addicted most often don’t even realize they are. Pornography ruins dreams, expectations, realities, and marriages. The “Porn Kills Love” anti-porn campaign grew out of a group of female and male college students from across the country that are intent on raising awareness of the harmful effects of pornography among fellow college students. The group feels that the readily available and often unmonitored web access on many college campuses has been a significant contributor allowing pornography to run rampant on and off many campus and may even be contributing to other community and personal catastrophes. In addition to addiction, pornography has been tied to sex trafficking, sex slavery, and growing misogyny.

According to an article by Dr. Frank Moncher, a psychological assessor for the Diocese of Arlington published in the September 12, 2014 issue of the Catholic Education Daily, there exists a subculture of tolerance and even promotion of pornography use on many college campuses. Moncher’s article entitled “Culture of Life” was aimed at parents and high school students making them aware of this new concern as they choose colleges, which he feels has risen to levels similar to college co-ed problems with alcohol abuse and intoxication.

The “Porn Kills Love” campaign grew from a few college students who had done research in their classes and thought it important to create an organization geared to address the problem. They are now a non-profit organization committed to showing spreading awareness and the effects of porn on the head, the heart and the world community. The campaign is using a full complement of websites, blogs, infographics, videos, branded apparel, and social media to spread the word and to grow its membership of supporters. Students can get involved by signing a pledge, sharing the video, joining the street team, fundraising, and/or starting local chapters – all options are available on the website fightthenewdrug.org.

The website also provides many additional facts and resources helping to uncover what porn can actually do to a person. If interested in fighting the new war on drugs just visit fightthenewdrug.org and join in.
Over the last several decades, many have fought for equal opportunity inside the workplace. Sometimes, it just doesn’t happen. According to Forbes magazine, the average NBA basketball player made $4.9 million for the 2013-2014 season. The WNBA average salary during 2012 was $70,000. Let’s face it, men’s sports appeal to sports fans more than women’s. The sports industry is just that; an industry. There is no more “team” aspect to professional basketball. It is all about who is playing with Lebron, or what celebrities are sitting front row at the Lakers game. As a whole, the NBA has created an image of excitement, which promotes to its large fan base. One instance where women’s sports have caught up to men’s was the 2015 Women’s U.S. National Soccer Team. They won the 2015 FIFA World Cup in what was a historic year for the team. We have yet to see that catch on with women’s basketball. On a national level, the United States Men’s Olympic team is almost a sure gold medal lock each year behind the great coach of Mike Krzyzewski and the sure talent that the team pulls from the NBA. On the flip side, we don’t see the women’s national team catching any of the spotlight during the Olympic games. There’s one fact that cannot be disputed on why men’s sports are more appealing to viewers; men are naturally bigger, faster, and stronger. Let’s face it, a windmill dunk from the free throw line is much more exciting than a very rare two handed put away that you would see on ESPN2 on a Tuesday night. Media outlets are very understanding of the fact that the NBA attracts more viewers than the WNBA. Primetime outlets for sports are always going to go to the big name teams such as the Lakers, Knicks, Heat, or Bulls. A large market surrounds every team; a market created for their specific city. The biggest reason why the WNBA doesn’t stack up is the marketing factor. The game is too slow to attract viewers, causing the market value to dwindle. The game features mostly college style play, which is solid defense, use of the shot clock, and trying to win the possession statistic. The NBA features a run and gun style of plays and features athleticism.
that is far beyond fathom. The NBA marketing campaign has transformed greatly over the years.

The NBA Finals offers one of the biggest advertising opportunities for businesses. If the WNBA could find a way to speed up the game and make it more exciting, that would enhance the amount of viewers for the short term. Brittney Griner, who attended Baylor University, recently made a splash in the WNBA and created some much needed buzz for the league. However, many players in the WNBA are simply average shooters that can play sound defense, can handle the ball, and are able to make a 3 every now and then.

The NCAA is essentially a stepping-stone for professional sports and the media. With March Madness, conference rivalries, games played on military ships, and crazy college atmospheres, it allows for businesses to advertise to a large audience. Because of this, fans want to see their favorite college players play at the professional level. Just like the WNBA, women’s college basketball does not draw a large amount of viewers or fans to come watch them play. The women’s NCAA tournament is played mostly at host universities until the later rounds. All the while the men’s NCAA tournament has a bidding war between cities to see who will host each year. According to Yahoo Finance, in 2014 General Motors spent $83.2 million on ad space during the NCAA tournament, with AT&T coming in right behind them at $61.3 million.

The WNBA is at a severe disadvantage to grow due to human nature, and I do not anticipate that changing anytime soon. As long as they are combining for 150-point games, the attendance and viewers will stay down. The NBA has seemed to hit the marketing head right on point, and has transformed a sport into a multi-billion-dollar industry. Do I believe that the NBA could help jump start a marketing campaign for the WNBA? Sure. Would it help the sports overall curb appeal over many years? No, probably not. Do I believe that the WNBA has room to grow? Yes, but only if they are able to find a way to transform their game into something a tad more exciting.
Gender Inequalities in the Film Industry
Finding the female James Dean

Jessica Albina

Recent studies have revealed a huge gender gap between men and women in the film industry. For years males have dominated this occupation both on-screen and behind the camera. Despite efforts to fix the gender issue in Hollywood, women still lack equal representation in the film making process.

The communication department at USC did a study on female involvement behind the camera. They found that out of the top 100 films of 2014, 18.9% were produced by females, 11.2% were written by females, and only 1.9% were directed by females. For any woman wanting to pursue a career in film making, you can imagine how statistics like this one might make you feel like the odds are against you. It’s pretty obvious that there’s a problem so the real question is how do we fix this?

If women are too intimidated to go out and break the status quo then nothing will ever change. According to a study by writer and producer, Stephen Follows, the majority of women in film making are only prevalent as costume designers or casting directors. The positions with the most creative control are dominated by males. However, there is a glimmer hope knowing that it’s not totally impossible for a women to direct a feature film. We have directors like Kathryn Bigelow and Angelina Jolie who helped prove to women that it is possible to be successful in this industry.

Why is it so important to have women working behind the scenes you might ask? We need women involved so they can have the opportunity to create new stories and role models. Throughout the history of movies, men have over-sexualized female characters.

Knowing about this gender gap, it may be easy to make excuses for why males control such a huge portion of the film industry. According to Stephen Follows research, there is no difference between the frequencies of theater visits between the genders.

In conclusion, women need to break out and pave new paths for the younger generations to follow. Women want change. I want to see strong independent female protagonists and women playing roles that don’t exploit them. I want to see men making more dramas and women directing big action movies and sci-fi flicks. I want change.
Health Insurance: It’s one of the major “protectors” for families and individuals regarding their medical expenses. It covers injuries, routine check-ups, and medical emergencies. In addition, health insurance also requires a lot of money. Someone in the family is going to have to take care of it. There is always one person or gender who visits the doctor more than the other. This begs the question: Who should have to pay more for more health insurance? Mothers or fathers, husbands or wives, women or men?

The logical answer to this question should be that whomever earns an income, and has the best insurance plan, should have to pay for the health insurance. Still, others might say that both the husband and the wife should have to pay for the insurance. After all, wouldn’t it be cheaper to split it into two payments? Share the burden perhaps?

It’s a tough question to answer. There are those in the debate who are proponents of women paying more for their insurance. Why? They state that women use it more; after all, women see the doctor once a year, are more in tune to illnesses, and are prompted to see the doctor more than their male counterparts. On top of that, women have maternity leave that enters the equation. As for men, they have to basically be dying before they see the doctor and use their health insurance. Advocates for this argument also state that men don’t use this type of insurance as much. They set aside their expenses for other things such as sports, cars, or insurance.

Those who disagree with this argument believe that men should pay more, because, on average, men earn a higher income than women. In a recent study, research showed that women working full-time in the US were typically paid just 79% of what men were paid. That’s a staggering gap.

In the state of Missouri, a male engineer can earn a salary of $45,611 per year. A woman, in that same position (doing the exact same job) will only earn $35,311 per year. That’s an earning ratio of only 77%!

Now, let’s return to the question posed at the beginning of this article, “In a family, who should have to pay more for health insurance?” Both women and men have the opportunities to find a career in the business world, but should men have to pay more because they earn a higher income? Should women have to pay more since they use health insurance more? It’s a tough question and requires even tougher answers.

You decide.
The sexualization of breastfeeding

Casey Lee and Gunnar Kodas

Women’s bodies are exposed all of the time. Online, in the media, in print, etc. However, when it comes to women exposing their breasts to feed their children, everyone loses their shit. You mean women are actually using their breasts the way they were intended? Imagine that.

We sexualize every aspect of a woman’s body. In the media we portray women as a piece of meat. Sex is everyone’s selling point. Then we teach women that are breastfeeding to cover their breasts in public. Even though breasts are in every magazine, on every street corner, and basically a part of everyday life.

We have shamed women into covering themselves when in every other aspect and context, breasts are supported and celebrated. People always want to see your breasts, until you’re feeding a baby, then it’s considered indecent. But I guess who would’ve thought that breasts serve another purpose besides turning people on?

SEEING A WOMAN BREASTFEEDING IN PUBLIC CATCHES ME OFF GUARD BECAUSE I DON’T SEE IT OFTEN. Grace Miller, Junior

IT DOESN’T BOther ME. THAT’S A WOMAN’S JOB TO FEED HER BABY, AND GOD GAVE US BOOBS FOR A REASON. Maci Hodges, Sophomore

I THINK THAT IT IS REALLY UNFAIR FOR WOMEN BECAUSE PART OF THEIR BODY IS BEING USED AS A SIMPLE OBJECT FOR ADVERTISING. John Schwarzel, Junior
From Barbies and Avengers to Frozen dolls and Ninja turtles; these are all the popular toys that kids play with today. The question is: Who exactly is playing with them? Are the girls fighting the Avengers? Are boys dressing the Barbie dolls? Does it even matter? Some say it doesn’t; others don’t really care. It is a topic that has had many people questioning the gender division. What exactly is the proper toy for a child to play with? Or is there a proper toy?

There are many opinions on this subject. One specifically is from an employee at U.S. Toy, Jay Loki, who was more on the neutral side of the issue. Loki mentioned that he hasn’t seen much of the parents buying toys for opposite genders, though the store does have a clear separation between the two. Jay also said, “I am more on the neutral side that every kid should be able to play with whatever toy they want.”

That seems simple enough to say, but thinking about the boundaries someone may see in a store like signs for “boy toys” or “girl toys,” leaves the mind distraught. This may make a parent more unaware of the idea, or even fear, the outcome of going across the gender line. Today it is crystal clear to see a gender divide in the toy aisle. The girl aisle is obviously pink, being all about beauty and domestication, while the boy aisle is blue, with an aggressive undertone filled with action-related toys.

According to an article from New York Times, there hasn’t always been a divide. Elizabeth Sweet says, “In Sears catalog; I found that in 1975, very few toys were explicitly marketed according to gender, and nearly 70 percent show no markings of gender whatsoever. In the 1970s toy ads often defined gender stereotypes by showing girls building and playing airplane captain, and boys cooking in the kitchen.” That shows that there hasn’t always been segregation between the pink and blue aisles. Surely a product like Legos would work as gender-neutral, but Legos has a their own beauty line specifically set for girls. Perhaps art supplies, instruments, or sports would be gender-neutral options for a parent who may not want to cross that gender line. The proper toy depends on the parent, not the aisle sign.
Christopher Grissom

It is a known fact that in American sports female athletes tend to take a back seat to their male counterparts. It’s the reality of our society. We can debate the issue of a male-dominated sports culture and all the underlying stereotypes and implications that come with it, but it also goes beyond that. Topics like body image in women’s athletics get put on the back burner. With body image comes other topics, such as: eating disorders, having breast reductions, and other plastic surgery in women’s athletics. Unfortunately addressing the issue of eating disorders is not as easy of a task as the latter. As it turns out, speaking openly about these issues can actually intensify them. Women will hear how other women took drastic measures in order to lose weight, and if they were already feeling uncomfortable with their body, they will go and try out the things that they heard. Such eating disorders are best dealt with on an individual basis, with a psychologist or specialist. Unfortunately, most athletic departments lack the resources to carry such personnel, leaving coaches to deal with the issue on their own. That is a unique problem because over half of the coaches in women’s sports are male. The percentage of collegiate women athletes struggling with an eating disorder is somewhere around 60%. Yet, it seems as if the issue has become a taboo subject in college athletics. Even mentioning the words “eating disorders” and “athletes” together put people on edge. I think part of the reason is that not much is being said about the underlying ethical problem of bodily integrity. Athletes have a unique relationship with their bodies. By constantly striving to improve in their respective sports, athletes are constantly confronted with their physical limitations. Of course, this struggle with physical limits is a normal part of sports. However, abuse can occur when athletes go to extremes to overcome those limitations, forgetting that their physical bodies constitute a large part of who they are as individuals. You can hurt your body so much that you break faith with yourself. Eating disorders are an example of such an extreme.

In sports like cross country, gymnastics, or track and field, having a thin and lean frame allows athletes to maximize...
their performance. Athletes can push themselves too far in an effort to achieve that body, which can lead to the development of eating disorders of various types and degrees. The tragedy of it all is that athletes who take their drive for success to an unhealthy level develop things like weaker bone density, making them more susceptible to injury. However, because athletes are so focused on their physical wellbeing as it relates to their performance, the line between what is healthy and unhealthy is not always clear.

Despite all of that, body image in women’s athletics also leads to another topic: breast reduction. There are many women who choose to get smaller breasts with cosmetic surgery so they can run faster and perform better on the playing field. Some female athletes have experienced significant performance enhancement thanks to their breast reduction plastic surgery, including soccer players, swimmers, basketball players and marathon runners. For many women, breast reduction surgery helps their body look better proportioned. Simona Halep had breast reduction surgery and that has helped her game a lot. So much so that she was the number three seed at Wimbledon. Halep has been frequently known to credit her improved reaction to the procedure. The 22-year-old Romanian had the breast reduction surgery as a 17-year-old. According to Dr. Michael Gray of the Michigan Cosmetic Surgery Center in West Bloomfield, Michigan, women at any age can improve their performance in sports and run faster and more unencumbered following a breast reduction surgery. But then you have women at the opposite ends of the spectrum like Serena Williams who did just the opposite and is ranked number one in the world in women’s tennis. Based off of society’s image for women in athletics, breast reductions are looked as a great benefit and some women adjust themselves accordingly. For this issue to really be dealt with athletes need to change their perspective of their bodies. An athlete’s body is his or her tool for success. Constantly pushing physical limitations in order to reach the next plateau. While this is a necessary and healthy approach to fitness, athletes must also respect and recognize that their bodies are extensions of their persons, and that any effort to improve upon physical appearance must not damage bodily integrity.

“... ATHLETES ARE CONSTANTLY CONFRONTED WITH THEIR PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS.”
This issue may be about gender, but we use that term very loosely. The “official” definition of gender is being male or female, but we understand that is extremely broad and outdated. We wanted to explore what all aspects of “gender” meant.

Biological sex, gender identity, and gender expression are three separate characteristics that exist on a spectrum. Biological sex is assigned at birth based on the appearance of a newborn’s genitals. Gender identity is psychological and has to do with how a person views him- or herself. Gender expression has to do with how a person chooses to express him- or herself as masculine or feminine.
Approximately 3.5% of American adults identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual, while 0.3% are Transgender. That’s 11.7 million Americans. 9 out of 10 LGBT students have experienced harassment at school. 80% of trans students feel unsafe at school because of their gender expression. 49% of trans people report physical abuse, while 50% of them have been raped or assaulted by a romantic partner. LGBT kids are 4 times as likely to attempt suicide than their straight peers. Overall, 41% of trans people have attempted suicide.
Women make 77 cents for every dollar a man makes. With the gender pay gap, women work 59 days for free every year.

"According to a new study, most men would like women to occasionally pick up the check. The study also found that most women would occasionally like to be paid as much as men for doing the same job."

- Conan O'Brien

... another day, another 77 cents
Have you ever wondered why women aren’t involved in the sciences? Are they just not interested in the field? Are they intimidated? Afraid? Well, there’s no need to be. If you have the qualifications, the desire to study in the field and you’re trying to obtain a scientific degree (such as nursing or radiology), then you just might have found your niche.

During the early 1900s, almost all scientific fields were dominated by males. Women barely had a chance to enter those technical disciplines for multiple reasons. Prejudice, bias, and a secondary education have influenced women’s chances of getting in. Though the likelihoods of achieving those scientific careers were limited and lessened at the time, that is not the case today.

Now, why do we need more women in the sciences? We need them for multiple reasons; one is for a greater representation. Women are underrepresented in the scientific fields and not many are involved. We need more women in order to break down that “wall” of underrepresentation and provide a much-needed dose of the “female perspective!”

Another reason is to increase the confidence of other women entering science-related careers. Because there is a limited amount of women in the sciences, confidence of others aspiring to succeed in those careers can decrease. If more women enter the sciences, the confidence of others attempting to do the same will increase.

The third reason involves visibility. According to theguardian.com, “To understand that science and engineering careers are realistic options, women need to see the evidence that those they identify with, people like them, can and do succeed. They also need to know that the people around them see science and engineering as valid choices for them.” Encouragement from, teachers, parents, siblings, mentors, and friends can assist with the choices women make regarding these types of careers. Women leaning toward those types of careers need to see that it is a realistic option for them. They need to see that it can be done, and that it is not limited to just one gender.
“My coach said I run like a girl, and I said if he ran a little faster he could too.”

▼ Mia Hamm

“You’re a feminist if you go to a Jay Z and Beyoncé concert, and you’re not like, mmm I feel like Beyonce should be making 23 percent less money than Jay Z.”

▼ Aziz Ansari

“Why do people say, “grow some balls?” Balls are weak and sensitive. If you wanna be tough, grow a vagina. Those things can take a pounding.”

▼ Betty White

“This team taught all America’s children that ‘playing like a girl’ means you’re a badass.”

▼ President Obama discussing the United States Women’s National Team

“Both genders should know how to cook because neither feminism or sexism are going to help you when you’re hungry.”

▼ Anonymous
Women in Sports

“Do you even know what the coach’s youngest sons middle name is?”

▼ Casey Lee

Girls aren’t supposed to know anything about sports. And if they do, they shouldn’t know more about them than men. They shouldn’t play sports either. And even if they do, they shouldn’t play them better than men.

Since the beginning of sports, the field has been dominated by men. They’re the ones that are supposed to play it, watch it, talk about it, and report on it. Even when women enter this domain and dare to “run with the boys,” they get to do it for much less recognition, and a significantly less amount of money.

We need to stop acting like women that are involved in or passionate about sports are some unidentifiable anomaly. Every time a woman starts talking about sports, we need to stop quizzing her about her knowledge. It’s as if us not knowing where one player went to college means we know nothing about sports. “Do you even know what the coach’s youngest sons middle name is?” Assuming that them knowing one fact about one player means they know more about sports than we do.

We deserve more credit. Not only for our knowledge, but also for our physical ability. We’re not frail, weak, or delicate. We can kick ass and take names. The stereotyping and ignorance needs to stop. We work hard and we bust our asses and we deserve more credit. More than anything, we deserve respect.

I’m sick of it. I’m sick of being dumbed down and being doubted. I was an athlete for fourteen years and I’m in school to become a sports broadcaster. I am sick of facing discrimination, prejudice, and criticism strictly for the fact that I was born without a penis.

I run like a girl, try to keep up.
“WE CANNOT ALL SUCCEED WHEN HALF OF US ARE HELD BACK.” ▼ Malala Yousafzai