



THE CHRONICLE

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WOMEN & POWER

Working to Define the Role of the Female

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the Chronicle

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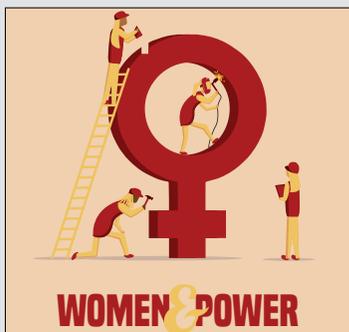
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Letters to the Editor

Letters must be within one typewritten page and signed to be considered for publication. Letters that address issues or concerns of the campus community are encouraged, but the letters column is not a place to air personal grievances against another individual. The Chronicle reserves the right to edit submissions for space, content or libel. Submit via email to chronicle@noctrl.edu or through campus mail, CM 192.



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Illustration and back cover by Kyle Novak

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What's happening at NCC?

Taste of Naperville

September 30
 Wentz Concert Hall
 6:00pm-8:00pm

OkSoberFest

October 6
 Jefferson Commons
 5:00pm-7:00pm

Dyson Dog Days

October 13
 Res/Rec
 12:00pm-2:00pm

Study Abroad Fair

October 18
 White Activities Center
 11:00am-2:00pm



Photo by Kara Kots

Faces of NCC

#FacesOfNCC celebrating #InternationalDayOfPeace

"To me peace is an internal sense of happiness one achieves. I find my peace in the ceramics room in Meiley-Swallow. I became involved in ceramics through the S.L.I.P. (Students lost in pottery) club here on campus two years ago and have loved it ever since. It is a really nice place to go to be alone and relieve any stress I may have that day. It is definitely how I find my internal happiness and peace."

#NorthCentralCollege #Ceramics #Peace

- Anita Wolff

To see more 'Faces of NCC' follow @chroniclencc on Instagram

back to school

It's trendy to be a nerd and geek

Jessica Pacetti
Contributing Writer

Imagine a boy clothed in a short-sleeve white dress shirt, a tie wrapped around his neck, thick rimmed glasses with tape holding the middle together, and a pocket protector full of an assortment of pens. Think of the first word that comes to mind. N-E-R-D.

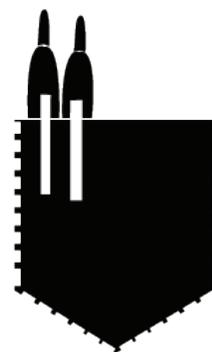
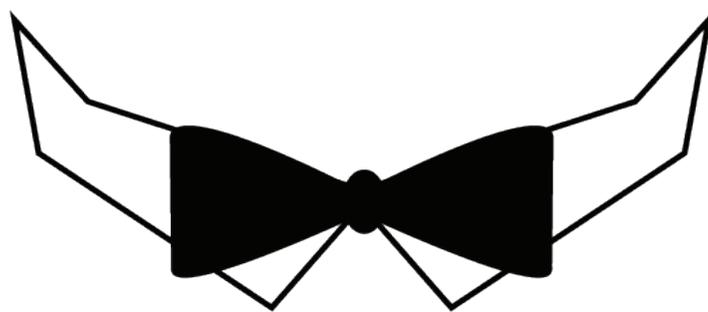
Now picture a new figure of a man in his middle ages wearing glasses with no tape securing the middle and no thick frames, wearing a business button down long sleeve shirt, and is the CEO of one of the most popular technology companies of the 21st century, Apple; this is Tim Cook and he is a modern day N-E-R-D.

The term nerd and geek have had a negative stereotype attached to them as types of people who were socially awkward, worked more in a technological field, and were introverted and mostly keep to themselves.

Tim Cook is just one example of how the stereotype of the nerd and the geek are changing from the negative view of an antisocial tech wizard to a financially and influential person in society. However, Tim Cook may be seen as a new form of a nerd, but the original words nerd and geek are far from their origins and have been shaped through the course of history and common language in society.

"Nerd" has an interesting history. The term was never meant to describe people but a mere fictional creature from a children's book. According to the Boston Globe, the word nerd was invented by Dr. Seuss in his 1950's book "If I Ran the Zoo" which was filled with fantastic creatures. Nerd soon entered the teenage language in 1951 in a Newsweek article that rounded up teenage slang from across the country. Nerd soon took the place of the words drip or square to describe those who were seen as book smart. By the 1970s the word nerd took on a closer meaning to the modern sense of a glasses wearing, pocket protector, tech savvy person.

Geek's history dates back further than the nerd and has been used to describe several different types of people. The original word geek was not used to describe intelligent people but the opposite. Wordorigins.org recorded the first use of the word geek in 1515 to label someone as a simpleton or a fool and continued through until the end of the 19th century. When the word travelled to the United States in the 20th century, geek changed to encompass circus performers who performed in outrageous



acts on stage. It was not until the mid-1970s and '80s when geeks took on its modern association of people with ties to technology and book smart.

As history has shown the definition of nerd and geek never stays consistent. In the 21st century the term is changing once again. Nerd and geek are losing their negative, antisocial label to a more socially acceptable one. In a personally conducted survey, 52 out of the 56 people stated the terms nerd or geek are becoming "cool" and socially acceptable. This change of the term can be seen in one of the longest examples of a stereotypical nerdy field, computer science.

In a 2013 Springer Science + Business Media article, a survey was conducted with high school and college students describing the types of people who work in the computer science field. Some of the stereotypes included having little interest in people, lack of interpersonal skills, and socially awkward.

Dr. Caroline St. Clair, North Central College professor of computer science, believed some of the stereotype came from many students misunderstanding the field.

"Some of the stigma came from the original cubical job, but now it's like a club to go to work," said Dr. St. Clair, North Central College professor of computer science. "I think it's shifting because the field is becoming so broad. We still develop software, but now we work at help desks, ITS programs, and non-profit groups. It is more social time and more group work."

Even in another stereotypical nerdy field of engineering, a positive change can be seen happening.

"I feel there is a stereotype. Many people assume that engineering is filled with really awkward people with no social skills, or that there are no women in the field. That is simply not the case. There is a very diverse range of people and personalities that enter into engineering, and that trend continues to be the case," said Tom Roe, UIC senior and mechanical engineering major.

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In modern society, the image of the nerd and the geek are moving away from the tech savvy anti-social person to a person who has a strong interest or passion in a certain subject or area. It's a term that more people are identifying them with. In a personal conducted survey in March 2015, out of 56 participants, ten people labeled themselves a nerd, seven as geeks, and 19 as both a nerd and a geek.

"For me personally, it [nerd] was used as an insult in grade school, something you didn't want to be labeled as," stated Roe. "But now, it seems that these terms mean someone who has an interest, and doesn't care what other people think about them for it."

The term now has become a meaning of having a strong passion in something and being able to "geek out" about it. Some of these interests include the more typical nerdy things such as comics and video games but has branched out to include literature, history, even sports nerds.

But what sparked this shift of the terms from a negative, harsh label to a more positive one? One reason is the rise of the nerds themselves.

"One of the things that started to change was many nerds started to achieve financial success," stated Dr. Karl Kelley, North Central College professor of psychology. "As people began to recognize the value of nerds, the view began to change more. The

nerds started to gain social power."

Basically the nerd who was seen as uncool in school moved onto to become some of the most successful and well known people in the world. According to a BCC article some of the financial successful nerd that paved the way includes Bill Gates, Steve Job, and Mark Zuckerberg. These nerds used their imagination, skills, and grasp of technology to become billionaires. Even Tim Cook has become financially successful as a nerd and now is the CEO of Apple.

Another influence to the positive view is the power within school reshaping the word. Kelley stated that when he came to NCC 28 years ago, the faculty set out to make the nerds "cool." Since then faculty have been eradicating the negative association of the nerd and giving it a more positive outlook by showing successful nerds in history and all they accomplished throughout their lives such as Charles Darwin himself.

"I think any kind of labeling is affecting people and that's why we got together [the faculty] to change it," said Kelley.

A third change can be seen in everyday personal entertainment in society.

"I feel that this change is driven by the addition to classically nerd or geek topics into everyday society, especially in the realm of TV and movies,"

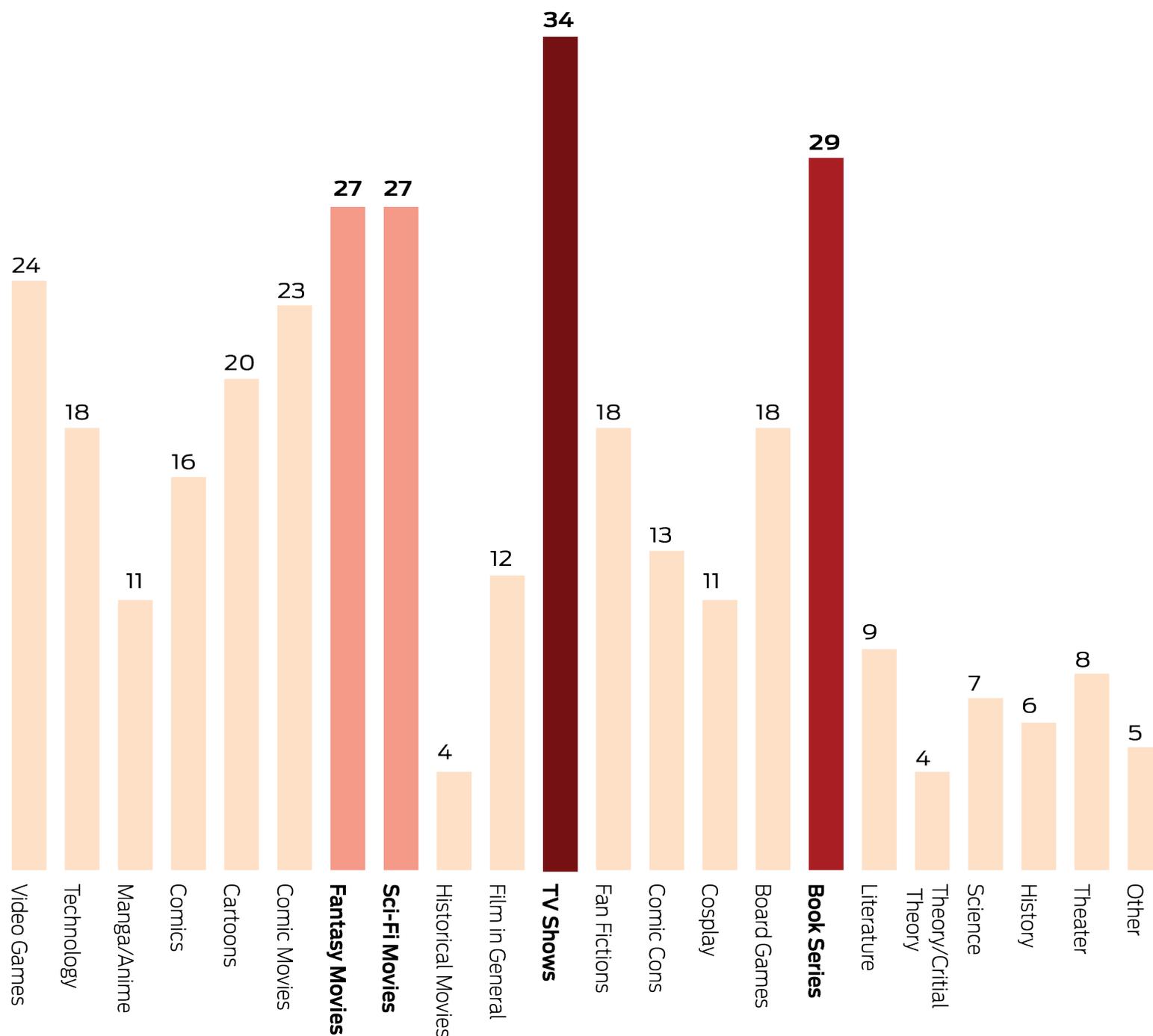
stated Roe.

One of the TV shows that is shaping the image of nerd and geek into a cool one is "The Big Bang Theory." The LA Times reported in October 2014 that this show about four nerdy scientist guys was the No. 1 show in the nation with 15.5 million viewers between the ages of 18-to-49-years-old. Even comic book movies, once viewed as nerdy, have become some of the highest grossing films of the 21st century. According to boxofficemojo.com, Marvel Studios, a comic based movie industry, has grossed nearly \$2.95 billion with all of their films since the release of "Iron Man" in 2008.

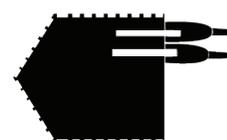
In a personal conducted survey many of the participants stated that the other reason why people are becoming more open to the term nerd and geek is because people are taking more pride in who they are and their interest and never backing down from it.

Today, the image of a nerd is no longer the guy with glasses and a pocket protector. Now the nerd has become a person wearing a comic t-shirt, a person holding a literature book, a person carrying a camera for video or photography, or even a person carrying a baseball.

"If you are passionate about your field, then you can be a nerd," said Dr. St. Clair.



What Are You Nerdy/Geeky About?



bringing awareness

Scene set: harassment

By Elizabeth Baumgartner
Contributing Writer



The night is quiet until the rattled sounds of drunken folly spill over. Stumbling from the alley are a group of inebriated men and women.

"Something like that chick!" one of the guys yells.

"Don't say that, it sounds creepy and wrong," another comments.

"So? It's something I want!" The first guy replies.

Covered in stockings and a baggy black hoodie, she bears a large red "X" on her back; a target for unwanted attention. Walking from a bar alone at 2:30 a.m. Saturday morning shouldn't be this nerve-racking. Houses line the street, outdoor patios wide open, filled with party music and dancing adults enjoying their mid-life crises. The younger adults toss back cheap PBR and Miller Lite on their shoe-string budgets, but they have no complaints with their selection.

The rule of thumb tells girls to have a guy they trust with them at these late hours. Several other rules ring loudly, constantly, with every step towards home.

Keep your guard up. Do you have the pepper spray at the ready? Don't have music on. Look straight ahead or down.

"Hey baby, want to get together?"

Don't respond. The walk home quickly turns you into an unearned walk of hypothetical shame. People deem you a slut or whore, and some even make genuine efforts to proposition sex. A 2014 study found that 65 percent of women have experienced street harassment, and these comments and propositions are not restricted to late nights. Ten o'clock in the morning. The sky is open and the sun illuminates the day. A van of college boys drives past with some of them hanging their heads out of the window.

"Hey baby, what's up? I said what's up?"

Just keep walking. Flipping them off will get a rise out of them. The passing moments are tense. Will

they hop out at the red light and confront you? Or will they carry on? Nobody knows, these situations are unpredictable. Nearly 95 percent of women had been honked at, whistled, or cat-called in 2008.

Even dating someone for a long period of time comes with a price tag. A debt to offer up, to do anything to please them.

"I took you out." He says, irritation in his voice. "You owe me."

Refusal only escalates the intensity of the rhetoric.

"We're dating, you need to do it." "I bought you this gift, you should show me how much you appreciate it."

"No." You bravely reply.

Ugly, fat, insecure, crazy, screwed up'- these insults are just the beginning. His irritation has grown to anger, and he vents it out on you. You understand though, it's how all relationships are. Right? In 2010, Fifty-seven percent of college students said it was difficult to define what relational abuse is.

An afternoon spent indoors. The TV is on with some cartoon re-run about a steampunk magical world where the characters can control the four elements. It doesn't catch the attention of an 18 year-old seated close to this month's girlfriend. "Please? I really want to," He begs. You hesitate, thinking: Not again, this isn't what you want. Boredom does not mean "making love" should happen.

"Come on, we can stop if you really don't want to."

He's persistent.

Lies. No, no, no.

"Don't be upset with me, I love you."

Selfish and guilty, what he says you are and how you feel. It's your womanly duty to satisfy his needs. This is expected, don't get upset. A study done in 2005 found sixty-eight percent of women said that their partners sexually assaulted them. The blurred lines of consent while in a relationship triggers confusion for what is a need, what is a want, and what is a demand. Dating is supposed to be simple; a meaningful experience filled with affection and respect. Walking home after going out shouldn't be dangerous-especially when fully clothed.

Being in a relationship does not entitle you or your partner to unlimited, unwarranted sex. You never

know who will experience these situations; they're difficult to detect and more so to avoid. You never fully understand the dehumanization caused by these situations until it happens to you, and even if it never does, it still happens.



Being in a relationship does not entitle you or your partner to **unlimited, unwarranted sex.**

"Be an active bystander because sooner or later you or someone you love could be a victim too." - Shahla Khan

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Minor: Sociology
Program: DERE, The American College of Greece



Morgan Mason *College Scholar*
Major: Exercise Science
Minor: Coaching
Program: University of Limerick, Ireland



Zoe Coulter
Majors: International Business and Spanish
Minor: Organizational Communication
Program: NCC-in-Costa Rica



Rebecca Peraino
Major: Elementary Education
Minor: Spanish
Program: NCC-in-Costa Rica



Katie Dickson *College Scholar*
Majors: Secondary Education and History
Program: University of York, England



Haley Rhew
Majors: Psychology and Marketing
Minors: Spanish and Conflict Resolution
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Justin Wysocke *College Scholar*
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Program: Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Spain



Stephen Kossak
Majors: Theatrical Design and Technology
Program: Linnaeus University, Sweden



Anna Mancl
Majors: Music, Chinese and Education
Minor: East Asian Studies
Program: Beijing Language and Culture University, China

Save the Date!

Study Abroad Fair
Oct. 18th
11am-2pm
2nd floor, WAC

Welcome an Ambassador in your classroom or to speak to your team!

If you are interested in inviting a Study Abroad Ambassador to speak to your class, team or student group on campus, please feel free to contact them directly, or contact the Office of International Programs at x5132.

Students, need study abroad advice? Feel free to contact the Study Abroad Ambassadors and ask about their experiences abroad!

empowerment

What is the “f-word”?

Elizabeth Baumgartner
Contributing Writer

Man-haters. Feminazis. Social elitists. These are a couple insults that most people call feminists. In the last few years, feminism has made a resurgence to the forefront of western culture. Celebrities post and discuss feminism across all social platforms, and the entertainment industry is taking a firm stance in line with feminist ideals.

However, as feminism continues to spread through modern societies, its true definition has become muddled, begging the question: what exactly is feminism?

In recent history, there have been four waves of feminism. The first ignited the women’s suffragist movement in the early 1900’s. Ideas of free love encouraged by peaceful protests triggered the second wave in the 1960’s, and rolled into the third wave during the 90’s.

The fourth wave has grown in size over the past decade, and since 2014 has crashed upon society’s shores with a vengeance. Constructive dialogue about women’s reproductive rights, birth control, body positivity, and equal pay in the workplace have become daily conversations.

Websites like Rookie Magazine, a site for teenage girls which talks about popular social trends, continuously have articles about gender equality. Alternatively, Tumblr and Twitter have developed into their own soapbox for generating a view into how feminists think and perceive the world.

So, are you...?

The feminists behind this fourth wave face numerous obstacles, one of which being a harshly negative stereotype attached to the word.

North Central College student, Shekia Baker ‘16, says, “The word [feminism] equals a negative connotation,” she explains, “labels add to stereotypes, which is why I don’t like labels.”

Stereotypes for feminists at their extreme include a hatred of men, unshaved underarms and legs, short hair, being loud, and often times, appearing physically displeasing. Identifying as a feminist carries taboos. Feminists are said to exclude men, be lesbians, and generally be unattractive. These horrific rumors and visualizations construct a disconnect between society and the true cause being pursued.

However, these perceptions don’t stop people from placing a flashing dot on themselves.

“Of course I consider myself a feminist. The concept of feminism is incredibly elementary, yet it has been so sensationalized that it has become controversial,” says Megan Howard, a former NCC student. “I generally assume that the belief in equality is so widely accepted, particularly by millennial’s and generation X, that all moral citizens are feminists even if they don’t necessarily subscribe to the feminist label.”

A Washington Post-Kaiser Poll from January 2016 found that sixty-three percent of women between the ages of 18-34, identify as a feminist. The same poll also found that twenty-three percent of men identify as a feminist.

The seventy-seven percent of men who don’t identify as feminist have their own reasons. Steve Henson, ‘16 says, “you don’t have to be a feminist to believe that everyone deserve equality.”

Traditionally, non-identification with feminism implied that you did not feel there is a need for equality among genders/sexes. In recent years, that idea is changing; people may be in support of equality for all, they simply don’t want, or care, to be labeled as feminists. In a sense this mindset could lead to a society where the term “feminist” is irrelevant; if all but a few believe in equality, then only the minority would be labeled, as they differ from the social norm.

Because of the negative stigma that has consistently surrounded the “f-word” though, many individuals shy away from the label and simply will say statements such as, “I believe in equality for all,” or, “why is it called feminism if it’s supposed to be for everyone?”

Throughout my interviews, I discovered that most individuals around the NCC campus identified as a feminist, or has a firm stance on equality for all.

The controversial topic of traditional women standards and their place, never came up. Most people were hesitant to admit they were not a feminist, yet some were embarrassed to say they were a feminist. In a culture growing in acceptance and inclusivity, the way social movements are being depicted by the media is causing a surge of socio-political action and conversation.

Why You Hatin’?

“Feminists are men and women who believe in pursuing equality for women in all facets of life, but instead are most memorably caricatured as belligerent gender-elitists.” says Howard.

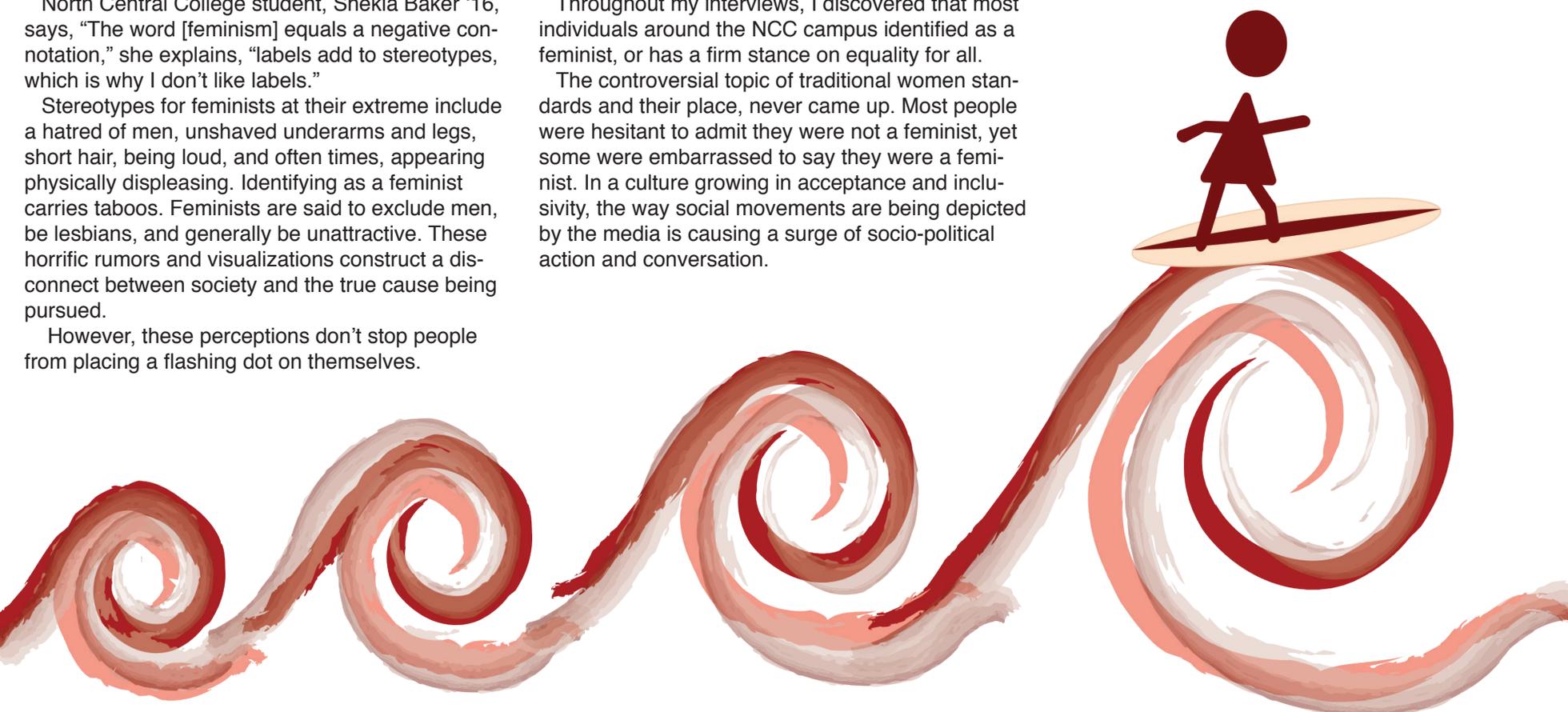
Most media outlets place radicalized feminist in front of the camera. They are the most outrageously vibrant and therefore, catch the most attention. Because of this selectivity Howard explain that, “Media portrayal of “feminism” invokes images of unshaven women with pitchforks held at the throats of ‘innocent’ men.”

Labelling someone as a feminist during a newscast can radiate a particular vibe. Radical Feminists, or Rad Fems for short, are extreme in their ideologies; these women believe men should be beneath them, or eradicated, or that women are the elite sex. They do not represent what true feminism is.

The media has been under scrutiny for the past few years. From the recent portrayal of a college man who raped an unconscious women, to race tensions and politics, the public is calling out for unbiased, unsterotypical reporting.

Baker says while she does not agree with Rad Fems, she understands that they may have circumstances which positioned them to come to this point of thought, “I want to understand them and how they think,” said Baker.

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Race + Feminism

A high generation of interrogation began after the Ferguson shooting, and the way the victim, Michael Brown had been portrayed on news outlets.

“We are always fighting for black equality in both genders,” Baker says, “People have underestimated me in work situations because I am a black woman.”

Social divides are still prominent in western societies; race, gender, and sexual preference all separate people into groups. The fourth wave of feminism has carried in discussions of all these human traits, demanding a resolution where people are equal through all eyes, regardless of who they are. Despite the rallying cry for change, our societies still show signs of men and women being split, most prominently through gender and race.

Tennis star Serena Williams is the highest-earning female athlete in the world. She got \$495,000 from the U.S. open whereas her male counterpart received \$731,000.

Williams is one of many black women who are held to a double standard.

“Black women tend to be on the bottom for traditional feminism,” Henson says, “there are more significant issues for black women that go beyond feminism.”

Who controls what is important to address in this movement? A new argument brought forth by POC calls out white feminists for stifling their race/ethnicity-specific issues. Sociology major, Hannah Juirik '16 explains that this recent development can assist with further addressing race issues within feminism.

“I think the whole idea of white feminism is so fascinating. We could only have identified this problem in the fourth wave due to the recent embracing of intersectionality...I’m adamantly against those that don’t see the ways in which their privilege impacts their experiences, so I definitely believe in shutting white feminism down.” said Juirik.

Feminists like Lena Dunham, the creator of the HBO show Girls is one of the most scrutinized

“white feminist” in mainstream media.

Her memoir details intimate moments with her younger sister, and received praise for exploring her sexuality at a young age. Rather than being demonized by the public, which many other non-white women had been.

Understanding privilege is another addition to feminism.

Dunham was not vilified for her actions, yet Beyonce, a famous hip-hop artist, received heavy criticism for her recent video album “Lemonade”, which touched on several social issues featuring black men and women. These examples, and others, show a clear line of hypocrisy from the media and society. Women with “white privilege” and with a higher rank in the power elite should be encouraged to act as middlemen for women who are not listened to, or are automatically placed in a stereotypical box due to aspects which are out of their control.

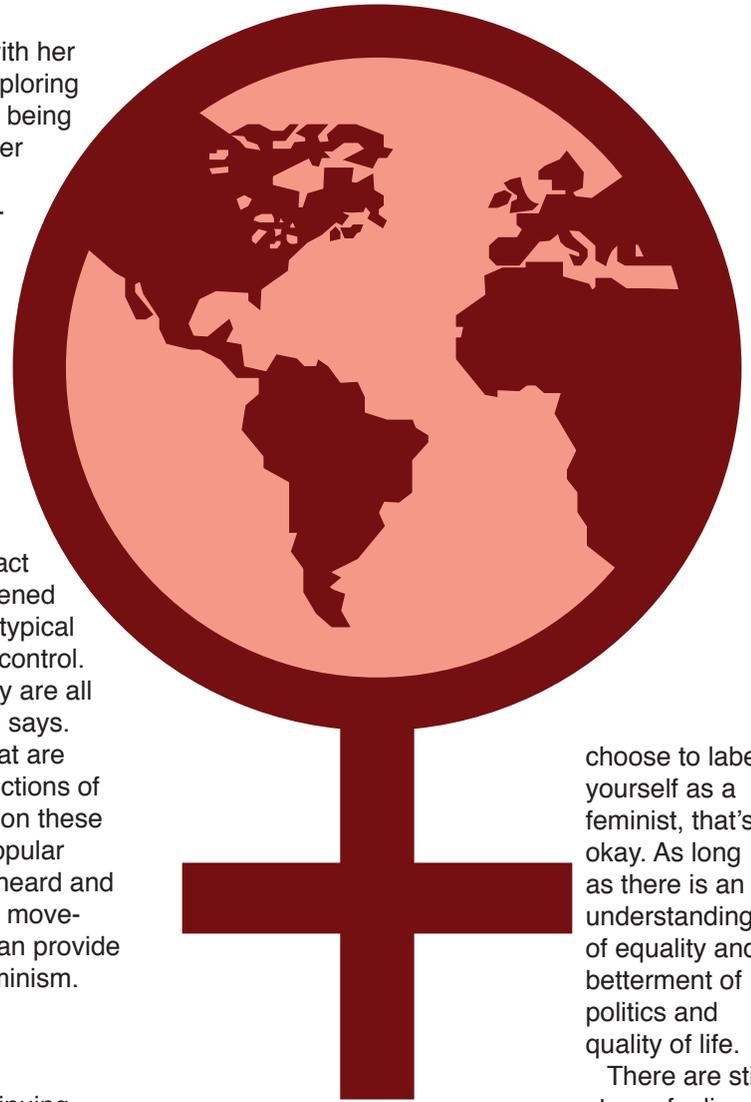
“Women should help other women. They are all trying to fight for the same thing.” Henson says.

Unity and cohesion are primary traits that are needed to progress feminism. Dividing sections of “white”, “black”, “gay”, places importance on these issues and ties them together, much to popular misconception. These issues need to be heard and addressed, and of them the largest heard movement is feminism. Utilizing that platform can provide a stage for POC, LGTBQA, as well as feminism.

What Now?

Feminism is equality based for all. Continuing negative representations only creates more limitations for those wanting change. While we can’t censor media and tell them what to write, being positive, educated figures can project the idea of feminism to a respected stance.

White feminists also have a responsibilities to other women to speak on their behalf for further progression of an equal society. Even if you do not



choose to label yourself as a feminist, that’s okay. As long as there is an understanding of equality and betterment of politics and quality of life.

There are still strong feelings about equality and feminism, and the discussion will continue to grow, as more people become aware of its importance.

“This appeals to everyone. Equality is for everybody and if you don’t believe in that,” says Baker, “then there’s something wrong with you.”

Dear body shamers

Halle Olson
Contributing Writer

“Hey, Skinny Minnie.”
“Hey, Twiggy.”
“Why don’t you eat?”
“You know anorexia is bad for you, right?”

These are just a few of the things I heard growing up. The names were seen as terms of endearment by family members. I thought they were endearing as well at the time. Now I see them as a way to pick me out from the rest of the group. The small one. The thin one. The one who can be lifted up with one hand.

The latter two statements started to come around in middle school. I didn’t reach 100 pounds until I was around 14 or 15. The lack of “meat on my bones,” as people loved to point out, became an insecurity that other middle schoolers, particularly girls, fed on.

I distinctly remember the day that we learned about eating disorders in health class. A group of

girls, who would continue to bully me regarding my weight all through high school, turned to me and laughed when the teacher was talking about anorexia.

Nationaleatingdisorders.org lists the following warning signs for anorexia nervosa:

- 1) Dramatic weight loss.
- 2) Preoccupation with weight, food, calories, fat grams, and dieting.
- 3) Refusal to eat certain foods, progressing to restrictions against whole categories of food (e.g. no carbohydrates, etc.).
- 4) Frequent comments about feeling “fat” or over weight despite weight loss.
- 5) Anxiety about gain weight or being “fat.”

- 6) Denial of hunger.
- 7) Development of food rituals (e.g. eating foods in certain orders, excessive chewing, rearranging food on a plate).
- 8) Consistent excuses to avoid mealtimes or situations involving food.
- 9) Excessive, rigid exercise regimen--despite weather, fatigue, illness, or injury, the need to “burn off” calories taken in.
- 10) Withdrawal from usual friends and activities.
- 11) In general, behaviors and attitudes indicating that weight loss, dieting, and control of food are becoming primary concerns.

COMMENTARY

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Out of these 11 warning signs, I didn't display a single one. I may be tiny, but trust me, I can put food away like you wouldn't believe (I ate seven rolls, an 8 ounce steak and two loaded sweet potatoes in one sitting at Texas Roadhouse).

Many other girls, like me, are experiencing the same kind of issues. With the rise of the body positivity movement, the media is shifting its focus to larger women and saying that this is what people should aspire to. "Love your body no matter what."

"Love your body no matter what."

But how can you love your body if people are constantly telling you that you're too thin, unhealthy, and accuse you of having serious health issues such as eating disorders?

A lot of people in today's society will focus on fat shaming, but skinny shaming is just as real. Kate Moss experienced this during her rise as a supermodel in the '90s: "I always used to get teased for being so thin...They pressurize girls so much into being something that they're not, that society thinks or that the media thinks they should be. If they're

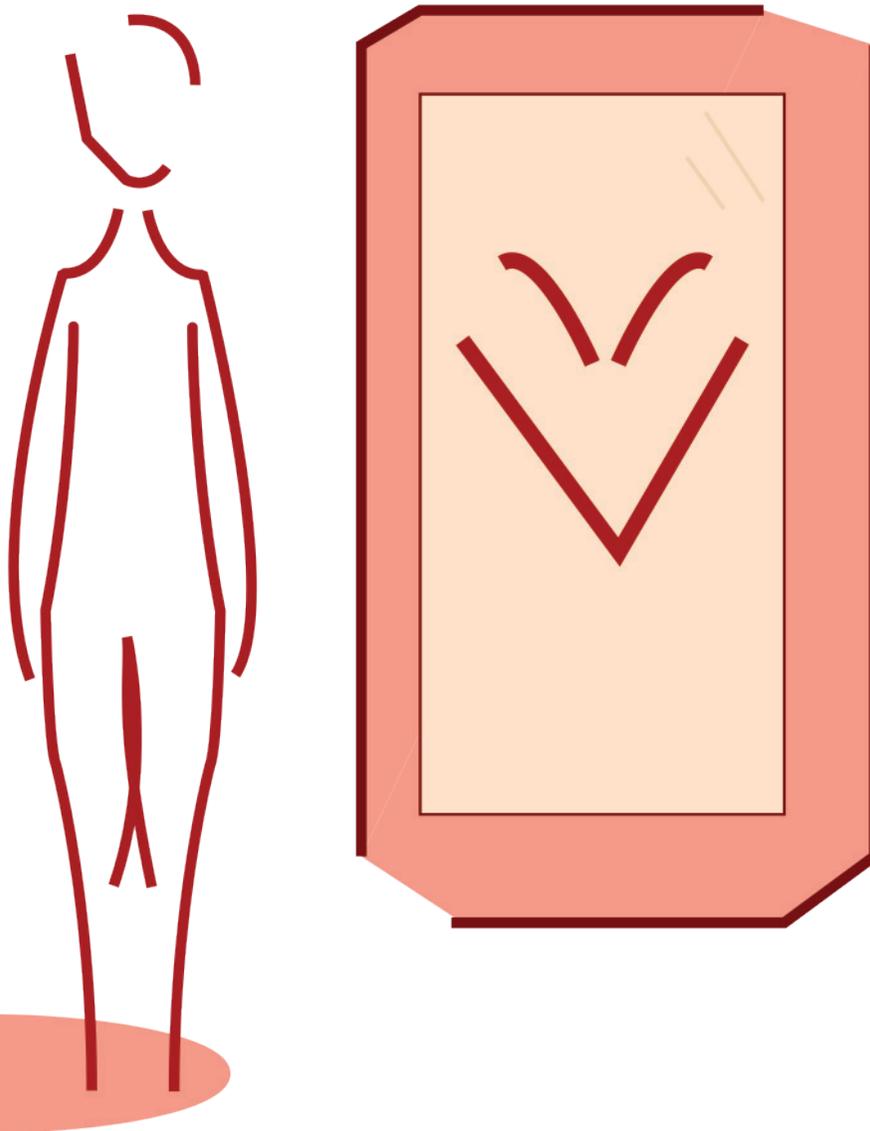
pretending to be somebody else, they're not going to be their best," she told author Maureen Callahan in "Champagne Supernovas."

The media is now supporting a healthier body type than what they focused on a decade or so ago, but now that leaves skinny girls subject to body shaming. So here's my thoughts for these body shamers:

People come in all shapes and sizes. Some may be more genetically inclined toward obesity. Others were born as a skeleton with skin. If we're going to continue this "body positivity" trail that society is moving down, we need to learn to accept all bodies no matter what. I completely understand getting help for those with health issues such as eating disorders or obesity, but for those leading perfectly healthy lives, stop shaming them.

For so long I felt ashamed of being thin. But the way my body is built has led me to do amazing things such as being a collegiate athlete. I can't be ashamed of what my skin and bones of a body can do because I know that I am healthy despite what others may say.

Well, I'm healthy until I step into Texas Roadhouse. Bring on the rolls.



Graphic by Josey Carpenter

5 Songs About Feminism

The 1990's started a conversation for women and equal rights. To discuss this issue, a popular avenue chosen was through music. Music during the 90's ranged from ballads, worn 80's rock and pop, to fast-paced, bubblegum pop-rock. Some of these songs are rawer in nature, but have a significant message.

1. *Rebel Girl*, Bikini Kill



The 90's Riot Grrrl anthem. Bikini Kill's songs circled around feminism, body image, and equality among genders in the punk music scene.

2. *Salute*, Little Mix



The four-piece pop group wears high heels and dresses when performing. That's pretty intense. Salute is a poppy dance song that looks to destroy the patriarchy and its' preconceived notions about women.

3. *Girl in a Country Song*, Maddie & Tae



The country music genre is known for it's twangy ballads about heartbreak and partying. The depiction of women in these songs often refer to them as "baby" or "hottie" The two-piece band created this song that calls out men and says to use their actual names.

4. *Hard Out Here*, Lily Allen



The British pop-artist became M.I.A. in the music scene after she settled down. The single, released in 2014, details double-standards women face from sexuality to body image.

5. *Transgender Dysmorphia Blues, Against Me!*



Front woman, Laura Jane Grace made headlines in 2013 when she spoke about her male to female transition. The punk-rock single points out the struggle Grace had with coming to terms with her true gender, and feelings that came with it.

sports



Photo by Emily Zadny

Head women's basketball coach Michelle Roof celebrates on the sidelines at a home game. Roof serves as a role model in both the sport and in life.

Growing female leaders through sports: North Central athletes, coaches, and staff weigh in on gender in women's athletics

Emily Zadny
Contributing Writer

This past year in the NCAA Division I Final Four Women's Basketball Tournament, all four teams were under the direction of male coaches, the first time in the tournament's history.

If you didn't bat an eye at that statistic, don't beat yourself up. In modern, high revenue women's sports, such as basketball, men hold most head coaching positions. You may be wondering, why is this such a big deal?

Well, back in 1972 when Title IX went into effect, women coached 90 percent of women's sports teams.

By 2012, that number had fallen to fewer than 43 percent, an alarming statistic reported in an article from Fortune Magazine.

Unfortunately, across the aisle, the number seems to have remained the same over the last 40 years; the amount of women coaching collegiate men's sports is just two percent.

One would think 34 years after Title IX that this wouldn't be an issue, but the truth hits hard, and female athletes feel the blow.

My experience with male coaches started when I was young, and I didn't play for a female coach until my freshman year of college. North Central College softball player Brooke Kehoe (17), like countless other women across the country, had a similar experience growing up. She played on her dad's travel team for six years, as well as under other male coaching staff for 13 years.

"It [can be] hard for a male coach to understand a female athlete, especially if they do not have a daughter of their own," said Kehoe, (17). "I had a coach who did not understand how to talk to and coach a female player until he had his own daughter."

Perhaps those qualities are what make Syracuse University women's lacrosse coaches Gary Gait

and Regy Thorpe so successful. The duo, both iconic players during their time, have led the Orange to an overall record of 131-42 over the last eight years.

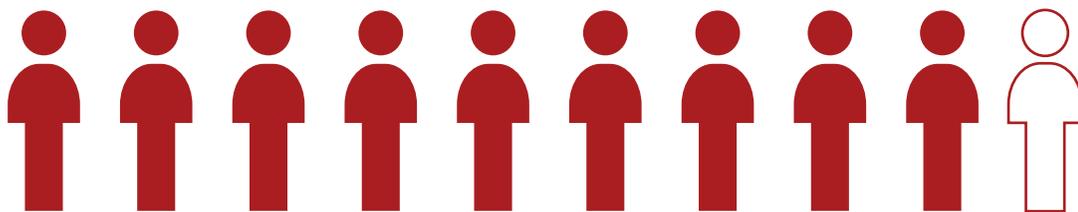
When the positions opened up back in 2007, both Gait and Thorpe had one major factor that influenced their decisions. They sat down with their daughters, both about to start high school, and asked them if they would want to play lacrosse at Syracuse. Both girls said yes, and so Gait and Thorpe accepted the positions.

Taylor Gait just finished her sophomore season at Syracuse and Ella Thorpe wrapped up her final year of eligibility for the Orange as a graduate student.

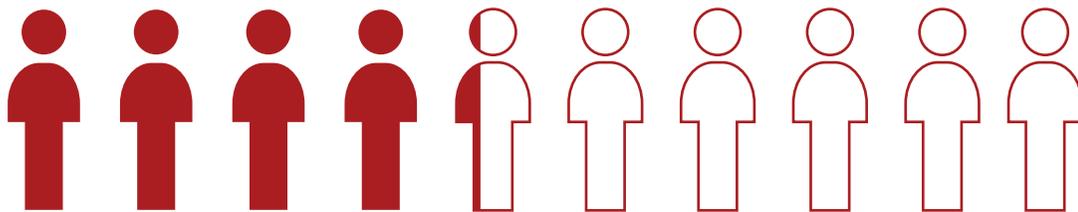
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Sports Teams Coached by Women

1972



2012



Graphic by Kelse Gengler

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Kehoe, unlike Gait and Thorpe, prefers to play for female coaches, but admits she has developed a sound relationship with her current coach, Jim Kulawiak, after playing for him the last three seasons.

"I have a pretty good relationship with [Coach Kulawiak], but there are some things that players feel like they cannot say or talk about with him because he is a man," said Kehoe.

"To connect with my athletes, I just try to help them succeed and believe in them,"

-- Jenny Garrison

"What has made a big difference is having female graduate assistant coaches. You can see the different relationships the players make with our female coaches and they are able to relate more to what we are going through on and off of the field, which is nice to have."

But for sports that require an understanding of how the body works and realizing female's bodies work differently, women gravitate towards other women for guidance. Jenny Garrison, the pioneer behind North Central's women's triathlon team, has always chosen to work with female coaches during her training. Having that experience has taught her

how to work with female athletes and help them achieve the best results.

"As the female body changes through late high school and college, there are a lot of physiology changes and men tend to overlook them," said Garrison. "Men coaches are learning that now and learning how to prevent injury. As a female coach, you've been through it all and that's why there's a huge difference in what we pay attention to."

Regardless, Garrison knows the importance of building a relationship with her athletes. Female athletes respond better to a unique communication style and being able to develop emotional connections with their coaches and peers, something she has worked into her coaching philosophy.

"To connect with my athletes, I just try to help them succeed and believe in them," she said.

"When they know they can have confidence in you [as a coach] and know you support them, they can give you 100%."

Her theory appears to be a good one, as female endurance athletes want the same qualities in their coaches. Women's cross country and track and field athlete Tori Capozziello '17, agrees that sometimes, female student athletes need someone on the sidelines who understands the challenges

they face both in sport and life. Capozziello has had multiple male and female coaches during her nine years of running. While she does not suggest any were better or worse because of gender, Capozziello believes female coaches like North Central College women's track and field coach Kari Kluckhohn offer more to their athletes than developing skill alone.

"The female coaches I've had tend to be more responsive to emotions and more cautious about how they say things to their athletes," said Capozziello. "Coach Kari can be blunt but she still understands athletes' emotional needs and won't communicate the same with everyone. A lot of male coaches I have had are very straightforward and sometimes a little too intense."

Being a member of the cross country and track and field teams means Capozziello works with both a male and female coach. In the fall, she runs for women's cross country coach Mahesh Narayanan and in the spring, she is in the hands of Kluckhohn. With Narayanan, a lot of their conversations focus on her times, splits, and training regime. With Kluckhohn, while those elements are important to talk about, she also incorporates mental and emotional training to help build her athletes' confidence in races.

Capozziello knows those qualities are innate in female coaches and believes they are vital to a female athlete's development both as a player and person.

"I think there should be more female leadership [in women's sports] because it gives female athletes role models," she said. "It's easier to have aspirations for success following your female coach because you can relate. I see Coach Kari and I know her accomplishments and I know I want to do that. Female athletes need that [relationship] so that they know they can be competitive and successful."

North Central College Assistant Athletic Director Sue Kane is a perfect example of that leadership. An All-American, seven time individual champion, and Hall of Fame Track and Field athlete during her time as a Cardinal, Kane worked her way up through the administrative system after graduation.

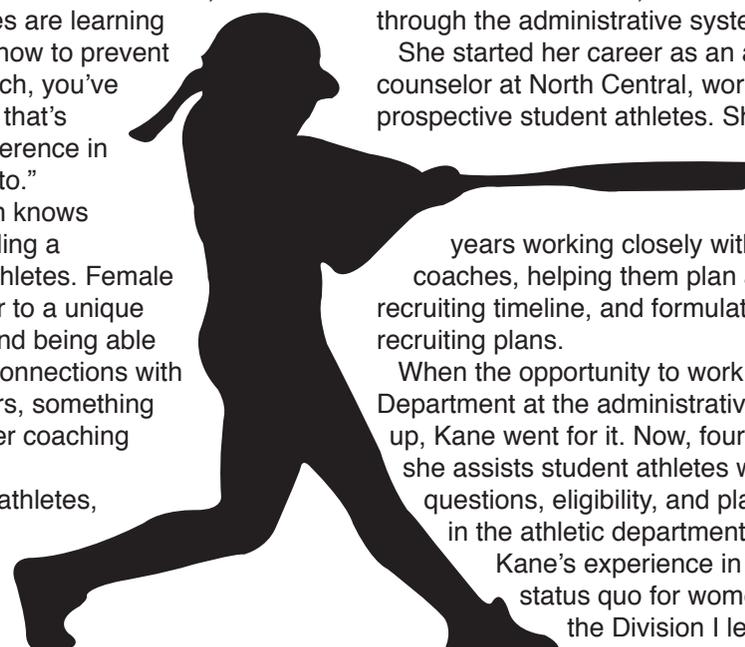
She started her career as an admissions counselor at North Central, working with prospective student athletes. She then became the associate director where she spent the next four

years working closely with the coaches, helping them plan athletic visits, recruiting timeline, and formulate comprehensive recruiting plans.

When the opportunity to work in the Athletic Department at the administrative level opened up, Kane went for it. Now, fourteen years later, she assists student athletes with compliance questions, eligibility, and plays an important role in the athletic department.

Kane's experience in athletics is not the status quo for women in sports. At the Division I level, there are 313 athletic directors and only 37 are women, according to an article in the New York Times. The number of women holding administrative leadership in the 65 colleges and universities among the Big Five conferences is even smaller: only three women are full time athletic directors.

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Kane is not a statistic but more so an example for young women and female student athletes. Her strong leadership skills and competitive nature helped propel her to grow her career and strive for success at the highest levels.

"Four years ago when I showed up at an NCAA conference, you could easily count the women in the building. Even in our different meetings, I was one of three women at [College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin] meetings," she said. "That has definitely changed. We are seeing more women in general in administration and coaching. Professional sports are starting to set that precedent in the NBA and football. It's exciting to see."



"Four years ago when I showed up at an NCAA conference, you could easily **count** the women in the building."

-- Sue Kane

"But you still have to pay your dues; you have to break in at the ground level as a graduate assistant and do some smaller projects before you're offered that big role."

That big role has allowed her to help North Central develop a diverse culture in women's sports. When hiring coaches, Kane and her staff make sure to post job listings on diverse list serves that cater to women, ethnic groups, and organizations that reach geographically diverse candidates.

"We are always looking for new candidates and try to pull in the most diverse pool. I feel Title IX has come a long way and now we are able to have really qualified candidates who are not only experienced but also diverse. I am personally interested in that because of my own background [as an ethnic minority and a woman]. Institutionally we take that very seriously. We are trying to make strides and we already are: we have a lot of diversity in our programs."

In addition to her ethnic background, her personal experience with college athletics means that she also understands the needs of female student athletes. Like Kehoe and Capozziello, Kane played for both male and female coaches and feels she grew in different ways learning from both. Her female coaches helped her grow emotionally while her male coaches, mostly technical coaches, helped her bring her game to the next level.

Among North Central's women's sports teams, the number of female coaches and male coaches is six to five, respectively, among the eleven teams. Kane believes that that same diversity could one day find its way into men's sports, all of which are currently coached by men.

"We are trying to make strides and we already are: we have a lot of diversity in our programs."

-- Sue Kane

North Central has had one female coach for a male team in its athletic history. Maureen Szweida coached both the men and women's swimming teams for the 2004-05 seasons, helping lead the Cardinals to a 22nd place overall at the Division III National Championships.

Kane notes that this diversity is something she absolutely envisions at North Central and other Division III institutions, but understands that it may take much longer to reach Division I. Even though universities are making strides with the addition of Teresa Phillips to the men's basketball program at Division I Middle Tennessee State University, many of Kane's female colleagues at the highest level of college athletics are still waiting for those advancements.

"We could go down the list and find the overlap where it would make sense," said Kane. "If you're a good recruiter, good coach and engage with your athletes and stakeholders, then why not?"

Written by Emily Zadny

Changing The Game

North Central's women in athletics make a winning team

Michelle Roof

Head Women's Basketball Coach

- ✓ Former head women's basketball coach at Aurora University: all time leader for wins in program history
- ✓ NCAA Division III single season marks in: three-point field goals made (390), three-point field goals attempted (1,444) and 100-point games (12), while tying the record for consecutive 100-point contests (5).

Sara Furlette-Koski

Head Athletic Trainer

- ✓ At Albion College (MI) Implemented drug testing and concussion protocol
- ✓ 2015 Cleo Tanner Award Recipient

Danielle Fiala

Head Women's Lacrosse Coach

- ✓ Pioneered Women's Lacrosse program at Wartburg College in 2015
- ✓ Four program records and four all CCIW selections as 2016 NCC lacrosse coach

Lydia Pond

Head Women's Tennis Coach, Coordinator of Recreation, Assistant Athletic Facilities and Events Manager

- ✓ Harold R. Wilde Distinguished Service Award
- ✓ Lead Tennis team to 11-8 overall and 4-3 in conference

entertainment

Sexism and women in the music industry hit a wrong note

Kathryn Bloch
Social Media Editor

Music is something enjoyed by people of all ages, but only made by a select few. In recent years, the industry has seen a rise in female artists and producers. In turn, there has also been a rise in reports of sexual, mental, and physical abuse against them.

Marissa Allen is a former organizational communications major from North Central College. In classes, Allen just looks like a normal college student, trying to get through her daily activities. In fact, Allen leads a double life: she is the lead singer of a punk-rock band called The Dead Feathers.

"I first started making music when I was six years old," Allen said. "That's when I really first started to sing on my own and write my own lyrics and poetry."

Allen asserts dominance when performing: she is a presence to reckoned with, not to be taken for granted by anyone. Allen takes the stage, late at night: her makeup is her war-paint, her fashion is her body armor.

Allen and The Dead Feathers have gained a dedicated fan base since forming in Naperville years ago. The band is a staple at smaller venues in the downtown Chicago area such as the Double Door.

In many of the bands that The Dead Feathers perform with, the singers are male. This is the case for many bands touring currently. Prominent bands that do feature female singers include The Dead Weather, Paramore and Alabama Shakes.

Since Allen is a female singer in a male-dominated band, she feels like she gets negative attention because of her gender and the ways in which she presents herself. "I personally have been mistreated, and I have seen other women get mistreated as well," said Allen.

Though Allen is in a smaller band, more prominent artists in the industry have also been mistreated by fans and equals. The most recent, and dividing, incident that has been unfolding in the media involves Kesha.

Kesha was a Billboard chart-topping artist in the late 2000s', coming on to the scene with her hit "Tik Tok." Over the course of her career, Kesha has been in a binding contract with the head of Kemosabe Records, Dr. Luke, also known as Lukasz Gottwald. In October of 2014, the singer filed a lawsuit against her long-time producer over what she said was ten years of both mental and sexual abuse.

According to a People Magazine report from October 2014, Kesha filed the lawsuit claiming "the producer began to abuse her when she signed with him at the age of 18." These actions continued for years, and Kesha claimed that Dr. Luke "made repeated sexual advances toward her," and that he "would force her to use drugs and alcohol to remove her defenses."

The case elevated in February of 2016, when Kesha was denied an injunction from a judge that would allow her to record music with other producers and outside of her contract with Dr. Luke.

This denial sparked a social media movement known by the hashtag, #freekesha. The hashtag was a trending topic on Twitter for about a week, and the pop star's avid fan-base voiced their displeasure with the judge's ruling and called for justice for Kesha for what was done to her.

Emily Arias is a senior journalism major at North Central College, and has been a fan of Kesha ever since her debut album "Animal." Arias sympathizes with the singer over the events that have occurred both in her career and personal life.

"It's rare to hear anyone lie about something as severe as rape," said Arias. "I hope Kesha gets justice for the awful acts that were done to her."

According to RAINN, the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, once every two minutes someone in the United States is the victim of sexual assault. By the end of the year, that amounts to 288,820 victims of rape and other forms of sexual assault.

The age group with the highest risk, according to a study by RAINN, are individuals both male and female ages 18-34. The statistic that many people have heard, or that they learn about in mandatory workshops before they start school, is that of women who are the victims of rape.

In RAINN's study, the group found that "1 out of every 6 American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime (14.8% completed, 2.8% attempted.)" In addition to that staggering statistic, females that are enrolled in college are three times more likely to experience some sort of sexual violence in their time in school.

Women ages 18-24 who are not enrolled in college are not at any less risk than those who are: in fact, according to RAINN's study, "females of the same age who are not enrolled in college are 4 times more likely."

Female music artists, and young females in general, are constantly scrutinized for the way that they look, the way that they dress and the way that they choose to act. Whenever news comes out of a young woman coming forward as a victim of either attempted or completed sexual abuse, the former questions come forward and are directed toward the victim.

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Things to keep in mind about the Kesha case

In February of this year, pop star Kesha was denied an injunction which would allow her record new music outside of her contract with Lukasz Gottwald, also known as Dr. Luke of Kemosabe Records. The singer went to court after what she states as ten years of abuse, both sexual and mental.

Marissa Allen of The Dead Feathers, though not at the level of fame that Kesha is, has felt discriminated against in the industry because of her gender. "It's just the mistreatment of women in general," said Allen. "It's not that they're in the music industry, they could also be actresses, they could also be in the workplace."

Allen also has some words about what fans, specifically male fans, can do at shows.



Picture Courtesy of Pitchfork.com

“There are some etiquettes that should be learned and understood by men in the audience that **we are not up there to display ourselves**: we are up there to perform, and to show our poetry through our outfits and work,” said Allen.

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Another artist who has come forward against sexual assault in the industry is indie artist Claire Boucher, who is known in the industry and by her fans as Grimes. In April of 2016, shortly after Kesha's injunction was denied, Boucher showed her support for Kesha by sharing her own story of mistreatment.

In an interview with *The Guardian*, Boucher said she didn't know many of the specifics of Kesha's situation, but that she'd "been in numerous situations where male producers would literally be like, 'We won't finish the song unless you come back to my hotel room.'"

Boucher went on to say, "If I was younger or in a more financially desperate situation, maybe I would have done that." Boucher addressed the issue of lack of women in the industry, and she cited it as not being for lack of interest, but because of the hostility of the environment.

Allen agreed with Boucher, and pointed out what she thinks is a major issue in the way that women are treated in the industry in which she works. "It's just the mistreatment of women in general," said Allen. "It's not that they're in the music industry, they could also be actresses, they could also be in the workplace."

"Sexual harassment is a problem that extends far beyond the industry," said Allen. "But as for the industry itself, there are some etiquettes that should be learned and understood by men in the audience that we are not up there to display ourselves: we are up there to perform, and to show our poetry through our outfits and work."

Allen points to the over-sexualization of women's bodies in the music industry, and of music itself as being major issues impacting female artists. In Kesha's case, her image as an artist has been brought into question time and time again, not only in her

court case against Dr. Luke, but among those who consider themselves fans of the singer.

So what can be done to fight against abuse and discrimination of female artists in the music industry? Sophomore Tommy Varela has a simple solution. "Situations like Kesha's are not being taken seriously in the music industry," said Varela.

"With that being said, though, the music industry is slowly being dominated by powerful women," said Varela. More and more successful female artists are coming out of the industry: young women are selling out arenas, putting out platinum albums and inspiring women and girls the world over. Discrimination against women has no easy solution, but the songs they sing will provide them strength.

It's yet to reach the castle: The lack of untraditional characters in Disney films

Luke Langlois
Contributing Writer

The bell rings and you file out of the classroom. The hallways are a buzz and it is clear why, lunch is next, something you never really look forward to. You stop at your locker as the group of cool kids walks past gossiping and laughing in your direction. Dork, weirdo, faggot...

Different.

Different, a word that means not being like everyone else. It means you don't belong, you don't fit the mold. Why? Because you have a different color skin? Because you prefer Elsa over Superman?

Cinderella, Belle, Mulan, Ariel. Powerful female characters, all of which Disney has created to empower young women.

Upasna Barath '19, expands on this idea that Disney has taken strides providing children with non-traditional characters such as Jasmine from *Aladdin*. "I feel like although they didn't accurately portray middle-east they showed the culture and values really well, the relationship that is true to Arabian children and their fathers as well as the perception of wealth versus poverty."

But what about other non-traditional characters? There is no Gay Prince, or a transgender heroine. As society keeps moving forward it seems as though the castle is being left in the dark.

Sally Kohn, a progressive activist and columnist for CNN, recently wrote "Is Disney Ready for a Gay Princess?" Simultaneously posting on twitter: "Watching *Frozen*, it's awesome. But come on @DisneyPictures ain't it finally time for a kid's film where the princess marries a princess?!" Kohn immediately received a harsh backlash from 'pro-family' users.

Movements like #GiveElsaAGirlfriend have begun to push Disney to challenge these norms and bring a change to the castle. Tommy Varela '19, explains his belief on the movement, "I think it's an important movement. There is a lack of coverage in the LGBT community and lack of kids getting the experience at a young age. This shows kids it's a normal thing in everyday life. Boys like boys and girls like girls too."

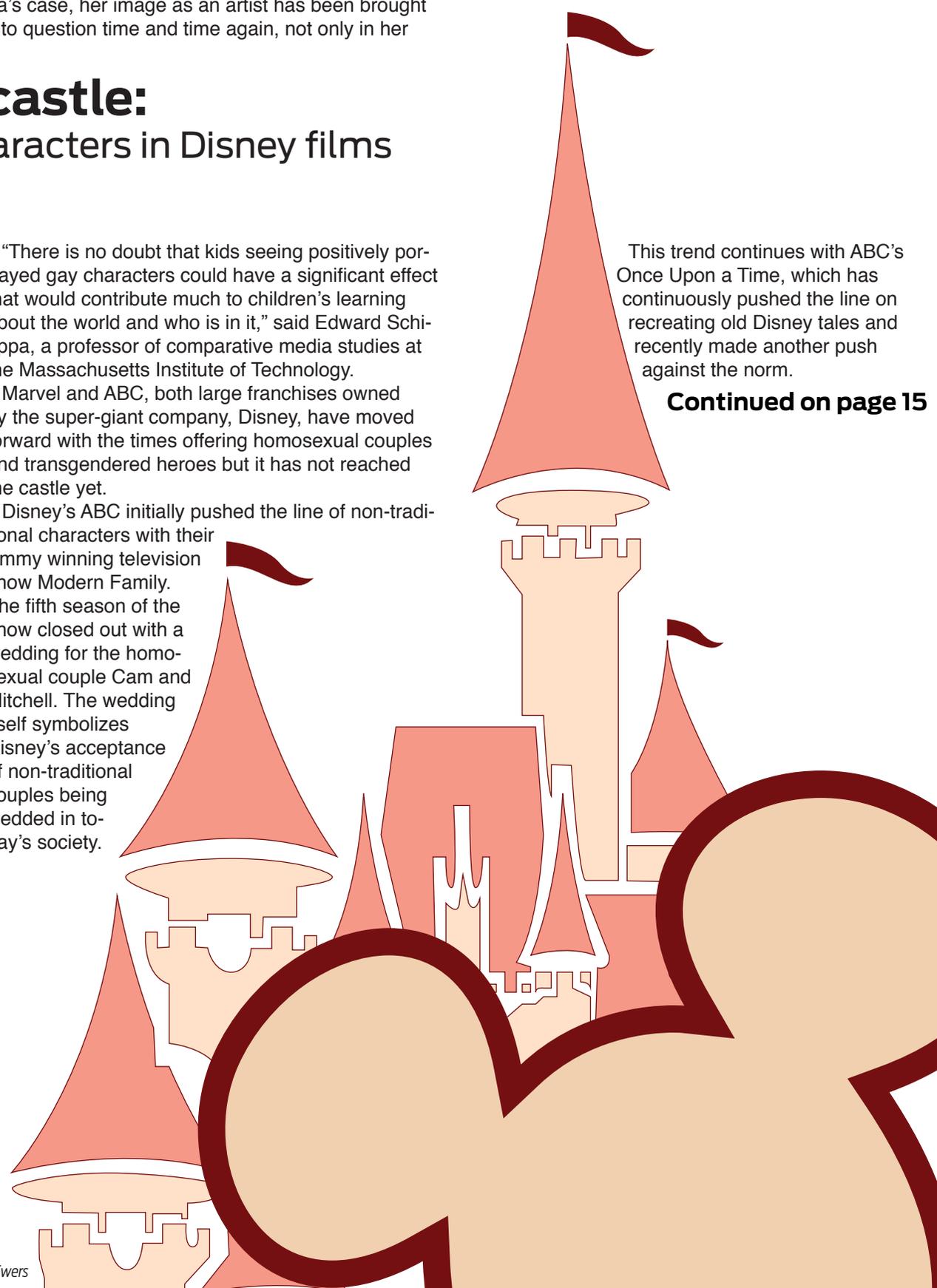
"There is no doubt that kids seeing positively portrayed gay characters could have a significant effect that would contribute much to children's learning about the world and who is in it," said Edward Schiappa, a professor of comparative media studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Marvel and ABC, both large franchises owned by the super-giant company, Disney, have moved forward with the times offering homosexual couples and transgendered heroes but it has not reached the castle yet.

Disney's ABC initially pushed the line of non-traditional characters with their Emmy winning television show *Modern Family*. The fifth season of the show closed out with a wedding for the homosexual couple Cam and Mitchell. The wedding itself symbolizes Disney's acceptance of non-traditional couples being wedded in today's society.

This trend continues with ABC's *Once Upon a Time*, which has continuously pushed the line on recreating old Disney tales and recently made another push against the norm.

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In the episode "Ruby Slippers" aired on April 17th, ABC made Ruby (Little Red Riding Hood) and Dorothy (Wizard of Oz) a homosexual couple solidifying the bond with true love's kiss. According to a press release after the episode producers of the show defended their position saying, "This past Sunday's episode was just another example of how in a fairytale, as in life, love is love."

They continues to say, "It (the LGBTQ relationship) is something we think is due and important to do on the show. This is the world we live in."

Even a branch of Disney as big as ABC creating shows like Once Upon a Time and Modern Family can push pass the traditional heterosexual mold, yet it still hasn't reached the castle yet.

In Marvel comics, the frosty powered X-Man, Iceman, came out as gay last month and he immediately became the most prominent gay comic book character. If Marvel is owed by Disney and they are pushing for non-traditional superheroes, why hasn't it reached the castle yet?

The argument that the castle is not ready for a non-traditional character because the company is too big to change falls flat because an equally large franchise by J. K. Rowling proves this to be false. The Harry Potter world was recently revealed to hold a very prominent gay character. In XXX J.K. Rowling revealed that Dumbledore was gay. This resulted in some criticism saying "I wonder why you said that Dumbledore is gay because I can't see him in that way." To which Rowling responded "Maybe because gay people just look like ... people?"

Demi Reitzel '16 expands on this saying, "Major characters like Dumbledore are ones who represent strength, resilience and wisdom. They are role models not just for other characters in the stories but for the readers."

"For them to have different sexual orientations and gender identities makes them relatable, especially for the readers who don't have those role models in real life. They can learn to associate these non-traditional stances with positive qualities."

If a supergiant such as Harry Potter can handle a large non-traditional character, why is it not at the castle yet?

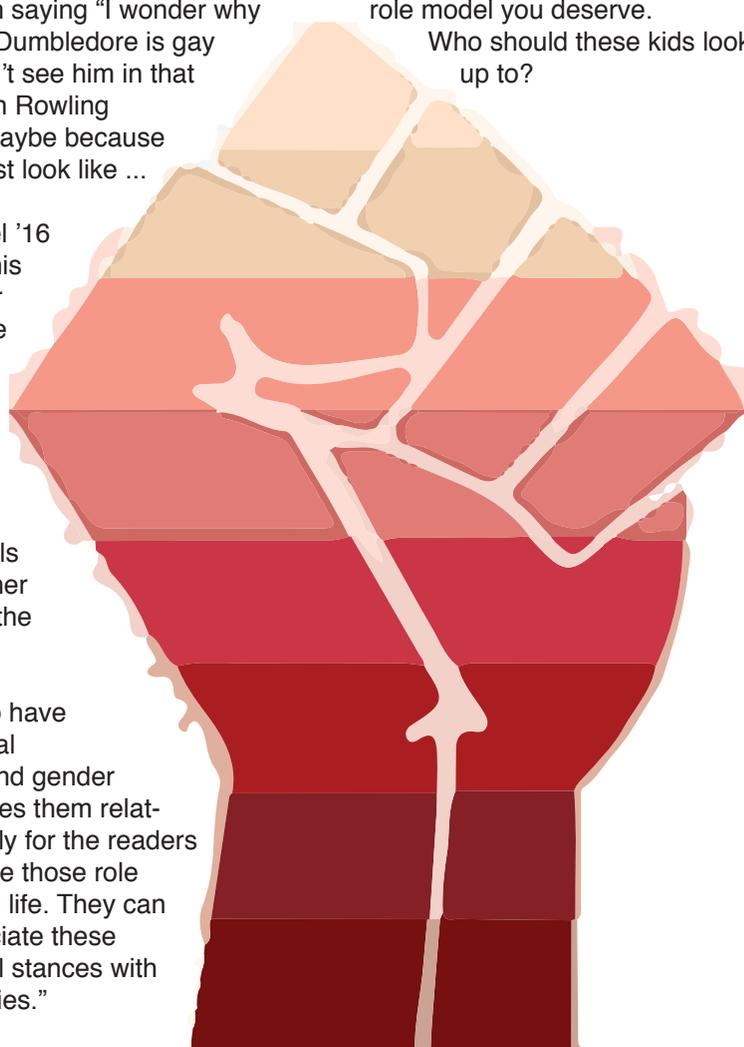
What can we do? Disney is huge and even a movement as big as #GiveElsaAGirlfriend may only fall on deaf ears. Manilyn Gumapas '18, president of MOSAIC, North Central's student-led multicultural organization, aims to encourage awareness to these types of discriminatory issues. "I think it starts at the interpersonal level. People can begin to have meetings like MOSAIC meetings. Some might think it's a slow process especially with issues like diversity and multiculturalism but sometimes top down isn't the best way to go about things."

As the bell rings for the end of the school day you hurry home as to beat the rush of students that see you as something you are not.

You are not different and you know it. You are who you are because that is what makes you special. Who cares what color skin you have or if your hair is straight or curly. Who cares that you did not have a father figure growing up so you don't know how to "act like a man."

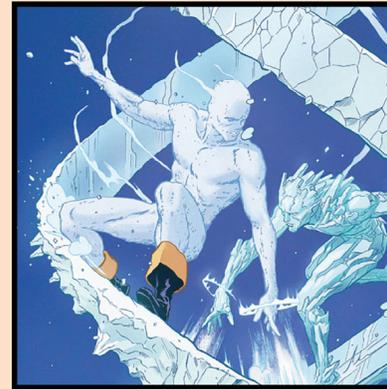
You look up to characters that are positive role models to you and characters that believe more in true love than violence and punching people to get your way. You fit into the skin that doesn't conform to the mold. You may be a girl in a boy's body. That is okay. What's not okay is you don't have the role model you deserve.

Who should these kids look up to?



Who's different now?

Several characters in different forms of media have come out as gay, lesbian, or transgendered. Here are some of the most prominent.



Iceman: All New X Men



Sophia: Orange is the New Black



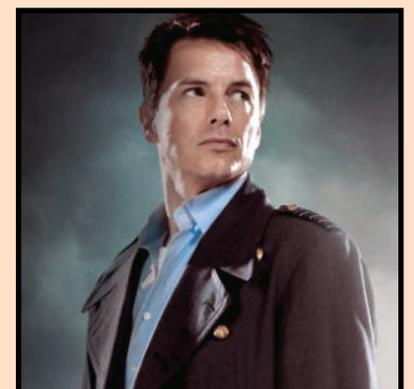
Alycia: Batgirl



Cam and Mitch: Modern Family



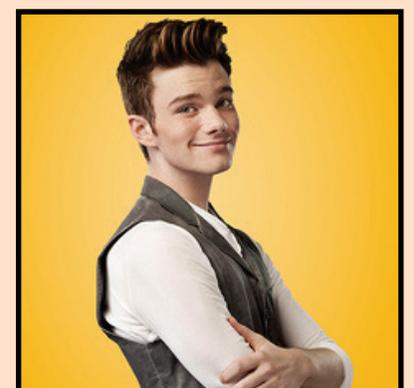
Dumbledore: Harry Potter



Jack Harkness: Dr. Who



Korra: The Legend of Korra



Kurt: Glee

