



GRAWR



**THIS IS WHAT A
FEMINIST LOOKS
LIKE. THERE
ARE NO RULES
TO THAT. THEY
ARE AMONG US.**

SUCK MY LEFT ONE

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THIS IS WHAT THE CONTENT LOOKS LIKE

GRAWR

> a sign of anger or frustration
> an animal noise
> a sound made to imply something
sexy or provocative



is a bunch of tigers

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CHIEF & THE CHIEF IN GENERAL**

Miz Mary Black / mizblack.com

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THX

Everyone who got involved with GRAWR and made this possible, Heidi & fabulous beards, Theresa & Wilhemine Show Me The Microphone, Alicia Brooks and Nina Berezner for being awesome, Myc & Suzie Q & Todd for mental support and for taking the steam (among everything else), Jenni Lau + Simon + the crew for ruthless (yet good) criticism, my ladies, grrrls & betches around the world, leopards and tigers, mom.



**CONTACT OUR TIGERS / READ
GRAWR ONLINE!**

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A close-up photograph of a person's arm, showing a tattoo of a heart with the words 'LOVE' and 'FEEL' inside it. A red, wavy, light-like effect is superimposed over the tattoo. The background is dark and out of focus.

**SUCK MY
LEFT ONE**

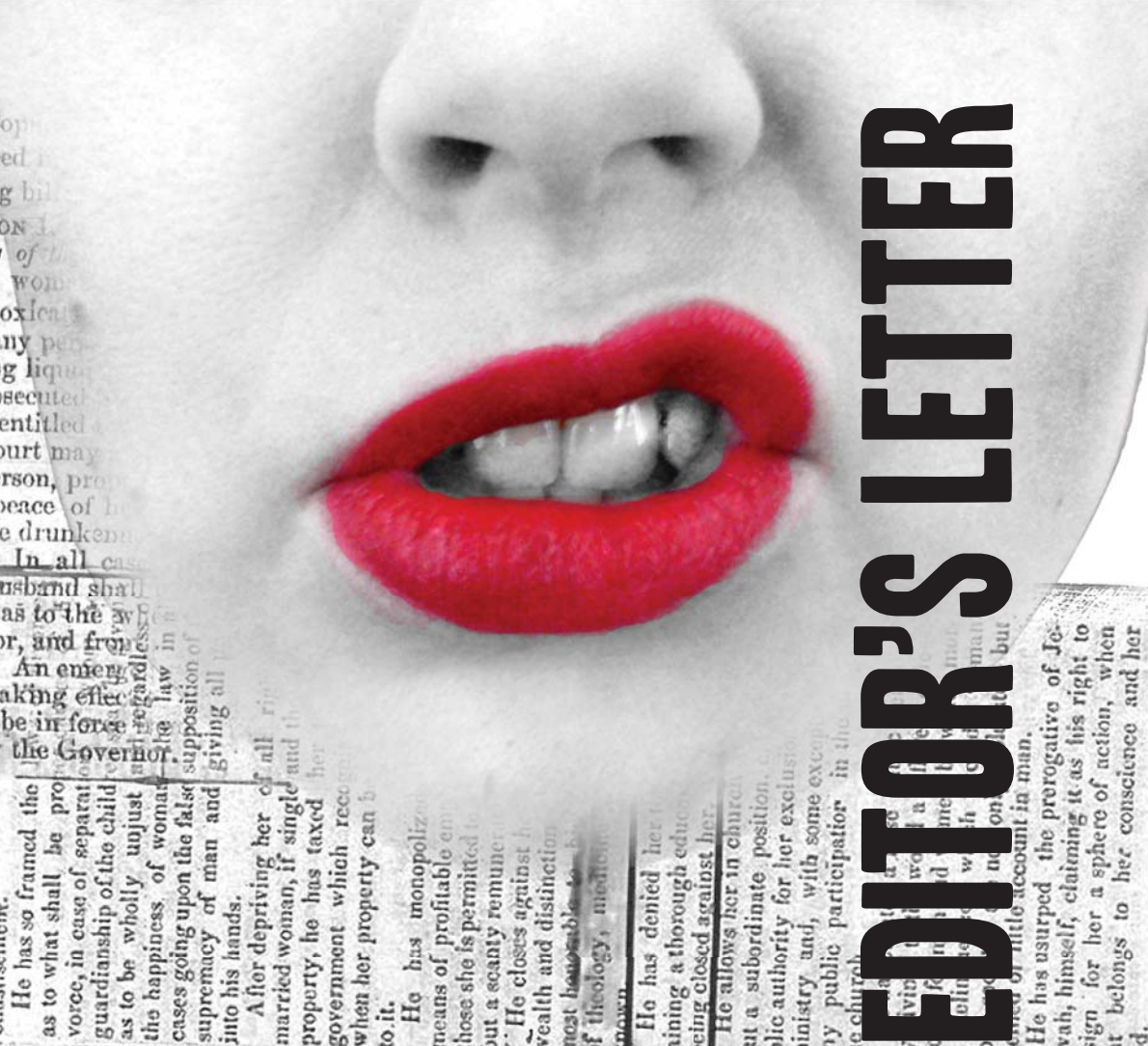
REV. G. H. HULIN, { Editors.
REV. J. A. AVERY, }

Woman's Rights.

The following is from the Declaration of Sentiments made at the Woman's Rights Convention, held at Seneca Falls, on the 19th and 20th inst. The "Declaration" adapts the language of that of "Independence" to the grievous bondage of woman in the nineteenth century. We need not say that we think the movement excessively silly; nevertheless many of our readers will have a curiosity to run through this formidable document.

The history of mankind is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations on the

The Rights of Married Women.
Mr. Copner, of Montgomery county, has introduced into the Indiana Legislature the following bill:
SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, That any married woman whose husband shall become intoxicated, shall have a right of action against any person who may sell or give intoxicating liquor to her husband, said action to be prosecuted in her own name; and she shall be entitled to such damages as a jury or the Court may award her for any injury to her person, property*



EDITOR'S LETTER

BY MARY BLACK

While I was putting GRAWR together, I kept being reminded of why I am a feminist and what makes it important to me. I continuously notice these small things in life that some people are used to accepting as universal truths without question. On the contrary, there are people who approach these "truths" with a critical eye, including me; eternal rebel, weirdo, more like a social outcast. But let's forget about self-definitions, I wanted to share something with you about universal truths.

Recently, I posted a Facebook status on my personal page, saying something like "It's so summer! Maybe I should consider shaving soon." This thought awoke an onslaught of comments: "You don't shave? Yuck!", "Feminism is cool, but do you think it's pleasant for others to sit near by you?", "Ouch, sex appeal!" or "You don't give a fuck? Please, everyone does." Just to mention a few.

It's funny, I never thought of my unshaved legs as being a feminist statement. The truth is that I just don't bother shaving them (apart from a few special occasions), they are covered by stockings or trousers 10-11 months a year anyway. Because a norm says that women are expected to shave their legs, this statement apparently seems outrageous to some, but please! People should really start thinking for themselves and (ideally) stop following the mass and norms (and gender roles) blindly – or at least allow others the freedom of living as they like and respect that. If you shave your legs, I'm fine with it. If you don't shave your legs, I'm fine with that too. What's the big deal? Of course saying this got responses such as "blah blah blah... feminists..."

blah blah blah" - which I don't mind when it's justified well – but my point was actually much more beyond feminism BUT was taken as a woman's response to male opinions... and perhaps that's why – sadly – it wasn't understood.

This is why GRAWR was born. There are too many norms, too much old-fashioned and repressive thinking in this world that should to be questioned. There are so many questions, suspicious thoughts and accusations towards feminism, which people should try to understand before judging it. And that's what GRAWR does: questions, provides information, entertains - just like another magazine (it just happens to be more rad).

This issue presents feminism from an international perspective and of course provides tips on cool stuff in Central Europe, including chicks, dicks, chicks with dicks and tricks. Enjoy! Oh yes, sorry to inform you, but I still haven't shaved. I like fur, gawr! ■

IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

GRAWR, SHAVED & NUDE

THE



WORD

Feminism. A global swear word, yet many people don't really get what its all about. Often seen stereotypically as radical activism, as women's conspiracy to take over men or as a group of pissed off lesbians burning bras in a riot, the f-word has slowly become a negative term, even among women. Meet four feminists, from four different nationalities, telling their stories.. and reasons why they still stand behind the f-word.

**FOUR WOMEN
FOUR DIFFERENT COUNTRIES
FOUR FEMINISTS
FOR THE F WORD**

AMERICAN FEMINISTS UNDER ATTACK

BY KAYLA GOLDFARB,
USA

I am an American. I am a feminist. I am and must consciously choose to be a strong woman. Some may call me a bitch or a slut. I have reclaimed these words to empower myself, to give myself an identity formed by my life experiences. >>



GRAWR

USA

USA

BITCH.

She is strong, opinionated, independent and powerful. She can have what she wants. She manifests and creates her own future and her world. Men are intimidated by her goddess powers. She stands up for herself and her beliefs. She refuses to be walked all over.

SLUT.

She likes to have sex and isn't ashamed by this fact. For centuries women's sexuality has been repressed. Now we have more power over our bodies and have the freedom to sexually liberate ourselves if we so choose. We possess amazing sexual energy, men can't resist our magnetic charms. >>

On the same token, these words can be turned and used against me as a weapon in an instant flash. When these words are used to hurt us, they carry negative connotations that we then may internalize to be true. If I choose to be frank with my thoughts, and someone doesn't like how assertive I'm being, they call me a bitch. If I choose to have more than one lover or I act confidently and flirtatious then I'm a slut.

In the 1970s women in the U.S. started to take back the power, along with people of color, homosexuals, and many other groups of otherwise oppressed people. As a girl growing up on the Westcoast of the U.S. in the 1990s, I was brought up to believe I could have everything a man can. However, this doesn't mean that I get treated the same way that men do. I experience sexism in my daily life in many different ways.

In this society, I get called a bitch when I act tough (like a "man") or a slut when I am sexually open. On the flip-side, a man will be commended for this same behavior. He is a "real" man for being strong and confident, he is a pimp or a stud for getting laid often. I don't like the fact that I have to fight to convince people in this country that it's okay for women to behave this way. I hope that someday women and men will truly be treated as equals, instead of this false sense of equality that America claims to possess. I love this country, but I hate sexism, and until I can act in the same behavior as a man and be treated the same as him, I will not be satisfied. That is why I'm a feminist in this country, because I believe that we must keep educating and fighting for justice for all. ■

GRAWR
“(HE) IS A REAL
MAN FOR BE-
ING STRONG AND
CONFIDENT AND A
PIMP OR A STUD
FOR GETTING LAID
OFTEN.”



1) According to a survey conducted by the Public Opinion Research Centre in November 2009 - http://www.cvm.cas.cz/upl/zpravy/101001s_ov_100201.pdf
 2) <http://www.genderfuck.cz/prohlaseni-en.htm>
 3) Valdová, J. 2008. "Woman and scientist? It doesn't fit together to me." The testing of generic masculine in Czech. In.: Our Speech 1/2008

THE F WORD ... BUT IT COULD BE WORSE

BY BLANKA NYKLOVA,
CZECH REPUBLIC

I am living in a society where 70% of people believe that the primary role of a man within a family is to be the main breadwinner, whereas women are to handle the cooking (according to 74%) . My society is highly secularised yet not atheist, women have been massively presented in the workforce for decades, most couples live on two incomes. The representation of women in the national Parliament is very low – 17.5% (and will most probably get even lower after the forthcoming general election). The republic has never had a female president or prime minister although we have had a female defence minister. One would guess that the feminist movement should be flourishing here as educational levels of women are also high.

Well, this is not the case. But nor is the contrary. After attacks, defamation and much opposition, feminism has managed to get a foothold in the Czech Republic, departments of gender studies have been established and it is possible to pursue an academic career as a feminist (it was even possible to go to Gender Fuck Fest last year!). There is a community, albeit with much inner tension, one can become part of in order not to go insane at being opposed by one's best and intelligent friends all the time (not to mention the other people...).

It is not the attacks and comments of chauvinists who sensed a great business opportunity and make money when presenting supposedly shocking anti-feminist writings and opinions that troubles me. It is enough to remember the statistics above to see what actually still are the truly shocking opinions that make so many people feel ill at ease. I have grown used to labelling them as feminist and they are mostly concerned with justice in all its forms and justice is >

"CZECH IS HIGHLY GENDERED (LANGUAGE) AND IT IS BELIEVED THAT IT IS ENOUGH TO MENTION THE MASCULINE FORM."

what the F word (as that is what feminism still is in the CR) is primarily about to me. Here go some examples of a colourful hodgepodge of national level politics, films and even the very crucial questions such as whether one is still a feminist when s/he shaves her/his legs....

I spent ten days of the summer of 2008 in a tiny room crammed with computers adding to the already sweltering heat. I was a member of a bunch of desperate editors striving to publish a film school /festival daily. To have more fun and see how feasible the task actually was even with "normal", read not-gender minded people, we were supposed to use gender neutral Czech all the time. That may seem as a relatively easy job in English but in my native language, Czech, it is not. Czech is highly gendered and it is believed that it is enough to mention the masculine form (sometimes in plural) and one also includes all the women in the denomination. One of very few Czech gender linguists published her research proving that this is not the case and women or any other gender are not actually included. The interesting bit is that fellow linguists do not need to conduct research to support their attacks against the idea of a more gender balanced language, they simply state it would do some sort of artificial harm to the language (which is otherwise intervention-free...) and their authority is enough for most Czech dailies to get them published...

Just before Christmas, I went to see Avatar. I watched the trailer before going and really liked the cat-like creatures as I am a proud owner of two cats. I was looking forward to it, even if with some scepticism, to the completely amazing and new story (one that could not have been realized for

ten years!) and technology. My reservations were mainly caused by the Star Trek prequel as although I liked it, the gender aspect of the movie was a great disappointment, not to mention the drastic diet Uhura had to undergo... So I watched the movie and the greatest experience technology-wise where the 3D subtitles in some of the scenes... All the wonderful spectacular technology could not cover up the pretty traditional, completely predictable story based on such gender stereotyping, heterosexism, romantic love myths including virginity, etc. I could not believe it. What was even more unbelievable were the excited reactions of almost every film critic in the country, including those who are not usually so easily duped. When later talking to one of them, they explained that it was my naïveté that had caused all the disappointment, not the film itself. Expecting a sci-fi to be futuristic (read: any different than the traditional slightly revamped-so-as-to-suit-postfeminist-pop culture story) in any other aspect than the technology is naïve and asking too much, whatever the ads say about the story. Come on!

When one's experience, opinions and beliefs can be discursively relatively easily done away with, ignored or even ridiculed it is hard to swallow and I believe it should NOT be swallowed in the first place. It would be possible to filter friends, colleagues, even family members but there is little point in that, as that way the discourse and the power it has would not be challenged, quite the contrary. That is why I am a feminist and I am not afraid to say so (even in a Czech pub :). And maybe we will get to talking about shaving some other time. ■

FEMINISM
NAH, WOMEN'S PLACE
S IN THE
KITCHEN



BORN TOUGH: WOMEN OF THE NORTH

FIN

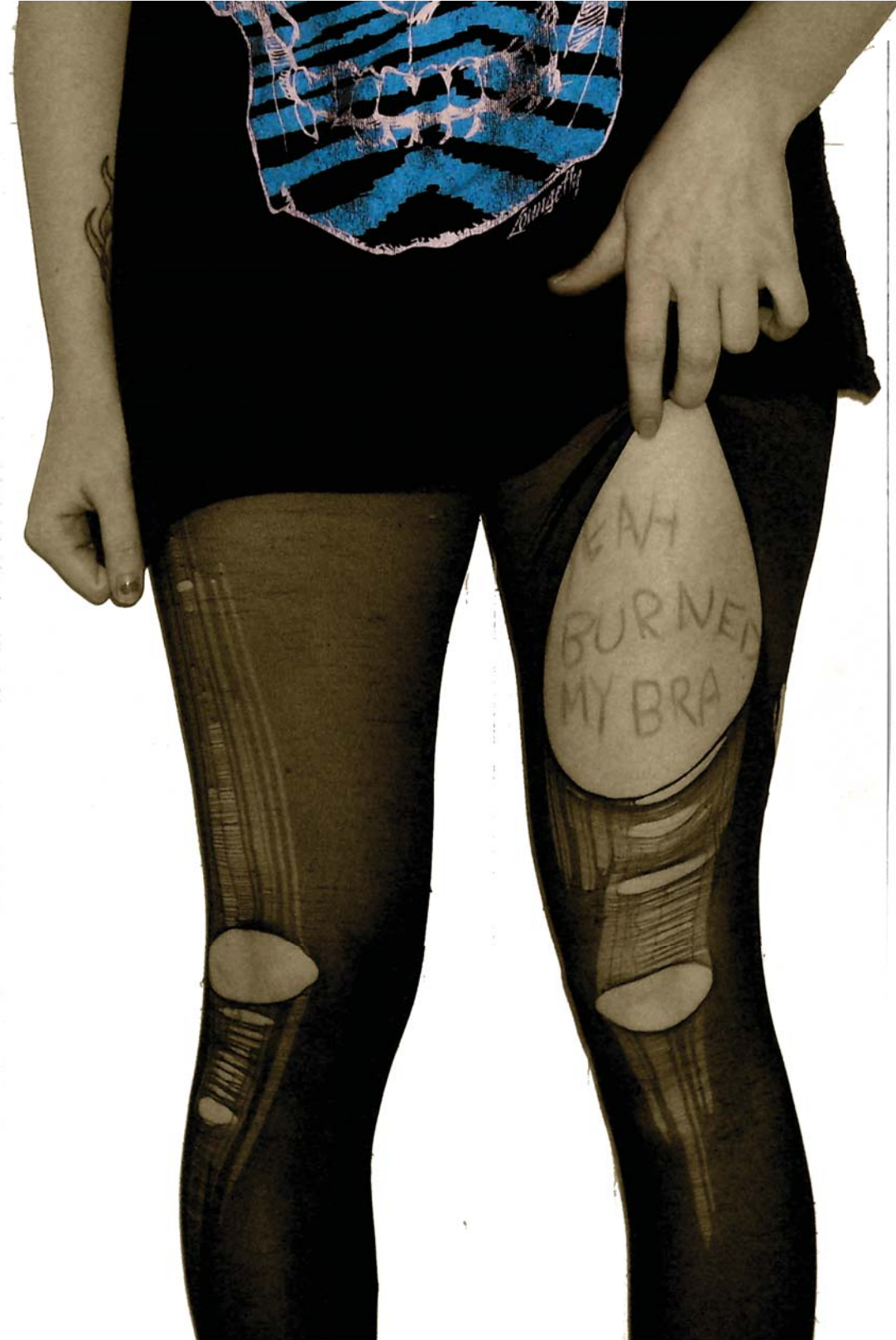
BY MARY BLACK, FINLAND

Finland. This distant, northern, wacked up country has long been known as a pioneer in gender equality; starting in the 19th Century, different women's associations and feminist movements together with well-known female writers and artists fought (successfully) for gender equality, and so Finland became one of the first countries in the world whose parliament adopted full gender equality, not only giving women the right to vote but also to be elected as members of parliament (Korpela, 2007). Since then, gender equality has kept improving decade after decade, which also shattered traditional male/female roles, leading us to the present, where women and men are pretty much equal. Even though it is not all that simple and there are things that can be still improved, women's rights and gender equality are publicly quite well represented in Finland as we have had a female president for the past eight years and as approximately half of the Finnish parliament consists of women.

And this is where I grew up. All (female) role models in my life were strong-willed and independent. My grandmother had worked since she was a kid, fought in the Winter War alongside my grandfather and had always been this amazingly strong character. Nobody had as much balls as she did. My mother chose a family instead of a career and got criticized by many, because in Finland, both parties in a marriage are expected to support the family economically (apart from while on maternity leave and households in the countryside) and the concept of a housewife is generally quite rare... it already was in the 80's when I was born.

It would be easy to assume that feminism is a big thing in Finland... wrong! It is as much of an f word as in any other Western country. "A feminist hates men and burns bras in riots... and is most likely a lesbian", described a friend of mine who is a student in faculty of gender studies in Finland [and is, by the way, a) a man, b) a feminist]. Indeed. The term 'feminist' is perceived in a negative way by the majority, because people tend to associate it with radical activism, anarchism and riots – or women's conspiracy to take over men. Even though us northern women have grown to be strong willed, independent, sexually open and saying fuck to gender roles and expectations, many still deny being a feminist and do not support its idealism because of the term's (hypothetical) negative meaning and lack of understanding. In my eyes, many women in Finland are natural feminists, but do not want to be labeled as one. Strong, stubborn, whatever, but not a feminist.

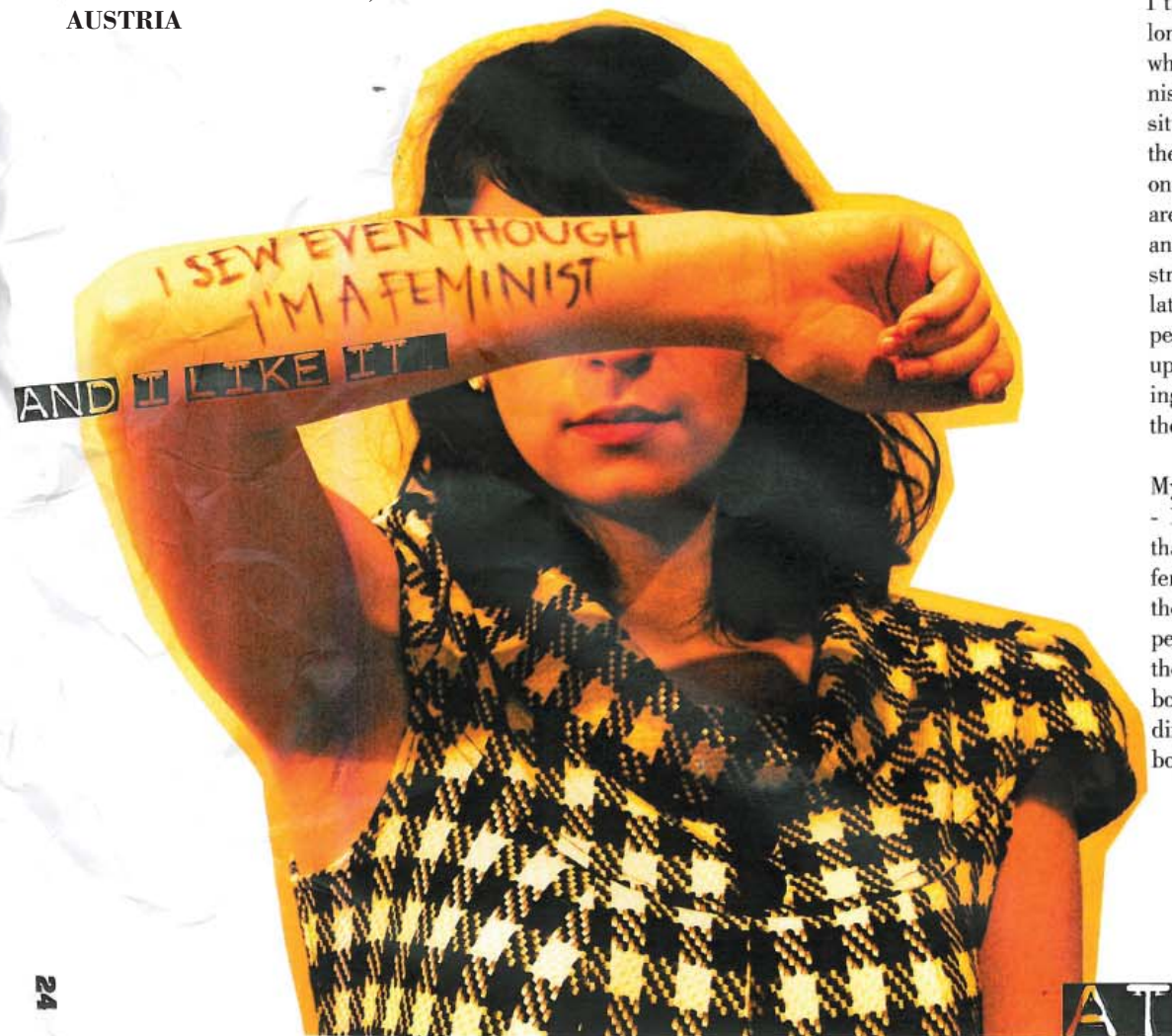
Many would ask why do you need feminism in Finland as gender equality is already so



> sources:
Korpela, S. (2007), Finland's parliament: pioneer of gender equality, [Online], Available at: <http://finland.fi/Public/default.aspx?contentid=160111>

FEMINIST HOUSEWIVES IN AUSTRIA

BY THERESA ADAMSKI,
AUSTRIA



I recently had a conversation with my mother who found out that she is much more feminist than some women who think of themselves as feminists. Although my parents lived a classic traditional Austrian lifestyle - meaning the father being at work all the time and the mother being responsible for the household and kids - their relationship was quite unusual. Now their roles have completely changed, and my mother is the main breadwinner.

I think like most people, I was a feminist long before I knew I was one. And even when I knew it, I didn't call myself feminist in public at first. A seminar at university made an active feminist. Even though there are a lot of feminists in Austria, being one is a very urban thing. In Vienna there are a lot of feminist events like Lady Fest and the feminist organizations are quite strong. Growing up in the countryside and later studying in a city with about 300.000 people, I hardly got to know any feminists up until two years ago. When I am speaking of feminists here, I mean those who call themselves feminists.

My circle of friends when I was about 17 - 18 had a huge influence on me. Before that, I was like everyone, having mostly female friends and talking about boys like they were never to be understood. But the people I got to know then made me feel like there was no difference between girls and boys at all. And I still believe, that those differences just exist because of the way boys and girls are socialized differently.

Some people really feel offended if I say things like that.

It's very hard to explain to people what feminism means to me. Some people think it's good when everyone has their role in a society, and humans are just animals who follow their instincts. People told me I should not care so much, because in other countries people die of hunger. Is that a reason to not want to change anything? If so, I could accept everything the way it is and lay myself down to die! Society like it is right now is just okay for those for whom it is easy to fit in. Of course feminism is about disparities between female and male roles in society, but it is even more about having to be either male or female and fulfill those traditional clichés of what is either the one or the other.

In the countryside the female organizations of the Austrian conservative party offer courses to learn how to sew, cook and grow vegetables in the garden. But as shocking as that is, most of the students in Austria think feminist is a swearword and feminists are ugly and hate men. They don't understand that feminism is the way to burst gender roles and therefore is a thing that concerns all sexes. In the end gender mainstreaming could make life easier for everyone. For me this means that everyone can be whatever they want without having to declare what they are or want to be. Therefore being a feminist housewife wearing high heels is a possible thing. ■

"SOCIETY LIKE IT IS RIGHT NOW, IS OK ONLY FOR THOSE WHOM IT IS EASY TO FIT IN."



**FUNTIME
NOW**

INTERVIEW BY MARY BLACK

PHOTOS BY JANA / SEXSHOP PRO
ŽENY

What were your reasons, goals and objectives when starting an internet sex shop for women?

It all started when I decided to buy an erotic toy for the first time. It was quite an awful experience going to an ordinary sex shop - all the pictures of women with artificial boobs pretending to orgasm. It came to me that most of the toys are for women yet they are presented in a very masculine way. Women should not be forced to become a sexual machine, "the hot sex toy for men".

Women should start to think about themselves, what they need, what they like. They should think not just about how to satisfy the man but how to become a sex goddess and learn the possibilities of reaching their satisfaction as well.

I created a visual identity of an on-line store and I asked my friend Lucie if she could help me with the web content, web marketing and SEO. She agreed and created our great blog where she writes humoristic and erotic stories. We've become a team and created our very own unique and elegant style. Our main philosophy is to show sexuality as something beautiful, natural and essential though not vulgar. Our main goal is to help women find their natural sexuality. We also like bringing humor into it. >>

> an interview with Jana, the owner of Sexshop Pro Ženy

SEX SHOP FOR WOMEN

For women who have never considered buying a dildo or other kind of toy, what makes it useful? How do you think that women would benefit from having a dildo in a purse or a drawer?

Erotic toys help women discover their body, they may find out what they like and how they like it and also ways how to share their desires and fantasies with their partners and encourage them to fulfill them.

They are free to choose not only good lovers if they can satisfy themselves. It is some kind of freedom. Love yourself and get to know how to make yourself to feel great. Women like that do not need to support a selfish lover who comes in three minutes...

If you could design a sex toy, what would it look like? Have you ever thought of designing one?

Design is my passion and I already thought about designing our own sex toys. First of all I would use only 100% natural body material such as silicone. I'm still not sure about plastic, rubber and other materials, it has not been proven yet, but these kinds of materials may contain phthalates and may cause an allergic reaction. Silicone on the other hand is already approved in medicine. As far as design goes I would create two collections – funny and romantic. Though there are already several producers that design beautiful and high-quality sex toys our priority is to form an easy and nice way for women to get these toys. We offer products we think are fulfilling this idea. In the future we plan to design our own toys.

What's the best seller, the most popular product and why do you think that is?

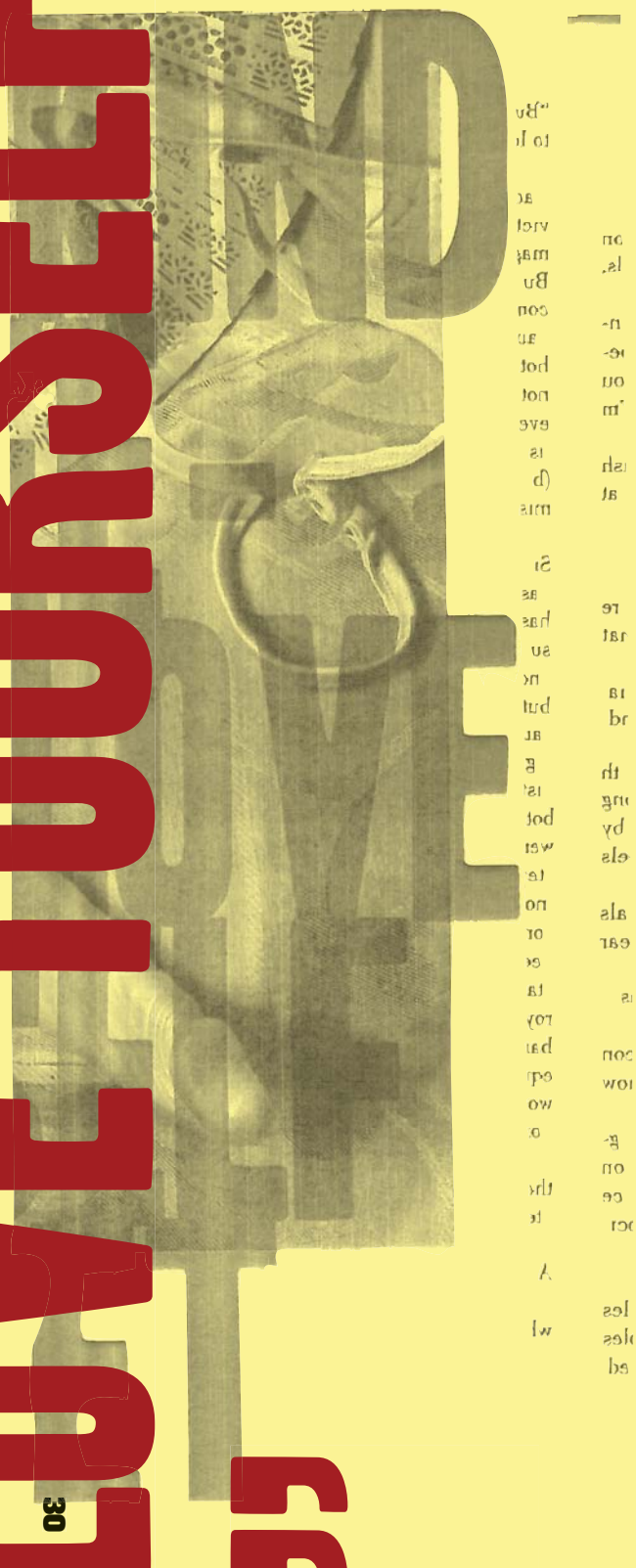
It changes constantly, one day it is We-Vibe fever another day is Luna fever. We think it is due to the media, if there is some article about particular product published – everybody wants to test it. Also people often order designed toys like Delight. My favorite Lucky Ducky does not sell that well. I hope somebody will write about it – it is the cutest one :)

Now let's talk about your business. Do you think that the classy look of your e-shop and the fact that these items can be purchased "anonymously" via internet attracts wider range of women? What is your typical customer like?

The typical customer is a woman that would never think about buying an erotic toy if it was not presented in such natural and nice way, often they do not have any experience and ask us for help and recommendation. Many people want information so we also added reviews written by our customers to help the others make the best choice.

Also internet discussions show that women prefer e-shops like ours: decent, design friendly and not vulgar. We are glad that number of men who buy toys for their partners is rising although we do not sell anything for men. It is nice to see that they are not selfish and want to make women happy.

>>



Once I went to Erotic City with a friend who had never been in a sex shop before and she felt quite uncomfortable because of bright red walls surrounded by massive dildos and fake vaginas. The whole atmosphere made her change her mind and leave without buying anything. What do you personally think about these larger sex shop chains and their look, and what makes yours different?

Like we mentioned before this is not our style of presentation. We think that such shops prefer male point of view. Such shops encouraged us to open our own online Sex-shop pro Ženy. We want to persuade women not to accept a male view of sexuality. Our difference is in design, natural way, respect and admiration of a woman and pinch of humor in our presentation.

Have you thought of expanding your business to a regular store along your online shop?

We are in this process right now, we though a lot about a regular store. We think that women would feel comfortable to enter a store if it is presented in very beautiful way. That is why we are creating a new brand mark called SVOJE – which means HERSELF in English. The shop will sell all kinds of goods for women, sex toys, lingerie, natural products, flower decorations, books etc. The brand SVOJE refers to women that belong to themselves – they do not belong only to men. This kind of presentation celebrates natural, confident and beautiful woman who knows what she wants and is not afraid to make decisions.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD?

We are glad that there are more and more women (and also men) who reject such poor presentation of sexuality because it is cliché. We want to offer the best service and e-shop where they can feel comfortable. ■

CHECK OUT! www.sexshopprozeny.cz



WILHELMINE SHOW ME THE MICROPHONE

> an interview with an annual “ladyfest” held in Graz, Austria

INTERVIEW BY MARY BLACK

PHOTOS AND ART BY THERESA ADAMSKI & EVA HINTEREGGER

Meet Lina and Theresa, two Austrian feminists who are the ladies behind Wilhemine Show Me The Microphone festival. Even though festival is female oriented and speaks for such issues, the idea behind Wilhemine Show Me The Microphone is a way more than a party for a bunch angry chicks. Boys are cool too and frankly, gender issues are everyone's business no matter what's in between their legs. I caught up with girls in order to find out more about ladyfests... and why they are actually organized.

Please, introduce yourselves.

We're Lina and Theresa from Graz in Austria and, amongst other things, musicians and feminists.

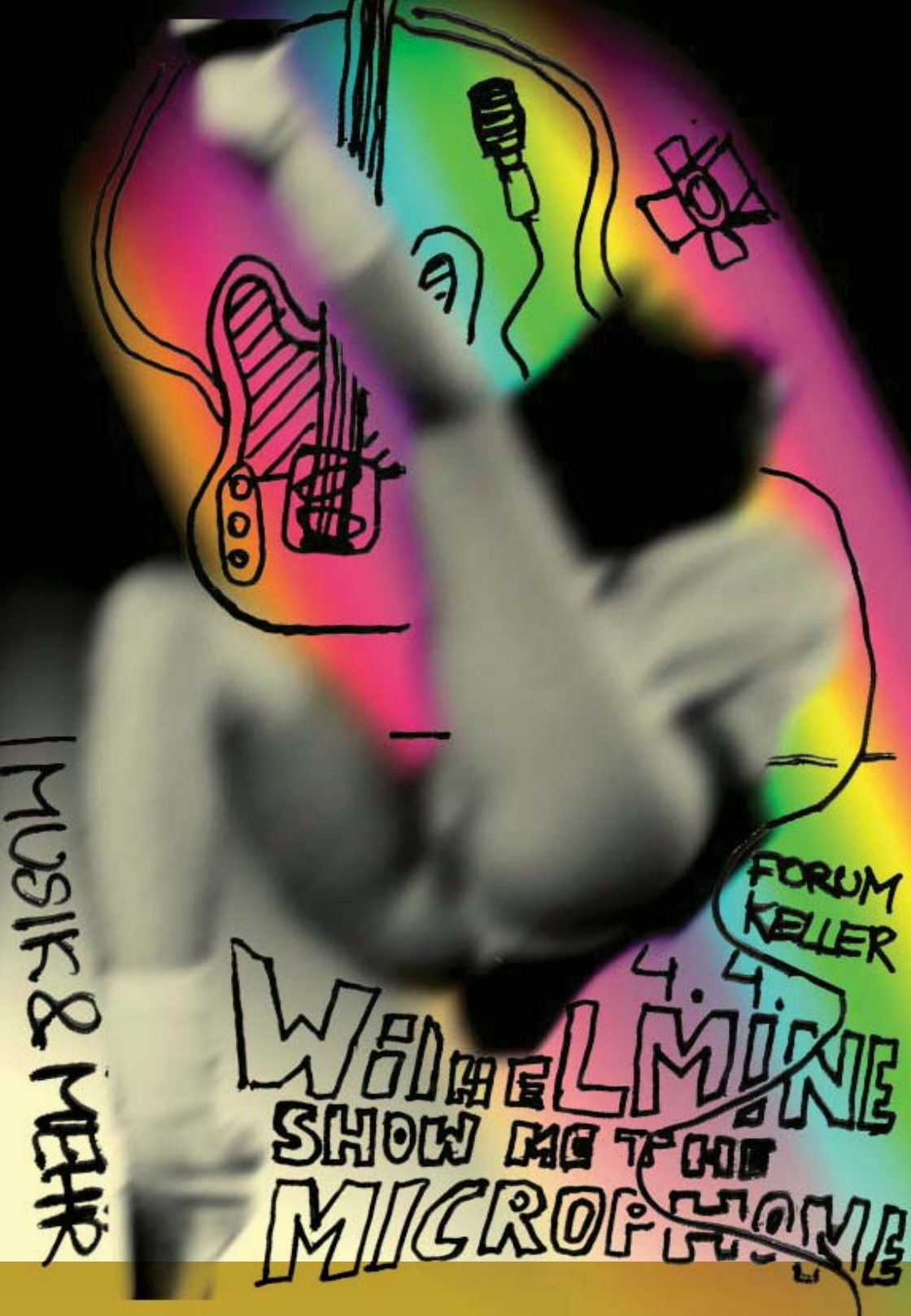
How does feminism appear in Austria?

Is there a large scenel/audience for this type of event?

Most of the people in Austria think feminism is just about employment rates and language issues. Or, they even believe that feminists are women who want to overpower the male population and therefore see the attitude as a threat and the word as a swear word. But luckily there are always activists and supporters who try to make people aware and change things.

What does feminism mean to you?

Feminism for us is not a problem of sex, but it's the struggle against the gender-roles given by our surroundings, which we have to fulfill and which restrict us. Being „normal“ in our society means conforming to „male“ and „female“ cliché. To fight this we need feminism.



SO LET'S TALK BOUT THE EVENT.

Name? Idea behind the festival? Target audience?

The event is called „Wilhelmine show me the Microphone“ and is the „female“ equivalent to an annual festival organized by our Record Label and friends „Wilhelm show me the Major Label“. The target was to show people the uneven gender circumstances in the underground music scene. Thus we invited female dominated bands and other female artists. If, at a festival, there are only boys on stage, it wouldn't seem strange to anybody. But the other way around is already a statement, which is sad, and needs to be changed. To have mostly females on stage should trigger young girls to also pick up an instrument and form a band.

We didn't have a special target audience, everyone, no matter of age or sex should come, so maybe one day, we, as musicians, don't have to think about our gender any more.

So you both are somehow involved with underground music scene?

Yes. We have been playing in bands since we were 16 and listening to music and going to concerts forever. We also dj.

Are there any artists, musicians or other public figures that inspire you?

Since feminism in Austria is rather rare, everyone who tries to make people aware of the problems or just a strong woman, like the local female music manager who is not even aware of being the only female in this business in Graz, inspires us. Of course we have some people who we admire as well, like Kim Gordon from Sonic Youth. She inspires us not only with her strength, but also her music style, the art she's doing and her whole life style.



How did you get involved with organizing this festival?

After complaining for years about the lack of women in the scene we one day thought let's get up and do something.

What was significant to you as organizers?

When we promoted the festival, we never knew whether to call it girls-, female, or feminist fest. But after seeing the bad reaction the word feminism arouses, we started to call it like that on purpose, so that the word would get connected with something positive. Many boys were wondering: „Can I come as a boy?“. Yes boys, you can.

Did you receive any kind of support, such as financial or promotional, or anything else you can think of?

Yes, everyone we invited to perform had an open ear for our concerns and the bands would have played for free. But we got financial support from the city government and other public sources.

What kind of feedback you received from audience?

Different. Most people were very positive about it and some criticized the aggressive

feminist art, some did not see the use of an event like that, because they think that females are everywhere anyway.

How about 2010? Have you already got plans and ideas of when & how the festival is going to be?

Right now we are living in different parts of the world, but in summer they will most likely be another one with more bands and guests.

Did you learn something significant while organizing festival in 2009 that you would do differently with the next fest?

Yes. Plan everything in advance, advance, advance. You never know what is going to happen. Always have a backup plan.

Any tips for people who'd like to get involved with grrrl event organizing?

Don't question your idea, just do it. (But don't forget to plan everything in advance advance advance)

Is there something you'd like to add?

Form bands. Organize festivals. Show what you can do. Don't be shy. Spread the word. >>

LAST QUESTION, WHAT DOES A FEMINIST LOOK LIKE?

“Luckily, there are no rules to that.”



www.wilhelmshowmethemajorlabel.com

wilhelmine
show me the microphone

auftakt__

eva hinteregger PHOTOGRAPHIE

anticool company INSTALLATION

18.00

DJ

adriana celentana

sabine und gerda

THEATER

kateřina řerná LESUNG

musik__

LIVE

21.00

luise pop (wien)

supernachmittag (graz)

lady lynch (graz)

DJS

the mean machine (wien)

anna_log

psycho anna lise

trees_traumhaft

forum stadtpark

WWW.WILHELMSHOWMETHEMAJORLABEL.COM

GRAWR DIGS: LINE UP / STUFF TO LOOK AT & LISTEN TO, BETCH!

BANDS:


Luise Pop (Wien),
Supernachmittag (Graz),
Lady Lynch (Graz),
The Mean Machine
(Wien)

DJS:

Adriana Celentana,
Anna_log,
Psycho Anna Lise,
Trees*Traumhaft

WILHELM SHOW ME THE MAJOR LABEL:

a tape-label, what great
way to discover new hot
awesome alternative
artists! ■



**HOT
TOPIC**

GRAWR DIGS:

OUR STRAIGHT BEST HAIRDRESSER



GRAWR

MY STRAIGHT BEST FRIEND

BY TODD RYAN INFINGER

“Everybody’s gay” said Kurt Cobain a few years ago. I’m not so sure. Life experience has taught me that there are definitely some men who positively identify themselves as heterosexual. Just as naturally as some do homosexual. Experience also shows that sexuality exists as a spectrum and one can find themselves at various positions on this spectrum. What I’m most curious about is the relationships that exist between men that find themselves on opposite ends of the spectrum.

I know it can work. I know Czech straight men that have a gay best friend. I know Fins, Americans, Canadians, Russians, Slovaks, and Jamaicans who have gay best friends. Yet, in every society I’ve encountered there exists, even if minimal and unspoken, a stigma attached to the homo-

sexual. What can be said about two men who have reached across the sexuality border and found broad, dynamic friendships?

It takes a special kind of man to become close to a gay man. The heterosexual man must feel quite secure with his own sexuality and not be intimidated by differences in sexuality. Much the same way that heterosexual men and woman maintain platonic relationships, the same can be true for inter-sexuality between two men. There can be problems regarding sexual tension but as long as the gay man and the straight man can get past it they can enjoy a very unique and positive bond. This bond reaches across racial, socio-economic, and sexuality differences and although rare, is a beautiful thing to behold. >>

MARTIN AND JESSE DAVID

Joel was born in Panama and Jesse was practically tossed from his mother's womb on to the Florida surf. Both boys were raised in the same lively yet small Florida beach town. Joel is an outspoken, flamboyant gay black man whose natural habitat is any bar or dancefloor. Jesse is a soft-spoken conscientious white boy with roots that stretch deep into the community. Their lives intersected in many ways. They met while attending the same high school and soon developed a deeply rooted relationship. They biked together for hours along the coastline and spoke about the pains of adolescence. They related to each other despite cultural, socio-economical and sexuality differences. Joel still lives in that same beach town. He still raises hell and will come correct on your ass. Jesse is living comfortably in Hawaii reaping the benefits of many years of clever investing. Jesse maintains a long term relationship with one woman and Joel couldn't count the number if his life depended on it. They speak regularly, laugh regularly, and still love each other.

AND JOEL

the united states

czech republic

Both Martin and David grew up in Hradec Kralove in the Czech Republic and attended the same secondary school. They both come from similar ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. They met due to a seating arrangement enforced by their teacher. The boys often found themselves in trouble due to spending more time talking with each other rather than paying attention during their studies. David was a late bloomer as far as coming out. When he met Martin, being gay was something that he kept very secret. David says that Martin had no idea that he was gay and that he would participate in conversations with Martin concerning all the girls Martin had encounters with. All the while, David never had a girlfriend and Martin never ques-

tioned David about it, blaming it on David being very shy. It was just after secondary school ended that David began seeing Patrik. It was at this time that David had to come out to his best friend as gay. David was terrified how Martin would react to the news. He was sure that Martin would react badly and that this friendship that he held so dear would disintegrate before his eyes. Martin had always been the type of boy to laugh at the notion of being gay having never had any kind of experience with a gay person. Much to David's surprise, Martin welcomed the news and embraced both he and Patrik as good friends. To this day their relationship is very strong. They see each other several times a month when David leaves Prague to return home. ■

WHAT THE FUCK?

a column that is not afraid to ask why

WOMEN'S MAGAZINES
BY ALICIA BROOKS

I have an addiction to magazines. It started young with magazines like Seventeen, Teen and Tiger Beat. Those magazines were perfect fodder for a young girl like me who liked to put pictures of cute boys on her wall, shop for bright pink lipsticks with her friends and take quizzes that would tell me exactly which type of boy would ask me to the Prom. Of course Kirk Cameron never did ask me to the Prom, or anywhere for that matter, but that didn't keep me from reading the magazines.

As I got older, I believed that I had become more sophisticated. I disregarded magazines like Cosmopolitan as being cheap and hostile towards women and decided to be personally and feminist-ically offended by people who read them. I soon realized that pretty much, every magazine "For Women" was the same – they just had different packaging.

My addiction has gotten much better since I moved to Prague. I can't read Czech so that severely limits my magazine intake. I still get wistful for those glossy pages filled with fashion, romance and advertising, and I even spring the 350kc for one of them every now and again. But not often - I am in recovery. At one point, back when I lived in California, I had subscriptions to over fifteen magazines. I read everything from Allure and Glamour to RedBook and Oprah. I read magazines about health and fitness while eating potato chips on my sofa. I had (no pun intended) issues.

But, this was before the backlash, back when it was okay to read a fashion magazine. Before we decided that women's magazines were the root of all female trouble. You all know the drill: Magazines use models that could pass for holocaust survivors. They use GIRLS (not women) who haven't



developed yet. Magazines "make" women feel inadequate and ugly by airbrushing and photo shopping.

These are valid arguments, and they all have some truth to them. But, when I buy a fashion magazine I am buying a fantasy. I am buying a life that I don't live. I am getting to stay in 5 Star hotels and eat at amazing restaurants all while wearing uncomfortable shoes that make me look like a tall, drop dead gorgeous, air brushed celebrity. And I like it that way. My real life consists of comfortable shows, public transportation, a little pouch belly and instant noodles. It's nice to dream. I don't think we women, we who read these magazines are stupid. I think we are able to distinguish the difference between the "size 0" model (is that even a real size?) and our own lovely figures. We are smart, talented women. We can look at the latest trends, albeit on very skinny women, and still value ourselves; still think for ourselves. And I think THAT is the real issue we should be focusing on.

Seventeen Magazine runs an article called "Real Hot Guys" in which young studs give girls advice on everything from hair and make up to how to "get" a guy just like him. All of the young men gave the same advice: They all said for the girl to involve herself in

something the guy likes, and if she doesn't like it then pretend to like it! Not one guy said to try talking to someone who shares the same interests. Moral is - if the guy is hot enough then you should be flexible and change to suit him. I find it ironic and irresponsible that a magazine which targets young women, and runs campaigns for girls to have "Self Confidence and peace with their bodies" can at the same time tell a girl she is not alright the way she is.

But it is no better for us grown ups. In Cosmopolitan I can find "8 Hairstyles that Men Love" and then I can find out the "4 Words that will Keep Him From Cheating". (If you are curious, as I was, those words are - You're so hot. Really. It seems by saying that, we can tap into some deep insecurity men have...because THAT'S why he fucks other women. Insecurity.) Glamour Magazine has a section called "What Men Want". In it I found out the 10 things that make every woman hot. Did you get that? EVERY WOMAN. You don't need to be a psychic to figure out what they are: body parts. Marie Claire has tedious little articles featuring "real women" talking about dating and sex. (Francine, 26 California...) I have a hard time believing that all of those women are real. Just like all those letters to Penthouse Forum are real.

These magazines are telling us that we are the total sum of our looks, and that is all a man (or woman) could want from us. That sucks. We are smarter than that. Magazines seem to think that if they give me a number (5) and a quick fix (Ways to make him love you) that I will feel better about myself.

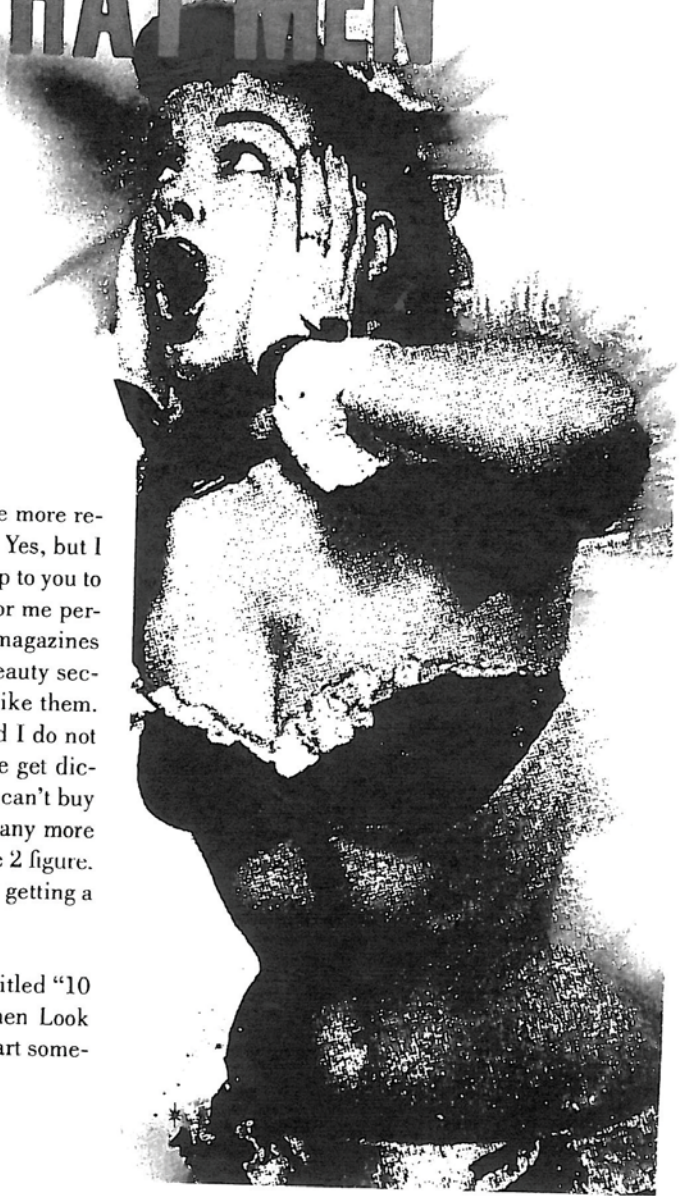
I think the solution to this issue is a simple one: don't buy into the hype and use that gorgeous fat brain of yours when you read

UMG NOW I CAN GET ONE OF THE EIGHT HAIR STYLES THAT MEN LOVE!

a magazine. Should magazines be more responsible about women's issues? Yes, but I don't trust that they will. So it is up to you to decide where to draw the line. For me personally, I will continue to read magazines that have fashion, lifestyle and beauty sections. I think they are fun and I like them. But I do not expect miracles. And I do not let my self-esteem and confidence get dictated by what I see and read. You can't buy self-esteem and body confidence any more than you can go out and buy a size 2 figure. Let's stop all the whining and start getting a little pro active.

Maybe I'll send a letter to Cosmo titled "10 Ways Your Magazine Makes Women Look like Fucking Morons". Ya got to start somewhere. ■

"WE CAN LOOK AT THE LATEST TRENDS, ALBEIT ON VERY SKINNY WOMEN, AND STILL VALUE OURSELVES; STILL THINK FOR OURSELVES. AND I THINK THAT IS THE REAL ISSUE WE SHOULD BE FOCUSING ON."



YOURS, STYLE GUIDE



FANCY

HEIDI KNOWS HOW.

FANCY

BEARD

BEARD



STUDIO VILGEFORTIS - PROVIDING BEARDS FOR EVERY WOMAN, LADY, GIRL AND BOY.

BY HEIDI LUNABBA &
MARY BLACK
ART BY HEIDI LUNABBA

Studio Vilgefortis, a project started by Heidi Lunabba, provides a beard for every woman, lady, girl and boy. Fancy a beard? Studio is currently organized in a context with Lost and Found: Queering the Archive exhibition in Umeå, Sweden. Story behind the name is at least as interesting as the project itself; studio was named after St Wilgefortis, a female saint who prayed that she'd be made repulsive to avoid an unwanted marriage. As an answer to her prayers, she sprouted a beard, but was sacrificed by her own father as a result. According to Wikipedia (2009), Wilgefortis was venerated by people seeking relief from tribulations, in particular by women who wished to be liberated from abusive husbands.

The first Studio Vilgefortis was organized in Bologna, Italy? In how many other locations (and where) it has been organized since?

Studio Vilgefortis has been organised in Joutsa and Tammisaari (small towns in Finland), in Helsinki and in Copenhagen. It will be organised in Umeå (Sweden) in

March and again in Helsinki in April. I'm planning to tour with the project and will be happy for invitations to go anywhere in the world with the studio. To find out where Studio Vilgefortis is going check out my homepage www.heidilunabba.com or Studio Vilgefortis on facebook.

What inspired you to start this project? I did some experiments with drag kinging with friends, we had a party "with the boys" and then went out to a bar. I found it interesting and wanted to find a way to share this experience through my artwork.

What kind of audience does the studio appeal to?

It seems to appeal to a quite mixed audience, feminists of course but also anyone who has ever been curious about what it would feel like to have a beard. Mainly women but also some men and children.

Has there been any provoked responses or feelings among the audience/observers? Yes, but not so much actually. It hasn't ever been a problem. Just sometimes you can see the dislike on the face of someone passing by.

Any personal statements that you'd like to add?

I think it has been interesting to see during the project how a lot of "beard customers" are really surprised about how good the beard suits their faces. ■

CHECK OUT!

<http://www.heidilunabba.com/>



GRAWR DIGS: YOUR EXTENDED VOCABULARY

WE DON'T
JUST
LOVE
LIT
FIGHT

BITCH

Found yourself from middle of a catfight? No worries! Now you can update your vocabulary and learn how to say “bitch” in variety of languages. Pick your favourite and rock it, grrrl.

CZ / čubka, děvka, kurva,

CRO / kuja,

DE / schlampe,

EN / betch, cunt, ho-bag, itch-bay, slag, trade, trick, unpleasant person,

ES / fufa, golfa, guarra, meretriz, perra y puta, zorra,

FI / horo, lumppu, narttu,

FR / connasse, pétasse, salope,

GRE (Ancient) / εταίρα, πορνή

IS / tík,

NL / hoere,

PL / kurwa,

PT / puta dum caralho,

RU / цыка,

SWE / slampa, slyna,

WEL / gast,

SALOPE

KURVA

HORO

GUARRA

CUNT

IT HURTS TO BE HOT

a column on controversial trends throughout history

BY MARY BLACK

When winter arrived this year, my first mission was to buy warm and practical shoes, but my shopping trip ended up to realization that if I don't want to wear winter shoes with heels, most shoe stores don't offer that much of a diversity. A week later during a vacation in Scandinavia, I met a girl who wears high heels (preferably stilettos) throughout whole winter. "It develops your balance", she said while trying to move from place A to place B on icy and snowy streets of Helsinki. "If you are careful, there's smaller risk of falling down and besides, stilettos on ice function quite the same way than ice picks." I ask her if she feels comfortable. The answer is no.

"But it's a price you have to pay if wanting to look good and stylish."

I admit it – it is easy to become a fashion victim while walking pass billboards, ads, magazine stalls and window displays daily. But to wear something that is actually uncomfortable and even dangerous, only because it's chic and because it makes you hotter than you really are? Perhaps I'm not masochist enough, but I don't get it... even though fashion market obviously push us to wear heels and make finding of flat (but nicely designed and feminine) shoes a mission impossible.

Since history has been documented, there has been tons of controversial trends that has made the wearer – usually a woman – suffer. There may be a large scale of social and cultural purposes behind each trend, but some of them have just developed because of people's vanity. What's up with high heels then? High heels have a long history and in fact, they have been worn by both sexes since Ancient Egypt when heels were mainly used by butchers to avoid stepping on blood, guts and dead animals (now that's what I call a good reason to wear something a bit uncomfortable). Slowly, heels turned into a trend, functioning as a status symbol and ego booster of elite and royals for hundreds of years until Napoleon banished high heels in attempt to show equality in 1791... and ironically, it was a woman – Marie Antoinette- who firstly ignored Napoleon's code by wearing heels on her execution. Oh, to die with style! Since then, high heels have been mainly associated as a feminine (= vain?) object.

After millions of blisters and twisted ankles in a path of womanhood and gender roles what was one of the factors that influenced



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MY GOOD OLD SNEAKERS

women's fashion, feminist theories of the 60's said it; high heels equals sexual stereotyping and is a (man-made) object that cripples and slows women down, which weakens them in everlasting battle of sexual discrimination and equality of genders (Gamman, 1993). Indeed, there has been indications and speculation about that since the Middle Ages; high heels were said to help men in preventing women's movements and protests and according to Kunzle (2004), also prevented women to escape from harems. Cheap! But no matter how sexist purposes high heels may have had, because today, women (somewhat) have a choice! High heels are still a maac-
 cording to Kunzle (2004), also prevented women to escape from harems. Cheap! But no matter how sexist purposes high heels may have had, because today, women (somewhat) have a choice! High heels are still a major trend because...? We keep buying them and I'm just asking, what does that tell about us?

There may be many disadvantages what comes to heels, there may be vanity behind this trend's success, but it can't be ignored how women in heels feel about themselves – high heels don't make them only physically taller, but also taller in a metaphori-

cal sense. It's a tool of power. Perhaps these women are turning sexist nature of this object the other way around. As a short girl myself, I understand the effect of + 10 centimeters and a bunch of confidence (not to mention the sexy points you get from wearing heels), but that all isn't enough to replace the comfort and sex appeal that I've found from cowboy-ish boots for instance. Referring to 60's feminist theories, stilettos actually do make me feel like trapped, not because I feel weaker in comparison to the opposite sex, but a) they make me slower, b) makes my balance more insecure, c) cobble stone streets of Prague are just not made for stilettos and d) if I'd ignore these negative feelings because of vanity and would still constantly wear ridiculously high heels, that wouldn't make me very smart, wouldn't it? ■

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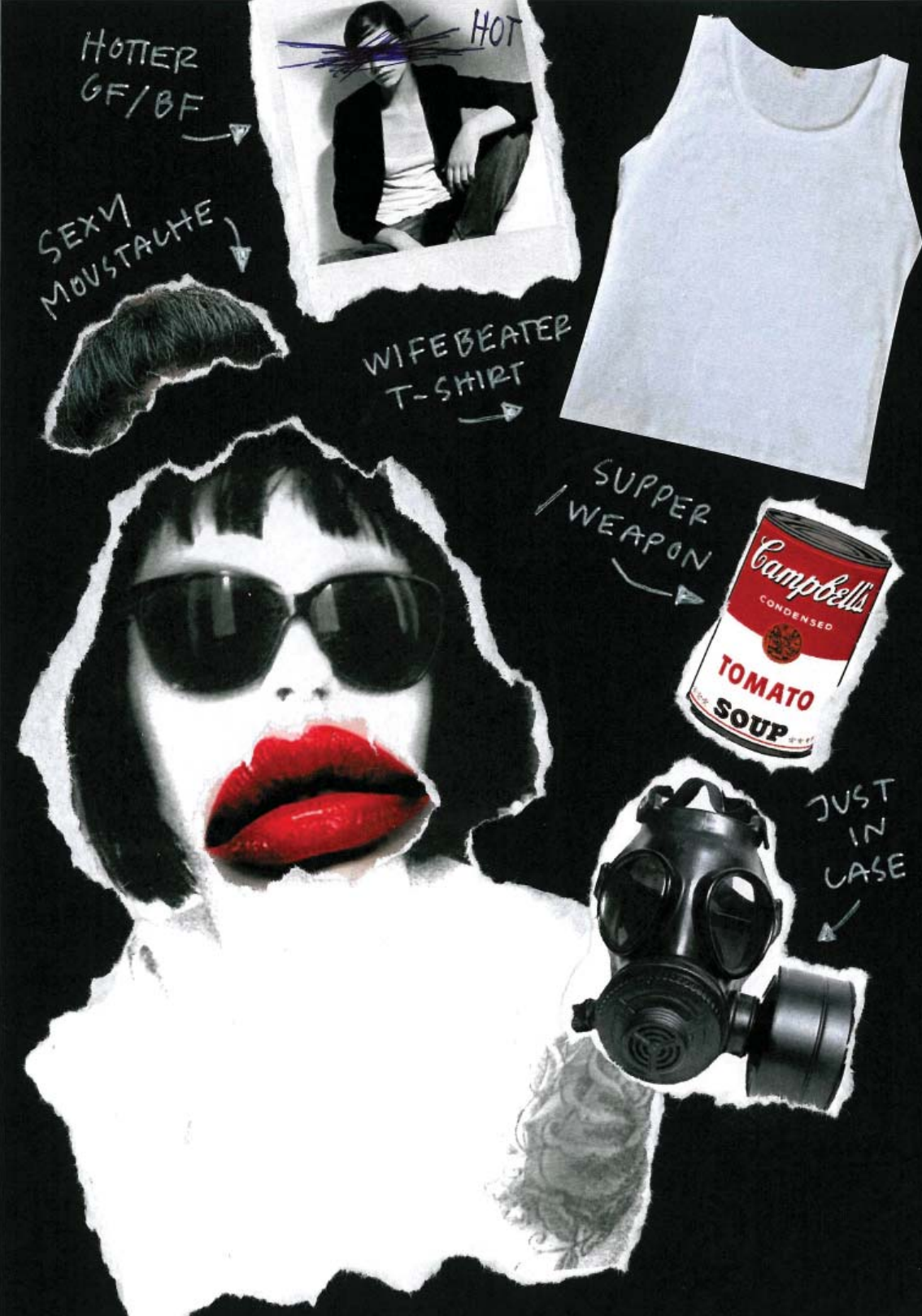
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WHY DON'T YOU ACCESSORIZE?

COZ IT'S NOT LIKE THAT A
SEXY MOUSTACHE / CAMPBELL'S
CAN / WIFE-BEATER / RED LIP-
STICK / BOXERS / EYELINER /
GAS MASK ETC. IS EITHER A
MALE OR A FEMALE THING?

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GRAVIA

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