

The Monthly Rag

Brought to you by the Feminist and Gender Studies Student Advisory Council

Block V, 2012

Toni Pizza Sociology Major, Class of 2012

Oh hey there, Feminists! I've been thinking lately, and I decided my space in *The Rag* should talk about the future. Wait, don't stop reading! I won't try to persuade you to hire me after graduation or lecture you about finishing those internship applications. What I aim to do is prepare you for some exciting/feminist related events happening on campus this semester. Err... prepare you for one event this semester – ALISON BECHDEL. If you're not familiar with Bechdel, I'll give you the basics a little later on, but first, you should know that she will be on campus 7th Block. In fact, thanks to The Visiting Writers Series, she will be speaking in Cornerstone on Wednesday, April 11th at 5:30pm.

At this point, you're probably wondering why I'm telling you about this more than a month prior to the event. Well, the thing is, you should take the next couple of months to prepare. Seriously. Alison Bechdel is awesome and you'll want some time to get familiar with her work so you can ask provocative questions or think of how you'll ask her to sign a book. Am I right?

Anyway, back to the point... Bechdel is a cartoonist/graphic novelist. She's the creator of the comic strip "Dykes to Watch Out For" and author of the highly acclaimed graphic novel *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*. She's also the creator of "The Bechdel Test," which informally measures female presence in movies. The Bechdel Test is pretty nifty, next time you watch a movie, ask yourself these questions: 1) Are there two or more women in it (*with names)? 2) Do they talk to each other? 3) Do they talk to each other about something other than a man? You'll be surprised at how many films don't feature women discussing things other than the men in their lives. Have thoughts about this? Bring it to *The Monthly Rag* facebook group!

My advice: take the next few blocks to acquaint yourself with Bechdel's work and like I said, come up with some awesome questions for her! Can't wait to see you at the event! -tp

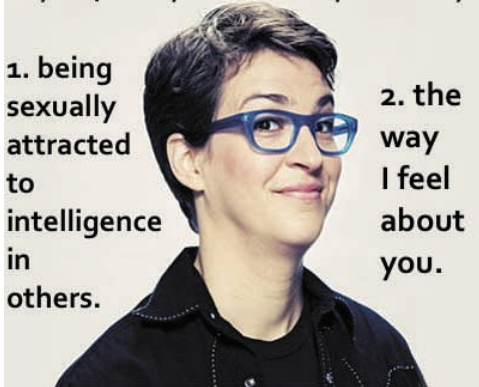
Rachel Maddow, My Shero

Probably one of the best things to come from the multitude of Ryan Gosling-themed blogs was this. Below the title "Hey Girl, It's Rachel Maddow", the blog creators state "Because Ryan Gosling isn't for everyone. And because being smart is really fucking sexy."

To that I say: ain't that the truth! Of course, we could bring up that being smart is also important, useful, empowering, etc, but if more CC students prioritized intelligence in a partner whilst getting to know them, I believe more people would experience a new depth to dating that seems to be missing on campus. **Tess Gattuso, Class of 2015**

Hey Girl, Have you heard of sapiosexuality?

1. being sexually attracted to intelligence in others.



2. the way I feel about you.

Nobody tells an actor, 'you're playing a strong-minded man.' We assume that men are strong-minded. A strong-minded woman is a different animal. ~ Meryl Streep, on being told that she often plays "strong-minded women."

Annika Davis, Art History Major, Class of 2013

Everyone is all abuzz about Vinny from Jersey Shore sharing publicly that he battles anxiety disorder, and the difficulties that life as a reality television star can cause for someone prone to anxiety. As an avid Jersey Shore watcher (I'm sorry. I don't know how it started, but it's gone on this long, so here we are.), I watched two episodes ago when Vinny's anxiety came to a head and he decided to leave the Shore. I felt both saddened, and proud for a number of reasons. His exit was emotional, and what was equally emotional was his best friend Pauly's heartwarming, sincere reaction of sadness and care.

Never before in popular culture have I seen two men, not to mention men whose reality personas rely on their giant muscles, promiscuity, and other stereotypical markers of masculinity, being so honest and open about their feelings, their struggles, and their love and friendship for one another. Pauly and Vinny opened up a discourse about male friendship, and Vinny opened one up about the reality of anxiety disorder and depression, problems which many understate the severity of, problems which can be viewed merely as "unmasculine" and "weak". He also set a good example by doing what was best for his mental health, and leaving an environment of excessive partying, little privacy, and social stress.

Following his departure from the show, Vinny gave a special appearance on MTV further explaining anxiety disorder, how it has effected his life, and his decision to leave the Shore. He has also appeared on a PSA for a suicide prevention foundation. Besides just making it easier for me to defend my watching of Jersey Shore weekly, I think these recent events have been incredibly important for mainstream culture and the "MTV generation" to start thinking about gender issues and psychological disorders.

If you want to watch the episode, it is episode 2 of the current season of Jersey Shore, and is available to stream on MTV's website, as is Vinny's interview about anxiety.

One Step Closer: Contraceptive Coverage Rule Approved Under ACA

Has the price of birth control ever kept you from buying it? The number one prescription drug for women ages 18-44 years, the average woman pays \$50 a month for birth control. This is an obvious barrier to access, particularly for low-income women and students. Reproductive rights are a fundamental aspect of women's economic equality, yet access to those very rights has been predicated on income due to rising prescription costs.

The price of birth control has long been a barrier to access, but we are one step closer to reproductive justice. Under the Affordable Care Act of 2010, insurance plans will cover contraceptives with no co-pays or deductibles. But recently, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, along with others, had requested that a religious exemption to contraceptive coverage be broadened to include religious-connected schools, hospitals, charities, and other institutions, which would have denied millions of women necessary health care. This would have included students at religious universities.

Today, Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius made the decision not to broaden the religious exemption for contraceptive care under the Preventive Care package of the Affordable Care Act. This will ensure that all students will have access to birth control at no cost. **Millions** of women who have been denied coverage will now have access to birth control.

As excited as we are to now have birth control completely covered for those of us who are on insurance, we can't forget the millions of women whom are not covered under insurance. **Over 19 million women in this country are uninsured**, and this has major overall health implications, including the devastating effect it has on a woman's right to control her own body and future. So at this time of victory, let's also remember those women who are unemployed or low-income and uninsured - because reproductive rights means full access to abortion, birth control, and sexual health care for ALL women!

feministcampus.org

Rick Santorum On Opposition to Abortion In Cases of Rape

GOP presidential candidate Rick Santorum explained his opposition to abortion even in cases of rape, saying that women who face such circumstances should "make the best out of a bad situation."

Asked by CNN what he would do if his own daughter approached him, begging for an abortion after having been raped, Santorum explained the following:

"Well, you can make the argument that if she doesn't have this baby, if she kills her child, that that, too, could ruin her life. And this is not an easy choice, I understand that. As horrible as the way that that son or daughter and son was created, it still is her child. And whether she has that child or she doesn't, it will always be her child, and she will always know that."

"And so to embrace her and to love her and to support her and get her through this very difficult time, I've always, you know, I believe and I think the right approach is to accept this horribly created - in the sense of rape - but nevertheless a gift in a very broken way, the gift of human life, and accept what God has given to you. As you know, we have to, in lots of different aspects of our life we have horrible things happen. I can't think of anything more horrible, but nevertheless, we have to make the best out of a bad situation and I would make the argument that that is making the best."

Do you have a question, want more info or resources, don't understand something, or want to contribute to our publication? Contact Andi or Tess:

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