

08 MARCH 2019

Hello and welcome to our International Women's Day issue. Growing up I was told March 8 is mother's

day and that only women who have become mothers can celebrate today. It wasn't long since the end of the communist regime in Bulgaria, but there was still the

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Women's Day in Girlguiding

perception that if a woman wants to contribute to society she has to bring a child into the world.

Luckily, times have changed and in this issue we celebrate women and girls from all backgrounds who have given

birth to ideas, to inventions, challenged traditional roles and taking charge of their bodies. We recog-

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nise how far we have come but also address there is still progress to be made.

This issue will hopefully make you think what your role will be in the ongoing journey to equality which we should all make together.

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WOMEN

REVIEW IN

WORDS BY LAUREN WALKER **From a record number of females in U.S. Congress to a young environmental activist talking at the UN, here's what has been done for and by women since International Women's Day 2018, in the year of female empowerment.**

10

Amount of women who ex- changed their foreign licences for Saudi ones on June 4, 2018 weeks before the Middle Eastern country lifted its ban on female drivers. However, many women's rights activists who fought for the change in the law remain impris- oned to this day.

I would drag him here myself, but it turns out the President of the United States is the one pussy you're not allowed to grab.

MICHELLE WOLF In a controversial speech during the White House Correspondents' dinner on April 28, 2018, which the President didn't attend. Wolf took shots at Trump about his wealth, the sexual allegations against him and the hush-money he paid out to cover these up.

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Truth prevails.

ANDRE CONSTAND In a tweet as Bill Cosby was convicted for drug- ging and assaulting her in 2004. The stand-up comedian, actor, musician, and author was sen- tenced to three to ten years in prison and has since been slapped by another lawsuit.

1ST

On May 25, Stacey Cunningham broke the glass ceiling over Wall Street when she was named the 67th president of the New York Stock Ex- change, the first female ever to take this position. Now, both of the lead- ing stock exchanges are being run by a woman, with Adena Friedman at the head of Nasdaq.

\$5.5

MILLION

Amount of money in which pho- tographer Susan Unterberg has col- lectively given grants of \$25,000 to female artists aged over 40. After not taking credit for the donations for 22 years, the contemporary artist and founder of Anonymous Was a Wom- an revealed herself so she can more

51%

openly discuss her cause.

Following the Mexican elections, women took over half the seats in

Sen- ate on December 1, 2018, whilst 49 percent of the lower house is now fe- male. The country now globally ranks fourth for gender equality in legislative representation and is the only country with a majority of females in the elect- ed Senate.

If there's one thing I've learned in life, it's the power of using your

voice.

MICHELLE OBAMA In her book *Becoming*, released on November 13, 2018, the former first lady describes her journey from her small birth town to the White House as she reflects on friendships, grief, achieving your goals and having faith in yourself. The memoir became the best selling book of the year within weeks of publication.

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Age of teen climate activist Greta Thunberg, who in August 2018 started the first school strike for the cause, staged outside the Swedish parliament. Since then, she has spoken at other strikes, held a speech at the UN Climate COP24 Conference.

On her 102nd birthday, Australian pensioner Irene O'Shea became the oldest skydiver in the world when she jumped out of a plane at a height of 14,000 feet. The daredevil dedicated the plunge to her daughter who died of Motor Neuron Disease as she hopes to raise awareness and funds.

Out With The Old In With The New

During the November US midterm elections, 31 first-time House members took to Congress with 118 seats being held by a woman. This figure includes women of colour and minority backgrounds who have broken barriers, including Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib who became the first Muslim woman elected to Congress. can include life imprisonment. This is prompting many campaigners, including the Labour MP Stella Creasy, to point out that it is theoretically possible in Northern Ireland for a rape victim who has an abortion to be given a harsher sentence than her rapist.

This has led to a situation where women have to choose between having an abortion illegally, most commonly by taking pills bought online, or travelling to Scotland, England or Wales to seek out safe, legal abortions.

According to Amnesty International, an average of 28 women a week make the journey to mainland UK in order to terminate their pregnancies. This statistic was used by campaigners in late February, when 28 women, including actors from the popular BBC series "Derry Girls", delivered suitcases filled with petitions to Westminster calling for

the relaxing of Northern Irish abortion laws. "28 women shouldn't be travelling to the rest of the UK a week. We really need people in England, Scotland and Wales to put pressure on their MPs because our MPs in parliament, half of them don't sit and the other half are the DUP who don't properly represent the wishes of even their own voters," Campbell says.

Northern Ireland has been without a functioning parliament for over two years, which some people say prevents any hope of reform as health is a devolved issue.

But in June 2018 the UK Supreme Court ruled that access to abortion for women was not only a health matter but a human rights matter as well, which would make Westminster responsible.

The UK's Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Karen Bradley, has contradicted this verdict, however, and there is no sign yet that Theresa May's government will tackle the issue. To many critics, this appears to be down to the Prime Minister's need for the support of the anti-abortion Democratic Unionist Party to get through the Brexit process. "Until the DUP formed an unholy coalition with the Tories many people in the rest of the UK didn't even know who they were and how much they're holding us back," says Campbell. "And honestly, I think if

the Tories

A

The voting equality porary national _ erage, the fundamental all ing was today, later. balance But It

the access most passed was 20th sports... way rights, ostensibly for issue, in Women's in

lot the tury en's pressing across to century women back the that and abortion United has - the access Day since and workplace. remarkably year in boardrooms, changed official unamended, **women** Day issue 1861. in one was saw to **This** Kingdom International that in Northern contraception 2019 that Northern of first strides theme the **year**, for For today **in** it has is law established. media still women in a **Northern** 158 "balance" made of **as** contem- its the Ireland, is govern- Ireland Wom- stands Inter- **with** more roots years cen-

in cov- and in didn't need the DUP for Brexit at the moment, then we probably already have had extension of the rights to Northern Ireland." It seems unlikely, given how desperate- ly Theresa May needs the DUP's support at the moment, that Westminster will legislate for the changes they are obliged to by the Supreme Court. Groups like ROSA look to the tradition of protest action in helping bring about change. International Women's Day itself was brought on 110 years ago by mass demonstration and socialist campaigns. "It would be a mistake to think we will be granted bodily autonomy from the goodness of politicians hearts... but with the right kind of campaign I'm confident (these changes) could happen quite quickly," Falvey says.

"But I'm not one for making predictions." **6 years gone by, International Women's Day is a chance for Ireland to remind the world that reproductive rights are still not a given in all parts of the UK.**

That's why for many activists and hum-made by women in the last 100 years, man rights organisations the current battle IWD has to be a protest against the masculine over reproductive rights is what Intersectional oppression women still face in society national Women's Day (IWD) 2019 is all today," says Cerys Falvey, of the campaign about. group ROSA, a socialist party affiliated "In Northern Ireland, we can't talk women's group. about any other area feminism until people Northern Ireland is unique in Western people have the right to control their own Europe for having the tightest controls bodies," says Emma Campbell of Alliance over abortion, behind even the Republic for Choice, the largest pro-choice campaign of Ireland which voted in favour of legislation in Northern Ireland. Ireland. galising abortion during the "Repeal the "The impact that has on the rest of your Eighth" campaign of May 2018. life - it's economic, it's mental health, it's The 1967 Abortion Act that governs physical health, it's about your family life access to abortions in the rest of the UK and your job prospects. It kind of covers was never extended to Northern Ireland. everything." Instead, there's only the Offences Against These sentiments are shared by other the Person Act, which makes it illegal for activists who want to place the focus of any woman to cause herself to have an IWD on reproductive rights.

abortion, even in cases of rape or incest. “Whilst it’s fine to celebrate the gains
Punishment for violating the 1861 Act
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BUT FIRST, FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

WORDS BY AILEAN BEATON ILLUSTRATION BY RACHEL LEE PICTURE BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

PROFILE

It gives me confidence because I actually did what I wanted to do.

honest and I’ll tell you, and then it’s for you to decide. But don’t talk about me behind my back.”

When ‘Suicide Girls’ first began in 2001, founder Selena Mooney received some backlash from feminists who believed she was exploiting women. But Mooney has spoken on numerous occasions that the site is a way for the

girls to embrace who they are, their bodies, their sexuality, and show this off with no shame. For Mooney, it is important that the women felt positive about their bodies. In her eyes, this makes her a feminist.

For Bianca, there were a number of reasons for joining the 'Suicide Girls' community. First of all, it was one of her dreams since she was a teenager. Although it took her years to get over her body issues and gain self-confidence, she now finally feels comfortable enough to do the modelling.

Since joining the community, all of the girls she has worked with as well as others she met along the way have been kind and supportive. Bianca explains: "You meet amazing people and amazing photographers and if you look at some of the sets there is so much beauty in it and so much passion and I just like being a part of it — for me it's beautiful." When asked what exactly 'Suicide Girls' means to her, Bianca says: "For me, it is self-expression and art

and the female body is beautiful. I think tattoos and everything about it is beautiful and I think it is a form of

self-fulfillment. I feel like I can do what I want as I have already gone a step further than what

WORDS BY IONA YOUNG PHOTOS BY IONA YOUNG & BIANCA

people accept.

"And now I've done that, it makes me feel free and more confident. It doesn't

T

his headlines announced adult week, entertainment as the it the debate will GMB launch reached branch. union an el with over 3,500 Instagram followers, finds it strange that society still thinks it is acceptable to tell women what

they can and cannot do. She has recently The sex workers who fought for their embarked on her journey to become a right to a trade union now hope to have 'Suicide Girl', part of an online commu- a say in future legislation regarding what nity-based website which showcases pin- they do with their bodies. Only last

up photography sets of models. year, Ireland voted to repeal the eighth Bianca explains: "The suicide part amendment of its constitution, which comes from the fact that you are com- had essentially banned abortions in all mitting social suicide as soon as you join but extreme cases since 1983.

them." Having always rebelled against Around the same time last year, some the norm, she can identify with this women's groups called for a ban on

attitude. The photos show the women strip-clubs in Scotland — to the dismay posing in a wide variety of pin-up style of some of the girls who choose to work lingerie, on a website which is only ac- there. For them, closing these

places is
cessible to paying members or subscrib- not the solution; implementing regula- ers. tions to avoid their industry
going un-

She did receive some criticism from derground and becoming dangerous, is.

friends and family, however, it was the These different opinions are still divid- reaction she got from strangers that

baf- ing feminist collectives, as some women fled her the most. For her, the body is

believe they have the right to do whatev-

the “most natural thing in the world”, so er they want with their bodies, whilst on

negative feedback from people who did the other hand, some are convinced that

not know her at all made no sense to Bi- showing the naked body just encourages

anca, but she welcomes open discussion. men to objectify the female form. But in “Nobody has the right to judge me

the age of the internet, and in particular if they don’t know me and don’t know

give me confidence because people like social media, does it not seem outdated

who I am and why I’m doing it. If you

the photos but it gives me confidence to still be having these discussions?

have an issue with it then obviously just

because I actually did what I wanted to Bianca, an aspiring alternative mod-

speak to me about it and I’ll be open and do.”⁸ ENG4GE

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CHANGING

THE

CONVERSATIO

N

WORDS BY MEGAN MERINO ILLUSTRATIONS BY MEGAN MERINO & RACHEL LEE

On International Women's Day we celebrate sisterhood, commemorate the suffrage movement and emphasise the ongoing fight for equality. But are trans women watching from the sidelines?

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I

If you've been on Twitter within the last few days, chances are the following sentences will sound familiar: "We, the undersigned, are a large and diverse group of women who are committed to ensuring that trans people feel welcome and safe within our society."

These lines feature in the open letter organised by Rhiannon Spear, a Glasgow councillor and chairwoman of the Time for Inclusive Education (TIE) campaign group. Since it was first published in The Herald on March 3, the letter has been gathering momentum on social media.

What gave this letter such media attention, however, is the list of 300 names that follow. Among the signatures are a wide array of public figures, activists, writers and politicians including double Academy Award-winning actress Dame Emma Thompson.

"My inbox is bursting at the seams... Love wins folks, love wins" writes Rhiannon in a later tweet following the widespread positive reaction to her words.

The letter was published in response to the rhetoric around the rights of trans people within the media and public

discourse. This is said to have contributed to the rise of “ill-informed” messaging negatively influencing public attitudes in Scotland. Recently, the Scottish Government pledged to make the Gender Recognition Act 2004 more inclusive of the trans community, but has received public criticism from various women’s rights organisations.

An LGBT Youth Scotland report showed that 77 percent of trans people in Scotland have experienced bullying. Out of those pupils, 88 percent said it negatively affected their process of learning at school and over a third of trans children

have been forced to leave their educational institutions due to the transphobic bullying they endured.

As of November 2018, Deputy First Minister and Minister for Education John Swinney has fully accepted the recommendations for LGBTQ+ inclusive education in Scottish schools made in a guidance from an LGBTI working group.

‘For Women’ and ‘Women and Girls Scotland’ representatives have been calling for equality impact assessments of the proposed policy changes in schools and other institutions where transgender and cis-gendered women are sharing facilities. A representative warned that many women may be “self-excluding themselves” from public situations in fear of a male-bodied individual acting inappropriately under the protection of self-declaratory gender

status. These arguments have been addressed by many activists and writers in wake of the letter. The Herald’s Angela Rafferty, who is among the signees, claims that these are fear-mongering tactics and that services dealing first hand with women who have suffered acts of violence do not see this as an issue. In an interview with STV, she adds, “someone who wants to harm a woman will harm a woman, they will not go to those lengths to be able to do it”.

The open letter refers to these debates as being “outdated” and emphasises that “the right of trans people to access specific services is an already settled legal matter”.

After a government consultation of The Gender Recognition Act last year surveyed the general opinion of the self-declaratory system for legal gender recognition, the support was clear. Not only was the public approval evident, but due to The Equal-

ity Act, the right for trans people not to be discriminated against because of their re-assigned gender has been legally secured since 2010. Why then, one might ask, are these points being brought up over and over again?

Just this week you could have turned on your televisions to see transgender women’s place in sport be debated on BBC Scotland, where former Olympian Sharron Davies argued that trans women athletes have a physical advantage and should play in a league of their own.

Only a few weeks ago, following the LGBTI Inclusive education working group guidance, the threats trans girls using female changing rooms could pose to the other girls was discussed on STV. In the interview, a representative of ‘Women and girls in Scotland’ felt that female pupils’ safety would be compromised for the sake of trans inclusion.

I suppose it is no new phenomena that the battle for gender equality is made up of many fragmented combatants. Just as the different waves of feminism washed up additional theories that further fragment the nature of the collective movement, the fight for transgender rights is no different.

The lack of consensus among the leading figures who share the common goal of protecting women against acts of inequality and violence is beginning to cloud the bigger picture of protecting our trans communities.

One thing is becoming increasingly clear: if trans women were in fact seen and recognised as women in their own right, their integrity wouldn’t be questioned and their voices would be brought to the forefront of this debate.

PATERNITY

G

one are the times that you will find just one dad in between the hoards of chatty mums waiting at the school gates.

Women are increasingly putting their career goals first, eradicating traditional family roles and changing the expectation that men are expected to be the main breadwinners in the relationship. Although this shift in private life has been taking place for years now, it wasn't until recently that the UK government and private companies have started considering how this new dynamic should influence the workplace and its setup.

Until 2015, it was only an option for women to take time off after the birth of a child, however, four years ago the UK government created a new law, Shared Parental Leave and Pay, allowing parents to divide up to 50 weeks of leave and 37 weeks of pay between themselves. Ever since, several companies have promoted extending paternity leaves.

Now, couples are ultimately able to choose a working pattern which suits their own, personal circumstances.

Like every great company policy, there's always a catch, as the standard pay for maternity leave still applies to these new rules. Many companies limit the payment offer to 90 percent of the employee's regular salary and only pay

this over the course of six or seven weeks.

By the end of this part of the maternity leave, pay decreases to the statutory government rate for the remaining three months, pay in between weeks six to 37

I believe that the consensus is that this change in policy helps equality, rather than harms it.

however, remains subject to employer discretion.

Overall, there has been a positive response from UK companies, such as insurance firm Aviva, who reported that 67 percent of male employees have taken advantage of the SPL scheme and taken six months off work, with 95 percent taking two weeks or more.

Lloyds Banking Group is one of several UK employers to embrace changes introduced by the government, offering full basic salary for seven weeks, half for 20 weeks and then the statutory amount for 12 weeks thereafter.

Daniel Hunter isn't just a manager at Scottish Widows, part of LBG, but is also an excited father-to-be who is awaiting the birth of his first child within just a few weeks. Through the changes to paternity rights, Hunter can now enjoy an extended bonding time with his little one, without forfeiting his holiday allowance. "Paid paternity leave has increased from two weeks to six as of October last year. This came out of the blue but has been a very welcome change in my opinion. It will allow me to spend more time to support my family at an important time and allow me to bond both with my wife and my new daughter.

"If the leave amount hadn't changed, I would have used holidays to take a similar time off anyway. The changes allow me to use my holidays later in the year, and hopefully, for the purpose they were intended for, to rest a bit," explains Hunter.

Recently, a global report by the World Bank ranked the UK in the top 15 countries for equal rights between women and men. Sweden, Latvia, France and Germany rank as some of the best countries in terms of equal rights in the workplace, with the latter offering no less than 14 months paternity leave.

Norway is allowing new fathers to take almost one year off work. Sweden also offers a generous paternity package, with the chance for male employees to take a year of shared leave between both parents and have a mandatory requirement of two months off work for each parent.

Hunter agrees that the changes will help to build equality between men and women in the workplace and believes this will, in turn, benefit his new family unit in the short and long term.

"Becoming a parent is a very important part of many people's lives. The first weeks and months of a child's life are very important for their development. This time off will be no walk in the park for myself, but it is very useful for me being able to share the parental duties with my wife and help her out.

"My employer is very encouraging towards males seeking shared paternity leave. When an employer creates their benefits package, they do it for a reason. Other employers may favour more generous pensions, bonuses or share schemes instead. Generally, though, I believe that the consensus is that this change in policy helps equality, rather than harms it," he concludes.

S

candinavian for in articles newspaper years as 'the now countries and best been magazine places hailed have
to
does not mean there is no improve-
genders is discrimination and depre- ment left to be made.
ciation of women. She claims that Ann Numhauser-Henning, a law
this is an issue that can be difficult to professor at Lund University in Swe-
fix due to a segregated labour market. live as a woman' or 'top countries for
den, explains that there is not a big

"I would say that the Swedish la-

gender equality'. There is no denying
difference in terms of pay gaps in
bour market is more segregated than the gender pay gap exists, the main
Scandinavia from what the average
the market in Italy or Spain. The dis- challenge now is to understand why.
gap in Europe is.
crimination of women is given more Recent studies, including a report by
"We do not differ in any extreme

space due to this issue of segregation.” the National Bureau of Economic
ways. What characterises Sweden is
An investigation on pay gaps be- Research, showed one of the main
the fact that women work almost as
tween men and women by Eurostat explanations lies in the education
much as men do,” she says.
shows that the European countries and upbringing of children, and this
A report made by the National
with the widest wage gaps in 2016 is where the northern countries do it
Mediation Office shows that the rate
were Estonia (25,3 percent), the right. of wage difference between men and
Czech Republic (21,8 percent), Ger- The Swedish Education Act, which
women in Sweden stood at 11.3 per-
many (21,5 percent) and UK (21 per- governs all schooling in the country,
cent in 2017. That is a 0.7 percent
cent). The study shows that there is ensure that gender equality is taught
decrease from 2016.
a trend of decreasing pay differences

at every level of the system. Starting
The 2017 Global Gender Gap An-
between men and women in Europe. in förskola, or pre-school, gender-in-
nual Report shows that Iceland, Nor-
However, despite the decreasing

clusive education is adapted into the
way, Finland and Sweden are ranked
wage gaps, there are many concerns child’s development and learning
1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th, and Denmark
in terms of gender equality, in Scan- processes, with the aim of secur-
as 14th, out of 144 countries when
dinavia and in the rest of the world. ing the same opportunities for all
it comes to gender equality in the
Women are being harassed, abused Swedes, regardless of their gender. By
workplace.
and discriminated in other ways on counteracting traditional gender pat-
“One of the reasons why the wage
a daily basis. On March 5, Amnesty terns, it is hoped this upbringing will
gap is so narrow in Scandinavia may
International reported on Denmark’s transfer and reflect later in life, both
be that these countries have moved in
‘pervasive rape culture’, highlighting in private and public environments,
a modern direction, with a detach-
that Denmark’s reputation for gender including the workplace.
ment from the patriarchal model in

equality is masking the fact that it Denmark, Sweden and Norway which women stay at home to care is the country with one of Europe's were among the first countries in the for their children. In Sweden, we highest levels of rape. world to implement full voting rights have built structures that are benefi- "The biggest issue and the most for women. In Sweden, the proposed cial for women in the workplace. We important is violence against women. bill was passed in 1919, following in can continue to work after having Violence at home, sexism and harass- the footsteps of Norway and Den- children," says Numhauser-Henning. ment in the workplace. These acts are mark. The Scandinavian countries She explains that many other coun- the ultimate expression of inequality have come a long way, and women's tries are starting to catch up and that between men and women. voiced in political and social settings women work more than they used to. "We may have managed to come are not only becoming louder, they According to Numhauser-Hen- further in the north but have we are also being heard — however, this ning, the main explanation why there reached gender equality? Certainly doesn't mean the battle has ended, it are pay discrepancies between the not," says Numhauser-Henning.

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As many young Chinese women continue to be pressured by their parents to get married instead of pursuing a career, one young woman has decided to be her own boss.

F

or turn Christmas sound many home familiar single dinner, annually and women these induce for questions a who a family wea- re- ry eye-roll. They're often thrust upon you straight after the hellos and how are you, before you've even got your coat off never- mind stabbed your fork into a Marks and Spencer's brussels sprout. As it turns out, it's the same for wom- en on the other side of the world visiting family for the Chinese New Year. Actually, the questions go a step further: "So, are you going to get married soon? [...] Why don't you have a husband?" In China, marriage is a priority. It's seen as one of the most important things a woman should do in life, part of a three- point checklist alongside raising a family and looking after elderly relatives. But it's not that simple. Many young Chinese women are ambitious and ca- reer-driven. They have their own goals: graduate from university, travel the world and build a career. Marriage isn't a priority. Chinese women are forced to choose be- tween living

up to their parents' traditional expectations or to their own. Skincare brand SK-II recently premiered a short documentary that was filmed in the run-up to the Chinese New Year. *Meet Me Halfway* followed three young women who had avoided returning home for many years due to pressuring questions, as they invited their parents to meet them halfway, literally and figuratively.

On mutual middle ground, the women and their parents embraced and listened to one another. Love and respect filled the screen. The touching film successfully opened a dialogue about generational differences and marriage not only between the women and their parents but also sparked a worldwide conversation online.

When asked how she felt after viewing

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WORDS & PHOTOS BY RACHEL LEE

So, are you seeing anyone? Do you really not have a boyfriend? Why don't you have a boyfriend?

the film, Mae Lai Drew, 21, simply says "relatable."

Although Mae Lai was raised in Scotland and says she is lucky her parents aren't as strict and marriage-focused as others, she still experiences the same bombardment of questions at family gatherings. "My mum mostly worries about my future and how I'm going to look after myself as I've told her many times I don't want a boyfriend or to get married. "She's traditional when it comes to wanting me to date a Chinese man but I'm definitely not looking to get serious as I have my life to live out before I potentially settle down."

Growing up, like many Chinese women, Mae Lai noticed that different expectations were placed on her than on her brother. "Everyone had very high expectations for my older brother. Every relative would constantly remind him to 'stay in school' and 'get good grades' whereas my relatives always told me to 'find a man who could look after you.'"

Mae Lai is a successful, self-taught and highly-sought after make-up artist. She is her own boss. In many ways, she's an example of someone who is exploring the opportunities young women can have today that differ from the norm. She found her passion, worked extremely hard to hone her talent and build her business – all on her own. "My auntie Millie used to look after my brother and me, and I'd always watch her put makeup on before going to work and I used to think it was amazing how you could be as creative as you wanted to be. I got my first makeup kit aged five and ever since I've been obsessed!" Since it's not a standard nine-to-five job, she says some ex-boyfriends have viewed her career as "more of a hobby than a job." However, Mae Lai hasn't let that stop her from envisioning her potential. "My

dream is to do makeup on film sets. I've also set myself a goal to open up my own salon and employ people to work for me in the near future."

By pursuing the career and living the life she wants, Mae Lai is paving the way for young people like herself.

Similar to the women in Meet Me Halfway, she respects her parents well-meaning and deep-rooted traditional values but invites them to support her choices. Whilst Mae Lai's life is by no means incomplete without a boyfriend, there is one important man in her life – her dad.

"My dad loves that I'm strong-minded and independent. He has taught me for as long as I can remember to never rely on a guy and to always put myself and my career first. He knows that I prefer being single, that I don't want to get married or have kids and he backs me up."

"He tells me to do whatever makes me happy, which I'm eternally grateful for."

stantly ask, 'are you gay?', I always find that funny," Ian adds. Both Emma and Ian agree that bringing some testosterone into a ward is a positive thing. Not only could it help smooth down the occasional bumps amongst

terparts when they disagree, many

female coun-

patients also enjoy hanging onto the

arm of a man. Emma says:

“There was a time when I was
looking after a man with dementia
and he just wouldn’t listen to me at
all, I don’t know if it was because I

was a young woman. And there was

an older male nurse that came along,

and he listened to him and went
with him instantly. So, I think that
sometimes a male can be good for
male patients, in getting through to

them.”

Another issue nurses face in their
profession is aggression from pa-
tients, and both Ian and Emma agree

that having a man there could help people feel safer. Some may think this undermines the work of a female nurse,
that women aren’t as equipped to handle the physical challenges that can present themselves. However, lis-
tening to

their stories, it is clear that mixing it up in the gender department does not, in turn, decrease the hardships of being a student nurse. Some things, like Edinburgh's stinging, rent prices, don't discriminate based on gender. Ian and Emma both kept their part-time jobs while on placements, sometimes finishing a shift at the hospital and going straight into another shift. Ian says: "When I was on my community placement in the summer, I worked 13 days in a row then had a day off, then repeated this for the month I had my placement, which was just too much." Emma and Ian may belong to different sexes, but their testaments of memories reveal that one's ability to bond with a patient knows no boundaries. Emma tells me: "Getting into nursing got me into community care job. I don't do it anymore because I've got another job for now. There is a lady that I don't care for now, but I still go and visit her. I just look out for her, to me that's really positive, we get on really well, we've built a friendship through it." Ian has a similar relationship with an elderly patient who he looked after on both of his placements. "She doesn't have the best memory and the second time, she had gone downhill a little bit. But she was fine and dandy back to her baseline, and I was the only person she could remember, which was quite nice. And she always asked the nurses if Ian could help her get ready."

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PROFILE

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THE

GAME

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WORDS BY RORY HILL PHOTOS BY SAMMY HYETT

Women have long toiled to be recognised in the football world, but the tide is finally turning in their favour.

Kim Dallas brushes past a Dundee City player

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PROFILE

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omen's around might ever male expect. football longer international than The has been first you
Number 15, Kim Dallas goes in for a tackle against Glasgow City Development
nition, attracting substantial financial
“They’ve always seen it as a hurdle to cross, that backing from both advertising and en-
they have to prove themselves to the men and there dorsemments as well as government fund-
seems to be this stigma and we felt that about being ing. with the guys’ club, so we left” football match – Scotland
versus Eng-

In the WSL, many players are starting
She adds: “I would’ve given anything to play pro- land – was played in 1872. Just nine
to rake in salaries reaching £60,000. The
professionally and I had the chance, my twin and I were years later, the match was replicated, but
highest earner in women’s soccer, Alex
offered to play for Ross County professionally, but we only this time it was the women’s turn

Morgan, who plays for Portland Thorns were offered a minimal amount a week to live off and to play. in the NWSL, earns £1.9 million a year, we couldn't because I had to work. That was the only Between the two world wars, the including sponsorships and endorse- opportunity in Scotland at the time." Football Associations of Scotland and ments.

People like Sammy have laid the foundation for the England banned the women's game. These figures are dwarfed, however, new generation of talented female footballers to real- The reasoning behind the ban is sup- by the stratospheric incomes of male ise their talents and be recognised on the world stage. posedly because the sport was consid- footballers even compared to the rates Sammy says: "It's always been about the football, ered 'unfeminine.' It's enough to make of standard workplace pay gaps, but it is I genuinely don't know what I would do without a your blood boil today, but such were the still an enormous step in the right direc- football at my feet." times. The tyrannical ban on the ladies' tion.

Edinburgh Caledonia has begun their season per- sport forced teams underground as they Scotland is still catching up with the fectly, currently sitting top of their division after two sought out non-Scottish Football Associ- rest of the world in fashioning a profes- games, scoring 22 goals and conceding nil. Hyett and ation affiliated pitches to play on. sional women's football.

her squad are aiming for promotion to the SWFL 1 It wasn't until between late 60s and Sammy Hyett is the founder, chair- where they would be up against the likes of Celtic early 70s that England and Scotland lift- man and captain of Edinburgh Cale- Academy and Rangers Development. ed their bans, reforming the inclusion of donia FC, a women's football team in

The Scottish Women's National Football Team are women into Football Associations. the South East Second Division of the Since then, ladies' football has steadily Scottish Women's Football League. She also on a high. This season, they have been funded by the Scottish government for the first time which Emma O'Sullivan dribbles with the ball against Spartans Development grown in popularity and has started to started practising when she was just four means the players have been able to train full-time gain more recognition in the mainstream because there was no space left in gym- as they prepare for the FIFA Women's World Cup in media. The FA Women's Super League nastics.

France this summer. (WSL) in England and The National "It all started because there was availa- There, the women's team of Scotland and England Women's Soccer League (NWSL) in the ble space," Sammy says. "But, it became will face each other once again, 138 years after they US have garnered a great deal of recog- a bit of a novelty because there weren't

first met on a pitch, but now in a very different world.

22 22 ENG4GE ENG4GE ENG4GE ENG4GE 23 23 any other girls and when you were young nobody really minded if you were play- ing with the boys.”

The midfielder turned down a pro- fessional football scholarship in the US because she was expected to coach when she just wanted to play.

“I picked Heriot-Watt University be- cause of the Hearts academy that’s there, I went along to the fresher’s football day and there were about 100 people there and I was the only girl.

“They obviously didn’t have a women’s football team then so they said I could come along and train, but I could be the best there and they still wouldn’t treat me the same. This was back in 2004, there weren’t options, I wasn’t going to get the same opportunities... so I started my own team.”

Sammy had a series of injuries af- ter university, which stopped her from playing. She decided to build a women’s branch of the all-male Football Club of Edinburgh. Before long she took her team on a new path and formed Edin- burgh Caledonia.

“The SWFA have always said they want to be defined as the women’s sec- tion separate to the men,” Sammy ex- plains.

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ight town rel up hung over the small a small wooden bookshelf packed with “Horrible. Listen, I need to-” of

Kingston as Lau-

her old college books was crammed into

“Told him – said this straight to his edged her dad’s beat-
the opposite corner.

face...” orange pickup out of

She got herself dressed for bed and let

Laurel muted her microphone on her the restaurant parking lot. She released

a breath of relief escape her as she curled

device. her hair from the bobble tied tightly

herself into bed.

“... ‘if you don’t get your act together into a ponytail and sighed with relief as Moonlight spilt through the crack er soon, you can forget all about dinner her dark hair sprung from its ponytail in her closed curtains, illuminating the with the MacGuires.’” into the curled bundle that hung below framed New York University certificate “He’ll be gutted he won’t get to be her shoulders. She gave one final wave on the wall across from her. She had ma- with Mrs MacGuire you stupid, fat, to the chef, Michael as she drove past. jored in Computing Science with Eco- fool,” Laurel said into the phone. It was He smoked as he waited on the owner, nomics. Her top grades in high school her coping mechanism to deal with Eve. Grant, to lock up the restaurant. had opened doors for her to receive “He just doesn’t appreciate me,” Eve It had been a long shift. Grant had scholarships to attend the school. Now continued to babble on. “You know been giving her more trouble than usu- she was waitressing in some small town what I mean?” al. He was known for being ruthless and while her classmates went off to succeed Laurel scrambled to turn the mute most of the staff didn’t last long. It was a in their dream careers. button off. “Oh yeah, yeah, totally. miracle Laurel had managed for so many Pictures were tacked to the wall un- What an ass. Get rid of him. You deserve years. Still, the tips had been good, with derneath the frame. Most of them were better – you know that.” Laurel being the only waitress that day. of her and her old classmate, Caitlyn. In “I’m just glad I have someone to The restaurant was just on the outskirts the pictures, Laurel’s rich reddish-dark rely on like you, Laurel.” A yawn ech- of Laurel’s small town. Driving around, skin was a few shades deeper than Cait- oed from the phone. “Anyway, ‘night, homes slid past as did the endless trees lyn’s. They were naturally drawn to each sweetie!” Before Laurel could even force before she hit the crowded main street, other out of comfort in their freshman a farewell, Eve had cut the line. Laurel with little businesses dotted on each side year, being the only two black females in eventually dozed off. of the road. Only the bars were still open the class. Caitlyn had remained in New Sunday followed and Laurel was work- and even they were beginning to wind York after graduation. ing the dinner service. She spent the day down as the night progressed. Caitlyn’s life was Laurel’s dream; a treading carefully as Grant seemed to be After passing by the small mass of successful career as an IT manager for

gunning for Laurel in particular. Her Kingston, she reached one of the more
a big corporation in Manhattan; living

dad had always said Grant was your typ- secluded streets of the town. She parked in a stylish, modern apartment
with her ical small-town ignorant pig. the pickup by her cramped, wooden long-term partner in the city.

It was nearly midnight when she was bungalow. She walked up the cracked
Their ritualised Sunday night video

home, sat cross-legged on her bed with concrete path to her front door. She
calls were the only thing Laurel antici-
her laptop. She counted the day's tips, twisted the keys in the lock and launched
pated anymore. It would get her through
illuminated by the laptop screen. her shoulder against it. It took a second
tomorrow at least. She could feel sleep

The laptop blared suddenly with the push to finally throw the door open. edging its way in. That was until her Skype
ringtone. Laurel hit a key on her Laurel wasn't sure how much more the phone rang. Laurel groaned when she

laptop. A video feed appeared. Caitlyn door's brittle wood could take.
saw it was Eve calling. She answered.

came on screen, sitting at her home of- The floorboards creaked as she made
"Hey, Eve," Laurel said groggily as she
fice desk. A cigarette in one hand and a her way across the hallway. The creamy
put the device on loudspeaker. "What's
glass of red in the other. wallpaper was beginning to peel. Lau-

up?" Caitlyn's frizzy, dark hair from Laurel's rel peered into the sitting room, look- "You won't believe the day I'm
hav- college pictures had been straightened ing at her dad's moth-eaten armchair, ing," Eve's high-pitched, nasally

voice

and cut to just below her sharp jawline still facing his old television set. Laurel
said, piercing from the phone. Eve was

with blond highlights running through. had spent five years of her post-college
her childhood best friend that she out-

Her slender figure had bolded into a life caring for him when he became ill.
grew in high school. They reconnected

more toned one. It made Laurel con- She owed it to him, hers were a measly
when Laurel returned from college. She

scious of the flab slumped over her jeans. amount of years compared to him ded- hadn't been able to shake her off
since. "Sorry for the late call," Caitlyn said as icating his whole life to raising her all

Laurel's mind trailed off as Eve rant-

she sipped her wine. Laurel could see the WORDS BY CALUM WILSON

on his own. And since last year, he was
ed about Craig, her 'good-for-nothing
heavy bags under her eyes.

ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH KRAJOVSKA

gone.

husband.' Her eyes kept winding back to

"Wanna give tonight a miss?" said Laurel continued across the hall, pass-

her wall of college memories – a shrine

Laurel. ing the tiny kitchen before making her

to a better life.

Caitlyn shook her head. "Like hell. way to her own bedroom — the same "... and I asked him six times to pick Only

thing I've had to look forward to one she'd had grown up in. It was too up his crap from the floor, but no that's

this week. And it'd be nice to speak to soon for her to take over her dad's bed-

just too damn difficult for him," Eve

someone out of that office." room. Her single bed tucked into the

continued.

Laurel smiled. Since graduating, they corner by the window took up most of

"Eve, I'm pretty beat-

had only met in person once. It was at the space. A closet hid in one corner and

"I mean six times! Can you believe it?"

the height of her father's illness. Caitlyn

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PROFILE

some dumb, cheap... slut." Laurel's teeth were now grinding against each other. She hit the mute button on her phone. "Can you even blame him? No wonder he drinks so damn much – having a fat, miserable, pig of a wife. God

damn, you must have been dropped on your head as a baby if you didn't even suspect something was going on." All

the anger Laurel had been harbouring was let loose. "Craig never cared for you. He got roped into being your

husband just like I got roped into being your friend. And ano-" Coloured flooded Laurel's face. She had muted the

loudspeaker – not the microphone. She turned the loudspeak- had travelled over to come help.

Wednesday – one of their busiest nights

er back on. Caitlyn's lack of time and Laurel's

– Laurel steeled herself from breaking

Eve was barely coherent through her lack of money prevented frequent visits. down as he screamed demands and

wailing cries. Laurel, unsure of what to "How was work?" Caitlyn asked.

highlighted her mistakes.

say or do, hung up. She felt a sinking "Grant's being a bigger dick than

There was only one other server

feeling of guilt. How could she explain normal. How's John?"

working and it was her second shift. She

everything she'd just said to Eve? She'd "He's fine. We're fine. Any luck find-

was around 16 with a pale complexion.

probably never speak to her again. And ing jobs then?"

Grant was being easy on her, finding

then Laurel laughed – she laughed un- "I've been looking, but no luck." ways to squeeze past the youngling, his til

tears streamed down her cheeks. She She'd stopped looking when she was

hands gently rubbing against her hips

felt almost weightless and it left her caring for her dad. She'd never got

as he did so. Her wide, glossy eyes be-

feeling giddy. She was finally shot of around to start looking again.

trayed her discomfort and fear toward

Eve and Grant. "I've been looking out for positions

this vile man. Laurel was trying to help

The days continued and by Sunday in the company."

the girl as well as work her own tables.

night she was on her bed, cocooned by "I really appreciate it, honestly. Oh, Sweat covered her forehead and had her

frayed pink blanket. She stared into and guess who called me last night?"

stained her uniform.

her laptop screen, lying in wait for Cait- Caitlyn rolled her eyes as she put out

"You stink," Grant said to her as she

lyn's call. It eventually came. her cigarette in the ashtray on her desk.

passed into the kitchen. "Get these

"Christ, you won't believe the week "How you put up with that woman is plates out and clean yourself up."

I've had," Laurel began immediately as beyond me. Just cut her off already."

In her hurry, she had tripped as her

Caitlyn's video feed began streaming to "Not possible in a small town." foot met the kitchen floor. The plates her

laptop. "Does she know about Craig and

she had been carrying launched against

"Girl, slow down," said Caitlyn. Ann yet?"

the wall opposite her. They smashed,

She was lying on her side in bed, head "No. Nearly half the town knows. I

sending debris and food everywhere,

propped into her hand adorned with can't bring myself to tell her."

targeting some of the guests. Everyone,

jeweled rings. She was wrapped in a silk, "God forbid when she figures that

including the young server, stared in

jade-coloured bathrobe embellished one out." shock as a deathly silence overtook the with silver, flowery designs

and lined They talked for another hour before

restaurant.

with black fur. "You've been spending eventually exchanging goodbyes.

Grant burst from the kitchen and

too much time with Eve." Grant had continued to mount up

stormed over to where Laurel lay on

“About that.” Laurel went over her the pressure over the next few days. By the floor, her leg in agony from the fall. the week’s events. Caitlyn tried not to ENG4GE 27 “Get up,” he said.

“Get out. Don’t come back.” Laurel felt so futile, she didn’t even have the energy to argue. Her throat clogged as an overwhelming urge to fall to the ground in a fit of tears consumed her. Ignoring her throbbing leg, she got up and hobbled from the restaurant. Her eyes remained fixated on the ground. She sat inside her pickup and pressed her head against the wheel. She had been looking for another job. If she had kept herself together for one more week, she could have found one. She could have left with some dignity. Not like this.

Her phone rang. She hoped it would be Caitlyn. It was Eve. She let it ring out before it rang again. She answered.

Eve’s grating voice came through the loudspeaker. “Craig’s been having an a-a-affair,” Eve cried through the phone. She emitted a pathetic whimper. “A-A- Ann was supposed to be my f-f-f-friend. I just don’t know what to d-do.”

“Eve, now really-” “I mean you’ve always had it so easy.” Laurel gritted her teeth. “You just don’t know how hard it is to build a relationship just for it to fall apart because of

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laugh too much at the Eve story. “So, what are you going to do?” Caitlyn asked. “Need to find another job I guess.

I think the pizza place is looking for drivers.” “You are not delivering pizzas.”

“What am I meant to do? “I think I can help you.” Caitlyn plucked up a diary from her bedside table and began furiously flicking through the pages. She stopped at one and squinted at whatever words were scrawled there. “I need to go. Gotta’ make a call. Just give me a bit of time.”

“What are you planning?” Caitlyn winked. “Rescue mission. Speak soon.” Caitlyn cut the call, despite Laurel’s protests. It only took a day for Caitlyn to call back. “I’ve got good news,” Caitlyn said when their video call connected. “The company needs an IT analyst. I pulled a few favours and got you an interview in two weeks.”

Silence lingered between them.

“Well say something,” Caitlyn said, leaning forward in her desk chair.

“Is it a phone interview?” “It’d be in person, but I’ll pay for your ticket here.” Laurel longed to say yes. “Even if I got the job, where would I live?”

“That’s where we can help each other. I can’t really afford the apartment on my own since I kicked John out last week.” “What? Why?” “Screw him, that’s why. That’s not important right now. You could move in. I’ll convert the office into a bedroom. We can find something more suitable further down the line. What do you say?” “I can’t thank you enough – I really can’t. But it’d mean completely starting again. I’m so out of practice and... it’s just a lot to take in.”

Caitlyn had clearly expected a better reaction. “I’ll give you time to think about it. Just really consider it. You’d get the job no problem – you know that.”

They wished each other goodbye. In one week, more had changed for Laurel than in the past five years since

college. Laurel went to the kitchen. As she prepared a microwave meal, she mulled over the possibilities and endless outcomes. She paced around the kitchen as the microwave droned on. She weighed her options, her head almost bursting. Could she really overwrite her life just like that? In the middle of cooking, the microwave cut out. She tried powering it on and off, but the appliance was completely dead. Her stomach rumbled. Laurel pulled at her hair and belatedly in rage. She stormed back to her room, her feet thudding with every step. She was back on Skype with Caitlyn in minutes.

“Fuck it,” Laurel was almost breathless. “Fuck. It. I’m coming.” “That didn’t take long. How’d you make up your mind?”

“The microwave broke. I’m done with this shithole.”

“Was that seriously all it took?” Caitlyn said through her laughter. They briefly discussed the arrangements for Laurel’s trip. However, Laurel’s previous pressure over Caitlyn’s offer had faded after hours of obsessing over their plans for the future. They giggled and babbled about going on double dates, clubs and all the other opportunities the city could afford them. Laurel felt like she was back in college. It was four in the morning by the time their conversation ended and Laurel was tucked into bed. For the first time in so long, hope brimmed within her. There was a certainty, now, that things were changing, but this time in her favour.

VZ

PICTURES OF WOMANHOOD

My grandmother always said that to be an understanding person, you need to educate yourself, travel and discover different cultures. When I was ten, she took me to Costa Rica to stay with her childhood friends. It was a life-changing experience for me because I had never seen a place like it. I bought the wooden turtle there with my own

pocket money. It has lived on the windowsill of every flat I have lived in since. Whenever I look at it, it reminds of my 82-year-old grandmother and the lessons she has taught in life. Her father never allowed her to go to university and gender inequalities in her younger years kept her from progressing professionally. She decided to take her life-education into her own hands and travel the world. **Iona**

PHOTO

GRAPHIN

GETHER PEORS

ALN

Through six different items, stories of mothers, sisters, friends and of self we are presenting you items that empower us and represent womanhood. Bringing the personal into perspective and giving the relationship to these items meaning.

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Recently, I had to get a new notepad, an experience which gave me a minor panic attack. My old one was a present and I had used it for two years, so I didn't want to replace it. The notepad contained little notes from important people, my daily planning, interview questions and random texts in several languages. I took it with me wherever I went; the thought of getting a new one terrified me.

I spent the week browsing through minimalistic daily planners but didn't like any of them. The same week I came by the exact same notepad in a shop in Edinburgh. "It is just meant to be," I thought. I asked some people to write me little notes and so I can pretend it is the old one. It gives me the same great feeling when opening my notepad.

Denitsa

WORDS & PHOTOS BY ROSS COWPER-FRASER

spools of thread from my mum's sewing box – just last weekend. Being a 21-year-old man, who has never sewed nor even known how to, my first attempt was pretty terrible. With a pair of jeans badly in need of repair, lying on the operating table (a kitchen counter- top) my mum talked me through the basics. By Sunday night, I brought two pairs of jeans

back from the grave and hemmed two shirts.

The women in our lives are incredibly important in teaching us self-sufficiency, not only through childhood but even well after we've left home—in a brief trip home my whole relationship to clothes has been changed for the better and that is thanks to my

mum. **Scott**

I found the typewriter three years ago in the back of a cupboard designated as a junk hole for old jackets and for tiles used to renovate the kitchen. It had previously been in the attic of my gran's house for

30-odd years. The highland winters had left it in a state of almost perpetual coldness, giving the keys

and paper carriage a bonded feel. I don't use it much as my laptop allows me to make mistakes without wasting paper, but it does remind me of letters my gran typed to me in the past and it still does today. We would talk regularly over the phone when I was

younger, but with letters, I could express myself in a

new way; thinking of words before speaking. This is one of the reasons I love to write when I can't always convey something verbally, and to her, I am thankful for that. **Ross**

I learned to sew – and nicked these needles and

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I am attached to this ring because it was a gift from my mum. I didn't have any 'special' jewellery or any physical gifts with longevity from her, which I could keep forever. I received it on my 21st birthday along with a bracelet which I still haven't worn because it's too special. I haven't taken the ring off since I got it and that was two years ago now.

The reason I keep it close is so I can feel like I have a bit of her support wherever I go and can pass the ring and bracelet on to my kids when I have them.

I'd love to wear the bracelet on my graduation and wedding day and make them heirlooms that I can keep forever. **Olivia**

Last year, I celebrated my 21st, and for the third time since my birth, my mama spent the day with me. For as long as I can remember, my 'special' day was always overshadowed by her work's annual conference, meaning she missed me blowing out my candles one too many times. When I was younger, her absence upset me, but as I grew older, I understood that through her job, she was making a difference. She set an example for me, showing me that I could become whoever I wanted to be. This picture remains in my purse and travels with me, and whenever I am doubting myself, I look at it and feel inspired to follow in her footsteps. **Lauren**

Young people, especially young women, often ask me for advice. Here it is, valeat quantum.

Do not undertake a scientific career in quest of fame or money. There are easier and better ways to reach them. Undertake it only if nothing else will satisfy you; for nothing else is

probably what you will receive. Your reward will be **UNSUNG**

WOMEN OF SCIENCE: the widening

of the horizon as you climb. And if you achieve that reward you will ask no other.

Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin

CECILIA PAYNE AND THE HARVARD COMPUTERS

WORDS BY SCOTT HOPE Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin was a ground-breaking figure in astrophysics. Although she discovered what our sun, the stars and universe are made of, you have probably never heard of her.

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The story begins at Harvard in the early 1900s, where the Director of the Harvard College Observatory, a man named Edward Charles Pickering, assembled a research team composed entirely of women to process data and classify stars. These women came to be known as the “Harvard Computers”, or in snide shorthand by other male scientists at the observatory at the time; “Pickering’s Harem”.

The group initially comprised of women as their labour was cheaper and so more could be hired. In spite of this, many of the group went on to actively contribute to the field of astronomy. Annie Jump Cannon, who was deaf and a suffragist, is credited as having created the Harvard Classification Scheme, the first attempt to catalogue the stars according to their spectra.

Another member of the group, Henrietta Swan Leavitt, who was also deaf, was instrumental in understanding the distances to stars, but she didn’t receive the credit she deserved before her death in 1921.

Imagine the time. It’s the 1920s, women have only just been granted the right to vote and decades of campaigning for the suffrage movement has finally started to give many women a voice. However, universities in the UK still won’t allow women to hold senior scientific degrees.

In London, at a lecture given by Sir Arthur Eddington, a famous astrophysicist, Cecilia Payne’s love of astronomy was sparked. So enthralled, she was said to have transcribed the lecture verbatim. Payne went to Cambridge on a scholarship where she studied natural sciences. However, the university didn’t award female students full degrees after their studies until 1948.

Her best option now was to emigrate to the US. A fellowship encouraging women to undertake graduate studies at the Harvard College Observatory had recently been set up, Payne was the second student admitted on the program.

Warmly welcomed by the ‘Computers’, Payne became close friends with Annie Jump Cannon. Cannon shared all of her knowledge and data with Payne, leading her to investigate what the stars are made of.

The conventional wisdom then was that the stars were made of the same elements as earth and in roughly the same

proportions. In looking at the data gathered by Cannon, Payne discovered that her Harvard Classification Scheme was, in fact, a temperature scale from which she could deduce that hydrogen was in fact a million times more prevalent than the heavy elements in the make-up of the sun and the stars.

This hit the scientific consensus right in the face and when Payne sent her thesis to her advisor, Henry Norris Russell, he dismissed it as fundamentally flawed and encouraged Payne to weaken her thesis. This dismissal left Payne in self-doubt.

She relented, adding a sentence to her thesis which diluted her great discovery, it read: "The enormous abundance derived for these elements [hydrogen and helium] in the stellar atmospheres is almost certainly not real."

Four years later, Russell arrived at the same conclusion – realising Payne had been right all along. He credited her with the discovery and her thesis went on to be described as "the most brilliant ever written" in the field of astronomy.

"I was to blame for not having pressed my point. I had given in to authority when I believed I was right. That is another example of how not to do research. I note it here as a warning to the young. If you are sure of your facts, you should defend your position." – Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin.

Lyndsay Fletcher, a professor in astrophysics at Glasgow University, explains why her discovery was and still is so important today: "It was a very dynamic time in stellar physics and in our understanding of how stars are put together – she made a vital contribution but it was some years before the real value of that was recognised."

Payne went on to become an American citizen, and tour observatories in Europe. In Germany, she met a fellow astronomer, a Russian man named Sergei Gaposchkin, whose life in Germany was under threat by the rise of the Nazi party as they came into power that same year. Payne helped him to get a position at Harvard and the pair married soon after.

Later in life, Payne joined the faculty and later ran the astronomy department, making her the first woman ever to head a department at Harvard.

While she made a great contribution to our understanding of the universe, Payne remains a somewhat obscure figure. As Professor Fletcher puts it: "She's an unrecognised heroine of science. It's because of her that we know what the universe is made of, when we teach our first year astronomy students about how the universe formed and the creation of the chemical elements it starts with hydrogen and helium and that really derived directly from her stellar work."

1919

WOMEN'S

A CENTURY OF

SUCCESS

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In celebration of International Women's Day and to reflect on Women's History Month, this timeline highlights ten major changes which have made the world a better place for women over the last century.

2019



WORDS BY PAIGE BERESFORD

1941

Edith Wharton becomes the first woman to win a

Pulitzer Prize Women serve in the armed forces for the first time during World War II ^{As}

most British men were defending their country on foreign soil, those back home took on jobs traditionally done by men during the Second World War and many joined the armed forces. By 1943, there were over 640,000 women in

the army including The Women's Royal Naval Service, the Women's Auxiliary Air Force and the Auxiliary Territorial Service.

Amelia Earhart flies solo across the Atlantic

1921

Wharton's novel *The Age of Innocence* examined the narrowness

and bigotry of the upper class in turn-of-the-century New York. Wharton rewrote history as she became the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for her novel. She followed this success by becoming the first woman to receive an honorary doctorate from Yale.

Earhart became the first woman to fly non-stop across the Atlantic. In her famous red Lockheed Vega, she flew from Harbor Grace in Newfoundland, Canada and landed near Londonderry in Northern Ireland 15 hours later. Proving she was a brave and capable pilot, Earhart became an overnight worldwide phenomenon.

1955

Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a bus to a white man When Parks, a black seamstress, refused to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Alabama city bus in 1955, she set in motion a course of events that would change history. Through this spontaneous act, she sparked the civil right movement in the United States. Leaders of a local black community organised a bus boycott, which eventually lasted 381 days, on the same day Parks was charged with violating segregation laws.

1932

1963

Valentina Tereshkova becomes the first woman to go to space

Tereshkova was a Soviet cosmonaut and was the first woman to travel into space in June 1963. During three days, she orbited the Earth a total of 48 times. It was her only trip to space and she later toured around the world to advocate for Soviet science. Inspiring women everywhere, she once said: “If women can be railroad workers in Russia, why can’t they fly in space?”

1973

The United Kingdom elects its first female Prime Minister

Margaret Thatcher was the first female Prime Minister in Britain and served from 1979 until 1990, making her the longest-serving British Prime Minister of the 20th century. However, Thatcher was a controversial figure, often criticised as she reduced the influence of trade unions, changed the terms of political debate, scaled back public benefits and privatised certain industries.

1988

Julie Hayward becomes the first woman to win a case under

the amended Equal Pay Act Hayward was a canteen cook in Liverpool whose work was valued less than her male colleagues and was paid less. Supported by the GMB union and the Equal Opportunities Commission, she took her case to the House of Lords and eventually claimed equal pay for work of equal value.

Kathryn Bigelow becomes the first woman to win an Oscar for Best Director **Corinne**

Hutton becomes first quadruple amputee to climb Mount Kilimanjaro

The 2008 film *The Hurt Locker* picked up a total of six Oscars in March 2010 as well as the Academy Awards for Best Picture and Best Director. But it was the American director Bigelow winning an Oscar for Best Director that made the headlines. She was the first woman to take home the award. The film earned near universal acclaim from critics.

At 48, Hutton completed her ascent of the highest free-standing mountain in the world and is the first quadruple

amputee to do so. After losing both hands and feet to sepsis in 2013, she set up Scotland-based amputee charity Finding Your Feet to offer peer support to all amputees. Through her climb, she raised nearly £40,000. Hutton became the first Scottish double hand transplant recipient and now has two hands.

The United States Congress passes the Violence Against Women Act

The Violence Against Women Act is a landmark piece of legislation brought in by Bill Clinton that expanded the juridical tools to provide protection to women who had suffered violent abuses. It improved criminal justice responses to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking in the United States, passing with an exceptional \$1.6 million budget.

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hen see article, and

I contacted Granny Celine to ways involved in it, you know?" The era of content- if she might help me with an ment, Granny calls it. she said she will try her best She was educated at the Mercy Convent where immediately confirmed she the nuns taught her Latin and French. "It was a would get the snacks ready. I arrive at her house well-rounded education we had but your aspiration the following day to find a big plate of steak and in those days, not just for the ordinary people, but chips with onions on the side and a can of Coke for the bankers' daughters and people like that, was with a glittery straw hanging out of its lip. Whilst to get into the civil service or to the banks and to sipping my soda, I take a mental note to interview insurance jobs." her more often. She wouldn't really be my granny Did she ever think about becoming a lawyer or if she didn't make a fuss. a doctor? "Lord no," Granny says. "The thing for Once I was no longer distracted by Granny's girls was to get a job and the next step was always to spread, I started asking her about what it was like meet somebody and get married." I ask her if she or being a young girl in Ireland, where she lived be- any of her friends ever questioned this and Granny fore settling in Scotland. simply tells me: "We were all in the same boat." "I was born in Sligo on July 9 1933, in the house I think about the childhood she describes to — because there were no hospitals in the small me, Granny's era of contentment, and then I think town where I lived. I always remember hearing my about the world as it is now. I think about all the father say that there was thunder and lightning the issues I discuss with friends and family on a regular day I was born. So, I came into the world that way." basis. All the problems we cannot help but worry Granny was the second youngest in a family of about. Global warming, plastic pollution, Brexit, nine. She tells me that in those days "there was feminism, LGBTQ+ rights, racism, social media, the rich and the poor, well, not poor," she corrects mental health, fast fashion, veganism, Trump, ter- herself, "ordinary people." The Wards were a "very, rorism, Russia, Syria and more. very ordinary family." I envy the peace and quiet my granny had, the She explains that they weren't a political family. simplicity and unquestioned nature of her exist- There were no great discussions about current af- ence. But there is something liberating about the fairs around the dinner table, no one was throwing noise of the modern world. food at their sibling for disagreeing on whether the For all that, she did spend a lot of time chatting country's leader was making the right choices. with her friends. "No one takes the time for real I learn about a relation who was part of the Sli- conversation anymore," Granny says. I feel guilty. go branch of the Cumann na Mban, called the When was the last time I

dedicated some time to Irish Women's Council, an all-female organisation just chatting with her? I've been busy, I tell myself. formed in 1914 for the liberation of Ireland, and The excuses flash through my head: dissertation, my ears prick up because this could be quite juicy. fitness, friends, guys, my future. But it turns out Granny didn't know more, because And yet, for all the chatting Granny did grow- she didn't concern herself with that sort of thing. ing up, it was rarely with men. "You didn't have "You played on the streets, you played with your meaningful conversations with the guys. We had dolls – well, I only had one doll. You made up your plenty of conversations just the girls, sharing each own stories and pretend played. We didn't know other's opinions on this or that. But we were never N

any different."

involved with the guys in that way." When she was a bit older, enjoying life seemed to

I am reminded of the many barriers society has be her only priority. "We were too interested in just managed to overcome over the last few years. Then having a good time. We were in the pantomimes, I think about the big issues

still left to tackle. That's we were in the choirs, we sang in concerts. There when I decide, like Granny did, to label this time was a lot of social stuff going on and we were al- in society. I come up with "the era of change."

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WORDS & PHOTOS BY MARIA GRAN

Step into the female only space where girls can be free from society's pressures and **I**

It is between filling a Thursday ten up Liberton **adopt** and with night 14 girls Kirk **soft** and wearing aged Ed-hall **skills**, the don't them they **learn** movement could have lack **about** been walk.

experience, years **the** guides later, **outdoors** since as **and take the lead.** but they entire lives and countless

hours two of volunteering as guides. But what is before

this movement all about?

"It's about giving young girls blue and red t-shirts and hoodies.

"My mum and my grandma

an opportunity that they wouldn't At the front of the room stand El-

were both leaders, so before turn-

have without us," states Rosie, lie Birch, Rosie Boyes and Steph- ing one, I was already on guide adding it is

important to create a anie Lee, ready for another night camp and since then I've stayed in

girl only space without pressure, of girlguiding.

guides," says Rosie.

judgement and gender barriers. In 1907, Lord Robert

Ellie, just like Rosie, has spent

Stephanie agrees and mentions it Baden-Powell founded the Boy

a lifetime around girlguiding and

also gives the girls a platform to Scout movement. Two years later,

comes from three generations of

enjoy simply being young girls. girls joined the ranks and declared guides and scouts on both sides of themselves as

Girl Scouts. By

her family.

GIRLS ONLY 1910, they got their own move-

Stephanie joined at seven, as one

Looking around the room, it ment, Girlguiding, founded by

of Ellie's guides. Now she and Ellie

becomes clear this safe space also Lord Baden-Powell and his sister

lead a group of guides similar to

allows the girls to explore being in- Agnes.

her seven-year-old self.

dependent. During this meeting, Today, there are ten million girl “I tell them: if I didn’t have the they are working in groups focus- guides and girl scouts in 146 coun- leaders that I had when I was a guide,

ing on “skills builders”. tries across the world, from Singa-

I wouldn’t be where I am today.

“We focus on soft skills, learn- pore to Scotland.

I fall back on everything I was

ing to work in groups, negotiation, The leaders of 93rd City of Ed-
taught by them.”

learning from their mistakes. We inburgh Guides may have joined

These women have spent their

make sure they’re safe, but it’s a

40 ENG4GE

space where they’re allowed to make mistakes,” says Ellie.

The leaders lend a hand when needed but for the most part, the guides get on with their activities. It is not all beading and baking though, Stephanie and Rosie also like to teach about values and self-care.

“We teach about body image, body confidence, ‘Think resilient’ about mental health and ‘Breaking free’ about gender,” Stephanie says as she highlights some of the programs.

This unit serves four neighbour- hoods and a mix of girls from all

backgrounds. In here they are all friends, all equals. The leaders have taught the guides well. “I hope we teach them to be willing to be friends with anyone no matter what walk of life they’re from. To re- spect everyone for who they are,” says Rosie.

“None of us are a size zero, we’re all real people, I think that’s impor- tant. I hope we have the impact of giving them confidence so that they can go from this girl only space into the world,” says Ellie, who is now a volunteer coordinator for the Duke of Edinburgh.

“I want to show them that they can do whatever they want. In a world full of academics, to show them that they don’t have to conform to society, they are individuals and they havequali- ties,” states Stephanie.

What the leaders teach their guides connects to the theme of Interna- tional Women’s Day, yet they have not thought

of any special activities around the day. Stephanie speaks up:

“I think the guiding programme advocates that it’s women’s day every day.”

HANNA LENITZ, 24, AUSTRIA Scouting taught me how to be respected as a girl in a group of boys – very

handy in work and life situations. I also learned that there is no use to be someone you are not. You are great the way you are – whether you enjoy dressing up or building a stove with mud in baggy shorts. Girls come in all shapes, sizes, likes and dislikes.

CÉLIE DENEZ, 19, FRANCE I’m sure that if I wasn’t a scout I wouldn’t be as happy and ambitious as I am

today. It makes sure that girls are future agents of change in their societies or at a global level. Scouting gave me all the abilities to be an active citizen and also all the opportunities to implement the changes I want to see in the world.

LUCY O'DONOVAN, 24, IRELAND Guiding has taught me that being a leader and a boss is something achievable. By starting small and growing my confidence over time I learned I could take on a big project and lead teams and that my gender shouldn't determine if I do a good job or not. Girls are often called bossy when they lead,

but we're really just being girlbosses!

JOANA BACELAR, 25, PORTUGAL My patrols in scouts were always mixed, meaning that boys and girls had to work together to achieve the same goals. Scouting taught me that splitting the tasks was natural and there was no 'boy' task or 'girl' task. In the end, scouting taught me that I was capable of doing any task. I feel much more

empowered in my life because of scouting!