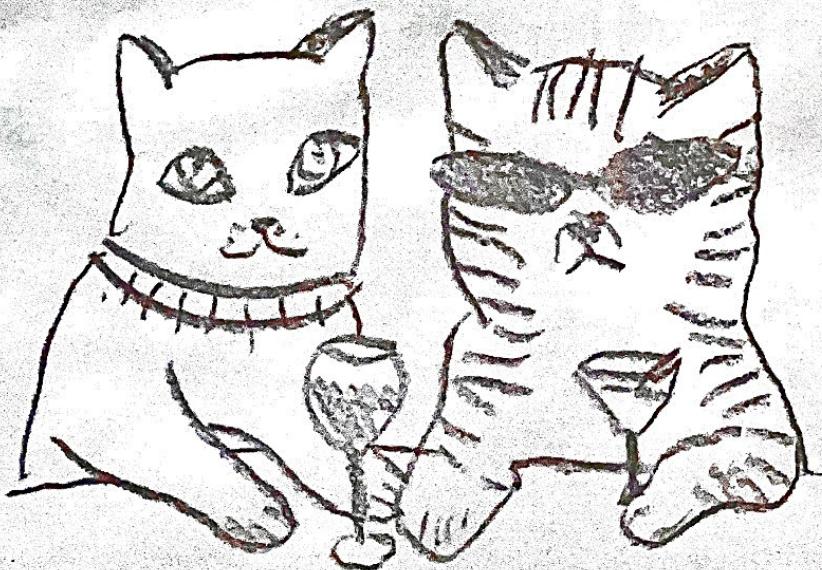


is it
pink?



a riot grrrls role in the third wave feminist movement

Welcome to the third wave!

So long the days of suffering suffragettes and lobotomized mothers, said the second wave. We've got mothers and wives and daughters and grandmas, generations of girls accepting their fate as homemakers and babymakers,

"let's say we add a little 'Feminine Mystique'"

said Betty Friedan, introducer of second-wave feminism.

Betty's writings on feminism woke up the last generation and they laid the groundwork for most of the legal rights women have today, ya know, the bare minimum. We have the right to abortion (for now), marital rape is said to be illegal, and woohoo! We can apply for mortgages!

Our second-wave mothers raised us to be articulate, self-aware, empowered women, now let's put that to work and keep the fight going!

Thanks second-wave, we'll take it from here:

Now that we have most of the law-making out of the way it's time for the real work. Men see us as frail little baby girls who need protection, men also see us as sex objects whom they can grab and toss around, gross! How are you gonna infantilize us, then fuck us? Pedophile much...

If we want to be sluts we'll be sluts, if we want to abort that baby, if we want to be manly, if we want to be loud, if we want 6 kids to raise at the farm, if we want to be gay, if we want to be feminine, if we want to have our cake and eat it too, if we want to take up space, if we want to exist, **we will.**

So farewell second wave, we're on to greater things. Who's with me?!

"Hell yeah!"

- said all the white-middle-class-cishet-young-able-bodied-skinny-women...



The Bikini Kill-ing of Intersectionality

What band comes to mind when you think of riot grrrl? That's right, Bikini Kill. Many do not know that when riot grrrl was created Bikini Kill hadn't even formed as a band yet, riot grrrl was coined by Bratmobile. Bratmobile is another well-known riot grrrl era band that worked closely with Bikini Kill who came up with the idea to start a "girl riot", later becoming what we know as riot grrrl (Briggs, 2015). So why does Bikini Kill, specifically Kathleen Hanna, get all the credit?

Hanna describes herself as always being involved with three main things ever since high school: punk, feminism, and alcohol. Hanna had a long career of pushing the envelope and feminist activism but was often censored and lacked the proper platform to spread the word (Eleuterio, 2019). Kathleen Hanna never actually intended to become the spokesperson for the riot grrrl movement, but somebodies gotta do it! Hanna was the most outspoken and loudest about facing feminist issues at the time.

"I would much rather be the obnoxious feminist girl than be complicit in my own dehumanization."

- Kathleen Hanna

Hanna was bringing to light revolutionary topics through her music that would have otherwise gone under the radar. She used her platform to uplift other women, encouraging "girls to the front" where all the women at the shows who typically stayed in the back in fear of harassment and violence got a moment to take up the space they deserved, that had generationally been taken from them.

However, at the end of the day, Hanna was still a white cis woman. An identity she couldn't help but have, just as much as an Asian trans-woman couldn't help but have their identity. In terms of women in punk, the majority were white and cis, an identity that lacked intersectionality, very much reflected in the third-wave feminism movement. Hanna tried her hardest to encompass as many issues women face as she could, but she is only one person with so much to offer.

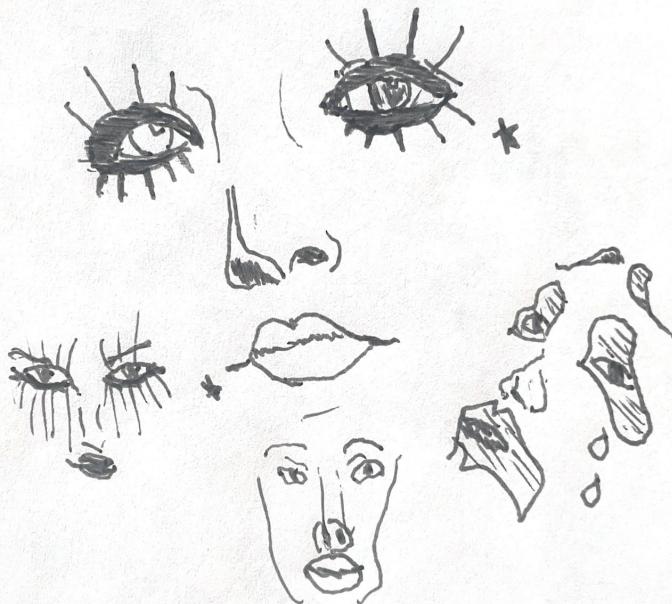
"I can't constantly be trying to write the unwritten song, the song that the 15-year-old girl needs. I need to write the song that I need."

- Kathleen Hanna

The detrimental side of relying on just a few role models who were of a limited variety of backgrounds means that not all types of women feel represented. So why is Bikini Kill

the best-known riot grrrl band? Because Hanna was a pioneer who was the loudest and boldest with her delivery.

Loud and bold = heard and seen.



Proud man hater.

Loud and bold = heard and seen right? Let's not apply that disappointing phenomenon to just Kathleen Hanna.

At the time riot grrrl was criticized by its own community for lacking a lot of representation, but it was also criticized for its "violent, man-hating, and dangerous feminist youth subculture" (Downes, 2012). This resulted in a moral panic and a bad picture to be painted for the riot grrrl. To this day riot grrrl still faces much criticism, some of which is justified. What is not justified is how riot grrrl was ridiculed out of existence due to misinterpretation and bad media coverage, the main reason many female bands would refuse to do interviews at the time. Looking at the statistics of who was most notable for journalism during the 1990s revealed one certain demographic. So who was it that was largely in charge of tabloid news and media coverage at the time?

Oh yeah... **MEN.**

Loud and Bold = Heard and Seen.



Chicks with Dicks/ Chicks are Dicks

A defining feature of third-wave feminism included deconstructing the societal implications put in place behind what it means to be a woman. Something the third wave struggled with in this interpretation of feminism was separating femininity from womanhood (Karaian, Mitchell, 2008). If women are discriminated against for acting like traditional women, would feminism include those who are not considered traditional women?

“And, as young feminists have played with, there is no correct or ‘real’ way to be female, feminine, or a ‘woman’”

- (Karaian, Mitchell, 2008)

The boundary of what was considered a woman was getting blurred, hence the definition of who feminism represented got even more blurred.

Punk from the beginning has built itself off of queer identities, as seen in the rise of glam rock where gender expression and sexuality were explored through outward appearance. Glam rock was inspired by drag queens and other facets of queer culture, but most of the well-known musicians of this time did not actually resonate with the identities they were portraying.

This combined with the undoubtable sexism that occurred in the scene, yet the lukewarm acceptance of homosexuality left trans women in a weird spot. There are no known accounts of trans-women involved in the riot grrrl movement as many times they would be turned away from attending all girl punk shows, riot grrrl has a history of not accepting trans-women as “real women” (Pearce, 2018).

A community that was built off of transgender influence was now turning its back on transgender individuals.



Hello fourth-Wave

We appreciate you third wave for all that you've done, redefined what it means to be a woman and made femininity more inclusive. You gave women a voice to fight back and question the roles they were put into. Nobody's perfect but without you we never would have had the iconic riot grrrl.

Ring Ring

Who's that?

Oh. it's the fourth wave calling.

Fourth wave aims to tackle the exact issues third wave forgot about. Intersectionality and inclusivity of queer identities is the goal, along with body positivity and representation of women in governmental and business roles. Fourth wave feminism has extended past just western culture and has made influence worldwide.

Cheers to the ever-evolving movements of feminism, and cheers to all the ladies who helped us get here.

