

RUTHLESS

REVOLUTION! (SCRANTON) GRRRL STYLE NOW - ISSUE 1, DECEMBER 2008

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

I've lived in Scranton all of my life. Maybe you have too; maybe not.

Granted, I'm not very old; I'm just a college kid. However, if it's one thing I've noticed lately, it seems as if the music scene around here is slowly dying. With Test Pattern closing a few months ago, and the cringing anticipation for the new Vintage Theatre to open up, it seems as though "going to shows" lacks much meaning anymore.

Sure, there are tons of other places to play: The AFA Gallery, Phoenix Cuts, The Manhattan Room Project, The Bog, etc; but you either have to be really quite or really of age to play there.

But that's not all. I've also noticed a complete lack of girls in bands. I might be missing something, but seemingly, the only bands with girls in them to play frequently around Scranton are The Window Shoppers & Trashcan Circus - to my knowledge.

The bands in Scranton are predominantly male-figured: The Sw!ms, The Menzingers, Tigers Jaw, The Minor White, Okay Paddy, Livingston, Losing Caulfield etc;. So, I ask you, where the hell are all the women?

I've been trying to start this zine ever since I was around 13. It wasn't the right time or place. With Scranton on the brink of opening a few more new places like Outrageous, Anthology New & Used Books, and Eden, the Vegan Cafe, I think it's time to get out there and start promoting. I think it's time the girls got a slice. - JCM

THE BRIDGE BETWEEN: A SHORT HISTORY LESSON

Feminism is a tricky thing. It's actually been around a lot longer than most people think, in way more countries before the good ol' U.S. of A. However, society usually connects it with three eras of the American culture: the 1920s through the 1940s, the 1960s through the 1970s, and the 1980s to the present day.

These eras are introduced in numerous writings as "the three waves of feminism." Of course, the Roaring 20s are noted for the establishing pinnacle of the right of suffrage for women. Feminists from the 60s and 70s fought for the Equal Pay Act of 1963, respect in the workplace, and legal use of contraceptives. Lastly, throughout the 80s and 90s, women won federal cases against large corporations due to sexual harassment in the workplace and denial from military academies... and that's just the tip of the iceberg!



Did you know that women in Saudi Arabia & The Vatican City are still denied the right to vote, even to this very day?

SO THE POINT IS

Music works in powerful ways and can inspire anyone to do something great. It has been an important part of the Feminism movement for over half a century.

In Olympia, Washington during August 2000, the first ever "Ladyfest" commenced with over two-thousand women participators. "Ladyfest" was a non-profit, community-based event designed by and for women to showcase, celebrate and encourage the artistic, organizational and political work and talents of women. It featured band performances, spoken word artists, authors, and visual artists. It also included how-to workshops, panels, and dance parties.

"Ladyfest" encourages other "Ladyfests" to participate. Therefore, there are tons of "Ladyfests" all over the world! We can get involved too.

So, have a guitar? Play the violin? Write your own stories? Like to draw, but can't find an outlet to showcase your stuff?

THEN LET'S MAKE SCRANTON'S FIRST LADYFEST HAPPEN!

Please send your ruthless ideas to ruthlesszine@gmail.com & add us at myspace.com/ruthlesszine