Women's Rights
& Wonder Women
from Washington's Past

By: Janisa Cook
Hello! My name is Janisa Cook and I live in Bothell, Washington with my parents, brother and sister, and my dog. I've always loved history and have always believed in equality for women. So I put both passions together to make a zine! I hope you enjoy!

Q = Question  A = Answer from the Author

Q: What's your favorite color?
A: My favorite color changes all the time, right now it's white.

Q: What's your favorite animal?
A: My favorite animal is either an elephant or a tiger, I can't choose between them.

Q: What do you do for fun?
A: I love to hang out with my friends. I also like to sit with a blanket and read a good book. But I'm always open to trying new things!

Q: What is this zine mostly about?
A: This zine is about women's rights activists, and the problems of women today. The rest is a surprise!
Carolyn (Carrie) V. Shaw Rice

Mrs. Rice was born 1862 in Illinois. Later on she became a teacher at Tacoma Normal Training School (Central School). Mrs. Rice played a role in founding the Tacoma Academy of Science in 1891. Governor John Rogers appointed Mrs. Rice to the State Board of Education in 1894. She was one of the first women to have that job. Carrie Shaw Rice was a supporter in education, science, and the arts. She played a role in making Washington a better state.

Thea Foss

Mrs. Foss was born 1857 in Norway. She immigrated to America and in she bought a rowboat that would start the Foss Launch Company. She rented boats which later lead to “Foss Launch and Tug Company and then Foss Maritime, one of the largest tugboat and marine services firms on the West Coast.” (Historylink.Org, Priscilla Long)

Fay Fuller Van Briesen

Fay Fuller Van Briesen was born 1869. She lived in Yelm and Tacoma. She was the first non-Native American women to climb Mt. Rainier in 1890. What was even more amazing is that she was 19 when she did this! She later became a journalist and Fay Peak on Mt. Rainier is named after her.
Here we have a short timeline of some important events in women's rights history.

**A History of Women's Rights**

- **1893**: Colorado becomes the first state to grant women the right to vote.
- **1920**: The 19th Amendment is added to the constitution, granting women the right to vote on a federal level.
- **1972**: The ERA, or Equal Rights Amendment Act, is passed by congress, only to be struck down in 1982 after failing a ratification convention.
- **1973**: Abortion is made legal across the United States.
- **2009**: President Obama signs the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.
- **2013**: The military ban on women serving in combat roles is lifted.
- **1972**: As the result of the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court trial, women are granted access to safe and legal abortions.
History of The Wage Gap

During WWII, when many of the soldiers had to go to war. Women needed to take their job to keep America running. Because of that, the National War Labor Board asked employers in 1942 to equalize the wage women were pay compare to men for similar job. Employers did not listen to this request. Also, between 1950 and 1960, women earned 59 to 64 cents for every dollar a man would earn for that same job. On June 10, 1963, the Equal Pay and Act was passed. That Act made it illegal to pay women less money for the same job only because of their gender. But even today, there is still a wage gap. Women are earning less and there aren’t many excuses left for the employers to make.
According to the graph, there is a gender wage gap in every state in the U.S. Though not severely, Washington is still affected. This chart was made in 2013, I'm sure the wage gap has improved but there's definitely still one.

The wage gap affects the people of Washington greatly. This is because Washington is the home to many large corporations, like Microsoft and Boeing, so people look for jobs here. If women are getting paid less and the companies decide to not try to fix that, it might discourage women from working here. Our economy might take a hit from that.

Women earn as much as men in Oregon, making 91% of men's earnings. Women in Louisiana make 66% of men's earnings. The wage gap affects the people of Washington greatly. This is because Washington is the home to many large corporations, like Microsoft and Boeing, so people look for jobs here. If women are getting paid less and the companies decide to not try to fix that, it might discourage women from working here. Our economy might take a hit from that.
2 Other Problems for Women

Discrimination/Sexism

If you go all the way back in time, to the start of civilization, cavewomen stayed in the caves to care for their children, while cavemen hunted. Eventually, this led people to believe women were lower than men and couldn't do anything other than cook, clean, and have children. People believed women weren't on the same "level" as men and it was ok to not treat them as equals.

Education

In history, most times girls were banned from going to school in Washington and the rest of the U.S. Women/girls couldn't go to school until the 1090's. Even then, most of the things girls were taught were sewing and cooking. That didn't really help in obtaining a job in the future.

What I Think

What I think the most depressing thing about these two problems is that they still exist today! Many girls still aren't getting an education because society thinks they aren't good enough or thinks it's not proper. Girls are 3 times more likely to not be in school. Women are still being treated as though they can't do what men can do, that they aren't smart enough or strong enough. In my opinion people are people. They shouldn't be something they don't want to be because of labels they've been assigned.
Nia A
Age 12
Topic - Education
Janisa: What do you think?
Nia: Denying education to a person that is a different gender from you is a lethal form of discrimination. They are human and they deserve the right to be properly educated. Keeping a girl from being educated is like stripping away their identity. They deserve to be educated like a person of the opposite gender.

Caitlin S.
Age 13
Topic - Wage Gap
Janisa: What do you think?
Caitlin: I think that everyone should be able to get paid the same no matter what gender. As long as they're putting in the effort and trying, I do wish women were paid the same and I don't know why they aren't. I hope in the future men and women will both be respected and paid the same amount.

Jennifer C.
Age 12
Topic - Sexism
Janisa: What do you think?
Jennifer: I think that since the olden days women didn't do as much as men did, that it's kinda carried on through the years until now. People think that it's still ok for men to do one thing and women to do another (like stay at home). Now and even back then women are able to do anything a man can and they shouldn't be told they can't. You shouldn't be told your limits no matter what gender because only you can decide them.
Works Cited


Pictures


http://www.washingtonhistory.org/research/whc/WAWomen/bios/womenshistory/rice/

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