A Lady

A Lady - the zenith of social grace that is plagued by contradicting voices heard by every girl on her journey to become the “perfect” woman. Classic expectations of beauty, sexuality and grace have spanned generations and skin tones. Some of you may recognize these voices; messages perpetuated by the media, our families, and ourselves. It has never been in a woman’s interest to be intimidating, educated, or athletically capable. Do not forget the women who came before us and crushed these voices to achieve things that women were once not ALLOWED to do. The women in this editorial have given us the choice to become whatever cis/trans/LGBTQ+ Lady we want to be. Be that Lady of courage and confidence who shocks the world with what you can achieve. Do not let any voice convince you that you are not enough, not even your own.

-Veronica Virgin

SHE DID THAT!

She Did That is a Netflix documentary that focuses on the voices of Black women who are entrepreneurs of vegan cosmetics, hair care products, culturally inspired literature, and more. Black women as a group control about 1.3 million businesses and are the fastest growing group of entrepreneurs; however, the financial support for Black women businesses differs greatly ($36,000 compared to $1.3 million raised for a startup). A study has even shown that Black-owned businesses help reduce youth violence. This documentary calls us to be conscious of the challenges Black business women face, and to support and celebrate them because, "They did that!"
Open the Shape Called Love showcases small-scale paintings and works on paper by Yayoi Kusama, the beloved 90-year-old titan of modern art best known for her immersive, monumental sculpture and installation (you might have put your head in one of her famous “Infinity Rooms,” akin to giant, mirrored, lit-up kaleidoscopes). In contrast, this exhibit is a more intimate handwrought portrait of the artist, her art-making process, and relationship with her own art. Paintings in acrylic, pastel, and watercolor glow with richness and depth of color, with the same visual themes present in her larger works-- polka dots in obsessive repetition; blooming, amoebic flora. Nebulous net patterns look like tight-packed cells through a microscope, or clusters of stars through a telescope (or both). Curatorial information within the show provides a nuanced biographical context for viewing her work, and reinforces her vast historic and ongoing influence. If your eyes and your heart need a break, this show is a balm; and, it's free. **Open the Shape Called Love is on view through April 12, 2020.** - Lydia Friz

**PT & THE PAY GAP**

The **pay or wage gap** is the difference between the average annual pay that people receive based on sex and/or gender. PT happens to be a healthcare field where women are the predominant sex & gender; yet, it is reported that women’s **average annual salary** is $67,550 compared to men’s $84,281. Geographic differences in pay can be seen in the juxtaposition of NC’s 83% earnings ratio and Durham women earning more than men on average in 2017. While the pay gap can have variations depending on other concepts like specialty & practice area, the discrepancies financially can intersect with profession leadership, lifestyle, and educational debt.

**SOY YO**

Bomba Estéreo is a band founded in Bogotá, Colombia; the group’s sound is electric and naturally dance worthy. "Soy Yo" was released in 2015, and the video has over 88 million views. Sarai Gonzalez, the star of the video, is of Peruvian and Costa Rican descent, and shared that the connection she has to the song is from a **personal experience with bullying**. Simon Mejia, a member of Bomba Estéreo, shared in an interview that the video was meant to represent the Latinx community and the immigrant community, and to campaign against bullying. "Soy Yo" empowers women & girls to embrace their uniqueness and to move through the world in pure freedom.