**DIVERSITEA**

A DUKE DPT DIVERSITY CLUB AND DIVERSITY & INCLUSION COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

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**DURHAM VOTERS ELECT 1ST ALL-WOMEN BOARD**

On Super Tuesday, the city of Durham elected its first all-women county board. Five women (Nimasheena Burns, Wendy Jacobs, Heidi Carter, Nida Allam, and Brenda Howerton) won the top 5 seats in this highly contested race. Additionally, Allam is the first Muslim-American woman to win an elected office in North Carolina history. This election acts as a step in the right direction toward increasing the representation of women in our governing bodies.

-Bekah Edie

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**THE PINK TAX**

Did you know that the same product could have a different price tag depending on the targeted consumer? Enter, the pink tax. This tax refers to the extra amount of money women pay for products and services, and it exists for both children and adults. Women particularly pay 13% more on identical personal care products, like razors. In December 2015, a study was published on gender pricing in NYC, and NY Governor Cuomo has put forth the 10th proposal to eliminate the pink tax. In addition to the pink tax, many states have an additional tax on menstrual products, known as the period or tampon tax. Seen as marginal to some, these types of taxes can make necessities inaccessible; therefore, an entire area of gender justice has emerged known as menstrual or period equity in response.

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**THE SPORTS BRA: A 43 YEAR HISTORY**

From jock bra to jog bra to sports bra. With only a 43 year history, what we know as the sports bra was first created in 1977 by Lisa Lindahl, Polly Smith, and Hinda Miller after sewing two jockstraps together. Lisa was an avid runner during the 70s jogging craze and tried several methods of to make running more comfortable. The three women together were inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame at the beginning of 2020. Research by LaJean Lawson on breast movement and bras in 1984 and the selling of jog bra to Playtex in 1990 further increased the popularity of athletic bras. Overall, the sports bra has become an everyday undergarment and has helped to revolutionize the inclusion of women in exercise, athletics, and physical activity.
THE FUTURE IS FEMALE @ 21C

21c is a museum hotel in downtown Durham, and it is one of many in a series of 21c hotels throughout the United States. The 21c in Durham has been showcasing art in its 10,500 square foot space since 2015. The building is originally the Hill Building as is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and much of the original building features have been preserved. While architectural and design an art form itself, 21c features art exhibits throughout the building; currently on display is The Future is Female. This exhibit features a number of female artists and various art mediums. Walking through the exhibit captivates and calls you to reflection. Perhaps one of the most striking features is Champ, the neon female anatomy with boxing gloves. The Future is Female thoroughly explores female identity, conflict and empowerment. Although currently closed, the exhibit is free and on display until December 2020.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, DIVERSITY

Ford recently created two commercials for the 2020 Ford Escape with the campaign title, "Built Phenomenally." The commercials are focused on celebrating versatile Black creatives in film, production, styling, marketing, and other creative outlets. Actress Angela Bassett shares her effortlessly bold voice in the voiceover; additionally, Ford took the campaign a step further by inviting young Black and Brown girls on set to see first-hand how the commercials were created and produced. The youth were invited from Girls Make Beats and Made in Her Image, and they met Black, Latinx, and Asian American women who were involved in every step of the creative process. Ford’s exploration of diverse phenomenality is an example of why representation matters and inspires.

AN INCLUSIVE WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

Who are the women that you picture in your mind when you think of Women’s History Month? That picture could be incomplete if women who identify along the LGBTQ+ spectrum are missing. Women who are LGBTQ+ have been and still are integral parts of our history and our world; they are making waves in politics, nonviolence and injustice, comedy, film, music, writing, and so much more. These women are dynamic, but they face a number of hardships of discrimination in healthcare, housing, employment, and overall violence, especially transgender women. More specifically, transgender women of color. So, on this last day of Women’s History Month and on Transgender Day of Visibility, I encourage you to expand your concept of women and womanhood and to explore, recognize, and celebrate the lives of ALL women.