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The Effects of Beauty Propaganda on Female Consumers

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ABSTRACT

Women are faced with a constant barrage of advertisements every day and the subliminal messages that come with this visual assault. These messages are influenced by years of sexism and oversexualization in the media, and shape the actions of female consumers. This investigation reviews three existing studies that demonstrate the negative effects of beauty advertisements on women. These effects are then studied through the lens of female consumer behavior to evaluate women's motivations in continuing to buy beauty products. A link between negative effects and consumer motivations is discussed to reveal the harsh grip of sexism on the beauty and advertising industries. A content analysis of beauty advertisements then defines current trends in advertising and potential impacts of the growing intolerance for sexual harassment. The hypothesis of this study is threefold:

- The imagery used by the beauty industry has negative effects on female consumers by providing unrealistic standards and lowering self-esteem.
- These effects create a strong need to purchase beauty products to fit the ideals of modern society.
- Just as advertising previously shifted with social movements, the #MeToo and #TimesUp campaigns could potentially change the portrayal of women.

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OVERVIEW/BACKGROUND INFORMATION

People are faced with a constant barrage of advertisements every day and the subtle, and not-so-subtle, messages which come with that visual assault. Women, especially, are targeted by advertisements to receive the brunt of this assault. The messages are fed by years of sexism and sexualization in the media, and work together to shape the actions of female consumers. This paper investigates the effects of advertisements for beauty products on female consumers, and analyzes why these actions take place and whether society is in a position to change these negative factors. Several studies have demonstrated that beauty advertisements have negative effects on female self-esteem and self-image, and that these effects have implications in other areas of women's lives.

This investigation then seeks to link these negative effects to sexist undertones in society by doing the following

- describing the previous research that has overwhelmingly demonstrated the effects of magazine advertisements to be negative
- considering these effects in the context of female consumer behavior to determine why women still purchase beauty products
- discussing whether the growing intolerance for sexual harassment in society and social media is creating an environment that may influence how the industry views and portrays women

This investigation also includes a content analysis of several magazine print advertisements based on imagery and other visual elements which focuses on the oversexualization of women present in the advertisements. The trends discovered during this analysis are explored further in later sections of this paper.

Because this investigation is limited in length and scope, only advertisements for beauty products that target female consumers will be included. The hypothesis of this study is that the imagery used by the beauty industry has negative effects on female consumers by providing unrealistic standards and lowering self-esteem, which creates a strong need to purchase beauty products in order to fit the ideals of modern society.

NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF BEAUTY ADVERTISEMENTS

Overview/Background

The role of previous research is important in any investigation as it provides significant starting points for new research and prevents unintentional duplications of existing studies. The previous research in the negative effects of advertisements on women is widespread and thorough. While there are hundreds, if not thousands, of articles written about this topic, only a few are discussed in this section. The three articles chosen for summary were published in 2004, 2006, and 2011, respectively, and describe previous research in their specific topics. By including summaries of these articles, and the previous research listed in them, this section aims to provide a convincing depiction of the overwhelmingly negative effects that advertisements have on women.

The Role of Social Comparison

In February of 2004, Marika Tiggeman and Belinda McGill published an article for the School of Psychology at Flinders University of South Australia, titled "The Role of Social Comparison in the Effect of Magazine Advertisements on Women's Mood and Body Dissatisfaction." This study compares women's mood and body dissatisfaction before and after viewing advertisements, which were divided into three categories: full-body, body part, and product images. The study concluded that exposure to full-body advertisements or advertisements containing body parts increased negative mood and body dissatisfaction, and that these negative effects were the result of social comparison.

The hypothesis of this study is that "controlled exposure to a thin ideal image elicits appearance concerns and evokes comparison processing in vulnerable women" (Tiggeman and McGill, 2004, p. 26). The authors discuss that women often compare themselves to images of other women in the media, and that this comparison is often upwards, leaving the viewer feeling lacking. This study intends to target the activation of that social comparison by isolating which features are shown in the advertisement and what specifically the woman is looking for when viewing it. The study was conducted on 126 female undergraduate students at Flinders University in South Australia, between 18 and 28 years of age, using two separate questionnaires. The study measured the following constructs:

- The tendency of participants to make comparisons on a global scale
 - Measured on the Physical Appearance Comparison Scale (PACS), developed by Thompson, Heinberg, and Tantleff in 1991
- The tendency of participants to compare specific body parts
 - Measured on the Specific Attributes Comparison Scale (SACS), which was developed for this study
- The tendency of participants to invest in their appearances
 - Measured by the Appearance Schemas Inventory (ASI), created by Cash and Labarge in 1996
- The tendency of participants to internalize the thin ideal
 - Measured by the Sociocultural Attitudes Towards Appearance Questionnaire (SATAQ), created by Heinberg, Thompson, and Stormer in 1995
- The participants' rate of anxiety concerning body weight
 - Measured on the Weight Subscale of the Physical Appearance State and Trait Anxiety Scale (PASTAS)
- The rate at which participants compared themselves to the models
 - Measured using seven-point Likert scales

The study was based on sociocultural theory, which emphasizes the role of society in individual development, and further specifies that negative effects are caused by the unattainable beauty portrayed by advertisements. Thus, the development of many women's view of self is warped. Some consequences of the thin ideal include lowered self-esteem, increased depression, excessive dieting, and eating disorders. The current standards of beauty are dangerously unattainable, especially in terms of thinness, because the gap between realistic expectations and the ideal continues to grow larger. Because this ideal is portrayed in so many forms of media, many women accept it as their own ideals and internalize the disappointment they feel with their own body because of it. While the ideal of thinness is not a new concept (traditionally encouraged by family members and peer groups), the pervasive reach of mass media means that this ideal is transmitted on a far larger scale than ever before.

Additionally, Tiggeman and McGill cite several other studies that link fashion magazine and television consumption with body dissatisfaction. Some studies hypothesized that women with body dissatisfaction seek out advertisements that portray the thin ideal, but there is a clear consensus that the advertisements themselves have been shown to increase weight concern, self-consciousness, body dissatisfaction, negative mood, and perception of one's own unattractiveness. Some experimental studies have reported increased negative effects on heavier women, those who are more responsive to personal cues, and those with higher levels of body dissatisfaction. Thus, not all women are equally vulnerable to the negative effects of advertising messages, which partly explains why not every woman who sees an advertisement will develop eating disorders or an extreme preoccupation with weight. As such, Tiggeman and McGill, along with several authors listed in their research, argue that social comparison is the cause of advertising's negative effects on women, not specifically the advertisements alone.

The results of this study include the confirmation that full-body and body-part images produced more comparisons overall, and specifically, a more negative reaction than images of products alone. Full-body advertisements were recalled better than their body-part or product-

only counterparts. The tendency for specific body comparison, image type, and instructional set were independent predictors of the amount of actual comparison in which the women engaged. For body dissatisfaction, BMI, tendency for global and specific comparison, and actual comparison make independent contributions. Weight anxiety increases with increasing BMI and tendency for specific comparison. A major finding of this survey was that even short exposure to thin-ideal female images led to negative moods and body dissatisfaction, which disturbed the researchers because their study contained far fewer images than a typical magazine. Here, women were equally vulnerable to negative effects. Body-part images produced just as much social comparison and body dissatisfaction as full-body images. The actual amount of comparison in which the women engaged is a predictor of negative mood, body dissatisfaction, and weight anxiety. As a whole, the study provides persuasive evidence that future efforts to examine media effects would be well served by consideration of the social comparison processes involved.

Media Ideals and Implicit Self-Image

In 2006, Inbal Gurari, John J. Hetts, and Michael J. Strube published an article in *Basic* and Applied Social Psychology for Washington University in St. Louis, titled "Beauty in the 'I' of the Beholder: Effects of Idealized Media Portrayals on Implicit Self-Image." This study aimed to measure whether implicit self-evaluations (ISE) and explicit self-evaluations (ESE) are susceptible to influence by exposure to beauty advertisements containing no body images (control group) or beauty advertisement displaying idealized beauty. The basis of this article is that previous research may have underestimated the negative effects of advertisement by relying primarily on measures of explicit body image. Although people may be able to maintain positive self-views on a conscious and explicit level, even in the face of threats to the self, they may be less able to do so on an unconscious and implicit level.

Several recent psychology studies have illustrated the importance of evaluating the self both implicitly and explicitly. Additionally, ISEs and ESEs predict different types of behavior, and each of the two processes generates separate outcomes. Evidence suggests that people automatically compare themselves to everyone they encounter, so evaluating both explicit and implicit reactions provides valuable insight on the separate outcomes of each process. In this present study, Gurari, Hetts, and Strube examine the consequences for, and effects of, ISEs and ESEs with body image because social comparisons in this topic are important and plentiful.

Because women are exposed to repeated and relentless upward social comparisons via physical appearance, comparisons of this quality served as a worthwhile portion of this study. Through television, magazines, billboards, and other media, women frequently encounter images of female beauty that are highly uncommon and largely unattainable. Physical attractiveness is an important component in women's lives since it is linked with higher popularity, better relationships, and more career prospects. The importance placed on attractiveness starts quite early and has broad applications. In fact, one study noted that children's feelings of self-worth are heavily impacted by physical appearance, and roughly 44% of American adolescent girls and 23% of American adolescent boys 'feel ugly and unattractive' (qtd in "Beauty in the 'l,' 2006, p. 274). Low body image is linked to depression, eating disorders, and sexual dissatisfaction and dysfunction. Collectively, these findings suggest that the frequent presence of ideal portrayals in the media could be damaging to women's views of self, especially if they inspire automatic social comparisons.

Most women recognize that the thin models portrayed in the media are unattainable ideals and can, therefore, prevent explicit social comparison. And, because most previous studies have used explicit questionnaires, the implicit attitudes that might be more sensitive to the impact of unrealistic social comparison may be overlooked. The importance of including both implicit and explicit measures of self-image is emphasized by the mixed media messages that women receive about beauty. American women increasingly receive explicit advice from

people in their lives that their worth is not based on their appearance; however, women cannot avoid the implicit association between extreme standards of physical attractiveness and success, acceptance, and self-worth. Therefore, employing both ISE and ESE measurements may be important to understanding the full scope of the effects of objectification on women's thoughts, feelings, body image, and behavior. This study was expected to have little effect on explicit body image because participants may have defense mechanisms for their explicit selfimage. Implicit body image was targeted directly as it was expected to become less positive following exposure to attractive images.

The participants of this study include seventy-one female Washington University undergraduates between the ages of 18 and 22. The participants were seated in individual rooms and administered independent, computerized questionnaires over 20 magazine advertisements, which were varied to include both nonperson advertisements and unrealistic standards of female beauty. The screen displayed a "prime," which was selected to relate to the self and included "I, me, us, we, she, her, it, that, etc." The prime was followed by an evaluative trait in one of three categories: attractiveness/ugliness, intelligence/stupidity, and positivity/negativity (i.e. beautiful, pretty, repulsive, hideous, clever, gifted, foolish, dense, excellent, pleasant, inferior, horrible, etc.). Participants were instructed to identify whether a trait that followed a prime was positive or negative as quickly as possible. This procedure assessed the positive and negative reactions to attractiveness, aptitude, and positivity after exposure to certain primes to measure the participants' ISEs and body image.

In the next stage, participants completed three measures of self-evaluation, including the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale, the State Self-Esteem Scale, and the Self-Attributes Questionnaire, and two measures of body image, including the Multidimensional Body-Self Relations Questionnaire and the Body Image Ideals Questionnaire. After the participants completed the computerized portion of the study, they were led to a waiting room where they remained alone for 3.5 minutes. The waiting room held magazines in two categories (health and

news) and food in two categories (health and junk), and the participants were invited to help themselves. The amount eaten and the magazines browsed were recorded.

The results of the study revealed that participants expose to idealized images of beauty ate significantly less junk food than did control participants. This pattern supports the assumption that food consumption may indeed be affected by exposure to idealized images of beauty. There was a supportive trend in magazine selection, though not statistically significant, that showed more experimental participants selecting health magazines than control participants. While not necessarily negative, this trend could still support the effects of idealized images on women's mindset and behavior. However, the authors of the article suggest that this result could also simply be due to the fact that the participants might have believed they would not have enough time to read a news article and so chose the health magazine for convenience.

Control participants revealed stronger associations between the three identities (self, ingroup, and gender) and beauty than did the experimental participants. Exposure to the idealized portrayals of attractiveness conflicted with the positive association that normally exists between these identities and beauty. Certain images, however, could lead participants to behave in ways different than they otherwise would, even when their explicit self-evaluations are unaffected. Behavioral changes, such as a reduction in food consumption, could serve as the initial stages in a focus on weight-loss and dieting programs. The study supports the idea that participants were likely able to look past the superficial beauty and discount explicit social comparison with such unrealistic ideals. Therefore, it is conceivable that when participants viewed these photographs, they were able to defend against the ideals explicitly, but may have been more effected implicitly than they realized.

The Self-Activation Effect of Advertisements

In the April 2011 issue of the *Journal of Consumer Behavior Research*, Debra Trampe, Diederik A. Stapel, and Frans W. Siero published their article, titled "The Self-Activation Effect of

Advertisements: Ads Can Affect Whether and How Consumers Think about the Self." This study compares consumption with non-consumption situations, and investigates the hypothesis that attractiveness-relevant products in advertisements can increase consumer self-activation and lower consumer self-evaluation. Four experiments provide support for this effect by showing that after viewing advertised beauty-enhancing products, thoughts about the self are more salient and self-evaluations are lower, compared with viewing the same products outside of an advertisement context. The authors further defined the role of product type by dividing the products into two categories: beauty-enhancing products and problem-solving products.

Most research in this product area compares the effects of advertisements in two consumer areas; however, this study focuses on comparing the effects in a consumer situation versus a non-consumer situation. Previous research suggests that advertisements can convey meaning that reaches beyond their physical characteristics, and as a consequence, consumers grasp this implicit meaning through associations and cultural knowledge. Other research on this topic has focused on how different methods of advertising can prompt different types of self-referencing, but there seems to be no previous information that treats self-referencing as a dependent variable resulting from an advertising context. The hypothesis of this study is that advertising may have symbolic meaning that causes consumers to relate the advertisement to themselves. The study focuses specifically on comparisons of physical attractiveness due to the high advertising expenditures in personal care and fashion products, and due to the importance of physical attractiveness in women's self-esteem.

In an advertisement, products can become potentially self-relevant entities and subject to "implicature" which refers to information that is implicitly communicated to an audience and inferred by readers. For example, the meaning of a high-heeled shoe in an advertisement is different from the meaning of the same shoe that is conveyed outside of its advertisement context. In advertising, the shoe can be a desirable product that suggests an attractive selfimage. Outside of advertising, the shoe is a relatively distant, neutral product. Subtle changes in

an advertisement can change the way the advertisement is perceived, read, and processed. The article similarly suggests that merely placing a product in an advertisement can transform distant products into potentially self-relevant products, which, in turn, may cause dramatic changes in the effects these products have on the viewers. Because advertisements generally motivate people to make consumer choices about a product, the products become relevant to the consumer's self and may cause them to think about that self. In fact, many scholars have suggested that products provide certain insights about their buyers and that this extended self means products can sometimes be considered part of a consumer's self-concept.

The two categories used to divide products in this study were decided due to their differing effects and degrees of self-relevance. The usage of problem-solving products brings consumers closer to a desired state by masking perceived defects, while beauty-enhancing products bring consumers closer to a desired state by directly enhancing a consumer's attractiveness. The article argues that beauty-enhancing products may be more self-relevant and, as such, advertisements for these products affect women more in terms of idealized images. The authors also emphasize that consumers' actual selves (appearance, success, etc.) are different than their ideal selves. The hypothesis is that the tendency to think of one's own self, brought on by viewing advertisements, exacerbates people's perceived difference between the actual self and ideal self. Furthermore, beauty-enhancing product advertisements are more likely to remind consumers of their own shortcomings than problem-solving products.

The pre-test study included thirty-five female students who received partial course credit for completing questionnaires in small groups. The title page of the questionnaire asked participants to define whether the twenty products on the following page were problem-solving or beauty-enhancing by rating them on Likert scales. The products with the most consistently strong results for each category were then selected as the basis for the further experiments.

The aim of study 1 was to address the hypothesis that an advertised beauty-enhancing product would increase thoughts about the self, relative to an advertised problem-solving

product. This study included sixty-five female student participants and tested whether social comparisons arise more frequently in response to products that are relevant to the self via a questionnaire booklet. This booklet asked participants to read a passage of a nonexistent language and identify the underlined pronouns. It was predicted that after viewing a self-relevant product, people would tend to guess the meanings of most of the pronouns to be first-person. As expected, exposure to the self-relevant advertisement, self-activation was higher than in control advertisements.

The aim of study 2 was to address the idea that products in advertisements, as opposed to products seen in everyday contexts, generated more social comparison. The expectation was that self-evaluations would be lower in response to viewing beauty-enhancing product advertisements. One hundred and eighty-three female students participated in this survey where they viewed advertisements in one of three categories: a beauty-enhancing eye shadow advertisement, a beauty-enhancing shoe advertisement, and a problem-solving deodorant advertisement. The participants were then asked to answer four questions to measure self-evaluation. The results of this study demonstrated that after viewing a beauty-enhancing advertisement, participants rated themselves consistently less positively.

The aim of study 3 was to gather further evidence that viewing products in advertising contexts had higher self-activation effects that viewing products in non-consumer situations. This study included 190 female student participants who were instructed to circle pronouns in a word search task, view a depiction of the eye shadow, shoe, and deodorant, and a complete a short self-evaluation. The results of the study further support the idea that viewing advertisements of beauty-enhancing, self-relevant products generated lower self-evaluations.

As a whole, the results of these studies demonstrate that advertisements for highlyrelevant beauty products generally result in lower self-evaluations. When products are presented in advertising, versus general situations, they are considered more self-relevant. The more self-relevant a product is, the higher the tendency of consumers to think of the self and

make comparisons when viewing the product. And, because these comparisons are with idealized images, the effects are considerably negative in terms of lowering the viewers' self-evaluations.

Summary

The results from a majority of the research conducted on the effects of advertisements on women demonstrate that exposure to these advertisements is harmful to women's body image, mood, self-esteem, view of self, health, eating habits, consumption patterns, expectations, and many more. The role of social comparison was demonstrated to be a key component in generating these effects; in that, advertisements alone cannot have detrimental consequences unless women engage in comparisons of themselves with the unrealistic ideals portrayed in the advertisements. Because the ideal of beauty and thinness is presented across all forms of media, many women accept it as their own ideals and internalize the disappointment they feel with their own body because of it. While the ideal of thinness is not a new concept, the pervasive reach of mass media means that this ideal is transmitted on a far larger scale than ever before. Not all women are equally vulnerable to the negative effects of advertising messages, but even short exposure to thin-ideal images creates negative moods and body dissatisfaction.

Additionally, although women may be able to maintain positive self-views on a conscious and explicit level, they may be less able to do so on an unconscious and implicit level. Evidence suggests that people automatically compare themselves to everyone they encounter, so making such constant comparisons with unrealistic ideals is damaging to women's views of self. While most women recognize that the thin models portrayed in the media are unattainable ideals and can, therefore, prevent explicit social comparison, they cannot avoid the implicit association between extreme standards of physical attractiveness and success, acceptance, and self-worth. However, women are likely able to look past the superficial beauty and discount explicit social

comparison with such unrealistic ideals, but, in the end, they may be more effected implicitly than they realize.

WHY WOMEN STILL BUY BEAUTY PRODUCTS

Overview/Background

Since the first introduction of widespread advertising, it has portrayed women as objects of beauty and, in some cases, even degrading them. Many advertisements represented women and girls in the most negative use of advertising imaginable (Pinhas, Toner, Ali, Garfinkel & Stuckless, 1999). A myriad of women, and even their male counterparts, have attempted to oppose such implementation of advertisements to no avail. Instead, the same patterns of objectifying women as well as the senseless exploit of nearly-naked women in advertising campaigns continue to exist and flourish (Pinhas, et al., 1999). Though advertising started to change during the 1960s and 1970s, this transition away from the sexualization of women was never fully completed. The contemporary image of a scantily clad woman, however, is far different from that of 1970s and 80s as observed by Pinhas, et al. (1999). In modern advertisement with the commonality of Photoshop and the popularity of retouching, women are now portrayed as flawless and anatomically impossible (Grogan, 2016). As outlined in the previous section, portraying women in such ways can be harmful on several levels. This section seeks to continue the examination of the negative effects of beauty advertisements on female consumers and determine the motivation behind the persistent consumption of beauty products despite its negative effects.

Concept of Ideal Beauty

The ideal for feminine beauty is a concept that has been socially created by depicting that physical attractiveness encompasses the most vital qualities for a woman and that all women must do anything possible to acquire and maintain this attractiveness (Chiodo, 2015).

The principles of feminine beauty are based on the heteronormative ideas and largely discriminate against women of all sexual orientations. These ideas further incorporate the shape of a woman's body which usually varies by cultures (Chiodo, 2015; Albertson, Neff & Dill-Shackleford, 2015). The demands to comply with these ideals and the specific description of ideal beauty can lead to radical psychological consequences (Albertson et al., 2015). To reference the first section of this investigation, studies have indeed indicated that such ideals have been related to depression, eating disorders, reduced self-esteem, and several more. Girls are subjected to images of this ideal at very young ages and such constant exposure extends through adulthood (GU, 2017).

All over the world, magazine, advertising, marketing, and fashion industries repeatedly emphasize the standards of ideal beauty. These industries sell the concept of ideal beauty with the full understanding that body image is an important concept in the minds of their adolescent and young adult consumers (Chiodo, 2015). By creating and enforcing the belief that beauty can be achieved when a woman matches the ideal concept portrayed by the media, these advertisements are developing and nurturing a strong need in female consumers to obtain this beauty. Because there are many advantages to being attractive in society (which are discussed in the following section), it is natural and logical that women would want to fill this need. However, the standards set by society change with time and are generally quite unrealistic, so women are constantly striving to reach these impossible ideals, and will continue to do so as long as society continues advocating for such standards (Chiodo, 2015). By continuously portraying the ideal, the media shapes and demonstrates the concept of beauty, motivating female consumers to pursue these perfect standards (GU, 2017).

Ideal beauty is presented in advertisements in order to be perceived as flawless and faultless (GU, 2017) Advertisements portray a thin ideal of beauty, often featuring perfect (or even impossible) proportions, light skin, and luscious hair. As a result, society is influenced by

such images because people have begun to normalize them and, thus, have the desire to emulate the women portrayed in the advertisements (GU, 2017). By doing so, they solidify these women as portraits of ideal beauty, that, in reality, do not even exist.

Advantages of Being Attractive in American Society

The benefits of being beautiful have been researched in several studies, all of which conclude that being attractive or having an appearance similar to the ideal concept of beauty has several advantages, especially for women. Two common experiences for attractive women are unfair beneficial treatment and admiration from society (Dakanalis, Carrà, Calogero, Fida, Clerici, Zanetti & Riva, 2015). The world rewards beauty, which is defined and advocated by the media (McKinley, 2017). The standards by which women are deemed attractive and the benefits that come with that attractiveness vary by culture. However, due to the globalization of modern society, the ease with which ideas are communicated across continents, languages, cultures, and ideologies has resulted in beauty ideals that have visual similarities across cultures (McKinley, 2017). It is universal, however, that those who are deemed attractive in any society are rewarded for that status; having conventional beauty gives an individual an edge relative to those lacking it (McKinley, 2017).

Findings from many studies indicate that being attractive gives the world measures for benchmarking health, desirable genes, intelligence, and success (Dakanalis et al., 2015). In American society, being physically attractive is largely considered a strong asset and, thus, most people desire to appear beautiful. Additionally, society often highlights the ideal beauty portrayed in advertisements, which suggests that it attracts attention due to its association with fame, success, and intelligence (Müller, 2017; Dakanalis et al., 2015).

There are, therefore, many benefits that people associate with beauty. Grogan (2016) claims that attractive individuals are considered more intelligent and persuasive. According to a

study by McKinley (2017), having a symmetrical body is positively correlated with general intelligence. Having a symmetrical body relates to attractive qualities such as social dominance, health as well as fitness-related biological attributes (McKinley, 2017; Müller, 2017). In terms of being more persuasive, it is believed that attractive individuals tend to utilize their sex appeal to command attention.

Being beautiful partly relates to being more persuasive because attractive people are perceived to have the key personality characteristics such as intelligence and robust social skills. Also, research indicates that attractive people tend to be much more articulate compared to speakers who are not considered traditionally attractive (Grogan, 2016). Beautiful women, as expected, have high chances of attracting mates because their appearances signify their youth, health, and reproductive fitness (Grogan, 2016). Furthermore, studies suggest that most Americans perceive physical beauty as important in society as they associate it with happiness, positive social life, and even the potential to get ahead in life. In fact, attractive people find jobs easier, get better performance reviews, are promoted more, and make more money (Wong & Penner, 2016).

Implications of Female Consumer Behavior

The goal of beauty advertising, unfortunately, is often to convince the consumer that her current level of attractiveness is far from the ideal beauty portrayed in advertising (Tiggemann, 2014). As discussed in the first section of this paper, marketing and advertising influence the way female consumers think about themselves and compare themselves to such standards (Albertson et al., 2015). As a result of this, they purchase beauty products in an attempt to fulfill the ideals of beauty in society (Albertson et al., 2015). Additionally, the strength of the comparisons to the advertisements made by female consumers, the perceived effectiveness of the products, and the attitudes toward advertising equally influence female consumer behavior (Arendt, Peter & Beck, 2016). The commonality of ideal beauty and the role of social

comparison create a need within female consumers to emulate that ideal. This need is enhanced, or strengthened, if the product portrayed in the advertisement is perceived as useful and the viewer feels generally positive about advertising.

The familiarity principle plays an important role in influencing female consumer behavior. This principle states that people tend to be attracted to what they are familiar with and that repeated exposure to certain people or ideas can increase that attraction (Arendt et al., 2016). So, as the portrayal of ideal beauty continues to be widespread in media, more people will be familiar with, and accepting of, that ideal.

The idea of balance theory also plays a major role in women's purchase decisions; in that, endorsement by a celebrity admired by women can positively affect the consumption of the products because purchasing these products will allow women to achieve psychological balance (Tiggemann, 2014; Albertson et al., 2015). If women view female celebrities favorably, then they will be motivated to buy the celebrities' products or wear similar clothes. Yet, if female consumers dislike the celebrity, they may discontinue the use of such a product, again to obtain the same psychological balance (Tiggemann, 2014). Celebrities with their own product lines further complicate this effect. Kylie Jenner, Rihanna, the Kardashians, and several other female celebrities have developed their own cosmetic lines, which have garnered mass consumption, due to both the popularity of the celebrities and the quality of the products.

Summary

The ideal for feminine beauty is a social construct that depicts a flawless, faultless, and impossibly-proportioned woman upon whom women should base themselves to be considered attractive in society. This ideal, however, is not simply a theoretical construct that women hope to emulate; rather, it is a tool employed by advertisers to create a constant demand for beauty products that help women inch closer to this impossible standard. Because there are many

advantages to being attractive in society, advertisements develop and nurture a strong need in female consumers to obtain this beauty. Other factors, like how familiar a woman is with the concept of ideal beauty or whether her favorite celebrities endorse beauty-enhancing products, contribute to the need in women to continue purchasing beauty products even though the advertisements, and the ideal they portray, have negative effects. The implication of this is that ideal beauty advertisements may make female consumers feel compelled to purchase such products.

HOW ADVERTISING INFLUENCES, AND IS INFLUENCED BY, CULTURE /SOCIETY Background/Overview

The image of women throughout history has been influenced by several forces in media and society. In fact, according to Mendes and Carter (2008), emerging trends in beauty target women using historical ideals. Therefore, though society has seen some uplifting changes in the perception of women, advertising still focuses on outdated concepts of beauty. Because beauty advertisements present such idealized and unrealistic expectations, women experience increasing anxiety about their bodies. As demonstrated in the first section, beauty advertisements inspire several negative effects that ultimately cause women to feel dissatisfied and lacking. To remedy these feelings of shortcomings, women buy the very products that inspired these feelings in the first place. Further exploration of this topic reveals that advertising and mass media have changed society's perception of beauty by creating a need in women to fill the unrealistic gaps between themselves and the ideals portrayed by the media. Doing so allows women to prevent embarrassment and be perceived as intelligent, competent, and successful.

Mendes and Carter (2008) note that the persuasion used in beauty advertisements is geared towards improving attractiveness and preventing early aging. Much like seeing the same information in multiple sources can confirm an idea's credibility, so too can the widespread

advertisements against aging solidify the idea in women's minds that it is something to be avoided. Englis, Solomon, and Ashmore (1994) argue that advertisements which claim a "quick fix" for these supposed beauty flaws are not devoid of social implications. In fact, Heyes (2007) describes that photo-manipulation in beauty advertisements provokes excess expenditure among women to fix their perceived imperfections based on social comparisons.

The periods of American history from the 1800s to the 1960s witnessed a succession of dominant singular ideals of beauty. For example, to appear very pale and delicate was fashionable in the mid-1800s. This ideal evolved over time into the voluptuous, lusty woman idealized in the 1890s, and then the small, boyish flapper of the 1920s. More recently, ideals have existed as the buxom Marilyn Monroe fi gure of the 1950s and the flat-chested, emaciated look of the 1960s (Englis et al., 1994, p. 52). Throughout history, it may have been relatively easy to identify a woman or celebrity that defined the ideal of that era. However, the increasing impossibility of beauty standards and globalization of society has made that realization of beauty more challenging. Additionally, though American beauty was once characterized by the classic Nordic complexion, more ethnically diverse portrayals of beauty, including African, Asian, and Hispanic, have started to gain popularity, though the ideal remains predominantly white (Englis et al., 1994, p. 52).

Influence of Feminist Culture/Society on Advertising

The development of beauty advertisements has been shaped by certain cultural or social occurrences. Scholars trace the trend to the 1800s when Feminism came out as a movement to defend the rights of women in a male-dominated society. However, the beauty advertisements at that time largely advocated for women to wear corsets, which caused several physical mutilations and reduced a woman to her ability to please a man (Englis et al., 1994, p. 51). In the 1920s, an increasing number of advertisements emphasized the importance of women's appearance in securing her partner's fidelity and home (Basow, 1991). In the period between

1941 and 1945, a pattern was established of convincing women they were inadequate without a particular product. This pattern has remained a hallmark of advertising since this time (Basow, 1991) According to Dolezal (2010), beauty advertisements gathered momentum in the 1960s and 1970s when women's rights activists sought positions in equal career opportunities, sports, jobs, and related rights. It was this movement that saw an increase in attempts to rebrand women from advertisements that only portrayed women in subservient roles. As Heyes (2007) underscores, significant changes were experienced in the image of beauty among women. The last 100 years were therefore characterized by advertisements that endeavored to present a woman through fair skin and the thin figures that associated them with independence and social success. This departure was revolutionary at the time as it spared women of the previous images of subordination and cloaked them with beauty, thus boosting their image.

Dolezal (2010) reiterates that current trends in beauty advertising gathered motivation from the feminist ideas that fiercely fought marginalization and the limited role of women in society. The stereotypical portrayal of a woman as a housewife in the 1950s was actually a reflection of how advertisers believed the nation was, or how they thought it should be ("Women in Advertising"). However, women accounted for a third of the nation's workforce by 1957, demonstrating that most women were not only housewives. The concentration of women in the workforce rose from 34 percent in 1950 to 38 percent in 1960. Despite this, advertisements in the 1950s targeted all products associated with domestic chores to women, creating the opportunity for society to reinforce its gender normative behavior through advertisements ("Women in Advertising").

The 1960s saw the introduction of several 'lad magazines' which discussed romance, sex, beauty, and consumption among women, and the 1970s increasingly addressed the plight of women with regards to beauty. According to Benbow-Buitenhuis (2014), women used feminism to fight cultural, economic and social injustices they experienced at this time. Scholars in this period sought to oppose the negative images that limited women's advertisements to submissive figures in domestic contexts only. The 1960s and 1970s marked a major period in which advertisements on beauty broke away from the mere use of women's fragmented parts of the body to the inclusion of the whole body in the advertisements (English et al., 1994). However, this movement away from body-part advertisements was not fully completed, considering these images are still prevalent in current advertising. As the age of color also revolutionized the printing industry, mass media exploited television, movies, commercials, and billboards to campaign for the beauty of women in advertisement spaces, which increased the reach of these liberating, but ultimately damaging depictions of beauty.

Throughout the last 100 years, beauty advertisements had at least three objectives. Women's rights movements used advertising as an avenue for activism and networking (Englis et al., 1994). This use of advertising was necessary because women had been denied social networks by chauvinistic men. Secondly, advertisements were used by women to stand against sexual harassment and demeaning stereotypes that confined women to inferior contexts. The new portrayals, however, still required women to be successful in traditional roles: the working mom was still expected to attend to housewifely duties, and her work approval was still determined by appearances and conformity to career ideals of beauty. Heyes (2007) writes that although beauty advertising has actually produced negative consequences, the initial goals of shifting the portrayal of women were aimed at combating global problems, not creating them. It is, therefore, suggested that women's movements and feminist ideologies influenced and employed beauty advertisements to their advantage.

Influences of Advertising on Culture/Society

Although society has influenced beauty advertisements through movements and ideologies, society, itself, has also been influenced significantly by advertising. In comparative research investigating consumption habits among women, Sandlin and Maudlin (2012) argue that beauty advertising has adversely affected cultural perceptions of beauty and women.

Beauty advertising robs society of the objective perception of beauty by making real women appear inferior. As discussed, beauty products have communicated negative images focusing on one's physical shortcomings and a negative self-concept. Mendes and Carter (2008) argue that the manipulative and hypnotic language of advertisements leaves society in an environment of insecurity. This insecurity has made society more susceptible to emotional manipulation by advertisers of beauty products.

One notable example of trends that changed society's perception of beauty is the brightening or whitening of skin color. The effect of these advertisements, indeed, left a negative, racist mark on society. As Jones (2013) records, the late 19th century and early 20th century witnessed skin lightening as a phenomenon among women. So great were the changes that beauty advertisements are, to date, prejudiced against dark skin. Jones (2013) adds that advertisements promised light-skinned women higher positions socially, economically, and in other realms. However, this idealization of light skin contrasts starkly with the ideal of a sun-kissed, bronzed beauty. Adolescents often cite a desire to be attractive as a motivation for tanning, suggesting that people tan to comply with perceived social norms for attractiveness (Carcioppolo, N., Dunleavy, V.O., & Yang, Q., 2017). This contrast suggests that variations of light skin can be considered beautiful, which aligns with the idea that women of other ethnicities can be beautiful if their skin is still lighter in color (Englis et al., 1994). The pervasiveness of white-washing in beauty advertisements is harmful to women and society because the familiarity principle magnifies its effects and the resulting environment is not one that promotes inclusivity.

Englis et al. (1994) observe that beauty advertisements have encouraged society to consume falsehoods and unrealistic ideals that relate happiness with consumerism. This idea is reinforced again by Heyes (2007) who believes that these products have given society fake promises that have only led to expensive purchases among women.

Every society has its parameters of beauty, but beauty advertisements have shifted this attention to unattainable standards. The effect can be exemplified by a powerful beauty

advertisement that shaped society's perception, which concerns the elimination of body hair in the 20th century. Before 1915, most American women did not remove body hair, and there were very few advertisements depicting such a practice, likely because the modest clothing styles revealed very little body hair. In 1915, Gillette introduced a women's razor, which launched "The Great Underarm Campaign" in advertising (Basow, 1991). Most advertisements in this campaign informed women that new dress styles made removing underarm hair important since body hair not on the head was "superfluous," "unwanted," "ugly," and "unfashionable" (Basow, 1991, pg. 85). According to Terry and Braun (2013), the removal of body hair on women was a popular topic after the Second World War. In fact, not conforming to this standard is still used today to label some people as unsightly and uncivilized. The 1960s and 1970s, therefore, saw the innovation of bikinis and Brazilian waxes, which promoted the idea that women should be free of body hair. In American society, the power of this advertising has revolutionized the ideal as a basic recommendation for a woman who wants social acceptance.

Possible Effects of #MeToo, #TimesUp, and Hollywood Sex Scandals

The anti-sexual assault and women's empowerment movements, #MeToo and #TimesUp, generated public conversation about women's issues around the world, and increased global awareness about the difficulties women face daily, in both their personal and professional lives. The cultural change has been profound - for the first time ever, the world noticed that these once-fledgling women's movements were not to be ignored.

The #MeToo movement was created to support sexual assault survivors and has built a community of these survivors from all walks of life. "By bringing vital conversations about sexual violence into the mainstream," the organization aims to "de-stigmatize survivors by highlighting the breadth and impact sexual violence has on thousands of women" ("me too.," 2018).

Similarly, "Time's Up is a unified call for change from women in entertainment for women everywhere. From movie sets to farm fields to boardrooms alike, [they]...address the systemic

inequality and injustice in the workplace that have kept underrepresented groups from reaching their full potential" ("Time's Up," 2018). While #MeToo specifically focuses on instances of sexual violence, the focus of Time's Up is broader and addresses sexual harassment as a component of workplace inequality.

As an integral part or result of these campaigns, society saw the ousting of several sexual abusers in Hollywood, known as the Weinstein Effect, named so for Harvey Weinstein who was the first powerful man, of many, to be accused of sexual assault in this specific movement. According to USA Today's (2018) article on "The Harvey Weinstein Effect," women came forward on October 5th, 2017 to allege decades of sexual abuse by Weinstein and, by the end of January, "150 [had] been accused of sexual misconduct, ranging from inappropriate texts to groping to rape." These accusations contributed to a trend of growing intolerance for sexual harassment and allowed the #MeToo movement and the Time's Up movement to join forces and target this issue from separate, but distinctly related angles.

Because the Harvey Weinstein effect, #MeToo, and #TimesUp are movements that happened so recently, there have not been any studies conducted on the actual impacts on society, sexism, or advertising. However, because these topics did generate considerable news interest, several news articles have indicated some interesting trends which are outlined in the following paragraphs. Although the articles discussed in the paragraphs below are not academic in nature, they still provide insight into the possible implications that these social justice movements will have on the advertising industry.

The conversations about sexual harassment will likely increase the number of sexual harassment reports as more victims feel empowered to speak up, but a Chicago Tribune article cautions against deeming the accused as guilty too quickly (Bomkamp, 2017). Despite the widespread use of sexual harassment policies and training, there is an obvious disconnect between what should happen and what does happen. However, with an increase in accurate reports of sexual harassment, there may also be an increase in false accusations (Bomkamp,

2017). Companies across the globe are taking hard looks in the mirror and likely holding their own discussions about whether their policies alone are enough to combat sexual harrassment.

Orso (2018) argues that many brands are trying to take advantage of the movements for profit. This Inquirer article cautions that brands whose focuses are not explicitly related to sexual harassment should not trademark #MeToo or #TimesUp (Orso, 2018). While avoiding the exploitation of important causes is an excellent tactic, it does not mean that companies should entirely refrain from showing support. How can society change if nobody is willing to speak out in the face of social issues? While brands should indeed be careful about how enthusiastically they create and market products designed specifically for such an important movement, general support should not be completely avoided. In a 2018 article titled "#MeToo to #NoMore: What the Silence Shattering Movement Means for Brands & Marketers," C+R Research describes how brands and marketers should address social topics related to #MeToo and #TimesUp. The article emphasizes that brands must act with care and inclusivity as survivors of sexual assault continue to come forward, focusing on "empathy, accountability, and a people-first mantra that puts the needs [...] of both their consumers and employees above all else. [...] The time has come for us to empathize with and empower one another. The time has come for us to stand up and get to work" (#MeToo to #NoMore, 2018). The article also pushes marketers and brands to ask themselves, "How will we better engage communities and play an active role in transforming a toxic culture to bring about necessary change?" (#MeToo to #NoMore, 2018)

Bellafante (2018) asserts that because the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements are focused on Hollywood and social media, they are inherently discriminating and may actually be contributing to the problem. Because these movements focus on the beautiful people in Hollywood and neglected to mention the death of a renowned female scientist, Bellafante (2018) argues that they are perpetuating the problem. However, these movements are designed to connect people from any, and every, social class or occupation, so it is unlikely that this is the

case. Though regrettable, the death of scientist, Mathilde Krim, likely was not a focus of the movement because neither her death nor her work was related to sexual harassment.

As #MeToo continues to unfold, the marketing industry is evaluating its own issues with sexual harassment. Marszalek (2018) describes how the movements have several implications on workplace interactions, including recent reactions from men who will not work one-on-one with women. Additionally, companies need to examine the problems underlying #MeToo, "which range from reversing pay inequity to empowering women to speak up when they feel a male colleague, or client, has crossed the line" (Marszalek, 2018).

In a New York Post article, Ginsberg attributes the following as changes to Hollywood resulting from these movements: the existence of sexual harassment insurance, the unpopularity of nondisclosure agreements (NDAs), the protection of female actresses from men like Harvey Weinstein, and the increase in demand for diversity trainers (2018). Each of the described changes would have positive effects on the issue of sexual harassment in Hollywood and may inspire some degree of change in the sexualization of women in the film industry that could easily translate to the advertising industry.

So, although these movements are young, there are already a few indicators of the social impacts they will have. Several changes in the workplace, especially, provide hope that these trends will have a real impact instead of simply dying out. A social push in the 1960s and 1970s was enough to create a change in advertising. Because the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements have generated interest in the rising tide of feminism again, there is a distinct possibility that they will generate enough momentum to make permanent changes to the way the advertising industry portrays women.

Summary

Beauty advertisements have had effects on society itself, and have, yet, also been affected by society. Through a historical perspective, the research reveals that certain factors

have significantly influenced the advertisement of beauty products used by women. Although women once campaigned for these products and advertising, there are now many negative influences on society and lingering repercussions. This section, therefore, concludes that beauty advertisements are powerful and can have effects on consumer actions and social mindsets, while also being impacted by society itself. Given the recent trends on social media of calling out sexual harassment with #TimesUp and demonstrating the prevalence of sexual assault with #MeToo, combined with the historical precedent of advertising changing society, it is entirely probable that the growing intolerance for sexual harassment will continue to inspire a change and reduction in the oversexualization of women in advertisements.

CONTENT ANALYSIS

Methodology

The content analysis of this investigation takes inspiration from the 1971 "A Content of Three Women's Magazines from 1960 to 1970" article conducted by Rosemary Benedetta Corsiglia through Iowa State University. This analysis was selected for replication for several reasons: the time period over which it occurred aligns with important changes in the portrayal of women in advertising, the analysis is being conducted by one person, and the topic of analysis is similar in its focus on feminism and the portrayal of women. Corsiglia's investigation, however, is far more in-depth and has a wider scope than this investigation, so fewer codes will be discussed and only advertisements from a single year will be evaluated.

Corsiglia's analysis centers on *McCall's*, *Ladies Home Journal*, and *Good Housekeeping* magazines for the size of their readership and circulation. Similarly, this analysis considers *Allure*, *Elle*, and *Harper's Bazaar* magazines. *Allure* was chosen for its position as the most popular magazine to focus specifically on beauty, *Elle* was selected for its status as the world's most popular fashion magazine, and *Harper's Bazaar* was included for its status as the nation's oldest fashion magazine and continued high popularity. Due to the condensed nature of this

paper, advertisements in issues from only one year (2017) will be analyzed, totaling 34 issues due to the lack of January and July issues in *Harper's Bazaar*. While Corsiglia's analysis focused only on the magazines' content and excludes advertisements, this topic focuses solely on advertisements and the trends within them while excluding the actual magazine content. Advertisements must meet the following criteria to be included in the analysis:

- the size must be at least one full page
- the product being advertised must specifically be a beauty-enhancing product (specifically: anti-aging, cleansing, makeup, nail polish, perfume, skin care)
- the advertisement must be clearly targeting women

If any of the defined criteria are not met, the advertisement is excluded from the study. To ensure a sizable sample is obtained, every tenth advertisement is selected for analysis. Each selected advertisement is analyzed on objectively categorized aspects that would reflect sexualization in the advertisement, such as body posture, facial expression, and amount of clothing worn. Each advertisement is also coded for magazine name, product type, brand, and presence of celebrities to allow for specific analysis of trends within these categories. See Appendix I for the complete list of codes on which the advertisements in this investigation are evaluated and the coding results of those advertisements. Appendix II contains the actual advertisements selected for analysis.

The product type category has several distinctions due to the existence of products that serve more than one purpose. For example, a skin care product might also feature anti-aging components. In these instances, products are classified according the main product benefit. If the copy of the advertisement or image suggests that the product is being advertised as an anti-aging lotion, then it is coded as anti-aging. However, if a lotion is being advertised as moisturizing and rejuvenating skin, then it is coded as skin care. Face wash presents a similar dilemma in coding. In most instances, a face wash is classified as a cleansing product; however, some advertisements focus more on the benefits that the face wash has for the skin.

In these cases, they are coded as skin care products. Deodorant is always coded as a perfume product because they share the main function of making people smell good.

Results and Discussion

It was expected that the results of this content analysis would reveal a high usage of sexualized images in advertisements. However, the ratio of sexualized advertisements to non-sexualized advertisements is actually considerably less than anticipated. Out of 101 advertisements, 22 had models displaying suggestive posture and 16 more (36 total) had models with overtly seductive expressions. Thus, there was an overlap of 20 advertisements with models that displayed both suggestive posture and seductive expressions. There were 22 advertisements that featured only products, but even excluding those, 27.85% of the advertisements used suggestive posture and 45.6% used seductive expressions. Amount of clothing is an additional layer to these considerations, especially considering that nearly half of the advertisements analyzed (48%) featured either no visible clothing or models only partially clothed. While the proportion of sexual images in these advertisements was not as shocking as anticipated, the high prevalence of seductive, ideal women still poses many concerns.

Harper's Bazaar is marketed towards women with a higher involvement in fashion and appearance, while *Allure* and *Elle* are targeted towards women with only moderate interest in the topic. *Harper's Bazaar* is comprised almost entirely of photoshoots displaying high-end fashion, while the other two magazines contain popular interest articles and celebrity news. This stark difference in magazine content could be an important factor in the variance of result distributions for each topic discussed in this section.

When sorted by product category, each magazine had a different distribution of results. *Allure*, a dedicated beauty magazine, had a relatively even distribution of its 41 advertisements, with 9 each focusing on hair products, makeup, and nail polish, and 8 advertisements for perfume. *Elle* advertisements, out of 39, had 10 dedicated to hair products, and 7 each to anti-

aging and perfume. *Harper's Bazaar* results were markedly different, with a prevalence of advertisements featuring anti-aging solutions (8 out of 21). The second highest category of product was makeup with 5 advertisements, thus perhaps suggesting that if older women cannot repair their wrinkles, they can cover them with makeup instead. The high proportion of anti-aging advertisements in *Harper's Bazaar* could be attributed to its focus on high-end fashion and an older readership.

When sorted by product brand, the results of this analysis are too few to produce any meaningful results. The most common company with advertisements featured in the three magazines considered in this study is L'Oreal Paris, with 20 out of the total 101 advertisements. Every other brand only had a handful of advertisements analyzed. With only this data available, the trends within product brand cannot be determined or compared. A focus on brands with the highest rates of sexual imagery could be an avenue for future research.

When sorted by advertisement type, the results of this analysis coincide with the findings of The Role of Social Comparison study summarized in the first section of this paper. Full-body and body-part images obviously have more sexual imagery than those containing only product images or no people. Out of the 101 advertisements evaluated, 22 featured no people, 69 displayed only part of the woman's body, and 10 included a full-body image. As discussed by Jean Kilbourne in her *Killing Us Softly* series about sexuality in advertising, images that focus on body parts alone increase the objectification of women (Kilbourne, 2018). While most of the advertisements featured the women's faces, it is likely due to the fact that beauty products in particular, when advertised in use, often involve facial application. However, the high ratio of advertisements that exclude more than half of a woman allow for easier social comparison between women and the advertisements. As Kilbourne (2018) and Tiggeman et al. (2004) discuss, advertisements that feature only part of the body produce more overall comparisons and more negative reactions.

Conclusions/Recommendations

Because #MeToo and #TimesUp happened towards the end of last year (2017) and the beginning of this year (2018), with some ongoing elements, it is difficult to define any trends or analyze the actual impact. To understand the effects of these movements in a long-term context, a similar analysis of advertisement content should be conducted in several months or years. This investigation uncovered some interesting observations and allowed for comparisons, but due to the recent nature of the movements, this specific analysis serves as a potentially useful baseline for future investigations. Revisiting an analysis of this topic in the future would be an important method of measuring any improvements in the industry. Additionally, due to the small sample size and the limited coding used, the results are limited to the current investigation. With an expansion in the coding list and a focus on product-specific, brand-specific, or celebrity-included advertising, this analysis could be replicated for broader applications.

CONCLUSION

Advertisements portray an over-sexualized and unattainable ideal of beauty. This investigation has found that the effects of idealized beauty in advertising are overwhelmingly negative, harming women's body image, mood, self-esteem, health, consumption patterns, expectations, and many more. These advertisements create a void in women that can only be filled by buying the product to elevate themselves towards the ideal. Because that ideal is unattainable, there is a constant demand for beauty products and the cycle continues. Other factors include balance theory, which indicates that if women view celebrities positively then they will be motivated to buy and wear their products. Additionally, the familiarity principle asserts that people are drawn to what they are familiar with, so if women are familiar with the ideal beauty presented in magazines, then they will be drawn to the products that promise to move that ideal within reach. Historically, women were portrayed in stereotypical household

roles and ideal beauty was centered on pleasing a man. Feminists pushed for a shift away from the stereotypical portrayals during the 1960's and 1970's, and achieved it, but the portrayal of women in advertising has not changed much since then. As emphasized throughout this investigation, the current portrayal, too, has negative consequences. The rising tide of feminism and intolerance for sexual harassment has now created two notable movements on social media (#MeToo and #TimesUp) and enough general unrest in society that there might now be sufficient social pressure to create change in the industry.

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APPENDIX I: CONTENT ANALYSIS CODING LIST AND RESULTS

See the chart on the following page to view Appendix I.

APPENDIX II: ADVERTISEMENTS SELECTED FOR ANALYSIS

See the images in the following pages to view Appendix II.

APPENDIX I: CONTENT ANALYSIS CODING LIST AND RESULTS

			Pro	duct Categ						Product	Brand				Count of People	Celebrity	Amour	t of Body	Posture	Clothing	1	Facial Expr	ression
Number	Magazine Month Page	Anti-Aging Clean				Perfume	Skin Care	Aveeno	Dove Elizabeth Arden	Herbal Essences L'Oreal Paris		Neutrogena Olav Pantene	Sally Hansen	Other	0 1 2 3+	Yes No		Full Body	Relaxed Serious Suggestive				
1	Allure Jan 37 Allure Feb 19	And Aging Occur	ang nan rioud	1	- Huilt Folion	Tentanie	okiii oure	Arceno	Cincuberry Arden	1	maybennie	neurogena onay ramene	oully handen	ounci	1	100 110	1	r un bouy	1	1	co runy olonica	neitaxet mappy	1
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41	Allure Dec 13 Allure Dec 64			1						1					1	1	1		1		1		1
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63	Elle Aug 77		1											1	1	1	1		1		1	1	
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Advertisement 1: Allure, January, pg. 37



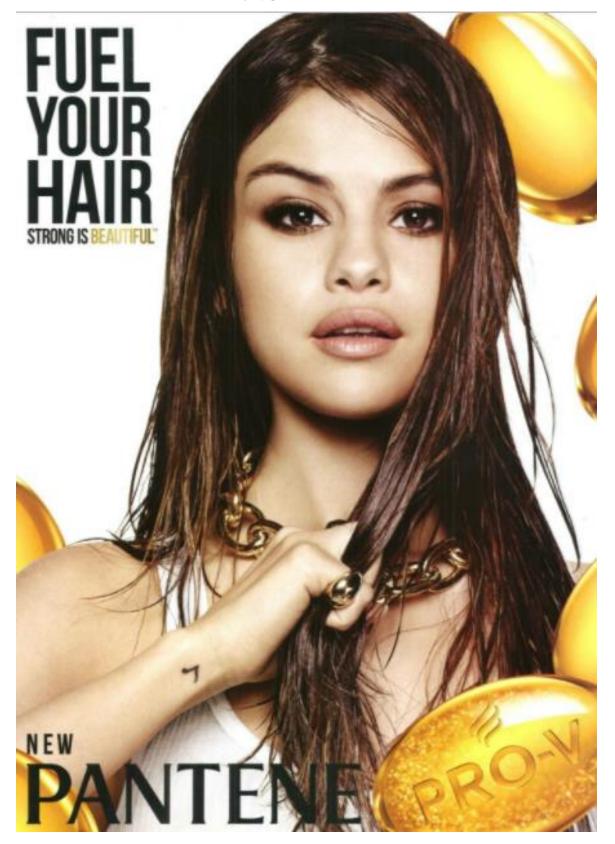
Advertisement 2: Allure, February, pg. 19



Advertisement 3: Allure, February, pg. 43



Advertisement 4: Allure, February, pg. 64



Advertisement 5: Allure, February, pg. 85

OT YOUR AGE.

OLA/ EVEN

Olay Eyes A collection to fight the look of every eye concern. Brighten, Depulf, Lift, Smooth, or Ultimately, all of it

#AGELESS

Advertisement 6: Allure, March, pg. 10



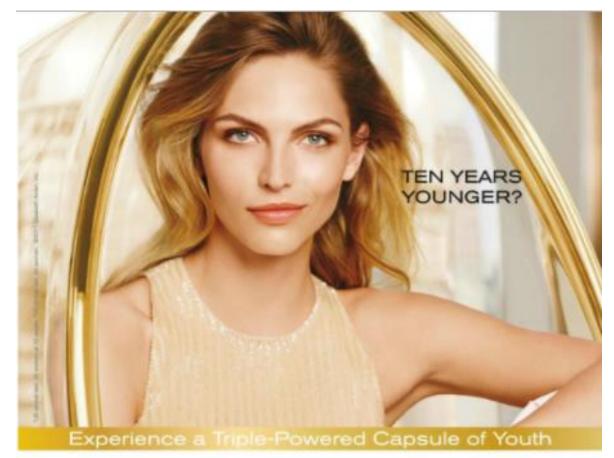
Advertisement 7: Allure, March, pg. 37

VISIBLE RESULTS

OLAY ULTRA MOISTURE BODY WASH Infuses skin with NEW Lock-In-Moisture¹⁵ without leaving a coated feel. Clean, smaoth skin that feels truly naked.

OLAY

Advertisement 8: Allure, March, pg. 59



Available at: Macy's Nordstrom Dillard's The Red Door elizabetharden.com

dwith Arr

CERAMIDE CAPSULES Daily Youth Restoring Serum

NEW FORMULA

Now, with triple the anti-aging power, this lightweight, sliky-smooth serum infuses skin with youth-restoring ceramides. Clinically proven to take up to 10 years off the look of your skin."

In just two weeks:

 95% of women showed clinical improvement in skin timness
 84% of women showed a clinical reduction in lines and wrinkles

ElizabethArden

Advertisement 9: Allure, March, pg. 81



Advertisement 10: Allure, March, pg.107



Designed with a unique blend of gentle cleaneers and NutrumMolecure¹⁴ Technology, this premium body wash instantly blooms into a weightless any foam, gently cleaneing your skin leaving if feeling light, nourbled and cared for. Experience a shower like no other with new Dove Shower Foam.

Discover more at dove.com.

Advertisement 11: Allure, April, pg. 5



Advertisement 12: Allure, April, pg. 33



Advertisement 13: *Allure*, April, pg. 63



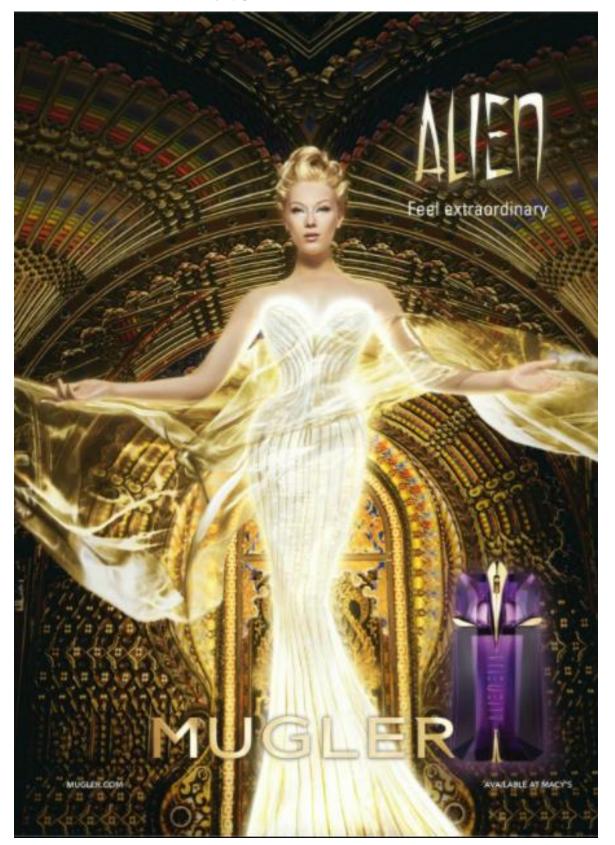
Advertisement 14: Allure, April, pg. 91



Advertisement 15: Allure, April, pg. 123



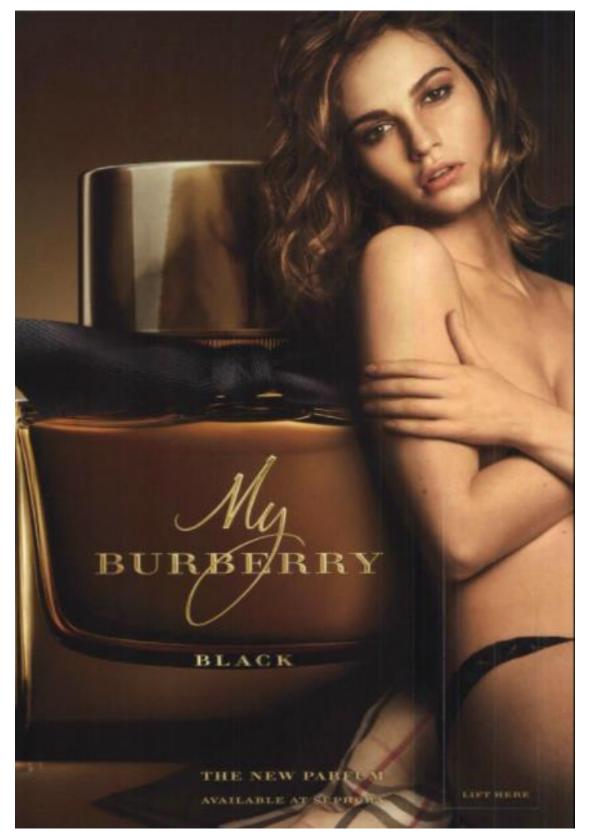
Advertisement 16: Allure, May, pg. 9



Advertisement 17: Allure, May, pg. 31



Advertisement 18: Allure, May, pg. 61



Advertisement 19: Allure, May, pg. 87



Advertisement 20: Allure, May, pg. 159



Advertisement 21: Allure, June, pg. 21



Advertisement 22: Allure, June, pg. 49



Advertisement 23: Allure, June, pg. 73

DNA or OLAY?

)] /

Olay discovered that almost 10% of women naturally look years younger. Now every woman can be ageless. We engineered New Olay Luminous to give your skin a remarkably radiant glow. See results on day 1, and years off your skin age by day 28.

Who needs DNA when you have Olay?

Advertisement 24: Allure, July, pg. 19



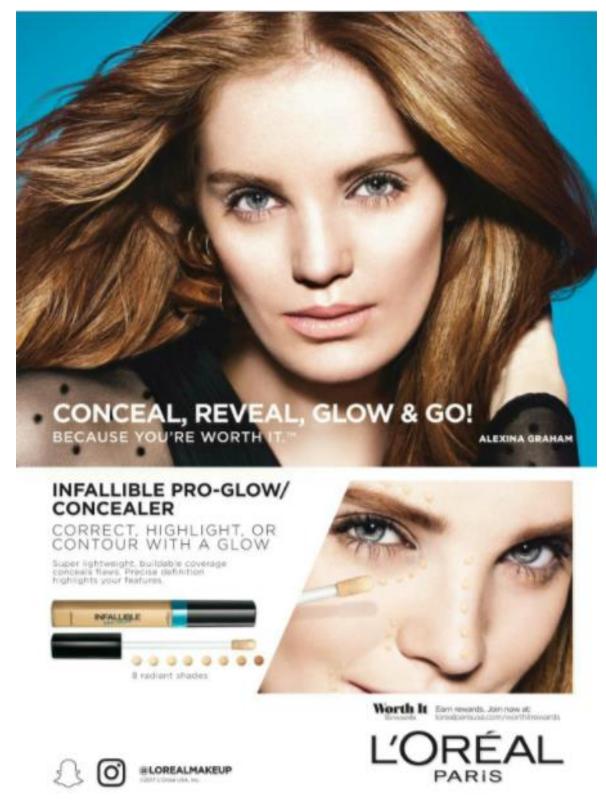
Advertisement 25: Allure, July, pg. 25



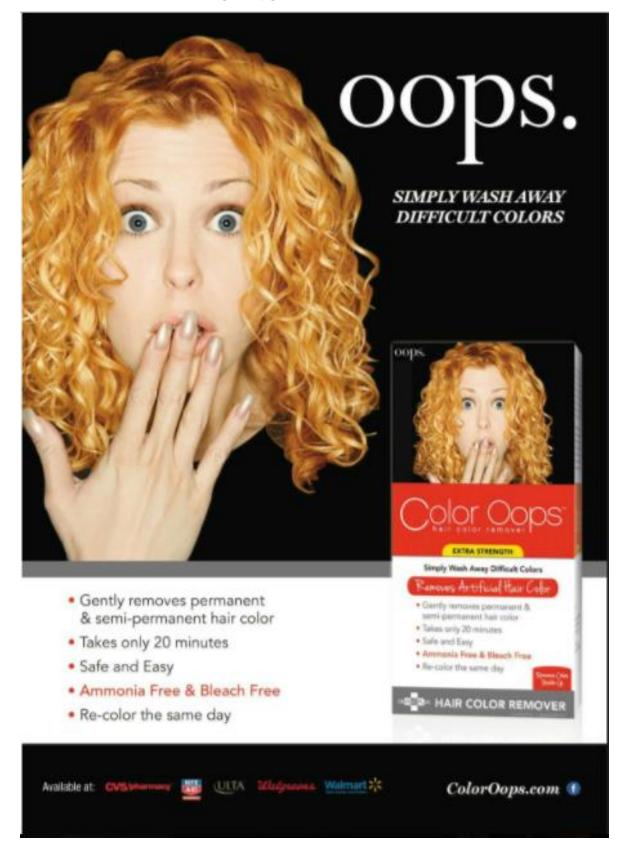
Advertisement 26: Allure, August, pg. 23



Advertisement 27: Allure, August, pg. 51



Advertisement 28: Allure, August, pg. 125



Advertisement 29: Allure, September, pg. 23

GET YOUR ROSY TONE BACK [BOOST SKIN'S ROSINESS FROM WITHIN]



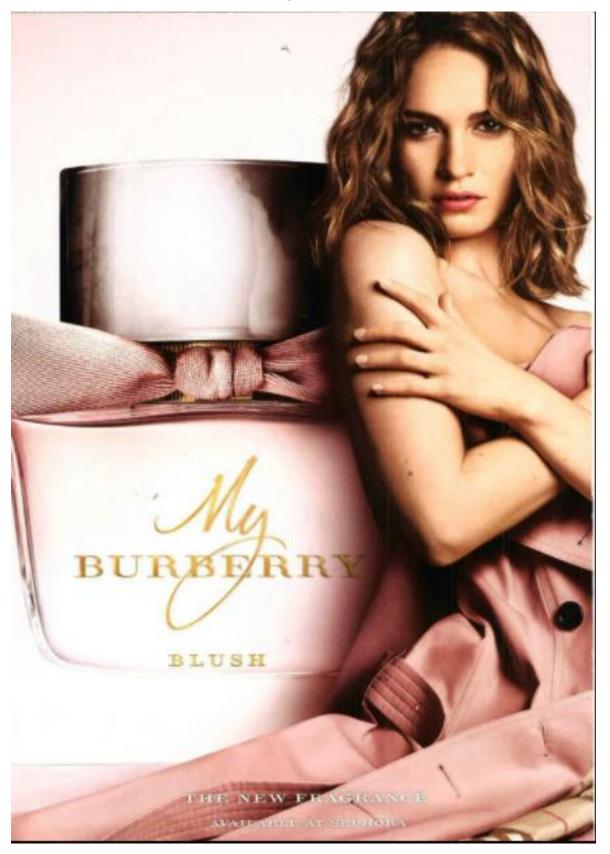
HOW IT WORKS	STIMULATES CELL TURNOVER FROM WITHIN."								
RESULTS	INCREASES ROSINESS INSTANTLY AND OVER TIME.								
INGREDIENTS	LHA + IMPERIAL PEONY EXTRACT.								



BECAUSE YOU'RE WORTH IT!* "Based on skin surface cell turnover. 62017 (.'Oréal USA, Inc.



Advertisement 30: Allure, September, pg. 45



Advertisement 31: Allure, September, pg. 67



Advertisement 32: Allure, September, pg. 95

Elevate Moisture. Enhance Skin. EXPERIENCE OLAY

Olay Ultra Moisture Body Wash Lock-In Maisture" Technology works with your skin to make it stronger: so skin holds more moisture. Visible results without a coated feel.

OLAN

71

Advertisement 33: Allure, October, pg. 23

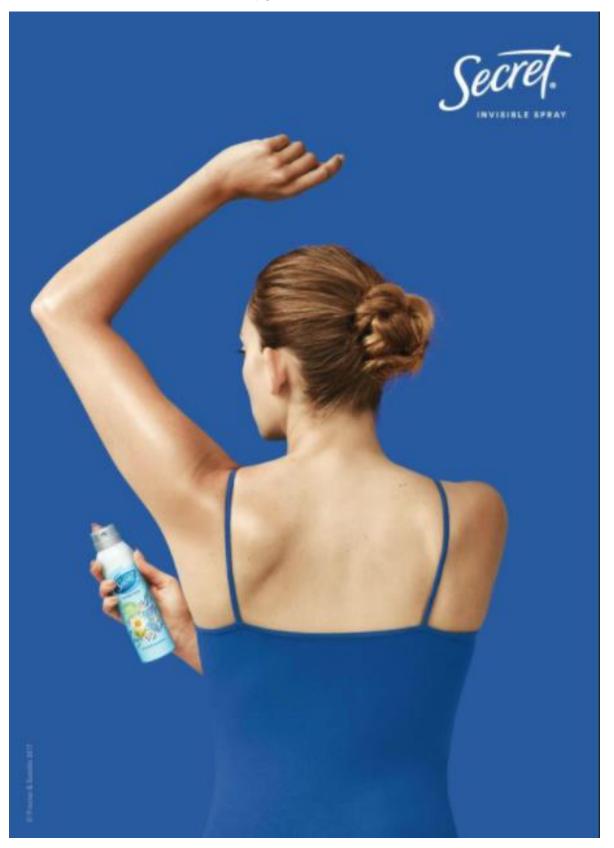


Ask for an CPI ProHealth gel manicure at your local nail salon.

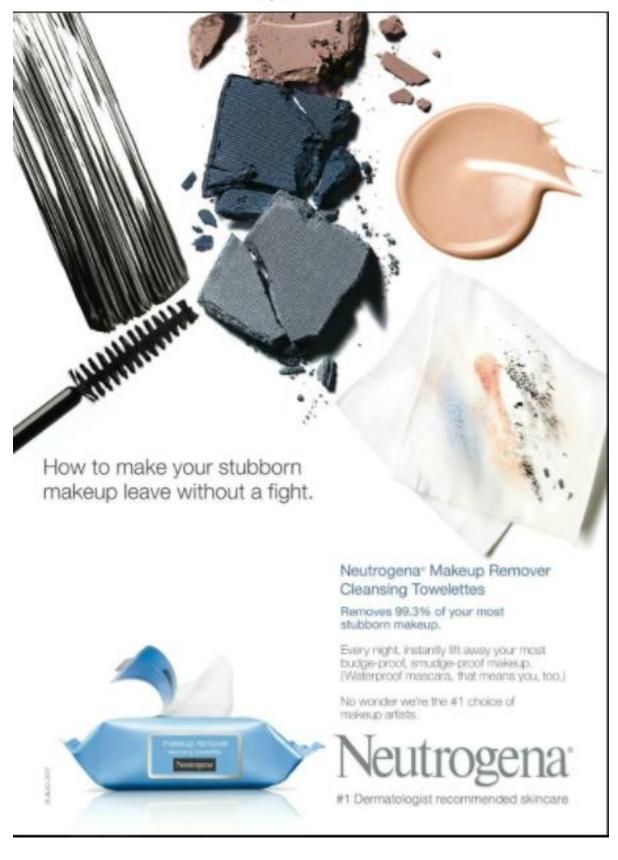
Advertisement 34: Allure, October, pg. 51



Advertisement 35: Allure, October, pg. 93



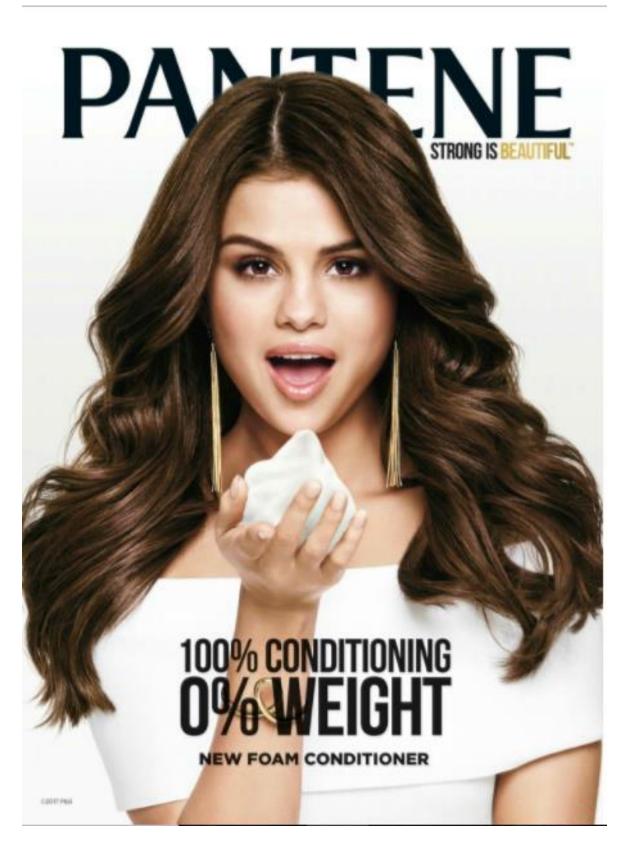
Advertisement 36: Allure, October, pg. 127



Advertisement 37: Allure, October, pg. 203



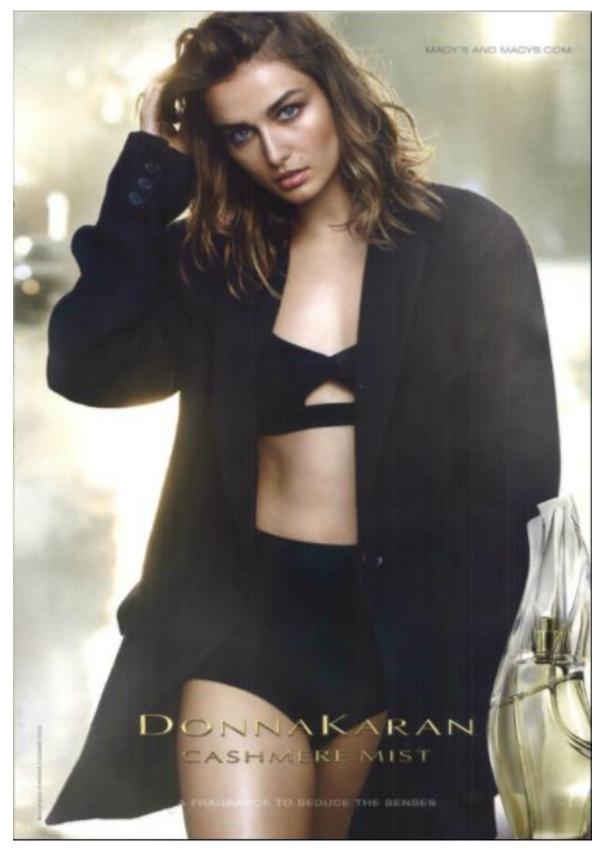
Advertisement 38: Allure, November, pg. 14



Advertisement 39: Allure, November, pg. 41



Advertisement 40: Allure, December, pg. 13



Advertisement 41: Allure, December, pg. 64



Advertisement 42: Elle, January, pg. 43

EYES SHOULD SHOW STRENGTH. NOT YOUR AGE.



A collection to fight every eye concern: Brighten, Depuff, Lift, Smooth, or Ultimately, all of it Advertisement 43: *Elle*, February, pg. 45



Advertisement 44: Elle, February, pg. 89



Advertisement 45: *Elle*, March, pg. 24



Advertisement 46: Elle, March, pg. 145

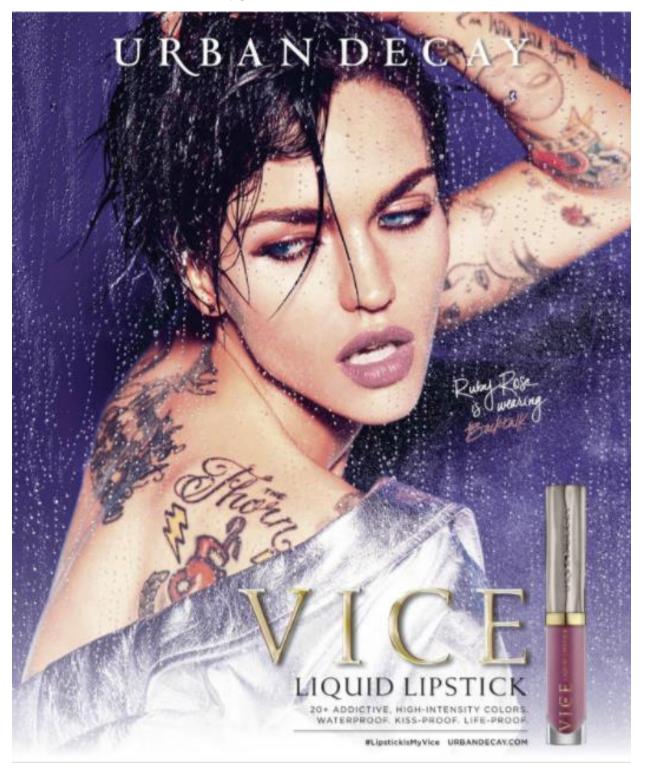
The Beauty of Self-Defense: Bring your skin to life

Beauty exists within strength. A visionary approach to skin science. Ultimume Power Infusing Concentrate reawaker the skin's natural ability to defend itself culminati in a refined, more youthful complexion.

SHIJEIDO GINZA TOKYO

THUE

Advertisement 47: Elle, March, pg. 239



Advertisement 48: Elle, March, pg. 296



Advertisement 49: Elle, March, pg. 323



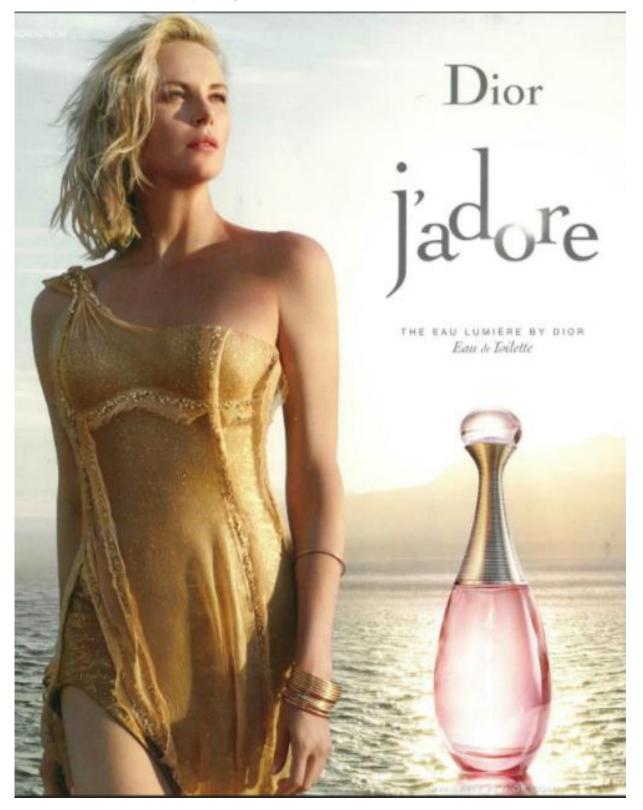
HAIR EXPERT /PARIS

¹ System of attemptod and const to the values constitution of attemptod. **No animal darged bygad ants or toppoducts. Formulas not tasted on animals. * Made to a ball ty that also processes guiden. **2077 L'Ored USA mc.





Advertisement 51: Elle, April, pg. 87



Advertisement 52: Elle, April, pg. 192

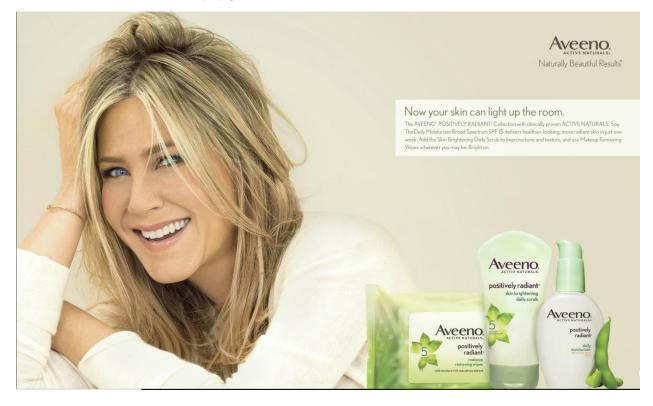


Advertisement 53: Elle, April, pg. C4



ESTĒE LAUDER

Advertisement 54: Elle, May, pg. 56



Advertisement 55: Elle, May, pg. 97

GET A BETTER *Clean* WITH OLAY DAILY FACIALS.

Olay Daily Facials redefines clean. A better clean than the #1 makeup remover wipe, and #1 liquid cleanser. It removes makeup, cleanses, exfoliates and hydrates with no residue left behind.



OLAY

Advertisement 56: Elle, May, pg. 156



Advertisement 57: Elle, May, pg. 207



OUR FIRST SULFATE-FREE ANTI-DANDRUFF SHAMPOO ... EVER.



FULL OF WHAT HAIR WANTS:

FLAKE-FREE' AND GENTLE ON COLOR

Controls dandruff with pyrithione zinc
 Infused with Indian Lilac botanicals

NOT WHAT IT DOESN'T:

100% SULFATE-FREE

Paraben-free • Dye-free • Vegan**

No harsh salts
 No gluten ingredients⁺

PURE RESPECT FOR YOUR HAIR

Visit SulfateFreeShampoo.com

No visible flakes with regular use.
 *No animal-derived ingredients or byproducts. Formulas not tested on animals.
 Made in a facility that also processes gluten.
 ©2017L'Oréal USA, Inc.



Advertisement 58: Elle, May, pg. C4





PARIS

*Based on Nielsen data for mascara units sold in food, drug, and major discount. retailers during the 52-week period ending 12/31/16. ©2017 L'Oréal USA, Inc. Advertisement 59: Elle, June, pg. 93



Advertisement 60: *Elle*, July, pg. 12



Advertisement 61: Elle, July, pg. 87

DO SOME DAMAGE

NEW REPAIR & PROTECT 7 WITH BIOTIN VISIBLY REPAIRS 7 TYPES OF

DAMAGE SO YOU CAN STYLE AND STYLE AGAIN

WORK IT

TRESemmé

TRES

TRESemmé

Advertisement 62: Elle, August, pg. 41



Advertisement 63: Elle, August, pg. 77



Advertisement 64: Elle, August, pg. 117

SMOOTH DOESN'T HAVE TO BE STRAIGHT

KERATIN SMOOTH NOW WITH MARULA OIL FOR HAIR THAT MOVES WITH YOU FOR UP TO 48 HOURS

WORK IT

TRESemmé

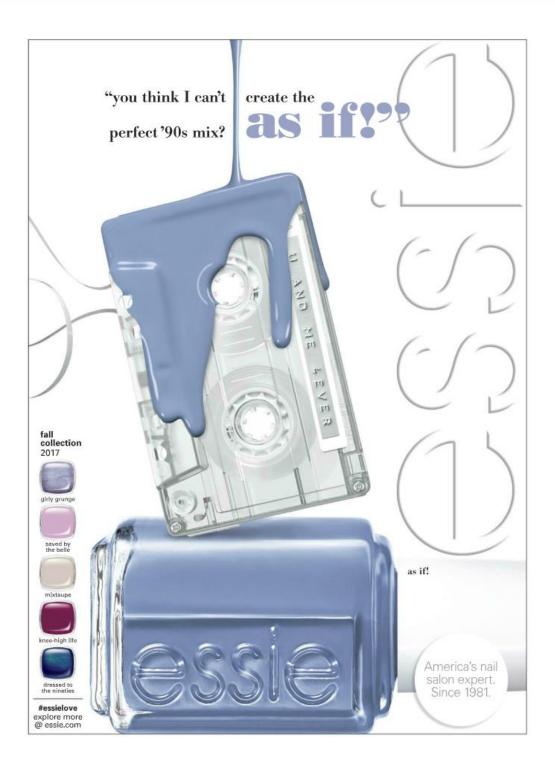
TRES

TRESemmé

Advertisement 65: Elle, September, pg. 123



WHEN BEAUTY IS THE BEAST



Advertisement 67: Elle, September, pg. 285



Advertisement 68: Elle, September, pg. 337



www.manentail.com / 1.800.827.9815

Advertisement 69: Elle, September, pg. 404



Advertisement 70: Elle, October, pg. 66



Give Good FACE Beauty is an art. Skincare is a science.

MDNA SKIN - The physics of beauty. Introducing MDNA SKIN, an iconic collection of innovative skincare products created by Madonna that strike a perfect blance between nature, science and technology to bring out your inner beauty. Harnessing the natural resources of Montecatini, an ancient Italian wellness destination renowned for its healing thermal waters, mineralized clay and rarefied olive oil, the treatments in this elegandly minimal collection reinvent your skin with radiance and vitality.

Let the ritual begin.



Advertisement 71: Elle, October, pg. 118



Advertisement 72: Elle, October, pg. 181



AVAILABLE AT ULTA BEAUTY & ULTA.COM + IMPULSE BEAUTY AT MACY'S + DILLARD'S + CARSON'S + AMAZON LUXURY BEAUTY + QVC.COM + STRIVECTIN.COM f @ *Based on results from instrumentation testing after 8 weeks of use, *Based on exclusion results from instrumentation testing.

Advertisement 73: Elle, October, pg. 215

Results in 1 week

with the supercharged, go-to anti-aging ingredient.

Neutrogena® Rapid Wrinkle Repair®

Clinically proven to visibly reduce fine lines and wrinkles with Retinol, the #1 dermatologist recommended anti-aging ingredient.

ONEUTROGENA® ACCELERATED RETINOL SA

The best retinol there is, Neutrogena® Accelerated Retinol SA is stabilized, so it won't break down with exposure to light and oxygen. You'll see younger-looking skin in just one week.

See what's possible. Visit Neutrogena.com/Retinol

Neutrogena

Neutrogena

Wrinkle Repa moisturizer

#1 Dermatologist recommended skincare

'Among OTC cosmet'os; greater 'mprovement on line l'nes, @J8JCI 2016

Advertisement 74: *Elle*, October, pg. 304



Advertisement 75: Elle, November, pg. 69



Advertisement 76: Elle, November, pg. 139



Advertisement 77: Elle, November, pg. 206



Advertisement 78: Elle, December, pg. 36



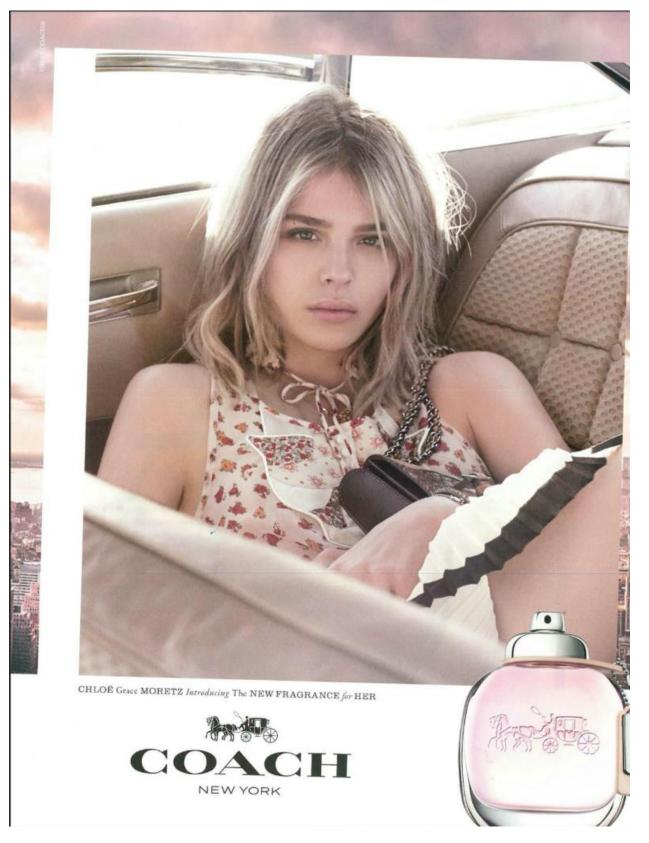
CLINICAL RESULT	72HRS OF INTENSE, LONG-LASTING HYDRATION
TECHNOLOGY	ALOE WATER AND WATER-ATTRACTING HYALURONIC ACID
FORMULAS	3 FORMULAS, ONE FOR EACH SKIN TYPE: OILY, DRY AND EXTRA-DRY
HOW IT WORKS	LIGHTWEIGHT LIQUID MOISTURIZER PENETRATES INSTANTLY

Worth It Rewards Join now at: lorealparisusa.com/worthitrewards

BECAUSE YOU'RE WORTH ITT @2017 L'Oréal USA. Inc.



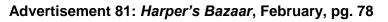
Advertisement 79: *Elle*, December, pg. 91



Advertisement 80: Elle, December, pg. 239

LA FEMME PRADA MILANO

The New Fragrance #pradaxprada





Advertisement 82: Harper's Bazaar, March, pg. 111



Advertisement 83: Harper's Bazaar, March, pg. 298

flawless.

Exuviance[®] CoverBlend[®]

visibly transforming makeup

natural-looking coverage + younger looking skin in one step!

blurs complexion imperfections with lightweight, buildable color in light, medium and full coverage formulated with PHAs, Antioxidant and SPF to treat and prevent signs of aging



92017 Neodinita Ca., Int.

Exuviance.

Advertisement 84: Harper's Bazaar, April, pg. 43



Advertisement 85: Harper's Bazaar, April, pg. 156



Advertisement 86: Harper's Bazaar, May, pg. 1A



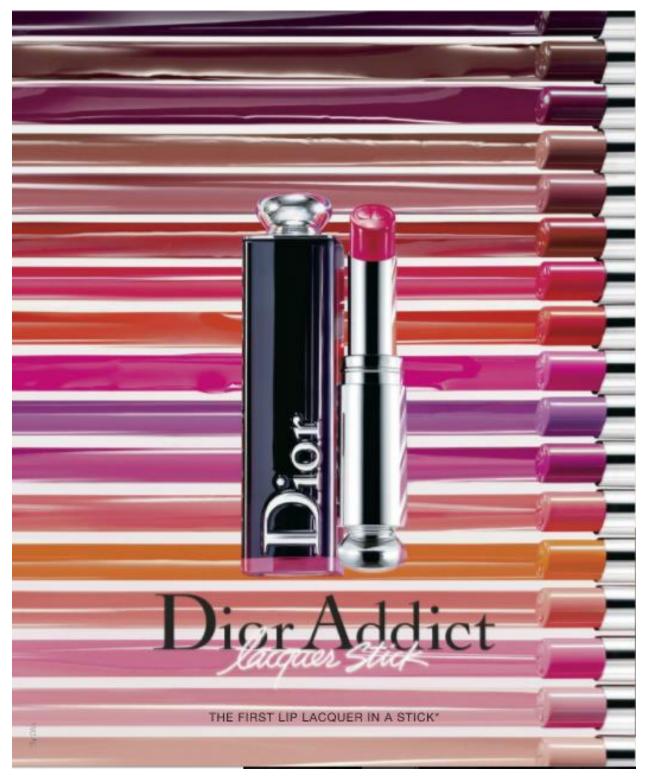
PARIS

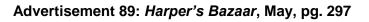
"Based on N ofeen data for maician units sola in tood, drug, and major obcount tetalers during the 52-week certrad ending (2/10/6, 0/2017 L'Ordal USA, inc.)





Advertisement 88: Harper's Bazaar, May, pg. 194







Advertisement 90: Harper's Bazaar, June, pg. 69

ir journey to beautiful hair starts with Moroccanail Ireatmen the foundation for all hair care and styling.

iscover more at Moroccanoil.com

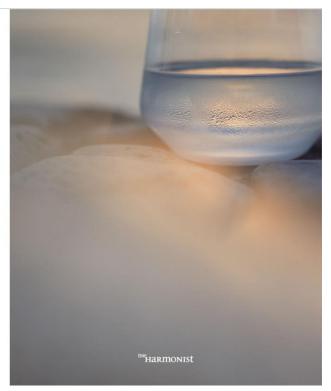
MOROCCANOIL.

Advertisement 91: Harper's Bazaar, August, pg. 52



WATER Grab the key toward harmony bring your own harmony into the world

LES, BAREMELROSE PLACE + 1 322 653 5452 — PARIS, 10 AVENUE DEORGE V. + 23 1 53 T H E H A R M O N I S T, C O M



WHEN BEAUTY IS THE BEAST

Advertisement 92: Harper's Bazaar, September, pg. C2





Advertisement 93: Harper's Bazaar, September, pg. 185

Advertisement 94: Harper's Bazaar, September, pg. 377



Advertisement 95: Harper's Bazaar, October, pg. 6



Advertisement 96: Harper's Bazaar, October, pg. 109

Results in 1 week

with the supercharged, go-to anti-aging ingredient.

Neutrogena[®] Rapid Wrinkle Repair[®]

Clinically proven to visibly reduce fine lines and wrinkles with Retinol, the #1 dermatologist recommended anti-aging ingredient.

SO NEUTROGENA® ACCELERATED RETINOL SA

The best retinol there is, Neutrogena® Accelerated Retinol SA is stabilized, so it won't break down with exposure to light and oxygen. You'll see younger-looking skin in just one week.

See what's possible. Visit Neutrogena.com/Retinol

Neutrogena⁻

Writing OTC cosmolics; greater improvement on fine lines. 038.03.2016 Neutrogenar Rapid Wrinkle Repar moisturger Memo

#1 Dermatologist recommended skincare



Advertisement 97: Harper's Bazaar, October, pg. 198

Advertisement 98: Harper's Bazaar, November, pg. 63

SKEPTICAL?

HERE'S THE ANTI-AGING CREAM WOMEN CAN TRUST.





PRO-XYLANE + HYALURONIC ACID

IMMEDIATELY, SKIN IS HYDRATED. IN 14 DAYS, SKIN IS VISIBLY FIRMER & WRINKLES ARE VISIBLY REDUCED

/ OVER 10,000 WOMEN WHO TOOK THE #REVITALIFTCHALLENGE TRUST TRIPLE POWER.* /

WE INVITE YOU TO TAKE THE #REVITALIFT CHALLENGE TOO, FOR 14 DAYS. SEE RESULTS OR YOUR MONEY BACK, GUARANTEED"

*Out of 14,000 women who were polled after using a complimentary Revitalift Triple Power Moisturizer for 2x a day for 14 days.

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