Jenny Dial Creech

Sports journalism is largely dominated by men but Jenny Dial Creech is gladly taking up space and making room for others.

As a National Editor for the NBA, Creech is using her position to ensure the voices of women and people of color are heard in sports media. “Its important to me that we have so many different voices in our staff.” said Creech. “That’s been huge for me, to be able to make those type of decisions ,” she added.

Before working for the NBA, Creech worked as a sports columnist for the Houston Chronicle. There she would often cover the stories that her male colleagues would often not. Covering topics like sexual assault, domestic abuse, and racism in sports has made Creech one of the most controversial columnists at the paper.

“There was definitely that every time something like that happened I would do it and I would handle it. And that came, for me, with death threats from fans,” said Creech.

Joey Guerra

Many of us aspire to work in fields where we are truly passionate about our work, through his career as a music journalist Joey Guerra has done just that.

Guerra began his career before it even started. As a journalism student, Guerra wrote for the University of Houston’s newspaper, The Daily Cougar. He was told by his professors that he would have to take the traditional route into the field, covering beats that were of no interest to him until he moved higher and higher up the career ladder.

Today, Guerra sits down in front of his computer and behind him are shelves packed with CDs and an array of Selena merchandise. Guerra did not listen to his professor and go along the traditional journalist route. He’s had a career that’s taken many forms: from being a writer, working at a club in Montrose, to freelancing,. Throughout these changes, hIs passion for music has always been a constant and driving force in his career.

Even at the Houston Chronicle, one of the largest daily newspapers in the United States, his capabilities were undermined and his passion for music was discarded. “When I was at the Chronicle and I left for a while, the reason I left was because they were trying to get me to write about things that weren’t music,” Guerra said.

Under new management, and with respect given to his passion and talent, he later returned to the Houston Chronicle.

His most notable works include his coverage of Selena and the Houston Rodeo. An avid fan of Selena, Guerra has spent over 20 years covering the music and legacy of the late Tejana pop star. During the rodeo season, where a concert is held at NRG Stadium every night for 22 days, he is covering concerts under a tight deadline that usually requires him to be writing during the performance. “When March comes, typically Joey cannot be found, he can only be found at NRG stadium,” said his colleague Joy Sewing, “he’s there everyday covering every concert.”

Terra Stidum

Dating is confusing and especially today it is difficult to navigate through the various apps and websites that promise to help find our perfect match.

Terra Stidum is a dating coach and author based in Houston, Texas showing singles the way around this unique landscape.

“What makes me an expert? I’ve dated a lot,” said Stidum.

A self proclaimed expert, Terra Stidum has had a lot of practice and experience in the world of online dating. “10,000 hours is what it takes to make a person an expert. I guarantee you I’ve done about 10,000 hours of dating either in personal dating or dating through my clients.

Her work focuses on breaking the stigma around online dating with the ultimate goal of putting professional women into long term partnerships.

Stidum’s guidance and advice starts before an actual date has even occurred. Stidum, advises her clients to properly asses the intent of the user base behind each dating platform. When it comes to Tinder, Stidum suggests that Tinder is largely used for hookups and might be more of a challenge to finding a long term partner than sites like Match.

Working with older singles, Stidum realizes that teaching people the ins and outs of online dating is vital. Her clients are often personable and professional women who know how to date but have been out of the game for so long that dating seems entirely different today.

Elijah Tay (Final Paper)

It is hard to be activist, its hard to be an activist in a country where it is effectively illegal to protest, and its even harder to do all these things while applying for college.

Elijah Tay is a Singaporean activist and at only 19 has garnered international attention for protesting the discrimination of a transgender student in early 2021.

Under the hashtag #FixSchoolsNotStudents, Tay and four other protesters held signs outside Singapore’s Ministry of Education. “We came up with the hashtag so that even when the protest was over there would be a continuation of the conversation online,” said Tay.

The protesters were quickly arrested and questioned by the police. But their protest was covered live by journalist Kirsten Han on twitter using the same hashtag.

The goal behind the hashtag was accomplished. The hashtag and Han’s thread made it easy for international media outlets to follow the story and transgender Singaporean and allies used the hashtag to share their own stories and support the protesters.

Before the protest, Tay has always been an advocate for queer issues in a country that would prefer not to acknowledge the existence of queer people. “I try to be as careful as possible when it comes to talking teachers to not explicitly out myself. I’ve always been very masculine presenting but at school I would never talk about my personal identity. But I would speak on LGBT issues,” said Tay.

Tay looked beyond school and towards social media to connect with like minded students and created the @MyQueerStorySG Instagram page. This account, jointly shared between Tay and other students, allowed young queer Singaporeans to voice whatever they wanted. Tay collected and published the stories of various students, ranging from coming out posts to stories of discrimination and acceptance.

This page became the turning point for Tay. “I have to read through all the experiences of discrimination that people send in so I can upload it… along the way people have sent in statements and talked to their members of parliament… but nothing ever seemed to work,” said Tay.

Tay is non-binary and trans them selves and for them trans rights means the right to simply live.