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November Post 1

Liz Leavitt
Utah State University

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Liz Leavitt

Nov 2, 2014



I downloaded the Feedly app following our discussion last Monday and I confess that it took like two seconds for me to be hooked. Feedly makes it extremely easy to find articles/pages that are interesting to me while eliminating everything I hate about slogging through these pages when I just type the URL into my browser. I agree with what Lori and Breeanne have been saying about how much of it seems pretty irrelevant and ridiculous, though there were a few things that caught my eye. I saw a couple of trends related to this video http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/10/28/walking-in-nyc-as-a-woman_n_6063054.html where a woman walks around New York for 10 hours and gets harassed 100+ times.

In addition to the many articles that have been written in response to the original videos (some outraged over the observed behaviors, some outraged over the outrage), I came across examples of digital folklore already emerging from it:

1) This one from Funny or Die that shows a white man walking through New York City for 10 hours: <http://www.funnyordie.com/articles/ebf5e34fc8/10-hours-of-walking-in-nyc-as-a-man>

2) A parody that explores what women might yell when catcalling men on the street:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=p8uOErVShiE

3) A drag queen walks the streets of LA for ten hours

<http://http://youtu.be/3X9QbXbNZ-g>



4) A character from the video game, *Skyrim*, walks around in skimpy armor for ten hours: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gEAC7nl5n2g>

5) And *this* one in which someone uses clips from the original video, but swaps out the actual comments with dialogue snippets from *Skyrim*:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cTc03ELbmCs>



There are probably others that I missed.

While I don't know that this event in its own right is a candidate for digital trend of the year, it certainly seems to thematically play into some of the gender issues we've identified as possible trends of the year (#yesallwomen, etc.) It also raised a logistical questions for me: in the future, is this project going to be a year-long committee kind of enterprise or something that takes place at the end of the year, as we're doing now? While it may be impractical, it did occur to me while I was trying to track different trends how interesting/potentially helpful it would be if the committee organized to do this were tracking trends over the full year. By the end of the year it seems like you'd end up with a more well-rounded idea of what topics/trends have survived and evolved. I have a hard time remembering what was going on online back in January, and can't help but be drawn to those topics that are trending right now. Maybe that's a good thing, since it shows that those trends have survived the year while I wasn't watching, but from a thorough research perspective it makes me wish that I'd been keeping notes from the start.

Edited by Liz Leavitt on Nov 2, 2014 at 1:40pm

← Reply



Prof. McNeill

Nov 2, 2014



Great catch, Liz! KYM has begun it's research on this one, too--<http://knowyourmeme.com/memes/10-hours-of-walking-in-nyc> ↗

This is actually a wonderful example of a meme that's currently on the upswing on popularity. People are starting to recognize the conservative elements (a target figure, walking through a community space for 10 hours) and riff on them.

↩ Reply



Christine Magula

Nov 3, 2014



This is fantastic, I've also collected quit a few of these. I assume it'll be a "flash in the pan" but clearly gender related folklore will be a worthy contender!

↩ Reply