

TUESDAY: EN GARDE

Looks like it's going to be a thing this week, covering women in sports. This is a marvelous example of covering a female competitor, this short film profiling U.S. Women's Individual Foil fencer Nzingha Prescod – it's about her and her approach to her sport, period. Does she sound like somebody who doesn't care about the results of competition, like she'd rather have narrative surrounding it?

Her next match is tomorrow at 8:10 a.m.; I wish I could catch it live online.



[Journalism 101 fail again – who are these competitors and what country do they play for? Which sport is this?]

Another example of crappy coverage comes from BBC – can't imagine why the UK became so white nationalist, can you? Let's not note the countries or the individual competitors, let's point out their attire and hint at religious and political positions at the same time. What garbage.

If you're not already familiar with 'male gaze', it's time for a primer on this concept first theorized 41 years ago by Laura Mulvey. I don't know if I can even call it purely feminist theory any longer though it arose because of

feminism's emergence. The way content is constructed can be political, and the way we view it can also be political; if content can be constructed for the male gaze, it can also be constructed to perform for political ideology. What we see in the BBC's photo is both a political and sexist statement – the bikini-clad woman preferred over the fully-clothed woman whose attire has been mislabeled (it's not a burka), the lack of identity in either case. These women are figures to be looked at for visual enjoyment and not in a manner which satisfies women but a male gaze with a particular ideological slant.

The problem with NBC's constructed Olympic coverage is that the corporation believes it has created a 'female gaze' product – but women don't feel immersed in the sports they are watching, continually disrupted by the inauthenticity of the content they are viewing. It feels forced, like we are supposed to care about the content presented apart from the actual sports on the screen based on a third (and likely straight male) party's expectations of the female audience, but the mediation and curation process interfere with our autonomy in viewing. We feel a jarring disconnect from a state of attentive viewing into a state of critical viewing – we're left unsatisfied.

I don't think men are feeling any better about the content they are seeing because it fails to serve their gaze in a manner which they have always expected from the male-led sports and entertainment industries.

It's so damned easy to fix, too.

The one entity finding a silver lining in NBC's coverage of the Olympics? Netflix, which blames flat subscriber growth on the games' broadcast. Hard to argue with this based on anecdotal evidence; everybody who ordinarily binges on Netflix programming and shares the experience in social media during cooler months is now complaining about NBC's programming.

Wheels

- Not one but THREE illegal emissions control software programs in VW's 3.0L vehicles (Reuters) – U.S. isn't saying how they found them but the existence of multiple programs hints at the reason for the lack of a "fix" for 3.0L passenger diesels under the terms of the proposed settlement. Volkswagen has admitted to emissions controls defeat in its 2.0L and 3.0L passenger diesel vehicles it marketed as "clean diesel" here in the U.S., but it has not been forthcoming about the emissions cheat methodology. If I had to guess, I'd say every one of the 3.0L vehicles will be bought back – because even after all this time, VW having known the cheats were discovered in 2014, the company still does not have a true fix for the 3.0L engine.
- GM now testing self-driving Bolt in AZ (The Detroit News) – This is the second city in which GM has tested the Bolt; first tests were in San Francisco, which seems to me more challenging

than Scottsdale.

- Court case against GM starts this week (Bloomberg) – Judge will have their hands full trying to keep the case focused on whether ignition switch at fault or not given the driver's youth and alleged reckless driving.

Wings

- Delta's massive outage yesterday still causing scheduling problems (Bloomberg) – System failure still attributed to power outage though interestingly Georgia Power said it was a Delta problem. No mention anywhere of other possible causes for the outage – so far.
- Southwest's July outage revealed enterprise problems (Bloomberg) – The crash of a single router caused massive problems which Southwest is still digging out of weeks later. Why is this airline lacking adequate failover? Why is this airline so focused on stock price now to detriment of infrastructure, in spite of fuel costs having fallen so much since June 2014?
- Teen security research

awarded one million flyer miles by United Airlines (ZDNet) – Olivier Beg reported 20 undisclosed bugs to the airline. The largest single reward he received was 250K miles, meaning the worst single bug he found was medium in severity. Certainly cheaper to offer Beg the equivalent of 20 roundtrips to the U.S. than pay for the costs related to a major bug-related outage.

Words

- “Stop calling ransomware ‘attack’” demands infosec researcher (InfoSec Handlers Diary Blog) – He calls ransomware an infection because it’s not targeted or focused. Except when it is. Right.
- ‘Cyber war’ and ‘cyber weapon’ misused and confuse the public (Threatpost) – Two contributors discuss the meaning of these terms and correct application. This is a much more serious problem than ransomware attack versus infection. Warfare shouldn’t be mistaken for spying, yes?
- Child porn case decision worth a read (Ars Technica)

– The article doesn't mention it but the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals' decision weighed the issue of trespass with regard to opening emails obtained without a warrant. In short, if the feds want to read emails? They'd better get a warrant.

One for the road

Looks like the FBI hasn't found an app for that yet – remote surveillance on smartphones, that is. Isn't that interesting?

Off to cook dinner before the nightly Olympic debacle begins. Wonder what fresh hell the taped delayed coverage will bring?