


←

Thread




eternal hater

@lesliezye

...

hung out in this space for a few hours yesterday. it got weird. since twitter is still up i am now going to do discourse about it



Katie Notopoulos

Host

Twitter... was a website

Ended · 196K tuned in


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7:46 AM · Nov 18, 2022 · Twitter Web App


32 Retweets


13 Quote Tweets


73 Likes












Tweet your reply

Reply





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...


Replying to @lesliezye


if your community is Black/POC media twitter, disability twitter, PIC abolition twitter, the convos we're having rn are about the SPACE we were able to create for ourselves on twitter - and how that space changed the world. @Blackamazon is literally tweeting about this right now

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...

blob:https://twitter.com/828919df-9c65-4b0a-91f6-f78f5e536784

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many of us have spent our lives observing institutional power from the outside, how power behaves, how power acts, when confronted when communities like ours who are actually able to HOLD power to account, connect the dots across expertises and specialties



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...

anyway so this space. it was run by white journos from buzzfeed which is less a knock on buzzfeed (they do great journalism) and more a framing for the tone of the talk, which was very, "I am losing the space that got me paid and where I could make furry jokes"



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the white journos spent the time bemoaning a loss of a fun online space, a place to research pieces, a place to source. which every Black journalist knows is code "i got the idea for my stories from BlackTwt discourse"

meanwhile the Black/POC tweeps they invited to speak...



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.@Imani_Barbarin made POINTS about how #DisabilityTwitter kept her community alive during COVID. (Imani I think you didn't go far enough - this abled person got ALL her medical guidance from *your* community. it didn't just keep you alive it kept my family and friends alive too)



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.@losangelista repeatedly called out how the very people in this space - white, internet culture reporters who spent just as much time asking a guy who tweets every time he masturbates - was an indictment of the limitations of the discussion.



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Liz talked about the Obama campaign. about the Ferguson protests. about

the Black Twitter support that built Shonda's empire, put Issa on the map, made Black culture the standard bearer for the rest of our culture



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.@dodaistewart talked about the community Twitter made for journalists of color who would never in 1000 years be let in the institutional rooms of power. about the power of Twitter being a place to ratio the powerful



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.@sarahjeong talked about the limitations of Mastodon and the digital white flight happening to a place where you can be banned for tweeting about racism and "triggering white people"



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i'm sure Katie and Ryan are patting themselves on the back for passing the mic to these folks, but i found their MCing and responses STUNNING. for one, every time someone made a serious point, Katie would make a joke about getting the masturbation guy's take on it



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i'm sure i'm just the kind of fun-hating bitch that white journos roll their eyes at, and EYE TOO come to twitter to laugh just as much as i come to learn, but at a baseline it was just so fucking rude and belittling and dismissive



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but i think the most telling thing was the questions they were asking. i'm going to share 2 examples that sum up how I felt about this space: it was full of white journalists who have been given the stage to run a conversation yet don't even have the fucking RANGE to participate



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1. on Mastodon, Ryan: "so you mean it's not fun, right?"

@sarahjeong: ...no I think it is white respectability made algorithmic

Ryan: "Well we just have to get all the people over there"

this is an embarrassingly amateur understanding of how bias fundamentally shapes platform



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like have you ever read a word @KimCrayton1 @EricaJoy @polotek @Blackamazon @safiyanoble have SAID about how content moderation and algorithmic choices REINFORCE bias and that is by design? and that time and time again we excuse it as "objectivity" when it's not



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the second question i *think* was in response to @dodaistewart by Katie. a few people had made the point that Twitter is not just a place where people make jokes we read on the toilet, it is a place where we have direct access to the most powerful and can hold them to account



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Katie - I still cannot believe it - said these words: "Yeah, but do you think Elon REALLY gets that?"

i mean. let that sink in, am i right



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an internet reporter - who was being lauded by her peers yesterday as being an "original person on the internet" - was proudly skeptical of the fact that

Elon Musk could understand the cultural power that Twitter holds.

i could not fucking believe it. do you even go here!?!?



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let's pretend Eli Lilly didn't just lose multiple billions in market cap. let's pretend that the Arab Spring didn't happen.

let's talk about how Ryan and Katie are two reporters who would be nothing without Twitter, acting like they don't understand the power it brings



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Twitter poses the single biggest existential threat to billionaires out of any social media platform, and they know that. Investigative journalism happens *native to the platform.* The shit people have dug up on this website has changed the world



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if you are *of the internet* and you also fundamentally do not understand how the thing you work in has reshaped the way marginalized people amass power - you have no business having a platform to begin with



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anyway the cherry on top was them bringing Taylor Lorenz on, which brings me to this:

At no point did any white journo mention that Black Twitter commentary has been the #1 source of news coverage and the place WHERE THEY GET THEIR IDEAS.



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of course @dodaistewart brought this up - the massive ecosystem of info

built around twitter and how twitter feeds into every aspect of media and idea generation

but not any white journos! no, they are out here pretending their success is due to being funny on the internet



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you're successful because you're kinda funny, yes.

but also a lot because you vultured Black Twitter for over a decade and were able to present those ideas as your own, as fresh, on BuzzFeed's platform. you wore Black Twitter's skin and pretended to be an innovator.

dassit.



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anyway, if you made it to the end, this is the kind of stuff i will be writing about on my blog. i'll be here til the bitter end, follow me leslieye.com/how-laguna-bea...

