

How a Trans Woman Merely Existing Sent Conservatives in a Tailspin

By Postliterate

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An article by the Christian-conservative news source Not The Bee (abbreviated NTB hereafter) from a few days ago complained at length about a trans woman being featured on the cover of the swimsuit edition of Sports Illustrated. NTB couldn't simply get mad at the trans woman, because in this case she is doing no harm to anyone and merely exercising her freedom to exist, and Sports Illustrated their freedom to feature her. Thus, NTB comes up with a few empty reasons why the magazine feature is worth complaining about:

1. Sports Illustrated only featured her to seem “woke” or push some “woke” agenda
2. The swimsuit edition of Sports Illustrated is known to be essentially soft-core pornography. Because no man would ever be enticed to buy the magazine when it has a trans woman on the cover, #1 is justified

Neither of these points have any weight whatsoever. As far as the article describes, the magazine simply featured the woman and possibly acknowledged that she was trans. No evidence of an agenda being forced is at all clear. The second point is even more ridiculous. Any person with any degree of exposure to trans people would know how attractive many trans women are to men (certainly a model). Yes, that includes straight men. This point barely needs refuting due its underlying weakness as is.

What NTB is really expressing when it writes this article is two things:

1. Trans people are inherently political simply by existing
2. Trans representation is bad

NTB, priding itself on being logical and reasonable cannot hate trans people simply for existing, because they have a constitutional right to exist. But what NTB can hate about trans people is everything else, in this case, by painting their existence as inherently political and by shunning representation of them in media. A person's freedom to exist and be themselves should not be political, even by NTB's own beliefs. Representation of them shouldn't be, either. If anything, despite this possibly being an example of Rainbow Capitalism, it should be celebrated. Because after all, Rainbow Capitalism is still celebrating the rainbow in some way, somehow, sometime. But there could be many reasons why NTB fears trans representation in media, namely, that it could lead to more people coming out as trans. This is most likely a real phenomenon, but only those with inherent prejudice against these people would see it as a bad thing. (Even more clear when they worry about trans youth and try to pull the "save the children" argument, merely exemplifying them seeing trans people as potentially dangerous). In short, it is the transphobia that NTB doesn't want to admit to coming to the surface in subtle ways.

What is also most interesting about this article is its utter lack of substance. It would be very in-character for NTB to complain about trans women in women's sports, as from their point of view they have concrete

issues with this than can be justified with real evidence and science and whatnot. What makes this article so special is that none of that is there. None of the logical, reasonable intelligence conservatism prides itself on is evident here. The article sites no sources nor even presents any real arguments in a straightforward and clear way. The article boils down to a conservative simply whining about a trans woman being on the cover of a magazine. The tough, hardworking conservative ideal and the tough masculine ideal who doesn't take handouts from the government seems to fall apart into infantile whining at the mere sight of a trans woman on the cover of a magazine.

Make sure I don't misrepresent:

<https://notthebee.com/article/stunning-and-brave-sports-illustrated-to-feature-trans-model-on-the-cover-of-the-swimsuit-issue>